



Public Affairs Digest

Issue 74: September

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.



Share



Forward

Contents:

- [Craft a Make a Match blood drop this autumn](#)
- [Make a Match post cards available!](#)
- [ADHD and Autism campaign - Upcoming events](#)
- [How you can help push for action on energy bills](#)
- [Less than a month to go until the Great Big Green Week!](#)
- [Tell NHS Wales what is important to you, your life, your health and your family.](#)
- [Campaign Call Out: 16 Days of Activism 2022](#)
- [September is Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month](#)

Craft a Make a Match blood drop this autumn to help raise awareness of the need for more stem cell donors

Since 2019, the number of stem cell donors in the UK has fallen by 62%. There is an urgent need to get this number back up, to ensure that every patient who needs a transplant is able to find a matching donor.

Blood Cancer Awareness Month in September marks the start of our new Make a Match craft action, and we are encouraging all members to craft an embellished stem cell blood drop during the autumn to raise awareness. We have created three simple crafty projects for you to make.




You could craft a felt bag charm, cross stitch hoop or an applique badge.

These projects suit all skill levels and are perfect to craft as a small gift or conversation starter to encourage people around you to think about becoming stem cell donors.

All three offer you the chance to get creative and customise them as you wish, and are the perfect way to use recycled materials or use up crafting scraps.

We'd love to see how your projects turn out! Send us a photo of your crafted blood drop by 31 December 22 for a chance to be featured in our online exhibition in the new year.

[Access the Make a Match craft project here](#)

The graphic is a vertical rectangular poster. The top half has a white background on the left and a green background on the right. The bottom half has a light yellow background. On the white background, there is a circular logo with a heart in the center, surrounded by six smaller circles, each containing a heart or a person icon. Below the logo is the text 'MAKE A MATCH'. On the green background, there is the 'theWI' logo with 'INSPIRING WOMEN' underneath. Below the logo is the text 'EVERY 20 MINUTES SOMEONE IN THE UK IS DIAGNOSED WITH BLOOD CANCER' in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this is the text 'YOU COULD CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE BY SIGNING UP TO BE A STEM CELL DONOR' in smaller white capital letters. On the light yellow background, there is a section titled 'Why are more donors needed?' followed by two paragraphs of text. At the bottom of the poster, on a dark green background, is the website 'www.thewi.org.uk' in white text.

MAKE A MATCH

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

**EVERY 20 MINUTES SOMEONE IN THE UK
IS DIAGNOSED WITH BLOOD CANCER**

YOU COULD CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE BY SIGNING UP
TO BE A STEM CELL DONOR

Why are more donors needed?

Stem cells are used to treat a range of blood cancers and blood disorders. For some people, a stem cell transplant from a matching donor is their best chance of survival. However, finding the best possible tissue match can be like finding a needle in a haystack and, since 2019, the number of stem cell donors in the UK has fallen by 62%.

The WI is campaigning to change this by raising awareness of the urgent need for more donors, especially from minority ethnic backgrounds who currently make up just 13% of the registry.

www.thewi.org.uk

Make a Match post cards available!

Are you holding an event or a stand this autumn? We have developed a new post card which is great for handing out at an event or when holding a stand to raise awareness of the campaign. The postcard is an opportunity for anyone who is interested in becoming a donor to find out more. They simply need to fill in their contact details and return the postcard to the WI to receive information about how to become a stem cell donor.

[Register to receive some or download a PDF version here.](#)

ADHD and Autism campaign - Upcoming events

During the autumn the NFWI will be hosting two webinars to offer members the chance to learn more about Autism and ADHD and our new campaign.

October marks ADHD Awareness Month and so our first webinar will focus on ADHD and will take place on Friday 21 October 2022. Members will have the chance to hear from expert speakers to find out more about ADHD and how it impacts women and girls.



The second in the series of webinars will be held on **Friday 11 November** and **will focus on autism.**

The timings of each webinars will be confirmed soon and sent via email to those who register.

The webinars will be recorded for those who are unable to attend.

To register please [complete this form](#).

How you can help push for action on energy bills

On 26 August Ofgem announced a huge rise in the energy price cap which will operate from October. The cap will increase by 80% to £3,459, an increase that will put millions of households into poverty this winter.



