



Hello from the WI Office with a bumper issue of The Hive filled with Christmas cheer ♥

First though a quick update on you know what... due to the latest government guidance and staff illness we have decided to temporarily close the WI Office to members with immediate effect to keep us all safe and well.

Rachel Hows will be once again working from home and whilst Rachel S is recovering our office phone won't be manned. If you have an urgent enquiry next week (14-16 Dec) you can contact

Rachel H directly on 07487 786585 (Tues-Thurs 10-4pm) or via office.swfwi@gmail.com for non urgent enquiries.

We say next week because the WI Office fully closes for Christmas on Thursday 16 December until Wednesday 5 January 2022.



Now back to the festivities! We would like to wish you all a very merry and safe Christmas, and look forward to working with you again in 2022.

♥ Rachel Hows and Rachel Sparks, Office Team

Chairman's Chat Hello Everyone. Here we are again at the end of another year and it's been quite a year hasn't it?

My fellow Board members and I would like to thank all of you for your support particularly when things have been difficult. You have found ingenious ways of keeping in touch with each other and it's lovely to see so many meeting up again in person. Thank you so much for the lovely events you've invited me to, each and every one has been such a pleasure to be at and I'm sorry if I didn't get to you but some have even overlapped.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe, peaceful and Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2022. I hope you like the little doodle of my two furries, yes Batty & Slater would also like to send Season's Greetings to you all.



Julie Higgins Federation Chairman

don't miss this!

Federation Annual Meeting
Culford School
Thursday 7 April 2022 | 10AM
£17 or £23 per member**
Book via [WI Office](#)

with guest speakers... **Paul Martin & Sandy Ruddock**



Join us for our 102nd annual meeting in the grand setting of Culford school.

This year tickets are split into two categories. General admission is £17 and includes tea/coffee on arrival, or for £23 you can enjoy tea/coffee & also a buffet lunch & drink.



Don't forget WI delegates go **FREE** and will only need to pay £6 if they would like lunch. Ask your WI Secretary about becoming a delegate!

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-Wednesday 10am-4pm & Thursday 10am-2pm

SUFFOLK WEST FED OF WOMEN'S INSTIT | Sort Code: 089299 | Account number: 65868449

Public Affairs WI Campaign News

2021/22 Resolutions

Suffolk West recently held not one, but two very successful Resolution Briefings via Zoom. Hosted by the Members Advisory Committee (MAC) and the PA Committee, these briefings gave more in-depth detail about the five shortlisted resolutions as well as the opportunity for members to discuss them. In case you missed them they are:

- Fit for purpose - for girls
- Appropriate sentencing of non-violent women offenders
- Equality in law for the menopause
- Women & Girls with ASD & ADHD - under identified, under diagnosed, misdiagnosed, under supported
- Tackling digital exclusion

More information about each shortlisted resolution can be found on the SWFWI website [here](#) and resources to support members in casting their selections can be found on [MyWI](#) as well as in your latest edition of *WI Life*.

We Need You



Don't Miss Out! Make Sure YOU Have Your Say!

At your first WI meeting of 2022 you will have the opportunity to choose which of the five shortlisted resolutions you would like to see go

forward to NFWI's 2022 Annual Meeting and become a WI campaign. If you can't attend your January meeting then don't worry, you can also complete the selection form on page 22 of *WI Life* and give it to your WI Secretary.

WI Secretaries must submit members selections to the WI Office by 14 February 2022 either by post, phone or email.

NFWI will announce at the end of February 2022 which resolution(s) members have chosen to be voted on at the 2022 NFWI Annual Meeting.

SUPPORT LOCAL

Don't forget there's still time to support our local women's refuge [Bury Women's Aid](#)

[Centre](#) by collecting donations of women's & children's socks & knickers or supermarket gift cards (of £5 or more). To arrange dropping off your donations contact Women's Aid [here](#).



Thank You!

And to show their appreciation for all your support throughout the year, we had a very lovely thank you note from Walsham Le Willows WI member and Patron of Bury Women's Aid, Jeannie Bloomfield:

Please thank everyone concerned for highlighting our 16 days of activism against domestic violence.

