

North Yorkshire West Federation News

February 2021

In this edition: Latest News P2

Committee news P3-7

Zoom Fun & Opportunities P8-9

Climate Report P10-11

Around the Federation P12-13

Quiz



P14

Sticking together and finding support



Through uncertain times

Alma House Low St Agnesgate Ripon HG4 1NG 01765 606339 nywfwi@btconnect.com www.thewi.org.uk/ northyorkshirewest **Office Closed:** Until further notice. For the best phone numbers for available contacts, please see **page 2.**

9.30am –12pm & 1—3pm Find us on Twitter & Facebook NYWFWI Charity Reg. No. 513934

Important Notice

There is now no Federation Secretary and the trustees agreed to share this workload until later in 2021 when a further review will be taken before advertising and appointing a replacement secretary.

This now means if you require help from the federation you need to telephone, between 9.30am – 3.30pm Monday, Heather- 07973381320 Tuesday, Liz, - 07779 737953 Wednesday, **Office closed** Thursday, Anne - 07792348223 Friday, Liz–07779 737953

Or contact us via email: Julie: <u>j-a-clarke@hotmail.co.uk</u> Pauline: <u>Pauline.bowman@icloud.com</u>

And we will all do our best to answer your queries.

Answers to Quiz on page 14

| 7.24 | 14. Coronavirus | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 6. Edinburgh | 13. Hot spicey sauce | 20. The leaves |
| 5. Linen | 12. Gang | 19. Melanie Brown |
| 4. A hat | 11. Rabbit | AniW .81 |
| 3. Gates | 10. The peel | 17. Каоld Dahl |
| 2. Blue | 9. Fruits | 16. The North Sea |
| ı. Germany | 8. Gone with the wind | 15. Beetroot soup |

What are you doing to stay in touch?

Please email nywfnews@gmail.com with a report on what you are doing to support one another through the coronavirus. Don't forget to include your name and your WI name.

Do you have a set of photos of a memorable occasion that you would like to see shared in the Federation News? Get in touch at <u>nywfnews@gmail.com</u> with your name and WI!

Chairman's Update by Julie Clarke (j-a-clarke@hotmail.co.uk)



Well, here we are again total lockdown possibly until March; life seems as though it'll never get back to how we knew it. The only thing in my life that seems to carry on as normal is the farming routine, presently with snow to the back door feeding sheep twice a day, so no need to take daily exercise, just keep working!

Yesterday Anne Harrison and I held the first of the "Coffee and Chat" sessions, it was so good to see members and hear their amazing stories, learning things we never knew about one another. It proved so successful and all attendees joined in the conversations that an hour and a half passed so quickly without us realising where the time had gone. We have to thank Judith Stansfield and Hazel Smyth for arranging this session and now these are to continue on a fortnightly basis with different trustees leading the sessions, which are all on Zoom and free to join with no pre-bookings. So, if you haven't signed up yet why not have a go - I'm sure, judging from yesterday's success, you won't be disappointed.

I must thank all the members who attended the Annual Meeting in December. Since we normally hold our Annual Meeting in the Spring, we have decided that for this year we will hold our next meeting virtually, on Wednesday 14th April 2021. This time we will hold two sessions – one at 2.00pm and the other 7.00pm to allow more members to attend, so please put the date in your diary and look out for more information next month.

National have informed the Federation that the proposed Annual meeting has now been rearranged for the 8th June, still at the Albert Hall, London, but with reduced attendees. So, we now await our allocation of delegates and once we are given that information, we will consult with you again. As many of you are aware, Fridays have been the day when the Office has sent out weekly bulletins of all important issues which need to be brought to your attention for your action, so please keep checking these important bulletins, so you don't miss out on any important issues.

Lastly, I want to thank all Institutes who have replied to our request for consultation on the amendments to the Constitution these have been collected and sent to National, so we await the results; also Liz Whapples has collected your votes on the Resolutions and these have gone to National as well.



I wonder what you will be enjoying at your monthly meeting? We in Coverdale are having a Zoom Flower Arranging demonstration, so whatever you are doing, do take advantage and enjoy the meeting, although it will be using technology, as it appears it could be quite a while before we can all meet face to face again. So if you haven't embraced this way of joining and you have the equipment, go on have a go and if you need help to get started, why not consult Hazel, our Digital Champion, by email web.nwyorkswi@yahoo.co.uk, she'll only be too pleased to get you started.

