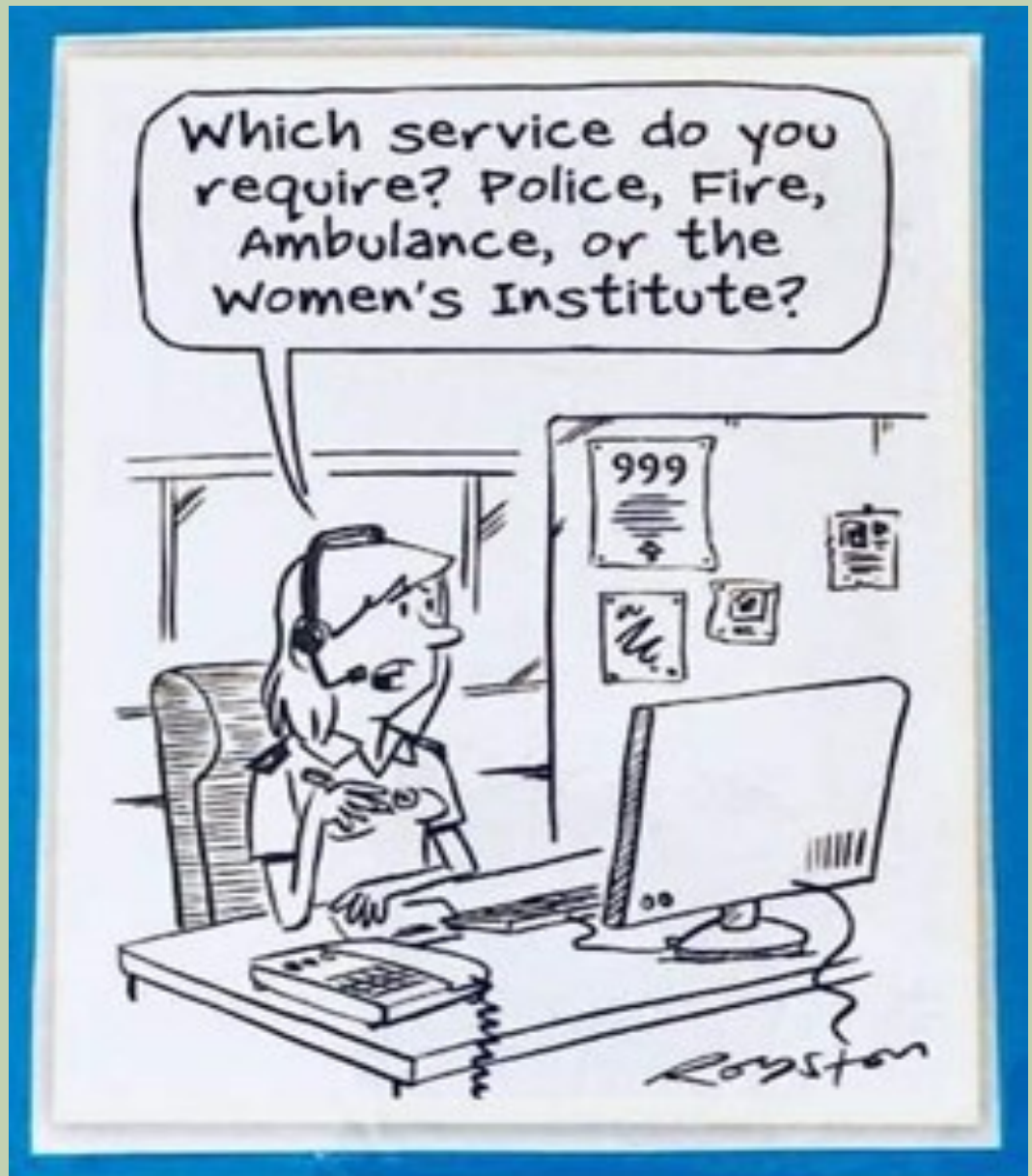


JUNE 2020



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Federation Chairman: - Val Lewis

Federation Secretary: - Caroline Wright

HFWI Charity No: 1056051

The contributors to this newsletter are responsible for the accuracy of their information, and should be contacted direct with any queries.

