



# Isle of Ely News

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

June 2020

## Chairman's Column

There are many people who have suffered disappointments because events have had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus lockdown. Weddings, special birthdays and anniversaries and planned holidays have all been postponed or cancelled and there is the very sad situation of only close family members being able to attend funerals. None of us have ever experienced anything like this before and no one has a crystal ball to predict if, and when, things will get back to normal. I know from my conversations with WIs that you are doing what you can to help one another and particularly consider those who are living alone who may need shopping, collection of prescriptions or just a friendly phone call.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in details of things happening in their own towns and villages. We will try to include as much as possible in the Newsletters. Distribution of the Newsletter has been straightforward enough for those with email addresses and I know many of you have found ways of ensuring that hard copies reach members without email access, even if this has meant buying extra stamps to post them. I deliver a few of the Newsletters to Tydd members as part of my daily walk. The last time a usual half hour walk extended to over 2 hours, as I met and spoke to so many people en route – at a safe distance, of course!

Of a possible total of 41 votes regarding the proposed change to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, 32 were received and all were in favour of the change. NFWI has been notified and advised me that we should continue with the process even though the decision cannot be ratified in the usual way at an Annual meeting of NFWI. Our Solicitors have been informed and we are now in their hands with regard to timescale. This may have to be extended due to the current situation but at least we are moving in the right direction.

At the moment we are not advertising any planned forthcoming Federation events. Everything remains 'on hold' until we receive further government guidance on the holding of meetings. Now that we have an email contact for every WI, we will be able to get in touch quickly when the situation changes.

I started by mentioning disappointment at events being cancelled. As I write, I should have been heading to London to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. I heard from NFWI several months ago that I was one of the lucky Chairmen whose names had been drawn out of a hat to represent the WI this year. Like everything else, the event has been cancelled. I just hope that I will be able to go next year instead.

Keep safe and well, everyone

**Val Ware**  
Federation Chairman

## From NFWI

If you have any photos of your WIs still meeting, helping their communities and/or the NHS, please send them to me.

**Juliet Isherwood**  
Membership Project Officer  
NFWI  
[j.isherwood@nfwf.org.uk](mailto:j.isherwood@nfwf.org.uk)

## Membership

I wonder how many of you have logged into MyWI since the last Newsletter? I logged in a couple of weeks ago and who should I see on the front page but Whittlesey Ladysmith WI who have been cleaning up their town. If you look in the Make, Create and Do section you will find some photographs of the Federation Patchwork Group and what they have made over the past few years. If you have interesting photographs email them to MyWI.

We are of course all missing our WI meetings during the lockdown. Not only missing our friends, but all the interesting speakers that have been booked for this year. It looks as though September will be the earliest that we might be able to meet again. The upside of this is that we should hopefully be able to book the same speakers again for next year! Your Programme Committee will be very pleased and your members will not miss out.

The other bonus of the lockdown is that WIs will be saving a little money on the usual monthly out goings. Think carefully about how these extra funds may be used. There may be a special speaker or demonstrator that your members would like to invite to a meeting or a special event could be organised.

So much has happened since January when we had our 'Sowing the Seeds' meeting. We discussed what makes a good and successful WI. I have taken the suggestions that you made and put them into a booklet that will be circulated when the Membership Committee has agreed it. If you have any thoughts or examples about what makes a successful WI that you would like to share with us please email me on [rosemary.green5@talktalk.net](mailto:rosemary.green5@talktalk.net) and we may be able to incorporate them in the booklet.

**Rosemary Green**  
Membership Chairman

**Jane Carter, Elm WI**, provided these lovely photos of the view from her home. How lucky to have such a view!



## Time for us girls

I'm normally a social girl  
I love to meet my mates  
But lately with the virus here  
We can't go out the gates.  
You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
We need to stay inside  
If they haven't seen us for a while  
They'll think we've upped and died.  
They'll never know the things we did  
Before we got this old  
There wasn't any Facebook  
So not everything was told.  
We may seem sweet old ladies  
Who would never be uncouth  
But we grew up in the 60s -  
If you only knew the truth!  
There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll  
The pill and miniskirts  
We smoked, we drank, we partied  
And were quite outrageous flirts.  
Then we settled down, got married  
And turned into someone's mum,  
Somebody's wife, then nana,  
Who on earth did we become?  
We didn't mind the change of pace  
Because our lives were full  
But to bury us before we're dead  
Is like a red rag to a bull!  
So here you find me stuck inside  
For 4 weeks, maybe more  
I finally found myself again  
Then I had to close the door!  
It didn't really bother me  
I'd while away the hour  
I'd bake for all the family  
But I've got no flaming flour!  
Now Netflix is just wonderful  
I like a gutsy thriller  
I'm swooning over Idris  
Or some random sexy killer.  
At least I've got a stash of booze  
For when I'm being idle  
There's wine and whiskey, even gin  
If I'm feeling suicidal!  
So let's all drink to lockdown  
To recovery and health  
And hope this awful virus  
Doesn't decimate our wealth.  
We'll all get through the crisis  
And be back to join our mates  
Just hoping I'm not far too wide  
To fit through the flaming gates!

