



# Isle of Ely News

September 2020

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## Chairman's Column

Hello Ladies

I feel very honoured and proud to have been elected as your Federation Chairman and am looking forward to meeting with you all eventually.

Val Ware will be a hard act to follow but I am very sure that she will give me excellent guidance and encouragement.

Thank you, Val, for all your hard work and dedication to the Federation.

We are in some very strange times at the moment and when we went into lockdown in March little did we expect to still be restricted all these months later.

Now I have my technology sorted, thanks to my 'man that can', I am fully up and running. My laptop crashed just at start of lockdown, so I had been running on just basics. I can recommend him if any of you need help!

I have some new ideas to try out so as we can keep in contact with you all by using technology to have meetings and put on some events, I do realise that you are not all connected to the Internet so you will find a short quiz in this copy of the Newsletter, along with an easy recipe for you to try. If you have a favourite recipe you would like to share with fellow members, please send it to Su.

Maybe we could then look at putting them together in a recipe book, as a reminder for future generations of our 2020 lockdown experience. Also, if you have learnt a new craft send us a short write up to go in the Newsletter please.

We will be putting small, easy, craft ideas in for you to have a go at in the next Newsletter.

If you have any ideas that you would like your Board of Trustees to try by using zoom, please let us know and we will see if it is possible to do so. This is a new way of working for us all but we are more than willing to give it a try. I now feel that we are not going to meet in large groups for a while so we need to look at new ways to connect with you all, at the same time including those members unable to access modern technology.



**Beryl Brooks**  
Federation Chairman

## Membership

With the lockdown somewhat suspended, I hope that our WIs are thinking of creative ways to get together for a distanced chat. For some WIs it may be quite a while before venues are open again. Venues will all have their own regulations governing their opening and these will need to be followed as well as the guidelines issued by NFWI, which are straight forward when they are dissected!

Your Membership Committee is planning a distanced meeting at the beginning of September. One of the things that we shall be discussing will be ways in which WIs can compensate for the months of no meetings. The suspension of the subscription for three months by NFWI is a good boost but WI Committees will, I am sure, be thinking about ways in which they can ensure that members enjoy full value for money when meetings eventually resume.

If you have any good ideas for meeting or ways in which you are planning to make up for missed meetings, please get in touch so that we can share them with all our WIs.

After the Membership Committee meeting in September we shall be in touch with our WIs to let you know any ideas that we come up with. Meanwhile take any opportunities that arise to keep in touch with one another and enjoy the sunshine which makes it so much easier to get together outside.

**Rosemary Green**  
Membership Chairman

## Notification of Officers of the Board of Trustees 2020 – 2021

### Chairman

Beryl Brooks

### Vice Chairman

Val Ware

### Vice Chairman

Muriel Johns

### Treasurer

Judith Cornwell

## Past Chairman

I wrote my first Chairman's Column for our Newsletter way back in May 2012. With the usual 10 Newsletters per year, I believe that makes a total of 83 times that I have put pen to paper on numerous different topics. It now falls to Beryl Brooks to take over the Chairman's Column, but I wanted to have the chance to write just one more column, and Beryl has agreed.

It has been a great privilege to serve as your Chairman for over eight years. As you can imagine, WI events have featured quite heavily on my calendar during that time. I think I could count on the fingers of one hand the Federation and Subcommittee events I have not attended. I have been invited to many of your WIs for Annual Meetings, Resolution meetings, social events and ordinary and committee meetings. I have found that aspect of my role particularly enjoyable as it has given me the chance to meet so many members in their own environment, with a bit more time to talk than at a large Federation meeting.

There have been a lot of business meetings to attend too; meetings of the Board of Trustees and those of all the subcommittees plus adhoc meetings. My car could, I'm sure, find its way to our March Office without any directions from me!

If it were possible to highlight one particular time that was really special to me, I would say it was the Centenary of NFWI in 2015 and everything that led up to that. Rosemary Green worked hard to secure our Heritage Lottery Grant and many members learnt new skills of archiving, leading to the 'finished product', the panels depicting the history of women in the Fens over 100 years. Our Federation Choir entered the national competition for choirs and, although we did not progress beyond the heats, we learnt a lot from taking part and have gone on from strength to strength. The Centenary Baton spent a week in the Isle in October 2014. The Trustees collected it from Hunts and Peterborough Federation at Earith Bridge and Margaret Sparrow and I then spent 5 days in "Ruby" taking the baton to every WI in the Isle. Sometimes just 2 or 3 members greeted us but in some villages and towns, virtually every member came along. We handed the baton on to Cambridge Federation at Witchford, when Michael Portillo was our afternoon speaker.

