

## OVER PEOVER WI RAISE OVER £1600 FOR MACCLESFIELD CHRISTIE

The first weekend in June saw Peover Hall open its Gardens and Hall as part of the National Garden Scheme, which raises money for charity. In this case all money raised was in memory of Juliet and Randle Brooks.

New family owners, Henry and Carla Brooks, were keen that the Tea Rooms were open to support the event. Recognising that the weekend might be busy, WI member Anne Tomkinson, who normally runs the Tea Rooms, asked her fellow Over Peover WI members to help. The WI were delighted to get involved and having had to postpone their charity event in 2020 recognised that this was an ideal opportunity to raise funds.

President June Leach, put a call out for helpers and bakers. The members rallied round and a list of volunteers was secured to help serve teas, wash up, clear tables etc. on the Saturday and Sunday afternoon, along with a list of those happy to bake cakes, scones and other delicious treats.

Saturday arrived and the weather was glorious, so a perfect start to the event which opened at 2pm. No one could have predicted the number of visitors, it was amazing and far exceeded expectations. The Tea Rooms were busy from the start and it was non stop. At 5pm the WI Ladies were still serving and could have taken more orders but most of the cakes had gone. There had been an unprecedented demand.

Anticipating that Sunday afternoon would be busy, a call went out overnight for more cakes, in addition to those promised and in true WI spirit, members responded by getting up early and baking more items.

The Saturday system was "refined" to ensure maximum efficiency and the queues started early. Sunday was even busier, the WI first class reputation for cakes, scones and the infamous bun loaves had clearly spread across the area.

Despite the inevitable delays and queues, visitors were in good spirits and happy to wait. Over the two days comments such as "best cake I have ever tasted", "that afternoon tea was brilliant" and "it was well worth the wait" were heard many times and there were even requests for take out cakes.

June Leach explained "over the two afternoons the Tea Rooms raised £1630 for the Christie at Macclesfield, a wonderful achievement and all down to the efforts of the OPWI members. Thank you to everyone who got involved and our thanks to the Brooks family for giving us the opportunity to host the Tea Rooms."



Enjoying teas in glorious sunshine



Busy in the kitchen



Sunday front of house team taking orders.



Table service - tea and cakes on their way!