

# ANSDELL & FAIRHAVEN W.I. NEWS

## SEPTEMBER 2020

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

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

During these past months, with so many stresses on daily lives, our anxieties can trick us into thinking that it's better to shut out the world and dwell on negative thoughts. It can be difficult to force ourselves out of the front door but we often feel better once we do. Connecting with nature and others has many benefits. It helps us feel less alone, taking our mind off the things that worry us and giving us the chance to receive some kindness and some joy. When we talk to others, we often realise that everyone has worries and stresses, which can help to put our own issues into perspective. We are social creatures who aren't designed to go through life alone and your WI family are here and can help... if you need it.

Still no news, I'm afraid, on when we can venture into our new meeting place, and return to our regular monthly meetings. We are in contact with the Church Elders and will let you have an update as soon as we know what's happening on the Church lifting restrictions. We assure you that we will keep you safe although we fully understand if you are concerned about mixing in large groups at the moment.

Thinking of you  
*Susan*



To all our September babies

Joan Barrow           Thelma Cookson  
Susan Brierley       Tracey Garvey  
Maureen Glassock

### DENMAN

An Adult Education College for the WI was first proposed in 1943 - and not by a woman! Sir Richard Livingstone, a College President at Oxford University, made the proposal when he addressed a NFWI Summer School meeting in Shropshire, (though I'm sure it wasn't just his idea!)

The WI resolution to develop a college was passed in 1945, and in 1947 Marcham Park, Oxfordshire, a grand house with acres of land, was bought for £16,000 to house it. The college was opened in 1948 and was named Denman College after Lady Denman, the first Chairman of the NFWI.



Denman was a residential college, with over 70+ ensuite bedrooms. All were decorated by different Federations. I couldn't find a photo of the Lancashire room, but this is the very comfortable Yorkshire triple bedded room – perhaps reflecting it as the White Rose County.



Denman offered a wide range of day and residential courses from watercolours to well-being, music to marmalade! As you will see overleaf, our members who did go thoroughly enjoyed the courses and produced excellent results



Janet Curran says "although the college itself has closed, it is offering sessions on Zoom which are being enjoyed by many who have not been to the college. I have already participated in 4 sessions - one history lecture, one papercraft, and two fabric based crafts. The courses are mainly priced at just £5. To find out more just log on to

<https://www.denman.org.uk/whats-on/>

## MEMBERS' EXPERIENCES AT DENMAN

Janet, Caroline and Linda, between them have attended several Denman courses over the past few years. Some of the topics have been within their existing interests, but they have also chosen some courses which have given them different experiences.



Janet says : This was what I did at Denman in November 2018 - 'Embroidering Bugs and Insects'. They're done with a combination of techniques, including watercolour, Fibre tip pens, glitter...and of course, embroidery!"

Linda did a Ribbon Embroidery, and made this fabulous topiary tree picture. Amazing, especially when you realise this was done in less than two days. It's just beautiful



In 2018 our WI won a Bursary for two people for Denman and it was decided to award it to Caroline and Janet, They did a three day course on free motion machine embroidery with, of course, excellent results.



Moving out of her comfort zone Janet did a course entitled "Atmospheric Landscapes in Watercolour" with

excellent results!

Linda's amazing Goldwork embroidery which she completed on at another Denman Course



Janet say –"It's a pity that Denman has now closed, but I'm hoping that maybe the WI will look at organising residential courses in other venues, throughout the country in the future, maybe utilising the facilities of hotels or colleges at quiet times." - What a good idea, let's hope it happens.

## KEEPING BUSY CRAFTING DURING LOCKDOWN

**Janet** says –

Early this year a few members of the Knit & Natter Group got together at my house with the aim of learning, or improving, their crochet skills by making 'Spice of Life' blankets. We intended to meet fortnightly, so that we could discuss any problems with the pattern, share yarn and generally encourage each other to progress.

Unfortunately we'd only had two meetings when lockdown started, so our get-togethers were cancelled and we had to resort to email communication. Using WhatsApp we have been able to encourage each other on a daily basis and have produced - dare I say it - some pretty good work over the last few months. Here's a collage of some of our work...



I have been totally self-isolating for most of the last 5 months and have had a lot of time on my hands, so having completed three Spice blankets I was ready for a bigger challenge. I decided to do Jane Crowfoot's Fruit Garden crochet-along, and have just finished this blanket.



(My this is absolutely beautiful, well done Janet)

## PAM KEEPS HERSELF VERY BUSY

**Pam** is a very appreciative member of Janet's crochet buddies group, she says: "I joined Janet's group to learn how to make a wonderful blanket with different crochet stitches. Janet was going to give us a print out for the next set of stitches, when we next met up, but covid19 came along and put paid to our meetings. So Janet emailed me the full pattern and I have plodded on.

As I completed each section I took a photo and sent it to Janet to see if I had done it correctly! Mostly were yes's but on the no's I pulled my row back -again and again for some rows, till I got it right. Some of the group have now finished their blankets but I'm still plodding on. I'm on the last part of the first section! Section 2 contains all the stitches that I have already learnt but in different colours so I'm hoping it will be easier having done them before in the first section – but we'll see.



