



Isle of Ely News



May 2020

Chairman's Column

As I write, we have been in lockdown for three weeks. I can hardly believe the time has passed so quickly. I said at the beginning I planned on doing a lot in the garden and turning out the wardrobes. I have spent some of my time in the garden. The lawn is looking good, roses are pruned and tied back but I still need to spend time removing more grass from amongst the flowerbeds. At this time of year I need far more space than my garden rubbish bin can provide. Until last year, with the wind in the right direction, I would have a bonfire. However, the last time I burnt garden rubbish, the wind turned and I lost seven trees in a matter of minutes. Without the help of kind neighbours, the fire could have caused much more damage. It has cured me of lighting bonfires! The wardrobes are still waiting as the weather has been kind and I have taken advantage of that to carry on with outside jobs. I keep seeing that over 70's should use the time to declutter. I have made a start!

I have been so pleased to hear from different WIs about the way they are supporting their members through these difficult times. Sutton WI members are benefitting from their own Newsletter, which is excellent. In many WIs committee members are ensuring that members receive emails or telephone contact, particularly those living alone. Those lucky enough to find a delivery slot available from one of the supermarkets are ordering for friends, books and jigsaw puzzles are being passed around and there appears to be a great community spirit everywhere.

Thank you to all those who have sent in their votes related to the proposed Charitable Incorporation for the Federation. The sealed envelopes will be passed to an independent teller on 17th April and we will let you know the result as soon as it is available.

As you will see from the results of election to the Board of Trustees, we are welcoming four new members to the Board. Their appointment would normally be announced at our Annual Meeting but, as that is postponed, the results are given here. It may be some time before we can have a face to face Board meeting but at least we can involve our new members through emails and telephone calls.

The election of Officers will take place at the first meeting of the new Board. Margaret Sparrow decided not to stand for nomination for 2020 – 2022 but has kindly agreed to be co-opted onto the BOT until such time as the first meeting can take place, so that we still have two Vice Chairmen in post.

I would like to thank Barbara Tinsley for her work on the Board of Trustees during the past two years. She has decided to resign for personal reasons.

Our subcommittees will continue with the same members for the time being. The Chairmen may be contacted by telephone or email, as shown in the Yearbook.

Do keep letting us know how your WIs are coping and send in items for the next Newsletter, either to me or to Su. In the meantime, keep safe and stay well.

Val Ware
Federation Chairman

New Board of Trustees

Results of the election have been received from the Teller. There was a very rare occurrence where two nominees tied for the final place on the Board of Trustees.

Advice on how to proceed was received from the General Secretary to the National Board of Trustees. She instructed us to gain the agreement of the current Board to ask the Teller to place the two names into a draw. The name pulled would be elected, and the other would be co-opted immediately onto the Board. This would mean that the constitutional rules of 12 elected members and a maximum of 3 co-opted members would be obeyed.

The Board of Trustees agreed to this process and I instructed the Teller to follow this procedure. However, for personal reasons, Barbara Tinsley asked for her name to be withdrawn from the election process, avoiding the need for a co-option. Your Board of Trustees for the period 2020-2022 is therefore as follows

Val Ware	Tydd St Giles
Ann Purt	Wisbech Centre
Liz Jordan	Tydd St Giles
Muriel Johns	Welle
Marion Hodges	Marshland St James
Denise Hall	Whittlesey Ladysmith
Jane Crossland	Thorney Plus
Judith Cornwell	Doddington
Anne Chambers	Doddington
Jacqui Burford	Ely Northwold
Beryl Brooks	Welle
Patricia Ashmore	Wimblington & Stonea

Membership

There is a limit as to how much gardening and spring cleaning that can be done during this lockdown. Apart from anything else they take a great deal of energy so while you are taking a break from energetic occupations why not find some time to catch up with technical issues.

If you have not already signed up to MyWI you can easily do so. Go to the website and follow the instructions. Passwords are automated so you should get one very quickly and then you can open the door to find everything you need to help you make the most of your WI membership. As well as information about the organisation of your WI you will find recipes, craft ideas and information about the progress of current campaigns.

At this time it is not always easy to keep in touch with the members of your WI so perhaps this is an opportunity for those of you who do not use email but have the facility to take some time to get going with it. This is an easy to send a message of support to friends that you are missing.

