



Public Affairs Digest

Issue 58: January/February 2021

Dear Member,

Welcome to the NFWI *Public Affairs Digest*, an e-update on all the latest WI campaigning news, delivered directly to your inbox.

If you know anyone in your WI who is interested in our campaigns, please direct them to the campaigns area of [MyWI](#) to sign up to receive this Public Affairs Digest.



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The main priority for the NFWI is the safety and wellbeing of our members. If you haven't already, please visit [this link](#) for the latest, up to date government guidelines.

See more information about support [at the end of this Digest.](#)

It's Show the Love month!

Although we cannot celebrate Show the Love by getting together as we usually would, we can still take action to protect what we love from the climate crisis.



And you have been doing just that, with the NFWI Public Affairs team sending out nearly 400 Show the Love action packs and supplementary resources to WI members right across England, Wales and the Islands- proving how seriously WI members take the need to encourage others to take climate action.

To celebrate Show the Love we are hosting two great events this month. We hope to see you there. Read more and register below:

***In conservation: A discussion with the National Trust and RSPB
Friday 12th February, 1pm-2pm***

Join our Chair of Public Affairs, Ann Jones for a discussion and a Q&A session with representatives from the National Trust and the RSPB to hear more about their important nature conservation work, their plans for COP26, and ways you can take action to protect our natural world from home.

To register your place, email pa@nfwl.org.uk

***Craftivism and Climate Action - the power of gentle protest
Friday 19th February, 1pm-2pm***

Join Sarah Corbett, founder of the Craftivist Collective; The Climate Coalition's Campaign Director, Clara Goldsmith, and NFWI Chair of Public Affairs, Ann

Jones, to hear more about the power of craftivism and your crafted green hearts, and how you can use your crafting skills to call for urgent climate action throughout 2021.

To register your place, email pa@nfwl.org.uk

The NFWI Public Affairs team would like to thank every member who has been able to organise and support Show the Love events during the most challenging year on record for the Show the Love campaign, and would love to see any photos of your Show the Love events-

Tell us about your events or share your green hearts with us by emailing pa@nfwl.org.uk.



