

Crowlas & Ludgvan WI Staying Connected

Happy Christmas!

Welcome to the December issue of our *Staying Connected* newsletter

Hello, members of Crowlas & Ludgvan WI!

I hope you're all getting in the Christmas spirit, although it may be a somewhat different Christmas for many of us this year.

If you're not quite in the mood for the festive season just yet, we hope we'll be able to help you a bit on Monday. Please join us for a Jingle 'n' Mingle session on Zoom at 2pm on Monday 14th December. We have some fun and games in store, so put on a Christmas jumper or hat, and get yourself a mince pie and something naughty to sip!

By now, you'll all have unwrapped your wonderful Christmas goodie bags that were delivered by our brilliant elves! Weren't they fabulous?! I am claiming no credit for the bags whatsoever - a small group of committee members worked incredibly hard on the project and kept it a complete secret! I was overwhelmed, and I'm so proud of them.

A few points of business: Please make sure you fill in and return your Resolution Selection form. You can post it to CFWI or to our Secretary, Jackie. Or you can email or phone in your selection choice to Jackie.

Secondly, I know there was a huge amount of information emailed out about WI Constitutional changes but, if you can, please have a look at it and let us know if you have any comments or thoughts.

The last point of business I have is that this is my final newsletter column as Crowlas & Ludgvan WI President. In the New Year, I'll be handing the reins over to Wendie's more than capable hands. I'm sure you'll all give her



your support and I know she'll be a fantastic President.

I look forward to seeing you all on Monday. I know some of you who haven't logged in to any of our events on Zoom before will be able to come, by joining in from other members' homes. I'd like to give a big thank you to all of those of you who are opening your homes and making it possible for as many of us as possible to be together, albeit virtually.

If I don't see you on Monday, I hope you and your friends and family have a joyous Christmas, and I wish you all the best in the new year - something we could all use.

- Helen x

Alison Latham, MBE

1960-2020

Alison Latham, former Crowlas & Ludgvan WI President and dear friend to all of us, died on 21st October this year.

I don't need to tell any of you about Alison's love for and dedication to the WI – she served as Secretary and President of Crowlas & Ludgvan WI, and also as an extremely capable and knowledgeable CWFI Treasurer.

But her life outside the WI was also extraordinary. Alison worked at the British Embassy in Washington, DC, for over 25 years. It was through her work at the Embassy that she was awarded an MBE in the 2012 New Year honours list. Many of you will remember Alison presenting a talk to us at one of our monthly meetings, in which she told us all about her fascinating life and work in the US capital.

Alison leaves her husband Rob Pemberton and her mother Ruth Collins, both of whom have become part of the Crowlas & Ludgvan WI family over the years. Rob accompanied Alison on many of our monthly walks, and Ruth was always a welcome guest at our Christmas meals.

We will all miss Alison's enthusiasm, sense



of fun, love for life and, most importantly, her friendship.

The Crowlas & Ludgvan WI committee will be holding a memorial for Alison as soon as restrictions are lifted sufficiently for us to be able to plan a fitting event.

A Beautiful Display from Colleen Lewis



There is a display in Clarence House in Penzance created by our own Colleen Lewis.

Colleen's piece is titled 'Pandemic: Light at the End of the Tunnel'. She added honesty petals to braided twigs, and says, "In my mind, they were the 'fallen'."

If you happen to pay a visit to Clarence House, you'll see Colleen's display at the foot of the staircase, below the beautiful full length stained glass window. The window was installed by Bolitho School and depicts countries where their children mostly came from.

What's Di Cooking Today?

Di says she has made these biscuits on a number of occasions and they have always been appreciated as a little gift for a neighbour. What better reason to make them this Christmas?

Easy Shortbread for Christmas

Ingredients

250g (9 oz) plain flour, sieved, or 7 oz flour and 2 oz ground rice
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon baking powder
225g (8 oz) unsalted butter
100g (4 oz) caster sugar

Method:

1. Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
2. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix well. (This can be done in minutes using an electric mixer)
3. Leave to chill in the fridge until easy to use.
4. Roll out to 1/4 inch thick, cut into shapes



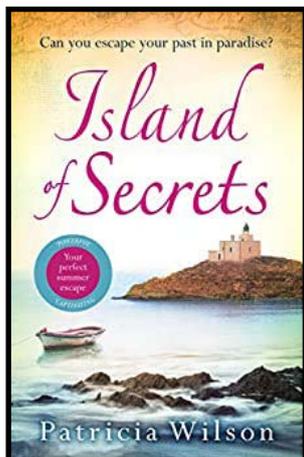
and bake 10-15 minutes at 170C (Gas 3).