Pam Avres

## Mobberly WI has issued the following guidance for isolation.

Right ladies, Judith Bickerstaffe has kindly emailed the crochet patterns for the facemasks and matching underwear sets. Anyone who runs out of wool should message Delia who will leave fresh supplies in a vacuum-sealed sandwich bag on your doorstep. She will knock the theme tune to Miami Vice on your door so you know it's her, you'll have to take potluck on colours, but I do know there is a particularly lovely shade of burnt copper. Mavis has drawn up a rota for the Haz Mat suit and WW2 Gas Mask, it is one size fits all so please don't specify size requirements. If any of our less able members need provisions such as bread, milk, wine, gin or pickled walnuts please contact Cynthia, who will pop to the shops for you providing her moped isn't being used by her grandson for pizza deliveries.

Laura will go ahead with her useful and inspirational talk on Christmas and other gifts made from j-cloths via Skype.

Currently we will have to abandon our collection of soft toys made from used hosiery, particularly after that unfortunate incident when Derek Malmsbury was found doing unspeakable things to the elephant made by his wife, Nora. I'm sure we all support Nora at this upsetting time. Apparently, they WERE Derek's fishnets, which is why he was confused and why he wanted them back. Still that should never be done to a child's soft toy.

Connie is finishing off the template for making an emergency facemask and draft excluder from a spare bra. I know some members have raised concern that as Connie is a 46GG she has more material to work with than most, but she assures me her template will be scalable from 32 A upwards.

Audrey wants to apologize for the mix-up with the medication run, but please be rest assured Joan suffered no side effects from taking Marjorie Butterworth's husband's 's Viagra and Haliborange. And likewise Marjorie's husband seems to have responded really well to the HRT. Marjorie says they even agreed on the pattern for their new curtains.

Sad news because of the Government announcement, the trip to Leeds and 'Miss Fifi's Private Dungeon and Macramé club' has been postponed and at this moment we don't have a rescheduled date.

Great news: we have already started collecting prizes for the summer fayre raffle. It looks like the star prize this year may well be a pack of 9 Andrex Quilted Aloe Vera toilet rolls. Shortly followed by a complete set of knitted Nolan Sisters toilet roll covers. Mavis says any resemblance between Colleen and Anne Widdecombe is purely coincidental.

Right Ladies I must dash, I hear Springitts has just had a fresh delivery of tinned prunes.

**As seen on other Federation Facebook pages.  
(written by Richard Banks)**

## Easy Cheesy Biscuits.

Equal amounts of butter (or pastry marg.) Plain Flour and a good strong cheddar.

1. Pre-heat oven 180° C if a fan oven (gas mark 6)
2. Finely grate the cheese into a mixing bowl.
3. Add the other ingredients.
4. Mix to a sticky dough.
5. Chill for at least half an hour.
6. Roll out on a very well-floured surface to approx. 2mm (1/16").
7. Cut to desired shape
8. Bake on a tray using baking parchment until golden brown (approx. 8 minutes).

The biscuits can be frozen after stage 7 and cooked from frozen, allow an extra couple of minutes baking time.



Su Rowbotham



I received the May newsletter and Bulb brochure in the post and then delivered them to members. This took longer than usual as of course I had a little chat at nearly all deliveries, which was great for them and me.

We have been very busy these past weeks with emails flying back and forth from all members, showing off their cooking skills, their gardens and of course lots of funny jokes.

We have a very good community spirit in the village. The Parish Council set up a meals delivery programme cooked at the school for those in need with plenty of volunteers to deliver and Maureen, our President, coordinated this with the help of the parish clerk. We also had prescriptions collected from the G.P. and volunteers delivered these. The village has really pulled together.