The following year I was lucky enough to attend the NFWI Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, where I met the Duchess of Cornwall and Princess Alexandra whilst having tea in the Royal Tent. Two days later we travelled to the Royal Albert Hall where HM The Queen, the Princess Royal and Sophie, Countess Wessex joined the NFWI Annual Meeting.

Back in our own Federation I have met some really interesting people who have come along as speakers at our meetings. I have worked with a brilliant team of Trustees and subcommittee members and two loyal secretaries over the years, all dedicated to doing their best for members.

I owe a lot to the WI for giving me all these opportunities and want to thank all members for the support that they have given me.

However, I am not retiring just yet and look forward to working with Beryl as one of her Vice Chairmen. Beryl joined the Board as I became Chairman, so we have worked together for quite a while.

I wish her well in her new role and will do all I can to support her.

**Val Ware**

## 20 Questions - General Knowledge

1. What shape is farfalle pasta?
  2. What is the most northerly county in Ireland?
  3. Who called England 'A nation of shopkeepers'?
  4. What was the ship in which Jason and his followers set sail to find the Golden Fleece?
  5. Which American president's father co-owned a movie studio?
  6. Where is the smallest muscle in the human body?
  7. Which are older, veteran or vintage cars?
  8. What story was inspired by the sinking of the whisky-laden *SS Politician* in 1941?
  9. What pudding was named after an Australian opera singer?
  10. For which newspaper did Clark Kent write?
  11. What is measured by an anemometer?
  12. Which 13<sup>th</sup> century saints' followers were known as the Grey Friars?
  13. The Royal Company of Archers serve as the Queen's bodyguard in which country?
  14. Who were known as TV's *Two Fat Ladies*?
  15. What title was held by Irish soldier and statesman Arthur Wellesley?
  16. Which racecourse hosts the Scottish Grand National?
  17. What measure of liquid equals 10lbs weight of distilled water?
  18. Which three statesmen met at the Yalta Conference in February 1945?
  19. By what name was model and actress Lesley Hornby better known?
  20. How many funnels did the *Titanic* have?
- Answers at the bottom of the page

**Whittlesey Ladysmith WI** are doing our 'meeting in a bag' every two months. This month's bag contains a cake with the WI logo, specially baked by our local baker. It also contains a bookmark, teabag, newsletter, two quizzes, jokes, a knitting pattern for poppies to decorate the town on Remembrance Day, and a raffle ticket. Our members have said how much they enjoyed our previous 'meeting in a bag'. We are already planning for the next one in October.

**Liz Phillips  
Whittlesey Ladysmith**



A big thank you to the 1st Doddington Scouts sewing ladies that were making scrubs. They now had to stop due to returning to some sort of normality, including getting back to work.

They are all staying in touch as we had formed a lovely friendly group. If the need arises again, we are willing to do our bit, but are certainly hoping that things won't get that bad in the future.

**Beryl Brooks**

### Handy Hint

#### Weed killer

Mix 3 tablespoons salt into 1 litre of white wine vinegar. Add 3 tablespoons washing up liquid. Spray on troublesome weeds on paths and patios - much cheaper than commercial brands and environmentally friendly. In addition, it is highly effective.

### Local WI Causes Havoc

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August Witchford WI had its first self-distancing meeting since lockdown. We held a coffee morning at a local cafe just on the outskirts of the village.

As we were supplying our own homemade cakes the cafe owner said we could sit on the green opposite, instead of in the grounds of the café, which was fair as they make their own cakes for sale. So, our members arrived complete with their own chairs. Beryl Brooks and Anne Purt also came to meet our members. We were then asked to move by a very friendly security guard who had been asked by management to move us, as the green was private property. Several members thought it petty as we were doing no harm and we were on the perimeter of the grassy area and we had been told we could sit there. After much discussion, the cafe owner said we could move back across the road and sit in the cafe garden.

As I said to Beryl, our WI meetings always have an element of surprise. I did write a letter of apology to the managing director of the company concerned and said we were a small number of ladies who always act impeccably and had in no way acted in a deliberate way to cause offence.

I am happy to report that future meetings will take place at the cafe and we can still provide our own cakes if we wish, so everything has turned out for the best.

