



FOR 100 YEARS

Chairman's Chat

We learn something new every day so we're told, it is true, I learnt about Mop Fairs last week when I visited our daughter and family who now live in the Cotswolds. The grandchildren persuaded me that we/they needed to go to the local Mop Fair in Chipping Sodbury and explained it was the local name for a Hiring Fair. The term Mops is a local area name for the Statute hiring fairs which became established as a result of the Black Death and subsequent setting up of the Statute of Labourers. A Statute fair could be held at any town or village that had local Justices who were empowered to set an annual local wage, now of course they are simply country fairs. Lots of fun, music, food, stalls etc held along the pretty streets of various villages and towns in the Cotswolds. Oh yes, I also learnt that Mop Fairs cost you money for the different stalls and coffee and donuts for sale on the street...what a surprise! They live in a beautiful area of the country, so pretty with rolling hills, hedges and

stone walls bordering a patchwork of fields, a very nice part for a short break.

Having done my bit for Cotswold tourism, I'd best get back to what's on round here. It's been lovely to see that many of you are meeting in person again. Can I remind you that our long awaited concert with the London Welsh Rugby Club Choir is on at The Apex on November 27th. The concert should've been part of our Centenary Celebrations so even though it's a bit late, do come along and celebrate our 100 years.

To end, a rather nice poem by John Clare (1793-1864) known for his poems on rural life

Extract from Autumn

*I love the fitfull gusts that shakes
The casement all the day
And from the mossy elm tree takes
The faded leaf away
Twirling it by the window-pane
With thousand others down the lane*

Julie Higgins Federation Chairman

Hello from the WI Office We're always here to answer your questions, below is a few FAQs.

My bank won't accept the Federation account name? For those who pay by BACs, if your bank says you have the wrong account name (SWFWI) please just proceed with the payment. It does reach us and saves you a headache. If you're still having trouble, get in touch and we can arrange a remote payment.

I'm booking myself and friends for a coach trip, why do you need all our names and mobile numbers? It is vital we have the names and mobile numbers of

everyone on a coach trip so we can contact each of you in case of emergency during the trip. We will not be able to confirm bookings without them.

Direct Mailing Don't forget to return your consent forms to your WI Secretary before 1 November. We plan to launch in November and you don't want to miss out. If you haven't heard about it contact your secretary or the WI Office for more information.

Keep sending in your fantastic reports and photos. The deadline for the next issue is 11 October ♥

Rachel Hows and Rachel Sparks, WI Office team

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Open Tuesday-Thursday 10am-4pm

BACS payments can be made to **SWFWI CIO** | Sort Code: 089299 | Account number: 65868449



it's
back!

Golden Ticket Club

We have relaunched the Golden Ticket Club, but what is it all about?

Think Willy Wonka, but instead of winning a once in a lifetime tour of a chocolate factory your **golden ticket** gives you the chance to win a monthly £15 cash prize!



We also draw a bumper £50 prize at the Federation Annual Meeting every April. To make the draw happen we have a minimum number of tickets that have to be sold so we really need your support to make it possible!

Golden tickets are £5 each for a years inclusion in the draw (running from Oct 2021-Sept 2022) and can be purchased individually or between a group of WI members - just remember you'll have to split the winnings!

Ask your WI Secretary for an application form or contact the WI Office. Good luck 🍀



featuring
the Wonder Women who keep
Suffolk West thriving!

Name: Yvonne King

Federation Role: Catering Officer

Purpose of your role: I am responsible for catering small Federation events & organising a team of helpers for larger events.



Member of: Elmswell Exchange WI

How long have you been a WI member: 19 years

Your favourite thing about being in the WI: I'm a "people person" so I love making new friends, learning new things & encouraging others to pursue new interests. I also like helping to organise things.

What's your background: I was born in Northumberland, the eldest of five children. When I was six months old my parents made their home in London where I lived until I married Jim in 1968. We moved to Kent where our eldest daughter was born and in 1974 we went to live in Africa. Our other two children were born there and we returned to the UK in 1990. We settled in Elmswell in 1996. We have 2 beautiful granddaughters, Hannah (14) and Gracie (12) who we love spending time with. Myself and Jim are now both retired.

Favourite song: The Power of Love by Jennifer Rush

Hobbies & Interests: Cooking, sewing, knitting, reading. I'm at my happiest when spending time with my family.



events committee

*Have you got an urge to organise?
A passion for throwing a party? Or
do you have attention to detail?*

Our Events team are looking for **three** WI members to join them & help organise concerts, coach trips etc. Before you panic, you won't be pushed into doing anything out of your comfort zone. The team only wish to draw on your abilities and support.

You can be involved as little or as much as you like. We'd love to hear from you whether you have a head full of ideas or just enjoy serving the teas!

Contact the WI Office if you are interested ♥



**Find us on
social
media**

You'll recognise these icons from the front of The Hive, but have you ever clicked on them? Try it, each takes you to our different social media pages, or just choose your preferred one. Remember to follow us so you never miss out on Suffolk West updates!

Also **exclusively** for our members we have a private [SWFWI Facebook group](#) where you can share your WI events, news or chat with other members. To join simply click the link above, answer the membership question and wait to be approved.



the daisy chain

LINKING TOGETHER WI MEMBERS ACROSS THE COUNTY

Fornham All Saints WI September was our first meeting in the village hall after 18 months, it was fun to be back in familiar surroundings. We settled down with our refreshments and Alan Claxton entertained us with poetry and comedy. His wonderfully funny poems about everyday situations in life, from his own comedic viewpoint which we all could relate to, had us all laughing with mirth. His poem 'New Arrival' which is from a new born baby's perspective was hilarious.

