**Playwright Mary’s lockdown achievement**

A Great-grandmother from Tyldesley has used her time in isolation because of Covid-19 to put the finishing touches to a play.

Mary Berry, 75, has had a lifelong love of all writing and despite the difficulties has turned the time at home into a positive by completing her play which is provisionally called ‘The Slippers’.

“I had a lot of personal projects that I have shelved,” said Mary who established the Tyldesley Creative Writers Group 14 years ago. “This has given me the time to pick up these things and start going with them, looking at them again and hopefully finishing them.

“I am slowly working my way through things when the weather isn’t sunny, because when the sun is out I like to enjoy the garden. Doing this has helped me to take my mind off the terrible situation.”

Mary, who has two children, six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, has been writing since completing a degree in creative writing and has a passion for the theatre and plays. Talking about her achievement completing the play she added: “I love it when people act out my play as it comes out of the page and they become real characters.”

Through the Tyldesley Creative Writers Group Mary became involved with Age UK Wigan Borough who have supported the group and projects.

Mary’s advice for other people who are isolating at home is:

“You are not on your own. There are down days and we have to accept that but then lift ourselves up. Go and do something you enjoy doing, whatever it is, pick up your address book and go through it. And definitely pamper yourself.”