



# Shropshire

## Federation of Women's Institutes

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

FEBRUARY 2021

# Shropshire County News



## 'SHOW THE LOVE' THIS MONTH



Send a climate awareness message by dressing a window and sending us your photo

### Message from our Chairman



"February brings the rain" says the old nursery rhyme. I am writing this column in January just after taking Christmas decorations down so do not know what the weather will be like when you read this in the same way that none of us can know when the current emergency will end. What I do know is that I feel it is important to try to find "Reasons to be cheerful" as a much more recent verse advises.

I have appreciated my WI membership as never before during these last months. There have been very few meetings but there is still a wonderful network of connections. We have done the things that might have been expected of us – knitting, sewing, baking. But whether via NFWI, Shropshire federation or our own WI many of us have also taken part in video conferences and online learning which might be more surprising. If you have not yet tried Zoom and have a suitable device, give it a go! You need no special knowledge to respond to an invitation and it does not take long to learn how to issue invitations to meetings yourself. Even if you never do it again, you have enjoyed a new experience.

There are still competitions to enter and future get-togethers to be planned even if dates are as yet uncertain. We at SFWI will continue to try and enhance your membership experience as much as circumstances allow. And there is still humour to sustain us. I have seen many wonderfully funny video clips and cartoons over these past months. My favourite features a woman leaving home with her suitcase packed and declaring that if there is going to be another lockdown, then she is moving in with her hairdresser. We can all empathise with that!

Heather

### THE SHROPSHIRE WAY CHALLENGE 2021



This year we have a challenge for all you knitters /crocheters.

We are hoping to make enough scarves to equal the 190 mile long Shropshire Way.

This will need approximately 200,640 scarves ! All scarves will be donated to

homeless people in and around Shropshire.

Donations of scarves approximately 6 x 60 inches in any colour/ style are welcome. If you have any leftover yarn please donate and we will distribute.

We would like this not to be just a WI project but a real countywide effort so include your friends and local communities and let's start sharing some warmth!

Patterns are available on our facebook page or via county office, or you can use one of your own.

### DECEMBER CAPTION COMPETITION



*She's made of all the white stuff!*  
**Heather Dulson, Tilstock WI**

The bigger the baggier!  
**Margaret Bradley, Edmond WI**

*Go to the sales? Not a ghost of a chance this year!*  
**Nikki Tuffnell, Federation Secretary**

Black Friday Deal on 2020 Santa Costumes  
**Liz Tucker, Hopesay WI**



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)

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## SFWI NEWS



## ON WITH THE SHOW

## Anyone for marmalade ?

Early in the New Year, as Seville Oranges start to appear in the shops, our thoughts turn to marmalade. So now is the time to wash out and sterilize your old jars and make sure you have some nice new lids, or wax discs and cellophane covers, if you prefer. Standard size lids for 1lb jars (340g) are readily available from hardware shops and some supermarkets, and can also be bought from Park Plaza (a bag of 10 for £1.00). Why do we need new lids? Quite simply to ensure that a good seal is made, and no "off tastes/odours" are introduced, which can sometimes happen if you use old lids.

Never made marmalade before? Why not give it a go, it's a lot easier than you think. All you need is a heavy based pan, a wooden spoon and a sharp knife for cutting the peel. You don't need to spend a fortune. 1lb 8oz oranges, 1 lemon, 3lb sugar & 3 pints of water makes 5 x 1lb jars of marmalade.

Two hints to help in making a successful marmalade are;

- 1) To cook the fruit well, the peel should be tender.
- 2) Do not over boil after adding the sugar. Once the mixture reaches a rolling boil, test for a set after 5 minutes and keep testing regularly until setting point is reached.

Two books I would highly recommend, if you are new to preserving are;

"First Preserves" by Vivien Lloyd and

"Best Kept Secrets of WI. Jams, Pickles & Chutneys" by Midge Thomas.

**Carys Palmer, Cookery and Preserve Judge, Clun WI**



If you have missed the Seville Oranges, don't worry. Three Fruit Marmalade is delicious and easy to make, just use 1 grapefruit, 2 lemons, and 1 large sweet orange (or 2 smaller ones), to make a total weight of around 1 – 2 lbs of fruit) with the same amount of water and sugar as above.

**Margaret O'Neill, Overton-on-Dee WI**



## Litter Pick

In September 2 groups of 6 WI members (socially distanced of course) took part in the Great British September Clean.

Armed with bin liners, litter pickers and high vis jackets we managed to fill over 5 big bags of rubbish in just an hour.

We were hoping to do this again during the Great British Spring clean but have had to rethink. We would like members to let us know if there are any safe spaces in their area where litter picking would be useful for when we are able to go out again.

In the meantime why not pledge to do your own individual clean-up (even as little as 15 minutes).

ETHEL BROADHURST (PRESS REPORT)  
COMPETITION 2020/21

Due to current circumstances we have decided not to run this competition this year.

*We are sad to announce the death of Freda Jones of Bridgnorth WI which she joined after the closure of Tasley WI, where she had held various officer roles.*

*She was on the County Executive for many years, serving as Vice Chairman. Freda was also a VCO (now WI Advisers). Her husband always used to refer to VCO's as Very Cocky Officers.*

## RESOLUTIONS 2021

Thank you to the WIs and members who have returned their selection votes. We will keep you informed of what is happening next.

## NFWI NEWS



We are thrilled that Christine Greaves, Frankwell Little Boro' WI is the National Winner of the Lady Denman Cup Competition 2020. We hope this will inspire many more of you to enter in 2021.

