



# Shropshire

Federation of Women's Institutes



MARCH 2021

# Shropshire County News

## Message from our Chairman



It was in March last year that the decision was taken to shut down everyday life in our country in an effort to combat the coronavirus. There were to be no visits from friends and family, no trips to cinema or coffee shop, not even to the shops unless for food.

We in WI were luckier than most in having a network of contacts to help keep us connected. Digital technology came into its own as a temporary substitute for real meetings. NFWI made a wealth of extra material available via MyWI as well as Zoom events through Denman at Home. Thanks to the skills of trustee Paula Pierce Shropshire Federation arranged several virtual events. Others have made the effort to acquire those skills and are now busy organising further events. Individual WIs have held their own virtual meetings.

Not every member has access to digital media but they should all have received WI Life which has been sent out as usual. SFWI newsletters have been produced throughout the pandemic as well as extra entertainment for the period over Christmas. WI officers and committees have kept in touch with members by whatever means at their disposal – email, telephone, post. Birthday cards and Christmas gifts have been sent out. Some WIs have organised "meeting in a bag" deliveries and small gatherings when these have been allowed.

All these benefits were made available to us as members at a cost of a little over £3.50 per month. Even now plans are being formulated for meetings and outings once they are allowed. Sign up now to be sure of not missing out!

Heather

### NFWI VOTING

Details of NFWI Board elections have been sent to all WIs. You will see amongst the candidates' names our very own Paula Pierce, SFWI trustee and climate ambassador. I am sure you will all want to give her your support and your vote. Good luck, Paula!

### 2021 CALENDARS sale price

£3.00 each including postage



### CLAREMONT CLUB 2021

Claremont Club will re-start in April 2021

**Ticket sales close 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. Tickets can be bought by bank transfer-details from the office.

### WhatsApp



I need to start by saying I am not an expert and cannot advise on anything technical! However my experience of WhatsApp has prompted me to share my thoughts. Quite a few WIs have formed

WhatsApp groups and feel it has helped them during the last year and many members are part of other groups which keep them in touch with family and friends.

WhatsApp is a free, online messaging service. I use it on my mobile phone but it can be used on other devices. It uses the Internet to send and receive messages, voice calls, images and video calls. All messages are secure, can only be seen by senders and recipients, and no personal data is stored.

A study, by researchers at Edge Hill University, has found that interacting with friends and family is good for a person's psychological health; they have higher self-esteem and less loneliness. I think WI members probably know this.

Since lockdown, as SFWI Flower Show Committee haven't yet been able to follow their usual agenda., they set up a Whats App group to get now know each other better. You would be surprised at the range of topics covered. It started with elderflower cordial making, and posts have included recipes, marmalade making, paintings, photographs, jokes and wildlife observations. Anxieties, triumphs and ideas have been shared and they have become a tight knit group, despite only managing to meet up in person twice (outside).

If you've got a Smartphone download WhatsApp from the App store and follow the instructions. I've just learnt how to use it by using it.

Celia Rawlings, Chairman M&T



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

**It is with sadness that we announce the death of former Federation Chairman and Acton Burnell member, Hilary Cuffley. She served in many roles at SFWI including WI adviser and was a wonderful advocate for all things WI.**



### CLIMATE COMMITTEE



**Have you heard the exciting news that Shropshire is aiming to be net zero carbon by 2030, twenty years ahead of the UK government's zero carbon plan?**

We're leading the way forward!

The SFWI Climate Group is proud to be associated with the Shropshire Climate Action Partnership (SCAP), a not-for-profit organisation set up in August 2020 to represent the communities, enterprises, councils and NGOs of Shropshire, dedicated to achieving this goal.

The first step had been to develop a practical zero carbon Shropshire plan (ZCSP) by the end of 2020. After many, many (virtual) meetings and lots of hard work, this has now been completed and published.

For more information please explore their website [www.zerocarbonschropshire.org](http://www.zerocarbonschropshire.org) (make sure that you click on the 3 bars top right for a full drop down menu). You can get lots more information about the partnership, what you can do right now to help and read the monthly newsletters and ZCSP to find out about the plans our future.

#### SOS for Honeybees

You may be aware that the government has granted the use of highly controversial neonicotinoid-based pesticides for use in sugar beet. DEFRA itself has acknowledged that these pesticides "risk 'extensive and permanent effects on bee populations.' Share your concerns about this with your MP using the template letter on My WI .



