

Hello Everyone,

I hope that you are all well. I am sure that many of you watched the Queen's broadcast on Sunday and like me found it very emotional and also uplifting. Just what we needed at this time.

As you know we should have had our Spring Council meeting last Saturday and although the term of office for the Board of Trustees hasn't ended, we had three Trustees standing down from the committee, Marjorie Burland, Teresa Rowell and Lynn Kennedy. Marjorie and Teresa are long standing Trustees and have served as Trustees for many years. Lynn has been chairman of the Arts, Craft and Wellbeing committee for a number of years. All of them have contributed a huge amount to the work of the Federation and will be missed. We will give them a proper public thank you at the Autumn Council meeting.

After the Spring Council meeting the Board of Trustees normally have a short meeting to elect a Chairman for the following year. This year the election was held electronically with Joanne collating the votes.

I am honoured to have been re-elected to serve as your Chairman and I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for the confidence and faith they have placed in me.

The Board of Trustees is now as follows

Margaret Carter

Judith Russell

Elaine Wright

Clare Espie

Debra Phippen,

Katherine Watson

Maureen Johnstone

Evelyn Clark

Margaret Fullerton

Federation Chairman

Federation Vice Chairman

Federation Vice Chairman

Federation Treasurer



As a Board we're looking to co-opt members to join us and we were planning a federation team recruitment drive before lockdown. There is an information flyer attached to this news bulletin. Please consider joining us on the team, it is a very rewarding way to become more involved with the WI. Please contact myself or Joanne for further information.

At the moment the plan is that the Autumn Council meeting will still go ahead and if any of you started/finished your competition entry for Spring Council then hang onto them for Autumn Council where they will be judged as normal.

# theWI Tyne & Wear South



Dilly Dollies WI decorated Easter Eggs for an online competition

WIs are continuing to be inventive in ways that they can keep in touch with their members. A number of committees have met via Zoom or other networking apps. Sisters of Shields held a 'Stay at Home' quiz. Bowes Belles held their 'Bad Girls Book Club' online and a number of WIs are hosting competitions online too. If you would like to try something like this but don't know how, check out 'My WI' – the Website specifically for members and there is lots of guidance to help you.



Bowes Belles WI - Bad Girls Book Club

There are two National competitions recently organised for members: -

- A. A short story (600 words) around the theme 'Togetherness'.
- B. A photographic competition for a photo which captures an aspect of lockdown.

Full details are available on the Federation Facebook page.

The Public affairs newsletter from NFWI arrived this week and it gives an update on all our current campaigns. The feature this week was the work the WI has been supporting on eliminating domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse is part of many relationships and the current lockdown will exacerbate any tensions in households. If this is case for you or anyone you know please use the numbers opposite.

There is help that can be access even during lockdown.

## For information and support on domestic abuse, contact:

- **Police:** 999 press 55 when prompted if you can't speak
- **Refuge UK wide 24-hour helpline:** 0808 2000 247

For those of you who also may be concerned about your annual meetings the NFWI along with the Charities Commission, have provided some guidance. The Charities Commission is being flexible as possible so there is no need to worry. The information sheet will be sent to Presidents and Secretaries but any members who request it can have a copy. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.



Radio Nova North East, we continue to be part of Julie Pendleton's radio programme on Sunday Afternoons 2 – 4pm. You can send requests for music to be played directly to Julie or via the office. Tune in next week to hear my report and contributions from other WI members. Perhaps you have a suggestion of a member Julie could interview, maybe anyone who has an interesting story to tell.

# theWI Tyne & Wear South

One of my big concerns at the moment is for our members who are not easily reached and maybe on their own and isolated from friends and family. I know all our WI's are trying to reach out to all their members.

We are sending out this news bulletin to everyone who we have any email address for but about 2/3 of our membership are not on our e-mail list. Please forward this to anyone in your WI for whom you have an email address. If you know anyone who doesn't, if you can, why not print off a copy and drop it through their door? Please feel free to share with non-WI members too if you think it would help.

Let us know if you think this news bulletin is useful, or if you want to share anything with other members.



*Queen Elizabeth II has been a member since 1943 and is the President of Sandringham WI*

In the words of our most famous WI member

“Better times will return. We will be with our friends again; we will be with our family again. We will meet again”

H.M. Queen Elizabeth

April 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

Wishing you a safe and peaceful Easter.

Very best wishes

**Margaret Carter**

**Chairman**

**Tyne and Wear South Federation of WI's**

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# theWI Tyne & Wear South

## TEAM FEDERATION



Want to get more out of being in the W.I.?  
Why not join one of our committees?

The Federation committees have been reviewed and we are now organised into the following committees:

**Membership and Current Affairs Committee**

Deals with all WI issues like recruitment and retention of members, Advisers, IFEs, Annual Meetings, Campaigns and this committee is now open to all members  
Meets bi - monthly 6 pm on the third Thursday of the month.

**Events and Opportunities Committee**

This committee arranges all the fun things like Visits, Quizzes, Afternoon teas, Craft groups, Workshops and Courses , and lots more social events that add to the benefits of being a WI member.  
Meets every month 6pm on the second Wednesday of the month

**Come and join us !**

**Come and take part in planning activities  
for the whole Federation**

**Contact the Federation Office or Margaret Carter  
for more details.**