We really appreciate all our WIs for taking this on board and giving it so much needed publicity. It makes me very proud to be a small part of this.

Jeannie Bloomfield

PR TEAM

The twinkle of fairy lights and the smell of roasted chestnuts in Bury St Edmunds market square can only mean one thing, Christmas is coming!

This year we snapped up the opportunity to be part of the festivities at the Christmas Lights Switch On. Not only did the event flick the switch on Christmas but it gave us the chance to reach out to West Suffolk women and showcase not just what the WI is, but how it can be everything you want it to be.



WI Adviser Janet Brown
promoting Suffolk West

We're love to know how successful our promotional push was so if your WI has a new member or you are a new member who discovered us at the event let us know via office.swfw@gmail.com

the daisy chain

LINKING TOGETHER WI MEMBERS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Barton Mills WI Former members Linda & Diane gave a demonstration on making festive table arrangements. There were plenty of embellishments to choose from which resulted in some very professional looking displays. It was such a fun evening that we've invited them back to educate us on Summer arrangements in 2022.



Members get crafty!

Lynne Leber, WI Secretary

Woolpit WI What amazing talent lies behind many Suffolk doors, as we found out when Gayle Hatley who runs a fused glass studio near Sudbury visited our WI. She showed us the many types and colours there are of glass; powders, sheet, granules so that anything of your own choice can be made if you want a special gift.



Gayle and her fused glass wares

Thanks and well done to all of our members who donated goodies for the Stowmarket Salvation Army to give to needy families at Christmas.

Liz Hitchcock, WI News Correspondent

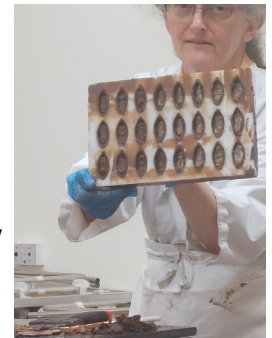
Pakenham WI Our speaker this month was the delightful TV and film producer Charles Garland who told us the inside story of *Dads Army* from the very early days to the present day repeats on BBC2. He was the producer of this and many other much loved programmes such as *Allo Allo*, *Oh Dr Beeching*, *Hi Di Hi*. A man of many talents and a great speaker/entertainer.

Mary Kirby, WI President

Drinkstone WI Our speaker for this month was Cheryl who runs a chocolate making business *Artistry in Cocoa* from her home in Newmarket.

Cheryl has been making her chocolates for the last sixteen years and has expanded from just making chocolates into workshops; demonstrations; masterclasses; parties and mail order kits.

Cheryl began by telling us all about the history of chocolate and how it was first discovered in Central America and eventually made its way to Europe as a luxury drink. She explained how the pods are grown and harvested and how it was first turned into the chocolate bar



Cheryl & her artistry

we know and love today by Mr Fry. We were all given taster pots of white, milk and dark chocolates. She then went on to demonstrate how she melts, tempers and makes her own chocolates. After a brief cooling off in the fridge we were then able to sample her delicious salted caramel and whisky gnash chocolates.

The Stitch and Craft Group have been busy with their knitting needles again, they have made toys for needy children and also decorations for a Christmas Tree Festival in Woolpit Church.

Sharon Rose, WI Secretary

Hundon WI Well what a festive fun evening we had with two of our talented members Sandra and Beryl, demonstrating how to make a table decoration. Who knew you could have so much fun stabbing pieces of material with a sharp stick, loaded with glue, into a polystyrene ring.



Hundon ladies get sticking!

We added sherry, prosecco, mince pies and Christmas music to the mix and created something amazing (well, we all thought so). And it was lovely to meet Heather, who we hope will join our growing group.

Carol Massey, WI Publicity

Bury St Edmunds Afternoon WI Our member's creativity was put to the test as Margaret Brackenbury showed us how to make a hanging Christmas decoration. Glasses were put on and you could hear a pin drop as everyone concentrated on the task in hand.

First we had to wrap wool around a circle with a hole in the middle. This brought back memories of making woollen pom poms. We then chose ribbon and sparkly decorations, which we pinned on. We were all very proud of our decorations and mine is already hanging up at home.



