

Annual Report Whitley WI 2020



A Year Like No Other

Our Committee and Members



This year we have **80** members signed up, and we had lots of plans in place for a busy year ahead

Our Annual Meeting 2019

A Year in the Life of
Whitley WI
2019



Learning, Friendship and Fun

Our Annual Meeting went smoothly. Chris thanked Joan Blackshaw, Ann Tolson and Anne O'Neil and Irene Peers who were all leaving the committee

The highlight of the evening was definitely the fun we all had making Christmas labels

Christmas Labels

Thanks to a lot of work from Annette, and careful planning, we all had lots of fun – and went home with lovely pack of home-made labels. My family certainly appreciated them



December – our Christmas Party



Chris Jones' first year as President of Whitley WI was rounded off by a wonderful Christmas party.

We had a delicious cold buffet which was provided by Rachael from Country Kitchen together with a range of drinks. After that we were entertained by Rae Owens with his music, singing and comedy.

At the end of the evening we sang Auld Lang Syne and departed with a Secret Santa present.

Christmas Party Pictures



January Resolutions



After the success of last year's 'speed dating' meeting for resolutions, we followed the same pattern again

The resolutions supported by our members were the same as those chosen nationally

Stem Cell Donor Registration



End Modern Slavery

We also had a good opportunity to catch up with old friends, and meet new people

February - The River Reeves Foundation

A founder member talked to us about this charity which was set up in memory of her son, a member of the Warrington band 'Viola Beach' who were tragically killed in a road accident while on tour in Sweden in 2016.

This charity raise money offer financial support to those who most need it as they struggle to make careers within the performing arts. This will enable passionate, talented young men and women from Warrington to dare to dream about their futures within the arts.

A powerful speaker, who inspired some of our members to visit their shop in Golden Square, Warrington



February

Our 82nd Birthday meeting



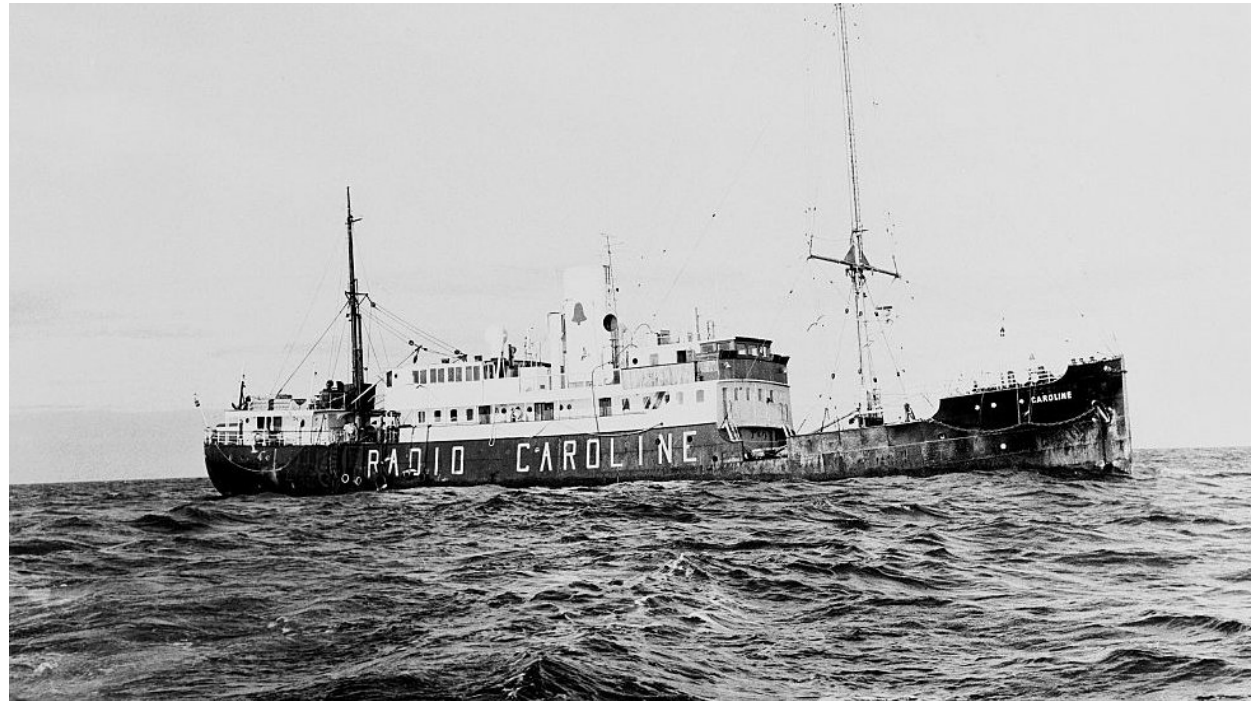
Thanks to Anne O'Neil
for another beautiful
cake



