

Smethcote WI Newsletter June 2020

Dear Member and Friend

It doesn't seem like a month since the last newsletter, but here we are 10 weeks into "Lockdown" I do hope you are well and keeping safe.

Thank you for the feedback from last month's newsletter. I am pleased that many of you have been able to send items for inclusion.

In this newsletter we have included:

- * Follow up photos to the celebrations for VE day at Stapleton
- * Flower of the month competition photos
- * A couple of quizzes with a geographical theme (of course, answers next time!)
- * Contributions from members including photos and a few commentaries on how you have been spending your time during this current situation.
- * A member's recipe

The National Federation of the WI are conducting a survey on the impact of the Covid-19 situation on members and their families. This is also included in their Public Affairs Digest (May/June 2020)

Link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9P9HYS6>

The following two resolutions have now been adopted by the WI:

- 1.A call to increase potential stem cell donor registration
- 2.End Modern Slavery

Next years timetable for proposed resolutions is earlier than usual so we

need to plan for this, information attached.

In the Shropshire Federation newsletter there are some important information points including a correction to the date for the SFWI annual meeting which is on *Tuesday 13 October 2020*.

Another point of interest is a SFWI baking competition, so please have a look at that and start thinking if you might like to be part of a local bake, the winner goes forward to the group competition and then onto a final. The cake must include a vegetable as one of the ingredients.

We will plan how we can organise this once we have dates for the final competition from SWFI. In the meantime, if you want a taster for your practice cakes I am happy to volunteer especially if its combined with chocolate!

Have a good month and if you have anything you would like to contribute to next month's newsletter please do. Photos, recipes, poetry, short stories or reflections on life.

Email or whatsapp Marionjdakin@gmail.com

Or by post to Corner Farm Smethcott SY6 6NX

Chris Downes mchrisdownes@yahoo.co.uk

N.B.If you would like to submit a photo for say flower of the month but don't have email or a smart phone. Please ring either Chris or myself and we will arrange for one of us or another member to visit to take the photo, whilst social distancing.

With very best wishes Marion

VE Day Celebrations 2020



The VE Day celebrations in Stapleton were marked with some decorations around the village and the two minutes silence was observed at the War Memorial. It was an absolutely beautiful day, we met again at the war memorial just before 3 pm with suitable drinks and snacks. The speech that Churchill made announcing the end of the war was relayed around the village. Observing the required social distancing on both occasions a cheerful group were able to sit in the sun and chat for the first time since the Lockdown was initiated. Not quite the event that had been planned but very welcome in the circumstances.

Photos War memorial Beverley Gill (top)

Village (bottom) Carol Beaumont

Keeping Busy During Lockdown

1



1 Margaret T : Rug Weaving

2 Carol B : Gift Box, Sampler & Bunting

3 Margaret Wells : Raised Beds Project

4 Gail Denham : Banquet cooking course & veggie garden

5 Marion Dakin Patio wall design

2



5



3



4



4



Reflections on lockdown



Photo Picklescott during lockdown

Carolyn Brunt

Some of our members reflections:

- Feeling grateful that we live in a rural area with access to open country and that we have a garden to keep us busy
- Mixed feelings that it is my date of birth that dictates that I have to stay at home whereas I could probably be useful to others
- Also grateful that we have a grandson able and willing to do our shopping for us
- Not missing having to be in a certain place at a certain time for a meeting
- Missing visits to the hairdresser and to the library - downloading an ebook and reading from a phone is not the same as a book in the hand
- We've clapped for the NHS with our neighbours, and shared a distanced chat across the driveway, sometimes with a glass of wine in hand.
- We've FaceTimed with our children and grandchildren and used messaging more than we ever had.
- We've shopped and shopped on line, been delighted when we managed to bag a delivery slot. Oh, the joy of obtaining toilet rolls and the occasional bag of bread flour.
- We've seen more delivery vehicles in our close than ever before and enjoyed short conversations with drivers who were not too busy for a short chat.
- Realising that we are such social beings and how much we need human contact
- How much we miss our families and friends despite Skype and Zoom
- The importance of keeping safe
- The sacrifice of our freedom for the greater good of our communities
- The weather and the garden have helped me cope with lock down
- Learning that it's easy to make lemon curd!

Things to appreciate and amuse



First flight fledgling Great Tit



Bluebell & Marigold social distancing



3 heads are better than 1



Anyone in?