Julie

Reports from Committees

Treasurer's Report *by Pauline Bowman (pauline.bowman@icloud.com)*



Any queries on anything to do with WI Finance, don't hesitate to contact me directly on my personal email above, or nvwfwi.treasurer@btconnect.com. Whichever way your query reaches me, I am always happy to help.

I hope those of you that attended very sharp eye on the Federation the recent Membership zoom funds and looking meeting found this worthwhile. opportunity days.' As I write this, it has just opportunity to purchase continues. been announced that we are back into lockdown. By the time you I'm sure we are all aware that read this we should be seeing the changes will need to happen when light at the end of the tunnel and we are eventually able to open up restrictions will hopefully be lifting again. We will need soon. I really hope everyone has your support then, stayed safe and that your WI has more than ever. Take helped to keep you going. In my care, stay safe. role as Treasurer, I am keeping a

at everv to generate some Let's hope it is not too long before income. Thank you to everyone we can meet face to face as we did that has accepted my challenge and in what feels like 'in the good old purchased 200 club tickets, the

Arts and Leisure by Heather Stoney (hjstoney48@gmail.com)

Because we write our articles in we did not have any advance to allow printing and winners, but a huge thank you distribution, situations change goes out to the ladies who did and we find ourselves in difficult take part – hopefully 2021 is our circumstances.

Coronavirus is not going to leave The topic for 2021 is "Let me us in the forthcoming months, we have to stay positive, as hard as that may be but predominantly we have to stay safe and communicate with each other in whatever form it

may be, sometimes there is July nothing better than a telephone Federation Office. call.

As I write this, it is snowing very All details can be found on My hard, but positive thinking tells WI, if you do not have access to me all the spring bulbs are technology, ask a WI friend to protected under their fluffy contact covering of clean white snow. Ah histonev48@gmail.com thoughts of spring and sunshine! will forward a copy to you via One task you may wish to do is - your friend. 'The Lady Denman Schedule for 2021.' Why not try summer we are hoping to host your hand at writing a 500-word some article? Α especially when we are all at situation we are in. Doesn't the home.

National last year. After final Stay safe and stay in touch with judging had taken place, sadly each other.

vear.

show you what a woman can do!"

The competition is being held in partnership with the National Gallery. We have until Friday 30th

to send entries to

email me bv and Ι

Cup Looking forward during the outdoor activities. great challenge, according to rules and the thought of freedom and warm We forwarded three entries to days cheer you up? It does me!

Resolution Results

These are the results of voting from members:

- 1. A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer = 265
- 2. Stop women dying prematurely from coronary heart disease = 195
- 3. Racism and discrimination = 61
- 4. Protect your nature space to create wildlife-friendly communities = 67
- 5. Stop the destruction of peat bogs to tackle climate change = 90



<u>Public Affairs</u> by Liz Whapples (liz.whapples@gmail.com)

I wonder how all of you are progressing through February particularly during this difficult time. Did any of you manage to get involved in two events associated with last month to do with lifestyle. These events were:

Veganuary - which was established to encourage people to try veganism for the month of January. A definition of Veganism "It is a philosophy and a way of living which seeks to exclude as far as is possible and practicable, the use of animals by man for food, commodities, work, hunting, vivisection and by all other uses involving exploitation of animal life by man". So vegans have a plant-based diet which includes all kinds of fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, seeds, beans and pulses Januarv was also associated with Drv January which aims for people to have conversations regarding alcohol - why do we drink it, what damage does it cause to one's body and to one's wallet? Studies have shown that over the last 9 months, people's alcohol consumption has risen. So by abstaining for the whole of January we have the chance to ditch the hangover, reduce the waistline and the opportunity to save some cash and generally improve our well-being. One good way of doing this is to be sponsored so that not only do we benefit, but so does a charity, and with all charities suffering a loss of funds because of Covid-19 this is an excellent way of helping to raise much needed funds. Just because January is over if you did manage to look at taking part in Dry January or in fact trying Veganism, why not have a go in February – it is never too late.