## Lady Denman Cup Competition 2021

***"Let me show you what a woman can do!"***



Artemisia Gentileschi, Self Portrait as Saint Catherine of Alexandria, about 1615-17. @The National Gallery

## Schedule

The NFWI is pleased to announce that the Lady Denman Cup Competition 2021 will be held in partnership with the National Gallery. Using no more than 500 words, WI members are invited to submit a piece of writing, fact or fiction, in any style (story, poem etc.) based on the above painting by Artemisia Gentileschi.

Closing date for entry to Federation Office is **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021**. Entry forms and schedules are available from your secretary, County Office or by downloading from My WI.

## NFWI ANNUAL MEETING CHANGE OF DATE

This meeting date has moved from 19 April 2021 to 8 June 2021.

We will be in touch when we have more information.

**MY WI** - please try to ensure someone in your WI checks regularly for updates and latest info. It is well worth every member having a look for the range of recipes, craft ideas and gardening tips on offer, as well as information on the latest campaigns and competitions.

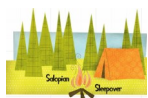
**BOOKING NOW—closing date 28 FEBRUARY 2021.**

Unfortunately we are not able to hold any events at present but are actively planning for when life does return to near normal. When we do, we may only ask for bookings, NOT payment (with the exception of Salopian Sleepover) until we are confident events can proceed as planned. 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 orders/bookings as usual by the closing date. Thank you.

**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 CALENDARS — selling fast**

**£5.00 each**

**PICTURE SAMPLES ARE WITH YOUR SECRETARY**

**LUNCH AT ORIGINS 2021**

We are planning positively and hope that we will be able to run this event in 2021 but at a later time than usual.

So please keep in mind 29,30, June and 1,2,6 July when we hope to be able to meet up in for lunch.

**SFWI Calendar 2022****Theme : 'Shropshire's Looking Up'**

We are looking for landmarks and scenes that include trees, hills, rooftops, balloons, clock towers, tall buildings/monuments. As you are out and about, keep your eyes peeled and your cameras poised for those interesting views of Shropshire at its best.

**Points to note :**

*No commercial names to be visible in the image.*

*Check your camera settings are for high pixels (at least 4000 x 3000).*

*Make a note of where the photograph is taken.*

*If sending electronically save as a picture on your computer and send as an attachment.*

*Landscape photographs only and no text to be added to the image.*

*Entries close : 1 March 2021*

**'SPRING INTO SPRING' QUIZ**

22 February 2021 7.00 p.m.

The Sports and Leisure Committee are holding a fun quiz evening with small prizes. As we don't know what the regulations will be as yet, this will be held via Zoom.

**Entry Fee £5.00 – up to 4 people**  
**can share your screen. Please**  
**book online using email**

**accounts@wi-shropshire.co.uk**

**CLAREMONT CLUB 2021**

Claremont Club will re-start in April 2021

Tickets sales open from 4 January until 31 March 2021.

**THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS FOR SALE**  
**AT THE ANNUAL MEETING**

The monthly draws will recommence in April 2021 with a large draw at the Annual Meeting in July and also at Christmas.

Forms and rules are with your secretary or alternatively contact County Office.

**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.**

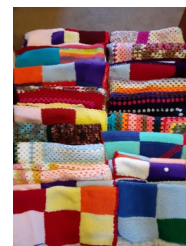


## WI NEWS

**Lovely to hear your pre-lockdown news - WI spirit! Hopefully restrictions will ease in the near future and you can meet again.**

This is just to let you know what Bishop's Castle WI has been doing during these restricted times. We have not been able to hold real or virtual meetings but we have arranged a weekly outdoor meeting point for any members who would like a chance to meet together and enjoy a short walk; following guidelines of social distancing and groups of 6. Indoors we have been busy making squares for the SaTH appeal for blankets for dementia patients. Together with Mainstone WI and friends we have made 18 blankets which are ready to be sent to the hospital in Shrewsbury.

Best wishes, Pat Morrison Bishop's Castle WI



Here at Whittington we are fortunate to have our wonderful castle where we have been meeting twice a month since the end of July to mid -October (in the correct social way). It has been a great source of pleasure to all the institute members and buying our coffees at the castle has helped there too. We even managed the litter pick. It has been a challenge that we have risen to, but it'll stretch our ingenuity over the next months. I'm sure when this nightmare is over, we'll be back stronger than ever!

Marian Young, Whittington WI

To keep the spirit of WI going we have been meeting on a fortnightly basis on a Monday morning at 10.30 for a socially distanced walk. Our numbers have swelled from 5 walkers to 9 so this week we had to walk in 2 bubbles. Our ladies are amazed how far we walk without noticing the distance- this could be down to the varied conversation.

We have been venturing out in all weather with a flask and include a refreshment stop at a suitable point on route. It is amazing how many topics of conversation we touch on, it is so refreshing for everyone to have a chat in person during these strange times.

Linda Martin - President Clun



During the recent lockdown Lea Cross WI members have been knitting squares to make into blankets for patients in Shrewsbury and Telford hospitals suffering with dementia. So far they have delivered twelve completed blankets and continue to make more. The blankets help patients, especially those with dementia, to find their way back to their beds more easily, and also to see the edge more easily when getting in and out of bed. They also provide a more homely feel to the wards. The blankets are then taken home when patients are discharged.



### 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

If restrictions allow, March 2021 Newsletters will be available for collection from Monday 22 February 2021 from County Office, 9 Park Plaza SY1 3AF. Please arrange collection time, thank you.

## ENCLOSURES FOR SECRETARIES

Lady Denman Cup Schedule  
and Entry Form 2021

E-copy Yearbook

County News Mailing Dates

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