

Your Weekly Update From Your WI Federation

Week 6
14 May 2020

Dear W.I Secretaries, please distribute this update to your members with our best wishes.

To avoid becoming boring we have started this update with a quiz! Answers at the end.

General knowledge Quiz.

- Q1 How many teeth does an adult human have?
- Q2 What is the largest bird of prey in the World?
- Q3 In which sport do you use a shuttlecock?
- Q4 Who is the fifth in line to the British throne?
- Q5 What is the largest state in America?
- Q6 What is the capital of Hawaii?
- Q7 In Dirty Dancing what is Baby's name?
- Q8 In which English seaside town was "Faulty Towers" Set?
- Q9 Is the Sun a star or a planet?
- Q10 What is the bestselling book of all time?

Following last Sunday's announcement, we all now know our Government's Roadmap towards 'Easing of lockdown' whilst we must continue the battle against Coronavirus. For as long as Social Distancing remains in place, and with restrictions on gatherings, our prime Federation challenge remains to keep our staff, members, and volunteers totally safe as we carefully consider the planning of activities and events for the future. WI events and activities are not made for social distancing, a bit like West End Theatres, and it will be a long time before we are ready to sit together for a couple of hours. We know that the running of our future programmes will be determined by measures to control re-infection, and the importance of temperature checks as well as face covers (not face masks that remain for our healthcare workers), and hand sanitization will all be key. We will keep you in touch as soon as we can to let you know how things may work and what to expect.

VE Day 75- Bank Holiday Low key celebrations in front gardens or on the front doorstep were the order of the day, but they were Heartfelt and filled with Hope that when lockdown is finally over we can get together again and cash in all the hug credits that we are collecting through this socially distanced time and technology hosted catch ups. Lasting memories will include: sharing home-baked cakes and scones using protective gloves, hand gel and a face mask to put them into boxes and bags with a socially distanced drop off to neighbours; a member having Tea in her garden with a Popeye themed scarecrow at the table!; sticking and fixing string onto homemade bunting; and after the Queen spoke to the nation at 9pm as her father had done 75 years ago, who would have thought a wartime song would become our anthem of hope when at the close of the day of reflective commemoration we all sang Well Meet Again. Undoubtedly a unique occasion for us all. Please send your memories and pictures of the day to: NYWFnews@gmail.com.

As we may shortly be allowed to leave our homes it would be advisable to wear a face mask. Please check out the instructions that we have on our website for an easy pattern for a mask.

A huge thank you to everyone for stepping up in response to requests for help with sewing. We have a growing list of WIs and individual members that have been so busy making knitted hearts, plus uniform bags, Scrubs and Face Masks for our keyworkers. Hundreds of bags and hearts have now reached their destination hospitals, Care Homes and a Dental Practice, providing wonderful support for staff, patients and families. Also thank you for all your goodwill messages, additional donations to Federation and additional orders for Yorkshire 2020 Bags.

Federation Choir Latest: Mark Hunter, (Choirmaster for our Ripon group) reports that he has been very busy getting to grips with the technology for us to do a few virtual choir pieces, so watch this space next week for further details of how you can get involved.

An initial plan was for the WI choir to learn a VE Day Medley during the early part of this term, which sadly was not to be. However, Mark's partner Andrea, who some choir members will have enjoyed singing with, has recorded her own which you can sing along to via the following link to the YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/B9YpMgrAfEQ>

Our 'Alleviating Loneliness' Campaign encourages us all to think of others especially during this crisis.

I do think one of the most important things we can do as W.I. ladies is now more than ever, to keep in touch with any of our members who are living alone. It must be terribly hard to get through endless days with no-one but your own company.

In times of crisis food becomes an even bigger focus for many. Please check out our next Federation Newsletter and try the recipe from Anne for a delicious smoked haddock dish. Yummy plus healthy.

Next Week It's seven weeks since we closed our office door, and three weeks since homeworking was temporarily suspended and furloughing began for our staff. We are grateful to you and all our members for your kindness and support during our closure, but ask for your continued patience from next Monday as Office hours homeworking resumes for one week, and Michelle and Kim try to deal with your enquiries and the prioritised dispatch of the next batch of event refunds. Sir Winston Churchill is credited with first saying, "Never let a good crisis go to waste." He said it in the mid-1940s as we were approaching the end of World War II, intent on shifting the focus of war onto creating opportunities from a crisis. Hopefully, WI ladies will find new opportunities to help all our friends, families and members to support each other and Stay Safe, and come out of this crisis stronger.

Answers: 32, Andean Condor, Badminton, Prince Louis, Alaska, Honolulu, Frances, Torquay, A Star, The Bible.

Stay safe, Julie