



Shropshire

Federation of Women's Institutes



OCTOBER 2020

Shropshire County News

Message from our Chairman



Since my last column the country has continued the slow process of returning to normal life. I have enjoyed a couple of meals out recently. One was a quiet wedding anniversary celebration with my husband in a favourite restaurant. The other, to celebrate his birthday, was in a pizzeria in Shrewsbury and involved a two year old granddaughter, so not quite so quiet! What they had in common was the protocols which were in place to protect both customers and staff. We felt safe and enjoyed the (socially distanced) company of our fellow diners.

My own WI is going ahead with its scheduled meeting this month, September, for the first time since March and you may imagine how much I am looking forward to it. We will have to wear masks, sanitise our hands and maintain our distance. There will be no refreshments, raffle or competition but we WILL be in the same room together enjoying what our speaker has to say. I look on the regulations not as a restriction but as a formula for allowing us to go about our daily business and hope that as many of you as possible will soon be able to enjoy your own meetings again.

Heather

SFWI Chair Heather Dulson

Seen on Money Saving Expert

[Are you one of 10,000s of women missing out on £1,000s of state pension?](https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2020/08/married-women-who-missed-out-on-extra-state-pension-fighting-omb/) We reported in June that many married women who hit state pension age before Apr 2016 and get less than 60% of their husband's basic state pension are entitled to a boost to get them up to that 60%, possibly backdated for years. That still stands, but other women should check too if they're underpaid for similar or other reasons, incl widows, divorcees and over-80s (married or not) <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2020/08/married-women-who-missed-out-on-extra-state-pension-fighting-omb/>

CAROL SERVICE CHRISTMAS 2020

Unfortunately the carol service will not be going ahead this year but we will continue to make decorations for the tree festival.

We have received a lovely selection of decorations to date on the theme of "Unity and Strength". If your WI has not yet sent one in, or you would like to do another one, please contact the office for a log slice and we will post you one out. Below are some sample ideas to help you on your way.



All slices will need to be returned by 30 November 2020 in time for us to decorate the tree.

SFWI LOCKDOWN PHOTOGRAPH 'PRECIOUS MOMENTS'

Thank you to Christine Greaves, Frankwell Little Boro' WI for her photo

"International Friendship United"

A reunion with Spanish friends in Madrid. Friends made, all thanks to a small ad in the WI County Newsletter in 2006.



Sadly, this was the only entry but definitely worthy of publication

NOVEMBER 2020 Newsletters will be available for collection from MON 26 OCTOBER from County Office, 9 Park Plaza SY1 3AF. Please arrange collection time, thank you.



Shropshire Federation of Women's Institutes



Not available



shropshire_federation_wi

SFWI County Office open : Mon-Wed 9.30 a.m.—2.30 p.m. (at other times by appointment)

9 Park Plaza, Battlefield Industrial Estate, Shrewsbury SY1 3AF email : enquiries@wi-shropshire.co.uk, Tel : 01743 461646

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SFWI NEWS

SFWI ANNUAL MEETING

Following on from our announcement that this years meeting will not be going ahead

COUNTY BURSARY - this has been awarded to Lauren O'Neill, Overton-on-Dee WI.

DENMAN FREE DRAW - due to the cancellation of the Annual Meeting **and** closure of Denman the draw will not take place. We will ring fence the money and decide how best it could be used at a later date.

CLAREMONT CLUB—this will not run this year and all payments should by now have been refunded. We will start again with our Annual Meeting on 11 May 2021

BIRTHDAY CERTIFICATES— we are still in possession of birthday certificates for 2020. If you would like the one for your WI posted out to you please let the office now before the next mailing is due.

Annual Meetings

Many WIs hold their Annual meetings in the autumn. This year it will be possible for a WI to hold a meeting with some members together in a physical location with others participating online. If you decide to cancel or postpone your Annual Meeting **record this decision in your records.** If you decide not to hold a meeting it is recommended that trustees (officers and committee members) remain in office until an Annual Meeting can be held. Your financial statement should be examined and the financial report circulated to members. Expect it to be rather short! Please contact your WI adviser if you need help.

