

THE WI HIVE

Your fortnightly buzz on Suffolk West

Issue 21 | 21 January 2021



Suffolk West
theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

FOR 100 YEARS

Chairman's Tête-à-Tête Hello Everyone and welcome to our first edition of The WI Hive this year, I hope you are all well and safe and looking forward to receiving your Covid vaccination or you may have already had it. This with any luck will eventually free us all up to meet again, in person, something we're all desperate to do.

I am very sorry to start the New Year with news of the death of one of our long standing members, Mrs Eleanor Wadsworth from Fornham all Saints WI who I'm sure many of you met probably doing one of her talks on her life as a pilot in the Air Transport Auxiliary flying aircraft from Hurricanes and Spitfires to Lancaster bombers across the length and breadth of Britain to various airfields where they were needed by the RAF. If you haven't already done so, please read her experiences in our booklet *VE Day, A Shared Moment of Celebration*. Eleanor's story has also been reproduced recently in a number of newspapers and radio broadcasts, and since writing this tribute we have found out that Eleanor later worked for Greene King as an architect and introduced ladies loos to pubs – back then that must have been quite a thing! 'Attagirl Eleanor'!

On Sunday RAF Navigator, John Nicol paid tribute to Eleanor by quoting her mantra that 'what you can't change must be dealt with', John lived with this thought as a captured RAF Officer when his aircraft crashed in Iraq during the first Gulf War. A wonderful lady who we are proud to say was a member of one of our WIs. We send our thoughts at this time to Eleanor's friends and family. I think to end I'd like to quote the fitting motto of the Royal Air Force which Eleanor seems to have always lived by *Per Ardua Ad Astra* or *Through Adversity to the Stars*.

Julie Higgins, Federation Chairman

Hello from the WI Office Happy (belated) New Year! Sorry you missed out on our first planned issue of 2021. You may have heard that I had a rather poorly start to the year, waking up with what I thought was just a cold on the 1st and ending up with a positive COVID test a few days later. I'm very relieved to say I am much better now though and raring to go! Whilst I was in isolation you all went back into lockdown (let's hope third time's a charm!) so here's the latest info you need to know about the Federation:

- The WI office is closed to ALL visitors.
- I will be working from home again on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. My number is 07487 786585.
- Rachel Sparks will be working from the WI Office on Tuesday and Thursdays. You are more than welcome to leave an answerphone message on Wednesdays.
- Due to the adjusted working hours the monthly mailing will be taking a hiatus, so keep your eyes on The Hive for all your WI News. Any information for Secretaries or Committees will be emailed.

Any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Keep safe ♥ Rachel Hows, Federation Secretary

UPDATE! 2021 NFWI Annual Meeting

You will have made your resolutions choices by now and we will be notified of the final resolution(s) in mid February. However, with the COVID-19 restrictions continuing, NFWI have moved the Annual Meeting from April to **8 June 2021**. WIs will receive further information in the March mailing and the Federation is updating the Link list for delegates.

Brenda Dyer, Federation Resolution Adviser

Office Information

WI Office, Unit 11, Park Farm Business Centre,
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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

Don't forget you can follow us on social media by clicking the icons below



In Memory of Eleanor Wadsworth

Fornham All Saints WI are sad to announce the death of Eleanor Wadsworth. Eleanor was President many times, and a leading light in the design and completion of the village sign. During the war she was one of the Air Transport Auxiliary pilots and gave talks about her flying. A talented craftsperson, who enjoyed dressmaking and other crafts. Eleanor served on the South Suffolk Show Committee, then Executive and Home Economics, organising the Cooperative Cup competition at the Corn Exchange, she also gave the Federation the Novice Cup to encourage members to have a go. She will be missed by many.



On a personal note, it was Eleanor who suggested I should go on the South Suffolk Show Committee, from which I was then nominated for Home Economics and then Executive, finishing as the Federation Treasurer, thank you Eleanor.

