



FOR 100 YEARS

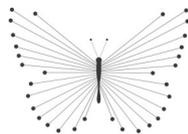
## Chairman's Chat

Hello everyone. What a perfect English spring day it's been. We've seen sulphur butterflies & at least three peacocks, they are so beautiful aren't they? The hedges are bursting into their coats of green & there's hope in the air for warmer days.

The Board & I rehearsed the Annual Meeting today. I do hope you're going to join us on Saturday 10th April, if you're new to Zoom we'll give you some helpful hints to get the best out of the meeting to begin with & we have Sue Beavan, Janet Brown & Maggie Glavin on standby to help with any problems throughout the meeting. The two Rachels will also be there as cheery as ever, so we're in good hands. Just turn up, hear about what's been going on & our hopes for the future, plus our two excellent speakers Dr Chris Smith & Simon Gregor. You can sit back on your sofa with a cuppa & enjoy. I understand some are worried about sitting still for a number of hours, please don't worry, you're in your own home, you can move about as you wish but be sure not to miss anything & there's also a morning tea break as well as a lunch break. You will also have the opportunity to win a portrait of yourself or maybe your children or grandchildren if you prefer. Read more in this edition about this lovely prize.

Enjoy the next few sunny days and the fact we can now meet friends & family in the garden for a cup of tea, what a joy that will be. Keep safe.

Julie Higgins, Federation Chairman



**Hello from the WI Office** Happy 1st Birthday! To celebrate the Hive's first birthday it's had a revamp - who doesn't love a new look for their birthday? Some of the small changes I've made will hopefully free up more space for all the wonderful content you send me. Keep it coming everyone, and if you've never submitted before then why not start now. Send it to [office.swfwi@gmail.com](mailto:office.swfwi@gmail.com) and don't forget to include photos if you have them! The deadline for next issue is 12 April. Cheers everyone,

♡ Rachel Hows, Federation Secretary

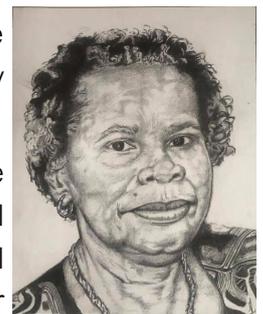


## Suffolk West Federation Annual Meeting

**Saturday 10 April 2021  
10.15am (for 10.30am start)  
- approx. 2.30pm**

Not only are we spoiling you with guest speakers Dr Chris Smith & Simon Gregor, but we also have an amazing raffle prize up for grabs! You could win a portrait drawn from photograph of either yourself or a family member by Leroy Ricardo Jones. You'll know Leroy better for his moves with The FlyRights, but he is also a very talented artist.

No entry required, if you've signed up to our Annual Meeting then a number will have been allocated to you for office use and will be automatically entered into the draw. The lucky winner will be announced at the end of the meeting.



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Open Tuesday-Thursday 10am-4pm

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**Obituary** Stanton WI are sad to inform you about the deaths of two of our long- standing & valued members. Juliana Baker-White died on 8th March & June Nunn died on 21st March.

Juliana had been a member for at least 30 years, possibly almost 40. She participated in activities with enthusiasm, enjoying both local & Federation events. We shall miss her lively interaction at our meetings.

June had also been a member for several years. Being a talented craftswoman, she participated actively during our craft & chat afternoons, generously donating beautiful items to support local charities. We have sent our condolences to their families.

Maureen Johnson, Stanton WI President

**Creative Leisure Activities Committee** are putting together a plan for workshops for the Autumn onwards, all of which will take into consideration any COVID-19 restrictions, but we hope to run the following:

**September 2021**

**Flower Arranging for the Petrified**

This is a repeat of the workshop we ran in 2019. We are working on finding a suitable venue, but it is likely to be in the Bury St Edmunds area

**An Autumn Wreath Workshop**

Using fresh materials and needle felt decorations. This workshop will be held at Sturmer Village Hall.

**November 2021**

**Christmas Craft Dabble Day**

Very popular in the past, members will have a go at four different crafts during the day, the topics will be different from previous Dabble Days. This will be held in the Bury St Edmunds area.

We are also hoping to run Coffee & Chat sessions at the WI Office from Autumn onwards, but again this is dependent on COVID restrictions.

Look out for further announcements from June onwards. Fingers crossed!

Margaret Brackenbury, CLA Chairman

**Public Affairs Memo: WI campaign news**



Friday 28th May / 2.30pm

Every 20 minutes, someone in the UK is diagnosed with a blood cancer. At present, only 2% of the UK population are registered as potential donors.

The NFWI campaign *Make a Match* seeks to promote awareness around Stem Cell donations & also registration to the aligned UK stem cell registry to enable more people to receive potentially life-saving stem cell transplants.

Suffolk West will be supporting this campaign by hosting an informative event with Hannah Thomas, from blood cancer charity DKMS. Via the powers of Zoom, Hannah will be talking us through the importance of blood stem cell donation, & the process for registering & donating. Join us to find out how you can support this vital work.

This is a free talk for our members & will not initially be available on Eventbrite. Please book via the office.



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

**Women Walk the World 2021**

With no face-to-face meetings, our Pennies for Friendship pots are probably looking very empty, but ACWW's work to support women and girls goes on despite the pandemic.

This year's WWTW is on or around 29th April, so put on your walking shoes and have a socially distanced walk (in the numbers permitted) and make a donation to ACWW. Like



many charitable organisations, they are struggling for funds at present, and every little helps.

