



Shropshire

Federation of Women's Institutes

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

MAY 2020

Shropshire County News



Message from our Federation Chairman

These are certainly interesting times and I have come to the conclusion I should much prefer a dull life. However, we have to play the hand we are given. I know you will all be trying to stay positive while doing what you can for your family and community, especially those who live alone.

As well as looking after the well-being of family and neighbours it is important that we make every effort to keep our WIs fit and healthy. We have reports of wonderfully innovative ways that individual WIs are keeping in touch with their members. Some have held virtual meetings online – no, I do not know how you do it either I believe 'My WI' has a very simple guide! There have been extended email conversations, rota telephone calls, group crafting ideas, book club conversations, favourite TV programmes watched separately and discussed. Perhaps you have a quiz or puzzle which would entertain members, no prizes obviously, just bragging rights. Has anyone started a diary? That would be an interesting addition to your WI archive.

It is important also that we try to maintain a WI presence at federation level. This newsletter aims to do that, my thanks to everyone who has sent in an item to amuse or inspire us – keep them coming! Many members will receive this newsletter by email. In the words of the old song, if it isn't "Illegal, immoral or makes you fat!" please try to find a way to deliver the paper copy for those without email. Perhaps a student at home on enforced vacation could use their daily exercise to act as postman? If it is only a few they could even be posted individually without too much of a drain on your WI resources.

Nikki and Debbie are now working from home. They can still be contacted by email; post and phones will be checked periodically.

Take care of yourselves and best wishes,

Heather

SFWI Chair Heather Dulson

P.S. I was on the rota to make tea at my own WI this month. Instead I am making some biscuits and sending a photo round to members, they will have to make their own tea.

NFWI ANNUAL MEETING AND RESOLUTIONS

As you are aware the Annual Meeting in London is cancelled but please hold on to delegate paperwork as they will be letting us know how to proceed with the two Resolutions that have been put forward.

Neen Savage WI is working on submitting a Resolution calling for better awareness and treatment of Lipoedema.

This is a debilitating fat disorder primarily affecting women, so a perfect match for the NFWI. Want to know more? See the postcard enclosed, visit the website www.lipoedema.co.uk or contact Mary Warrilow, Neen Savage WI member and Lipoedema Consultant Nurse at mwarrilow@icloud.com

ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS



At the end of this difficult time we thought it would be lovely if we could celebrate the way WI's have pulled together and supported each other.

We are asking for photographs reflecting the theme 'Precious Moments'

One entry per member 5" x 7" preferably printed and mounted rather than digital

Entries will displayed at Park Plaza and the Annual Meeting

Closing date 31 July 2020



facebook.com/Shropshire Federation
of Women's Institutes



TBA



TBA

SFWI County Office open : Mon-Wed 9.30 a.m.—2.30 p.m. (at other times by appointment)

9 Park Plaza, Battlefield Industrial Estate, Shrewsbury SY1 3AF email : enquiries@wi-shropshire.co.uk, Tel : 01743 461646

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AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

HELPING THE **NHS**

Chatting to my daughter last week I was expressing how frustrated I feel (as a retired nurse) being unable to volunteer to help in hospitals / nursing homes etc. due to being in an 'at risk' category.

My daughter came up with a good idea which I have followed up. I have managed to get an online order for delivery of fresh fruit, fruit juices bread rolls & salad items, energy bars etc for A&E staff in the hospital where she works.

Annie Owen, Great Ness WI

**Sew for The NHS Shropshire.**

We know some of our members have signed up to this on facebook and are doing their bit making a range of items from headbands to full scrubs. Items may still be needed—if you have time on your hands take a look.

Wanted

Simple knitting pattern for a balaclava, hints for tying a headscarf or easy ways to make a veil. When we are invited to leave our houses will we want to be seen?

THE CUPBOARD CHALLENGE

I suspect that there will be quite a lot of cupboard cleaning going on over the next few weeks! The oddest forgotten thing found - so far, was in my pan cupboard; I discovered a seed catalogue inside an old lidded pan dated Spring 1992. Why???

Margaret O'Neill, Overton-on-Dee WI

What's the strangest or oldest thing you have found? Let us know.

"Most thoughtful Mothering Sunday present ever?"

They are a toilet paper company based in Melbourne, Australia that makes eco-friendly toilet paper out of 100% recycled materials and 100% bamboo. They donate 50% of profits to help build toilets for the 2.3 billion in the world who live without them.



If you enjoy singing or playing an instrument why not try

www.greatbritishhomechorus.com

an idea from Gareth Malone to help us through these times of social distancing.

