



Chairman's Tête-à-Tête *It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas* is a song made popular by Perry Como, Bing Crosby and many others and it certainly is getting a lot like Christmas. People have put decorations up very early, just to cheer the country up I think. We are even talking about getting a tree at the weekend, I love a real tree, the pine tree smell is Christmas to me. Slater is quite good with the tree, he doesn't pick the baubles off one by one. This is unlike a cat we had called Polly. I found her one day carrying something around in her mouth and on investigation I found it was a felt Robin that she'd got off the tree. I took it off her and replaced it, later that evening, I saw her very quietly on the back of the settee on her hind legs very delicately picking it off again! It spent the rest of Christmas sitting on a picture where she couldn't reach. The joys of keeping a cat, she became in later years, our beautiful old lady who lived until she was nearly twenty one but those felt robins were her favourite right to the end.

Christmas brings back memories for all of us doesn't it and in a special bumper edition of The Hive we will have some of your Christmas memories which I'm really looking forward to, it will give us all something special to read and share over Christmas. One short memory I'll share with you now is of an incident in my previous WI in Cheshire. The committee and husbands put together a pantomime for our Christmas party. One of the husbands, Gerry, was very technically clever and he set up some special effects including explosions, and dry ice to float across the stage from a control board which he was going to work off stage to get dramatic effects at appropriate times. On came the wicked witch, she threw her cloak off which landed over the board, short circuiting it, there was an almighty bang and everything went off all at once. The audience thought this was spectacular, Gerry was furious about his hard work going up in smoke, fortunately no real harm was done. However it could have brought the house down - literally. We never did that again!

Keep safe everyone, those clever scientists have developed a life saver in the vaccines, I'm sure there's an end in sight and 2021 will be a better year and it's almost here. Julie Higgins, Federation Chairman

Hello from the WI Office This is our final issue of The Hive for 2020. Considering this little publication was born out of a pandemic I think it's been a rather positive outcome. I personally love hearing from your WIs and seeing the inventive ways you're meeting. None of us expected what this year has thrown at us, but look at how well we've all done!

For our first edition of 2021 I'd love to hear what your New Year resolutions are. So tell me yours and I'll tell you mine. Maybe yours will inspire others, or maybe you fancy the challenge of being a Suffolk West Board member? Don't forget nominations don't close until 5 January 2021.

Just a few reminders this fortnight:

- We have just four WI diaries left, so snap yours up if you haven't already. They're £5.50 including P&P.
- And most importantly, the WI Office will be closed for Christmas from 4pm Thursday 17 December until 9am Wednesday 6 January 2021.

Just 14 days until Christmas! Keep safe, keep smiling and stay strong ♥ Rachel, Federation Secretary

LONDON WELSH RUGBY CLUB CHOIR

Monday 14 December, 7.30pm

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for our Christmas online event. We're very pleased to say this has now **sold out**. You will have received your confirmation via email. Please remember to save the link as the office will be closed. **For any technical problems contact Janet Brown 07813 794490.** If you are unable to attend please contact Julie Higgins (01284 811499) so we can offer your place to someone on our waiting list.



Office Information

WI Office, Unit 11, Park Farm Business Centre,
Fornham St Genevieve, Suffolk, IP28 6TS
Tel: 01284 336645 Email: office.swfwi@gmail.com
Reg. Charity Number: 1179294

Open Tuesday-Thursday 10am-4pm

Payments can be made to **SWFWI CIO** by BACS
Sort Code: 089299 | Account number: 65868449

Lady Denman Cup Competition 2020

The Lady Denman Cup Competition is an annual writing competition run by NFWI. Each year WI members are invited to submit a themed piece of writing, either comical, serious, fact or fiction, using no more than 500 words to their Federation for judging. This year's theme was 'What I heard on the bus ...' and could be based on a conversation they have overheard, or imagined they had heard, on the bus. Congratulations to our Federation winner Janet Rich, Barnham WI whose entry has been submitted to NFWI for further judging.



'What I heard on the bus...'

My mother spoke to the lady sitting opposite us on the bus. 'Hello Betty! How are you? Has that daughter of yours had her baby yet?'

'Hello Mabel. Yes, she had a little girl last Tuesday, thank you for asking.'

'Oh, that's lovely. Mother and baby doing well, I trust? Father very proud, I bet! What's her name?'

'Josephine'.

Mrs North seemed to retreat under her hat. We noticed that her lips were twisting uncomfortably. My mother leaned forward in her seat and said, 'Betty, is everything all right? I haven't said something to upset you, have I?'

