



## Chairman's Tête-à-Tête

Hello again everyone. What a beautiful September day it's been today, around 26c with a gentle breeze. Graham & I went to pick blackberries, there are so many on the hedgerows, I've got enough to make a blackberry and apple pie and freeze some for later and we only walked for about a mile. A couple of weeks ago, we picked sloes, I've set some Sloe Vodka, I don't like Gin very much and apparently it works well with vodka - we'll see.

Also today I watched two spitfires flying over us on their way to Duxford to commemorate the Battle of Britain, the sound of their engines is unmistakable even to those of us who don't actually remember them flying in anger, how fantastic that they are still flying after all these years. They are the grand old ladies of the sky but still so agile. Who will ever forget the flypast for Captain Tom his face lit up, his memories were evident. Then they flew off and wagged their wings meaning goodbye, lump in the throat time I think!

I hope you are enjoying our Zoom talks, many of you have found them but I'd love for more of you to join in. Are there any topics you've really enjoyed or any you'd like to hear, please let the office or me know and we'll try to find speakers, if you know a speaker who'd do a talk for us, that would be great and please let us know that as well.

I thought I'd end with an extract first learnt at school from my favourite Autumn poem, thank you Miss Roberts for teaching it to us. So from *To Autumn* by John Keats:

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;

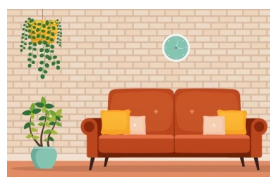
Doesn't it just sum up this golden time of year. Speak to you all again soon.

Julie Higgins, Federation Chairman

**Hello from the WI Office** Quite literally this fortnight, as I have moved back into the Federation office with Rachel Sparks. Although separated by Perspex and doused in hand sanitizer it's wonderful to be back. Don't forget if you're popping in we just ask you to wear a face mask to keep us safe.

This week we took part in Lucie Pankhurst's Let's Dance. Social distancing meant I was shimmying about the office and Rachel S was doing jazz hands in the meeting room. Lucie was a fantastic teacher and so encouraging, I felt like I could go semi-professional by the end! If you've been thinking about signing up to any of our online events then I would urge you to step out of your comfort zone and go for it! You never know what skills might be hiding inside you.

Don't forget to keep sending your articles, the cut off for next issue is 28 September. I'm off to practice my jazz hands ♡ Rachel Hows, Federation Secretary



## EVENTS

### Suffolk West On Your Sofa

£4 per person and open to all,  
join in with your family and  
friends.

- Monday 21 September, 7.30pm  
*Leonardo da Vinci, the makings of a genius*
- Wednesday 23 September, 7.30pm  
*Architecture and Politics*
- Thursday 24 Sept, 7.30pm  
*Viking Adventure, from Stavanger to Honningvåg*

To book contact the WI office on  
[office.swfwi@gmail.com](mailto:office.swfwi@gmail.com)

Watch this space for more events in October.

Stay up to date follow us on:



Click the icon and it will take you straight to our page.



**Obituary** Members of Kedington WI were saddened to learn that past member Joan Russell had passed away recently. Joan had been WI Secretary for 25 years until having to give up through ill health and moving into a care home near her family. Joan was a very active member, always

joining in trips out and Federation events. She was well known in the village as she used to own the grocery shop, she was also secretary of the Friendship Club and helped at the village school with reading.

Linda Stearn, President

*Along with Kedington WI, Suffolk West offer their condolences to Joan's family and friends.*

## Public Affairs Memo: WI campaign news

### NFWI want your best food waste saving tips!

UK households waste 4.5m tonnes of food a year that could have been eaten. That waste is worth £14billion and household food waste in the UK has increased by nearly a third as lockdown restrictions have eased. NFWI are compiling a list of tips on how to reduce your household waste and want to hear from you!