On the Road Again!

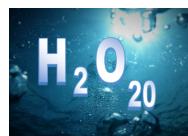
It used to be predictable; every WI had a monthly meeting. Covid 19 has changed our opportunities and expectations but, at the moment we are in a position where some WIs will have met in September and, we sincerely hope, each month will see a few more starting back. I know that some are hoping to start in January and others after that. There are a few extra precautions to take to make sure we are all safe and guidance has been sent out to WIs.

It has been heartening to hear about the many ways WI members have kept in touch. Quite a few have tried Zoom meetings for the first time and helped others to access online opportunities. Committee members have phoned, emailed and sent cards, letters and even little gifts. Outdoor activities have taken place especially during the last month. In our homes we have given extra care to our gardens and reacquainted ourselves with past hobbies. Garages and lofts have been sorted, books read and jigsaws completed. 2020 sounded such a good year on January 1st. It's certainly been different and we will always remember this year.

Please don't be daunted by the prospect of resuming meetings. The people managing your meeting place will be working out how they can best keep their users safe as well and will have a risk assessment in place. Enjoy your reunions.

ON WITH THE SHOW Q & A's.

If you are new to Showing, or a seasoned exhibitor, please feel free to put forward any Showing questions you may have – all will be answered by an accredited W.I. Show Judge – and no question will ever be considered too trivial.



Question: What are the most common mistakes in Preserves and Cookery Classes?

Answer: with Preserves, failure to put the full date on the label (day, month, year), Jars that have not been checked for smears or stickiness, and the use of old lids.

In Cookery Classes, Failing to line the tin neatly, or using commercial tin liners. Also, not reading the Schedule correctly (and then double checking!) leading to the use of "unsuitable" ingredients for Showing, such as fresh cream or soft cheese.

Please telephone or email your question to either: Josephine Bennett bennett47@btinternet.com 01694 731283 or Margaret O'Neill me4oneill@gmail.com 01978 710451 or write, to The Show Committee, c/o County Office

NFWI NEWS

New initiative

NFWI have launched an electronic newsletter which some of you may have seen. If not, please email the office and we will forward you their first copy, where they give you details of how to subscribe (no charge). Please note that you do not have to be a member to subscribe so if you have any friends, family or acquaintances who might be interested in the WI please share.

Congratulatory Certificates

We are pleased to tell you these are available to download on My WI for ladies who have been a WI member for 25, 50 and 70 years.

NFWI Annual Meeting Royal Albert Hall 12 April 2021

We are beginning to plan this in the usual way with the knowledge that things may change. As it stands, we will use last years' linking list. We will begin by contacting the delegates who put their name forward for this year to see if they are willing to attend next year.

Taster membership

For £10.75 a new member can enjoy the benefits of the WI from October 2020 to March 2021. Many people have appreciated the community support that has been given and this would be a brilliant time to welcome new members. Please publicise this offer in your area.

ENCLOSURES FOR SECRETARIES

Tree slice request form Calendar Order Form
Annual Meeting paperwork

BOOKING NOW—closing date 31 October 2020.

Please note that events may be subject to change depending on circumstances and government guidelines.

We are optimistic that we can hold small events from October onwards and begin to return to near normal. However, just in case, we are only asking for bookings, NOT payment (with the exception of Salopian Sleepover). A booking receipt/invoice will be sent to you and will only be payable once it is confirmed that the event will go ahead. As many of you are not meeting please let your secretary know if you wish to order/book during the course of the month so that she can send in bookings/orders as usual by the closing date. Thank you.