Get on Board for a Better Bus Service is one of our current campaigns and, more than ever, we need to be considering what we can do to raise awareness and campaign for a better service. COVID-19, lockdown and social distancing are all having a massive effect on bus services. Passenger revenue is dropping off the proverbial cliff face, frequencies and routes are being cut back to the bone and staff are being furloughed in an attempt to make



ends meet with the support of **Margon** Government grants. A recent survey has shown that:-

20% of bus commuters feel that they will use public transport less after lockdown 57% of bus commuters will reduce their use of public transport due to fear of illness

27% of bus commuters have found other ways of making their public transport journeys

So, as we can see, nearly thirty percent of bus commuters have found new ways of making their journeys and it appears that they anticipate continuing this once the pandemic has come to an end. Our buses provide a vital service for many people, especially those in rural areas, to get to work and to education and also to the doctor or the chemist, and currently the Government is providing support to bus companies so that buses can be kept on the road. So, it is vital that we start preparing now for life after lockdown, as we do not want to see any more bus routes being permanently cut and those living in rural areas being further isolated.

Plant Britain

A campaign to plant 750,000 trees across the UK has been launched by HRH the Prince of Wales in conjunction with BBC's Countryfile programme and The Woodland Trust. The two-year plan will encourage people to plant and grow trees in an effort to help tackle the worsening climate crisis. The BBC said the 750,000 target was selected to match the number of <u>children</u> who will be starting primary school in September. Any type of tree can be planted – all work in the same way. A process called Photosynthesis takes place in every leaf. This process requires water, carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) and sunlight and the products are food (which the tree needs for growth) and oxygen. Your sapling (young tree) may be grown anywhere permissible or, of course, your own garden and you can check its progress throughout the year. Even a

window box will do. It is amazing how many small trees can be accommodated in a good-sized window box. The initiative, called Plant Britain, was launched towards the end of 2020 in a special episode of the programme and comes after new government figures revealed the UK is falling far behind on its tree-planting targets and levels needed to help tackle the climate crisis. We can all do our bit: garden, window box or wood designated as part of the campaign. The latter are scattered throughout Britain but not all are yet designated as part of Plant Britain. If you want to find out more, search for Plant Britain on your laptop. This is something for everyone to be involved with, to do their bit for the environment as well as their own mental health and wellbeing. Why not add "I will plant a tree in 2022" to your next year's list of Resolutions? Finally look out for Zoom in February two events which I think will be extremely

worthwhile. Our very own Felicity **Jennings** on the 13th February will be presenting Green Heart Crafting Show the love this February and your support for this popular WI campaign by making green hearts with Felicity from Felicity Crafts. All you need is green paper, scissors and a glue stick. Of course they can also be made in another colour for Valentine's Day too. Graham Smith a retired Scientist will be presenting on the 22nd February – Climate Change Is it worth making personal change? The first part of the presentation covers the evidence for and against climate change and then looks at how governments are interpreting and responding to the data. The second part looks at the impact of personal change so that individuals can decide for themselves whether they wish to act or not and the final section provides 'painless' ideas on how to make changes should one wish to do so.

Membership Support by Sue Armstrong (smea48@yahoo.co.uk)

Well as Spring is just around the year; we will let you know corner, we are looking forward to as soon as we have a more workshops, as we may still be under some form of restriction. But with vaccine being distributed to the first then vulnerable, elderly hopefully we will be in a better place very soon.

Our thoughts are to have а Presidents' and Secretaries' 0&A session in March via Zoom, if we cannot meet in one venue safely.

We will be looking at working as a team with your committee members, encouraging members to come along and see what you are doing for your WI. We will be looking at how we can help you boost your membership, especially for the long term.

This information may come as a newsflash as the Treasurers' Q&A did, which was a great success. We also intend to do more workshops over the

definite way on how best to hold these.

If you have any queries please get in touch with your adviser, or adviser helper. If you're unsure whom to contact, a list of advisers is available on our Federation Website. If you're unable to locate it, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at my details above.

Lastly, can I say a big thank to all your Committee who have kept their WIs informed with what news is

around their area and Federation and National. You have worked tirelessly over the pandemic 2020, let's vear hope in 2021 we will



soon back to some form of normal.





