

# theWI

## INSPIRING WOMEN

ST. STEPHEN'S WI NEWSLETTER

Special Edition #1

3rd April 2020

Sunrise and Sunset times:

16th March (our cancelled last meeting):

6.07am - 6.03pm... 11 hours and 56 minutes of daylight

3rd April:

6.26am - 7.33pm... 13 hours and 7 minutes of daylight!

Giving us a whole **ONE HOUR AND ELEVEN MINUTES EXTRA OF DAYLIGHT**



Julie and her jigsaw! This place is reserved for Julie's picture of her and her completed puzzle. At the time of going to press, Julie had yet to complete this puzzle which was driving her mad! However, she has promised a photo on completion! Have you been trying a puzzle which has been a challenge? Let us see you and your triumph! Not wanting to be in the pic yourself? No problem... Send a completed puzzle picture with how many days it took you to complete.

Welcome ladies to our Special Edition Newsletter...The "Staying At Home" version! For the whole period where we are to STAY AT HOME to SAVE LIVES, we will be putting out this newsletter weekly, on a Friday (or early Saturday!). This is fantastic I hear you cry, however: This Newsletter needs **YOU! YES, YOU! ALL OF YOU!!**

Why? Let's take this opportunity to share. Share what you're up to, if you're in isolation, working from home, working or just being careful; share your suggestions and share how you're surviving! Plus, we need your involvement for many of the items within this newsletter.... So read on, join in and be magnificent. Without you, there is no US.

**Glenda's fantastic suggestion:** Write a list of people you want to call. Maybe some are just one-off calls; maybe people to call once a fortnight; some maybe once a week, some maybe twice; some might be every day. This is a great opportunity to catch up with people you haven't done for ages. Time to rekindle connections or check up on neighbours and friends whilst in self isolation. Loneliness can be so loud it can be deafening, or you can use it to your advantage. Stick to your list and tick people off daily. That way you're giving yourself a restriction and able to use your time wisely. Thank you Glenda for your suggestion.

### What we're up to:



This is Alexandra, one of our newbies. Alexandra was a member of Chaucer WI which sadly closed last year and we are very lucky to now include her as part of our circle. This is Alexandra and her hubby as they were practising being in each other's company 24/7 after Boris' announcement to STAY AT HOME, back in mid-March. How are you guys doing? 😊

Feeling charitable? The NHS are doing magnificently, but watching Prince Charles recently, he was talking about the British Red Cross (BRC) & what they are doing. Let us use this opportunity to highlight charities & even if we donate 50p each, as a community, many 50p can make a lot of money. Each week I will focus on a British charity harbouring silent heroes. This week : The BRC is always on standby to help with UK emergencies – CV19 is no exception. Their volunteers have been called in to help meet the increased demand on vulnerable communities, by sorting, packing & delivering food parcels & helping with things the most vulnerable in our communities may need, whether that's isolated older persons, refugees or others experiencing severe hardship. The BRC knows no social boundaries.

### **Virtual Grand National:**

There have been some amazing improvisations to viewing schedules, one has to be Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April's, virtual Grand National... including possibly the last time you can place a bet on the kidnapped Red Rum! Red Rum and other horses will all be virtually running with the winner still to be seen! This is not a hot tip by the way – unless you take it up and win, in which case, you are committed to split the profits with me personally! 😊 Other tv changes include: The halting of the filming of Stranger Things; Eastenders showing only on Monday and Tuesday eves; Emmerdale-showing Monday to Friday and Corrie will only show one episode on a Monday, Wednesday & Friday as opposed to two (how often is that programme on??!). If you're like me & LOVE The Archers (if not, now is the time to embrace your inner Archer) this will not be on on Fridays. Amazon is putting on hold the recording for the next series of The Grand Tour (Jeremy Clarkson); A virtual church service on Sunday mornings has been launched on local radio in England, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the BBC is exploring ways to reflect other religions, especially the run-up to Ramadan. Sports programmes have reverted to covering classic matches to discuss... and much more. Most of which is being filmed in the presenters' houses! Very interesting for nosey people like me! 😊

Don't forget, if the Olympics is being moved & football stars are taking paycuts... we most definitely must be living through exceptional times! It is therefore ok to feel all is a bit crazy!

Page 2 and I'm still writing! For next week, I want to know if you know of any other charities which are going above and beyond in these exceptional times. I want to know about the puzzles or jobs etc you're struggling with or you have, after blood, sweat and tears, overcome. I want to know anything you have to share. Take back your reservation on the sofa and let us know what you're up to 😊

Jennifer's friend wrote this beautiful poem...