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Dear Ladies

This is our Centenary year and we had a full calendar of events planned for you all, little did we know! It is a shame that we have had to cancel everything that we had planned but as soon as we have any idea when we can start again we can start to arrange some events. Life will return to some sort of normal.

We are very lucky living in Herefordshire with the sparse population that has had a relatively low Covid infection rate.

There are lots of positive things that have happened to me now that I have all of this enforced time on my hands. My garden has never looked so good and we have got around to decorating the house, other things always seemed to have got in the way before. My new birthday present (overlocker machine) that I had on 3rd March has proved to be very useful making scrub bags and eight sets of scrubs for my local health centre. I have sewn all my life and I didn't even realise that I needed one!!

I go for a walk in the park behind my house every morning with Malcolm and my Cocker Spaniel Lottie. Having a dog is a great way of starting a conversation with someone (at a distance of course). I now know the names of most of the dogs that live in my village and some of the names of their owners. I have missed "chatting" to people as most of you know; I do that quite a lot.

Jane, Caroline and Brenda are keeping the HFWI office going. They all attend the office on different days to stick to guidelines.

What are you filling your time with? Let us know and we can pass it on to the other members.

Love and best wishes to you all Keep safe and keep in touch

Val

Val Lewis, Telephone: 01544 327700 Email: chair.hfwie@gmail.com

News from the Archives



Lockdown has given me the chance to try and catalogue the large collection of photographs in the HFWI archives. Sadly many of these are not labelled but I have enjoyed doing some detective work trying to add places and dates. To assist with this I have been keeping a record of events (county picnics, ACMs, NFWI AGMs, etc.) mentioned in the archives. (WI programmes and minutes, HFWI Yearbooks and Newsletters are particularly good sources.)

When confronted with two photographs of square dancing at a county picnic my notes indicated that it was possibly that held at Saltmarshe Castle on 26th June 1952. Unfortunately the castle was destroyed in 1955 but images on a lost heritage website matched the building facade and topography to that in the photos thus confirming the location.

When deciding what to keep in an archive two questions should be asked:

What evidence does it provide?

How useful is it?

In the case of photographs without labels both answers are "negligible". So please label items in your archives for future generations.

Please contact me if you have any archive questions or concerns.

Tessa Lovell

HFWI.Archivist@gmail.com

01885 788623

A request was sent out asking our WIs and their members what they have been doing during lockdown. Also if it was a special Anniversary year what preparations had taken place or had to be postponed. Here are your stories, pictures and poems

ALMELEY WI – 75th Anniversary Year

Almeley WI was due to host the Weobley Group meeting this year with an indoor street party to celebrate our HFWI Anniversary and the 75th Anniversary of V.E. Day. Sub-committee meetings had taken place, speaker booked, bunting made and refreshments planned. Of course, all planning came to nought once the lockdown began and we were forced to postpone the event.

In true WI style however, two of our members, Joan McNally and Margaret Smith, decided to make the most of the opportunity and whilst all meetings were cancelled in our village hall set about the task of shortening all the new curtains which were obscuring the radiators. Consequently, when normal life returns and we are able to resume our meetings and hopefully the postponed Group meeting, our hall will be a warmer, greener place.

Despite our celebrations being postponed and inspired by the spirit of V.E. Day, Bridget Hawkins organised a cake sale from her garden for neighbours and passers-by (safe, social distancing being observed at all times of course), and raised the sum of £293 which will be shared between three very local deserving causes.

We may have been in isolation but the spirit of friendship and support typical of WI has really shone through in these last few weeks and I'm sure will carry us forward into our next 100 years.

Denise Mullis, President

ASTON INGHAM WI

During these very strange times, Aston Ingham members, apart from the usual activity of gardening on these beautiful, sunny days, our members have been busy:-

- Making scrub bags for Hereford hospital
- Knitting teddies for children attending the hospital
- Walking and picking up litter, as we walked,
- ZOOM yoga sessions, each week
- ZOOM singing with Rock Choir
- Facebook 'free for all' sing along with Rock Choir each day at 3pm (during Mental Health Awareness Week more than £40,000 was raised).
- Some even found time for some home decor and renovations.
- Cycling
- Keeping in touch with members and other people in the community who are living alone.