**Tricia Fisher  
Witchford WI**

### Chocolate Cookies

#### Ingredients:

- 4oz margarine
- 2oz caster sugar
- 4oz plain flour
- 1/2oz cocoa powder



#### Method

- Cream together margarine and sugar
- Stir in the flour and cocoa
- Form into an eight inch roll and put into the fridge for 20 minutes
- Slice into sixteen pieces and roll each into a ball
- Roll the balls into a coating – Demerara sugar, chopped nuts, cocoa or oats or press a chocolate button into plain cookies
- Put the balls onto a baking tray lined with baking paper and press down with a fork.

Bake for 10 – 15 minutes 190° C / 375°F / Gas 5



## Public Affairs

### Update on NFWI's Work: reference Climate Change

- One hundred WI members took part in a virtual lobby of Members of Parliament on 30 June to present their concerns with regard to the protection of our environment and climate change. They asked MPs to support policies that would invest in green infrastructure, protect our green spaces and protect those who are most vulnerable to climate change both at home and around the world. The lobby regarded it as a successful response when the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, later pledged £3 billion over the next year for energy efficiency measures in homes and public buildings.
- Working with The Climate Coalition the NFWI will maintain pressure on the government to implement policies that will both tackle the upcoming economic recession and the climate emergency. It was emphasized that these policies will need to get the UK on track to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2045 or even sooner, though it is important to ensure that environmental measures are embedded across all sectors of the economy to provide us with cleaner air and healthier ways of visiting friends and family.
- Glasgow is to host the 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2021, which has been postponed from 2020. During the last 30 years or so, World Governments have met repeatedly to forge a global response to what many people regard as a climate emergency, and each of the countries that is represented will be treaty-bound to support co-ordinated actions to tackle climate change. This meeting involving 30,000 delegates will be the biggest international summit the UK has ever hosted.
- The NFWI also welcomed the Annual Report of the Committee on Climate Change. It included 29 milestones to be reached by 2030 and 130 detailed policy recommendations, which covered every government department. Ministers are required to respond to the report by 15 October.
- The NFWI continues to work with Friends of the Earth, Keep Britain Tidy, Surfers Against Sewage and Greenpeace with the aim of securing a government commitment to significantly reduce all plastic waste by 2042, and to reduce or eliminate the use of non-essential plastic by 2025. NFWI has also been involved in 'Plastic Free July' which was a global movement, though no details were supplied.
- The NFWI welcomes the findings of the Climate Assembly, which encourages the government to support lifestyles that include working from home and changes to how we travel. The government has already announced plans to boost cycling and walking infrastructure and to give local people a choice on the banning of motor traffic through residential streets. A full report from the Assembly will be published in September.

by **Celia Crawshaw**,  
**Climate Ambassador for the Isle of Ely Federation**  
7 August 2020

Dear all,

I am writing to share details of a new survey we have launched as part of the WI's Get on Board campaign.

The survey is open to all WI members as well as their friends, families and communities, and will help the NFWI better understand the availability of bus services and how willing and able people are to use them. Furthermore, the survey also seeks to gather further information on the availability of bus services before and during the Covid-19 lockdown, as well as the current situation as lockdown is gradually lifted. The responses will also help to inform our campaigning activity.

The survey will close on 28 September 2020.

I would be grateful if you could please cascade this information to WIs in your federation. We are encouraging members to share the survey as much as possible among their networks.

The survey can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WIbussurvey>

We will also be promoting this research via our social media channels, so please feel free to share our posts.

If you have any questions about this research, please get in contact with the Public Affairs Department ([pa@nfwf.org.uk](mailto:pa@nfwf.org.uk)) who will be more than happy to support you.

With best wishes,

**Aanchal Mann**  
**NFWI Research & Campaigns Officer**

### **Notes from the Federation Secretary**

When returning forms, please ensure that you have filled in all areas. Paying extra care if you are asked to inform whether you require / do not require a service. Thank you.

**Su Rowbotham**  
**Federation Secretary**

### Office Closure

15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> September – Su Holiday

### Enclosures

Letter for WI Committees

### **Yearbook Amendments**

Beryl Brooks has a new email address:

[bmbrooks1948@gmail.com](mailto:bmbrooks1948@gmail.com)

Witchford – Angela Frow

Tel. 07935 988727

### 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 23<sup>rd</sup> September

Closing date for submissions to the November Newsletter is 5<sup>th</sup> October