Mrs North looked embarrassed and seemed in a quandary about what to reply. She lifted her head to reveal two watery eyes and then seemed resigned to reveal the cause of her anguish. 'Well, it's Joe, the baby's father. He's had a funny turn'.

"Oh!" My mother said, rather weakly. I supposed she regretted being nosey and seemed lost for words.

But Mrs North, having released the handbrake, had decided that she must go on. 'My Brenda decided to come home to have the baby, you know, it being her first. Joe was working and we said we'd send my son Norman to fetch him if it looked like she'd have it before he finished work. Then the midwife, Nurse Denton, she said, "You'd better be off Norman – things are speeding up here!"'

'Norman said he'd never seen a bicycle move so fast or heard anyone whistle so loud as Joe skidded to a

halt and threw his bicycle against the garden fence, raced up the path, took the stairs two at time and burst into the bedroom. Nurse Denton was holding the baby, unwashed, covered in blood and screaming for England and she thrust her straight into Joe's arms! Well, he went as white as a sheet before

holding the baby at arms length and shouting, "No! No! No!", before thrusting her back into Nurse Denton's arms and running out of the room.

Nobody knew what to say. Brenda started crying.'

'Oh dear, Betty! What made him do that?'

Mrs North dabbed her eyes with a hankchief. 'Well, it turns out he was sent underground during the war because he was small and he palled up with an older man, Sgt. Lively. The enemy blasted their tunnel one night and the sergeant got badly injured. Joe tried to drag him out but he couldn't, so he sat with him, cradling him against his chest while they waited for help. He was screaming in pain, his face streaked with blood. Joe was terrified. As he tried to pacify his friend he felt a warm, wet patch creeping into his uniform under the sergeant's head. Suddenly he stopped screaming and looked up at Joe and said, 'Mother!'

'I'm not your m...'

'Mother!', he said again, before Joe could finish.

'Y, Yes, Sarge', said Joe.

'I knew you'd come, dear Mother'.

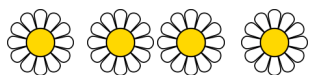
He was looking at Joe and smiling.

'Dear, dear Mo.....'

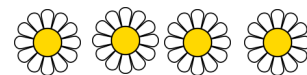


ACWW Corner: Our representative Val Simpson keeps you up to date.

Did You Know? The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. All of ACWW's work is committed to the achievement of the Goals. Projects are funded in line with key target indicators for specific Goals, and ACWW display these alongside project reports and updates. Read more on ACWW's website [here](#)



The Daisy Chain



Linking together our WI members across the county

Please make sure your WI and sub-groups continues to comply with the latest Government guidance.

Stanton WI 'Operation Rudolf' We wanted to do something extra special this year for our members because of course the COVID pandemic had changed so much about their daily lives. We put our heads together, deciding Steph Papworths idea of Poinsettias was best and what form that would take to bring some Christmas Cheer. We wanted to stay within WI mantra of limited plastic and decided to decorate brown paper bags with greenery from the garden and candy canes. Pauline Brooks lovingly hand crafted 40 beautiful stitched Christmas Cards, timed to perfection to give Maureen Johnson (President) enough time to write each one out! The poinsettias were then wrapped in red/green tissue paper before Maureen and I set off to deliver the Christmas Gift Bags to each of our members. We'd like to take this time to wish all WI Members a happy, festive Christmas.



Ginny Lamboll, Committee Member

Bury Afternoon WI GIGs Our Bury Afternoon WI Gigs (gossip in the garden) were originally knit and Natter get togethers. After the first lockdown the knitting ceased and the natter increased. Everyone wanted someone to talk to. Sitting in the sunshine in our presidents lovely garden, socially distancing and in groups of six was very relaxing.

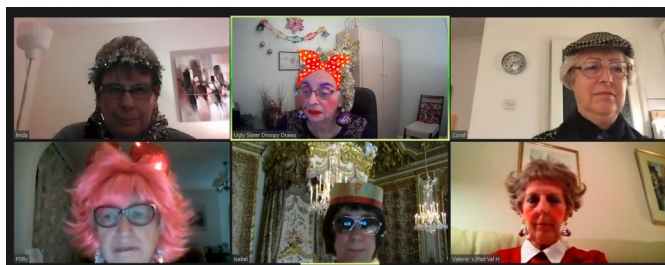
Not to be beaten by winter approaching we have taken note of government guidelines and once more different groups of 6 meet in Sally's garden once or twice a week. We might look a bit different in our woolly clothes, rugs and Christmas headbands, but our spirits remain high and the chat continues non stop.



