

THE WI HIVE



Your fortnightly buzz on Suffolk West

Issue 24 | 4 March 2021

Chairman's Tête-à-Tête Hello everyone, I hope you are all keeping well and enjoying some lovely spring sunshine. I thought you'd like a bit of a catch up on our family, many of you have been so kind saying how much you enjoy tales of my grandchildren and of course my furry family. We've recently welcomed some new members in the form of three white pheasants, started with two, then yesterday a rather handsome boy joined us. So we have Ghost, Spirit (pictured) and Graham has named the latest one D'Artagnan. Slater doesn't quite know what to make of the three of them...

Batty however, is quite happy for them to peck round her when she's eating waiting for the bits she drops.



Our grandchildren are looking forward to going back to school in the case of the boys and university for our granddaughter. They are all on the move again to a small village in the Cotswolds, it is however nearer Cheltenham where the boys are at school and the hospital where Morwenna works. We look forward to seeing their new house.

On WI matters, our Annual Meeting is taking shape. The two Rachels tell me so far nearly 80 places have been taken, that's great, we're looking forward to seeing you.

Julie Higgins, Federation Chairman

Office Information

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

Click the icons to follow us on social media



Suffolk West
theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

FOR 100 YEARS

Hello from the WI Office Just a few *don't forgets* this fortnight. First of all, there's still time to snap up your ticket for our virtual Annual Meeting. All the where, when and who's are below, just email the WI Office to book your seat. Also, don't forget if you use Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to follow us! We're getting quite the following now and the more followers we have the further we can spread the word about how wonderful the WI is! You'll find the links to all our social media in the Office Information section. Keep keeping safe ♥

Rachel Hows, Federation Secretary



Suffolk West Federation Annual Meeting

FREE EVENT

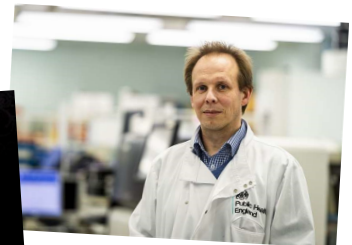
Saturday 10 April 2021
via Zoom

10.15am (for 10.30am
start) - approx. 2.30pm

Includes a one hour lunch break

With guest speakers

Dr Chris Smith
& Simon Gregor



Important Information

- WI Secretaries should submit the name & email of their delegate by 23 March.
- Members email office.swfwi@gmail.com to book, please include your name & WI.
- Tickets on sale until 7 April. Please note this event is not available on Eventbrite.

NFWI Board Nominations 2021-2023

NFWI are asking your WI to vote for the next NFWI Board of Trustees, and this year you might just see a face you recognise as our very own Past Chairman Elizabeth Lansman is a nominee.

Elizabeth served on the Suffolk West Board of Trustees for six years, serving one year as Vice Chairman and three as Chairman, she was also an active member of our Public



Affairs committee. Elizabeth may have since left Suffolk for the sandy shores of Hythe in Kent, but she is still as passionate about WI as ever and is now a member of South Hythe Morning WI, and has been involved in promoting a new evening WI which attracted more than 60 women to its foundation meeting in January 2020.

If you think Elizabeth has what it takes to be an NFWI Trustee then your WI has until 31 March to vote. You can read more about Elizabeth and the other nominees in the February issue of WI Life.

Information for WI Secretaries: You have been sent all the necessary information to vote by post or online by NFWI. Please note there have been issues accessing the online system, we advise typing the website address into the address bar to gain access rather than using hyperlinks.



Lady Denman Cup 2021 "Let Me Show You What A Woman Can Do"

This year, the NFWI's annual writing competition is held in partnership with the National Gallery.

Using no more than 500 words, WI Members can submit a piece of original writing, either fact or fiction, in any style (story, poem, etc) based on the above painting; Self Portrait as Saint Catherine Alexandra by Artemisia Gentileschi.