Passcode: 452430 Everyone must have experienced the worst holiday of their life-come tell us about it with Anne Harrison and Heather Stoney with a cuppa!

ZOOM In for Fun by Judith Stansfield (judstass@gmail.com)

Here are some more interesting activities to distract and entertain vou during lockdown in February. If you missed the free Chat and Coffee sessions in January, come and join us now! Winter weather may prevent you getting out for physical activity, but you can join Emma for a more strenuous workout, or Susan for a gentler workout from your armchair. For bookings and details : https://yorkshire-north-west.thewi.org.uk/ nyw-zoom-along and Facebook page for future courses.

Thursday 4th February, 2pm and 7pm: Chat and Coffee: **Embarrassing Situations**

Meeting ID: 812 4320 6206 Passcode: 452430 The third of a new series where members can join Liz Whapples and Sue Butters for a Zoom session with their own cuppa-this time, reminiscing our embarrassing moments!

Tuesday 9th February, 7pm: Easy Gardening Martin Fish will be taking you through some exciting improvements you can make to your garden-for gardeners of any experience level!

Thursday 11th February, 7pm: Valentines Delights Treat your sweetheart with something sweet with Elizabeth Fawcett.

Saturday 13th February, 10:30am: Green Heart Crafting

Join Felicity Jennings to show your support for this popular WI campaign from Felicity Crafts.

Tuesday 16th February, 2pm and 7pm: Chat and Coffee: Horrible Holidavs

Meeting ID: 812 4320 6206







Thursday 18th February, 2pm: Chill Out with a Real Artist

Stephen Waterhouse will be talking about what inspired his artwork for picture books, posters and original artwork as well as explaining the process behind creating it all.

Monday 22nd February, 7pm: Climate Change-Is it Worth Making Personal Change?

This presentation with Graham Smith covers the evidence for and against climate change and reveals how painless the changes you can make can be!

Tuesday 23rd February, 11am, £3.00: Fight the Flab Gently

Susan Cunningham, as a qualified exercise teacher, will be leading a some armchair aerobics to keep yourself healthy from a stable chair.

Thursday 25th February, 2pm: We Didn't Take Any Fault: A North Yorkshire

have a show and tell at the end!

Thursday 25th February 7pm £3.00: Zoom Fitness

Join Emma Stoney in the comfort of your own home and get fit with strength and conditioning sessions.

village in World War II Vivienne Rivis will be giving a talk about life in Burton Leonard during the Second World War. If you have any small items of memorabilia, bring them along and we can



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Challenging Climate Change by Wendy Knight, Ure with Leuburn WI



Trees and Woodland regeneration

This Christmas we exchanged gifts with family or friends on the driveway, or by post. Still connected, just differently so!

Two books I received, which have inspired and entertained me through long evenings are:

Trees and Woodland in the British Landscape, by Oliver Rackham. It charts the development and changes to woodland in the UK from prehistoric times. This is a 'dip in' read.

An English Pastoral, by James Rebanks, a Lake District farmer, who is working to include nature rich areas on his land. Compelling and inspiring. A hard life, but a rewarding one.

A forest is not just a stand of tightly packed trees; should you visit

will find Thetford Forest, you ล wonderfullv environment. diverse stands of trees of different species and ages, with clearings lightly grazed at times by the County Council's roving sheep flocks and native ponies. Α healthy bio-rich forest comprises mature trees, young saplings, rough scrub, hedge plants, clearings, natural pasture, brambles, ferns, and fungi. But most of the fungi are invisible.



Trees - the Wood Wide Web

Did you know that trees are not just interconnected in the canopy, or even by their root system underground, but by a vast web of underground fungi, through which they share resources such as sugars and other chemical markers and some, like the black walnut, spread toxins to kill nearby rivals! This web also supports parasitic plants, like orchids, which tap into nutrients. Research also indicates that if trees are attacked by other organisms, they can send chemical signals through the network, which give other trees more preparedness to withstand attack.

However, this complex web of mutual support is damaged by heavy machinery. That solitary mature tree you see in the middle of a wheat field may not be as healthy as it could or should be. Similarly, heavy cultivation right up to hedgerows damages the fungal system too. Recently farmers have been leaving a wide strip along field margins, I have posted a short piece about this from Radio 4 on our Facebook page: **NYWFWI Climate Change Action.** Just put that in your FB search to visit the page.

