

30 September 2021 – first meeting since February 2020

**The President:** June Leach opened the Meeting and welcomed 25 Members and 3 new members, Jennie Lomas, Audrey Lindsay and Wendy Hopkins. It was good to be all together again after the Covid pandemic, which had prevented members meeting for over 18 months. June then introduced the Speaker, Jen Wills who was to give a talk on Creative Card Making. Members had been asked to bring their own refreshments if they wished and these would be after the talk at 8.15pm and then there would then be a short business meeting.

**Apologies:** There were 13 apologies: Stevie Ball, Julie Alexander, Bernie Byrne, Kay Colclough, Glenys Grace, Maria Gillespie, Julia Jackson, Helen Norbury, Liz Philbin, Hazel Snowden, Helen Skelton, Anne Tomkinson and Gillian Lewis.

**The Speaker:** Jen Wills had brought along a large selection of handmade cards she had made which were for sale, all profits going to the East Cheshire Hospice which is dependent on the community for funding. Jen gave a very interesting and amusing talk on how she had become interested in card making when she had been ill for 9 months. She spoke of her career in nursing and especially of her dedication to end of life care, which is why she is keen to support the Hospice. She told a very moving story of a man who arrived on the Ward one Sunday with a couple of bottles of champagne and a large cake to share with everyone as his wife had been given one week to live but had beaten that the previous day. He did the same the following week as his wife was not beaten yet and then she asked if the fundraisers at that time (before the Hospice was established in 1988) could provide some champagne glasses. The fundraisers then took over a weekly supply of champagne and cake (as well as the glasses!). One in three of us will be touched by hospice care.

Several members took advantage of the opportunity to make purchases from the special and unique collection of cards, pictures and bags.

At the end of the evening Jen announced that the card sales had made £100 profit which would all be going to the hospice.

**Matters Arising** The President reported that WI Members had provided the teas and cakes for the Open Gardens at Peover Hall and raised more than £1,600 over the 2 days. This money was to go to the new Christies at Macclesfield.

The “Picnic in the Park” had been a success and the August meal at Plumleys had also been enjoyed by Members.

**Cheshire News:** The President announced that a new Chairman of N.F.W.I had been elected - Ann Jones from Ceredegion W.I.

**Hall News:** It is the W.I. Centenary next year and it is hoped to make some improvements and refurbishment to the Hall to celebrate the occasion. The main priorities included a new floor in the kitchen area and updating the electrical system to provide better heating.

**Group News:** Ingrid Phillips reported that the next Group Meeting will be an evening meeting in May 2022 at Chelford Village Hall. It was decided that the Autumn Meeting in 2022, also at Chelford Village Hall, would be in the afternoon to avoid Members having to drive in the dark.

**Social Events:** The Christmas dinner and A.G.M will be held at The Wilmslow Golf Club on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November; a list will go round for Members to sign-up. The Menu will be decided at next month's Meeting.

**A.O.B** The President announced that nominations for Committee members will be put forward at next month's Meeting and urged Members to consider putting themselves forward.

The embroidery class has re-started but is now held at Sandbach. The Book Club has also met up, and the next meeting will be at Rowena's on 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 2.30pm. The walking group will start again this month.

Ann Brooks said she wished to thank the Committee and Members, but especially Stevie, for their contribution to the monthly "Grapevine" which had kept Members entertained and informed during the Covid Lockdown.

Ann Brooks said she would like to stand down from keeping the list of members updated and which has to be sent to Chester several times a year, Ann has done this job for many years. Jill Wyatt kindly volunteered to take over.

The next meeting on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October will be an informal meeting with no speaker and plenty of time for chat! Further details to follow.

*If you are interested in joining, look out for the notices and come along to the Village Hall, last Thursday in the month at 7.30pm. It's a wonderful way to meet local ladies and if you don't want to come by yourself just contact our president June Leach, [june\\_leach48@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:june_leach48@yahoo.co.uk) or 07500 250969 and we'll make sure you receive a warm welcome.*