



ATTLEBOROUGH WI

Newsletter February 2021



Dear Members

You will have seen my recent email about the subscription flexibility initiative launched by National. I do hope you will be happy about the reduction in our membership costs for 2021/2 - now just £30.00. Towards the end of March I'll send a renewal form to you, together with an SAE, so that it's easy for you to let us know if you'd like to stay with us for the coming year. I hope you will.

Genevieve



Eileen took this lovely picture of crocuses in her garden. Thanks Eileen.

OUR SPEAKER VIA ZOOM ON 27TH JANUARY
JENNY GIBBS: "AN ENGLISHWOMAN'S LIFE IN RURAL TURKEY"
as reported by Pat O'Mahony

As Jenny was about to tell us of an Englishwoman's life in rural Turkey, she appeared in traditional Turkish dress, embellished with lots of glitter. In 1992, having never before ventured abroad, she took a trip to Turkey, got on a bus and headed for the hills! She joined forces with a Turkish gentleman, Mustafa, and they bought a farmhouse in a mountain village. Here, they lived upstairs, with the resident cow sleeping beneath, in their kitchen at night.

Mustafa's mother gave them a goat and Jenny learned many skills from the local women. She learned to crochet, and how to gather wild greens for dinner. As Mustafa owned two olive groves, they borrowed a donkey to help with the olive harvest, which takes place during the winter months. The donkeys carry the olives for making oil, and the women carry those for eating. The olive groves are about an hour and a half's walk from home, so there are lunchtime picnics on the ground, where they share their food. Jenny described the walks among the wild anemones and little waterfalls falling over rocks: a lovely place to spend the winter! In her village the custom is to tread the olives, rather than send them to the factory. Again, the donkey was enlisted to help, turning the stone crusher, then in jumped the locals, with plastic covers on their feet; what fun.

Although the village now has piped water, many of the locals still go to the spring for drinking water; however, they also have electricity and automatic washing machines.

Jenny told tales of evening visits to various homes, which is a daily ritual; the tea, Turkish coffee and cushions on the floor (no chairs). (I can vouch for this, having visited a Turkish home; they are very hospitable people.)

Now Jenny has a wonderful life, having taken an amazing leap of faith, and a lot of courage. She and Mustafa divide their time between here and the Turkish village, where they spend every winter.

She had many questions to answer after the talk, and I think I can say that the members thoroughly enjoyed the meeting.



Our next speaker via Zoom will be on Wednesday
24th April at 1.30pm with Gavin Bickerton-Jones on
"Norfolk Wildlife Through the Lens"

Do join us on Zoom. I'll send the link out nearer the time. If anyone's a bit unsure about using Zoom and wants a run-through with me beforehand, I'll be very happy to help.



Sheila Young kindly sent me details of the wonderful crafting she's been creating during the lockdowns.



Sheila says: "I can't sit still and do nothing so and am crocheting madly. I am making a blanket which mimics a stained glass cathedral window at the moment which is more challenging for me."

Here are some pictures of Sheila's work:

"This (left) is my Montana Wrap which is crocheted using mosaic crochet techniques and is designed by an Icelandic lady. I have got addicted to this technique."

"This (right) is my Oceanic Queen Blanket again designed by an Icelandic lady. The cushion I have redesigned from that pattern myself and I love the opposite colour scheme. This is mosaic crochet again. I added the heart to make the blanket a bit different."



"I made this (left) Lily Pond Blanket for my granddaughter for her new bedroom. My daughter has moved to Ghana with her job so is decorating Mia's bedroom in some lovely colours which just happen to be in this blanket."

"This (right) is a Unicorn I made for my granddaughter before Christmas. She loves the little people. The Hare and Fox I made using needle felting techniques last year."

Thank you Sheila. Just beautiful, and very clever!



Anne Tinker kindly sent me this lovely piece about her childhood during the war.

Escape to the Country

During the war, when I was about six years old, Newcastle was bombed nightly. When the siren sounded we went to the cupboard under the stairs till the all clear went. I had a blue siren suit at the bottom of the bed ready for action. Eventually we got an Anderson Shelter in our back garden which was very cold, but a safer place to sit out the night. One night Guildford Place was completely flattened and the shrapnel from it made a six foot hole in the back of our house. Mother decided it was time to live somewhere safer and got the job of a companion to Lady Ewbank, who had recently returned from India. The house was outside Grasmere, called "Tongue Ghyll". It was idyllic with a path running up the left side of the house to Helvellyn with a stream running down the left. I would play for hours there moving stones and getting thoroughly wet in the process.

I went to school in Grasmere and I used to walk in with Mary the next door farmer's daughter. It was a special morning when I had a lift riding on the Shire horse's back, when it went in to the blacksmiths to get a shoe replaced. After 18 months we returned to a quieter Newcastle with just the occasional siren. The barrage balloons in the park next door were a welcome sight, as life returned to normal.

Anne Tinker

Take care everyone. Keep safe and well. Till next month Genevieve