My little helper



A lonely old oak

Flower of the Month



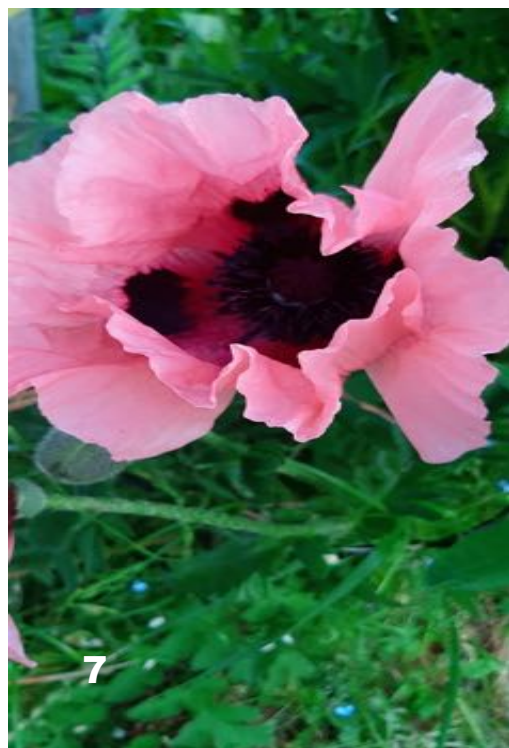
**Vote for your
favourite
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by phone, text
email, what's
app**

**Marion 07968
268505**

**Chris 07803
281722**



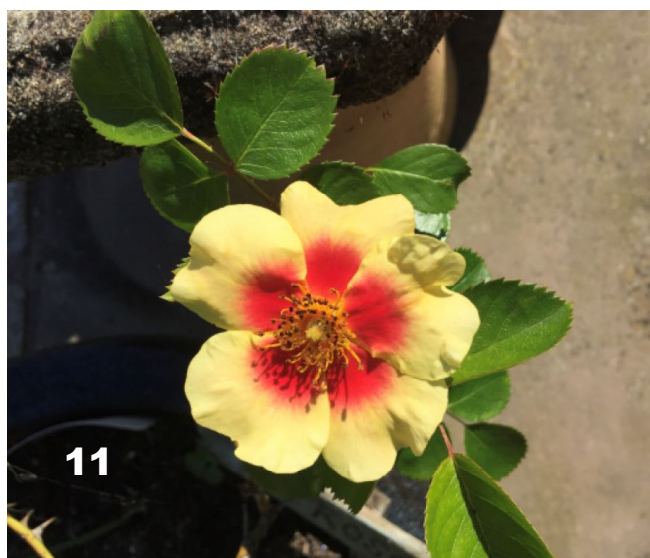
Flower of the Month



**Vote for your
favourite
Continued from
previous page.
Via phone, text
email
whats app**

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Quiz Time

All roads lead to Smethcott or Smethcote but where are these sign posts located?



Around the world in 10 minutes

1 Where is “Old Faithful Geyser”?

2 Where is Cloudy Bay Winery?

California -Napa Valley

New Zealand- Marlborough

Chile - Ma Po Valley

3 The largest waterfall in the world form the border between which 2 countries?

4 Where would you find Fynbos?

5 Where is the driest place on Earth?

6. What does the 49th Parallel divide?

7 Name the 4 main Balearic Islands

8 What is the capital of Finland?

9 What water does the strait of Hormuz link?

10.Which city is nearest to Kangaroo Island?

Summer chicken with peas and mint

2 tablespoons olive oil
4 chicken breasts
2 shallots or 1 small onion, finely chopped
1 clove garlic, crushed
200ml hot chicken stock
200g frozen peas
2 tablespoons crème fraîche
½ x 20g pack fresh mint, chopped



Heat the oil in a large, deep frying pan and add the chicken breasts. Cook for 4–5 minutes then turn and cook for a further 4–5 minutes. Add the shallots and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, for 2 minutes.

Pour in the hot stock and season, then simmer gently for 10 minutes. Add the peas and simmer for a further 4–5 minutes, until the peas are tender and the chicken is thoroughly cooked with no pink meat.

Stir in the crème fraîche and mint and simmer for a minute or so, until the sauce has thickened slightly. Serve immediately, perhaps with buttered, boiled new potatoes.

Serves 4

Preparation time 10 minutes

Cooking time 25 minutes

From Margaret Wilson

Answers Previous Quiz– May 2020

Number of images within the picture was 12

Crossword 1 answers