We held the usual birthday draw for a visit to Denman.
Cathy Taylor was the winner and booked herself onto a
Silversmith course

March Meeting Radio Caroline

Brian Cullen
told us about
his time on
Radio Caroline

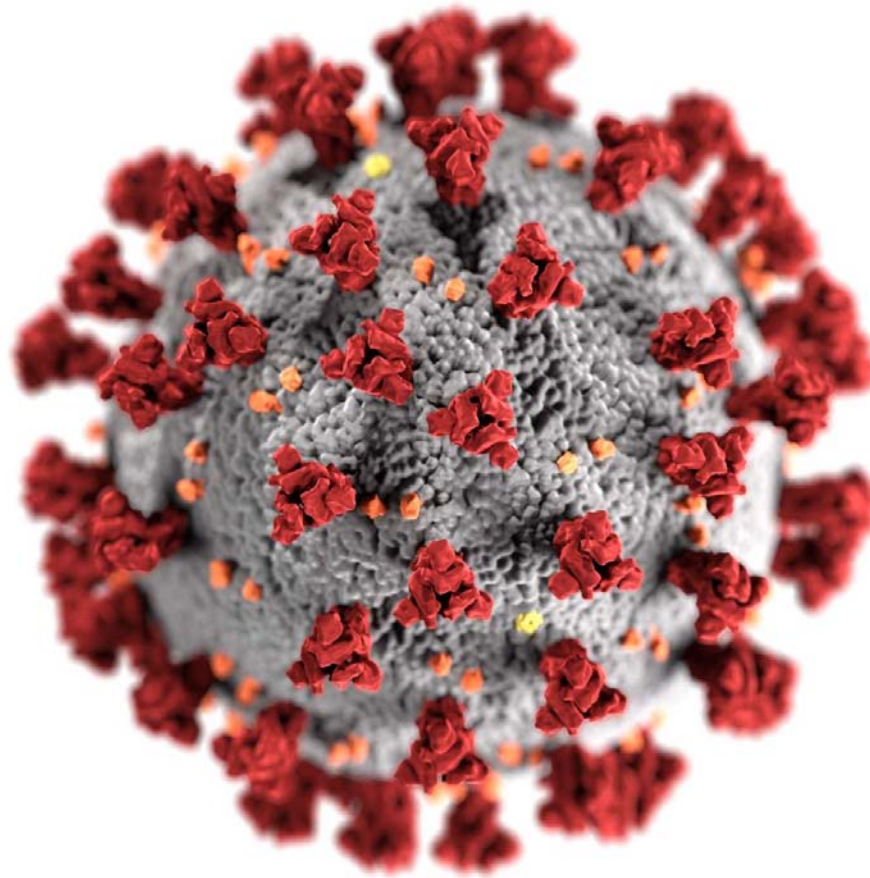


March

And then . . .

**Coronavirus
arrived**

. . . and all our
plans suddenly
fell apart!



~~Cheshire
Centenary~~

~~May Outing~~

~~Forensic
Science~~

~~The Whitley
Olympics~~

~~Pets, Pantries,
Planet~~

~~Hollywood
Drama Queens~~

~~Betsy The
Scullery Maid~~



~~Members
Night~~

How do we keep our WI going??