Alan says he likes to make people smile or laugh with his light hearted look at life and just wishes to put a spark of happiness into the world. He succeeded!! Alan's day job is mending washing machines and tumble dryers, so you can be sure of an entertaining time whilst your machine is being repaired!

Elizabeth Gingell, Joint WI President

Pakenham WI Another absolutely brilliant evening in the life after pandemic of Pakenham WI, when our guest speaker was the delightful Isobel Blakely. Isobel, who endured a marital breakdown at the age of 63, picked herself up and began a new life in Rwanda as part of a team who set up and funded a new school for deaf children. A wonderful story, which Isobel illustrated with amazing pictures and an awe inspiring talk.



Mary Kirby, WI President

Thurston WI So exciting to be back in Cavendish Hall having a meeting. We welcomed several new faces and after a short Annual Meeting, the formal papers being sent out beforehand, Ann Ling was presented with the Presidents Cup for her support, problem solving and her all round hard work during lockdown. Maureen also thanked the committee for the way they kept in touch with members with their thoughtful meetings in a bag. We then welcomed Amanda Sutherland as our speaker, who told us her 'Creative Journey'. A must for any WI programme, she was fluent, clear and so interesting, members thoroughly enjoyed listening to her story.

September carried on with our first Soup & Chat with seven home made soups, cakes, tea/coffee and a free raffle ticket. We had 27 people come, all waited on by our 'Soupies'. It was so good to hear laughing, chatting and see our hall filled with people,



Thurston Soupies

but we were not finished yet! The Big Weekend, an event the whole village participated in to welcome newcomers and show them what's on offer, took place on 25/26th September and we were there serving jacket potatoes and cream teas. A very busy start after such little activity.

Vicky Pryke, WI Secretary

Wickhambrook WI With a talk including reference to chocolate it was not surprising to see a large turnout of members for this month's meeting! Cheryl owner of Artistry in Cocoa began by telling us about how together with her family of five daughters she began with a shop in Newmarket selling truffles. With rents rising the business is now run from their home and the company now runs events for all age groups where anyone can have a go at making delicious chocolates and truffles.

We were each given various samples of chocolate. We were told to wait before tasting the samples but some members found it hard to resist! Cheryl then told us a bit about the history of Cocoa and demonstrated how to roll truffles by hand. Finally we were given a truffle to sample before the chance to buy chocolates including chocolate popcorn.

Wendy Mansfield, WI Committee Member





upcoming events

last chance!

Jersey Boys | Risby Village Hall
Saturday 2 October | Doors 6PM
 £16 pp | Book via [Eventbrite](#)

Grab your dancing shoes and spin the night away with this outstanding Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons tribute act. Everyone is welcome, so rally up your partners and friends and bring along your own drinks and nibbles to enjoy (bar not provided).



Autumn Wreath Workshop

New date coming soon for 2022. We'll be swapping autumn creations for spring wreaths.

Sudbury Walking Tour | Sudbury Town Hall

Wednesday 20 October | 11AM (Approx. 1 hour)

£8 per person | Book via [WI Office](#)

Take a stroll through Sudbury as the streets come alive with history on a guided tour of the ancient market town.

Christmas Dabble Day | Cavendish Hall Thurston

Saturday 30 October | 11.30AM-4.30PM

£25 WI Member | £27 non member

Book via [WI Office](#)

Get ready for Christmas and make an angel tree decoration, a small hanging wreath, decorative clips for your table names and a memory book to cherish. All materials included in the ticket price, plus tea & coffee. Please bring your own lunch/snacks.



soup n natter | Park Farm

Friday 5 November | 12.30-2pm

£7 per WI Member | £7.50 per non member

Book via [WI Office](#)

Soup n Natter lunches are back! The two soups on offer will be Leek & Potato, and Minestrone.

Sandringham Christmas Craft, Food and Gift Fair

Friday 19 November | Book via [WI Office](#)

£29 WI Member | £32 non member



Start your Christmas shopping with the pick of the food market, craft stalls and gift exhibitors. Check the order form for coach details.



Sound of Wales in Suffolk | The Apex

Saturday 27 November | 7.30PM

£22 pp | Book via [The Apex](#)

The world-famous choir were last in town for a sell-out show of traditional Welsh melodies and popular picks in 2018. If you missed it or loved it and want more, this is your chance! Tickets available via [The Apex](#) or call 01284 758000.

Coming Soon

Look out for more info in future issues.

Carol Celebration | St Marys Church BSE

Monday 13 December | 2PM

NFWI 2022 Annual Meeting

10-12 June 2022 | Liverpool



Thurlow WI Open Meeting

Thurlow Village Hall

12 October 2021 | 7.30PM

£3 entry incl. tea/coffee & cake

Burlesque and Me (aka How Burlesque Saved My Life!)

Thurlow WI would like to invite you to their ladies-only open meeting with guest speaker Lindsey Barrell, aka Ms Cherry Bombe.



Lindsey gives a fabulously funny and heart-warming talk about how she found burlesque, and takes you on a journey we can all relate to.

Please note this is not a Federation event.

Book in advance via thurlowwi@gmail.com