

# ANSDALL & FAIRHAVEN W.I. NEWS

## DECEMBER 2020

[www.ansdellwi.weebly.com](http://www.ansdellwi.weebly.com)



### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS



Do you remember New Year's Eve 2019? When the clock struck midnight and a new year dawned, were you excited about the year ahead, with plans maybe for a holiday, a special birthday, a wedding, or even elective surgery? Well, it probably hasn't happened as you planned.

2020, so far, has been full of completely different experiences – the first lock down with so little traffic on our usually busy roads, no non-food shops open, panic buying toilet paper, social distancing, elbow bump greetings, limited numbers at weddings and funerals, and social groups such as our wonderful WI unable to meet each month to renew our friendship and share our experiences.

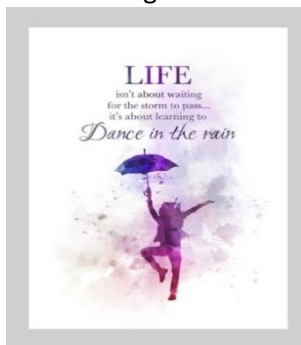
Apparently this year is being hailed as “worst year ever” but maybe there are several other contenders for this title. They include 1918, the final year of the 1st world war, the influenza pandemic that wiped out millions around the world and 536 where a dense fog plunged half the world into total darkness, 24/7 for 18 months. 2020 is not quite that bad, yet.

I am sure there are times when you feel shattered, broken and find it very difficult to retain your optimism in this current crisis. What we do know is that storms don't last forever, so take comfort in joy and never give up. The things that are keeping you awake at night will soon turn into something more

positive by staying determined. Life will get better. it may be today or tomorrow – it's just a matter of time.

Stay safe, Ladies, thinking of you all

*Susan*



**WISHING YOU A  
ZOOMING GOOD  
CHRISTMAS!!!**

After a very successful first Zoom meeting we are hoping that even more of you will join us for our December meeting.

We are to be entertained by David Dale who will be telling us tales from around the world, this will be interspersed with seasonal poems, songs and music accompanied on the keyboard by Ian Midhley.

After the entertainment we hope to have a little “social time” so why not make sure you have a glass of “Christmas cheer” handy!

If you didn't zoom last time please do have a go this time, attached to your email there is a list of instructions which Tracey has very kindly drawn up for us. Don't worry about making a mistake, we all make them and we all help each other to sort them!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

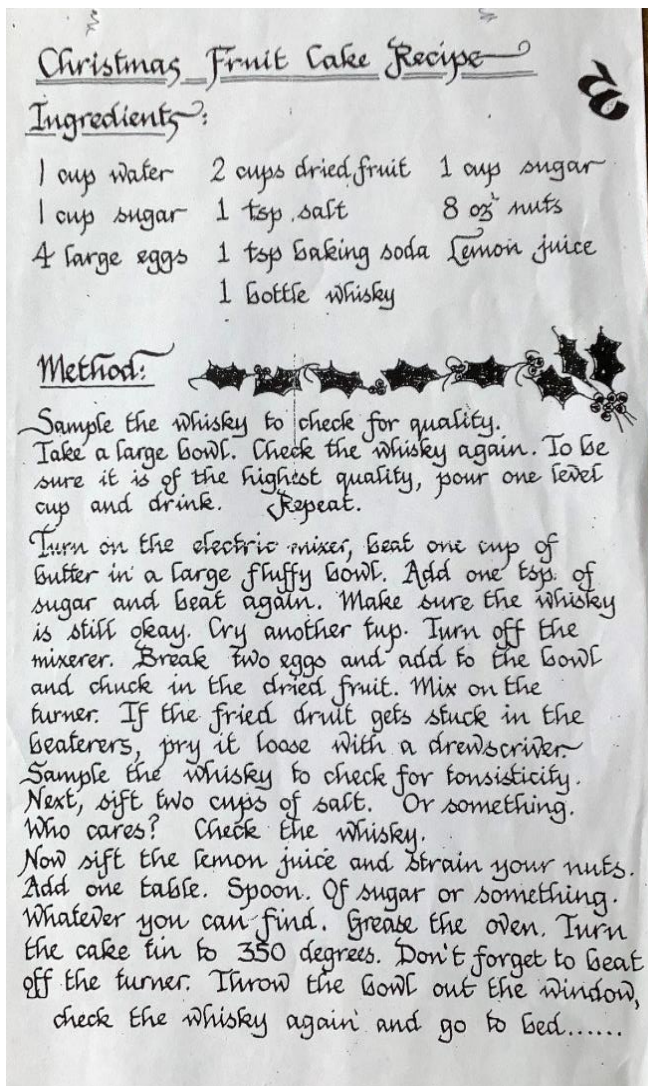
**TO OUR DECEMBER BABIES**



Dorothy Williamson  
Elaine Edmondson  
Jay Semley  
Rita Edge  
Carol Peet  
Ann Lomas

## FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS RECIPES

I'm sure we would all enjoy making a Christmas Cake from this recipe sent in by June Oliver



## CHRISTMAS STUFFING

Pat's tip for quick, easy, delicious stuffing

The Christmas stuffing recipe I always used to use was in my French Cordon Blue book but it went with a lot of stuff when I moved. But a useful hint for making a good stuffing without a cordon bleu recipe, is buy a good quality sage and onion, mix it as directed, but add to it ..

- A shallot
- Chopped walnuts, however many you fancy
- And chopped apricots.



Sauté all in butter and add to bought stuffing, delicious!

## Mince Pies and more from Lorraine

We do have a favourite Christmas treat but I won't write the recipe down as most people have it, we call them Tantadulums and I would be interested to hear if anyone else has heard of them. My sister-in-law makes them every Christmas and no-one else seems to have heard of them, they are simply Bakewell tarts, without icing and she makes them as individual cakes, rather than a large one.



Other than that, we are very traditional, although I play around with mince pies quite a lot, I ice some, put marzipan on top of others, I use different types of pastry too, rough puff, short, and different flour, sometimes wholemeal.

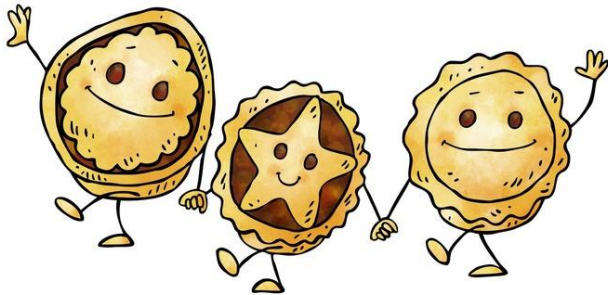


The favourite of my family is an 8" pie, you spread sliced cooking apples on the bottom, sprinkle them with a good helping of sugar, top with mincemeat and then do a lattice over the top - fabulous with cream and custard poured over the top to eat. That's another family favourite, hot custard with cream swirled on top, now I'm hungry.



## Anne's alternative to Mince Pies

Here's a recipe that I've used for a few years, it's a bit easier than mince pies



It is a tray bake so can be cut into whatever size pieces you want. I quite often do bite sized ones, mind you him indoors prefers big pieces!



Like them or hate them – Susan Brierley's recipe will encourage all to love them!

I particularly like this recipe as it works wonders for anyone who doesn't like sprouts- one of my granddaughters really dislikes them but will eat them cooked this way.

- 1lb sprouts
- 2 tablespoons olive or veg oil
- 1 small chopped onion
- 1 cup chicken stock
- 1 tablespoon soya sauce
- 1 teaspoonful sesame oil

Heat olive oil in pan & add onion - cook till softened.

Add sprouts to pan cover & shake pan.

Cook for 2 minutes



Reduce heat & add stock, soya sauce and sesame oil.

Cook sprouts until tender.

Enjoy xx



Personally I could eat the plateful ! (Glenis)

## Catering for unexpected guests with Tracey

This is something I invented several Christmases ago. Finding I had some of each element left over, but not quite enough to feed everyone who had unexpectedly invited themselves over at short notice, I decided to make a pie with what I had.

Blind bake a shortcrust pastry base and cool.



Pile in turkey, sprouts, roasties, carrot/swede mash, parsnips, pigs in blankets, bread sauce, stuffing, gravy - whatever you've got left over.

Just dollop them in evenly across the base, so each slice will contain a little of everything, (but don't stir them together). The whole point is only to use leftovers, so if for example, you have no sprouts left, just leave them out, no need for substitutes.

Top with a puff pastry lid (ready-made pastry is fine), egg wash (optional) and bake until piping hot and the pastry is crisp and golden. Eat hot or cold, but do not reheat again.