**And the people stayed at home**

Read books, rested, exercised, made art,

And played games, & learned new ways of being,

And were still.

And listened more deeply.

Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.

Some met their shadows.

And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed

And in the absence of people in ignorance, dangerous, mindless & heartless ways

The Earth began to heal,

And when the danger passed, & the people joined together again,

They grieved their losses & made new ways to live and heal the earth fully,

As they too had been healed.

This is wonderful... but can you do better? All entries will, in the first instance, be anonymous.

This is our competition for the month of April. The judge? Ho ho ho... don't think ANYONE will not be involved! The judge's will be those who do not submit an entry! Oh yes, EVERYONE will be involved! 😊

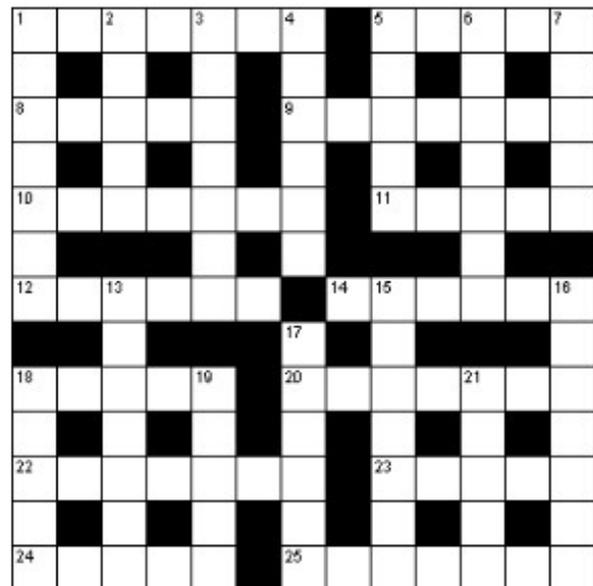
So why not look around, be inspired and getting poeming!

Deliveries and Collections. If you need ANYTHING collecting or delivering, maybe want just a cheeky treat from the supermarket, one of our ladies will be out and about every other day, so why not ask for a bit of assistance with something? Who never needs something from the supermarket?

Alternatively, there are some great local fruit and veg, cheese, butchers or general shops which are doing deliveries. **Please ask** and I can forward you the details. Local shops NEED YOU!

**It's good to talk – so let's do it!**

**In this unprecedented time, let's use this opportunity to make our group closer. Needed are people who are willing to call someone at random (as per availability for all parties), within the group once a day/every other day/once a week for TWENTY MINUTES ONLY! "Awkward" some might say but actually, not really... you could be the caller or receiver! We may not know the other person or not know them well or may be fortunate to be good friends with them but we are all W.I. ladies. We have much in common and most importantly, we have CV-19 to talk about! So let's take the time to talk! How ever much time you have available or want to do... let's talk. Imagine it is queuing time at a meeting and you're chatting with the lady in front whilst waiting for a cuppa and one of Julie's fine cakes, you know how much we like to natter then!!**



**What are you enjoying?**

Personally – I am enjoying cheese and onion sandwiches, with great big onion chunks! There's no fear anyone is going to come close enough to worry about the onion aroma I am emitting!

**Top tip from Penny:** Boots online now have hair dye & are prepared to deliver! Penny is now feeling relieved as she will not have to wear a hat as cover up over the next few months!!

**Let's see if we can make next week's newsletter THREE pages long! We need YOUR help make this happen.**

**Across**

- 1 Ancient writing material (7)
- 5 Governed (5)
- 8 Gain knowledge (5)
- 9 Eight-sided figure (7)
- 10 Conundrums (7)
- 11 Dark brown fur (5)
- 12 Powerful (6)
- 14 Braved (anag) (6)
- 18 Slice a joint (5)
- 20 Spray can (7)
- 22 Everywhere (3,4)
- 23 Intolerant person (5)
- 24 Natural aptitude (5)
- 25 Sideboard with open shelves (7)

**Down**

- 1 Traveller to a shrine (7)
- 2 Tartan cloth (5)
- 3 Curling lock of hair (7)
- 4 Husband or wife (6)
- 5 Council tax (5)
- 6 Able to be read (7)
- 7 Thick, compact (5)
- 13 Large ape (7)
- 15 Long-lasting (7)
- 16 Long pillow (7)
- 17 Spanish capital (6)
- 18 Banter (5)
- 19 Young eel (5)
- 21 Indications (5)