Jolly festive creations

Gill Norman, WI Secretary

Thurston WI The last meeting of the year, and what a lovely one! We sang happy birthday to Jeanette Ward who celebrates her 90th birthday this month. Next was a craft project, members made two sided envelopes out of Christmas paper and cut out hearts and clouds on which they wrote their hopes and dreams to hang on our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival at St Peters Church.



Members & Alice Levy enjoy the festivities

We were then entertained by Alice Levey, a trained singer (and is also one of our members granddaughter), who sang beautifully amongst others 'I dreamed a dream', 'On the steps of the Palace' as a tribute to Leonard Bernstein and 'I can't help loving that man of mine'.

We had a break for crackers, mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies, Alice then led Christmas carols which we all enjoyed joining in with, concluding with her singing 'In the Bleak Midwinter' alone, a very moving ending. Thank you Alice, a lovely start to our Christmas festivities.

Vicky Pryke, WI President

Thurlow With Christmas just around the corner what could be more appropriate than a demonstration on how to build a Gingerbread House with Andrea Davey?

Andrea demonstrated how to fit the sections of the house together with royal icing. This then needs to be left to set so in true Blue Peter fashion Andrea produced one she had prepared earlier to decorate. You could hear a pin drop in the Hall as members were held spellbound as the house gradually came to life. The roof was covered in "tiles" and the walls were given trailing ivy and even a wreath over the door. Green icing trees and bushes were added to the garden and stepping stones as a path.



A festive treat!

Andrea demonstrated how different sweets could be used to decorate the house including ice cream cones and marshmallows for trees and bushes, and that the house itself could also be filled with treats.

Finally she wrapped her creation in cellophane and offered it as a prize in our raffle. The member who won it was delighted and we all were then desperate to have a go at doing one ourselves!

Wendy Mansfield, WI Member

Boxford WI held their annual Christmas lunch at the White Hart at the beginning of December.

The ladies enjoyed a wonderful meal and a festive quiz by President Sally Noble, even staff and other customers from the pub took part. A raffle was held at the end of the meal and three lucky ladies went home with wonderful hampers put together by the committee.



A great start to the festive season!

Sue Moore, WI Member

Rickingham WI At our November meeting David Murton spoke very knowledgeably about the night sky, including constellations, the planets we can see with telescopes and asteroids. With a down to earth way of speaking, he enabled us all to conjure up the many millions of miles away some of these planets are. He showed us plenty of slides so we now know what to look out for on a starlit night.

We had our first tea and chat for a long time in the Wortham Tea Rooms with nine ladies enjoying a drink and cakes and a lovely, lively catch up.

On Remembrance Sunday I was proud to lay a wreath (made by Jennie Labden) on behalf of our WI at Botesdale war memorial.



Janet Farenden enjoys a hot chocolate.

Our December meeting will be our Christmas party, with all members bringing buffet food to be served and a wrapped bauble, with everyone taking a bauble home. We would like to wish all Suffolk West members a very Happy Christmas, which we hope can be close to normal, and best wishes for 2022.

Rosemary Setterfield, WI President

Moreton Hall WI The WI offers members the opportunity to make a difference and we were delighted to help Bury Women's Aid Centre by donating a variety of pants, socks and gift cards to them, in support of the WI Campaign, 'No More Violence Against Women'.

Moreton Hall WI started the festive season in style as we donned our festive jumpers and enjoyed a fish and chip supper followed by songs of the 60s and 70s with 'Barry and Pete'. They soon had members dancing and singing along as we all took a trip down memory lane. It was lovely to enjoy a social time together, catching up on news and Christmas plans.



A very festive committee

Our next meeting is 5th January 2022 at Moreton Hall Community Centre at 7.30pm when our speaker will be from Suffolk Hedgehog Hospital. If you fancy joining us do come along!

Alison Shawcross, WI President



Our lucky **golden ticket** winner for December is **Gill Norman (Bury St Edmunds Afternoon WI)**.

YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

Golden tickets are just £5 each. If you fancy your chances contact the [WI Office](#) for an application form. Good luck 🍀



Boxford WI *Flicking through the October issue of WI Life I spotted a crochet cushion pattern. I bought the wool and have now finished the cover (just in time for Christmas) and think it looks great on my new sofa.* *Sue Moore, WI Member*

Sudbury QH WI "Love Our Green & Pleasant Planet" is the theme for our tree at Sudbury Rotary Club's Christmas Tree Festival. Our members started making decorated green hearts last year following on from the "Show the Love" campaign ready for the Christmas Tree Festival which sadly was cancelled. This year, we continued our making and the whole tree is displayed with green hearts to highlight taking action to combat climate change. If we all do our bit we can help make this happen!

The exhibition runs from 7-11 December 10am - 4pm at St Gregory's Church (Gregory Street, Sudbury) with 61 trees on display.

Pauline Hatch, WI Secretary

Newmarket Evening WI I was reminded of the Grimm Brothers fairy tale *The Brave Little Tailor*, who after swotting flies off his bread and jam, embroidered the words “7 At One Blow” on to a belt, and then set out to advertise his prowess to the world. I am thinking of doing something similar, as at our November meeting I was forced to eat 13 pieces of cake all in one go!

It was ‘Bake-Off’ night at our WI, and as many members as possible were encouraged to make a tray bake. Prizes were awarded for best taste, and best decoration, and as competition was fierce a wooden spoon was also awarded to the traybake that hadn’t quite beaten the rest.

Ginny excelled with a tasty autumnal apple spiced cake, and Rachel caught our attention with a brightly coloured topping on her gin (yes, I did say gin) cake. With such a range of exciting flavours, textures, and colours, it was hard to pick winners. So, if you ever come across a woman wearing a sash embroidered with the words “13 In One Go”, you know that she is a force to be reckoned with...!

Joanne Garner, WI Member

Chevington WI Fifteen ladies attended our workshop to make a Christmas Gift Pod. Arline Vollam (one of our members) headed the workshop and provided us with all the materials and templates required as well as a lot of patience in explaining the instructions. Starting with glue and then moving on to hand stitching with needle and thread, to finishing with decorating with beads and embellishment. It was so lovely to work together and we were all delighted with our finished work.

It was a lovely day and we all enjoyed being together with the opportunity to catch up on news and gossip as we worked.



Chevington deep in concentration

Shirley Rogers, WI Member

Great Barton WI 'Twas the meeting before Christmas and we all did our best to turn up quite promptly and festively dressed!

No, it wasn’t quite the same as our pre-pandemic Christmas events, but all the main elements were included: good food served by outside caterers (what a treat for those who have been home-cooking for more than 18 months), good company and Secret Santa. The after dinner entertainment was provided by members who gave us a varied programme of readings and poems, and a song/monologue.



Rosemary wearing her festive jumper

Yes, we had to observe the safety protocols - the hand-held microphone regularly sanitised, face masks optional during the singing of the closing carols, but the combined efforts of the committee and members made it a memorable evening. The parting wish: Good Health for All in 2022.



Penny in her festive mask

Paula Horrobin, WI Member

A message from our catering Queen Yvonne  **soup n natter**

I am so happy to report that Soup n Natter is back ladies. The first lunch in November was so popular that in order to keep you all safe, I limited the numbers to 16 and did a second lunch the following week which was attended by ladies who had never been before and was a great success. I hope that we will see a few more new faces over the coming months.

With the lunches now being promoted in the Hive and ladies having the option to book themselves, I hope that occasional problems with some bookings will be avoided.

I looking forward to seeing you all in 2022.

Stay well and keep safe.

Yvonne King , SWFWI Catering



upcoming events



Mistletoe, Holly, Reindeer and Snow: A romp through Christmas with Graham & Co.

Via Zoom | Friday 17 December | 7.30PM

FOC (a Festive gift from us to you)

Book via [WI Office](#) by 15 December

Join us as Graham and friends take us through the legends, myths and truth behind Christmas and the Festive Season. So grab a coffee, or a glass of wine or tippie of choice and a mince pie, sit back, relax and enjoy an evening of light-hearted stories, music and fun.



soup n natter *at Park Farm*

£7 per WI Member | £7.50 non member

Friday 7 January | 12.30-2PM

Start the new year with a natter over a bowl of Ham & Lentil or Spiced Parsnip soup.