It might sound awful, but I promise it tastes divine and it was a great hit. With only enough to make maybe two small plates of dinner this pie, easily serves six normal people, (or four of my family, all of who have hollow legs). It's now one of the most requested "specials" on my menu.

## Rita Kendrew tempts us with her family recipe for Advocaat

This is my mother-in-law's family recipe.



I make it every year and we have a drink with a mince pie when putting up the Christmas tree and decorations.

### INGREDIENTS

½ pint single cream



½ pint rum or brandy



6 eggs



6 ozs soft brown sugar



Whisk eggs until well mixed

Whisk in sugar

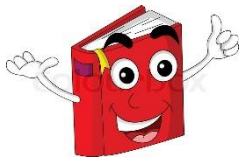
Then add a little rum/brandy, then a little cream with a wooden spoon until all mixed.



This will keep in a fridge for up to 6 months,

Shake well before drinking.

For a cheaper option you can use sherry but it does not keep for more than two or three weeks.



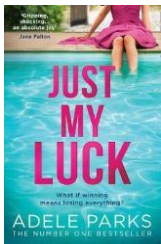
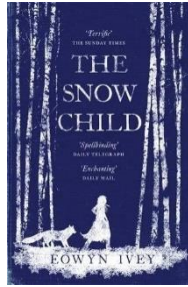
## BOOKS TO ENJOY OVER THE LONG WINTER EVENINGS

### Julie starts off our booklist

Here are a couple of books from the dozens I have read during the lockdowns.

The Snow Child - Eowyn Ivey (Finalist for a Pulitzer prize).

Set in 1920's Alaska, an elderly, childless couple settles into a homestead. The book is inspired by a Russian folktale. The couple make a Snow Child which comes to life. It is a story about finding love in unexpected places, full of fire and ice. - An excellent book for this time of the year.



Just My Luck - Adele Parks

A contemporary psychological thriller. An ordinary family, in an ordinary house, living ordinary lives until one day, everything changes. How one day can change lives forever. Friendships, betrayal and love. This book has it all. Certainly one for discussion.

### Barbara Knowles enjoys L.J. Ross

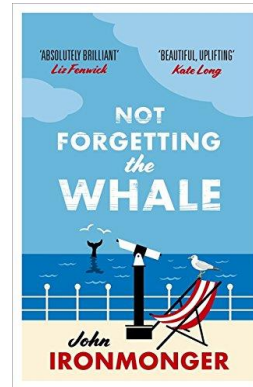
I have just been given 5 books in a detective series by LJ ROSS, DCI Ryan series, .and having started the first one which takes place on Holy Island I can't put it down.

I feel Christmas has come early but then I enjoy all types of detective stories like Rebus, Vera etc!



### Dianne takes us to the Beach

Not Forgetting The Whale by John Ironmonger



Joe, a young City trader, washes up on a Cornish beach, is rescued by local villagers and becomes involved in their lives and their future. Sounds simple enough but the story has both a mystery and a romance and is a really satisfying read. This was a

particularly interesting book to read during the first lockdown as, written in 2015, it predicts a flu pandemic. Don't let that put you off, though! The book is amusing, upbeat, thought provoking and the best book I've read all year. I will definitely read more by this author.

A Shot in the Dark, The Man that Got Away and Murder by the Milk Bottle - three books by Lynn Truss

set in Brighton in the late-fifties featuring her hero Constable Twitten. A new recruit to the police force, vastly overqualified for the job, Twitten (almost!) always gets his man. A charming and funny series which will take you away from our current woes.

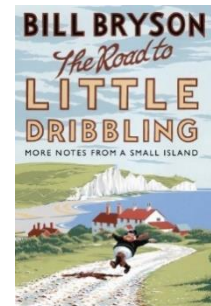


### Rita Calvert brings us a Bill Bryson

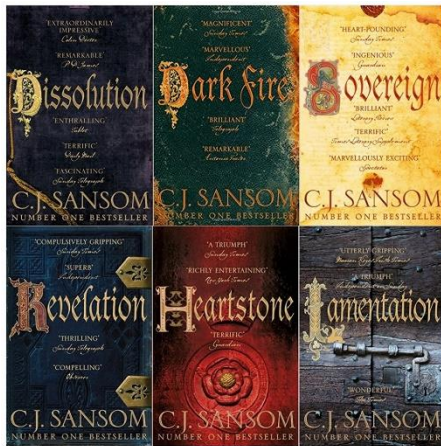
I really, really enjoyed "The Road to Little Dribbling" by Bill Bryson.