Janet Potter, Secretary



BOSBURY WI

Belly dancing, complete with sequinned hip scarf skirts and swirling veils! Yes, that is what members of **BOSBURY WI** enjoyed just days before the restrictions were put in place since then, we have been keeping in touch regularly, supporting and 'looking out' for each other whilst nurturing the chilli and sunflower plants which we have grown from seed (a challenge set by our President) ahead of our Craft and Produce Show in October (hopefully). Several members made scrub bags for both the Hereford County Hospital and The North Locality Community Mental Health Teams in Gloucestershire. Managing in this difficult time has demonstrated the resourcefulness of our members and one of them, Rosemary, shares her thoughts below.

*The kiss of the sun for pardon
The song of the birds for mirth
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth*

Dorothy Gurney – poet and hymn writer 1858 – 1932

Don't you think that this is a very apt quotation, particularly at this time of year? Not venturing out the front gate for over eight weeks has given us space for quiet time and appreciation of our garden. I have found much solace and sanctuary in watching the Spring unfold in the glorious weather we have been so lucky to have had here. All the wild primroses, cowslips, violets and bluebells, the daffodils, the apple and pear blossom. Now the emerging roses, clematis, foxgloves, lupins and lilac. It has been so calming to hear the birds and watch them busy now feeding their young, waiting for them to fledge. The buzzards have been circling on the thermals together with the newly arrived swallows and it was wonderful to hear the cuckoo calling from several miles away. The backdrop of the Malvern Hills in this lovely part of Herefordshire is a pure delight, so much so that it is almost impossible to remember that there is this unseen enemy out there causing so much pain and sorrow but we must have hope and faith that it will soon pass and once again we will meet up with friends and family giving them extra special hugs.

COLWALL WINGS WI

"On Call"

Whoever thought that the words 'Lockdown', 'Shielding', 'Self-Isolation' and 'Social Distancing' would become the new norm? Way back in mid-March a group in our local parish recognised how the new language was creating an anxiety and it soon became apparent there was an urgency to help those who were feeling vulnerable. Colwall WINGS WI joined a partnership consisting of St James Church, Colwall Community Church, Colwall Parish Council and the Colwall Surgery. A leaflet was delivered to every household in the village (the largest in Herefordshire) to let residents know that if they had concerns they could call a central helpline.

This helpline, Colwall Coronavirus Careline (CCC), was originally manned by one person, our Parish Rector, full of hope and anticipation of a few calls a week.

Little did we know! The phone-line soon became a hotline and Colwall WINGS WI stepped up to (wo)man the phone. Co-ordinated by WINGS Secretary Ann Baker, 10 members take their turn to man the main phone line from 9am to 5pm and in turn co-ordinate the long list of volunteers (made up of local residents including WINGS members). Most calls are for prescription collections (over 150 prescription deliveries to those shielding or self-isolating to date) but also for requests as simple as posting a letter, shopping, buying a birthday card or having someone to talk to at the end of the phone.

One of the volunteers, WINGS Treasurer, Ali Darling, also developed a very useful list of shops and suppliers delivering to the village. This was distributed widely through other village clubs and societies.

Committee member Sue Armstrong who volunteers on the careline and is involved in local deliveries said: 'Manning the phone is not only a lifeline for those who need to shield or self-isolate, but it's fabulous to be able to impact positively and contribute to the local community at a time when "doing nothing" is part of the Government directive'.

Susan Armstrong

COLWALL WINGS WI

Colwall WINGS WI would like to thank Pete Rucinski, April speaker, for donating his speaker's fee to a worthy cause. Committee member and WINGS Secretary Ann suggested supporting a fabulous Colwall community initiative led by St James Church, collecting food supplies for Ledbury Food Bank. With a super-heavy box of cupboard essentials, and a few tasty treats, prepared for us by our local store Colwall Provisions, fellow committee member, and MCS Administrator Alison literally *heaved* the box up into the collection car ready to take to the food bank.

It's a super idea and one we're delighted to support, as so many of our members do when carrying out their weekly shop. Demand for supplies from food banks has increased dramatically - we are so thankful to be able to put food on our tables and to be able to help those feeling the pinch, especially during this terrible crisis.