Get in touch with your best and most creative tips for reducing household food waste at [pa@nfwl.org.uk](mailto:pa@nfwl.org.uk)

**Stay up to Date!** 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, you can also find it on the SWFWI website [here](#)

**SWFWI PA Committee** If you've got passion in you and want to make a difference, why not get involved with our own PA committee. Contact Gwen Williams (PA Chairman) [gwenwilliams55@googlemail.com](mailto:gwenwilliams55@googlemail.com) for more information.



## The Hive is Buzzing



Connection! How important has this been to us all since we were first locked down in March. Whether it's our families, friends, work colleagues or our WIs, keeping in touch has been essential.

The Advisers have recently contacted all WIs in the Suffolk West Federation to find out if the Hive is reaching our membership. The results are extremely encouraging with over two thirds of our members receiving the Hive by email and many more having printed copies delivered to their door. We must congratulate our WI Secretaries for the excellent job they are doing in distributing the Hive.

The Hive has kept us connected throughout the difficult times of the past months. A huge thank you to Rachel Hows and all the members who have contributed to its success with interesting articles, quizzes, recipes and jokes to keep us smiling.

Printed copies of The Hive are now available from the WI Office at 11p per issue plus postage, if they cannot be collected. We appreciate that it hasn't always been easy to hand deliver correspondence but with many of us now able to move freely around it might be a preferred option for the Federation to print your hard copies.

Our aim is for all members to receive a copy of each issue of The Hive, thereby, enabling us all to connect with the wider WI family of Suffolk West.

Sue Beavan & Maggie Glavin, WI Advisers

## Knitted Hearts



My Wish Charity are in need of your knitting expertise ladies! After

a recent hand out their stock of knitted hearts is depleted and they desperately need the fatter filled hearts which are given to patients.

**Can you help?** You can send your hearts to Sally Daniels, My Wish Charity, West Suffolk Hospital, Hardwick Lane, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 2QZ.

A pattern for the filled hearts can be found [here](#)

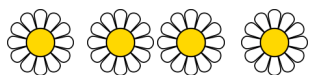
Thank you! As always My Wish are extremely grateful for the support from our wonderful Suffolk West WIs.



**ACWW Corner:** Our representative Val Simpson keeping you up to date with the latest ACWW news.

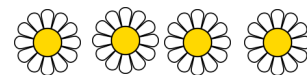
Your total raised so far this year is ...

£1745.93 – a great effort in the current situation. This money will support women and girls via projects like that at the Kiwanyi Health Centre in Uganda, where installation of four solar panels will ensure an adequate power supply and better care of mothers and babies. Well done Suffolk West ladies!



## The Daisy Chain

Linking together our WI members across the county



*Please note the WI meetings below took place prior to 14th September when the UK Government introduced a ban on gatherings, indoors or outdoors, of more than 6 people. Please make sure your WI and sub-groups complies with the latest Government guidance.*

**Fornham All Saints WI** At last, we were able to meet after almost six months! How pleased we were to each other, socially distanced of course. We were welcomed to the beautiful garden of Gillian & John Grinham on a lovely August afternoon.



Although we had taken our own refreshments, after careful consultation with the WI office, we discovered we could serve bought food. So, Gillian kindly provided enormous scones, jam and clotted cream with help from 'Mr Waitrose'. Much discussion and laughter followed, jam or cream first? Everyone had their own preference. We plan to meet in the village hall (subject to what guidelines are in place) on 13th October, when Helen Hillier will be giving a flower arranging demonstration.

Elizabeth Gingell, Joint President

**Horringer Court WI** It was so lovely to see everyone and despite a venue change we are all fine. Apologies were received and minutes approved from our March meeting! Our guest speaker was writer and composer, television and film producer and director, Charles Garland and what a brilliant evening we had.

We have also started a walking group whilst the weather is nice. We've been walking round the fields of Horringer with the pungent smell of onions from the harvest. Being WI Ladies we all came prepared with Tupperware boxes to collect



blackberries although we thought that if they appeared on a menu they might be listed as "wild foraged brambles" and charged twice the amount! What this space for the next walk.

