



Norfolk Federation Newsletter

A change to the usual Secretaries Letter!

Something slightly different in these extraordinary times

First things first – I hope you are all keeping safe, well and **smiling!**

I would normally have sent the mailing and my usual letter to Secretaries by now, but as you can imagine (and guessed by the numerous emails being sent to you), we were having to react to the ever-changing situation, sometimes it felt hourly, so “normal” activity went by the wayside.

You might have thought that there wouldn't be a mailing for April, but there are one or two things to let you know about. You may even think that it's all irrelevant but at times like this it is really important that we all keep in touch, try to carry on as best we can and keep some semblance of normality – to say nothing of still being part of the WI!

So I thought that this month I would send a newsletter for you to share with all your members – in fact, *please* share this with members where you can by emailing it. We do appreciate that there are some members who don't have emails or access social media. For those not on email, if you feel you can print this off (in black and white) and pop it through a member's door on your



A Strong woman looks a challenge dead in the eye and gives it a wink.

Gina Carey

daily exercise, that would be great! I *may* be able to post a few, so get in touch if you have a couple of members you can't reach and I'll see what I can do. We are trying very hard to keep everyone in touch

We will also be downloading this and other information onto our website. It may take a bit of time, but keep a look out there - <https://norfolk.thewi.org.uk/downloads>

It has been wonderful hearing how WIs are setting up telephone trees to ring members and all the activities everyone has been getting up to! Worryingly, many of you seem to be madly spring cleaning... As I'm still working, I luckily have an excuse not to do that!

Until next time, take care.

Lause

Staff

Just to let you know that Vanessa and Helen are currently furloughed, although I am still working from home. During this time they are not allowed to do any work, so if you have any queries on Admin for Helen, please email Margaret (margaret@saxonlodge.net) or for financial queries, Vicki (tony-vicki@tiscali.co.uk). Also, don't forget that you can contact your Adviser.

Events

We have already advised you of some postponed events, but there are a couple of others which have also now been put on hold or cancelled:

- Viking Day, 16th July – POSTPONED
- Nosh & Natter – lunches have been CANCELLED until September

We haven't postponed or cancelled any events planned from August onward that we've yet to advertise, but it might mean that there will be a faster turn round for applying for tickets – we'll let you know if that's the case.

Just think how much there is to look forward to when we reconvene all the postponed events!

Contacting Members

Some WIs are concerned that under GDPR they can't have a telephone tree or email addresses to stay in touch with members. When the GDPR came into force I sent information and advice on checking with members that they were happy for Committees to hold their details so they could be contacted – for just such a situation as we're now in, in fact! – and most WIs did so, I believe. At a time like this,

when it is so important that we look out for each other in the best traditions of the WI, I am sure that most members will be delighted if you ring or email them; you are just keeping the information within your WI and not sharing it with the wider world, so please don't let GDPR considerations put you off keeping in touch!

Yearbook

I've had several queries about the Yearbook, which you would usually have had by now, as they are collected at FAM. Like every business, the printers had to go into lockdown, so it has not been produced yet. However, because Programme Secretaries will be starting their 2021 planning I will email the Speakers List to Secretaries and should be grateful if you could pass this on. If your Programme Secretary isn't on email, let me know and I will print a hard copy to post. As soon as possible the Yearbook will be printed in full.

Federation Sub-Committees

Recently the Board of Trustees reviewed all the Sub-Committees, to see how they best served the Federation in terms of what they offered members. They also looked at how they could attract more members to serve on Federation Committees – something which every Federation is considering with an eye to the future! (There will be more on this at a later date.)

- *Arts & Crafts* are now called **Creative Activities**
- *Leisure Activities* are now called **Arts & Leisure Activities**

This will enable both Sub-Committees to offer a broader range of events for members.

Two new Sub-Committees have also been created:

- The *Digital Team* are now a full committee, called **Digital**
- *Royal Norfolk Show organisers* are also a full committee, shortened to **RNS**

Norfolk WI News Magazine

I know that because the lockdown was declared just at the time that the April edition was distributed, many members haven't had their copy. The magazine will still be there, though, so something to look forward to seeing.

As I emailed last month, unfortunately the publishers (and printers) are unable to produce the next edition. BUT! We will still have one, although it'll be in-house and not so glossy!

SO! Do please keep sending in articles and photos – let us know what you've been up to (top tips for cleaning, perhaps?!), how you've kept in touch and so much more. Email magazine@norfolkwi.org.uk

Facebook

Enormous thanks to everyone who has been sending items in! There have been loads to post, so bear with Mary, the Editor, if you haven't seen your contribution yet – it will be there. As I write this, it looks as if the lockdown will be continuing a while yet, let us know what you'll be doing throughout May. Email it to me, with the subject: "Please Forward to Mary Dorrell" and I will send it straight to her. Forgive me if I don't respond to you, though – I have rather a lot on!!

500 Club

We will continue to draw the 500 Club, albeit virtually! It is a legal requirement that we do so in any event. Winners will be announced as usual in the in-house magazine.

Finally...

I was sent this a little while ago and whilst it now seems that, thankfully, people are behaving responsibly, it makes me laugh. I hope you like it, too!



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Keep Safe

Keep well

Keep 😊