I chuckled many times at various parts of it. He had really nice things to say about Lytham.

This book was written about five years ago and is a follow up to "Notes from a small island".



## Pat Blundell takes us back to Tudor



Times

My book recommendation is C J Sansom's ShardLake series.

Matthew Shardlake is a solicitor/barrister in the time of Henry 8th.

It is very well written and creates the atmosphere of Tudor times, you can smell the street!

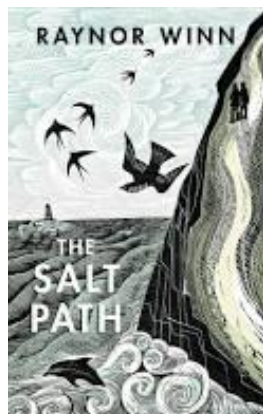
It is history and political manoeuvring - but also detective. It is a series but anyone can be read as separate book.

## Back to the present and to the coast with Joan Shaw

'The Saltpath' by Raynor Winn

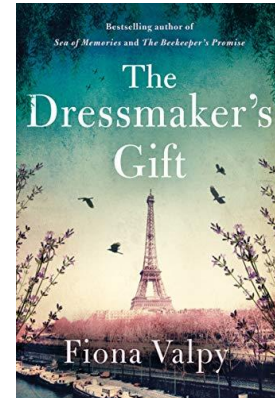
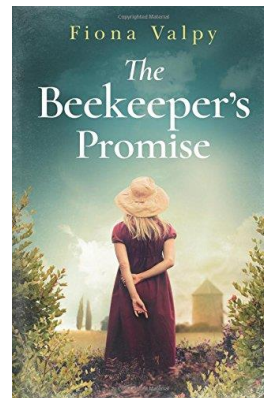
This is a real life story of a middle aged couple who, through extreme adversity, take on the challenge of walking the South West Coastal Path.

It's not your average read but has warmth, humanity and is a tonic read.



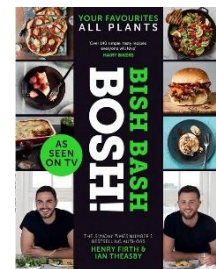
to

## Lorraine's books are set in France



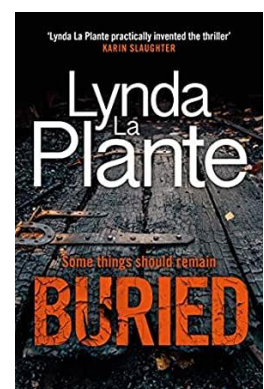
I have recently read a really good book by Fiona Valpy, The Dressmaker's Gift, the follow up, The Beekeeper's Promise, is also a really good read. The Dressmaker's Gift is about how a group of girls working in a couturier in Paris during the war became members of the French Resistance and The Beekeeper's Promise is the follow up to some of their stories.

If anyone wants a recommendation for a vegan cookery book Bish Bash Bosh is excellent, full of really tasty recipes for everyone to enjoy.



## Geraldine brings us another detective book

A smashing book.....I have not read a Linda La Plante book in years but was given her very latest as a gift recently. Published this year. It's a crime thriller, of course, called Buried. A burnt out cottage with a fortune and a body buried in the ashes resurrects memories of some old East End characters from her early books and introduces a new character....Detective Jack Ward.

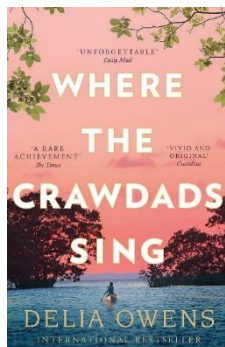


An easy read with twists and turns.

## North Carolina is the setting Susan Brierley's book

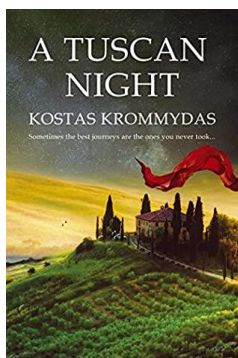
"Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens.

An American best seller bringing 2 storylines together. Set in North Carolina swamplands in the 1950's. It's about a young girl abandoned by her family and how she copes with her lonely life from a very early age. The second storyline deals with a murder and how she is connected. A fascinating & easy to read novel.



