

Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo WI

December Newsletter



The 2021 WI Carol Concert at Exeter Cathedral

Before I start I'd like to wish everyone a very healthy, peaceful and happy Christmas, perhaps meeting up with family and friends either in person or via the www. Despite the success of our vaccination programme, it's still been a challenging year with many national events reduced and far flung family reunions postponed for a little longer. Throughout the ups and downs of it all though, the supportive bonds of friendships within our villages and the WI have reflected the truly caring community in which we live. Cathy, Caroline and all the committee join me in wishing our members a very happy Christmas and a healthy, bright and promising New Year.

Now on to our diary of events...

The annual DFWI carol concert at Exeter Cathedral on 7th December was, despite the awful storm that morning, very well attended from across the county. Our well-rehearsed choir led by Joyce, provided a dozen members to join others from across the county to lead the singing and as always, it made a wonderfully uplifting service with several new and other well known carols. The Yealm Group carol service, this year at St Mary's Brixton on 14th December, hosted by Brixton WI, provided a seasonal opportunity to join with other local WIs in a happy hour or so of carols followed by hot drinks and mince pies.

Our Christmas lunch party on 8th December was a little different this year but just as enjoyable. All credit goes to Cathy and Caroline who made an early morning supermarket sweep and then helped the committee to lay tables and organise lunches, while Marcia and Caroline also decorated the hall and the tree. Cathy has already thanked everyone who rose to the challenge and helped to make the lunch such a resounding success. The village Christmas tree outside the hall is always a focal point but this year it's even bigger and brighter than usual - thanks to all from the hall committee for that. Just what we needed!

No doubt we've also noticed the many extra young trees from the Woodland Trust, planted on Dillons Green on November 16th, mainly facilitated by Angela, helped by a willing band of volunteers. They will provide an enhancing and lasting legacy for our community and perhaps a living memorial to this particular time.

Groups: Craft Group - a message from Angela...

“ Next Tuesday - 21st December - we agreed to meet at the hall for the last time this year. Some of you wanted to have the opportunity to arrange Christmas flowers together. Following the flower arranging for the Christmas lunch I have spare : Plastic saucers (50p each) and biodegradable Oasis (£1 a block) which I will bring along. **Also mince pies!** Others may like to come for a natter. **N.B.** Please let me know if you are hoping to come so I don't get too many mince pies!”

Book Club: A message from Judith...

“Next meeting January 18th 1.45pm in the WI Hall when we'll be talking about the Ambassador's Wife by Jennifer Steil. If any WI lady has time on her hands and would enjoy a short festive book then she may like to read (or reread) A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens !”

Choir: After many weeks of practice for the Exeter carol concert (and the WI party) the choir is presently resting and will be returning to the hall on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30pm around mid January - Covid permitting.

While on the subject of the dreaded virus, I received this from Cathy today:

Although our next meeting on 4 January is scheduled to take place in the WIC Hall, we are watching developments on the progression of the Omicron virus. We will defer making a decision until the week after Christmas when hopefully the situation will have become clearer. Please keep a lookout in your email in case we have to resort to a Zoom meeting. While it's so much better for morale to meet face to face, we want everyone to feel safe and comfortable.

Annual Resolutions: Just a reminder to check your copy of WI Life for details of this year's annual resolutions and familiarise yourselves with them as we will be voting for our choice at our meeting on 1st February (either in person or by Zoom) for submission to DFWI by 14th February. We will be presenting each of the five resolutions for votes at that meeting. The final resolution to be selected will be voted on by WI Link Delegates at the WI Annual Meeting in Liverpool in June. More information is available to download on the NFWI website and on MY WI.

Our January meeting, as Cathy mentioned, will be either in person or via Zoom. Marcia is organising a speaker who may be talking about her Alpacas and how to spin their wool.

Meanwhile, keep safe this Christmas whatever you do and however you celebrate. Warm wishes, Pat

