

ANSDELL & FAIRHAVEN W.I. NEWS

May 2020

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MAY MESSAGE FROM SUSAN

How are you coping with cocooning? Well I think I'm doing ok, but I've just seen a news report about the stresses and strains of self-isolation. It said that people are actually going crazy from being in lock-down, but I don't think that's happening to me! It's strange actually because I had just been talking about this with the microwave and toaster and all of us agreed that things are getting bad. But I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she always has to put a different spin on things, and I certainly wouldn't say anything to the fridge as she is acting very cold and distant. In the end the iron calmed me down. She said everything will be fine, which surprised me because she's usually the first one to apply unnecessary pressure and get steamed up over things!



Seriously, please don't succumb to talking to the fridge, we are here for you.



WE'LL MEET AGAIN ...

... we will, though unfortunately, **not in June!** But of course we will eventually and until then, we'll keep smiling through just like we always do!



LET'S CHEER UP!

When groups of WI ladies get together someone always has a funny story to tell, here's one from Diane Nield -

A month or so ago, when out shopping at a well-known supermarket, I saw a sweet little cactus in a pot that I thought would look perfect on the shelves in my lounge, so I bought it and carried it home carefully so as not to disturb its roots.



I'm not very green fingered but I do know that cacti don't need a lot of water. I reckoned that a teaspoon a week would be right as it's in quite a sunny position so that's what I've been giving it. I was pleased with how it fitted in my room and hoped that, maybe, one day it might produce a flower.



Having a bit more time on my hands this week I've been taking a bit more care with housework than usual. Not generally a favourite activity!!!

I took everything off the shelves to have a 'Good Dust'. In doing so I knocked the little cactus over – oh no – the soil's going to go on the carpet!!! But hang on... no, it's still in place! Turns out it's PLASTIC!!!



Thanks for the funny story Diane

THANK YOU TO YOU

Thank you to everyone who filled in their Gift Aid form – this has resulted in us getting a rebate from HMRC of £200.64!



BOOK CLUB

Our book this month is The Bookseller of Kabul, Asne Seierstad, the author visited Sultan's Bookshop in Kabul where she met and talked with him at length about literature surrounded by shelves of



books in many languages, poems, Afghan legends, novels, and history books.

Asne moved in with Sultan's family to research information for her own book. Sultan tells her how the Communists burnt his books, the mujahideen looted and the Taliban burnt them over and over again. He launched a personal fight to save Afghan books of Art and Literature and Culture hiding them in various locations. Asne went with him on many journeys to buy books and shared in many escapades.



But ladies... Sultan's story took second place for me, much more interesting was the life of women. Asne shows how little say women had in daily life eg the impact on the first wife of a husband taking a second wife; husbands being chosen for young girls then having 13 or more children often starting when they were too young to give birth. a girl of 16 stoned in the street and severely abused at home for sending a love letter, a toe or fingertip cut off because of an alleged minor offence Asne wore a burka when she went out which "pinched my head" causing a headache, a closed world, difficulty seeing felt like a blinkered horse, how little air leaving you dripping in perspiration, picking up dirt and smelling disgusting. Dire living conditions with three or more families living in one house; fourteen people sleeping in one room on mats; bathing at the Hammam (bath house) but only every few months; using hemp gloves to scour filthy bodies. Ladies this book is a must to read... we have lockdown but still have our creature comforts unlike the Afghan women!

Next month we find out about the life of a very different woman, in Michelle Obama's autobiography, Becoming.

Keep safe Val



CRAFT GROUP

Hello crafty ladies and non-crafty ladies I hope you are all fit and well.

Well there's no craft group again this month which goes without saying, but I know members have been very busy making things at home. I am currently putting together the dream catcher for those who want to make one, I will distribute them when safe to do so. But if you want to make something nice and easy and have some spare fabric I am collecting pairs of hearts for people in hospital one for them and one for their family. They are very simple, just 2½ inches in size and need to be in matching fabrics



with a small amount of padding inside. Just like these that have been done by Marcia and Anna

Please will you "pair up" your hearts and put them in



plastic bags as in this photo.

