



# Membership Advisory Committee **MEMO**

January 2022 | Issue 5

## Your update from Suffolk West's Advisers for WI Committees

### **NFWI Digital Mailing**

At the beginning of December, WI Secretaries received an email from NFWI advising that from July 2022 mailings from National would be sent digitally to WIs. Currently there are 4 paper mailings sent out by the NFWI each year, with an extra one sent during NFWI Board election years. This move away from paper has raised concerns regarding inclusivity, equipment, costs and skill levels.

Currently all WI secretaries in Suffolk West Federation are on email. However, in the event of a secretary being appointed who does not use email, as long as one member of the WI does have an email address to receive the digital mailing, she can be nominated to receive the NFWI mailing.

When a secretary receives the NFWI mailing, the text will list the contents with a clear link to click which will download these contents. The whole mailing will not need to be printed out. The secretary will be able to decide which documents should be forwarded to the committee or to the whole membership. If you need help to access the mailing on your device or with forwarding information to members, please do contact your Adviser or the Federation Office for help.

The mailings can also be found on MYWI. For help accessing MYWI please contact your Adviser.

The Federation's launch of direct mailing is a great success with over half our members now receiving the Hive directly to their mail boxes. Sending hard copy material is becoming less common. Digital mailings benefit the environment and make huge savings on postal costs. Change is always a challenge but please be assured the Advisers will help in any way they can to ensure that the transition between hard copy and digital mailing does not cause any problems for our WI secretaries who we appreciate are doing an excellent job.

### **Subscriptions April 2022**

Last year many WIs elected to reduce their share of the subscription. With the new subscription year only two months away, we would urge WIs to seriously consider what their WI share will be for 2022/23. With costs increasing, caution is needed when setting the WI share. We would recommend a Budget is prepared including all known income, expenses and not forgetting any changes to membership numbers. This will determine whether your WI can afford to discount the full membership by reducing the WI share. If your treasurer needs any help in preparing a Budget, please contact me by email [maggie.glavin@btinternet.com](mailto:maggie.glavin@btinternet.com) or call on 01284 735741.

### **New Members Pack**

When new members join your WI, do you offer them a copy of the Federation New Member's Pack or have you a welcome leaflet you have designed? The Federation is looking at the concept of the New Member's Pack and think a welcome guide to the WI should contain information about the whole organisation, Suffolk West Federation and the particular WI the member has joined.

To cover the WI's section, we could produce a template that each WI completes with their contact details, meeting times, activities etc. This would be kept at the Office and updated by WIs when necessary. As new members join, they can be identified from the MCS and the Federation Office could send out a pack to them.

Would this pack be something you would welcome? We would love to hear from you with your ideas and thoughts and, if you already have your own New Members Leaflet, perhaps you could send us a copy.

With very best wishes Maggie (Chairman of MAC), Sue, Brenda, Jill, Angela, Julie and Janet.