



# Norfolk Federation Newsletter

## Hello from the Home Office!

**I hope you're all still keeping safe, well and smiling**

Last month I shared a picture of the current Federation base. When we were allowed to go into offices, I thought I had better pop to Evelyn Suffield House to check that nothing untoward had happened in our absence (and to do some photocopying). The House felt eerily empty but imagine my shock when I was greeted by this sight...



The Trauma Teddies, which so many of you have already delivered had clearly taken the adage "when the cat's away..." to heart and had a right old knees up in my Office. Naughty Teddies!

The response to the appeal for Trauma Teddies has been incredible – *thank you all so much*. I must have at least 200 in my Office at the moment and I know many of



**A woman is like a tea bag - you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water**

***Eleanor Roosevelt***

you are harbouring hundreds more at home until you can deliver them (just keep an eye on them, is all I'd say). The generosity of members never ceases to amaze. In due course I'll let you know about getting them to us, so that I can arrange their safe distribution.

The Newsletter seems to have been appreciated, so I have decided that I will continue to produce one each month. It won't be a "mini mag" with articles but will include information which is too late for Norfolk WI News deadlines. It will only be online at the moment but if you would like photocopies for members who don't have email/internet, let me know. There may be a slight delay as I am only popping into the House very occasionally.

As before the newsletter and the accompanying mailing will be available on our website in due course, so check out

<https://norfolk.thewi.org.uk/downloads>

Until next time, take care.

*Lause*



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## Stop Press!

### 2021 National Annual Meeting

We have just been advised by National that the date for next year's Annual Meeting is **Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> April** – at **The Albert Hall!** So the Federation will be attending from Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup>, returning on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup>.

I have not worked out the fine detail but rather than reinvent the wheel, this year's Linking List, and therefore delegate WIs, will remain for next year. I will contact WIs and everyone who applied to be an observer in the early Autumn with more information.

### 2020 Resolutions

Last month I said that as soon as we had any information on this year's resolutions, we would let you know. National have now announced that in these exceptional circumstances two resolutions will be adopted. Details are on the enclosed flyer.

### Norfolk WI News Magazine

Thank you to everyone who contacted me to say how much you enjoyed, (and some preferred!), the inhouse version produced last month. We have been asked if we could continue to do so but it took a very long time and isn't practical for the future.

Our publishers, Today Magazines, are now able to produce the Magazine, but only an online version. Here is the link to view it: <https://www.flipsnack.com/5B7D5F6BDC9/norfolk-wi-news-june-20/full-view.html> I will put the link in the covering email with the Newsletter and mailing, too. It will also be available as a pdf on the Download Page of our Website. (If you were thinking of printing it, you will have to use the pdf version.)

*Secretaries:* if you need copies for members without internet, please let me know how many you need; I will photocopy them and post them to you for distribution.

### Office Re-opening

We are hoping that Vanessa, Helen and myself will be back in the Office on 20<sup>th</sup> July! This very much depends on what happens during the next few weeks as further lockdown restrictions are lifted. There is a lot

of work to do to produce a Covid-19 Safe Working Policy beforehand, too.

However, if all goes to plan, we will not open to any members until Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> August – and then strictly by appointment only. We are normally closed in August but feel that as the Office has been closed for over 3 months, we could open this year. Bio-security measures and social distancing protocols will obviously be in place. I will be sending out the Policy to WIs (and it will be available on our Download Page) as soon as I have worked it all out!

### Dippy (not) at the Cathedral

Many of you will have read that Dippy is sadly stuck in Rochdale, so will not be visiting the Cathedral this summer. As you know, we were to have a Public Affairs presence there, handing out green hearts, which I know many members have been making. Do not despair about your hearts, though! We are waiting to hear from the Cathedral about new dates and in any event, as mentioned in the "Green Hearts for Dippy" flyer sent in April, if Dippy can't use them, #Show The Love 2021 can! We'll let you know more as soon as we know what is happening.

### Norfolk Day 2020

There is a flyer with this mailing giving details of this year's (virtual) Norfolk Day, which we are launching as #WI♥Norfolk. Full details of how you can get involved even if you are isolating are on the enclosed flyer! Help Sheets for getting the ♥ emoji on every kind of device are available on the website download page (thanks to Heather Duffield!).

### Norfolk WI Facebook Page

As those of you who following our Facebook page will know, it has been very active! Thank you to everyone who has sent in contributions – it has kept Mary Dorrell, the Editor, extremely busy! It's very helpful to get feedback on how well it and the posts are received, and how many people are visiting our page, so when you read posts *please* do click and like them.

Which leads on nicely to...

## Norfolk WI News (Part 2)

Don't forget to send the Magazine stories and photos of what you've been up to, too!

What are you doing to keep in touch and how have you been doing it? We've heard that one WI, for instance, rotates their telephone tree so that members speak to someone different each week; another sends e-cards instead of a birthday posy.

