



## Chairman's Tête-à-Tête

Hello again Everyone. I'm sure by now you will have heard of the sad proposal to permanently close Denman. Please see our Denman Ambassador, Janet Brown's report in this edition of The Hive. I would like to add my thanks to all of you who have supported Federation visits and attended Denman courses independently, it has been greatly appreciated.

Denman are continuing with *Denman at Home*, which are online courses provided by Denman Tutors on various subjects from craft to history. To compliment this we, Suffolk West Federation, are setting up our own Zoom talks on various subjects. We so far have the following subjects to offer: *Craft with Margaret Brackenbury*, *Jane Austen* and *Shakespeare* with Imogen Usherwood, *Pathology's role in the Pandemic*, *The History of Medicine and Stem Cells* and *Careers in Medicine* by Morwenna Degnan and *Leonardo de Vinci the Polymath* and *Architecture through the Ages* by Chloe Degnan. We are also hoping to arrange one on music and dance. The talks will be delivered by Zoom and will cost £4 per person. We will be sending full details out soon, so look out for them.

I was thinking recently about my childhood, things my father, a proud Salopian sometimes said, so I thought I'd tell you a few Shropshire words & phrases: *Cwtch* - to have a cuddle or hide something, *Stop pithering about* - stop messing around, *Ow Bist Ye* - How are you?, *I'm sweating cobs* - I'm very warm and *Round the Wrekin* - meaning to take an indirect route to a location or to more commonly avoid getting to the point during a conversation. Funny old world isn't it? Keep safe.

Julie Higgins, Federation Chairman

**Hello from the WI Office** Life is returning little by little isn't it? We've never been so grateful to have our hair cut, to drink coffee outside of our own homes or to sit two metres apart from loved ones! I know some WIs are keen to get back to normal too, and be reassured WI Secretaries have received information on how to go about this and we are working on further guidance to assist you. There's a lot of things to consider and if you feel you need any help please don't hesitate to contact your WI Adviser.

This week was tinged with sad news as the door closed on part of our WI history when NFWI announced the proposed closure of Denman. This must have been an incredibly difficult decision and Suffolk West are thinking of all who will be affected. To read the full NFWI announcement [click here](#). I will be on annual leave 28th-30th July, so any enquiries will be dealt with once I'm back in my kitchen come office on 4 August. However, Rachel S will be on hand in the WI Office to help you as always.

Keep smiling ladies ♥ Rachel Hows, Federation Secretary

## SWFWI Climate Ambassadors: WE NEED YOU!

Do you feel passionately about protecting the climate? You could join a network of WI members who make a real difference by raising the issue of climate change. As part of the role, you would take part in Climate Coalition activities the WI is involved with and report back to the SWFWI PA subcommittee. Please note that this is not a formal role and depends on your availability. Some Ambassadors craft green hearts for "Show The Love" campaign, while others host climate change awareness meetings with their MPs and wider community – it is entirely up to you how you want to get involved! If you'd like to sign up and represent SWFWI please contact Rachel Hows at the WI Office, or if you have previously registered directly with NFWI then please do let us know!



# A FAREWELL TO DENMAN



As your Denman Ambassador, it is with a very heavy heart that I have to say farewell to our WI college. I am sure by now you will have heard the news that NFWI propose to close Denman.

Over the few years I have been a college host and our ambassador, I have made many friends with staff and members visiting the college. I have attended many wonderful courses and enjoyed being educated while having a holiday in the lovely surroundings. I am sure you will join with me in sending our thoughts and good wishes to all the staff, volunteers and tutors at this sad time.

This closure has meant that our Federation visit in March 2021 will no longer be taking place and our Federation office will be arranging refunds of your deposits in the near future. Thank you for your support.

