



# Isle of Ely News

February 2020

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## Federation Annual Meeting

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

7pm

Neale Wade Academy, March. PE15 9PX

Captain William Wells



The Annual Meeting will be preceded by a Special Meeting to vote on the Federation becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

**£10 members**  
**£12 non-members**  
Including tea and biscuits

## Scrabble & Tabletop Games

Tower Hall, Fridaybridge  
PE14 0HW  
7pm  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April



£4.50  
With buffet refreshments

## Charitable Incorporated Status

Meetings to discuss the proposed change of charitable status of the Isle of Ely Federation

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2pm**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm**

March Community Centre  
PE15 8LE

Please ensure that at your WI is represented at one of these important meetings

## Chairman's Column

A Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all had an enjoyable time during the Christmas and New Year season. For me, it all started with our Carol Concert at St Peter's. Despite the fact that the boiler in the church had failed and we needed our coats, the atmosphere was warm and friendly. My thanks to everyone who played any part in making this event a success: Revd. Jenny Webb; Readers; Janice Loose and the Choir; Children and Staff of Kinderley School; all those working away behind the scenes making tea, baking mince pies and, of course, all members who attended and sang so well. The annual Carol Concert is, after all, attended by more members than any of our events, other than our Federation Annual Meeting or Federation Day, so does require quite a lot of preparation.

On the front cover you will see the advertisement for our forthcoming Annual Meeting, to be held at Neale Wade Academy on 17<sup>th</sup> April. Some WIs have already received requests to help on that evening. I wonder if we might find 2 or 3 other able-bodied members who would be prepared to arrive by 5.30pm to help with the setting up? We always have a fairly tight timescale for unloading all the cars, dressing tables for displays and generally ensuring that everything is ready for the arrival of members and guests. If you would like to assist us, please contact Su in the Office.

I am usually overwhelmed by the level of support for events arranged by our subcommittees. The committee members work hard to make all the necessary arrangements. Last year we sadly had to cancel two meetings because we did not have the minimum number of bookings to cover costs of hall hire etc. by the closing date given. What was so disappointing was that bookings then arrived well after the closing date, when the decision had been made to cancel the event. Had the bookings been made at the right time, the events would have been viable. We do try to give you plenty of notice so that members have time to decide whether or not they wish to attend. **Please** make it a New Year resolution to respond by the closing dates given.

On a much brighter note, thank you for the response to my plea for members to put themselves forward to become Trustees of the Federation. Having not had our full complement of 12 board members for the past 4 years, we are in the position now of holding an election for the Board of Trustees for 2020 to 2022. Ballot papers are enclosed with this mailing. Please make sure that your WI members all have the opportunity to select up to 12 of the nominees they would most like to see representing them on the BOT.

With all good wishes for 2020,

**Val Ware**  
**Federation Chairman**

## From NFWI

We have been asked to pass on the following messages from NFWI:

### **Vision for the Future**

As the WI enters its 105<sup>th</sup> year, the NFWI is developing a strategic vision to help shape and secure its future. This ambitious vision will guide and focus the organisation's work over the next five years, building on the successes it has achieved over the last 104 years, and ensure it continues to be the largest and most influential women's organisation in the UK.

As part of this work four draft vision statements have been developed by the Board of Trustees, the National Council (representing all federations) and the organisation's professional staff. In the February issue of WI Life, you will find an article which explains what the four draft vision statements are, and over the next three months the NFWI wants to engage as many members as possible to test these statements and develop them further. Please look out for the article and tell us what you think of the four draft vision statements. The article will also explain how you can feed your views back to the NFWI.

The hope is that at the end of the consultation process we have a set of vision statements that capture our ambition for our organisation, and upon which we can build our strategic plan for years to come. It's a discussion, a collaboration and a collective step forward. The WI is your organisation and yours to shape for the future.....so let us know your views!

## **Lynne Stubbings, NFWI Chairman**

The NFWI is deeply saddened by the situation that has arisen in Australia as a result of the bushfires, and many members have contacted us to see what we can do to help, including supporting any of the relief funds that have been set up. Unfortunately, our charitable status means that WIs and federations cannot send monetary donations to any of these relief funds, but of course members can make donations as individuals to whichever funds they wish. We have already sent a message of support to the Country Women's Association of Australia (our sister organisation) and we are in touch with them to see if there is anything else we can do to support their members and their communities at this worrying time. We will let you know of any suggestions they make.

## Public Affairs

I hope you have all read the shortlist of Resolutions. We were sorry that we had to cancel the shortlist evening, but this was due to not enough members signing up before the closing date. Unfortunately we do have to have closing dates, to know if it's viable to continue without losing money on an event. It is your money that we are using, so we must be aware of this.

On a lighter note I hope you enjoy our Green Hearts and Flowers afternoon and have fun again with tea and interesting cake.