WI Quiz — Some of the questions are fun, some may need research but hopefully it will keep us all thinking. (answers next month)

1. In what year was the first International Women's Day gathering?
2. What colours signify International Women's Day?
3. Amelia Earheart was best known for:
 - A) First woman to sail around the world
 - B) First woman to fly solo across the Atlantic
 - C) First woman boxing champion
4. Helen Sharman was:
 - A) The first British Neurophysicist
 - B) The first British woman astronaut
 - C) The first British woman to run a marathon
5. Ada Lovelace was the first woman
 - A) Computer programmer
 - B) Movie star
 - C) TV chef
6. Who was Queen of the Iceni Tribe during the Roman occupation of Britain:
 - A) Olympia
 - B) Cleopatra
 - C) Boudica
7. The first woman in India to receive a Nobel Prize was:
 - A) Mother Theresa
 - B) Indira Ghandi
 - C) Dr Lydia Fonseca
8. The first woman to advocate birth control and sex education was:
 - A) Florence Nightingale
 - B) Mary Whitehouse
 - C) Marie Stopes.
9. Who was the internationally famous designer whose eponymous brand spans, fashion, perfume and jewellery?
 - A) Bridget Bardot
 - B) Coco Chanel
 - C) Mary Quant
10. Launched in April 1999 what WI publicity initiative became internationally famous?
 - A) Keep Britain Tidy
 - B) The Alternative WI Calendar
 - C) Snooze or you Lose
11. Born in Ellesmere, Shropshire, who co-founded 'Save the Children' and dedicated her life to children's welfare?
 - A) Esther Ransen
 - B) Eglantine Jebb
 - C) Mary Sydney
12. Who, for her wedding day going away outfit wore "a hat on which sat an entire brown owl, stuffed and staring blankly into space"
 - A) Princess Alexandra of Edinburgh (grand-daughter of Queen Victoria)
 - B) Lady Gertrude Denman
 - C) Isabella Beeton

CLAREMONT CLUB DRAW

Due to the postponement of the Annual Meeting we have suspended the start of 2020/21 until the Annual Meeting takes place in the Autumn. Shares can still be purchased, your secretary has the forms, but please note payment must be by the individual and not through WI accounts.

JUNE 2020 Newsletters will all be posted out by MON 25 MAY from County Office, 9 Park Plaza SY1 3AF.

BOOKING NOW—closing date 31 May 2020

We all need something to look forward to so we are continuing to advertise our planned events from July onwards in the hope that by then life will be returning to normal. To simplify administrative processes we are only asking for bookings, NOT payment. 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 we would ask WI secretaries to gather information from their members during the course of the month and send in bookings, as usual by the closing date. In the meantime, we will do our best re-arrange any events that have been postponed so watch this space.



Saturday 11 July 10.00 - 12.30 p.m approx.

BRUNCH WITH ALIA Park Plaza, Shrewsbury, SY1 3AF

Alia el Asmar is a Climate Ambassador from Cheshire Federation. She would like to invite you to sample a delicious brunch while at the same time raising your awareness of the carbon footprint of food.

You will enjoy a demonstration of various plant-based dishes from around the world, which we will put together to share as a brunch.

Cost £ 15 .

Speakers' Day Auditions Monday 13 July 2020

10am to 3pm at Central, Claremont Street, Shrewsbury SY1 1QG

Come and hear, then cast your vote for potential WI speakers and take the opportunity to obtain their details for your 2021 programme.

- * Coffee from 9.45am
- * Morning Speakers 10:30 to 12:30
- * Afternoon Speakers from 13:30 to 15:00

Timings approximate. Bring a packed lunch or purchase lunch nearby

Programme Secretary's ticket cost can be met by your WI.

Tickets: £6.00 - No admission without a ticket.

2021 DIARIES

We are now ready to take orders for the new 2021 diaries. These will be completely recyclable except for the ribbon.

Federation Price will be **£5.10**

Closing date for ordering through Federation will be

30 September 2020

Coronation Cup Competition 2020

Closing date extended to: **31 August 2020**



A flower made by recycling materials

Maximum size 15cm in ANY dimension. Please provide a list of materials used. The entry will not be judged purely as a craft item but on your creative use of any recycled material

Entry form is with your secretary or email County Office.

SFWI ANNUAL MEETING—NEW DATE

Theatre Severn - Monday 12 October 2020

We are so pleased that to date

Baroness Floella Benjamin DBE

&

Professor John Whitelegg

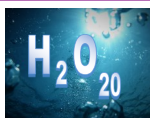
have confirmed their availability

All tickets previously booked remain valid

Some tickets still available - please book through your secretary



SKITTLES—Wednesday 22 July. PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED

**SFWI AT SHREWSBURY FLOWER SHOW**

Fri & Sat 14/15 August 2020—**CANCELLED**

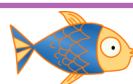


Please keep calm and carry on crafting—the theme and classes for 2021 will remain the same.