You can find out more on their website [here](#).



## The Daisy Chain



Linking together our WI members across the county

**Chevington WI** celebrates 100 years this month. Celebrations are on hold until COVID restrictions are lifted, but WI Member Shirley Rogers reflects on their wonderful memories.

Chevington was one of the first WI's to be formed in West Suffolk (No.7 on the list). We are very fortunate in having a very comprehensive archive with details right from the start on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1921.

The first meetings were held in the afternoon at private homes but from October 1922 these moved to the village hall. Meetings were opened with singing



Chevington WI 1923

of the National Anthem & Jerusalem was introduced in 1926. Our banner was constructed & made in 1937-38 & was awarded first prize when judged in a national competition by Lady Denman.

There was little coverage of the WI's activities during the second world war. Being a rural WI this was based around farming, cooking from limited supplies & "make do & mend".

In 1969 our meetings moved to evenings. In 1971 we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday with six of the original members being present. That year we visited Denman College & our Denman bursary was introduced following this.

We have been very successful over the years in darts, table tennis, rounders & bowls. Our walking group continue following their success in the

Stepping Out Challenge in 2005 when nine ladies amassed a total of 1,814 miles in ten months.

1988 saw ladies planting trees that had been purchased with a donation from Gloucester Federation to replace those lost in the October 1987 storms. In 2007 after the extensive flooding of the West Country we held a coffee morning & sent the proceeds to them to cover water damage suffered by WI's in their area.

We enjoy many outings to places of interest both local & further afield & these are always made better by afternoon tea or supper before heading home.

Craft is popular with our ladies & we hold regular workshops in the village hall. These are mostly led by a member of the WI & it is nice to see our hobbies being shared. These sessions are also a very good social event (with cake of course).

We've had plenty of celebrations too, in December 2014 we celebrated our oldest member Norah Merrett who turned 100 years old, in 2015 our President Ann & myself were both chosen to attend the NFWI centenary garden party at Buckingham Palace & in 2016 we had a party to celebrate our 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.



95th Birthday

We look forward to celebrating our big 100th birthday & resuming our meetings face to face as

**Thurston: My Lovely WI** From the beginning of this awful pandemic the committee have kept in touch with members. Goodie bag's have been delivered to our doors. The first had a small geranium to plant & I think the message implied that at a future meeting the best would be rewarded. How could anyone think a year later we would still not have had that meeting! Also in each bag was a tea bag, biscuits or chocolate, a quiz & a lovely letter from Vicky. We also have had phone calls and tried 'zooming' but unfortunately most of us are very old. I just wanted you to know how wonderful Vicky & our committee have been & to tell you how much this has been appreciated. Shirley Horton, WI Member

**Bury St. Edmunds Afternoon WI** It was lovely to see ten of our members join our second Zoom meeting of 2021. We had a good catch up (topics included Megan & Harry's interview with Oprah), & then Sally took charge of the first game Zingo (a zoom version of Bingo), followed by a Beetle Drive led by me. There were lots of oohs! & ahhs! while everyone hoped for their number to be thrown. Liz was the star of this as she managed to win half of the games. For all the effort I put into the dice throwing, I came last! How quickly 80 minutes pass when you are having fun.

I must thank Bury WI for passing these ideas on to us. Have any other WIs got ideas for other activities/ games that can be used at Zoom meetings? It would be great if we could pool all our ideas and share them around.

We would like to wish a very "Happy Birthday" to our members Pam Hart who was 90 on the 7th February, & Daphne Dyer who was 90 on the 19th March. We think they are both amazing ladies.

Gill Norman, WI Secretary

**Woolpit WI: EASTERTIME**

Green grass is growing,  
Little lambs are gambolling,  
Yellow daffodils are heralding,  
The joy of Spring!

Brilliant sun is shining,  
Warm skins are glowing,  
The feeling of new energy,  
A 'new normal'  
A sense of re-birth!

Eager children hunting, laughing,  
Searching for Easter eggs galore!  
Deep joy we're feeling,  
New found freedoms,  
Meeting many friends,  
Thoughts of actual hugs,  
Beyond Eastertime...

Rosey Skrimshire & Jill Levett  
Woolpit WI Members



**April Events**

**Monday 12 April / 7.30-8.45pm**

**Getting the Most from your Camera with Mark Silvester**

Mark is a professional photographer & has run workshops for us before. This new demo will provide practical advice for those who still use a camera. It is not suitable if you take photos using a phone or tablet.



**Thursday 15 April / 7.30pm**

**Working with the Ghosts of Hampton Court Palace with Sarah Slater**

Sarah works at Hampton Court Palace & will give a glimpse of what it is like to wander the galleries late at night in the dark, taking us on an exploration of the history, stories & ghostly sightings.

**Wednesday 21 April / 7.30pm**

**East Anglian Air Ambulance with Simon de Laat**

Simon is a volunteer fundraiser with EAAA. His talk is about their life saving work. **This is a free talk for our members & will not be available on Eventbrite. Please book via the office.**



**Wednesday 28 April / 6.30pm**

**British Flowers Rock with Ben Cross**

Ben is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation grower at Crosslands Nursery in West Sussex & is one of the last flower nurseries producing cut flowers in full colour all year round. Ben will take us on a tour of the nursery & explain the growing techniques and distribution.



Tickets are £5 per person unless stated as free. Book using our Eventbrite page [here](#) or contact the WI Office (Tues-Thurs 10am-3pm)