



# Norfolk Federation Newsletter

## Hello from the Office!

**We're getting ready for some housekeeping...**

August is traditionally the month when the office is closed to visitors, although we're still working! It gives us the chance to do some much-needed tidying up and other jobs we haven't had time for.

As I mention in Notes from the Office, we are also taking the opportunity to do a little office re-arrangement, creating a new workshop/meeting room on the first floor. We just hope that the week we do this doesn't coincide with our annual week of summer weather!

You can still get in touch with us, though. Messages can be left on our voicemail and we will be monitoring emails. We will get back to you – it might just take a little longer than usual!

So just a reminder that the **Office is Closed** from **Thursday, 1st August, re-opening on Monday, 2nd September.**

**Magazine/Mailing Collection:** we are open, however, on **Tuesday, 27th August from 12noon** if you collect from The House. If you can't get in that day, please contact Helen to arrange another convenient date.

Until we see you all again in September, take care



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## This month's Norfolk WI News

The link to his month's edition is below:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/5b7d5f6bdc9/norfolk-wi-news-august-2024/full-view.html>

## Autumn Federation Meetings 18<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> October

In this month's mailing is a flyer for the two Autumn Federation Meetings (AFMs) we are holding this year. Previously we held four AFMs but the decision was taken to limit these to two this year, for two reasons: to see if there was still an appetite for them as numbers have been dwindling, and because the office and volunteers don't have the resources in terms of time.

As I have mentioned before, finding suitable venues for any Federation event is becoming ever more challenging, particularly because so many halls have regular bookings, which clearly they need for their own income. We are very aware that we need to spread events about as much as we are able, in order that as many members in all our WIs can participate, and try very hard to book venues geographically spread around the County. We are also mindful that we need to keep costs down and affordable, which is not always easy with some hire charges and tutor fees.

This year it has been especially difficult finding venues which are available on the dates we can manage for AFMs.

You will see from the flyer that both AFMs are being held south and east of Norwich. We appreciate that this may be disappointing for members who feel that the distance is too far for them to travel, for which I apologise. (Although you could make it a day out and go on somewhere else before or after a meeting!).

However...! In 2025 AFMs will *definitely* take place in the west and on the north-east coast. I am hoping to book halls in Northrepps and Watlington on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October respectively. Obviously, I can't guarantee these will be the final venues, but I promise they will be in those areas and WIs might like to Save the Date and factor it into their 2025 programmes.

## Save the Dates 2025!

**FAM:** We now have a confirmed date – **Thursday, 13th March**, at the Theatre Royal. Details to follow!

**National Annual Meeting:** National have just announced the date – **Wednesday, 4th June**. As you are aware, it will only be live streamed. We are hoping to put on something special to make it feel more like a great gathering of members, so watch this space!

## Save the Dates?

You might think that Federation Committees and Western Area randomly pick a date during the year for an event or workshop. You may be interested to know that the Chairmen have a Planning Meeting in early September, when events are programmed for the whole of the following year. It can feel that we are signing our lives away! We then produce the Save the Dates calendar, sent out to WIs in late Autumn, so you can see what's on offer and keep your diaries free! It also means that if an idea for a workshop or event comes up during the year, because we know what else is happening we can plan these additional activities.

## Festive Craft Fare - 30<sup>th</sup> November

If you would like to donate something for the Federation stall or WIs would like to have their stall, get in touch with Vanessa. "Crafts" includes preserves and cakes and they don't need to be "Christmassy" (if it isn't too early to mention That word).

## Things to do & Other Useful Information

- **National Gardens Open Scheme:** What better way to spend lazy sunny days than in a garden open for the NGS. Details at <http://www.ngs.org.uk/>

Finally...

**Be Safe, Be Well, Be Kind.  
Hope for some sun**