Colwall WINGS WI has supported the Malvern Food Bank through regular donations at our monthly meetings. This has not been possible as we can't meet! So it's great to be able to continue to offer our support.

Image attached of Alison heaving said box into the car (actually I did but that's a different matter!!!!).

Sue Armstrong



HAMPTON BISHOP WI

Here at Hampton Bishop it seemed that no sooner had we got over the flooding and dealing with the aftermath, than we found ourselves in lock-down. The village had formed a group on WhatsApp to make sure everyone was safe and if anyone would need shopping, or any help in any way during the floods, this was quickly changed into help for vulnerable people who were in complete lockdown due to age or medical conditions. It is working really well, and no one should feel left out or isolated. Delivery of a food hamper was organized. Some couples used the time to repair the damage from the floods. Here in the village we are having a virtual open garden, so a lot of us have been working really hard to make our gardens look the best they possible can, ready to be photographed and put on line at www.hamptonbishop.info with donations to the Hospice.

We made scrubs bags and when I asked for material some of the villagers joined in and helped WI members make the scrubs bags. I have been making masks for some of the villagers. We have had Zoom quizzes and clapping and making a lot of noise on a Thursday evening to thank the NHS for their tremendous effort at this terrible time.

We celebrated VE day by sitting at the end of our drives and having afternoon tea, some people dressed up and it was a couple of hours of enjoyment.

Living in village it has not been difficult to keep 2 meters away from other people. Like most people a lot of cooking, cleaning and gardening has filled the time. The weather has been so kind to us that personally I have spent a lot of time outside in the garden.

It has been a strange time, but it has been nice to have the time to stop and look and enjoy the peace and quiet.

Barbara Kerr
Secretary

OH CORONA VIRUS

poem by Dorothy Lewis ~ Ledbury WI Members' Newsletter - May 2020

Oh Corona Virus
What ever shall we do?
We're locked down in our houses,
With no paper for the loo!
All our friends and neighbours
Can no longer come to call,
And outside entertainment
Is forbidden to us all.

We must keep our distance
When going to the shop,
So no more friendly hugging
All that cheer has had to stop.
No more WI Meetings
And here is the biggest crunch;
No writers group, no sewing group,
And what!?! No monthly lunch!

Oh Corona Virus
Here is what we'll do!
We will look out for each other
Until we are rid of you.
The message is loud and clear
And says no-one is immune
Stay home; wash your hands with soap
And keep safe through May and June.

Those who might feel forgotten,
Maybe live on their own,
If you need to hear a friendly voice,
Then just pick up your phone.
Don't sit feeling gloomy,
WI members like to chat,
And admitting you feel lonely,
Well, there's no shame in that.

Remember to exercise
Don't sit - get up and dance!
Swing those arms and lift your knees!
Give your body every chance.
We'll stand up to Corona
Remembering all the while,
To work those chuckle muscles
And always wear a SMILE!

LEOMINSTER LASSES WI

Leominster Lasses have met via Zoom and members are also keeping in touch by phone and email. Like so many people, we've taken advantage of the glorious spring weather to get out in our gardens. A number of ladies responded to the call for scrubs bags and we're proud to have contributed to the staggering number donated to Hereford Hospital. We've found plenty of ways to fill our days, from experimenting with new crafts and hobbies, reading all those books we always meant to read, to embarking on the tricky jigsaw that's been lurking in the cupboard and of course, lots of baking.

Erika Morgan
Secretary

LITTLE HEREFORD WI—75th Anniversary Year

Little Hereford WI were due to celebrate their 75th Anniversary on Saturday 25th April with an afternoon tea party. Our local Village Hall had been booked and invitations sent to ex-members, selected guests and another local WIs. All the arrangements regarding catering for around 50, room layout and a welcoming procedure for guests had been finalised. A local photographer had been arranged, and the format for the party had also been finalised. Eva Thomas (past President) had found the original minutes of the very first meeting and intended to read them out to everyone. It was a very sad decision when the party had to be postponed. However, we will bounce back once circumstances permit.