## Jeanette Jones gives us two very different books

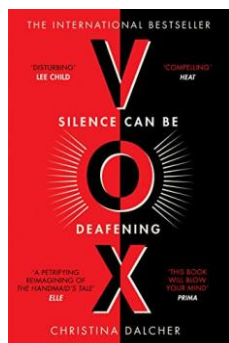
"A Tuscan Night" by Kostas Krommydas.



An uplifting novel set in Greece and Italy - "my journey started on the day I was told that I only had a few months left to live... and it was the most beautiful I have ever made". A reminder that tomorrow is never guaranteed and we should treasure each day.

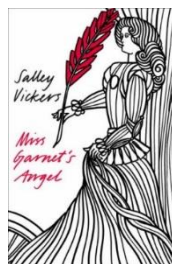
"Vox" by Christina Dalcher

Set in America in a dystopian anti-female society, Jean McClellan, a brilliant neuro-linguist, spends her days in almost complete silence - limited to speaking 100 words a day. If she exceeds this amount, a thousand volts of electricity rush through her body from the metal bracelet she, along with all females, is forced to wear around her wrist. "For herself, her daughter, and for every woman silenced, Jean will reclaim her voice".



## A lovely selection from Sue Hodgson-King

There is a book I return to and love rereading - because I love a well written story and Venice.



'Miss Garnett's Angel' by Sally Vickers 'Beautiful and brilliantly controlled. A triumph' John Julius Norwich.

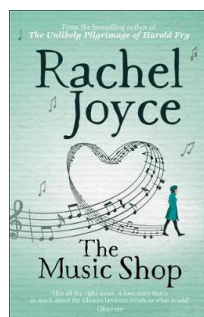
'All lovers of Venice should read this book'.

'This must be the place' by Maggie O'Farrell

'Every sentence ..she .. writes is so perfectly formed that you want to wallow in it' Good Housekeeping.



The back cover summarises 'a portrait of an extraordinary marriage, the forces that hold it together and the pressures that drive it apart'.

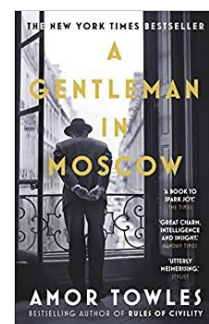


'The Music Shop' by Rachel Joyce 'A beautiful novel, a tonic for the soul and a complete joy to read'.

Members can look these up and read reviews from other readers on Amazon.

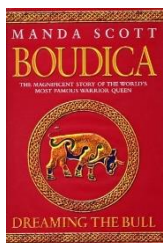
## Off to Moscow with Marilyn

A good book - 'A Gentleman in Moscow' by Amor Towles. Beautifully written and a charming main character. Fairly long but definitely worth the read. In 1922 Count Alexander Rostov, a respectable aristocrat (or was) is escorted out of the Kremlin, across Red Square and into the elegant Hotel Metropol where he has to live in an attic room under surveillance while Russia undergoes decades of tumultuous upheaval

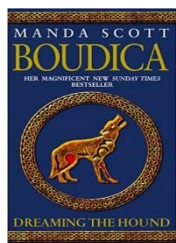
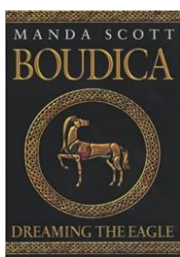


## ... and from me, a visit to the Celtic Icenis to meet Boudica

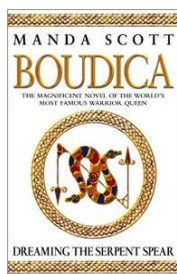
My favourite books are those which really take me to experience life in a different time or place, especially life far



removed from the life we live here in Lytham today. Manda Scott does this brilliantly in this series of books.



There is of course very little recorded history of the time but the story Manda Scott weaves around the known "facts" of the times is compelling and believable.



## Are you a member of Lancashire Library – do you know about Borrowbox?

It's a **free** facility offered by Lancashire Library. Signing up to BorrowBox is quick and easy. The app can be downloaded from the relevant app store or from the BorrowBox website to create an account, using the library member's card number and PIN.

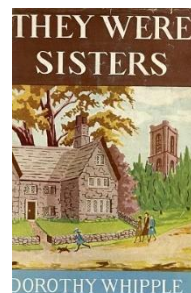
You can then browse through the collection of around 2,700 e-books and 950 audiobooks. Library members can borrow up to six e-books and six audiobooks for a maximum of two weeks, which can also be renewed or reserved.