The committee had an emergency meeting – our first experience of social distancing, sanitising etc

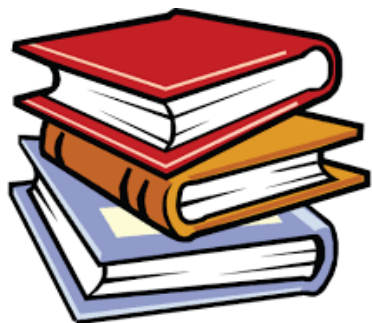


We decided to focus on the 'Friendship' Arm of our signpost

- We offered help to anyone who needed shopping, company or anything else
- All members were emailed to say a committee member would phone them every month or so
- We decided to produce a monthly newsletter to keep in touch
- Club leaders would try to keep in touch with their members

Social Groups

Our Social Groups tried to continue, and were a great way to keep in touch with other WI friends, although this hasn't been possible for Darts and Bowls, or our Culture Club.



WALK &



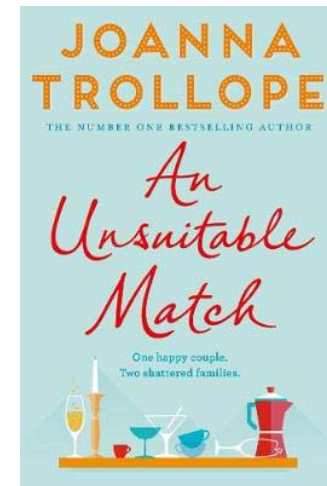
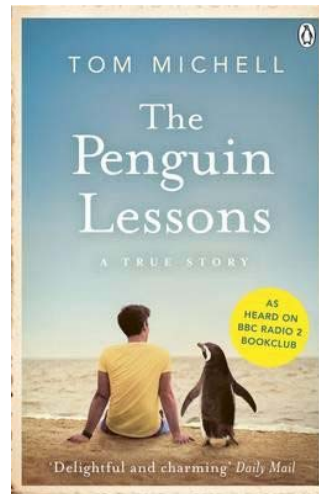
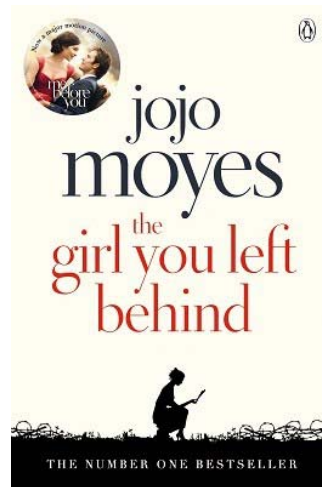
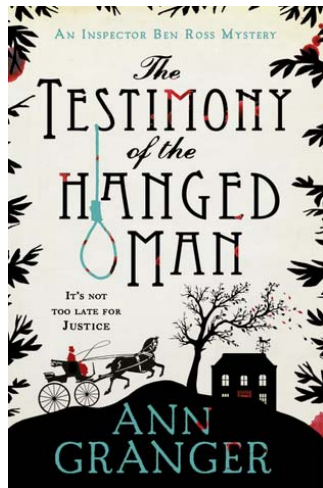
TALK



Some of these groups hope to have some Zoom meetings in the winter months

Book Club

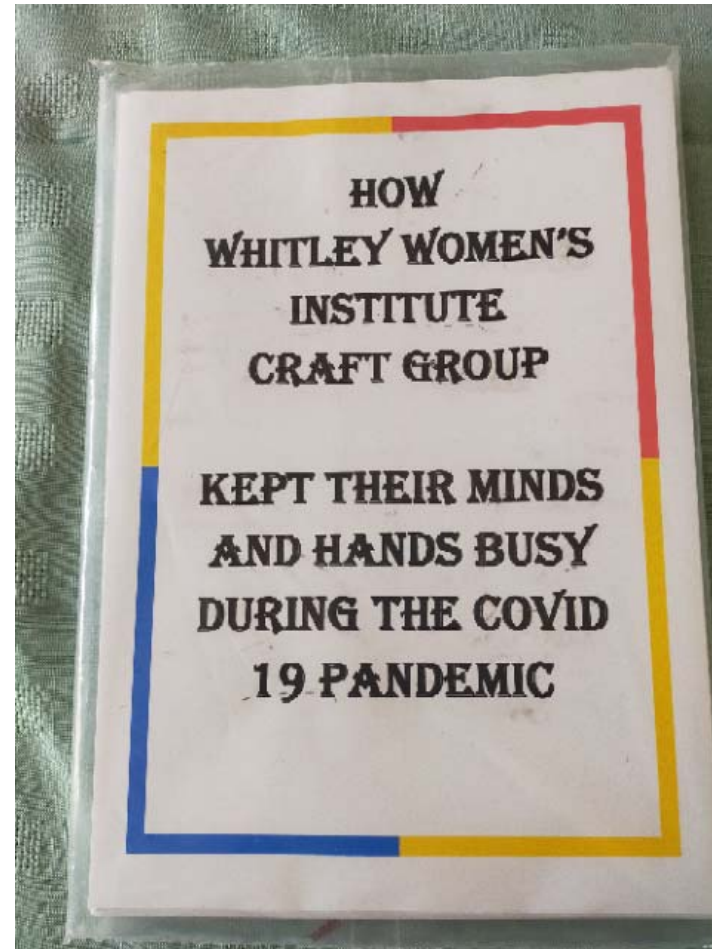
We started off well, with some interesting books to share