Follow us

[Facebook.com/Shropshire Federation WI Climate Group](https://www.facebook.com/Shropshire-Federation-WI-Climate-Group)

**Not online? You can still take part. Send us an s.a.e. stating which campaign you want to take part in and we will post you out either a sample SCAP newsletter or a honeybee template letter or both!**

### THE SHROPSHIRE WAY CHALLENGE 2021

Can we knit/crochet enough scarves to equal the 190 mile long Shropshire Way? Approximately 200,640 scarves each approx. 6 x 60 inches, any colour, pattern or style. All scarves will be donated to homeless people and other worthy causes, in and around Shropshire



This is a community project so please encourage friends, family and your local community to join in.



[facebook.com/The Shropshire Way Scarf Challenge](https://www.facebook.com/The-Shropshire-Way-Scarf-Challenge)

### Annual Return Forms

Thank you to all those WIs who have already sent in their forms to the office. So far, I have read through 67. It is always interesting to hear about what WIs have been doing and, this year, especially so. Typically most WIs have only been able to hold three monthly meetings but, generally, members have been kept in touch in different ways. Most committees have been contacting their members by phone, email Facebook and WhatsApp and, when restrictions allowed, members assembled in small groups or outside. Some have embraced modern technology and been holding virtual meetings. Many members have been able to join in with initiatives in their communities. However, there are some WIs, particularly where members are spread over a wide area, where contact has been less easy and members are just waiting for the time when restrictions are lifted.

Many of us have been vaccinated and we must just hope that before long, some sort of normal service will be resumed. If you need any help or advice please contact your WI Adviser.

Celia Rawlings, Chairman M&T

### Revised Pricing for County news from April 2021

Per WI

2 **free** hard copies - additional colour copies £3 per member p.a.

E-copies subscription basis **only** per WI depending on the size of the WI up to 15 members £5 p.a. 16 to 30 £10 p.a. 31 + members £15 p.a.

This can then be circulated to as many members as require it, either by yourselves or directly from County Office.

## NFWI NEWS

### NFWI ANNUAL MEETING 2021

Royal Albert Hall, 8 June 2021

The linking list has stayed the same as it was for 2020. However this year, we have been restricted to 15 delegates instead of 30, so 1 delegate will represent 8 WIs.

We have had to think long and hard about how to make this a fair process and have given delegate priority to those WI's in column 1 as anyone in column 2 will have the opportunity to attend next year.

Observer ticket numbers have also been reduced so again priority has been given to those who applied last year.

If you wish to be considered for an Observer Ticket, should one become available, please contact County Office. Please note you will have to make your own arrangements for travel and accommodation.

### ACTIVITIES AND COMPETITIONS

**Walking Netball Virtual Sessions** Free to attend on Monday evenings at 7.30pm and Thursday mornings at 10.30am. Email [WInetball@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:WInetball@englandnetball.co.uk) to receive the zoom link.

**Lady Denman Cup 2021** in partnership with The National Gallery. A short piece of creative writing entitled 'Let me show you what a woman can do'.

**Elizabeth Bell Challenge 2021-2022** Running from January – December 2021, WIs are invited to compose a record demonstrating how their members have worked together to engage and support one another throughout the year; offering opportunities that have united their members, as well as successfully marketing the WI to increase their membership.

**As with all NFWI news more information can be found on [My WI \(thewi.org.uk\)](http://MyWI.thewi.org.uk)**

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

Unfortunately we are not able to hold any live 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. Please note - virtual events are booked and paid for separately.



Lovely to hear the feedback about 'Bedrooms, Banquets and Balls'—speaker John Vigar



"I enjoyed the talk and it was good to be part of a WI event again" Betty Maynard, All Stretton WI

"I've just enjoyed an hour at John Vigar's virtual presentation. Although we were shown the houses, it was just as much about the people who lived there. What a great way to spend a chilly Monday evening. Seeing so many familiar faces on my screen was delight too". Celia Rawlings, Cressage WI

Disappointed you missed this or not had a go yet - if you have the technology give it a try. Please see below, on facebook and our website for details of forthcoming events. We will meet one way or another!

**ZOOM MEETINGS**

**£5.00** per person unless otherwise stated.

Please contact the office via email [accounts@wi-shropshire.co.uk](mailto:accounts@wi-shropshire.co.uk) to book and obtain payment details. The zoom link/password will be sent out a couple of days before the event.



"Murder, Sex and Mayhem in English Churches"

**Thursday 25 March at 7.30pm prompt**

Former Denman lecturer John Vigar will talk to us again by zoom, this time about murder, sex and mayhem in parish churches. He'll show us images and explain the stories behind them and their relevance to particular periods of history.

Medieval murals and stained glass, misericords, monuments and memorials all show scenes of murder and mayhem in good measure!