Find out more about ECO LIVING on ZOOM

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER AT 10:00 See our facebook page or contact Paula.pierce@hotmail.co.uk for links to join meeting

Salopian Sleepover

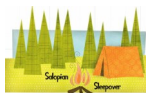
Friday 23 July-Monday 26 July 2021

Indoors £60 Outdoor £45

The website opened for bookings on 1 October 2020 and requires £20 non refundable deposit per person

(However if a situation out of our control should happen then refunds will be made)

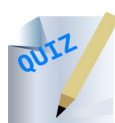
**Please book directly on website
salopianwicamp.weebly.com**

**2021 DIARIES & CALENDARS**

Calendars will remain at the same price as last year - £5.00.

PICTURE SAMPLES ARE WITH YOUR SECRETARY

Orders for diaries have now closed. If you have not ordered one through ourselves they are available to order directly from NFWI

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA QUIZ

Despite being unable to hold our annual event this year, we will put together a quiz to be sent out to each WI with the November mailing so that members are not disappointed. There will be both questions and answers for use at your meeting whether this is in person, virtually or however you feel appropriate.

**COMMITTEE NEWS**

In light of the fact that we are all being encouraged to 'Shop local', we thought you would like the opportunity to read this article about Country Markets by Tricia Jones, Bicton and Oxon WI, Member of Federation Craft and Home Economics Committee

The roots of Country Markets go back to the early 1900's when the Agricultural Organisation Society (now DEFRA) invited the newly-formed Women's Institutes to become involved in its ongoing programme of setting up co-operative markets to sell surplus produce. Towards the end of the First World War, responsibility for the co-operative markets was moved to the Food Production Department of the Board of Agriculture. At the same time, the existing WI's agreed to form the National Federation of WI's as a separate independent voluntary organisation, although still receiving considerable financial support from the government.

Unusually perhaps the WI Markets always were and still are open to men as well as women. In 1995 a new sponsoring body called WI Country Markets was established as a self financing and self-regulating body without any NFWI involvement and in 2004 changed its name to Country Markets Ltd.

Country Markets are co-operative social enterprises that produce goods for direct sale to the public. They provide a retail outlet for high quality home-made produce and an opportunity for people to profit from their skills. There are Country Markets across England and Wales. Seven can be found in Shropshire selling home-made baked goods, preserves, honey, eggs, hand crafted items and seasonal home grown fruit, vegetables, plants and flowers. All the markets open in the morning when regulars know the early bird gets the best choice of the selection of goods on offer. Wednesday at Market Drayton and Oswestry, Friday at Church Stretton, Newport and Whitchurch, Saturday at Ludlow, Market Drayton, Newport and Shrewsbury. Full details of opening times, venues and further information about Markets can be found at www.country-markets.co.uk

Shareholders don't expect to make a fortune but it can supplement an income. Markets are always looking for talented new producers, so if you enjoy cooking, crafting or have quality garden surplus then please feel free to contact Market Advisers Tricia Jones on 01743 850810, email triciajones78@btinternet.com or Janet Talbot on 01952 814422 email raeywen@btinternet.com. If you don't want to become a producer but have a few hours to spare and enjoy communicating with the public then most Country Markets are pleased to welcome helpers to sell items. Markets produce local food for local people, thereby reducing food miles. They promote regional food and crafts, many of which are unique or unusual, thus helping to preserve, and sometimes revive, traditional foods and crafts. Do come and visit a market near you.

SFWI Events Please apply for tickets through your Secretary/Treasurer/Booking Person. (Associate members may book direct with the SFWI office.) A 'paid' invoice will be issued on receipt of ticket monies, this will act as a receipt. **Tickets are allocated after the last day of the month (in which the event is first advertised)** to be fair to WIs meeting in the 3rd & 4th weeks. If the word 'non-members' is not printed on the application form, the event is for members only. If oversubscribed (too many applications for places received before the closing date), WI members have priority and a ballot may be held. Notification of cancellation or over-subscription will be sent to the Booking Person as soon as possible. **No refunds are available**, if you can't attend, it is up to you to sell your ticket (as appropriate).

PLEASE NOTE : ALL EVENTS EXCEPT TRAINING ARE FUNDRAISERS FOR SFWI.