Margaret Muttock
Joint President, Fornham All Saints WI



The death of Britain's last surviving female pilot from World War II, Eleanor Wadsworth aged 103, has been widely reported in the press. She flew many different types of aircraft, her favourite being the Spitfire. Not only was Eleanor a brave pilot flying military aircraft during the war she was also one of the first

women to train as an architect in Britain. A truly inspirational lady. I was privileged that Eleanor's family invited me to join them at her celebration of life at the crematorium. Eleanor arrived with style, her coffin had Spitfires painted on it. One of the hymns was Jerusalem, fitting for a lady who had been President on many occasions. At the end was a recording of a Spitfire Fly Past, which was incredibly moving. A dear friend who I will miss.



Elizabeth Gingell
Joint President, Fornham All Saints WI

Public Affairs Memo: WI campaign news

Supporting Survivors Webinar

*"Don't ask why doesn't she leave,
ask why doesn't he stop?"*

NO MORE
violence against women

I was invited, along with Jennie Bloomfield, to attend a National Public Affairs Supporting Survivors Webinar in December which began with the question "why tackle the subject of domestic abuse?". The resounding answer is that by doing so we can gain better understanding and learn how best the WI can support survivors, the organisations that provide help and lend the WI voice to challenging the cultural behaviours that lead to domestic abuse. It was a very inspiring event with many members attending from all round the UK, this is where Zoom can be a real advantage in bringing members together.

You can watch the Supporting Survivors webinar [here](#). and see for yourself the discussion on the impacts of Covid-19 on the domestic abuse landscape, what WI members can do locally and nationally to support survivors and how to recognise abuse.

Gwen Williams, PA Committee Chairman

Suffolk Wildlife Trust Event Our first Zoom talk for 2021 was by Michael Strand from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Many of you will have visited their sites and will appreciate all the work they do to encourage and re-establish wildlife in Suffolk. One of the best ways to support local wildlife is by becoming a member. They currently have a half price offer running until the end of January. You can log onto their [website](#) to join from £2 a month.

Michael also gave us his top 5 tips to make your garden more wildlife friendly.

1. Put water in the garden, even a washing up bowl sunk into the ground, but ensure there's support for animals to get out.
2. Leave a part of your garden to go wild. This will help pollinating insects and other wildlife.
3. Connectivity – knock a hole in a fence or shorten your gate to allow access for wildlife.
4. Structural diversity – don't mow all your lawn, have bare ground, light shade, cold and warm areas and, if possible, undulating and flat areas.
5. Think about planting for all round flowering and don't cut back too soon as insect use plants to lay their eggs for next year.



February Events

Tuesday 2 February, 2.30pm

Suffolk Shingle: Tales of Treasure and Trash with Beach Bonkers

Kate Osborne from Beach Bonkers will tell us about the rare and fragile beach habitat, show us some of the treasures that can be found in the stones and explain how we can reduce the trash found there.



Tuesday 9 February, 7.30pm

My Craft Journey with Janet Brown

Janet will take you on an illustrated journey from the school cookery apron, through to children's toys and patchwork to fabric sculpture with a few stops in between.

Please note: This is a free talk for Suffolk West members only and will not be available on Eventbrite. Please book your tickets through the WI office.



Monday 15 February, 7.30pm

Mindfulness & Meditation by Tina McCarthy

Tina's talk is based on the holistic approach to wellness. Prevention rather than cure. She will discuss using varied relaxation techniques for wellbeing, stress relief and management to enable people to cope much better through any form of upset. You may find these techniques very helpful during these unsettled times.



Thursday 18 February, 7pm

The Golden Age of Fen Skating with Guy Hussey

Guy Hussey from the Norris Museum will guide us through the Dutch origins of Fen skating to the earliest account of skating on the fens in the 18th century to its height in the late 19th century.



Wednesday 24 February, 7.30pm

My Life as an Illustrator and Designer by Alison Gardiner

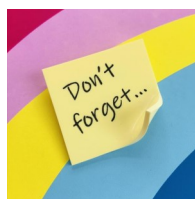
Alison Gardiner is the designer of our Federation Centenary mug and keyring. Her talk charts how her career has developed after studying printed textiles to the giftware business she has today designing and producing the products. Over the years, Alison has designed/illustrated a range from children's books to cross stitch kits. Many of her customers are from the Heritage sector including Buckingham Palace, Highgrove, The National Trust and many more



Tickets are **£5 per person**.