NFWI Chair Ann Jones responded calling for urgent emergency help to support people through the coming winter to prevent an energy crisis turning into a catastrophe.

‘As a supporter of the Warm this Winter campaign, the WI is calling on the two Conservative leadership candidates and the UK Government to urgently get going to ramp up their plans to further support the predicted 8.5 million households that will be plunged into fuel poverty by today’s announcement. We would urge the Government to work quickly to lead us away from the UK’s broken energy system towards cleaner, greener and cheaper forms of energy.’

The WI is supporting the **Warm this Winter campaign** which is calling for urgent action to help people this winter, for action on household insulation, more investment in renewable energy and a move away from oil and gas.

You can sign the Warm this Winter petition **here**, and use our template letter to send a letter to your MP **here**.

You can read **Ann’s full statement** and visit our **dedicated page on My WI** with ways members can get involved and resources and sources of support.

The WI has also created a Cost of Living-Hub on MyWI to signpost WI members towards sources of advice and support. **You can access this here.**

We will keep this hub regularly updated with help and advice.

Less than a month to go until the Great Big Green Week!

The Great Big Green Week is nearly upon us! Running from the 24th September to the 2nd October, the Great Big Green Week is the UK’s biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

Lots of WIs are getting involved in this year's Great Big Green Week, by organising Great Big Green Week panel events, walks, allotment tours and community action days.

Are you getting involved in this year's Great Big Green Week? Let us know by emailing pa@nfwi.org.uk

Tell NHS Wales what is important to you, your life, your health and your family

A Women's Health Plan for Wales is being developed and NHS Wales has recently launched a survey to gather the views of women, girls over the age of 16 and those registered female at birth living in Wales.



NHS
WALES
GIG
CYMRU

Fifty one percent (51%) of our population in Wales are women. NHS Wales wants to reduce health inequalities and for their services to reflect our community.

Complete the survey to tell NHS Wales what is important to you, your life, your health and that of your family. The survey is open until **12 September**.

Campaign Call Out: 16 Days of Activism 2022

We are once again encouraging WIs to take part in the 16 Days of Activism to end gender-based violence from 25 November to 10 December.




We will be sharing further information about how you can take part on My WI and social media in the coming weeks.


If you have already made plans or are planning to hold an event please get in touch to let us know. You can email us with a brief outline of your plans to pa@nfwl.org.uk





September is Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month

This #GynaecologicalCancerAwarenessMonth we're shining a spotlight on ovarian cancer as part of our #SeetheSigns campaign.



Do you know the four main symptoms of ovarian cancer?





Persistent stomach pain Difficulty eating/feeling full more quickly Persistent bloating Needing to wee more frequently

If you are experiencing one or more symptoms of ovarian cancer and they are persistent and increasingly frequent, or a change that isn't normal for you, speak to your GP

In the UK, there are around 7,500 new ovarian cancer cases each year. It is

one of the most common types of cancer in women, mainly affecting those who have been through menopause.

According to Cancer Research UK, when ovarian cancer is diagnosed early, nine out of ten women will survive for five years or more. This compares to less than three in 20 women when diagnosed at the latest stage. At the moment, diagnosis is unfortunately often at a late stage.

This needs to change. We're campaigning to ensure that more women and anyone who can be affected by ovarian cancer are diagnosed as early as possible. Awareness of the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer is a vital part of this and we need your support to reach more people. Only 50% of people we surveyed with Ovarian Cancer Action in March 2022 felt confident recognising the signs.

There are four main signs:

- Persistent stomach pain
- Difficulty eating/feeling full more quickly
- Persistent bloating
- Needing to wee more frequently

Please share **our graphics** to raise awareness this Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month, using the hashtags #GynaecologicalCancerAwarenessMonth and #SeetheSigns.

[Find out more about the WI's See the Signs campaign 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!



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. 2002



The NFWI use a third party provider, MailChimp, to send out the Public Affairs Digest. When you provide your email address, it is sent directly to MailChimp for safe storage and processing in the United States. For more information on how your email address is used please read MailChimp's [privacy policy](#).

This email was sent to [*|EMAIL|*](#)
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
[*|LIST:ADDRESSLINE|*](#)