The BorrowBox app includes a dedicated e-book reader and audiobook player and can be installed on mobile devices for free.

## A taste of the 1940s with Tracey

*They Were Sisters* by Dorothy Whipple, published by Persephone. The story of three women, the marriage choices they each make and the very different consequences they each find and with which they



deal. First published in the 1940s so daily life was of course very different, (e.g. post delivered three times a day), but the personality types and relationships are essentially just as true today for many women.

Dorothy Whipple is a wonderful writer and Persephone have re-published several of her novels and short stories, all of which are beautifully written, thought-provoking and memorable, with flashes of humour. Accessible, but not remotely trivial or chick-lit, I'd thoroughly recommend anything by DW.

## From our Book Club leader, VAL



I have been rereading the Stieg Larsson Millennium Series of three, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, *The Girl who Played with Fire* and *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*.



I just get so engrossed in Elizabeth Salander, a young woman who from childhood led an awful life manipulated by other so called medical experts .....so inventive, disturbing and challenging and such researched writing; so sad that Larsson never lived to see the phenomenon that his work became.



To all the members of Book Club I so hope we can resume our enjoyable meetings in the Spring of 2021.

Best Wishes and keep safe Val xx



## At Home with LFWI

Online events – December 2020

**Various Cook along sessions with our very own Vice Chairman** Heather Williams – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 7.00pm & Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am

**The Life and Times of Anne Frank** Gillian Walnes-Perry – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2pm

**Festive Flower arranging** Christine Ramsey – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm

**A tour of the Cotswolds** Peter Lawrence – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm

**The curious Origins of our Christmas Traditions** Ken Pye – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 2pm

**A fascinating talk on how Royalty has influenced our Christmas traditions'** Siobhan Clarke – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm

Full details on all these online events will be available a week before each event on our Website.

You will be able to book them on the Online store at [www.lancashirewi.org.uk](http://www.lancashirewi.org.uk).

**All events are priced at £5.00**

**Please feel free to pass this information to friends and family as these events are open to non-members**

**Please note you do not need to have a PayPal Account to make the purchase, just follow the instructions on the payment page**

## LFWI Programme 2021

### FEBRUARY

12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> C&C Make a Good Witch **TBC**  
17<sup>th</sup> Leisure Games Afternoon **TBC**

### MARCH

17<sup>th</sup> Leisure Treasure Hunt  
19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> C&C Needle Felting

### APRIL

14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> C&C Beadwork  
19<sup>th</sup> NFWI Annual Meeting – London  
24<sup>th</sup> Show Tips  
29<sup>th</sup> ACWW Afternoon Tea

### MAY

4<sup>th</sup> Show Tips  
21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> C&C Workshop

### JUNE

8<sup>th</sup> **Annual Council Meeting**  
**Whites Hotel, Bolton – NEW DATE**  
11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Gin & Jazz event  
2<sup>nd</sup> C&C Literary lunch, Fence Gate

### JULY

3<sup>rd</sup> C&C Photography  
7<sup>th</sup> PA Probate  
11<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> C&C Willow Weaving  
21<sup>st</sup> Leisure Games and Fish & Chips  
28<sup>th</sup> PA Environment Event

### AUGUST

4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Leisure Treasure Hunt  
28<sup>th</sup> PA Environment Event

### SEPTEMBER

4<sup>th</sup> C&C Floral Art  
8<sup>th</sup> PA Hedgehogs & Bees  
12<sup>th</sup> Afternoon Tea – Lowry  
13<sup>th</sup> Afternoon Tea – Woolton Golf Club  
14<sup>th</sup> Afternoon Tea – Barton Grange  
15<sup>th</sup> Afternoon Tea – Mitton Hall  
21<sup>st</sup> County Show Preview Dinner  
22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> County Show  
28<sup>th</sup> Tours Fairfield Mill & Penrith

### OCTOBER

6<sup>th</sup> Dance Taster Sessions  
15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> C&C Round Robin

### NOVEMBER

3<sup>rd</sup> PA – International Day  
7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Willow Weaving classes  
27<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Day

### DECEMBER

1<sup>st</sup> Tours Christmas at Shugborough  
8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> C&C Sewing Machine w/Shop