Other items put on hold: We had decided to plant a tree with a plaque to celebrate our 75th.
A special celebration visit (no positive venue agreed before lockdown)

Kay Willmott-Denbeigh, Secretary



LITTLE HEREFORD WI – (founded 1945)

In Little Hereford members have been making craft kits for the grandchildren, reading, cooking (banana bread), knitting and making masks for friends and neighbours. They made a staggering 72 scrub bags, knitted and sewn hearts for ventilated patients and teddies for children in Minor injuries.

Poppy's monster cushion (for our youngest member!) was made during lock in. Importantly, we've been there for each other. A lift when spirits flag!

Caro (Sandall), President



PARKWAY WI

During Lockdown it has been difficult to stay in touch, about two thirds of Parkway's membership belongs to the Shielded community, strictly following Government guidance to stay at home, so those members of Parkway still able to get out and about have made it part of their daily routine to walk by the homes of those who are shielding to wave or chat through windows.

For the 75th celebration of VE Day, Estelle Dalrairie and Sue Hill, Parkway's co-Presidents came up with the idea of displaying the front cover of May' WI Life in the absence of bunting to decorate windows. They also suggested members should raise their teacup or glass of wine to Parkway during the day to think of friends in the WI, many of whom remembered well the events of 8 May 1945.

Parkway has also tried to keep in touch with past members and has gathered in one or two new friends who live alone and have expressed feelings of loneliness. It's at times like this that being part of a community is so important.

As always hobbies and crafting skills have filled our time and for those still able to stride out, the country side has been a great solace. In return, hopefully, we shall be able to continue our support of environmental projects when Covid-19 is less of a threat.

Sue Hill, Co-President



PUTLEY WI

Sews PPE Gowns

We have all heard about the problems the NHS is having due to shortage of PPE. Our secretary was trying to find out what Putley WI could do to help, meanwhile her husband was trying to find out how his employer Helping Hand Company could help. They both found the Facebook page 'For the love of Scrubs Herefordshire'. Together with this page's co-ordinator they hatched a plan to help. The hospital would find fabric, For the Love of Scrubs would find the haberdashery supplies, Helping Hand would cut the fabric to an approved pattern and the WI and other volunteers all over Herefordshire would sew hospital gowns.

Shower curtain fabric was on its way we were told, but what arrived was shower curtains, individually wrapped, with curtain rings and all! We had a dressmakers' pattern and Helping Hand engineers had to make a wooden pattern to enable them to cut in industrial quantities. In 2 weeks enough fabric was cut for 2500 gowns.

Volunteer sewers were requested from the WI and many members got out their old machines dusted them off and oiled them ready for work. One member started making scrubs outfits, another went round her village (at a safe distance) and asked for unwanted sheets and pillow cases. Singlehandedly she made over 100 scrubs bags for NHS workers to take home and launder their scrubs, without risk of cross infection.

Meanwhile Helping Hand was cutting fabric, adding bias binding, elastic and tape for belts. Doughty's in Hereford provided 3.75km of bias binding and 5.5km of tape for belts. Kits were distributed to WI members, and friends of members, and production began.

A total of 170 gowns were made by Putley WI and friends and they have all been delivered to the hospital. A couple of members then switched to making scrubs out of old bedding. They are happy to have brushed up their

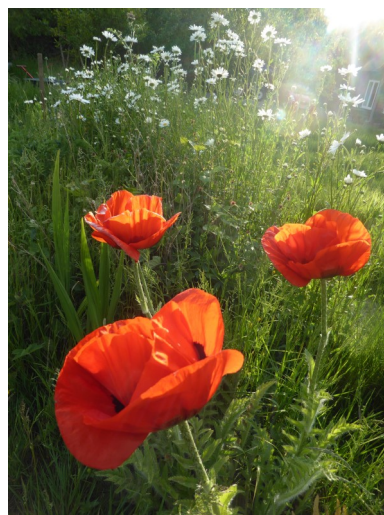
PUTLEY WI - Lockdown News

I'm so proud to be part of Putley WI. I can't believe their sewing skills and wish I'd paid more attention when I had the opportunity to learn at school. My stitch-free life has been full on with my day job at Longborough Festival Opera: issuing ticket refunds (our country house opera summer season had practically sold out), accepting donations to our 2020 Fund (for freelance singers, musicians, backstage team and the future) and consoling bereft opera-lovers on the phone.

