



FOR 100 YEARS

Chairman's Chat

Hello Again

Everyone. Graham and I had our second Covid vaccination last Saturday and it all went very well this time. Some of you will know that on the first occasion we were inoculated outside in the car due to a queue with a waiting time of over an hour. People had arrived an hour to an hour and a half before their scheduled time - yes really. I felt so sorry for the staff it was just hopeless. As I can't stand in one place for too long, Graham asked if we could come back later. He was told to go back to the car, parked just across the road and someone would come and talk to us. Five minutes later out came a nurse armed with two syringes and vaccinated us there in situ! This time, we turned up, were allocated the loveliest retired doctor that you could ever wish to meet, had the injection and were out in about 10 minutes, well done them!

Whilst we're on matters medical, we recently heard from Sturmer WI that there are places where you can recycle blister packs, you know, the type you

get tablets in, anything from ibuprofen to prescription drugs. You can take them to a stall on Haverhill market, they then pass them on to Superdrug in Thetford. Other places you can take them are Superdrug in Newmarket, Bury St Edmunds and Sudbury (we would advise checking with the stores as we haven't had this confirmed), and Woolpit Health Centre. If you know of anymore collection points let us know and we'll put the information in The Hive. We don't have any WI collection points set up as yet as we are still under restrictions but will look into this as soon as we are able. Thank you Sturmer WI for the initial idea.

To end, I came across this quote from a poem by C17th poet Francis Quarles. We were married in May, sometimes not considered the best month but I think this is lovely.

*Let all thy joys be as the month of May,
And all thy days be as a marriage day.*

Julie Higgins, Federation Chairman

Hello from the WI Office Just a few reminders from us:

- When posting anything to the WI Office please make sure use the correct postage for the size of your letter. Insufficient postage incurs charges for the Federation and WIs will be billed.
- You can find a copy of the much loved WI bulb catalogue [here](#) and order form [here](#) or you can request one from the WI office. Don't forget to return your orders to us by Tuesday 1 June.

Stay safe ♥ Rachel Hows, Federation Secretary

Centenary Mugs

We are now posting mugs. They are **£13.20 incl. P&P**. Contact the WI Office to order yours, or if you are local to the office you can collect.



WI Office, Unit 11, Park Farm Business Centre, Fornham St Genevieve, Suffolk, IP28 6TS

01284 336645 | office.swfwi@gmail.com | Reg. Charity Number 1179294

Open Tuesday-Thursday 10am-4pm

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





April & May Events

Tuesday 4 May | 7.30pm

Violet's Titanic Escape with Jane Glennie

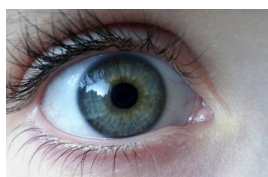
Violet Jessop was an ocean liner stewardess, who is known for surviving both the sinking of the Titanic in 1912 and the Britannic in 1916. Jane presents this monologue in the character of Violet and tells the tale of her escape from both ships.



Wednesday 12 May | 7.30pm

Coping with Sight Loss with Anna Hiscox

As East of England Community Coordinator for the Royal National Institute of Blind People, Anna will give us a brief outline of sight loss, its various aspects and steps that can be taken to help. **This is a free talk & not on Eventbrite. Please via office.**



Thursday 20 May | 7.30pm

The Crown and the Cradle with Siobhan Clarke

As featured on BBC Women's Hour, Siobhan has 17 years experience as a guide lecturer for the Historic Royal Palaces. For us she will talk about royal babies and how they have always excited interest, because their survival could shape history, and the circumstances of their arrival and historic significance, from the Wars of the Roses to present day.



27 November 2021 | 7.30pm | The Apex

BOOKING NOW! £22 per person

Tickets available from The Apex [here](#).

Friday 28 May | 2.30pm

Stem Cell Donations with



Every 20 minutes, someone in the UK is diagnosed with a blood cancer. Hannah Thomas, from DKMS will talk us through the importance of stem cell donation & the process for registering & donating. **This is a free talk for our members & will not initially be on Eventbrite. Please book via the office.**

Tickets are £5 per person unless stated as free. Book using our Eventbrite page [here](#) or contact the WI Office (Tues-Thurs 10am-3pm)

Coming Soon

Save these dates for your diary

Saturday 10 July | Shakespeare in the Park

Performed in the grounds of Park Farm, Durham University's Castle Theatre Company present William Shakespeare's *All's Well that Ends Well*.