Leaving an area uncultivated looks after the trees and hedgerows, and encourages wild flowers and wildlife. A win win.

Not all fungus is good!

Our landscape is rapidly and dramatically changing due to Ash Die-back. Ash is the 3rd commonest UK tree - 80 million or so in the UK, used extensively 25 years ago when farmers were grant aided to plant trees in hedgerows. Of 59 hedgerow local ash trees, 56 show signs of Ash Die-Back. The bad news is that it has been in UK since 2012; the fungal spores travel for miles on the wind and on birds' feet and it is likely to kill 90+% of native ash.

However, Ash is genetically diverse and reproduces readily by seed, unlike Elm which is cloned so hopefully, some individual trees will recover. For that reason tree specialists advise not to rush to cut down all diseased ash trees; it won't stop the spread, and dead or dying ash

(providing they don't pose a threat to health), still provide perching, nesting and roosting opportunities. Where they grow in mixed woodland, away from the public, they can be left to fall, and create a rich habitat on the forest floor. Some trees may eventually recover and removing them prematurely will hinder the process of the species building resistance to the fungus.



Meanwhile, tree planting must continue apace.

And, to end on a positive note, Extinction Rebellion have rescued and replanted at least 30,000 oak saplings across the country after nursery owners said they could be forced to destroy over 750,000 saplings



because of delays to government tree planting programmes.

Trees are available through XR Rewilding's 'Save the Oaks Campaign'. To find out more go to <u>https://savetheoaks.org/</u>

There is solace in nature. So, let's continue the journey of reconnecting!

Around the Federation

What We Did in 2020

by Beverley, President of Wythit WI

We have only missed one meeting - coach. Judith proceeded to tell us April and have had to adapt each how she had reinvented her career month according to the restrictions from HR Professional to business going from Plan A to Plan B to Plan owner and now coach. This was C to Plan D and I think now we're followed by on Plan E! At the time of writing, incorporating our feelings during we're also consulting members on these unprecedented times what they would like to do for the lockdown and coping with life Christmas activity!

March (face to face meeting) - A lives post-pandemic. fun evening on Sunday (oh yes it The evening was very thought was) from Panto Dame Ian Johnson provoking who gave us a talk all about the everyone to reassess how we are history and traditions of the Panto - living. Thank you to Judith for a Ian also runs a charity 4+20 which really interesting talk. Further info gives grants to young people in can be found at education. further starting who soon for anyone fancies some thigh-slapping).

general catch up and natter.

June - What a great Zoom talk we distanced natter and catch up. had last night by Helen Neave from Some couldn't come and others Make it Wild about how to bring were put off by the bad weather but nature foraging for food and medicinal Wythit! Next month picnic with purposes (info provided by Helen celebratory surprise!! Compton, Herbalist). Informative, beautiful photos and definitely food for thought! Take a look at the Make it Wild website - loads to see and items to buy.

July -A zoom talk and interactive workshop entitled "Life after Lockdown" with Judith Wardell, a former local midlife and retirement

а fun exercise of during the covid-19 pandemic as well as how we might adapt our

and encouraged

(Auditions www.timeofvourlife.me.uk

August - The rain can't stop us hardy Wythit WI ladies! We finally May - First Zoom meeting having a had our first face to face meet up since March and took shelter for a really good. outside. socially into your garden and hey, we're back together again! Go



September - Fab get together and tricky questions (Who knows how picnic in the park in our 6 bubble many dots are in a braille letter) for us Wythit ladies with a scrummy followed by Handbag Bingo another celebratory ice cream and cupcakes very revealing game (some strange - we know how to throw a Socially things discovered in the depths of Distanced party.

October - our meeting on Sunday We've not had all our ladies (Zoom) was a talk by Health Watch attending the Zoom meetings but North Yorkshire very interesting we've not had a bad turnout and informative lots of suggestions generally and we've and experiences exchanged - they promoting the Zoom workshops are always looking for volunteers - available - Denman and NYWFWI. go Wythit changing the world (well, Wythit also had a change of North Yorkshire) one meeting at a time.

meet ups weekends:

Karen, Pat, me and Oscar for tea and cake at Mainsgill in the blustery rain.

and then Linda, Bobby, Frances, Ann, Pat and me had a great crafty natterfest with tea and biscuits in Linda's outside pergola (beautiful!!). It was so nice to see each other. Show vour us gingerbread men ladies... And a lovely coffee and cake natter at a member's house (when it was still allowed).