Those members who had booked courses with Denman, they will contact you soon with refunds of your payments. If you have any vouchers for Denman then please contact [finance@denman.org.uk](mailto:finance@denman.org.uk)

All is not completely lost, however, as 'Denman at Home' will continue. These are Zoom sessions led by Denman tutors on cookery, craft, yoga, music and

history. They last about one hour and start from £5. To find out more about their latest courses [click here](#)

I have attended several of these sessions, making photo albums and scrapbooking, making land dolls and eco-dyeing. I have visited the city of London and learnt about its history and walked from Vauxhall to Westminster. I even learnt about 'Sex, Murder and Mayhem in Parish Churches', all have been educational and entertaining. Who knew that the possible origin of the name given to us by the Australians of POM, could have originated from the 'Prisoners of Millbank' prison who were transported from London? Why not try a cookery course and create those delicious cakes for afternoon tea or a lovely evening meal from lands afar.

My Mum always used to say that 'from sad news a little good news will often grow'. Perhaps this will happen with Denman.

From your sad Ambassador, Janet Brown



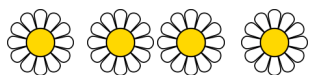
*Suffolk West Members enjoying a comfort at Denman after the 2019 Annual Meeting.*

It's been a few months since I attended a one day workshop at Denman and even longer since I won the Risby WI bursary. On a Saturday morning in February, with storm Dennis hot on our heels, my husband and I set off for Oxfordshire. We arrived in good time where I was greeted by the host and three other ladies that were attending the workshop, "Teach What You Do" with Melanie Blaikie.

Anyone that knows me well will know that my number one passion is sewing both by hand and machine. On a few occasions last year I ran some sewing workshops from home which were a great success. The day with Melanie was really inspirational, informative and thought provoking and answered the many questions I had about running a business from home. As always the food was delicious with coffee and pastries on arrival, a buffet lunch and tea and biscuits in the afternoon.

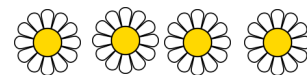
I really couldn't recommend Denman enough and I had hoped sometime in the not too distant future to visit again. Now I am busy putting into practice what I learnt and designing workshops for when I can welcome people into my home once more.

Julia Warnes, Risby WI



## The Daisy Chain

Linking together our WI members across the county



**Sturmer and District WI** A number of us have been joining the Denman at Home online courses - from Needle felting to tours of Berlin and London, and a Ukulele Singalong - they are very interesting and easy to book. We think it is the best thing Denman has done so far and hope they will carry on, especially with the sad news about Denman.

We have also been busy making blankets, quilts and teddies for West Suffolk Hospital.

We've kept in touch by email sharing activities and photos, and as lockdown has eased we have started to share books etc and see each other for chats (at two metres distance). Some have also started to enjoy booking with Ickworth for Nordic Walking with WI husbands in tow. We've shared the Hive by paper for the few members who do not have computers and sent letters and cards as well.

At least one member has had a hair cut and we are all looking forward to more freedom.

Linda Bevan, Committee Member

### WI News

The time has come Suffolk West said  
To put our WI News to bed  
Some were sorry but some were glad  
But the poor old Editor felt quite sad  
She had tried so hard to keep things going  
This virus thing meant it couldn't get flowing  
No meetings, no news, no outings too  
What can we do? Its up to you  
The new Hive Newsletter everyone seems to like  
So goodbye now, I'll get on my bike!

Jill Gooch - WI News Editor

### Lockdown Limerick

I've walked around my village so often  
My footwear's beginning to soften  
The soles are so thing  
That fresh air gets in  
At least my toes won't go rotten.

June Shephard, Rickingham WI

**Hedgehogs** You can help to look after this helpful garden visitor using the Do's and Don'ts below.

#### YES PLEASE



##### Water

Please leave multiple dishes of water spread out - we are very thirsty!

##### Cat food

Kibble is good for our teeth.  
Biscuits should be a 'complete' food, not treats.

Wet food can also be fed but ensure it is free from flies.

We generally prefer meat/poultry flavours but fish is okay to use.

Wet food can be either Jelly or Gravy, we don't mind.