Since March Helen Carey has done a great job of keeping us all in touch, and sharing our thoughts about the different books that we had all read, as well as other things we have all been up to.

Craft Group

This beautiful felting was a group activity just before lockdown, led by Jackie Graty



Craft Group was very busy through lockdown and beyond. Annette has put together a wonderful collection of the work by our Craft Group members during the past few months

Craft Group

Here are just a few of the pieces of work made by our talented members

Painting



Craft Group



Knitting



Craft Group



Needlecraft



Support the NHS – and lots of items made for charities



VE Day
Celebrations



The COVID
Rainbows

Culture Club

In the early part of the year we had another successful trip to Theatre Clwyd for their Pantomime – always a good night out



And we enjoyed a Mamma Mia dinner at the Park Royal Hotel – some of our members dressed appropriately for the occasion!

Garden Interest Group

We did manage a few informal visits to each others gardens, it was lovely to see the results of everybody's increased leisure time this year

The real highlight has been the wonderful Youtube videos that Pat has so cleverly put together, showcasing all the pictures that she and others have taken of their gardens and their local areas. You can find links to these on our website



https://youtu.be/b_8zsyjEOc4



https://youtu.be/C9_gdG-wLik



Watch this space!

Thanks very much, Pat. A real treat and a great momento of our COVID year

Walking Group

Before the lockdown we had some lovely walks



Small groups of us have also enjoyed some local walks over the last 3 months, suitably social distanced!



Thanks to Ann O'Brien for organising this

Cheshire Federation

2020 is the Centenary Year for Cheshire – and lots of plans were in place to celebrate in style. Most events have had to be postponed until next year, very frustrating for those who had put so much work into the planning



Lots of Zoom speakers have been organised and the advice from the Federation has been really useful to the Committee – well done to all those involved

National – NFWI News

We had some sad news in September when the closure of the [Denman College](#) was announced – one of many casualties of the COVID crisis.



Many of our members have happy memories of visits to Denman, learning new skills, and experiencing the special warmth, hospitality and friendship of this much loved institution

Denman

Three of our members had attended the college in February, just before lockdown, and enjoyed a 'Creative Crafts' course



Cathy Taylor was the winner of this year's bursary and had booked on a jewellery course – hopefully she can find a local opportunity when the world settles down

Our Centenary Tree

The Cheshire Federation chairman, Jean Harding, asked every WI in the County to plant a tree to celebrate the Centenary

We chose a Sorbus Joseph Rock – which is planted in the Whitley Nature Reserve



Moving Forward

We really wanted to see each other again, so we did manage an August meeting, limited to 30 people

The plan was for an outdoor meeting – but the weather decided otherwise, so we moved inside. A very different meeting



Do you recognise anyone?

Looking Forward 2021

? None of us know what the next few months will bring ?
BUT

We hope you will all stick with us, whatever happens we can still enjoy

Friendship, Learning and Fun

**Thanks to our fantastic members
for the contributions you have made
and for your feedback and support**



I will finish with the words of one of our committee members



'Lets stop thinking about what we can't do and focus on what what we can do'