



## Chairman's Tête-à-Tête

Hello Everyone and welcome to the first edition of The Hive for September. Yes I did say September, the first month of meteorological autumn and hasn't it made a good start, lots of sunny hours, warm but not oppressive like some of the days in August. On those very hot days even Slater sat in front of the fan cooling off. This is an object that until then was on his list of dislikes - the nasty white blowy thing for a few days became the 'out of my way, I want to lie on the mat in front of this lovely cool breezy thing'!

Then there was the rain....oh my word! I've entertained a few people with this story but it's worth repeating as looking back on it, it's very funny. Graham and I went out for a walk early evening on one of the very hot days as we couldn't deal with the daytime temperature. I was on my trusty scooter as long walks are not easy with my bandaged leg as you know and it had only been re-dressed that day by one of the lovely District Nurses who loves bandages and I'm treated to as many as possible!! As we were going down the lane, I looked across the field and said, it's getting very dark, should we turn back, no Graham said we'll go as far as the horse and see him then go back. The horse is in a field almost into Barrow so about a mile from home, he's a beautiful skewbald and we always say hello when we're passing, I've yet to discover his name. We got to the said horse, turned round went about 100 yards and there was a cloud burst, we tried to shelter under a tree but it was the most pathetic specimen you've ever seen and afforded no shelter whatsoever! We decided to keep going, me worrying what happened if the water got into the scooter's battery, do they self destruct...I don't know! A car went past and drenched us even further. We got home and opened the back door, stood in the kitchen and threw all our wet clothes onto the stone floor then into the washing machine. Please don't upset yourselves with the thought of this, it wasn't pretty. I sat with a fleece dressing gown on for the rest of the evening getting warm again. What about my bandage - it was saturated right through, so Graham spent the next half hour removing all the sodden dressings and replacing with spare ones! Actually he was complimented by the nurse for his bandaging skills the next time she came and the story amused her and I hope you have been likewise amused.

We need something to make us smile with this ongoing situation don't we? Please take note of all the interesting talks we have on offer via Zoom, your friends and family can join in too if they wish, why not try a subject you don't know anything about, it's great value for £4. If you need help please speak to the Rachels at the office who are only too happy to help. Speak again soon. Julie Higgins, Federation Chairman

**Hello from the WI Office** I found my way back from the North Yorkshire moors, and even more exciting I'm pleased to say I will be back in the WI Office from Tuesday 15 September! If you're popping in to see us we ask for your own safety and ours that you wear a mask. If you forget your mask don't worry, we will have disposables available.

Rachel S has been busy decluttering (haven't we all) and we have a piano FREE to a good home. It is out of tune and in need of some love, but if you know someone who wants it let us know by 24 September!

The deadline for articles for the next issue is 14 September. I look forward to hearing from you ♡

Rachel Hows, Federation Secretary

## Office Information

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

**Tea Time Quiz Answers (Issue 11):** 1. Latex  
2. Liffey 3. Lurcher 4. Lecturn 5. Barbican



## Public Affairs Memo: WI campaign news

### End Modern Slavery

What is modern slavery? Slavery is an umbrella term for activities involved when one person obtains or holds another person in compelled service.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> August 1834 the Slavery Abolition Act 1833 came into force, outlawing slavery throughout the British colonies, but today there are tens of thousands of victims of modern slavery hiding in plain sight in the UK. The estimated number of modern slavery victims in the UK is 10-13,000, that's people of all ages and gender being forced to do something against their will and their freedom.

The NFWI 2020 Resolution calls upon WI members to raise awareness of the prevalence of modern slavery throughout society and to campaign to defeat it. Modern slavery is a complex crime that takes a number of different forms. It encompasses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour, child marriages and human trafficking.

The NFWI is aiming to push government to increase support and protection of victims. It also aims to increase awareness of the issue amongst WI members so that they can spot the signs and safely report concerns. In 2015 the UK passed the Modern Slavery Act which made a number of changes to make prosecuting traffickers easier and to increase sentences. This also required big UK businesses to publicly report on how they tackle slavery in their global supply chains and established a UK Anti Slavery Commissioner to oversee the UK's policies. However the Act has been criticised for focusing on policing and not providing protection for the victims.