What I have found useful is having a routine, be it somewhat different to my usual one. A daily stride to the Post Box – often with a handwritten letter to post – before heading to the new office-at-home. If I find myself stuck at the screen for too long, I head to the Outdoor Gym AKA the garden with my trusty trowel. One wise gardener once told me that the only way to get rid of ground elder is to move to a new house. Well, I'm determined to beat it. But then I am a complete novice. What's a weed apart from a flower with negative PR? I photographed the many mysterious-to-me growths and devised a quiz for my fellow members who are much more knowledgeable. It was quite a surprise to discover that inadvertently I may be cultivating cannabis!

Meanwhile I've played safe and have bought bee friendly plants such as assorted Scabious, Jacob's Ladder and the rather wonderful Aster frikartii whose name makes me permanently hungry for a frittata! They are all now happily dug in and, much to my surprise, flourishing. I reckon our WI Gardening group will be keen for a tour. Just as long as they avert their eyes from that bloomin' ground elder...

Gilly Powell



SALTMARSHE & DISTRICT WI

Over the last few months we've been keeping in touch with phone calls, e-mails and via our website <http://www.saltmarsheanddistrictwi.simplesite.com>

When it's been our meetings night we've tried to keep us all together by gathering online - singing along to whichever version of Jerusalem has been available - for example in June we sing to Billy Bragg on his acoustic guitar and in April sang to the National Annual WI Meeting attended by the Queen in the Centenary Year. In May we had a ten item "What is it" Quiz and in June instead of actually going out en-masse to visit a garden, we've enjoyed online pictures of our own gardens in all their glory.

Our Birthday Secretary has kept the birthday cards going by post and e-cards and any news of our members is passed on from one to another.

Those of us who are shielding at home and been receiving food parcels surplus to their own requirements have been having the extra collected and taken for use through the local Food Bank.

Our practical, creative member, Wendy, has been helping to provide laundry bags, scrubs and gowns for the Doctor's Surgery, Hospital and local Care Home.

As part of our local communities we've been joining in each Thursday with the Applause for Carers and the NHS and individually endeavouring to keep of good heart. Celebrations on VE Day took place for some of us outside our own houses.

One day we'll be able to mix and join together once more.

Jean Spelman



FOOD PARCEL



JJ—VE DAY

STOKE PRIOR & DISTRICT WI

Since before the official lockdown Stoke Prior & District have been regularly phoning each other. During this period, we have had two members in hospital for various reasons and one who has lost her husband, so we're keeping our fingers crossed for an improvement. One member, Margaret Hubbard took up the call for scrub bags and made approximately 30. Our Vice Secretary, Sue Cleaver, has been giving regular updates by email on her Roving Reporter section (sometimes Stay at Home Reporter too). Jigsaw puzzles have been brought out, knitting continued, of course gardening to a Chelsea standard, even hedge planting. In all members have been contacting each other to stop the feeling of isolation.

Susan Cleaver

TUPSLEY WI – 100th Anniversary Year

This year Tupsley WI have been celebrating their centenary and succeeded in carrying out some of their centenary projects.

Friday 13th March proved to be a lucky day for their centenary garden display and tree planting in Ledbury Road, just three days before social distancing was brought in. It was near this location in May 1920 that Tupsley WI held their first meeting, so what could be more appropriate than a maypole in the centre of the garden display and in keeping with the WI message of “love the planet” recycled material was used. The flowers were also from recycled material, supplied by the “litter pickers” of Hereford Community Clean Up Group, sprayed in the suffragette colours of purple, white and green, to match the maypole. Planting trees in an effort to tackle climate change continues the theme of “love the planet” so three silver birch trees were also planted near the garden display, with support from Hereford in Bloom who planted seven further trees in the same area creating a lovely mini arboretum!