When done if you contact me and I will arrange collection and delivery to the person who is taking them to the hospital Thank you and hopefully see you soon

Regards Linda 07725699903

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

A very happy birthday to our May birthday ladies:



Anne Allingham Evelyn Davidson
Lorraine Robinson Bette Nichols

... and a very special happy birthday to two of our members who celebrate BIG birthdays this month

Mai Golightly
Pat Costello



KNIT AND NATTER

Members of the group have been keeping themselves busy during the lock down. Blankets & hearts have been crocheted,



scarves and cardigans knitted



Rainbows have been crocheted and hung in windows in support of the NHS



And even little dogs have been knitted



If anyone fancies a challenge you could make a knitted or crocheted Lady's shawl for evening wear like Linda did.



Stay safe, Maureen x

HOW LONG WILL THE LOCKDOWN LAST?

How we all wish we knew the answer to that, but we can possibly help with the next question – What are we going to do until then? Well here's what the Committee have been doing, I hope it gives you ideas for things you might try.

Reading our favourite authors - Kaled Hossein, C.J. Sansom, Cara Hunter, Kate Mosse and Elly Griffiths. Book shops are closed but websites are open! Try Abebooks.co.uk or Amazon.co.uk



Watching TV Our recent favourites can be accessed on Catch Up

3 part serial "Quiz" on ITV, The Nest on BBC, The Great British Sewing Bee is on Wednesdays at 9pm on BBC. Rick



Stein in France and James Martin in the Highlands are VERY popular. If want to "escape" today's Lockdown and go back 30, 40, 50 or more years try "Talking Pictures TV" on Virgin 445, Freesat 306, Freeview or Youview 81 or Sky channel 328. You'll find old films and serials such as Family at War.

Theatre If you're missing your theatre trips try streaming live plays from

www.originaltheatreonline.com each at an approximate cost of £5. Coming

soon are "The Croft", a thriller by Ali Milles starring Gwen Taylor and "The Habit of Art" by Allan Bennett starring Matthew Kelly.



Being Active If running or cycling like Susan, or Yoga like Janet is not for you join others of us with the 80 year old Green Goddess, Diana Moran, on BBC Breakfast Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6.55 or 8.55am.



Singing Julie, Diane and Anne are singing with their choirs over "Zoom" But everyone can join in with Gareth Malone's choir. You don't need to sign up just search online for Gareth



Malone's Great British Home Chorus on You tube and view the sessions starting with the First Rehearsal, just sing along and enjoy!

AND WHAT ELSE HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

BAKING !!!

Judging by the empty flour and caster sugar shelves in the supermarkets, it seems like everyone and anyone on the Fylde coast has been baking and we're no exception.

Our results have been, should we say,



somewhat mixed!

But here is a tried and tested recipe for Date and Walnut Cake

Ingredients

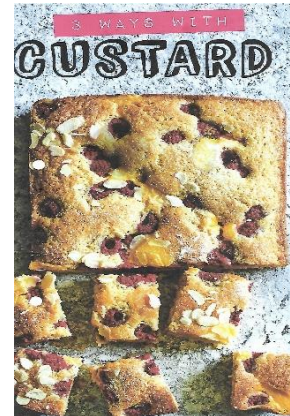
- 250g (8oz) dates, chopped
- 125g (4oz) caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 55g (2oz) butter or margarine, cut into small cubes
- 170ml (6 fluid oz) boiling water
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 tbl spoons syrup
- 55g (2oz) chopped walnuts
- 250g (8oz) self-raising flour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence (optional)

Cooking Directions

1. Pre heat the oven to 160 degrees C
2. Place the dates, sugar, bicarbonate of soda and butter/margarine and syrup into a mixing bowl
3. Pour the boiling water over and mix to melt the fat
4. Allow to cool a little
5. Add the egg
6. Add the walnuts, flour and vanilla essence if using and mix to a smooth batter type consistency
7. Grease and line two small or one large loaf tin
8. Bake in the oven for about 75 minutes (test with skewer after 60 mins) or until firm (50 mins should be ok for 1lb tins)