Dog food can also be used - please ensure kibble is of a small size.

##### Hedgehog Specific Food

If using a hedgehog food make sure there are no 'extras' included (see no list)

[facebook.com/bertieswildlife](https://facebook.com/bertieswildlife)

#### NO THANK YOU



##### No Treats

As wild animals we don't need any treats. We just need you to provide us with some support feeding.

##### For Health Reasons Please DO NOT Feed Us:

Milk  
Bread  
Mealworms  
Peanuts (whole or crushed)  
Sunflower Seeds  
Oats  
Raisins (or other dried fruit)  
Fresh fruit or veg  
Offal  
Raw Meat  
Cakes  
Human foods  
Eggs  
Insects/Slugs/Worms/Anything you've found in your garden.  
Store bought live or dried insects

Anything that isn't on the yes list!

**Snap it! Caption it!** Another amazing wildlife shot



captured by Julie Higgins' husband Graham, Julie calls this "You put your right leg in". Everybody join in now!





Jill Gooch, what can you say about this lady? Dedicated WI Member, long standing Trustee and Vice Chairman (serving under many Chairmen), always willing, always able, great animal lover, pet sitter extraordinaire, fund raiser for Guide Dogs, actress (who can ever forget her thanks to Charlie Fellowes - Charlie certainly won't!), good cook, Mother, Granny and Editor of WI News.

It's for her work on the WI News that I wish to pay particular tribute. The News as it was fondly known took a good deal of work, it needed a creative mind, patience to find the articles, ability to write articles, photography skills and imagination, Jill has these in shed loads. I didn't realise the amount of work involved until Jill broke her ankle one cold winter's day at our yard whilst feeding our pony, undaunted Jill and her husband Bob carried on feeding Batty and the cats, then she went to A&E! I edited The News that month, it took days even with the help of Sue Archer and Rachel Thomas. I realised then the commitment and dedication necessary to get this publication into print.

I know how upset Jill was when we brought The News to a close, it wasn't something we wanted to happen but COVID stopped the usual supply of adverts that paid for printing and we were left with only two options; publishing online or facing a large monthly printing bill. The WI Hive was already up and running and we all felt, including Jill, that to continue with this was the way forward. You will note Jill is a regular contributor using yet another talent as a poet!

Thank you from all of us for what you've done and will carry on doing Jill.

*Julie Higgins*



*Jill Gooch at SWFWI WWI Exhibition, November 2018*

### Public Affairs Memo: WI campaigning news

The NFWI PA Department helps members to campaign on local, national and international issues. Working with the NFWI PA Committee, it manages the resolutions process and develops campaign actions.

To keep up to date with WI campaigns you can subscribe to the fortnightly NFWI PA Digest at [thewi.org.uk/campaigns](http://thewi.org.uk/campaigns) and have it delivered directly to your inbox, or you can click the links below to read it on the Suffolk West website.

This fortnights edition includes:

- [NFWI Wales Cervical Screening Webinar](#)
- [Update on the new Domestic Abuse Bill](#)
- [New report: Covid-19 & the transport system](#)
- [Campaigns Corner](#)

If you'd like to be involved with Suffolk West's own PA committee please contact Gwen Williams (PA Chairman) [gwenwilliams55@googlemail.com](mailto:gwenwilliams55@googlemail.com)

**Resolutions 2020/21:** Don't forget! The deadline to submit a resolution to the federation is 14th August!

### Teatime Teaser:

#### Songs around the world Quiz

Fill in the blanks with a place, town or country name



1. Tales of the ..... Woods
2. Yellow Rose of .....
3. The ..... Wedding Song
4. .... Air (O Danny Boy)
5. Arrivederci .....
6. .... Choo Choo
7. In a Windmill in old .....
8. By the Time I get to .....
9. A Walk in the .....
10. There'll Always be an .....

*Answers in the next issue!*

Deadline for the next issue: Monday 3 August. Don't forget to include your full name and WI.

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