5. When cold, dust lightly with icing sugar.

Di used a Christmas tree shaped cutter for her shortbread, but you could use stars or any shape you like. The shortbreads can be decorated as well. Put a few biscuits a paper bag, and tie it with a ribbon as a little Christmas gift for a friend or neighbour.

A Review from our Book Club

The Crowlas & Ludgvan WI Book Club recently read *Island of Secrets* by Patricia Wilson. One of the Book Club members was kind enough to write a review for us.



Island of Secrets was written by Wilson after she retired to Crete with her husband. This debut novel is laced with the true tales and incidents related to Wilson by the local women of Crete.

The main characters are Poppi and her daughter Angie (Angelika). Poppi

had fled to London from Crete – her daughter was born in London and although her mother never wished to discuss her family back in Crete, Angie was very keen to know the history of her Greek family. Her mother became distressed when questioned and, as she was planning her wedding to the handsome Nick, very much wanted family members to be there. Angie takes herself off to the village of Amiras, and meets her grandparents, Maria and Vassili.

The story deals mostly with Maria's history but does end with Poppi returning to her homeland – the wedding goes ahead despite Nick having a broken leg after an attempt to kill Poppi fails, and the story ends with a twist.

The Twelve Photos of Christmas Competition



Join in Crowlas & Ludgvan's own photography competition!

Submit a maximum of 12 photos depicting Christmas 2020 for you. They can be in any of the following categories:

- ❖ Food
- ❖ Decorations
- ❖ Home
- ❖ Outdoors

There will be a prize for each category and one for the best overall photograph. Submit your photos to crowlasludgvanwi@gmail.com by Wednesday 6th January.

Start snapping!



Congratulations to Lisa Elsey

The Greeves Trophy is awarded by CFWI to the best overall photograph entered in the annual photography competition. This year, the trophy was won by our own Lisa Elsey!

Lisa's night-time cityscape photograph was given very high praise by judge David Chapman, and was awarded 1st in the Architecture category.

Another of Lisa's photographs was 'Commended' - in the Landscape category.

Well done, Lisa!



In the Garden with Lynne

Hello December! Not surprisingly, I'm still trying to steal a few hours in the garden as and when time and weather allow.

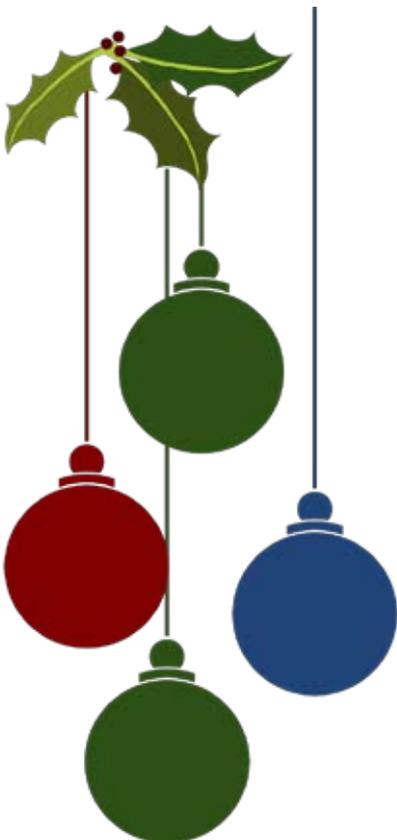
I've been looking around the garden for ideas to make my own door wreath and add to my inside decorations - much to my surprise we have our first snowdrops. Looking up the symbolism of this small and fragile little flower, it appears to have many meanings linked to it, though the one



that stood out to me was it representing rebirth and overcoming obstacles in life. How apt and encouraging in these current circumstances.

I've never been a lover of houseplants mainly because they never survived very long – you'd think my love of gardening would have helped, but no! Since housesitting an array of houseplants earlier in the year, I found I had developed a liking for the feeling of being around plants indoors (not quite sure what it was – I suppose they boosted my mood). Since late summer I've developed a little obsession and now there are a few plants appearing in our home. I don't think they'll take over though - watch this space!

Well, that's all from me this year. Have a lovely Christmas, stay safe and I hope to see you soon.



The Way Forward Rediscovering Footpaths

A great topic for
The Baker Cup
Competition 2021

We are just beginning to think about our Crowlas and Ludgvan entry for this competition.

If you would like to join our team to work on project, please contact me:

Sylvia Ronan ~ 01736 740 542

The submission needs to be completed by May 2021