**'Little Bags of Kindness'**

**Zoom Thursday 25 March 1.00 p.m.**

As a wonderful compliment to the Shropshire Way Scarf Challenge we are hosting 'Little Bags of Kindness'. They are three women passionate about creating a positive change in the community. They provide a link between charitable donations and those that need them the most. They will be collaborating with us to get the scarves we make out into the community, so this is an excellent opportunity ask any questions and find out more about what they do. **FREE**

Contact [paula.pierce@hotmail.com](mailto:paula.pierce@hotmail.com) for zoom link.

**SFWI COMPETITIONS**

County Competitions – we would like to invite you to enter our three Competitions :

**A piece of Poetry based on the theme of "Humour"**. This can be written in any style, all we ask is that it makes us smile! (see – I've started already!)

**A Black & White Pencil Sketch** – max size A4

**A Handmade Greetings Card** – "For a Friend"

Entries can be dropped off at County Office by arrangement, or posted. Please include your name, address, contact details and which WI you belong to. Closing date is Friday 28 May.

Winners will receive a Certificate, and the winning entries will be published in County News and exhibited at our next live event.

**Chair Yoga with Sue Pugh**

**Monday 22 March 7.30pm via Zoom**

Join Sue to see how you can exercise in your own home with just a dining chair. Learn how to improve your mental health and wellbeing through diet, exercise and relaxation.

**Phil Cleary, CEO Smart Water.**

**Zoom - 12 April 2021 at 7.30**



Join him as he explains the technology behind their innovative product. Smart Water is a traceable liquid and forensic asset marking system. Find out how you can use it to protect your valuables, help identify thieves and deter theft.

**The Shropshire Macaron Company**

**Zoom - 10 May 2021 at 11.30 a.m.**



After a drunken purchase from Amazon, George Evans kicked off a new career making some of Shropshire's most delicate, indulgent little pieces of deliciousness. Now an extremely popular creation all over the county, we will find out more of George's story as well as the answers to 'what is a macaron?' and 'what are George's favourite flavours?' As this is likely to be a very popular meeting, please book early to reserve a place.

**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**

This uplifting account from Jane Ing (Weston Lullingfields WI) reminds us that spring is almost here, new life and new hope. During the period of lockdown many of us became more aware of the wildlife around us. If we could do just a few things in our own gardens or local area it could help to build a whole new relationship between us and nature within our communities. It also encourages us to go outside, to become less stressed and enjoy the presence of nature around us. These activities not only give us much enjoyment, keep us active, can get all age groups involved and cost very little – if anything.

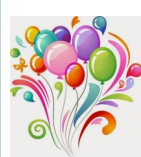


This is what Jane says: “Morning all, It is 9.00am. The sun is out and the sky is blue with pink and grey fluffy cumulus clouds. The house is in a frost pocket so last night’s snow is still around the house with a crisp top and gooey underneath like the best kind of cake icing. The mildness of last week meant that in 3 days of no frost we had snowdrops out and aconites almost flowering. I managed to take a photo. As you can see outdoors is keeping me sane!”

**Jane Ing, President, Weston Lullingfields WI.**



Tilstock WI President Sue Armstrong had the lovely idea of making a robin tree decoration to be sent to each member along with a Christmas card. She provided felt pieces with instructions to each committee member who then did the sewing. This is my robin in pride of place on my Christmas tree. It now hangs above a mirror in my sitting room as I decided to leave it on display to brighten the winter months. **Heather Dulson, Tilstock WI**



A WI Member suggested that as we were unable to hold our Annual Meeting it would be good to publish the birthdays in our monthly newsletter. We will include 2020 retrospectively.

Happy birthday and happy belated birthday to the following :

| January 2020      | February 2020        | March 2020      |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Pulverbatch WI 95 | Overton-on-Dee WI 95 | Prees WI 95     |
| Munslow WI 90     | Shawbury WI 70       | Ellerdine WI 70 |
| Westbury WI 90    |                      |                 |
| January 2021      | February 2021        | March 2021      |
| Chirbury 100      | All Stretton WI 70   |                 |
| Criftins 100      |                      |                 |

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

**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

**SMALL ADS**

Looking for ideas for your virtual programme? Try..

**CHAIR YOGA**

Live from Shropshire with Sue Pugh  
 Great for physical and mental health  
 Suits all levels of fitness and flexibility  
 No-one sees your video

Your choice of 20 min health talk (optional)

Contact [sue@vitabonayoga.co.uk](mailto:sue@vitabonayoga.co.uk) 07432 349 933

£45 per session for any number of participants  
 £5 per session donated to your nominated charity

**ENCLOSURES FOR SECRETARIES**

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| County News Order                     | Enclosure for each newsletter—re changes to subs |
| Updated e-copy WI section of yearbook |  |

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