Now is also an opportunity to use technology to advertise your WI to the wider community ready for when the restrictions are lifted. Many enquiries come through to the Federation because potential

members have looked on a website, Facebook  or Instagram . There are instructions on MyWI that will guide you through setting up a Facebook page or an Instagram account. Instagram is very straight forward and is a place where you can post photographs of your WI activities as well as messages. Lots of WIs have sites so why not have a look at a few. Ely Northwold has just started posting. Only one person can post so people have to send their potential posts to that person. This makes it safe and secure. Good luck with your technical adventures and please let us know how you get on.

Rosemary Green
Membership Chairman

Public Affairs

On this bright sunny morning I would like to thank all of the Committee for their hard work and research into the Resolutions, not only the ones for this year but also past ones that we like to keep up with. Following on from discussions at our ACWW Cream Tea, we will get the information packs to WI's as soon as they become available. Please keep safe and well during these strange times we are in and hopefully it won't be to long before we can meet up again.

Beryl Brooks
Public Affairs Chairman

Denman

We have been informed that all courses and events due to be held before 1st July have been postponed. Denman is temporarily closed until 1st June but future bookings may still be made on line.

Leisure Activities

I would like to thank all the committee members for their hard work over the past year, not only for events that have taken place but for those that were in the planning stage but have to be postponed due to the unprecedented times we find ourselves in. It is more important to keep safe.

We will reschedule all events that were booked as soon as we can, This will give us all something positive to focus on.

In the meantime KEEP SAFE AND WELL and hopefully see you all very soon.

Beryl Brooks
Leisure Activities Chairman



Beryl Brooks has been busy making craft items for her grandchildren and great grandchildren. The puppets are on their way to Edinburgh to her 2 year old great-grandson who is in isolation while he awaits a liver transplant.



Just be careful because people are going crazy from being in lock down.

Actually I've just been talking about this with the microwave and toaster while drinking coffee and all of us agreed that things are getting bad.

I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on everything, and certainly not to the fridge as he is acting cold and distant.

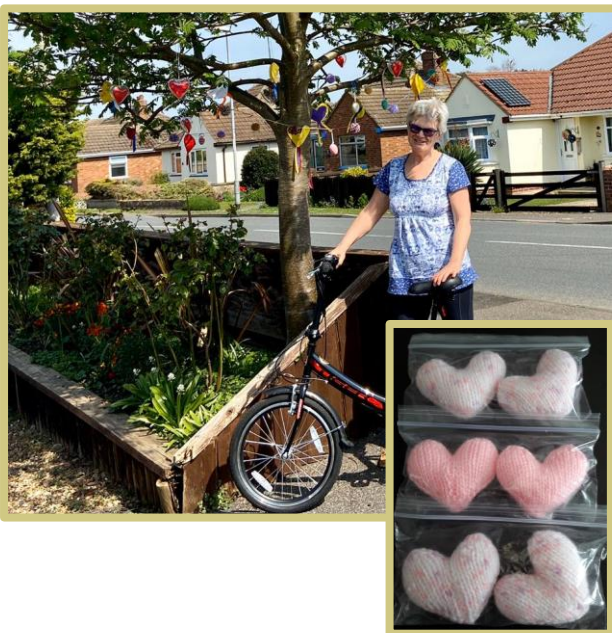
In the end though, the iron calmed me down as she said everything will be fine, no situation is too pressing.

The Hoover was very unsympathetic... told me to just suck it up, but the fan was more optimistic and hoped it would all soon blow over!

The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked its opinion, and didn't say anything but the door knob told me to get a grip.

The front door said I was unhinged and so the curtains told me to ... Yes, you guessed it... pull myself together.

Sent by a friend to Maggie McGowen, Littleport WI



Julie Mills from **Fridaybridge WI** has been busy decorating her tree with hand made colourful hearts as a way to say thank you to key workers. It also cheers up passers-by. She has also made hearts for COVID-19 patients at QE to hold in their hands.

The hearts are a very good accompaniment to this brilliant idea sent to me by Beryl Brooks. "Sore Ear Savers". These little gadgets allow for masks to be worn all day by our NHS staff, without the pain of having something tugging on your ears! Even a ribbon with hemmed ends and buttons attached are useful, but if you are handicraft minded you will find an easy pattern below.