To enter just ask for an entry form from the WI Office. Entries must be submitted to the WI Office either by email or hard copy by Friday 30th July. You can read the full competition schedule [here](#)

Public Affairs Memo: WI campaign news

The Results are In! Resolutions Selection Results

Between November 2020 and January 2021, every WI member had the chance to have their say on the shortlist and the resolution they would like to see go forward to the NFWI 2021 Annual Meeting.

The results of the process are:

2021 resolutions		Selections
1	A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer	30,240
2	Stop women dying prematurely from coronary heart disease	16,285
3	Racism and discrimination	5,363
4	Now's the time to act! Protect your nature space to create wildlife-friendly communities	7,808
5	Stop the destruction of peat bogs to tackle climate change	6,616
Total selections received		66,312

The NFWI Board of Trustees has decided to put forward the top resolution to the Annual Meeting. The wording of the resolution is as follows, **A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer:** *Every two hours in the UK someone dies of ovarian cancer. Making sure GPs and the public know what to look for will not only ensure the early detection and treatment of this disease but transform lives today and for generations to come. NFWI calls on WI members everywhere to help increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer.*

What happens next?

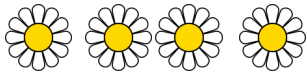
Members now have the opportunity to learn more and to discuss the resolution in their WIs before deciding how their WI should vote. The Federation plan to hold a virtual discussion session with guest speakers, so keep an eye out in the Hive!

How does my WI cast our vote?

All WIs get one vote – for or against the resolution. Voting will take place after the 2021 NFWI Annual Meeting. WIs will have time before and after the Annual Meeting in June to consider how they wish to vote. The voting will take place via an online form. More guidance on how WIs can cast their vote online will be circulated in due course.

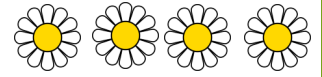
You can find a discussion guide with ideas about how to discuss the resolution in your WI [here](#)

If you have any questions contact our Resolution Adviser, Brenda Dyer brenda.dyer1@btinternet.com



The Daisy Chain

Linking together our WI members across the county



Memories of Horringer & Ickworth WI Jill O'Kelly has been a member of Horringer & Ickworth WI for over 40 years, but this month she will be moving to Princes Risborough to be closer to her family. Their March WI newsletter was dedicated to Jill, who has served as President and Treasurer during her time at Horringer and Ickworth, as well as serving up plenty of fun and frolics too. Jill shares just some of her wonderful WI memories with us...

"Where do I start? Looking back I realise that one of the most important things I did when we moved to Horringer in 1975 was to join the WI. I wanted to meet people outside the 'young mums' and by joining WI I met some wonderful ladies who taught me so much. Within a year I was on the committee and somehow ended up as Treasurer (or more correctly Bill, my husband, did), I think there is an unwritten WI motto to catch people before they have learnt to say no. I persuaded friends to join and soon there was a group of the 'young ones', as we were referred to. At that time Federation had a good Drama Committee which ran shows and competitions and we were there in the thick of it. I had never considered, with good reason, a career on the stage but no-one was spared and I can proudly claim to have been the back and the front end of a cow.

The Federation had a table tennis league at one time which we entered. As we didn't have our own table we initially played at Horringer House in their large hall. We had a very definite home advantage as the table had a 'dead spot' where the ball just stopped and it took our opponents some time to catch on. We eventually acquired our own table and moved to the hall and I was demoted to reserve as I was deemed, quite rightly, not quite good enough for the A team.

My daughter, Helen, who was born in 1977, was very much a WI child. She helped at coffee mornings and lunches basking in the glory of being told how sweet she was. She also had to sit

through rehearsals for shows which must have been boring but she just took it for granted that was what happened when your Mother was in the WI. One year the Federation did an arena event at the Suffolk Show and both the children were there to celebrate free school milk for children, which had been a WI resolution. I was the back end of a cow of course.

