



Chairman's Tête-à-Tête

What a lot of grim weather we're having, the occasional flash of sunshine, then more rain, Slater hates it, he goes out and then dashes back in to dry off, Batty stands in it, being a Shetland with multiple layers of fur she seems oblivious to it. People walking up the lane must think, poor thing, she's no shelter, she has a very nice loose box which she has access to all the time but no, she has to prove how tough Shetlands are!

Graham & I went out for lunch on Sunday, the first time for ages, we decided to do this in case we get locked down in the next few weeks, it seems a really naughty thing to do now doesn't it? We went to The Three Blackbirds in Dullingham, it's now re-opened after a devastating fire a couple of years back. It's a beautiful or was a beautiful Tudor pub and it's been renovated very sympathetically. I had partridge and a gorgeous rice pudding with blackberries steeped in port washed down with a glass of red....yum!

We then went home and I watched a re-run of *Francesco's Venice*. Graham fell asleep with Slater on his knee, both were snoring - lovely. I adore Venice and we were due to go there this summer....the virus had other ideas for us! I have to admit having a bit of a penchant for Francesco as well, *the thinking woman's crumpet* as Terry Wogan once called

him.....I'm not sure what that says about me....that's a rhetorical question and doesn't need any answers emailing in - thank you! I met Francesco in Ely cathedral when he did a talk & book tour with lunch for bookshop Topping & Company. A few of us from Risby WI went. My friend Sylvia and I bought his book & waited to have it signed and talk to him, I thought I'd try my Italian/Latin mix, then realised I've forgotten it since O levels but managed a "Grazie Mille". Francesco gallantly replied "Grazie Bella" I came over quite unnecessary and told Graham later who just went "Humph another one who needs to go to Specsavers" Charming!!

I've just had an email from my niece Imogen who is organising the *Shakespeare in the Park* for us next July, let's hope we'll be free of Covid by then. If we'd had the performance this year as planned, it was going to be *As you Like It* but in 2021 they are presenting *All's Well That End's Well*. It's one of the lighter amusing Shakespearean plays so I think it will be good and on a warm summer's night, just what we need.

I think that's all for now, until next time keep safe and see you all soon.

Julie Higgins, Federation Chairman

Hello from the WI Office The sun is shining in through our office windows today, keeping the autumn chill out. Rachel S is busy packing your 2021 WI Diaries which arrived this morning, so if you've bought one keep an eye out for the postman, they've got a package for you!

This fortnight's issue is packed full of more Zoom talks for November. Staying in is the new going out, so why not sign up and see what you might learn! We have everything from pantomime dames to Christmas crafts. You can see all our events on our fancy new Eventbrite page [here](#).

There's also a few reminders in this issue of things you can be involved in and how you can still support us by snapping up your Centenary merchandise. Stay safe ♥ Rachel Hows, Federation Secretary

Office Information

Address: WI Office, Unit 11, Park Farm Business Centre, Fornham St Genevieve, Suffolk, IP28 6TS
Tel: 01284 336645

Email: office.swfwi@gmail.com

Reg. Charity Number: 1179294

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Wednesday 21 October, 7.30pm

The Music of J.S.Bach with David McKee

Director of Music at Cheltenham College, David presents a talk with musical excerpts of J.S.Bach and how his work shaped classical music forever.

Wednesday 28 October, 7.30pm

The Great War; from research to reward with Paddy Stevens

Educated at Cheltenham College before being commissioned into the Royal Air Force in 1973, Paddy retired from active service in 2008 and gained a first class honours degree in history and World War Studies at the University of Birmingham.

Thursday 5 November, 2.30pm

Deafness and How to Manage It with Janet Nanor

During her 30 year teaching career working with deaf children, Jan also worked closely with Dr Watkin, who pioneered the Newborn Hearing Screening Test. Her talk will include facts about famous deaf people (you'll be surprised!) and outline how our ears work and age, and she'll myth bust hearing aids and how to make friends with them, as well as all the latest technology that is available. There will be activities to take part in so have a pencil and paper ready!

Wednesday 11 November, 7.30pm

Christmas Kusudama Paper Flowers with Felicity Jennings

Felicity is President of Spa Sweethearts WI in Harrogate and runs a small independent craft school (Felicity Crafts) which has grown out of her WI craft group during lockdown. To take part in you will need:

- 5x10cm squares of paper (any paper is fine. Wrapping paper will make it Christmassy but it looks good using an old magazine)
- a glue stick and scissors
- a kebab stick or similar



Tuesday 17 November, 7.30pm

It Shouldn't Happen to a Home Economist but it Generally Has... with Sian Fox

Sian canters through her varied and sometimes plain daft career as a home economist. She has worked with Jamie Oliver, the Calendar Girls and cooked in front of Royalty (well nearly!).

Tuesday 24 November, 7.30pm

He's Behind You! With Peter Sowerbutts

A history of pantomime and hilarious tales from Peter's professional thirty five years as a pantomime dame. It's a story of dames, villains and everything in between.

Wednesday 25 November, 7.30pm

Let's Craft: A Christmas Wreath with Margaret Brackenbury

You'll be able to showcase this beautiful creation year after year. To take part you'll need:

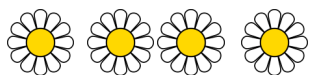
- Christmas material (fat squares or whatever material you have, preferably two different patterns). This needs to be cut into appropriately 4" in length x 1" width strips you will need approximately 30 strips in total.
- gold or silver ribbon or to match your material, about half an inch wide you will need 36"
- a piece of narrow ribbon to wrap around the hanging hook. Approximately 12"
- 48" of flexible wire, garden wire is ideal or anything you can bend to make the base
- scissors, pliers or tweezers to manipulate the wire
- a ruler
- mini decorations (Poundland sell packets of baubles, 12 in a pack, cords included. They come in red, silver and gold).