WI NEWS

Helen King, President Eyton and Wellington WI

This was to be our special 70th Birthday year. We were to record 70 acts of kindness during the year and had a very full programme of events and activities to support this. We were going to have FUN! At the same time spread a bit of kindness and happiness. This all came to an end the weekend following our March meeting. We went into lockdown on 15 March, the following weekend the government put us all into lockdown!

The following Programme of Events, Activities and Communications have developed over the past few months.

1. Daily President's Email – "Smile for the Day" this soon became a tool for quizzes, competitions various and Facebook Group posting of "Thought for the Day"
2. Garden picture sharing
3. International travel stories and picture sharing, we had a three-month trip to New Zealand followed by a three-month tour of South America.
4. Weekly lunch, games and chat in Bowring Park, once we could meet up in the park, we made the most of it.
5. Saturday morning Keep Fit Sessions have been a recent addition
6. Monthly walk of the Telford T50 50 Mile Trail
7. Monthly Zoom Committee and Members Meetings
8. Table Tennis and Boules Tournament planned for September.
9. Friday night Quiz via zoom every three weeks.

For those members who zoom has been a new opportunity to learn a new skill we have made best use of those members who are already skilled. Some times members have buddied up to learn and other times a phone call has been sufficient, but most are keen to have a go and that's all you can ask. We will have two ladies visiting our zoom meeting in September they are both keen to join, not bad eh during these strange times? We have already, I would guess passed our 70 acts of kindness but next year, like the Queen, we will hold our 'official' birthday year Then there will be some fun!!!

In the March edition of the WI County Newsletter, there was a request for help in knitting squares for the League of Friends at the RJAH Orthopaedic Hospital at Oswestry. The Friends were undertaking a project to make blanket wraps to enable spinal patients to be wheeled outdoors to enjoy the lovely gardens at the hospital.

Caynham Ashford WI responded through the lockdown with members knitting a total of 34 squares to help the project along. Here are two members gathering together some of the knitted squares ready for posting to the hospital.



PLEASE NOTE :

- * All items for the Newsletter must be submitted by the 1st of the preceding month.
- * Advertisements accepted AS SPACE ALLOWS. Responsibility is not accepted for statements made by advertisers or in enclosures.
- * Small Ads rate—15p per word plus VAT, remittance must accompany advertisement. Cheques payable to SFWI and received by 1st of the month before publication

Overton-on-Dee W.I. held the first Meeting since February last week, and it was such good fun. As Wales still haven't given the go-ahead for indoor Meetings, we met at a member's farm and enjoyed a Barnyard Picnic. There was no chance of the open and, typically, extremely well ventilated Barn being described as "indoors" but we were thankful for the roof as it was an extremely wet day! It certainly takes a different mindset to organise Meetings at the moment, but W.I. ladies are an intrepid and inventive lot. We got to grips with the risk assessment, numbers allowed, printed social distancing reminder notices and supplied copious amounts of sanitiser in our state of the art touch-free dispenser! Everyone brought their own food and drink and we had an absolutely wonderful time. Everybody was so happy just to be seeing each other again, and any initial concerns were forgotten in minutes.

We are now planning our September Barnyard Meeting, and, as this is the month we would normally be organising the big Village Produce Show, we are going to hold our own Mini Show to mark the occasion.

Kinnerley W.I. Committee have been busy organising things to keep members engaged with W.I. until such time as we can meet again.

A monthly news letter is being written and delivered around the lanes of Kinnerley Parish by committee members. News includes reports on our "socially distanced" social activities, namely a picnic in The Old Vicarage garden with BYO food and drink. At this we helped Ann Oakley, a member of more than 60 years to celebrate her 90th birthday.

September's News reported on a "socially distanced" walking Treasure Hunt compiled by a member's husband followed by a "socially distanced" snack in the Cross Keys pub.

Future plans include a quiz in October and Janet Boulton is busy preparing a crafting bag for each member to make their own Christmas decoration.

What will December bring? A bit more normality we hope.

SMALL ADS



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