



# Norfolk Federation Newsletter

## Hello from the Office!

### We've been enjoying the sunshine ...

... although gardeners and farmers could do with some rain.

We are getting ready to view the live-streaming of the National Annual Meeting at the beginning of the month. Delegates will be busy, as they will be casting votes on two resolutions for their group WIs – the changes to the Constitution, to help ease red tape, and the Bystanders can be Livesavers resolution. We wish them well with the technology and, more importantly, thank them for taking on the role.

With summer on the horizon, we know that a number of WIs are having stalls at local fetes and organising garden parties, so I hope the weather stays fine for you. Don't forget to send in a photo and report on what you've been up to! Send an email to Sue Ovenden, the Norfolk WI News Magazine Editor – [magazine@norfolkwi.org.uk](mailto:magazine@norfolkwi.org.uk).

I will be on holiday when the next mailing is sent out. I write the Newsletter a few days before mailing as it includes items that are too late for the magazine deadline, so because it can't be written in advance there will be no newsletter next month.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer and take care

*Lause*



## Contents

Events Update  
Savill Gardens & Thames Boat Trip  
Auditions Day  
Bridge Day  
Quiz Night  
Puddings Plonk & Pop  
2026 Diary Order Form

### Hard copy only:

New Speakers for 2025  
(Please Pass to your Speakers Secretary)  
2025 Yearbook Supplement  
(One copy for the Secretary)

### Outside Mailing (email only):

Ladies Day Event at Wolterton Park



[facebook.com/NorfolkWI](https://facebook.com/NorfolkWI)



[NorfolkWI](https://www.instagram.com/NorfolkWI)



[norfolk.thewi.org.uk](https://norfolk.thewi.org.uk)

[fedsec@norfolkwi.org.uk](mailto:fedsec@norfolkwi.org.uk)

Evelyn Suffield House 45 All Saints Green Norwich NR1 3LY

01603 624580

Charity No. 1201046

## This month's Norfolk WI News

The link to the online edition of this month's magazine is:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/5b7d5f6bdc9/norfolk-june-2025/full-view.html>

## Autumn Federation Meetings – Have they had their day?

For the past two years we have had to cancel the Autumn Federation Meetings because of the low take up. So we're asking ourselves *and more importantly, you* – are members still interested in them? Have they run their course?

The idea of the Meetings was to bring WIs together, showcase what the Federation Committees were doing and listen to a speaker (or speakers).

They're hard work for everyone involved and we could easily say "well, after two years we will call it a day and save ourselves some heartache" – but that wouldn't be right, if members like the meetings.

We've wracked our brains to consider how we could revamp them, bearing in mind that we need to keep costs down both for us and members attending.

If successful, we need a hall that will take at least 100 people (members and Federation Committee stands and helpers), and as we have said in the past, finding a hall big enough and available is increasingly difficult: venues with the right facilities are, naturally, very popular and so well used.

We have also tried to find speakers that most WIs wouldn't be able to afford and are hopefully interesting. We all know from our own WIs that not every speaker will appeal to everyone – *and we simply cannot hope to please all of the members all of the time*. Whilst a speaker might not seem appealing, one can often be surprised! How often have you gone to your monthly meeting, not really looking forward to the speaker and then found that you enjoyed them?

So the question is: do you think we should continue to hold Autumn Federation Meetings? Please ask the question at your June meetings, take a survey by show of hands and let us have the feedback. We're sure that many members will say "it depends on the speaker" – but as I've

pointed out, we can't please everyone and you may be surprised! Have you any ideas for a facelift?

Please let us know what you think by 1<sup>st</sup> July. If we don't hear from your WI, we will assume that they are no longer of interest – but on the other hand, if we have an overwhelming response to carry on, we will. The only thing is – you have to support it!

We look forward to hearing from you.

## GoGo Safari – our Mini-G arrives soon!

We are thrilled that we have been chosen to host one of the Mini Giraffes as part of Break Charity's GoGo Safari Sculpture trail in Norwich this summer. We have named her Gigi and she will arrive on 17<sup>th</sup> June. Do come and see her in all her splendour, proudly sitting in the window of the Members' Room!

## ACWW

Recently some WIs have been contemplating their continued support of ACWW or whether to raise money for other causes. In view of some concerns, the Trustees suggest that the Federation could support the Break charity this year, given that we will have GiGi in the House. Liz Barker, Chair of the Public Affairs Committee has written about this in the June magazine, to give you some guidance.

## August Office Closure

As there will be no newsletter for July, to give us time for some much-needed housekeeping and tidying, a reminder that **the House and Car Park will be closed from Tuesday, 5th August until Tuesday, 2nd September.**

## Things to do & Other Useful Information

- **National Gardens Open Scheme:** numerous gardens across Norfolk are opening. For details <http://www.ngs.org.uk/>

Finally...

Be Safe, Be Well, Be Kind.

