

Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo WI

Newsletter.... October 20th 2021

Dear members

It was good to see so many of us at the WIC hall on 6th October for our Extraordinary Annual Meeting with a rousing (live and in-person!) rendition of Jerusalem followed by a full overview of our spin-off clubs, our wildflower project and a new President - Cathy Matthews - voted in with five new committee members. A well-earned rest now for Jill and Annette in particular after many busy years of commitment – particularly during the last eighteen months of Covid with all the attendant Zooms and socially distanced events. I'm sure we all feel much indebted to them both for all their work to keep our WI thriving and flourishing.

The new committee comprises: Cathy Matthews (President), Caroline Parsons (Vice President and Visits) Pat Middleton (Secretary) Gill Tune (Treasurer) Carrie Dixon (Assistant Secretary) Marcia Webster (Speakers) Julie Thomas (Memberships and MCS) Wendy Barritt (Minutes) Karen Shepherd (Health and Safety) Nan Lowden (Tea/coffee rotas) and Stella Gullen (Friendship) The first meeting of the new committee is on Monday 24th October.

At the moment (lockdowns permitting) we are still planning to continue with live monthly meetings at the hall. We take a Covid secure environment very seriously and have NFWI's Covid-safety measures in place and their national risk assessment proforma which is completed at each meeting. Marcia is replacing next month's speaker - the talk on Cybercrime will be postponed until later in the year. The Christmas lunch with entertainment will be on Wednesday December 8th from 12 noon at the WIC hall. For the future we are considering simultaneous Zooming of live meetings for those members unable to attend in person. It will depend on the logistics, practicalities (maybe more equipment) and, as ever, the cost.

The Yealm Group carol service will be on Tuesday December 14th at 2pm in St Mary's Church Brixton. Please let me or Caroline Dixon know if you wish to attend as they need to have numbers for the refreshments – there are no restrictions on numbers but masks are required as is staying seated while singing. Car share if possible and park in Winstone Lane.

Elburton WI are holding a Christmas Fair on November 27th at Plymstock Community Centre (See attached poster). They have also arranged a Christmas shopping trip to Exeter on Wednesday 1st December from Elburton. Anyone interested in a seat for about £16 should contact Barbara Lovatt on 07538 564333

The Membership Communication System (MCS) is being updated this month. Julie Thomas keeps an up to date list of all our contact details but if your details including email addresses change please let her know so she can update via MCS. Access to WI online training (Denman at Home) via MY WI also requires a current email address in the MCS. It provides an online range of courses for a small fee - worth checking. There is an unofficial national WI group (UWI) on Facebook for those who may be interested.

I'm attaching details from DFWI about various competitions and lunch meetings from those Annette forwarded recently.

Groups:

The Book Club will be talking about *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan in November. Judith says "This is a brilliant and emotionally wrenching novel which should provide opportunities for a good discussion. We are at full capacity but I do keep a waiting list".

The choir is practising weekly for the annual DFWI carol service at Exeter Cathedral on **Tuesday December 7th**. There are limited coach tickets available for non choir members – please let Caroline know if you wish to be put on the reserve list.

The Craft group is meeting next on October 26th 2 - 4pm at the WI Hall. Angela has about 10 members signed up to dye silk scarves - some with tie-dyeing. She says "Anyone is welcome to come along. Those not dyeing a scarf can bring their knitting/sewing or other craft and join the chat. We will be serving tea and biscuits too. November dates are 9th and 23rd".

As far as we know at present, the Parish Council is still considering our request for a bench to be placed on the green outside the hall. With the wildflowers and spring bulbs planted by members of our WI last year, it will be a beautiful place to sit quietly or meet with friends.

Helen Deas writes of her travels: "A recent trip to four of the nine islands of the Azores (lovely, green, temperate - with more cows than people) and the excitements of trying to do UK Passenger Locator forms for four people, two of them strangers, on my laptop in the mandatory 48 hour period before returning to the UK, essential to be allowed to board a flight. Lessons for us all on the support people may need on travels these days - even those with smart phones were struggling!"



Our WI's flower arrangement for the annual harvest festival

The flower arrangers have asked me not to mention their names (they know who they are!) but once again our WI provided a fabulous flower arrangement for the annual harvest festival service at St Peter's Church. Here it is:

Tins of fruit and vegetables were also donated and were taken with other donations to the Shekinah Mission in Plymouth. They were actually waiting for our member to arrive with them!

Thank you for all the support I have received as the new Secretary. It has made me really appreciate Annette's skills and dedication all the more. I will be taking a two week break from

17th November to 4th December to visit our son in California (at last!) taking in Thanksgiving weekend while we are there. Having got through the last year and a half of Covid restrictions and lockdowns and survived, I think we all have a lot to be thankful for. As assistant secretary, Carrie Dixon is kindly covering for me while I am away. The next newsletter will be in mid November.

Please send me anything you would like to add.

Pat



The President's cartoon