

Crowlas & Ludgvan WI Staying Connected

What's New!

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

Hello, members of Crowlas & Ludgvan WI!

I hope you're all coping with our second lockdown. Remember, we must all band together and follow the rules if we want to emerge from this sooner rather than later.

Having said that, I was very disappointed not to have been able to see you all on the 8th when we'd planned to distribute your November issues of *County News*. It would have been lovely to see everyone again, but sadly it was out of our hands. You can still read *County News* on the CFWI website, and we'll get you the hard copies just as soon as we can.

On Wednesday 2nd December at 11am, CFWI is holding an online Christmas-themed painting workshop with Karen Bessell. I know some of you have joined in her workshops before, and they're always good fun! The cost is £5 and you must book through CFWI. So get



in touch with the office via email or phone to book a place and sort payment details.

I look forward to seeing you all on Monday evening for our monthly Zoom meeting at 7:30pm. Our guest speaker is Jenny Parker from the RSPB. This month, we have invited members from other local WIs to join us, and I know you'll give them a good Crowlas & Ludgvan welcome!

See you then!

- Helen x



The Ludgan Poppies

Thank you to all our members who created poppies at home and got them to the poppy team in good time to be sewn onto the flights that were draped from the church tower.

In the end, over 2,500 poppies were made - all by members of the community, members of Germoe WI and, of course, members of Crowlas & Ludgvan WI. It was a true community effort.

The poppies on the cross at each gate into the churchyard were knitted by Ruth Collins, Alison Latham's mum, while she was staying in Cornwall with Alison and Rob during the first lockdown.

Many thanks to Chris Philips for representing us all so well in her interview with Donna Birrell on BBC Radio Cornwall.

A Round-Up from our Sub-Groups

Camera Club

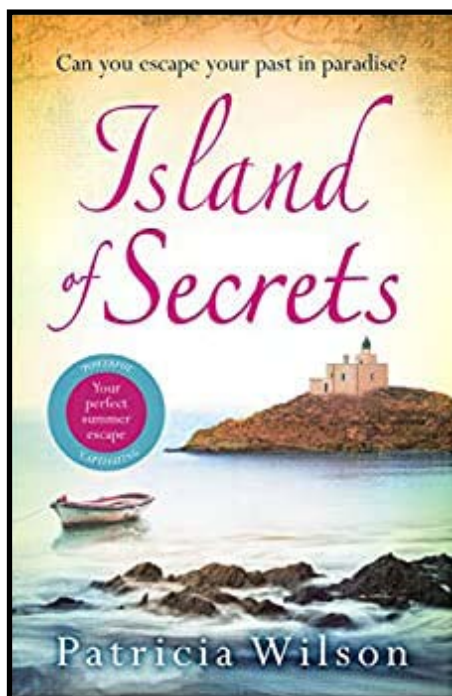
After a lovely in-person meetup during The Rule of Six, Camera Club is obviously on hold again because of the second lockdown.

However, that hasn't stopped organiser Lisa from making plans! She hasn't even told the Camera Club members about this yet, so it's breaking news! There will be a December challenge, open to anyone who wants to join in, called *The Twelve Photos of Christmas 2020*. The photos can be of anything that sums up the month of December in this strange year. Stay tuned for more details!



Book Club

The latest book to be discussed by the Zoom Book Club was *Blue Lightning* by Ann Cleeve. Though the novel is number four in the popular televised crime series, it also reads well as a standalone book. The book was recommended by Maureen Fordham, a former member of Crowlas and



Ludgvan WI, who read it with her WI Book Club in Devon.

Members particularly enjoyed the author's descriptive language that reflected the mood of the Shetland Islands as winter approaches. The wildness of the island and the close

knit community are particularly well depicted, and it was no surprise to hear that Ann Cleeve herself spent time at the Bird Observatory on Fair Isle.

Book Group member Pat Adams has a couple of recommendations for members:

All Passions Spent by Vita Sackville-West – The elderly widow of an

elder statesman strikes out for her independence much to the dismay of her conventional grown-up children who have their eye on her money.

Rules of Civility by Amor Towles – “A tale of cocktails, silk stockings and retro chic, redolent of all the best New York films and novels.”

The next Book Club meeting will be on Friday 27th November, when members will be discussing *Island of Secrets* by Patricia Wilson. New member Polly Little will be joining them; if you'd like to join in, please get in touch with Pat Gloyn.

Needles & Pins

Our Needles and Pins group hasn't been meeting on Zoom, but members have all been busy at home making poppies (see page 1). Of course, they are all very crafty and have been working on other projects as well. Here is some beautiful cross stitch created by Charlotte.

If you have anything you'd like to share and show off, please email a photo to crowlasludgvanwi@gmail.com.



What's Di Cooking Today?

This month, Di gets us in the mood for Christmas with her mincemeat and cinnamon crumble bars. Some of you may already have tasted these bars - Di made them for one of our pre-Christmas meetings a few years ago.

Mincemeat and Cinnamon Crumble Bars

Ingredients

225g cold unsalted butter, diced, plus extra for greasing
225g plain flour
100g semolina
100g caster sugar, plus 2 Tbsp
½ tsp vanilla extract
75g pecans or walnuts, coarsely chopped
a sprinkle of icing sugar, to dust
a sprinkle of cinnamon, to dust

Mincemeat Mixture

450g good-quality mincemeat
1 dessert apple, peeled, cored and cut into tiny pieces
1 Tbsp brandy (optional)
1 tsp mixed spice
finely grated zest of 1 small orange

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C, fan 150°C, gas 3, and grease a shallow baking tin (about 18cm x 28cm)
2. Put the mincemeat into a bowl and stir in the chopped apple, brandy (if using), mixed spice and orange zest.
3. Put the plain flour, semolina and the 100g sugar into the bowl and rub with your fingertips until the mixture just begins to stick

together in pea-sized lumps to form a crumble mixture. (This is quicker if done in a food processor).