With spare time on their hands the crafty ladies have been able to continue the centenary project of knitted knee blankets, supporting the local community while commemorating the well established Tupsley WI. The knitted six inch squares are made up into knee blankets, beautiful knitted edging is added producing an explosion of colour, with a commemorative label to complete. Many members have connections to various residential homes throughout the County, where they will be very welcomed, and nimble fingers carry on knitting.

A new cookbook is always a popular way of celebrating milestones so what a wonderful opportunity for Tupsley ladies to share their favourite recipes in the form of a centenary cookbook. Edited and produced by member Margaret Smart, it is on sale at £5 (excluding postage) printed to order. Lots of members have found their centenary cookbook very useful with plenty of time on their hands to try out new recipes.

Further centenary celebrations have been planned, including a special afternoon tea and a celebration cake to make 2020 a memorable year for Tupsley WI. However, a photograph album highlighting the celebrations is also telling the story of Covid 19 and the importance of social distancing, but members are very hopeful “we will meet again” to fulfil these celebrations.

Judith Hollings, President



TUPSLEY WI—During Lockdown

Tupsley WI members have been kept busy during lockdown.

One member Sydna has a daughter who works in a local Dr's surgery who had put out a request for headbands to use with protective face shields. Several members came forward and 41 were produced. A call has just gone out for 50 more.

Alison has been making masks for family and friends producing an amazing 100 so far.



Kate has produced a mask with a "fashion accessory" initially for her daughter in law's birthday now everyone wants one!



Sheila has been making scrubs, though her older sewing machine gave out and she needed a new one which she is very pleased with.

UPTON BISHOP WI

As I write this we are in week 10 of the Coronavirus pandemic lockdown, which has changed the way we live for the time being.

For the past two months our WI meetings have been cancelled and are likely to be for the next two at least.

At Upton Bishop we have tried to stay in contact with others by phone, email and video calling to update all with information they should know about in the area.

Our President has regularly been in touch with members on a monthly basis.

Many have shopped for neighbours and generally kept an eye on them, especially the elderly, whilst maintaining social distancing and/or self-isolation.

Some members have been busy making scrubs and face coverings, whilst others have made teddies for the Hereford Hospital Baby Unit and also hand sized hearts for hospital patients and their relatives.

Keeping in touch with hand clapping and enjoying restricted VE celebrations have also helped to stay in touch as we continue to deal with this challenge and look forward to meeting up again soon.

Sue Carver
Upton Bishop WI



HATS OFF TO THE LADIES OF HEREFORDSHIRE

Dear ladies, the response from you to an urgent request from Herefordshire County Hospital for PPE equipment was amazing. Over the 3 weeks from the initial appeal until mid-May you pulled out all the stops and made **1,854** scrub bags. Word spread and our WI members, friends, neighbours, quilting groups et al, busily got sewing, raiding their stashes, linen cupboards, cajoling neighbours and friends for fabric. The bags were then delivered to the WI House doorstep all beautifully sewn in assorted colours and shades. Some had messages for the NHS workers which must have lifted their spirits. One lady sent in knitted dolls with face masks on which made everyone smile, I'm sure these are sitting on the ward desks. The scrub bags were then collected by Lydia Bradley, President of Longtown & District WI and her husband Stuart who delivered them to the Hospital contact for us.

The initial appeal came from Sue Robinson, via Lydia, who was making PPE scrubs and could not fulfil the demand for laundry bags in time as well. Sue has asked me to pass on her thanks to you all:

Dear WI ladies

I want to thank you so much for rising to the challenge of making 2500 laundry bags for Hereford Hospital. As Black Hill Scrubs, we had bitten off rather more than we could chew and it is thanks to you that the order was fulfilled, indeed exceeded with over 3000 laundry bags eventually being delivered to the hospital. You have shown that the wonderful WI will rise to the challenge when there is a national emergency and your work has meant that doctors and nurses have been able to safely transport their dirty, contaminated scrubs and gowns for laundering.

Thank you so much,

Sue

Sue Robinson, Black Hill Scrubs

Besides the scrub bags a lot of you made the scrubs as well which apparently wasn't a simple process. Face mask adapters were another much needed item sewn and delivered by our members. Besides Hereford Hospital the Community Hospitals, Hospices, Nursing Homes and Surgeries have all benefited from your endeavours. So again a huge thank you for all your efforts in this time of crises. I would also like to thank Lydia and her husband who did the organising and fetching and carrying around the County.