Future events are:

ACWW Cream Tea on Monday 2nd March at St Peters Church Hall with speaker Trish Collins. This should be a very interesting afternoon so please come and support it.

Then 22nd April at March Community Centre time 7.30 - 9.15 pm is the Resolution and Delegate information evening, so book this important date in your diary.

If you would like to have a member of our committee come and help with leading your resolution discussions, we are more than happy to do so.

**Beryl Brooks**  
Public Affairs Chairman

## Membership



Will your WI be celebrating a significant anniversary anytime soon? It may be a special birthday, your centenary or you may just wish to tell the world what a wonderful WI you belong to!

If you are thinking of organising a celebration you should not miss the Workshop being organised by the Membership Committee in June – date to be confirmed. The workshop will cover a variety of topics that will help you to stage an eye-catching display, full of information about your WI. You will learn how to design an exhibit for a shop window or a small area in a public building. We shall cover accessing and researching your archives and publicising your event.

If there is any area of putting on a display or celebration event that you would like us to cover please let us know and we will endeavour to include it.

The Membership Committee is always on hand to support your WI. Please get in touch at any time – we are there for you.

**Rosemary Green**  
Membership Chairman

## Centenary

The Centenary Subcommittee has already started to plan events to celebrate 100 years of the Isle of Ely Federation. However, we need some help. We would very much like to have suggestions from our members who work during the day. How would you like to celebrate? Would a Friday evening event be suitable, or would something held on a Saturday be preferable? What would you like to do? Please send your ideas to Su in the Office so that they may be considered at the next meeting of the Subcommittee. Please respond by 2nd March.

Thank you

## Leisure Activities

Happy New Year to you all and hopefully you kept free of colds. It seems ages ago since I last gave you an update on our events coming up.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Try it Crib.

Hopefully you have already booked for the Ten Pin Bowling on the 19th March.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our next venture for a Scrabble and Table Top games evening on the 3rd April at Tower Hall, Friday Bridge with buffet refreshments, all for £4.50. This is slightly different from other events we have held so hopefully you will come and support us.

Then more dates for your diary are:

22nd May Whist lunch at Tydd St Giles. We were unable to book the hall at Friday Bridge for this, so decided to stay at Tydd.

We are also hoping to have a Literary Lunch this year so keep an eye out for further information on this.

Other events are also in the pipeline so please keep a look out for more exciting events coming in the near future and if there is something that you would like us to put on then please let me or a committee member know.

**Beryl Brooks**  
Chairman of Leisure Activities

**Whittlesey Ladysmith WI** won first prize at St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival, held in December in Whittlesey. The tree depicts all the figures in the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas.'. The Christmas Tree festival is held annually, with over a hundred entries from businesses and organisations in the town.



**Whittlesey WI** celebrated the end of their Centenary Year with a commemorative photo. They were joined by the Federation Chairman, Val Ware.



### DIARY DATES

#### February

4<sup>th</sup> – Green Hearts & Flowers. Doddington Pavilion, PE15 0TX. 1.30pm  
 10<sup>th</sup> – Incorporation Meeting, March Community Centre, PE15 8LE. 2pm  
 12<sup>th</sup> – Incorporation Meeting, March Community Centre, PE15 8LE. 7.30pm

#### March

2<sup>nd</sup> – ACWW Cream Tea, St Peter's Church Hall, March, PE15 9RJ. 2pm

#### April

3<sup>rd</sup> - Scrabble & Tabletop games, Tower Hall, Fridaybridge, PEPE14 0HW

### CLOSING DATES

#### February

3<sup>rd</sup> – Resolution Selection Results Form

#### March

9<sup>th</sup> – BOT Ballot Paper to be with the Teller

### ENCLOSURES

Federation Annual Meeting  
 Board of Trustees Ballot Paper  
 Scrabble & Tabletop Games  
 Lady Denman Cup Competition

### NEWSLETTER

Next Mailing available for collection **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020**  
 Closing date for submissions to the April Newsletter is 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020



### **Patchwork - Stained Glass**

Once again the group gathered together for another new challenge and rose to it, with the encouragement of our tutor Rosemary Green. We had a choice of patterns all using the same technique. Members chose a Christmas Tree, Candle or Poinsettia. Using Christmas fabrics in all colours and designs in different combinations, some excellent work was produced once again. I am sure by the time you read this Newsletter, the designs will have adorned our homes and now been packed away for another year. Hopefully we will at some event be able to display them for all to see.

Thank you, Rosemary, for continuing to find us a challenge and thanks also to Janet Townsin who keeps us all refreshed and lends a helping hand wherever needed.

### FEDERATION SECRETARY

Su Rowbotham

#### Address

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#### Office opening hours

Tuesday (not 2<sup>nd</sup> in the month) and Wednesday 9.30am-1.30pm

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