Book using our Eventbrite page [here](#) or contact the WI Office on office.swfwi@gmail.com

Bookings can only be made via the office
Tuesday-Thursday 10am-3pm



Tickets for our remaining January events are still on sale.

Thursday 21 January, 7.30pm

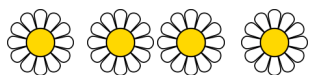
Make a Mini Scrapbook with Margaret Brackenbury

Margaret will show you how to make a 6" square mini scrapbook for all your treasured memories.

Wednesday 27 January, 7.30pm

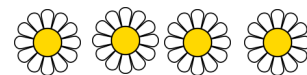
The Theatre Royal Reimagined with Colin Blumenau

Hear about the work behind the scenes which restored the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds to its original glory.



The Daisy Chain

Linking together our WI members across the county



Pakenham WI 1921–2021

Pakenham WI celebrated its 100th birthday last week, a truly auspicious occasion for this thriving and modern thinking rural institute.

Founded in 1921, all meetings were held in the member's homes until it became officially recorded in 1938. It then took up residence in the village hall and monthly meetings began.

During World War 2 the ladies supported the village and its residents in many ways, including growing vegetables and fruit for preserves and food.

Amazingly these intrepid women formed night time shooting parties, hunting for rabbits and other wild fowl to provide much needed food. The animal skins were made into hats and clothing for the boys fighting on the battle front. The ensuing years after the war were devoted to supporting all the village and local activities and fetes with delicious food and handicrafts.

I have been the president for 17 years, and it has truly been a great pleasure to be involved with such a fabulous group of friendly and talented girls. Gone are the days of Jam and Jerusalem and our aim has been to sample every aspect of modern life, visiting

factories, wildlife locations, theatre land and indulging in retail therapy at every opportunity. All our speakers and guests have been wonderful local people dedicated to their chosen professions and hobbies.

My personal highlights have been our trip to Texas to serve and bake a typically English tea for the citizens of Fort Worth, which then led to an invitation to star in the BBC 2 documentary The Marvellous Mrs Beeton with Sophie Dahl. We were delighted to accept lunch invitations from Yorkshire Tea and Tiptree Jams to

thank us for taking their products to the USA. The most recent fun and financially rewarding



achievement has been the regular on stage appearances of The Bassey Girls who have raised a substantial amount for Macmillan and given us a taste of stardom from a different world.

All our birthday celebrations are on hold until we can be with our friends again, we can be with our families again and we can meet again.

Mary Kirby, President

Horringer Court WI As we had kept in touch over the festive period there wasn't too much to discuss at our January Zoom Committee meeting! The minutes were approved and apologies received from Sheila Deare that she couldn't attend. We were in capable hands as Tracey Gault stepped in and organised the Zooming! Our speaker was Sally Mabey who has appeared on Eggheads and also Mastermind (twice). Her team on Eggheads was called the Glamorgan Daffodils and despite the disappointment that the backstage "green room" in the Glasgow studio was grey they managed to win the jackpot of £11,000. Later Sally received an invite for Mastermind. Her only concern being that she didn't come last and with her subject of the WI she managed a very creditable third place. On her second visit to the Mastermind studios in Salford (where the green room is green!) her subject was the Bayeux Tapestry. What a great evening and a good way to start the new year.

Lucy Frommings, Committee Member

Christmas Carol and Song Quiz Answers

1. O Come all ye faithful
2. Ding dong, merrily on high
3. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow
4. Deck the halls with boughs of holly
5. Sleigh bells ring, are you listening
6. I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus
7. Hark the herald angel sing
8. Oh, Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree
9. Do they know it's Christmas
10. In the bleak midwinter
11. Frosty the snowman
12. The little drummer boy
13. Have yourself a merry little Christmas
14. Do you hear what I hear?
15. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas
16. Jingle bell rock
17. The twelve days of Christmas
18. I'll be home for Christmas
19. Chestnuts roasting on an open fire
20. Little Jesus sweetly sleep, do not stir
21. As with gladness men of old.