(Well done Pam and well done Janet)

Pam makes lots of other lovely things, including these lovely lanterns, here she describes how she makes them

You need 2 A4 sheets of 300gsm white card, then you score the card into equal sections then cut in the middle of card, to cut two sections (2panels in each piece) using a guillotine, then you place the panel die onto each panel to cut out the design that goes through a machine called a Big Shot.



I usually put a small set of lights inside the top lid and stick them in with a strong double sided tape. Then I decorate the lid with die shapes that have been glittered to give it sparkle and pop a fake rose on top to finish it off.

This lockdown I've made 9.

(I bet the recipients are delighted with them!)

## OUR MEMBERS LOVE WALKING – AT HOME AND ABROAD!



### From Dianne

Wherever we go abroad my husband and I search out a local walk. One memorable occasion was a hike up to and around the Kaprun-Kitzerhorn dam near Zell-am-See, Austria. This magnificent dam has an unfortunate history as it was built during WWII by 10,000 POW's and forced labourers and claimed the lives of 120 of them. In 1998 a memorial was



finally erected to these workers but their real legacy is the dam itself

What a relief to reach the dam and enjoy the sun!



Many of you will have been to Madeira and will be familiar with the Levada or irrigation system. There are more than 1,350 miles of these channels in the hills and they form a network of walking pathways. Some are nice and easy, some are definitely not for the faint-hearted or anyone scared of heights!



You can't beat a good walk in Britain if the weather is good, though, and this was a particularly lovely visit to Llandudno in September 2014 when I sat on the Little Orme looking over to the Great Orme.



The local goats recently made headlines during lockdown when they came down from the mountain to take advantage of the lack of tourists and empty roads....



And, finally, a walk much nearer to home and easily accessible. Park at the Wyre Estuary Country Park and follow the river bank towards Stannah Pool, an easy walk and lots to see along the way.



## From Jeanette Preston

Although not really a specific walk, we visited Holehird Gardens, home of Lakeland Horticultural Society at Troutbeck between Ambleside and Windermere.



Free entry and free car park but donations welcome. Toilets and visitor centre are not open so take your own drink and cake- plenty of seats.



There are plants for sale and walking round the gardens is lovely especially for those really interested in plants as many have labels and there are specialist collections. Typical time there would be an hour to two hours.

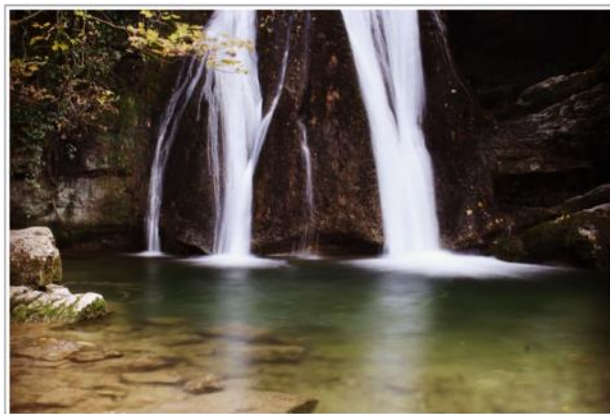


For the more energetic, you can walk to the gardens from Windermere, a map can be downloaded from the Holehird Gardens website.

## From Janet Carling

### Janet's Foss

*A Visit to the Queen of the Fairies and my Namesake!*



Everybody loves a waterfall. When the waterfall is home to the Queen of Fairies, a leisure walk to find it is more than welcome. And when the end of the walk holds the promise of a fabulous Afternoon Tea by the banks of the river that feeds the waterfall, what more could anybody want?

If you've not been here before Janet's Foss is reached from Malham Village by crossing the small clapper bridge behind the Smithy. Turn right and follow the paved path by the side of the Beck, through a few fields and kissing gates and into the wood. The footpath follows Malham Beck through wild garlic woods right to the falls. The easy walk takes around 30 to 40 minutes each way and offers stunning views to Malham cove and to the lovely N Yorks Dales.



Be sure to call in at Beck Hall Hotel in Malham for that promised afternoon tea or a refreshing drink. The bar overlooks the river and even welcomes dogs!

We did this walk recently and found it well worth the drive over to N Yorks. In terms of time it takes about one and a half hours from LSA to reach Malham, but it is a very pleasant drive in itself taking in the lovely Lancashire countryside

**From Joan Shaw**

### **Back in time for Tea**

We needed a change from walking around Fairhaven, Lytham and St Anne's beach, away from our usual activities of allotment and golf. I had in mind a long walk somewhere in the countryside but my husband had another idea, a cycle ride to Fleetwood. I agreed to the challenge and we set out at 9am one sunny morning in August, with crucially very little wind!

Once past the traffic noisy stretch near Pontins we were on the cycleway on the prom. It was bliss, such freedom, only a handful of other people about, the sea on our left, the wide sandy beach and the breeze on our faces.



