



Norfolk Federation of WIs

Charity Number: 227411

October 2020

To All Norfolk Federation WIs and Members
c/o WI Secretaries

Dear Members

A Virtual WI for Norfolk?

You will have seen articles in *WI Life* about the idea of forming virtual, online WIs. National have been in discussion with the Norfolk Federation, as they would like us to lead the way in this new enterprise ! So, we are writing to you with a little more information about it this exciting new adventure.

We know that there are a number of members who are not physically able to get to meetings (and not just because of the current Covid-19 situation). We also know that there are others who, because of work or caring commitments, similarly find it difficult to attend a meeting. One thing they all have in common? They all want to be a WI member!

The other important and unique thing is that it doesn't matter where a Virtual WI member lives.

Rest assured that a virtual WI is not here to replace your WI. We have all come to realise how important face-to-face contact is – and how much we have all missed it, particularly our WI friends. A virtual WI will never replace that, but it will be run on exactly the same lines as any other WI.

We want to make the WI available to everyone and hope that by starting a virtual one, it gives the opportunity for women to embrace all that the WI has to offer, albeit virtually. Most importantly, we need to keep current members who are not able to get out – and attract new ones.

So how will it all work? Just as we would for any new WI, there will be an initial meeting to see what interest there is, then a second meeting the following month (probably with a speaker) and the third meeting to discuss formation. These will happen in January, February and March next year.

There will be publicity about this on social media and in the local press, but we wanted you to be the first to know.

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So what next? Obviously, this is a huge learning curve for everyone and we don't know all the answers, but if you have any initial queries, please get in touch.

We hope that there are members who would like to join this exciting new venture – you can still be a member of a “physical” WI and join the virtual one as a dual member.

Register your interest! If you would like to Zoom with us at the first meeting in January, get in touch by 20th November.

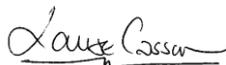
If you have any comments or queries, or to register for the first meeting email fedsec@norfolkwi.org.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you and in the meantime, keep safe and well.

Kind regards



Margaret Collingwood
Chairman



Louise Casson
Federation Secretary