Please send any completed ones to
Queen Elizabeth NSH Hospital ,
Gayton Road ,
Kings Lynn .
Norfolk

PE30 4ET

& mark back of envelope with "Contains Sore Ear Savers"

Sore Ear Saver Patterns

Crochet

Materials: 2 buttons (15mm-22mm 2-hole, 4-hole or shank buttons), needle and thread, 4 weight (worsted) acrylic or cotton yarn and a 4.5mm hook. **Note** that your chain length may vary, but you want to reach approx. 2.5 inch in length and 1 inch in height.

Step 1

Ch. 10.

Row 1, SC in second chain from the hook and each chain across. Ch. 1 and turn (9)

Rows 2-4. 9SC. (9)

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Step 2

Using thread, sew one button at each end, almost touching the edge. Make sure to sew buttons very securely.

Knit

Materials: 2 buttons (15mm-22mm 2-hole, 4-hole or shank buttons), needle and thread, 4 weight (worsted) acrylic or cotton yarn and 4mm needles. **Note** that your CO count length may vary, but you want to reach approx. 2.5 inch in length and 1 inch in height.

Step 1

CO 13

Knit each row until you reach 1" height. Bind off and weave in ends.

Step 2

Using thread, sew one button at each end, almost touching the edge. Make sure to sew buttons very securely.



Seen on Facebook

I heard a little rumour,
I don't know if it's true,
That the world is going to be at peace
For at least a month or two.
I heard that folk must stay at home,
And spend time with their kin,
Slow down, relax and take a breath,
And find some peace within.
And though we may be worried,
About money, jobs and bills,
We will notice beauty everywhere,
Blue skies, fresh lakes, green hills.
And when a month or two is over
And we can go back to our lives,
People will show gratitude
That they and their loved ones all survived.

Your garden

With such lovely weather and plenty of time spent at home, gardens are beginning to look beautiful. How about sharing a photograph of your garden for inclusion in the Newsletter? Please email to Su or Val or send a print to Val at her home address (Homeleigh, Hockland Road, Tydd St Giles, PE13 5LF).

Notes from the Federation Secretary

As March Community Centre is shut, I am unable to access the Federation Office. I can work from home in a limited capacity, as I have access to emails and can pick up answerphone messages. So, if you have a question for me, please do still ask. There is one benefit to this situation, I have 'Office Cats'!

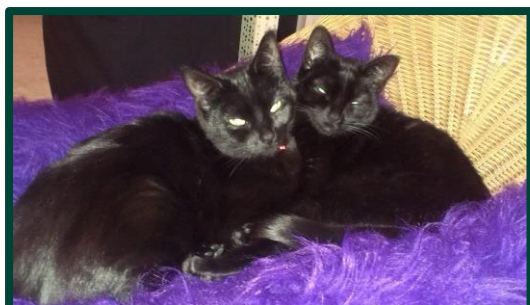
Please pay careful attention as to where to send information, as we have no access to post sent to the Office. Although I am issuing invoices, you do not have to pay them until we are back to normality. Flyers will detail the address to which they should be sent.

Thank you to those WI contacts for replying to my emails so promptly, it has meant that we can cut down the amount of unnecessary mailing.

If you are sending out an email Newsletter to your members, or have been doing anything interesting, please do send a copy or a picture and a report for the next Newsletter.

The Around the Isle would normally have been included in this mailing. I have it ready, but will wait until all members can receive a copy before sending it.

Su Rowbotham
Federation Secretary



Stoli & Kirsch
keeping me
company

Shirley Massey from **Witchford WI** has been busy getting ready for Christmas! Her wine carriers each hold 2 bottles and are crocheted. The penguin will be added to the Christmas 'stuff' she does. These have included in the past the very popular Christmas Pud covers for Ferrero Roche.



It's here, it's there, it's everywhere
It might get you it doesn't care.
Prince, politician, star
Doesn't matter who you are
To keep our friends and family safe
We have to stay in one place
To all the doctors, nurses, carers
With you out there it shouldn't scare us
So do as Boris says to do
And with luck we will pull through.

Marion Hodges
Marshland St James

ENCLOSURES

Federation Annual Accounts
Yearbook x3
Isle Cup Competition
Flowers for the Federation
Federation Annual Report

FEDERATION SECRETARY

Su Rowbotham

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Office opening hours

Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30am-1.30pm

NEWSLETTER

Next Mailing will be posted on 27th May
Closing date for submissions to the July Newsletter is 8th June