Lucy Fromings, WI Member

**Stanton WI** During our September outdoor meeting, we played a hilarious game of charades. This is Viv acting one of her titles with great gusto. We had a really fun time.



And here's another photo of, this time of Lynda being helped to do the quiz by Basil the collie.

Maureen Johnson, President

**Barton Mills WI** On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September a group of members met on the Recreation Ground at Barton Mills. We brought our own chairs and refreshments and enjoyed an hour and a half in the sun. It was the first chance many had had to see their friends since our last meeting in March. It was good to catch up with news and to see how we all coped with lockdown.



Our plan was to repeat this in October but with the new government guidelines this may not be possible. We are all looking forward to the resumption of our meetings.

Marilyn Badger, Secretary





**Christmas 2020** *It's a sweltering September day, but we've said it! We've mentioned the unthinkable, as another Christmas creeps up on us. Can you believe it? We can't, but it got us thinking ahead to how we could celebrate it in these different times...*

This year has certainly brought us all some mixed emotions, we have missed out on many of the things in life that make it fun. At the end of this year we would have held our Centenary Carol Celebration but this won't be possible, however, the Board are determined not to let this occasion pass by.

We are inviting members to send in their recollections. We would love to see your photos, drawings, poems and reminiscences of Christmas. Your memories do not have to be of your

childhood Christmases, although they can be and it can also be of memories of things that happened around Christmas not just Christmas Day itself. Your thoughts will be put together in a special Christmas Bumper Edition of The WI Hive. The Board are also considering putting together a presentation featuring your memories, so let's have plenty of them please and we'll feature as many as we can.

Please email your photos, memories, stories, poems, paintings or drawings to the WI office: [office.swfwi@gmail.com](mailto:office.swfwi@gmail.com). All submissions must be at the office no later than Monday 16 November.

Thank you all very much, we look forward to seeing lots of lovely, interesting, poignant Christmassy things, let's at least leave this year on a fun, happy and thought provoking note.

Julie Higgins, Federation Chairman

**LAST CALL for 2021 WI Diaries** Treat yourself to the 2021 WI diary. They are £5.50 each, including P&P. To order yours please return the form below by **30th September** to the WI Office with payment by cheque or BACS.

✂.....Please detach and return.....

Name: .....

WI: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Tel: .....

Number of diaries: ..... Total: £.....

Paid by (please tick): BACS ☐ cheque ☐

### Office Information

Address: WI Office, Unit 11, Park Farm Business Centre, Fornham St Genevieve, Suffolk, IP28 6TS  
Tel: 01284 336645

Email: [office.swfwi@gmail.com](mailto:office.swfwi@gmail.com)

Reg. Charity Number: 1179294

Open Tuesday-Thursday 10am-4pm

Any payments can be made to SWFWI by BACS  
Sort Code: 089299 | Account number: 65868449  
(please include a reference) or cheque.

### Founders Day Photo Challenge *A moment in time...*



Don't forget, we're asking all our members to take part in our photo challenge to celebrate Suffolk West's 100th birthday on Thursday 29 October!

All you have to do is take a photograph at 12 noon on 29 October depicting what you are doing at that very moment. You could be enjoying a crisp autumn walk, or a nice cup of tea at your kitchen table or be beaver away at work, where ever you are grab your camera, mobile phone or tablet (however you prefer to take pictures) and snap yourself (or ask someone to take it for you).

And if you do happen to be lucky enough to be abroad then the timing is 12 noon wherever you maybe, whether that is 12 noon in Britain or 12 noon in Australia.

We plan to exhibit all entries at the 2021 Federation Annual Meeting.

You can send your entry as a printed copy to the WI office or a digital copy via email to [office@swfwi@gmail.com](mailto:office@swfwi@gmail.com). Please make sure you include your name & WI. Entries must be submitted by **30<sup>th</sup> November 2020**.

We look forward to seeing your snaps and celebrating our very special 100th birthday with you.