I'm afraid I couldn't use all the photos sent in due to space but here is a montage which I hope will give you a flavour of what was achieved.

Caroline

Caroline Wright, HFWI Federation Secretary



Dolls knitted by Mrs Jean Heath, Dilwyn

What did you do in the (Covid) War,
Grandma?



Pamela Tribe, Longtown & District WI, made
& is modelling 1 set of Scrubs, 5 masks &
25 laundry bags



Scrubs modelled by Rachel
Wilson, Putley WI



Scrub Bags - Putley WI



Face mask adapters made by
Joanna Helme, The Pyons
WI



Little Hereford WI



Teddies & bags, Little Hereford WI



Scrubs & Gown, Saltmarshe & District WI



Val Lewis, first set of scrubs
waiting to go

TRIPLE B CARE PROJECTS

I am very delighted and proud to inform HFWI members that my sister, Val Smith-Orr, who runs the burns charity triplebcareprojects.org in the Philippines, has been awarded the 'Order of Australia Medal' in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the international community through nursing.

As you all know I collect unwanted medical supplies for her from Herefordshire WIs which Cradley WI members help me sort and pack. Whenever we can meet again I will still be collecting. Last year a medical company sent me six pallets of out of date dressings - thousands of dressings which Cradley WI ladies had been helping me sort and repack (before lock down). The six boxes members helped me pack at the beginning of March were finally picked up in May and fingers crossed Val will receive them in July.

I was so pleased to have got to see her in the Philippines in January, how lucky was I? The lock down there was quite extreme. At one point no one was allowed out and food parcels were delivered by the local authorities, mainly rice & noodles which resulted in more burns & scalds. Val is classed as a front line worker so she was allowed to run emergency clinics. Her "ambulance", basically a metal box on a 3 wheeler motor bike, was allowed out to either take Val to the patient or bring the patients to her clinic. A local company usually making motor bike helmets changed to making PPE and donated Val her own PPE. She had plenty of scrubs as her friends in Australia have been making them for her from donated materials & bed linens for a while now. She received another box just before lockdown.

Both public transport and the postal service are still closed in the Philippines so Val never got the formal letter about her award. However, even when open, there is not the postal service as we know it, you have to go to the post office to collect post, so if you are not expecting a letter ...! The Australian ladies who had nominated her are from another charity in the Philippines which Val supports. They realised she would not know and organised a Zoom meeting with her as soon as the list was published in Australia which was 6.30am her time. She wondered what on earth was the matter and could hardly believe it when they told her. From the congratulations I have received from WI members and the hundreds on her Facebook page everyone knows what a well-deserved award it is for a truly inspirational woman.

Maureen Sullivan, President Cradley WI



WI FORUM

Please continue to send in your items about your WI to the usual email: wiforum.hfwi@gmail.com and they will be picked up by Alison Lord or a member of her team.

NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS

Please note we have a new website address—<https://herefordshire.thewi.org.uk/>

LADY DENMAN CUP COMPETITION—UPDATE 01/05/2020

The Lady Denman Cup Competition will continue this year, however, a decision has been made to extend the competition timescale.

To clarify...

To allow a fair and standardised competition timescale across all WIs and federations, the NFWI has set a

closing date of Friday 18 September 2020 for members to submit their entry to their Federation office.

After this date, federations have until Friday 16 October 2020 to select up to three entries to go forward for national judging. Results will be announced by mid-December 2020.

A revised schedule, individual entry form and Federation entry form will be available to download from My WI shortly.

Helen Neal, Administrative Secretary, Activities Team.

TEDDY BEARS

We've had a request from the Minor Injuries Unit at Hereford County Hospital for teddy bears. Children adore them and helps take their mind off their injuries whilst being treated and of course can then go home with them. You do a sterling job keeping the Children's Ward supplied and we wondered if you could do a few extra for them as well. If you need a pattern please contact Jane at WI House.

HFWI NEWSLETTER

Our next Newsletter edition will be September and will be asking for contributions at the beginning of August for inclusion. More details to follow.

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