Tuesday 1 August | Ritz Afternoon Tea
The Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds

Saturday 2 October | A Night of Jersey Boys
Risby Village Hall

With all four members having appeared in London's West End, this tribute is unrivalled! Dance the night away as they recreate the iconic sound, slick routines and tight harmonies of one of the most successful bands of the 50's and 60's.



As eager as we are to get back to normal we are not taking bookings for these events just yet. We will circulate more information as soon as we have the much awaited nod from the Government. For now, pop them in your diary as something to look forward to!



featuring the Wonder Women who keep Suffolk West thriving!

This is your chance to meet the faces behind the names you hear so often, and we are kicking off with the leading lady.



Name: Julie Higgins

Role: Federation Chairman

Member of: Risby WI

How long have you been a WI member: 46 Years

What is your role? I work with the Trustees to oversee the running of the federation, assist in the

organisation of events and work with the staff to ensure the smooth running of the office. Plus everything else that pops up!

Your favourite thing about being in the WI? The opportunities it's given me and the friends I've made - sorry that's two but I can't separate them.

What's your background: I was born Julie Bliss in Oswestry Shropshire where I went to Bellan House Prep School and Oswestry Girls' High school. I married Graham in 1977 and Morwenna was born two years later. We then lived in Cheshire. I gained a degree with the Open University and on moving to Suffolk, worked in the Veterinary labs at Cambridge University Vet School plus organising science summer school courses for the University of Cambridge International Summer Schools before becoming the Federation Secretary where I worked happily until I retired.

Favourite song: I like a lot of different music classical, Motown, 60s, pop but my favourite song is Sacrifice by Elton John

Hobbies & interests: Other than WI, my animals, currently a pony Batty and a cat Slater, watercolour painting, visiting historic houses, theatre.

Public Affairs Memo: WI campaign news

Women's Health Strategy

The government has launched a survey to help improve women's health and care. It is quick and easy to fill out and will help shape the future women's health Strategy for England. The survey is open until 30 May. You can have your say by clicking [here](#)



Have your say on rural services during the Coronavirus pandemic! Rural England (where the WI is a stakeholder) has launched a survey as part of its State of Rural Services 2021 report, aimed at rural residents. The survey asks about use of services since the start of Covid-19 restrictions, and how you expect to use those services in future. The survey is open to residents in England and takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. The survey closes on 4 June. Click [here](#) to take part.

Don't forget, you can access all the latest resolution and campaign news direct from NFWI, as well as past issues, by signing up to their PA digest [here](#).



WI Stationery You can top up your committee's stationery from the list below anytime. Send your order to the WI Office along with your WI contact details. WIs will be invoiced for items only, P&P is free.

Item	Price
General Receipt Book	£4.40
Minute Book	£4.80
Officers Memo Book	£3.20
Attendance Register	£2
Record Book	£4.80
Subs Receipt Book	£4.40
Account Book	£4.30
A4 Poster Pad	£4.50



The Daisy Chain

Linking together our WI members across the county

Barrow WI has sadly suspended, but before their final meeting the committee issued a craft pack to each of their members to decorate a plant pot, and below are their beautiful creations.



Kathy Hudson's abstract



Purple pot by June Bunn



By Chris James for
Chrissie Fordham



Kirstie Ford's Creation



Colourful collection by June Bryant



Chrissie Fordham for
Chris James



Flowers by Sandra Smith



A scattering of leaves
and flowers by Irene



Simone Ruddock's starry
creation, decorated by
Kirstie Ford



Sue Walker's Easter Pot



Colourful daisy chain
by Sheila Reynolds

Hadleigh Evening WI Early in January, I read an article encouraging people to walk 1000 miles in 2021, effectively from Land's End to John O'Groats. This appealed to me, as I have always enjoyed walking, and I signed up to the Virtual Mission website [here](#). This requires the entry of each day's mileage, which is plotted on a map. Having input every day's walking since 1st January, I virtually headed north via Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Birmingham, the Peak District, West Yorkshire, Northumberland, Edinburgh, Perth, the Cairngorms, Inverness, and on the 29th March I arrived at John O'Groats. To verify my mileage I input weekly screenshots as a record of my daily walks. Some of the dog walkers, pedestrians, drivers and Hadleigh residents may now understand the reason why they have seen this old lady striding out every day on her own on a Virtual Mission to walk 1000 miles!

Glenn Abbassi, Trustee & WI Secretary

Suspended WIs With a heavy heart we announce the suspension of the following:

- Barrow WI
- Bradfield St Clare
- Clare
- Norton
- Stoke By Nayland

We hope members will join neighbouring WIs or consider being associate members to continue their WI journey. Don't hesitate to contact the WI Office for more information.