

# MAC MEMO



## An update from WI Advisers for WI Committees

November 2020 | Issue 1

### Spending WI Funds During COVID Time

This, really, has been an extraordinary year and is one most of us will be pleased come the 31<sup>st</sup> December to say cheerio to. All normal activities and events have been either cancelled or carried out in line with whatever restrictions were in place at the time. Whether it was waving to family members and friends through the window or having WI meetings in the local park, life has been a challenge.

Committees have spent time considering how to stay in touch with members. Zoom meetings have become more commonplace and Newsletters and phone calls have been invaluable. As WIs have not been able to meet physically over the past few months, they may have subsequently made savings on hall hire, speaker and refreshment costs. So now, as we move towards the festive season with no opportunity for festive celebrations, how can we use WI funds and stay within the rules?

We, your Advisers, have given this some thought and would like to offer our help. Don't spend time puzzling over what you can and can't do, **get in touch with your Adviser** who will be very pleased to hear from you and happy to share ideas that we hope members will enjoy. Lets make sure we make our members smile if only for a few minutes during these difficult days.

### Can WIs create and send goody bags to their members?

Yes. WIs can give nominal – small and relative – gifts to members such as goody bags that demonstrate their appreciation for their members and aim to keep them connected to the WI. When determining what is 'nominal', WIs need to look at their income and their overall financial position and, as always, decisions about the use of WI funds must be agreed by the WI Committee after a consultation with the members. For more information, please refer to [mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/members-resources/guidance-on-goody-bags](https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/members-resources/guidance-on-goody-bags)

**You can also use WI Funds** to pay for your members to access the various Zoom meetings and courses such as those offered by our own **Suffolk on Your Sofa** and the very successful **Denman at Home**.

### Help with Technology

While we cannot under any circumstances claim to be experts, your Advisers have gained quite a lot of practical experience over the last few months with such things as Zoom and Jitsi. We are very happy to help you with getting access to such platforms and will set up a meeting and talk you through it if that would help. Rachel H at the office is also available to help in any way that you need so that we can make the most of those things that can keep us in touch.

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions or comments.

With very best wishes to you all

*Sue, Brenda, Maggie, Jill, Angela, Julie and Janet.*