4. Tip half the mixture into the baking tin and press firmly over the base in an even layer using the back of a metal spoon.
5. Spread the mincemeat mixture over in an even layer. Stir the chopped pecans or walnuts and the remaining 2 tablespoons sugar into the remaining crumble mixture. Sprinkle it evenly over the top of the mincemeat.
6. Bake for 50-60 minutes until golden brown. Remove the tin from the oven; leave to cool.
7. To remove, carefully run a knife around the edge of the tin to loosen, then cut into 12 bars and remove from the tin.

The bars are delicious served with a dollop of clotted cream or, at Christmastime, some brandy cream.



CRAFT CORNER

This month, Di Curnow shows us all how to make an easy (she promises!) knitted cover for all of those chocolate oranges we'll be buying over the coming weeks.

Easy Chocolate Orange Cover

You'll need: Double knitting yarn in brown, white, green and red; 3.5mm needles

Using brown yarn, cast on 43sts

1st Row: S1, *k1, p1, repeat from * to the last 2sts, k2

2nd Row: S1, *p1, k1, repeat from * to end

Repeat last 2 rows five times more

Change to white yarn

Knit 6 rows

19th Row: S1, knit to end

20th Row: S1 purl to last st, K1

Repeat last 2 rows twice more

25th Row: *K2tog, repeat from * to last st, K1

26th Row: P2 tog, to end

Cut yarn, leaving a 'tail' to use for sewing up, draw the end through all stitches, pull up tightly

Holly leaves – makes 2 leaves joined together

Using green yarn cast on 1 stitch

Row 1: Knit

Row 2: Knit 3 times into the stitch (3sts)

Row 3: Knit front and back into the first stitch, k1, knit front and back into the last stitch (5sts)

Row 4: Cast off 1 stitch, k3 (4sts)

Row 5: Cast off 1 stitch, k2 (3sts)

Row 6: Knit front and back into the first stitch, k1, knit front and back into the last stitch (5sts)

Row 7: Cast off 1 stitch, k3 (4sts)

Row 8: Cast off 1 stitch, k2 (3sts)

Row 9: Slip 1 stitch, k2tog, pass slip stitch over (1st)

Row 10: Knit 3 times into the stitch (3sts)

Row 11: Knit front and back into the first stitch, k1, knit front and back into the last stitch (5sts)



Row 12: Cast off 1 stitch, k3 (4sts)

Row 13: Cast off 1 stitch, k2 (3sts)

Row 14: Knit front and back into the first stitch, k1, knit front and back into the last stitch (5sts)

Row 15: Cast off 1 stitch, k3 (4sts)

Row 16: Cast off 1 stitch, k2 (3sts)

Row 17: Slip 1 stitch, k2tog, pass slip stitch over (1st)

Fasten off

Berry

Using red yarn, cast on 3 stitches

Row 1: Knit in the front and back of every stitch (6sts)

Row 2: Purl

Row 3: Knit

Row 4: P2tog three times (3sts)

Cast off

Tie cast on and cast-off tails together (this pulls the berry together). Sew leaves and berry onto the top.

Voilà! A festive little treat for someone you love!

In the Garden with Lynne

We're well into November and I'm still spending as much time as possible out in the garden. What a surprise! It's a difficult balancing act with jobs I 'need' to do in the house but if it's dry, or even just mizzling, you'll probably find me in the garden.

As I'm sure you've gathered, the garden is my happy place. It played a big role in me settling into our new life in Cornwall and helping me meet lots of lovely people who would stop for a chat and were interested in my plans for the garden.

It's been a difficult year in many ways and sometimes it's hard to think to the future. I think gardening gives you a way of doing that.

I know I'm very lucky to be able to spend lots of time in the garden, and not everyone has this benefit. I would like to pass this on if any members are interested when we return to 'normality'. Want to help in the garden? There's always a job to do. Want to have a potter around and enjoy the plants? I'm not great with remembering names but I do have an 'app' to help. Or maybe just sit and relax

and enjoy? You're very welcome.

Here are a few before and after photos.

Take care everyone!



A Little American Thanksgiving Quiz

1. The first American Thanksgiving Day feast is said to have taken place in 1621, but wasn't officially recognised until much later. Which US President made it a national holiday?

- A) Thomas Jefferson B) Franklin D. Roosevelt
C) George Washington D) Abraham Lincoln

2. What special "duty" does the President of the United States have during Thanksgiving every year?

- A) Hosts a ball at the White House
B) Makes a televised speech about American history
C) Pardons a turkey
D) Eats an entire pumpkin pie

3. Everyone knows that turkey is the main dish during the traditional Thanksgiving meal. How many turkeys are eaten in the US each year?

- A) 6 million B) 15 million
C) 46 million D) 70 million

4. What spectator event has become a major fixture of Thanksgiving celebrations in the US, watched by

about 25 million viewers each year, both live and on television?

- A) The Turkey Bowl football game
B) The Great Turkey Race
C) Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
D) The President's pardoning of the turkey

5. Which of these traditional Christmas songs was originally a Thanksgiving song?

- A) Jingle Bells B) Silent Night
C) Baby, It's Cold Outside
D) Sleigh Ride

6. What in the world is a turducken?

- A) A roast turkey stuffed with a duck stuffed with a chicken
B) Turkey stuffing
C) A dish consisting of duck and a special sauce
D) There's no such thing

Answers: 1. (D), 2. (C), 3. (C), 4. (C), 5. (C), 6. (A)