The Federation also used to organise some wonderful holidays abroad and Shirley and I had some great times. Over 80 WI ladies in the same hotel in New York as a group of some 120 firemen from Tyne and Weir was something to be remembered! When we went to the South of France Shirley had just had an operation on her foot and was on crutches and in a wheel chair, but that didn't hold us back and the wheel chair was handy when we got to the duty free warehouse at Calais.

I feel sad that young women in the village today cannot be persuaded to join WI, it has so much to offer for everyone and the opportunities are there to be taken. In fact I would say the WI is more important than ever for women to go and be themselves and have a break from juggling work and family commitments. It is far more than going to a meeting and listening to a talk once a month (oh heady days) it is the confidence it gives you being part of a supportive community and I know I would never have had the nerve to stand up and be President."



Jill O'Kelly, Horringer & Ickworth WI

*Jill, Suffolk West has been truly lucky to have you!
Wishing you and Bill all the best for the future
from Suffolk West Federation ♡*

Greetings from Great Barton WI As it is almost a year since the last normal monthly meeting in our village hall, we thought it was time to update you on what we have been doing. The main focus of the committee has been to stay in touch with our members. To this end, we set up a monthly newsletter and many members contribute to this on a regular basis. This is emailed out, but for those who do not have a computer it is printed (as is The Hive) and hand delivered by a dedicated team. Our members also receive a card on their birthday which has proved to be an unexpected surprise for them. Also, perhaps more importantly, the committee and others made (and still do make) phone calls to our ladies, especially those living alone who may need help or a chat.

When lockdown restrictions eased last Summer we had regular, but very informal small 'Gatherings on the Green'. This was just intended as an opportunity to have a catch up with friends in a large open space and it proved very popular.

In early September, a group of members headed by Christine Johnson participated in the 'Girls Night Out' fundraising walk around the village and we raised £300 for the St. Nicholas Hospice.

The committee managed to keep things ticking over and had a few socially distanced meetings over summer, but then our real breakthrough came when Sylvia Prior offered to host a virtual Committee Meeting in the Autumn. It was at this meeting we decided we would hand deliver small Christmas gifts to our members. As you can imagine they were thrilled!

So far this year we have had two Zoom Members' Meetings. The first was a trial run and included a short quiz, the second a presentation on American musicals by Stephen Wells, which proved to be a hit. We had 28 participants and everyone enjoyed singing along in the comfort of their own homes, muted of course. In March we look forward to a Sugarcraft demonstration by Elizabeth Ugless.

During the last year we have attempted to keep in touch and to show that we really do care. Let's all hope for a better and brighter future.

Kath Hopper, Great Barton WI Committee



March Events

Tickets are £5 per person unless stated otherwise.

Thursday 4 March / 7.30pm

Remarkable Women Q&A with Clare Mulley

Clare has written three books about remarkable women; *The Woman Who Saved the Children*, *The Spy Who Loved* and *Women Who Flew for Hitler*. Clare will be answering your questions about her and her work.

Tuesday 9 March / 2pm

Paint Along with The Quirky Bird

A paint-a-long session on how to paint a quirky piece of art. To take part you will need:

- watercolour paints (or pencil or wax crayons)
- a brush, pencil & fine liner pen
- watercolour paper

Thursday 11 March / 2.30pm

Friends Against Scams with Natwest

A topical talk covering telephone calls and text messages to investment scams, telling you what to look out for and tips on how to keep safe. **This is a free talk for members. Book via the office.**

Thursday 18 March / 7.30pm

South American Travels with Brenda Last

Join Brenda on a breath taking trip to Peru, Chile, Argentina and Brazil and hear about some of her unexpected experiences along the way. **This is a free talk for members. Book via the office.**

Wednesday 31 March / 7.30pm

Khaki Devils with Taff Gillingham

Taff is a military historian specialising in the British and Commonwealth soldier during the first half of the 20th century. He will delve into his work with Khaki Devil, a costume supplier for film and TV, as well as updating us on the Great War Huts Project.

Book using our Eventbrite page [here](#) or contact the WI Office (Tues-Thurs 10am-3pm) on office.swfwi@gmail.com