Happy Christmas everyone 🎄👋

Gillian Norman, Secretary

Bury WI Panto As it looks as though we will be unable to meet up in person for some time yet, Bury WI are encouraging members to use Zoom. For the December meeting, the committee put together a short Panto based on Cinderella. On the night, suitably attired in a variety of wigs, make up and sparkly extras, they encouraged their audience to join in with booing and hissing whilst dispensing a mixture of old and topical jokes. This culminated, due to the delay in the various signals, in a multi-layered rendition of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'. It was followed by the tale of never-ending turkey leftovers, presented as a version of the 'Twelve days of Christmas', and finished with a few games of 'Zingo', a variation on Bingo but played with cards.



A screen shot of the cast looking suitable apprehensive of letting the audience in! Left to right top: Fairy Godmother, Droopy Drawers (ugly sister), Baron Hardup Bottom Cinders, Prince Charming, Flossie (ugly sister).

Wishing you a Happy Christmas.

Isabel Glasscock, Committee Member

Wickhambrook WI For several years now, Veronica Wiseman has made her very special birthday cards for our members.

During the latest lockdown she made 42 Christmas cards and lavender bags for the members. She is pictured here getting ready to deliver Christmas cheer around Wickhambrook and surrounding villages, helped by committee members.



Dorothy Anderson, President

Public Affairs Memo: WI campaign news

Time to Make Your Choice! Our two annual Resolution Discussion meetings were held via Zoom this year thanks to the virus restrictions. Members heard an introduction to each of the five proposed resolutions. These are printed on pages 23-25 of WI Life November/December and on [MyWI](#).

Now, the next step is a chance for every member to make their choice of which resolution should go forward to the NFWI Annual Meeting in April next year. Your decision should be guided by the criteria of whether the subject is timely, targeted and achievable. You may also want to consider what action you could take if a resolution becomes a mandate.

Your WI secretary will be gathering in your choice this year either by phone or email, post or however you have been keeping in touch recently. She will send these choices in to the Federation Office at Park Farm by 18 January 2021.

When the numbers for each resolution sent in by WIs have been tallied by the Federation, they will then be forwarded to NFWI. The resolution, or perhaps resolutions, with the most support nationally will be debated at the NFWI Annual Meeting. Make sure you make your choice and play your part in this selection process.

Brenda Dyer, Jill Newell & Sue Beavan, WI Advisers

Peat is in the News: Why?

As I write there is soon to be a Parliamentary debate on the subject of peat burning. This is quite literally a hot topic; peatlands store carbon. Burning the peat releases carbon into the atmosphere, adding to the impact of climate change so we have more floods, storms, droughts and crop failures.

Stopping the use of peat-based garden compost has been put forward as a WI Resolution this year, as many gardeners are realising they have inadvertently been making the climate crisis worse by the wrong choice of compost.

When peatbogs are drained to extract the peat, the carbon stored is released into the atmosphere, increasing the impact on climate change. Peat in compost is unnecessary - there are alternative composts on the market; we just need to break old habits and that applies to burning peat moors too.

Lesli Tunbridge, SWFWI Climate Ambassador



January Events

Tuesday 12 January, 2pm

Suffolk Wildlife Trust: January Activities at Trust Sites with Michael Strand

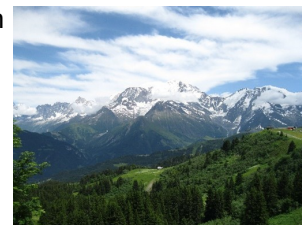
Find out about the work of SWT and how it has saved some of the county's most special places for wildlife. Learn about what you can do to improve wildlife in your garden and local wildlife spaces.



Tuesday 19 January, 7.30pm

La Route des Grands Alps with Sue Beavan

Sue will share her picturesque and entertaining journey from the gorgeous setting of Lake Geneva over the high passes of the Alps and down to the warm and beautiful Menton.



Thursday 21 January, 7.30pm

Let's Craft: Make a Mini Scrapbook Album with Margaret Brackenbury

Margaret will show you how to make a 6" square mini album. To make this album you do not need glue, and you will be able to add photos later.



Wednesday 27 January, 7.30pm

The Theatre Royal Reimagined with Colin Blumenau

Hear about the work behind the scenes which resulted in the changes to the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds to restore it to its original glory.



Tickets are **£5 per person**. Book using our Eventbrite page [here](#) or contact the WI Office on office.swfw@gmail.com. Bookings can only be made