

Your Weekly Update From Your WI Federation

Week 8
28 May 2020

Dear Secretaries I hope you all enjoyed the Bank Holiday the best way we can in these trying times and that by now you are all accessing this weekly update and finding a way to forward to your members. Whether that be by email, hand delivering hard copies or advising how to download from our website or read our Facebook page. Remember on the week the Federation Secretary, Michelle is working she will email this to you direct. If anyone has anything they would like to submit to be shared across the Federation please email Pauline Bowman at pauline.bowman@icloud.com.

Refund Cheques Last week the office staff were working from home and were able to issue many refund cheques including 47 Denman Refunds and all events/workshops other than the following list which will be completed at the next working week commencing 15th June to 19th June.

Glasshouses, Glusburn & Crosshills, Goldsborough
Grantley & Winksley, Grewelthorpe, Hampsthwaite
Harrogate Bloomers, Harrogate Library, Harrogate Rascals
Hellifield, Ingleborough, Kettlewell & District, Killinghall
Kirby Hill, Kirby Malzeard, Knaresborough, Knox
Long Preston, Low Bentham & District, Manfield
Marton Cum Grafton, Masham & Melsonby.

Having read this list if anyone feels they have not had a refund to which they are due and not showing as due to receive, please contact the Federation Treasurer Sue-Earl Armstrong at smea48@yahoo.co.uk.

BOT Meetings The Federation Board of Trustees held their 2nd-ever Zoom meeting, when everyone succeeded in grasping the technology, overcame the challenges of fluctuating Broadband signals, and we were able to consider the whole range of issues that are facing our Federation at the moment. We have little choice but to rely on on-line meetings just now but in true WI spirit of working together and supporting each other, we are making progress to get the business done to see us through these unique times.

NFWI Raffle Tickets By now all Secretaries should have received the annual stock of raffle tickets. In previous years, NY West Federation and our members have reaped rewards from this initiative, by getting back 60% of money that we have raised from ticket sales in our Federation, and so, as our fundraising opportunities have been virtually extinguished by coronavirus this year, it is really important to grasp this one. Please do try to sell as many as possible. We realise this could be a difficult task to sell at this time but hopefully some would have received and sold some of these before Lockdown. We do recognise that selling will be challenging without meeting members face to face, and so your WI may decide that it cannot sell this year. If so, do email the office please to let us know – we might just know another WI that needs more tickets – so we might be able to reallocate before abandoning unsold tickets. If you do have monies collected, please post direct to NFWI in the usual way, to ensure your members do not miss out on the chance to win.

2021 Diaries The Board have decided to place an order for WI diaries for next year. Michelle will issue an order form at her next working week commencing 15th June.

Last Week Saw the first home-working week successfully completed since Furloughing started on 27th April. An amazing amount of work was got through, from processing refunds through to dealing with member enquiries and correspondence, and circulating the June issue of Federation News – do check with your Secretaries to make sure that you get a copy of this, as together with these Weekly updates, they will keep you in touch with what's happening across North Yorkshire West Federation right now.

Thank you Many thanks to those members that have made donations to the Federation by inviting us to retain their money and declining their refunds. The Board are working hard to manage your funds to ensure the future of North Yorkshire West and we appreciate these extremely kind gestures.

RHS did you know that RHS suggested a 'No Mow Month' not mowing our lawns, for May to help bees with pollination. Whilst May is almost behind us, why not consider practicing this for a couple of weeks in June.

Positives & Negatives of easing lockdown Have you been tempted by the return to browsing and shopping at Garden Centres instead of the Click and Collect that we have grown used to during lockdown, or have you ventured to the Local Amenity Tip to dump the spoils from all of the completed garden projects at the start of lockdown, now that you can. Driving to do these things, plus driving further for our daily exercise, could increase tiny particle air pollution and, could be very tricky without access to toilet facilities on the way!!!! We all still need to Stay safe ladies and maintain low levels of social contact so we can beat the impact of this virus and come through it together. Today's latest announcement that as from Monday we can meet in groups up to 6 outside, while still observing social distancing, is very welcome news for those Grandparents who are desperate to see their grandchildren. This may be difficult for children to understand they can see but not touch. Let us hope the children can bounce back from this and as quite often they do, take things in their stride, that we the adults have been worrying and losing asleep over.

WI Campaigns Our 'Alleviating Loneliness Campaign' is more important than ever during Lockdown. Please keep an eye on our members that we know are surviving this alone. A phone call is so easy but will be so welcome.

Take Care, stay safe, Julie.