

BARFORD, WRAMPLINGHAM & DISTRICT WI REPORT:
15th March 2022

A very strange two years for us during the Covid Pandemic, as we followed government and strict WI guidelines. During this time our secretary, Joan Keen, kept us fully updated by email. There were only two elderly ladies that we delivered/posted WI information and magazines to. I sent (via Joan) an email letter to all our ladies on a monthly basis, with any local news, asking after their wellbeing, and general information to keep everyone in the loop and to let them know the committee cared.

During this time we collected and delivered materials, such as bed sheets duvets etc, to be made into scrub tops, trousers and scrub wash bags for NHS staff. Lisa made masks for NHS staff to wear on the bus, Anya was always making items for good causes. I managed to make 84 green hearts, 1 for each day from the first lockdown, to show the love. For Norfolk Day we sent Norfolk WI headquarters a menu with recipes for a four course meal. This was taken from a very old book we have. Lesley organised a walk for "Women Walk The World" around the local area. Several ladies and two dogs joined in and raised money for ACWW (Associated Countrywomen of the World). Another lockdown so, at Christmas, Joan made up pots of hyacinths, beautifully wrapped and with a greeting on. These were delivered to all our members. Joan also sent all members a 'virtual' Birthday card. One of our longstanding members, Beryl Phoenix, retired from WI due to ill health. We delivered a basket of plants with a thank you card for all her hard work and loyalty over the years. Sadly Beryl has recently passed away and will be missed by all of us. Several members will attend her funeral.

The committee were asked to serve another year as we could not hold our Annual Meeting.

Into 2021 we held three online meetings using `Zoom` (Feb, March, April). These were: Wymondham Miscellany, Yoga and Facial Beauty Treatment, all good and interactive. One of our members, Bev, suggested we collect hand creams for the NHS staff. I was the collection point, I also put this on B&W villages' facebook page and our WI Facebook page. Delighted to say we sent 125 handcreams to the covid ward of the NNUH.

A nurse in Barford delivered these for us, we had a most grateful 'thank you' from the staff. Lesley organised another "Women Walk The World" walk in this area, several participated.

During March two of our ladies organised a candlelight vigil walk here in Barford. Many of us, plus husbands, joined in as we supported "Violence against women".

In June we held an outside meeting, bringing our own chairs and picnics, we had a good Quiz and natter. July was our first inside meeting, well ventilated. It was lovely to be together and we held a Beetle Drive and buffet. August we had a really well attended great garden party in Lisa's and Charlie's garden. September was a Basket Weaving demonstration by Jonathan Carrie, October, our Birthday, entertainment by singer Dan Starr, many members were up dancing.

November, our Annual Meeting and a talk by Barford resident, Alan Wakeman on his charity work abroad. December, entertainment by singer, Suzie, and pianist, Annette, followed by a Christmas buffet. It was great to meet in December at Marlingford Bell for a lovely Christmas Celebration meal.

In October we had a long coffee morning here as a fund raiser with many goods for sale. We managed to raise £510 and gave £255 to the village hall towards the much needed new play area for the children. Our Darts Team has missed out but hopefully we can go ahead this year.

2022 has started well. January three of us talked about the WI Resolutions then discussed these with all members. This was followed by a hilarious game of Bingo, more laughing than playing, but it was a first timer. In February Linda Green demonstrated massage of back, neck and hands and she brought a selection of beauty products. Nicila Collier and Sue Trafferi talked about ANON street team, feeding the homeless in Norwich, in March.

Really pleased to say our membership is growing, we have several ladies from other villages joining us. The Committee members are loyal and willing. We have a fantastic secretary, Joan, and our treasurer, Myrtle. Our members are great bunch of ladies.

Sandra Tovee
President
Barford, Wramplingham & District WI