Past the piers and on to the new sea defences at Cleveleys, passing an energetic outdoor exercise class on the beach. On past Rossall, the golf courses and eventually the Fleetwood boating lake, The Mount and park where I remember there used to be a band playing in the bandstand and beautiful flower beds but not anymore. We finished at the ferry to Knott End and stopped for a while to watch and eat our bananas. For a sunny day in August Fleetwood seemed deserted. Then we turned for home (my husband doesn't do leisurely). There was an army of anglers spread along the lower prom near Bispham, all set up with two lines over the sea wall. When I asked what they were fishing for – 'Anything', they said. Between the piers it was busier now and we wove around families and other cyclists. The sea was fast approaching, the sands were busy and I counted six groups of donkeys.

Altogether a lovely, refreshing and relaxing experience on our doorstep and we were back in time for lunch.

**Joan Shaw**

### **Blown away!**

My Granddaughters (5 and 3) were staying last week. Friday was the very windy day and it turned our walk around Fairhaven Lake into an adventure.

It was just on high tide and the wild and angry sea was pushing up the steps on the far side of the Lake. On the Church Scar stretch high waves reached right over onto the new pathway and we were sticky with salt spray.

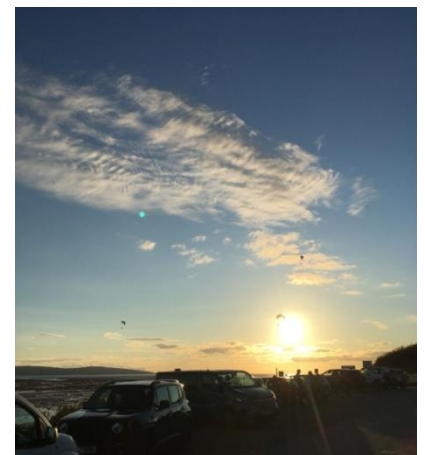


'This is the best ever', my 5 year old shouted in great excitement. It was quite exciting for me too!

**Val McLachlan**

We went many walks on the Wirral on the River Dee Estuary one of which was watching the cockle pickers come in to unload the cockles at high tide on the beach just below the caravan park.

The cockle pickers stayed out till sunset, the photo is of them bringing in their final pickings of the day as the sun was going down.



**A Book Club message from Val –** We are holding the reading of the remainder of the books on our list for this year over to next year – but continue enjoying your reading!

## Joyce Hunt

We are in a bubble with our grandson to help his mummy and daddy work. We like to go to the beach at Fleetwood as there are not the crowds there are in Blackpool.



We have our other Grandson from Chester too this week so thought we would take him there.



They went crabbing and caught 6 crabs between them, very excited boys!

We had a picnic on the beach as you can see from the photos there were very few people around, so very safe. We finished off with a lovely walk on the prom with ice creams. What a lovely day...

## Dorothy Barrett

We had a fascinating walk from the St Anne's beach huts out to the sea and after 1.7 miles only managed to reach the Ribble Channel!

Along the sides of the Ribble channel it is edged with rubble walls which were built from 1840 over a 100 year period to train the river to maintain a straight 15 miles (which was dredged) from Preston Dock to the sea to help the commercial boats going upstream. The walls still stand today and are home for large numbers of wild mussels.



That is the short history - I just love the patterns in the sand which are so unusual and varied.



## Glenis

We are so lucky in Lytham St Annes that we have so many lovely places to go for a daily walk, right on our doorstep and I make good use of all of them! There's one little walk that perhaps not all of you have thought to do it's Cypress Point and the little wood adjoining it, Linnet Lane Wood.

For those of you who would need to drive there I'd recommend parking on Regent's drive and walking down towards the cemetery. As I walk down there I always look at those enormous houses and wonder what the residents do with all that space!

As you near the end of Regent's Drive go through the little kissing gate into a wood, though nowhere near the standard of Lytham Hall it is "small but perfectly formed". I love it in all seasons and so does my daughter's little dog who I often take with me, she just likes the freedom of sniffing around the



undergrowth!

We usually do a couple of laps of the wood then cross over a bridge and straight ahead is a pathway through to the estate. Turn left at the end of the path then first right and you will see the one of the three lakes on the estate. This almost always has ducks, usually with ducklings in late spring



Now turn left and walk towards the central green of the estate which has two lakes. Little Sandy and I usually do two laps of this area and there's always some wildlife so see. Some months ago at about 6pm Sandy and I spotted a fox running the length of the green – I wasn't quick enough with my camera of course!

Over the past few months we have watched the Swans rear 6 cygnets, which are now as big as their parents

The lake itself contains many very large fish, my photography skills are not up to capturing them – but the herons seem to manage it easily!



To finish the route walk off the estate via Grand Manor Drive, you might want to cross the road to look at the Japanese Gardens, (if you go in May the display of Cherry Blossom trees is beautiful).

Then it's turn left and return to your car on Regent's Drive and home – and, depending on how many laps of the wood and the lakes you have done, you might feel just like little Sandy!