November - A fun evening was had at our WI Zoom meeting on Sunday we had a quiz with some

our bags) maybe time for a clear out!

also been Zoom secretary who hasn't yet had chance to do any meet ups with the Also, three lovely couple of informal Committee or President to get a feel over the various for her role, but all-in good time...



Send a report to Federation News

If you attend a Federation or National event and would like to submit a report and pictures, please email nywfnews@gmail.com. Don't forget to include your name and your WI name, along with pictures attached as jpeg files (NOT pasted into your report). Reports should usually be no more than 300 words, and may be edited for publication.

Quiz

- 1. Where is the Black Forest?
- 2. What colour is the shade of cobalt?
- 3. Which Bill is one of the world's richest men?
- 4. What is a tamoshanter?
- 5. Which fabric comes from flax?
- 6. Which city is furthest West Liverpool or Edinburgh?
- 7. How many hours from Tulsa was Gene Pitney in 1963?
- 8. Which was the first colour film to win an Oscar?
- 9. From which part of the plant is the spice coriander made?
- 10. What is the epicarp of an orange?
- 11. Coney is the fur of which animal?
- 12. What is a group of elk called?
- 13. What is piri-piri?
- 14. What is the anagram of 'carnivorous'?
- 15. What kind of food is borscht?
- 16. Which sea surrounds Heligoland?
- 17. Who is the author of Willie Wonka and the chocolate factory?
- 18. How do you nictitate at someone?
- 19. Which Spice Girl was once in Emmerdale?
- 20. Which part of the rhubarb plant is poisonous?

Answers on Page 2

Recipe of the Month: Italian Sausage Stew

Being at home so much, I've being trying lots of recipes from magazines, and this was one that got the thumbs up from my husband! It is colourful, very easy and doesn't take long. There are lots of vegetables, and is good served with warm crusty bread and butter to soak up the juices. Serves 4.

Ingredients

6 large pork sausages 1 tbsp vegetable oil 200g (70z) red onion chopped 1 yellow pepper 1 red pepper { Both peppers deseeded, cut into large dice 2 garlic cloves, crushed 1 bay leaf 2 stems fresh thyme 70g (2.50z) tomato puree 450g (1lb) tomatoes, cut into quarters 4 tbsp red wine 350ml (12 floz) chicken or vegetable stock Seasoning Chopped parsley to garnish

<u>Method</u>

- 1. Slit the sausages along their length and peel away the skins, then cut into thick slices. Heat the oil in a large frying pan or casserole, add the sausage pieces and cook over medium heat for 5 mins or until browned.
- 2. Add the red onion, peppers, garlic, bay leaf and thyme, fry 5 mins.
- 3. Mix in tomato paste, then add quartered tomatoes and red wine. Cook, stirring for a minute or two, then pour in the stock to just cover everything.
- 4. Season, bring to the boil, then reduce heat and simmer uncovered for about 10 mins until the tomatoes are softened but still hold their shape and the sauce has reduced a little. Add more stock if needed.
- 5. Discard the bay leaf. Sprinkle with parsley, then ladle into bowls and serve with warm bread and butter.

Could you share a recipe?

Do you have a favourite recipe that has proved a hit at WI events? Send it in to Alma House and we might share it in Federation News!



NYWF's Stance on Coronavirus

The Federation office at Alma House is still closed and will remain so until further notice.

Telephone calls will be answered but we would appreciate you trying to keep these to a minimum. Please see page 2 for further details.

There will be NO regular postal correspondence from the Federation and WI Secretaries are urged to check for email communications daily.

If anyone is aware of a Secretary that does not use email please pass this message on, asking them to contact the office for help.

Any notices, updates or announcements will be posted on Facebook and our Website.

Please bear with us during this difficult period but do not hesitate to contact any Trustee or your Adviser if you need help, we will do our best to help you.

