

# THE WI HIVE



Your fortnightly buzz on what's happening in Suffolk West Federation

Issue 1 | 1st April 2020

Suffolk West  
theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

FOR 100 YEARS

## Chairman's Chat

Dear All

How lovely to be able to talk to you through our new in house publication The WI Hive. Sadly the WI News has ceased printing for the time being, brought about by - yes - the Coronavirus, I'll try not to mention that word again, this is meant to be a cheery publication not a catch up on the virus! Our great thanks go to Lauren, the freelance designer and Greg, Managing Director of Today Magazines and all the magazine staff. Of course I can't complete the thanks without acknowledging Jill Gooch's huge contribution as Editor, Jill has filled this post for many years, since Dorthy Lodge had to resign due to ill health. Jill, I know is most upset about losing the magazine but at present in an uncertain world, we have to follow the wishes of our publishers.

For the foreseeable future, this new publication is being set up and managed by Rachel Hows, our Federation Secretary, but Rachel has a secret, she's a trained journalist and is going to edit and produce this for us. It will be entirely different from our wonderful WI News, it will be keeping you up to date with what's going on.... but not on that word I promised not to keep mentioning!

What have you been doing since your WIs have temporarily closed down? I'm keeping busy contacting the office by email and phone, drinking tea, and going for an afternoon walk, I'm very lucky to live down a lane so no contact likely. I say walk, Graham walks and I go along on my mobility scooter as my leg is still bandaged like something discovered by Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon.

Keep happy, keep healthy and keep in touch with one another and us. We can get through this girls and come out the other side. By the way, let us know what you think of our new publication.

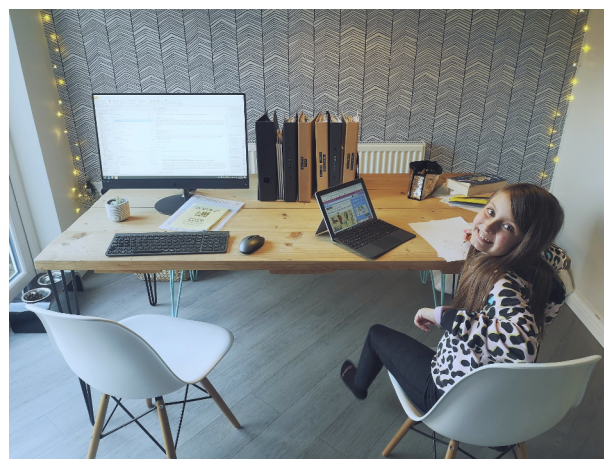
Julie Higgins, Federation Chairman

**Hello from the WI Office!** And welcome to the first issue of The WI Hive - named so because we hope it will become a hive of WI activity from around our Federation. We aim to publish on a fortnightly basis (next issue 16th April) and what a more poignant time than now to launch it!

It's important to keep in touch, and even though the WI Office is still closed, it would be lovely to hear from our members - we want you to be part of it so please do send us your reports and photos of what you're filling your time with, whether it's cookery, craft, gardening or if you can recommend a good book or box set to curl up on the sofa with.

To be part of the next issue please send your reports (200 words max.) and photos along with your name and WI for the attention of Rachel H to office.swfwi@gmail.com by 9th April.

I'll start us off with a photo of where I'm writing to you from, my kitchen come office with my "new colleague", my eight year old daughter Mabel.



For the time being the newsletter will be sent by email, but if you're not self isolating and are taking a daily walk, and you have a printer, why not drop a copy through the letterbox of a WI member who doesn't have internet access or pop one in the post - all we ask is you use your own discretion & follow government guidelines.

Stay safe and stay well,

Rachel Hows, Federation Secretary

## Tea Time Teaser

Worldwide Food & Drink



1. From which country does pitta bread originate?
2. What is Japanese sake made from?
3. From which country is the famous Emmental Cheese?
4. Which Italian sweet bread loaf is often enjoyed at Christmas and New Year?
5. What is the traditional Thanksgiving dessert served in the United States?

Answers in next issue (16th April)

## Laughter is the best medicine

A few funny snippets we've enjoyed lately...

- Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
- Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9pm is the new midnight.
- When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Day 4 of social distancing: Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He's a web designer.

**Now Is the Time!** Do you have an unfinished craft project lurking at the back of the cupboard, maybe something you started at a WI workshop and took home unfinished, planning to get round to it? Well now is the time ladies to dust them down and finish them off.

To celebrate your efforts how about taking a before and after photo of your project? You can send your photos to the WI office and we will post them on our SWFWI Facebook page.

Margaret Brackenbury, Creative Leisure

## Cookery Corner

Soup n' Natter might be on hold but Yvonne King is still on hand to help you cook up a storm!



*Hello Ladies, I am so sorry we won't be together for Soup n' Natter in April & May, but we must stick to the rules to keep everybody safe. In the meantime, I include my recipes in the hope that you may feel inspired to make them at home.*

*Please feel free to call (07808 769717 or 01359 241286) or email (yvonneking1945@gmail.com) if you feel like a chat at any time.*

*Take good care of yourselves and stay safe, Yvonne x*

### **HAM & LENTIL ( SPLIT PEAS) SOUP**

1/2 lb split peas or lentils

1 large onion diced

1 stick celery diced

1 carrot diced

1 litre stock (preferably Ham but any stock will do)

1 medium potato diced

8 oz piece cooked ham, diced

If the split peas require soaking, do that the day before. Some do not require soaking.

Roughly chop the onion and cook for a few minutes until soft. I use a small amount of water for this, rather than fat or oil. When soft, add the celery, carrot & potato and stir together. Add the lentils & stock & bring to the boil. Simmer gently until the lentils & vegetables are cooked. Blend until smooth and then add the chopped diced ham & reheat. ENJOY!

## Denman Spring Break 2021

Friday 19th March - Sunday 21st March 2021

We all need something to look forward to, so why not start planning your 2021 diary and snap up a place on our three day getaway to Denman.

To request an application pack you can leave a message on the WI Office answer phone or drop us an email and we will post one out to you.

**Don't Forget!** To be included in our next issue send your reports and photos to Rachel Hows (office.swfwi@gmail.com) by 9th April.