As we've said before, we are all trying very hard to make sure we keep in touch with everyone as best we can, and members are enjoying reading how other WIs are keeping in touch.

Send your articles (and photos!) to Sue and Jane at [magazine@norfolkwi.org.uk](mailto:magazine@norfolkwi.org.uk).

As part of our archives, we want to build a "scrapbook" of how Norfolk WIs responded to the crisis. One thing we learnt last year when researching the previous 100 years, was how interesting and important it is to have an historical picture of our timeline, so we want to leave a similar legacy for future WI generations.

## 2021 Calendars & Diaries

Yes, we will need them next year when we're all back out and about! An order form is enclosed and whilst we know it may be a few months yet before WIs can meet again, don't forget that you can order them individually.

## Public Affairs

The NFWI Public Affairs Team produce a Digest. The latest one is enclosed, giving up-to-date information on current campaigns.

## Tricky Period

You'll remember that at the Thanksgiving Service at the Cathedral last April we raised money for Tricky Period and Pricilla Bacon Lodge, and that we handed a cheque for nearly £400 to each.

The Norfolk Library Service incepted Tricky Period and the co-ordinator of the project, Caroline Varney-Bowers, has just been in touch with the following message:

*"I just wanted to get in touch to let you know that the donation of money made to Norfolk Library Service for "Tricky Period" has been put to very good use during the Corona Virus pandemic. With help from some brilliant staff in our Business Support Team, we have been able to purchase supplies of sanitary items online for delivery directly to 6 support groups in the Norwich area including a domestic abuse support service. These groups are providing packs of food and other necessities to some of the most vulnerable people living in Norfolk. I received this feedback from Lou Curtis at Norwich City Council which sums up the value of being able to provide supplies; "I think this crisis is spurring people on wanting to help in whatever way they can and providing sanitary protection not only reduces embarrassment and worry it frees women up to get on with things, it all adds up." Thank you"*

## Things to do in Lockdown & Other Useful Information

Here are some more links and information which I hope you find useful:

- **The National Archives, Kew** – Hazel Patrickson of Roughton & District WI has passed on some information which she says "members may be interested in, especially if researching family history. The National Archives at Kew have made available any digitalised records they have free to download during the lockdown. I have already found three wills of my ancestors." [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)
- **National "History Begins at Home" campaign** – launches in Norfolk. Archive recordings from the Norfolk Record Office, of Norfolk residents talking about their memories of playing games in the 1940s have been used to launch a new national family history campaign, starting on 1st June. 'History Begins at Home', is running nationwide and being led by Norfolk County Council's archive service. For more information go to <http://www.facebook.com/historybeginsathome>
- **Norfolk Recycling Centres** – if you were wondering what to do with all the stuff you've cleared out in lockdown, 12 centres are now open! Caister, Dereham, Hempton, Ketteringham, King's Lynn,

Mayton Wood, Mile Cross, Sheringham and Thetford, Ashill, Strumpshaw and Heacham are operating a restricted service For more information go to <http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/recyclingupdates>

- **Carers Week 2020, 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June** – to celebrate, Carers Matter Norfolk are hosting a number of activities via Zoom. A flyer with information is enclosed; we received it a little late but do get in touch with them. <https://carersmatternorfolk.org.uk>
- **No, Corona (Nessun Dorma parody)** – for light relief you might like to take a look at this wonderful parody, beautifully sung! <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=nessun+dorma+alla+corona&docid=608002807232924450&mid=92B9BA0A54F1E5B88BDD92B9BA0A54F1E5B88BDD&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

## Refunds for Postponed or Cancelled Events

We were able to deal with some of these before lockdown and Vanessa and Helen were furloughed. I know that some WIs and members are waiting for refunds, so just to reassure you that as soon as Vanessa and Helen are un-furloughed and back in the Office they will be dealing with these as a priority.

## Member Survey

We are thinking hard about how and what events we could run both now while everyone is feeling a bit anxious about meeting up and in the future, especially if our movements have to be restricted again. We want to know your views if we are able to organise something, remotely or otherwise. So we're going to be sending out a link to a survey to help us make some plans.

You may well be groaning and rolling your eyes at the thought, but it'll be a very quick and simple and we really do need to know what you think! I will be sending an email to Secretaries with information and the link, if they would very kindly forward it on to their members – and, again, if you need hard copies for members, let me know how many and I will send them to you. Thank you, in advance!

## NFWI Simple Face Covering Pattern

National have produced a pattern on My WI. For those members who don't access My WI and would like a pattern, I have created it as a pdf. If you would like a copy, let me know.

## Finally...

The EDP "Dad Jokes" have been great, but I thought I'd share my favourite joke with you

A man walked into a pub. Ouch.

I know... but it makes me laugh!

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