Photo: Anne-Marie Bickerton

Calling all Crafters for a New Campaigns Project: WI Women in Activism

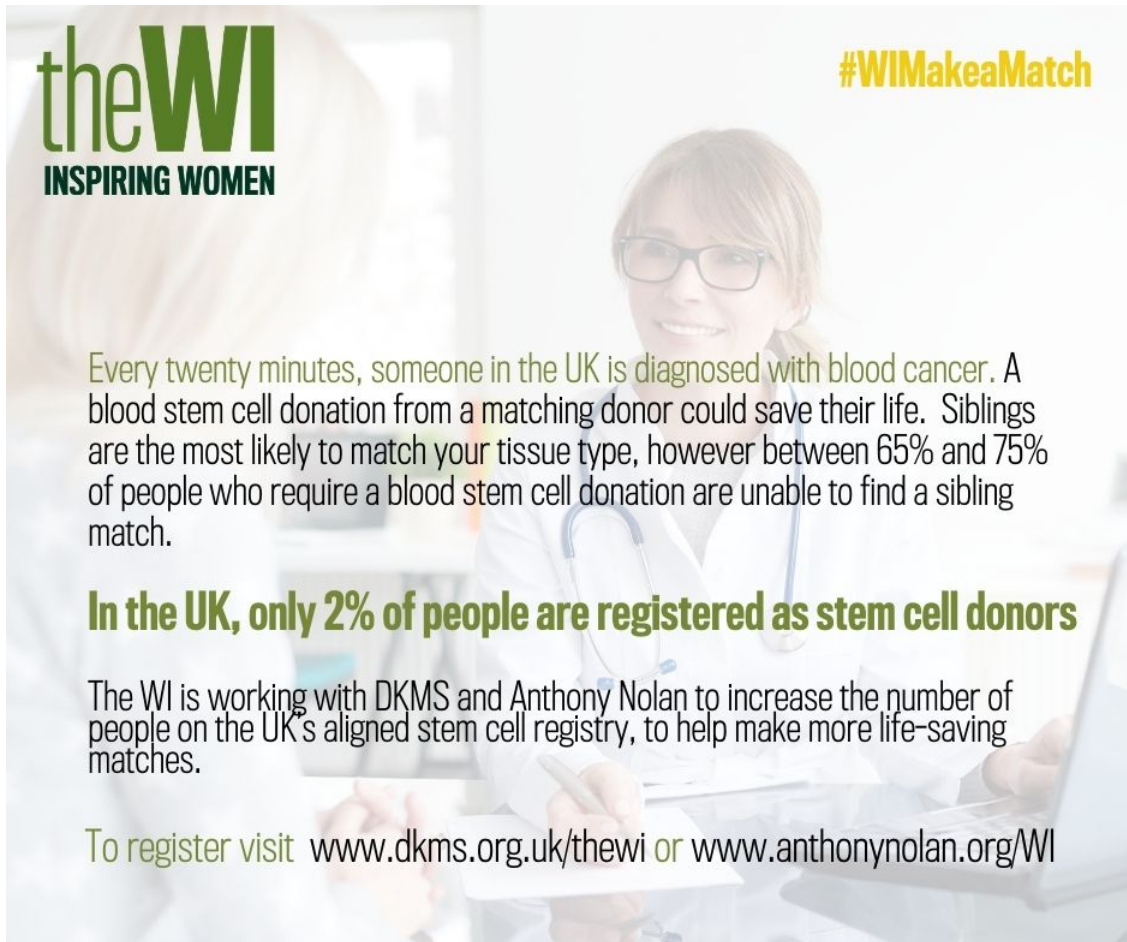
The NFWI Public Affairs team would like to invite WI members to take part in our new craft project 'WI Women in Activism'. The project involves creating

procession banners or pennant flags, with the aim of featuring them in an NFWI online exhibition to mark International Women's Day in March (8 March 2021) and using them in any future marches we attend once Coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

Whilst the deadline for projects to be used in the online exhibition is 5th March (for International Women's Day), we do appreciate that some members will wish to spend more time on this. For this reason, we have asked for projects that will not be ready for this date to still be submitted after the deadline, as we aim to use them in any marches we attend, once the Covid-19 restrictions have eased.

You can find further information about how to create your project and how to submit your entry for the International Women's Day online exhibition [here](#).

If you have any questions, get in touch with us at PA@nfwl.org.uk. Happy Crafting!



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

#WIMakeaMatch

Every twenty minutes, someone in the UK is diagnosed with blood cancer. A blood stem cell donation from a matching donor could save their life. Siblings are the most likely to match your tissue type, however between 65% and 75% of people who require a blood stem cell donation are unable to find a sibling match.

In the UK, only 2% of people are registered as stem cell donors

The WI is working with DKMS and Anthony Nolan to increase the number of people on the UK's aligned stem cell registry, to help make more life-saving matches.

To register visit www.dkms.org.uk/thewi or www.anthonynolan.org/WI

Promote your Make a Match events

It is great to see some WIs are meeting to discuss stem cell donation. Many WIs are still unable to meet or host their own virtual meetings, so if your WI is planning a talk or an event about stem cell donation, we're excited to hear about it. If the event is open to members from other WIs, we'd love to promote it to all members on the MyWI Noticeboard.

To get in touch, please [email the Public Affairs Team](#).

If you want to arrange a speaker for your Make a Match-event, you can [email DKMS here](#).

To register as a potential donor, visit www.dkms.org.uk/thewi or www.anthonynolan.org/WI



Buses for every community: Sign the Petition

CPRE, The Countryside Charity, have started an online petition asking the Secretary of State for Transport Grant Schapps to invest in a reliable bus service for every community, every town and every village.

All members are encouraged to sign the petition and share it among friends, family and those around you.

[You can sign the petition here](#).