I have included a few of the pictures from members

**Barbara Benge  
Stretham WI**



### ACWW

If you have yet to send your ACWW pennies for friendship cheque, please could you send it to Judith Cornwell, The Federation Treasurer, as a matter of urgency. Her address is, 107 Station Road, March, PE15 8NH



I've been in touch with all members of our WI and spoken to all of them. We have set up a group email as well and each week I send a letter to them. Many members are elderly and live on their own, so keeping in touch is very important. Everyone is finding things to do – definitely gardening is popular, plus sewing (some ladies making masks) cooking, taking their dogs for walks, keep fit exercises etc. We feel very lucky living in this area and neighbours are always so helpful and pleasant offering to help with shopping etc. I think it's best to plan your day and have some sort of structure. I personally am finding that my days seem to be quite busy and with modern technology it's good to be able to use zoom and video links to keep in touch with families and friends.

**Liz Fitzgerald  
Haddenham WI**

**The Patchwork Group** only managed two workshops but many of the Group finished their items after the lockdown started. They were created by clockwise from top left. Anna Wilson, Ann Purt, Gill Carter, Zoe Porter, Gill Carter, Pat Traylen, Margaret Sparrow.



Denman Federation Weekend September 1996

Judith Cornwell has been spending some of her time sorting through old photos and found these of Federation activities from the 90's. Do you have any old gems?



Federation Meeting at Haddenham, March 1993 with Henry Sandon



Responding to the call for help with scrubs for our hospitals, Maggie McGowen, our Vice President, who is a keen crafter with many years of needlework under her belt, took up the challenge. She has a friend who asked if she could take on and make scrubs for West Suffolk Hospital. This she did. Material delivered, she set out and started to make them. She had made two sets awaiting pick up then one morning went out for a walk and fell over landing on her wrist. Needless to say she picked herself up and walked home, subsequently landing up at A. & E. in Ely. They x-rayed, told her it was broken and she would have to go to Addenbrooke's Hospital to be dealt with. The sorry tale is Maggie is no longer making scrubs but our treasurer, Jill, has taken up the challenge. I myself have made masks for friends and family, as have many WI Ladies across the country.

**Linda  
Littleport WI**

## Notes from the Federation Secretary

### Lady Denman Cup

Notification has been received from National that they have revised the timescale of this competition.

The closing date for entries to be received by the Federation is now Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

Please keep a lookout for an alternative submission postage address if I am still working from home. Email submissions are accepted.

The schedule was included in a previous mailing but if you would like an electronic copy please contact me.

### Mailings

The next mailing would normally be one that covers both July and August. However, in these exceptional circumstances, to enable us to keep more current with the ever-changing situation, it has been decided that we will be issuing 2 Newsletters in this period. Please do continue to send in any items that you think would be of interest. Photos, poems, anecdotes, recipes, all are welcome.

**Su Rowbotham  
Federation Secretary**

## ENCLOSURES

None



The group for which I am making scrub bags is looking for 2.5mm and 5mm elastic, cord and tape to complete the scrub bags.

These donations can either be sent to me or dropped off at houses where the poster with the above logo is on display. The posters can be seen in most villages around the Doddington area

**Beryl Brooks**

A lovely patchwork panel has been completed by **Rosemary Green, Ely Northwold WI**



An old sign that was here when we moved in has been tarted up with a fresh lick of black paint and gold lettering.

**Elaine Reed-Hughes  
Christchurch WI**



## FEDERATION SECRETARY

Su Rowbotham

### Address

Please check flyer for where to send items.

**Tel:** 01354 652284

**Email:** [isleofelywioffice@btconnect.com](mailto:isleofelywioffice@btconnect.com)

or [ioefwi@outlook.com](mailto:ioefwi@outlook.com)

### Office opening hours

Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30am-1.30pm

## NEWSLETTER

Next Mailing will be posted on 24<sup>th</sup> June  
Closing date for submissions to the Aug Newsletter is 13<sup>th</sup> July

## My New Name is Mrs Bucket

Up in the morning, sunshine to greet  
Dust and dirt for me to meet  
Bucket, water, brush and cloth, I set to  
The grime shudders, what will she do?  
Dust says to dirt, "Here she comes  
Watch out, our future looks glum".  
Clean this, scrub that, polish too  
The garages, doors, & house, all cleaned  
through.  
Sparkle as they do  
Dust says to dirt, "We will get through  
We will find a place to rest  
Where she can't get, we know best".  
So rest they did, for a short time  
Until she spotted some more grime  
That Mrs Bucket is a pest  
She just will not let us rest.

When the garden calls, we will hide  
The trouble is, she has too much pride  
Dust says to dirt, "I am fed up with this  
If only we could sleep, it would be Bliss".

**Margaret Sparrow  
April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020**