Friday 4 February | 12.30-2PM

The two soups to tantalise your tastebuds will be Carrot and Coriander, & Courgette, Pea and Mint.

Craft & Chat | Park Farm | 10AM - 12PM



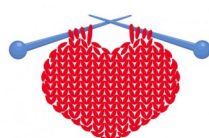
Monday 24 January | Monday 28 February

Monday 21 March* | Monday 25 April

£2 per WI Member | Book via WI Office

Bring along whatever craft you are working on and tend to it over a natter & cuppa at our monthly Craft & Chat sessions, on the 4th Monday* of each month. Book in advance via the [WI Office](#) & pay on the day.

**March's session is the 3rd Monday to avoid clashing with our Spring Wreath Workshop.*



Spring Wreath Workshop* | Sturmer Village Hall

Monday 28 March | 10AM-3PM

£25 per WI Member | Book via [WI Office](#)

**Rescheduled from October 2021 you will be swapping autumn creations for beautiful spring wreaths.*

A two-part workshop with tutors Jo Porth and Liz Leeds who will demonstrate how to create a spring wreath using fresh materials & needle felt decorations. Bring your own lunch, & suitable fresh greenery (ivy, pittosporum, ruscus, euonymus, box, escallonia or eucalyptus). Coffee/tea and biscuits and needle felting materials will be provided.



NFWI Annual Meeting 2022 | Liverpool

Friday 10 - Sunday 12 June

£192pp* | Book via [WI Office](#)

**includes hotel, travel & event ticket*

NFWI's 2022 Annual Meeting is in Liverpool at the M&S Bank arena on Saturday 11 June.

With Liverpool being more than a stone throw away we've booked a two night stay at the Premier Inn Widnes (approx. 30 minutes outside of Liverpool). Rooms are all single occupancy and include breakfast and a two course evening meal.

Coach pick up points include Sudbury, Bury St Edmunds and Newmarket on Friday 10 June and we return on Sunday 12 June (timings to be confirmed).

Tickets are limited and therefore it may be necessary to hold a ballot if we are inundated with requests. **Register by 31 January 2022.** After this date you will receive confirmation if you have been successful, along with a deposit request and payment options.

This year NFWI will also be offering a virtual option. Look out for more information in 2022!

Name:	WI:	Email:
Tel:	Address: (for posted items)	

Event	Ticket price	No. required	Names of attendees	Other information
Mistletoe, Holly, Reindeer... Friday 17 December 7.30PM Via Zoom	FREE			Book via email by 15/12/21
Soup & Natter Friday 7 January 12.30-2PM Park Farm	£7 per member £7.50 non member			Dietary requirements:
Craft & Chat Monday 24 January 10AM-12PM Park Farm	£2 per member Paid on the day			Please tick:
Soup & Natter Friday 4 February 12.30-2PM Park Farm	£7 per member £7.50 non member			Dietary requirements:
Craft & Chat Monday 28 February 10AM-12PM Park Farm	£2 per member Paid on the day			
Craft & Chat Monday 21 March 10AM-12PM Park Farm	£2 per member Paid on the day			
Federation Annual Meeting Thursday 7 April 2022 10AM Culford School	£17 incl. tea/coffee £23 incl. lunch			Dietary requirements if opting for lunch:
Craft & Chat Monday 25 April 10AM-12PM Park Farm	£2 per member Paid on the day			
Spring Wreath Workshop Monday 28 March 10AM-3PM Stumer Hall	£25 per member			
NFWI Annual Meeting 2022 10-12 June 2022 Liverpool	£192 per member			Please include email address(es)

PAYMENT DETAILS (Please include a reference (i.e. name of event/item) with payment).

Total paid:	By:	BACS (See front of Hive for bank details)
		Cheque (payable to SWFWI)
		Online payment (contact the WI Office for your link)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Postage prices are for individual orders only and **not** bulk orders by WIs. Contact the WI Office for larger orders.
- Tickets will be issued via email ten days before the event. Please include an address if you would like them posted.
- Ticket cancellations: If you can no longer attend an event contact the [WI Office](#) within seven days of the event. A refund is only possible if the ticket can be resold. A £2 administration fee will be charged.