There may be a few minor adjustments but these will not affect any of the craft items.



Looking on the bright side—what a great opportunity to perfect or try a new craft .

**Is it a fish?**

For those of you making 'a fish in any medium' please note that we are talking about a vertebrate animal with gills that lives in water all the time. Cuttlefish, jellyfish, starfish and shellfish, despite their names, **are not fish**. (and are trickier shapes to make).

Some mammals look like fish, behave like fish and live in the water but **they are not fish**. Your fish can be any size you like.

As the 'On with the Show' event will not be going ahead this year if you have any further questions about show classes please contact **Josephine Bennett Tel: 01694 731283**

Flower Show Lucky Bags

When you are sorting out your drawers, cupboards and shelves please see if you have any items you could donate to the 2021 WI at the Flower Show and put them aside. This is called 'getting ahead'.

Remember, we always need children's prizes as well as adult prizes (no alcohol please) Please send or deliver to 9 Park Plaza, Shrewsbury, SY1 3AF once we re-open, marking items 'Lucky Bags 2021'

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 AND EVENTS

"We have all needed to come to terms with massive changes to our normal lives. We have seen panic buying on an unprecedented scale, and more bad news every day – people are frightened and anxious. But we can see so many positives too – people uniting to help those who are having to stay at home, perhaps vulnerable and lonely. In Overton, our Community Council quickly formed a "Buddy" system, where volunteers collect and deliver shopping and prescriptions, and telephone people who are alone and need to talk. Our W.I. Members are helping wherever they can, and also keeping in touch with one another. The depth of kindness people can show in a crisis is amazing and humbling. I am writing to all our Members next week with the latest Federation News, and to try to keep everyone looking forward to the time we can get together again and have an almighty catch up! After all, at some point all the Shows will have to go on, even if next year, and of course we will be organising a celebration for our Village when Boris says we can. We would like to send our best wishes to all W.I.s and their families, and hope that you are all staying strong." **Margaret O'Neill, Overton-on-Dee WI**

Bicton & Oxon WI have formed a private, members' only facebook page for support and companionship. So far, we have 38% of our members involved - some strictly isolating, some still working. A great way to keep in touch with our WI friends, for a laugh or practical support. Looking forward to getting back to real life sometime! **Cathy Swan**

Knowbury WI has set up a telephone/Whatsapp village support group. Every house has been leafleted and has the contact numbers. We have been inundated with offers of help and have been contacted by several others to tell us they have family support so not to worry about them. A few have asked for help and we are expecting that number to grow.

We are also organising a Saturday delivery from local shops to the village hall and there is some kind of on-line entertainment being devised at the moment. So quite busy! Stay safe. **Jenny Bishop.**

Lawley WI are doing a 'Round Robin' of committee members calling other members and then letting me/Secretary know if any problems and that everyone is ok.



I am also ringing members on their birthdays. They still get their card from us all but a call as well appears to be well received.
Jill Roberts, Lawley & District WI

ENCLOSURES FOR SECRETARIES

Brunch with Alia Booking Form	Photograph Entry Form
Speakers Auditions Booking Form	Diary order form
SFWI Annual Meeting Booking Form	Flower Show Stewards Application Form

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

Reports are in that Snailbeach WI are having a long "conversation" via email, whilst making (very attractive) bunting. Meanwhile, Caynham Ashford and Church Stretton Marmaladies WI s held their first committee meeting via Zoom . Bridgnorth WI are using email with video links. Technology is amazing!

Viv's Buzzing!



Viv Marsh reports a continued good response from participating members who are looking after the county church bee nests. He is pleased to announce that the Environment Agency and also GCHQ Cheltenham. have now signed up to join his venture.

He is still striving to get other Federation's involved—if you have any photographs and a little narrative about working with the hives and/or Viv that we could send to WI Life to help promote Viv's work, please send them in.

LATE AVAILABILITY

Places may still be available for :

Clay Remembrance Poppy Workshop

A workshop in 2 parts. Friday 24 & Friday 31 July £25.00

Denman Weekend Cost £399 30 October -1 November 2020

Ask your secretary for details

SAVE THE DATE



Wednesday 16 September
Salopian Brewery Tour

Saturday 26 September

Ramble - Overton-on-Dee—more details next month

Wednesday 30 September

Faith Visit, Liverpool. A visit to the Greek Orthodox Church in the morning with a visit to the Anglican Cathedral in the afternoon.



Saturday 12 December

Carol Service at St Chad's, Shrewsbury



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