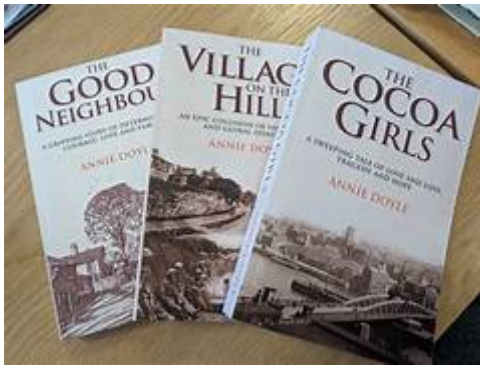


## President's Chat



You could hear a pin drop at our July WI meeting when local author Annie Doyle visited us to tell us how she fulfilled her life's ambition to become a published author. Growing up in Whickham and coming from an artistic background of storytelling and painting, she has combined fiction with her actual family history in her three novels – The Cocoa Gils, The Village on the Hill and The Good Neighbour. A natural storyteller (using no notes!), Annie described her characters, the writing of many thousands of words (!) and the path she took to seeing her books on sale to the waiting public.

Annie has also produced cards using her father's water colour paintings of Whickham and Kathleen was delighted to see a picture which included the house lived in by her Aunt Dorothy!

There will be no WI meeting in the Community Centre in August, but we look forward to the planned Afternoon Tea at Alnwick Gardens on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August – let's hope the sun is shining!

For those members wishing to make a donation of food for the Women's Refuge, would you please bring your items to me or take to any Committee Member during the week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July so that delivery can be made to the Refuge during the following week. School holidays are coming up so anything you can give will be greatly appreciated by the Mums there.



Bottles for the Bottle Tombola Stall at the Community Centre Fayre on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025 are needed at our September meeting please. If you find it more convenient, a small cash donation for us to purchase bottles would be appreciated. We are so lucky to have this super hall for our meetings and activities – so let's give the Centre's Committee our full support.



Thanking you in advance for your generosity and wishing you a good summer!

Jenny x