



Isle of Ely News

April 2020

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Chairman's Column

Dear Members

The Newsletter was virtually ready to go to the printer a week ago and then things started to happen which have, particularly over the last few days, brought to a halt our plans for the next three months.

I sent an email to WIs at lunchtime today (17th March) explaining that, following the advice given concerning the Coronavirus pandemic, we would postpone all Federation events due to be held in April, May and June.

During the course of the afternoon I have heard that the NFWI AGM, due to be held in London on 4th June, has been cancelled. We have yet to find out what will happen with regard to the proposed Resolutions.

Many of you have contacted me, or Su in the Office, for guidance about cancelling your own meetings. Of paramount importance is the health and well-being of your members. I heard from Melissa Green, NFWI General Secretary, late last night that, for the time being, everyone's well-being should take priority over such Constitutional matters as providing at least 11 free meetings for members. As she says, the Constitution has never been challenged like this before, it is something completely new and NFWI are seeking legal advice about it.

I am generally a very optimistic person and my hope here is that we can get through this period of many weeks of self-isolation healthily so that we can come back to our WIs and the Federation later in the summer, eager to socialise again and pick up where we left off. Perhaps we can make up for lost time by having two WI meetings in a month.

I am setting my target to turn out the wardrobes, a job I hate because I find it so difficult to part with favourite clothes, even when they are beyond their best. I could perhaps get my spring-cleaning done in the spring, rather than wait until mid-summer. Most of all, with all this time on my hands, as long as the weather holds, I intend to make my $\frac{3}{4}$ acre garden look wonderful!

Val Ware
Federation Chairman

With the news that all Federation events are to be postponed until at least the end of June, the Newsletter is going to be rather sparse on reports and event notifications.

We thought that it would be rather nice to hear from members as to how they are filling their time whilst 'Self-Isolating'.

So, please send reports, with pictures if possible, of all the lovely craft & cookery you are filling your days with. Do you have a good recipe that always works? Any good TV series available as a boxset that you had you gripped? Any beautiful gardens that are starting to look wonderful?

I look forward to an inbox of ideas and beautiful photos!

Su Rowbotham
Federation Secretary

Membership

In the March mailing you will have received two pro formas which we hope will help you to streamline your WI business. If you would like a digital copy of these in order to personalise them for your WI please ask Su in the WI Office to email them to you. If you do choose to use these documents let us know how you get on with them and whether they have been of help to your WI.

April is MCS month when all WIs are asked to ensure that their MCS is up to date. This is very important for several reasons. If the names of those who are no longer members are still on the MCS they will receive a copy of WI Life which means that they get a free magazine, but the National Federation has to pay for it. Sadly, members die and to have WI Life delivered to the home is an unnecessary reminder of that person which is upsetting for those left behind.

Take the opportunity to check your MCS and if you need help contact Denise Hall the Federation MCS Rep, her contact details are in the Yearbook

Rosemary Green
Membership Chairman

Denman

Hunts and Peterborough Federation have a few spare places on their next Denman Weekend to be held from 24th to 26th July. Courses include: Little Venice, London's Liquid Highways (£395); Glass Fusing (£330); Singing- The Rat Pack (£330); Stumpwork Bayeux Style (£330).

If you would like further information, please contact Phyllis Brooks through Hunts and Peterborough Office 01480 453137

Public Affairs

We had an enjoyable Cream Tea afternoon with speaker, Trish Collins from ACWW. £53 raised on the raffle was donated to ACWW. Members heard about the different areas which we may support and decided that they would like our ACWW donations this year to go towards Sustainable Water and Sanitation.

Beryl Brooks
Public Affairs Chairman

Home Economics

It is regret that the evening arranged with Mr G's had to be postponed, due to the company not being able to honour the booking.

I have tried very hard to find a replacement on the same subject, with no success. We must also appreciate the difficult time farmers and growers are having trying to get crops in, due to land conditions.

As it happens, we would have had to postpone the event due to the Coronavirus anyway. Hopefully we will take this subject forward and continue to work on it in the future.

Margaret Sparrow
Home Economics Chairman

Resolutions

This year there were 104,262 selections cast.

The NFWI Board of Trustees has decided to put forward the two top resolutions to the Annual Meeting.

The wordings of the resolutions are as follows:

A call to increase potential stem cell donor registration

Wording: *There is an urgent need to increase the number of people registered on the aligned UK stem cell registry in order to provide potentially life-saving treatment to people of all ages with certain blood cancers. We call on all WI members to promote registration to the database to avoid people dying whilst waiting for a match.*

End Modern Slavery

Wording: *There are tens of thousands of victims of modern slavery hiding in plain sight in the UK. Modern slavery has severe consequences for the health and mental wellbeing of survivors. The NFWI calls on Government to protect victims of modern slavery in the first instance and deliver longer term support to help them rebuild their lives. We call on our members to raise awareness of the prevalence of modern slavery throughout society and to campaign to defeat it.*

Next steps – voting

Please do take votes on these resolutions from your WI members. We are awaiting information from National on the procedure for WIs voting, due to the National Annual Meeting now being cancelled. As soon as we have any further notification, we will contact your WI via email with details.

You can find a selection of resources to help you learn more about the resolutions on the WI website and on My WI:

- Detailed briefing notes about each resolution.
- A PowerPoint presentation on the topics.
- Quizzes to test your knowledge.
- A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document about the resolutions process.
- A discussion guide with ideas about how to discuss the resolution in your WI.
- Videos

ENCLOSURES

Federation Annual
Accounts
Public Liability Letters
Office Stationery Form
Diary Order Form
Pro Rata Form

NEWSLETTER

Next Mailing will be posted on
22nd April
Closing date for submissions
to the June Newsletter is 5th
May

2020 resolutions	Selections
A Call to increase potential stem cell donor registration	38,280
Female crash test dummies	9,124
End modern slavery	35,395
Time to talk about death and dying	9,820
Protect our precious helium	11,705
Total selections received	104,262

OFFICE CLOSURES

April

28th & 29th – Su Holiday

It is intended to keep the Federation Office open for as long as possible. In the event that it has to close I will be able to read emails and pick up answerphone messages from home.
Judith and Val will also be contactable via phone and email.

Su

FEDERATION SECRETARY

Su Rowbotham

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Office opening hours

Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30am-1.30pm