RASPBERRY CUSTARD CAKE

Pat's neighbour baked this and gave her a piece, it was so delicious she got the recipe for us



Raspberry custard cake

1 HOUR 5 MINUTES + COOLING | CUTS INTO 20 | EASY

Long-life custard is a bit more stable and usually thicker than fresh, so good for baking into cakes.

butter 250g, softened, plus extra for the tin

ready-made long-life custard 250g

golden caster sugar 250g

eggs 4 large

vanilla extract 1 tsp

self-raising flour 300g

ground almonds 50g

baking powder ½ tsp

raspberries 250g

flaked almonds 2 tbsp

icing sugar for dusting

- Heat the oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4 and butter and line a 20 x 30cm tin.
- Reserve 100g of the custard. Put the rest in a big bowl with the butter and sugar, and beat with an electric whisk until pale and fluffy. Beat in the eggs one by one, followed by the vanilla, then fold through the flour, ground almonds and baking powder. Spoon the batter into the tin, leaving it rough on top. Scatter over the raspberries, dot over dollops of the reserved custard and scatter with the flaked almonds. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until a skewer poked into the middle of the sponge comes out clean.
- Cool, then cut into chunks, dusting with a little icing sugar to serve.

PER SERVING 259 KCALS | FAT 14.5G

SATURATES 7.4G | CARBS 26.8G | SUGARS 14.9G

FIBRE 1G | PROTEIN 4.7G | SALT 0.4G

MOBBERLEY WI ???

Thanks to Tracey for this amusing report!

Right ladies, Judith has kindly emailed the crochet patterns for the face masks and matching underwear sets. Anyone who runs out of wool should message Delia who will leave fresh supplies in a vacuum sealed sandwich bag on your doorstep. She will knock the theme tune to Miami Vice on your door so you know it's her, you'll have to take pot luck on colours, but I do know there is a particularly lovely shade of burnt copper. Mavis has drawn up a rota for the Haz Mat suit and WW2 Gas Mask, it is one size fits all so please don't specify size requirements.



Currently we will have to abandon our collection of soft toys made from used hosiery, particularly after that unfortunate incident when Mr Malmsbury was found doing unspeakable things to the elephant made by his wife, Nora. I'm sure we all support Nora at this upsetting time. Apparently they WERE his fishnets, which is why he was confused and why he wanted them back.

Connie is finishing off the template for making an emergency face mask and draft excluder from a spare bra. I know some members have raised concern that as Connie is a 46GG she has more



material to work with than most, but she assures me her template will be scalable from 32 A upwards.

Audrey wants to apologize for the mix-up with the medication run, but please be assured Joan suffered no side effects from taking Marjorie's husband Viagra and haliborange. And likewise Marjorie's husband seems to have responded really well to the HRT. Marjorie says they even agreed on the pattern for their new curtains.



Great news: we have already started collecting prizes for the summer fayre raffle. It looks like the star prize this year may well be a pack of 9 Andrex Quilted Aloe Vera toilet rolls. Shortly followed by a complete set of knitted Nolan Sisters toilet roll covers. Mavis says any resemblance between Colleen Nolan and Anne Widdecombe is purely coincidental.-- Pip-pip!



KEEPING IN TOUCH

We do hope you are enjoying the newsletter as our way of keeping in touch with you during Lockdown.

BUT how about two other ways :

During this period of lockdown, or cocooning as Susan calls it, there is no need to feel alone. Help is at hand!

If you feel isolated, or you need help with something, or if you just want to hear a friendly voice and have a chat please just call one of the Committee or send a message.



Our contact names and phone numbers:

Susan 738344	Dianne 07751991595
Anne 728930	Julie 07846116825
Glenis 794141	Janet 07702187148

Remember we are stronger if we work together and shine our lights out to each other.



May all be happy.
May all be safe.
May all be well.

Several people have suggested we have our own facebook page. We'd like to know what the feeling is across all our members.

Something you would use OR not use



OR



Please email Susan at hodgy50@yahoo.co.uk to let us know what you think.