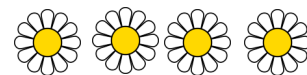
Tickets are **£5 per person**, so invite your friends from other Federations, from your village, from your knitting club, from U3A, EVERYONE is welcome!

Book using our Eventbrite page [here](#) or contact the WI Office on office.swfwi@gmail.com or 01284 336645. Bookings can only be made via the office Tuesday-Thursday 10am-3pm. If you are booking out of hours please use Eventbrite.

We look forward to seeing you from the safety of your sofa very soon.



The Daisy Chain



Linking together our WI members across the county

The WI meetings below took place prior to the latest UK Government restrictions.

Please make sure your WI and sub-groups continues to comply with the latest Government guidance.

Horringer Court WI Due to the fact that we couldn't have our October meeting we decided to give Zoom a try. Despite a wobbly start and some members arriving a bit late (no names mentioned Margaret!) it was great achievement and lots of fun. We discussed various activities that could be suited to Zoom and are now planning a quiz and a craft evening.



The Horringer walkers have also been at it again, this time walking around Nowton whilst dodging the rain. We managed three miles of chatting and fun. Perhaps next time we will break into a run!

Lucy Fromings, WI Member

Barrow WI had planned to hold a garden picnic meeting in September which was to be our first full meeting since March. Unfortunately, we were just a week too late as the new rule of six meant our plans were left in disarray. However, all was not lost as, with some quick rearranging, some of us were able to get together in groups of six or less spread over several gardens. Although it was sad not to meet up with everyone it was good to be able to have a good gossip about things WI and wider on a beautiful afternoon. At least the weather was on our side!



Stanton WI Our crafty members have been busy knitting again for the baby ward and for the dementia patients in the hospital. Also, a group of us recently decorated the church for Harvest Festival. We were very pleased with the results.

Maureen Johnson, President



Thurlow WI In the absence of the Annual Thurlow Fayre which is our biggest fundraiser of the year, we decided to take a stall at our local Farmers Market with homemade cakes, crumbles and treats donated by our members.

It was fun to focus on a fundraising event that also meant we could bake and



involve our local community, well I mean sell cakes to them, and have something to be proud of and to smile about. Such a great thing for our mental health too. We raised nearly 20% of our annual income as a result so the Treasurer is happy too and her chocolate cake was the first to sell.

Dawn Abbey, Secretary



ACWW Corner: Our representative Val Simpson keeps you up to date with the latest ACWW news.

Did You Know? The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) is an International Non-Governmental Organisation and pursues its charitable objectives through its member societies, individual members and networks of non-member Non-Governmental Organisations. Today it represents more than 9 million women in more than 80 countries around the world.

Congratulations

Angela Green, Woolpit WI

Who was the winner of our September paper quiz!



Shakespeare in the Park Saturday 10 July 2021

The University of Durham's Castle Theatre Company will present one of Shakespeare's

lesser known but most charming comedies. *All's Well That Ends Well* is a fairy-tale story of true love finding its way, featuring colourful characters and a hilarious sub-plot, this is the tale of a heroine who tries to secure her own happy ending.

The story, if you're not familiar, involves low born Helen who is in love with the noble Count Bertram but he won't take a second look at her. When she saves the King of France's life, he offers her anything she desires in return so she asks for Bertram's hand in marriage. Bertram flees to the war in Italy and refuses to love Helen until she can take the ring from his finger. Meanwhile, Bertram's boastful friend Parolles is tricked by his fellow soldiers, who have had enough of his behaviour. Can Helen persuade Bertram to overlook her status and love her after all?

Book the date in your diary, it'll be an open air performance so bring a picnic, maybe a bottle of wine, it's going to be a lovely warm summer's night and a totally enchanting evening.

Ode to Denman

I went to Denman the other day,
Remembering good times on the way.
The excitement of learning
And making new friends
And thinking that this life would never end.

The sound of talking and laughter
That pealed through the house,
But this time was quiet
Just like a mouse.
All locked up with the shutters down
Making me feel sad and very forlorn.

Max, the cat, still struts his stuff
Mewing for fuss but that's not enough
To raise my spirits for the saddening task
Of emptying our room of all its stuff.

The house looks tired, the rooms look bare,
The gardens are growing with no one to care.
Who will buy? I ponder a while
Will it return to its Georgian style?

After many years protecting us all
Encouraging learning and social style,
Creating friendships from far and near,
It is a place we all hold dear.

Farewell my friend, it is not goodbye.
The ideals you cherished will not die.
Now moving forward in another direction,
You'll be remembered with the greatest affection.

Janet Brown, Denman Ambassador



REMINDERS



Christmas Edition of The Hive

Don't forget to submit your Christmas memories for our festive edition, we would love to see your photos, drawings, poems and reminiscences of Christmas, from any age and time. Send them no later than 16 November to office.swfwi@gmail.com



Suffolk West Photo Challenge 29 October

Take part in our 100th birthday photo challenge on Thursday 29 October. All you have to do is take a photograph at 12 noon depicting what you are doing. You could be enjoying a crisp autumn walk or a cup of tea with friends, where ever you are grab your camera, phone or tablet (however you prefer to take pictures) and snap yourself (or ask someone to take it for you). Entries must be submitted by 30 November to office.swfwi@gmail.com. Please include your name & WI.

STILL UP FOR GRABS!

Suffolk West Centenary Merchandise

You are more than welcome to pop by the WI Office and shop our Centenary goodies at a safe distance. Unfortunately we can't accept card payments, if you prefer to use a cashless system you can order your items in advance paying by BACS and arrange to collect them.

Bone China Mugs are £10 each. Tea Towels are £5 each.