But how can members actually raise awareness? NFWI advises that members can promote organisations that currently exist to report sightings of possible slavery. These include:

- [Unseen](#)
- [Anti-Slavery](#)
- [Freedom United](#)
- [The Salvation Army](#) (who run a confidential 24/7 helpline on 0300 3038151)

More information is available on [MyWI](#) under the Public Affairs tab; Resolutions 2019/20.

If you do see something you feel you should report, remember to report it safely.

Gwen Williams, SWFWI PA Chairman

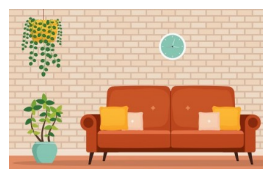
## Resolutions 2020/21: Discussion Meetings

The shortlist of approximately six resolutions will be published in the November issue of WI Life. The Federation would normally then hold discussion meetings when members could hear presentations from Advisers and the opportunity to ask questions.



This year we would like to know if you would be interested in either attending a meeting in late November in a large hall, with the necessary social spacing or take part in an online Zoom meeting. If there is sufficient interest, we will set up both meetings. Please let your secretary know by 11 September if you would like to participate in a) an actual meeting or b) a Zoom meeting.

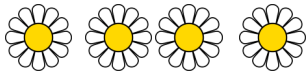
Brenda Dyer, SWFWI Resolution Adviser



### Suffolk West On Your Sofa

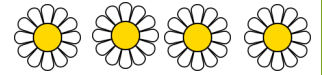
Don't forget we have launched a series of online events, only £4 per person and open to all.

- Friday 4 September, 7pm  
*Let's Dance* with Lucie Pankhurst
- Tuesday 8 September, 7.30pm  
*The Wonder known as Stem Cells*
- Wednesday 9 September, 7.30pm  
*'No enjoyment like reading': the importance of books in Jane Austen's novels*
- Thursday 10 September, 7.30pm  
*The role Pathology has had on medicine*
- Tuesday 15 September, 7.30pm  
*Zelda Fitzgerald the first flapper*
- **NEW DATE!** Wednesday 16 September, 2pm  
*Let's Dance* with Lucie Pankhurst\*  
\*Please note this is a repeat of 4 September
- Thursday 17 September, 2pm  
*Let's Craft: Make a Gift Bag*
- Monday 21 September, 7.30pm  
*Leonardo da Vinci, the makings of a genius*
- Wednesday 23 September, 7.30pm  
*Architecture and Politics*
- **AMENDED DATE!** Thursday 24 Sept, 7.30pm  
*Viking Adventure, from Stavanger to Honningvag*



# The Daisy Chain

Linking together our WI members across the county



**Wickhambrook WI Reading Group** Six members met at Ashfield Green Farm, in the Cartlodge, in keeping with current social distancing rules.

We had been reading novels by American author Curtis Sittenfeld



( Prep, American Wife, Sisterland, Man of my Dreams and Eligible) culled from Dorothy's bookshelves as the library is still closed.

Eligible, a modern take on Pride and Prejudice and American Wife, loosely based on the life of Laura Bush were enjoyed by two readers but in general she was not wildly popular. I think the gossipy style is a factor as you either like all the tiny details or just wish the author would get on with the story!

Audrey had been reading The Golden Fleece, a history of wool and knitting. It sounds dull, but is anything but. This is a fascinating book which had us all reminiscing about knitting and our successes and failures.

Good news! Haverhill Library is open for reservations! The staff have done well for us this year and we will look forward to next month's title The Cut Out Girl by Bart Van Es, a family memoir about Jewish children in wartime Holland.

Dorothy Anderson, WI President

**Sudbury QH WI** We have been very busy since Marie our President wrote back in April about our very own Sunflower Quality Herald Newsletter. We have continued with our newsletter interspersed with the very popular Hive and we are now getting ready to publish issue 13! The members love reading all the news and enjoy the regular quiz/anagram section and no publication would be complete without our chuckle corner! It has been our way of keeping in touch with everyone. Those not on email receive a newsletter through their letterbox.

We have as you can see from the photographs had lovely socially distanced committee meetings and organised a walk along our beautiful Water Meadows.



We are planning a get together in the Water Meadows in early

September too. We are looking forward to the future months and



hope in the not too distance future everything will return to normal but until then it is onwards and upwards in true WI style. Our warmest wishes to you all from the members of Sudbury QH WI.

