

Mothers' Union Newsletter November 2020 - Fobbing and Corringham Branch

David Tweddle has agreed prepare a Christmas Service, which we hope to Zoom on 16 December at 3 p.m. Plans are in progress, but please put this date and time in your diary. If you do not have an internet facility, a complete order of service will be sent to you, so join in and sing at the top of your voice and read through the prayers and reflections.

Grays Branch and Parish Church are also hoping to hold a Christmas Service 9th December at 2pm possibly with communion. If you are interested in attending this event please let either Jenny or myself know. This is still in its planning stage, but, we would like numbers of who are interested. This is also dependent on the end of lockdown and whatever the government guidelines will be at that time.

We are nearly at the end of this year, and it is time to consider our tribute (subscription) for 2021. Many of us may have felt that this year has not been worth it. It has, our members have been busy throughout the year fund raising for a few Charities, which we mentioned in October. £1700 was raised for Essex and Herts Air Ambulance, a huge thank you to Margaret Eve for organising and heading up. Now we are busy with festive face coverings for AFIA, I believe we may have £300 as we come to the end of this. Again knitting chocolate orange plum pudding covers are going well, this time for St Michael's. So please think again, we are in difficult times, and our subscriptions help Mothers' Union worldwide. Our Council Meeting scheduled for 9th November is now cancelled due to current restrictions. However, all information will be circulated to us in due course.

Last month, I asked for members to contribute a little something to our Newsletter and here is something from Sylvia Wain:

I have some news for MU in November. I would like to tell you about the foxes I have fed for many years. It is now more important than ever to protect our wildlife with this pandemic. I put out dog food each night for these urban foxes and have done so for many years. It is a real struggle for them to feed themselves, and when they do, it is not enough to sustain them, especially with the colder weather in Winter. I have experienced the joy of playful cubs each year, and when they are weaned off the vixens milk, I make sure that they each have plenty to eat. Occasionally I give them an uncooked egg in the shell. Watching them skilfully remove the shell with their mouths without cracking the egg is a real joy, and a mystery too, as these little ones do not lose the egg to the ground. Quite often the foxes bury their food for when it is scarce, for example when snow lies on the ground. I feed them at around 5 p.m. each evening. When I rattle the tin and call them and call them for supper. If it is particularly cold, I ensure they have enough to last them.

This year, the vixen did not appear for a while, and now I assume that she has died due to old age. She used to come to our patio door and make a knocking noise with her paws to let me know she was there and wanted feeding: I always obliged. But the cubs father looked after the them and I saw them grow to adults. I get the feeling that the cubs sometimes visit me because the dish has been taken away in the night and I find no trace of it! I must also add that there is a bit of our garden kept wild to shelter them from any disturbance. Our cat died earlier this year, so when it is raining I feed them outside our shed which is sheltered. In fact, one lot of cubs were born in this shed, they squeak like puppies and are so dependent on their mothers whilst their father hunts for food. Often there are two to four cubs, but this year there were only twins. I see them having a nap in the Summer in the garden and I am hanging out the washing. They are so trusting of me, and this is such a delight.

We hope to hold a quiz afternoon in January. We will be using Zoom for this and if anyone is interested please contact either Pam or Jenny. The finer details have not yet been worked out yet, but, we will let you know in our December newsletter.

If you have any news to share with us for December, please do email or write.

Some of us have had a very difficult time this year, and sadly Sylvia lost her husband, Peter, in October. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sylvia and her family at this sad time.

Love and every blessing from our Committee,

Pam Hibbert

Branch Leader