Environment Bill Report Stage

On Tuesday, 26th January, the Environment Bill returned to the House of Commons for its Report Stage.

Together with Friends of the Earth, Surfers Against Sewage, Keep Britain Tidy and Tearfund, the NFWI has been working to build support for an amendment to the Environment Bill which would place binding plastics reduction targets into the Environment Bill.



Our amendment was tabled by Chris Loder MP, supported by the Conservative Environment Network, and by a number of cross-party MPs. It also received national and regional coverage, including a mention on Radio 4's Today programme.

Although our amendment was not adopted by the Government, DEFRA Minister Rebecca Pow reiterated the Government's commitment to plastics reduction, and gave specific reassurances that measures in the Environment Bill are already sufficient to tackle the problem.

Whilst the NFWI appreciates Rebecca Pow's support and work in this area, we will be continuing our work with Friends of the Earth, Surfers Against Sewage, Keep Britain Tidy and Tearfund to strengthen existing measures in the Bill in order to combat the plastic problem.

This will include working to boost awareness of the Plastic Pollution Bill tabled by the Liberal Democrat MP, Alistair Carmichael MP- the 'gold standard' of plastics reduction measures- and adding further signatures to our **joint letter to the PM**, written in support of binding plastics reduction targets in the Environment Bill. We will also be working to build support for our amendment amongst Peers in the House of Lords.

The NFWI is very disappointed that the Government has further delayed the next stage of the Environment Bill by a further six months. In one of the most important years for climate action for the UK, leaving an environmental governance gap does not demonstrate the climate and environmental leadership that we need to see from the UK Government, and the NFWI urges the Government to reconsider this decision.

APPG on Microplastics- Virtual Roundtable on Microfibre Filtration

The latest meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics was hosted on the 19th of January. The meeting explored the recent French legislative proposals on washing machine filters- requiring all new washing machines to include embedded microplastic fibre filters by 2025- and whether or not this could be feasible in the UK.



The APPG meeting was attended by 9 appliance and washing machine filter companies, world-leading academics specialising in microplastic fibre release, industry and retail groups, environmental organisations, MPs and Peers.

Following the meeting, all attending stakeholders have been asked to submit their policy positions on microfibre filters by the **5th of February 2021**.

As the APPG's Secretariat, the NFWI will be analysing all responses received and will use these to produce a report on microfibre filtration.

The Chair of the APPG on Microplastics, Alberto Costa MP, also drew attention to the work of the APPG in a recent **parliamentary business question**.

You can watch the APPG roundtable [here](#).



PA Digest on My WI

Missed an issue of the Digest? You can now access previous issues on My WI.

You can find them [here](#).



We want to hear about local WI campaign activities. Please email us with your news!





Show the Love month is here!

It is great to see many of you have started crafting your green hearts.

Above you can see a green heart Spiced toffee cake from The Treacle Tarts WI (Warwickshire Federation) and a lovely felted green heart from Beti Wyn Davies, member of Taliesin WI (Ceredigion Federation).

Please continue to share your green hearts with us at pa@nfwl.org.uk.

Support and help during pandemic

This can be a particularly difficult and worrying time for adults and children living with domestic abuse. [This link](#) will take you to a page of support sources, please share as widely as possible. It is important that survivors know that they are not alone.

This can also be a difficult and worrying time if you require additional assistance. If you need emergency food or support you can find the contact details of your local food bank using your postcode [here](#).

If you are able to support your local food bank with donations or by volunteering, click here to visit the [FareShare website](#).

You can also visit [this section](#) of our website for information from the NFWI on ways you can help your community, sources of support and other helpful information such as setting up a virtual meeting.

We have a PDF versions of the digest available, that you can share with the people around you. Please [get in touch](#) with the Public Affairs department if you would like a copy.

Please also encourage other members of your WI to sign up to receive this monthly digest.

Kind regards,

The NFWI Public Affairs team.

pa@nfwl.org.uk 020 7371 9300 ext.238



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