Pauline Hatch, WI Secretary

**Stanton WI** Our first meeting since March was our garden meeting which should have been in the afternoon but it was so hot it had to be postponed till the evening. It was a lovely evening with at least half our members spread around our secretary's garden. Although the committee had been good in keeping in touch by email and phone it was good to chat face to face even if there were a few feet between us.

A few of us braved the outside world a few days later to run our promised bric a brac stall at the Stanton Fun Day. It was well set out with wide paths and one way markers and had quite a few stalls and agricultural machinery on show. It was very hot again but we had a gazebo to provide shade for us and quite a lot of goodies spread over the two tables including a lot of books. However after an hour the weather changed and down came the torrential rain! I have never seen as much horizontal rain so even with sheltering under the gazebo everyone and most things were soaked through. We tried to dry ourselves and the goods off but then came a second downpour and we had to admit defeat. Didn't make much money and ended up drying bits at home but still a day out for a change.



Brenda Last, SWFWI Treasurer and WI Member

**Beck Row WI** Just after Beck Row WI went into lockdown our Committee formed an email umbrella tree for members that had access to the internet. The Committee also took on six members each to telephone during this uncertain time. This covered members who did not have access to a computer. Over the months that followed, this proved to be very successful. I for one, have learned a lot about our ladies and their families which I never knew, as meeting once a month doesn't always give us time to get to know one another properly.

In the beginning it was all about how much tidying up and sorting out we had achieved. From de-cluttering cupboards to wardrobes, we seem to have got rid of a lot of stuff. Sorting out photographs has been invaluable to some members, bringing back many memories which have been shared.

Gradually we have opened up to one another about different problems and I have read sad stories and funny tales. It is surprising that when you have to spend so much time on your own how sending an email to a group of ladies becomes a vital communication for just chatting. Talking to family on Facetime or Zoom isn't the same as just gossiping about the weather, hair problems, dental problems or

just aches and pains that we generally have.

I've collected horse manure from one member at a social distance and been able to collect some herbs from another member's garden when I explained how I couldn't get them from the garden centre. One member has been giving tomato and pepper plants to anyone who wanted them and I've told the ladies about free online courses I've taken, from the History of Tudor Dress to Ancient Medicine in Roman times.

Ladies have spoken about trips out to get fresh vegetables and bread with such excitement and the thrill of getting dressed up and putting on a bit of make up. We've moaned about how hot it is and exchanged stories of wayward rabbits, foxes, deer and mice. We've discussed tv programmes, swapped puzzles and as time has gone on and things have changed we have heard about family meetings, birthday celebrations in the garden and the excitement of seeing loved ones in the flesh.

If there is a silver lining in all this uncertainty, I think what we have achieved in lockdown has brought us closer together. Through these emails and telephone calls I for one do not think of us as just a WI group anymore, I think of us as more of a WI family.

Lynda Law, WI Secretary

**RickingHall WI** We had the first 'tea and chat' with some members on a lovely August afternoon in Jenny, our President's garden, and it was good to see so many happy smiling faces. We were all socially distanced of course and the numbers were limited to 12. There was a lot of catching up over tea & cakes, donated by some of the committee and donations from the guests raised £46 for EACH. Many thanks to Jenny for her hard work ensuring a lovely setting.

Sadly we had lost one of our long standing members, Mary Baxter, at the beginning of the year, but her family has kindly passed on her large collection of WI albums to us and these were shown around. Much reminiscing, laughter and comments on the changes in fashion ensured the afternoon was a great success with fond memories of Mary's involvement in many activities.

We are planning to hold a further 'tea and chat' in September to enable other members to catch up and planning to have a full members meeting in October – lets hope we can all be meeting again soon.

Rosemary Setterfield, WI Member

### Cookery Corner

The blackberries are thriving in the hedgerows, why not take advantage and grab your jam pan, because this fortnight we have a delicious recipe for Blackberry Jam submitted by Ann Allison (Risby WI) from *Home Preserving* by Mary Norwak.



#### Ingredients:

6lb blackberries  
4 tps lemon juice  
1/4 pint of water  
6lb sugar

1. Wash the blackberries and remove any stems and unripe berries.
2. Put the fruit into a pan with the water and lemon juice and simmer until the fruit is very soft.
3. Stir in the sugar over low heat until dissolved.
4. Boil hard to setting point, pour into hot jars and cover.
5. Leave to set, for up to seven days.

*Enjoy!*