

Hello Everyone

I hope this finds you all fit and well, I don't know about you but I am getting very little post at the moment – it's funny how the bills still arrive though isn't it?

People are guessing and estimating how long it will be before we go back to normal. I don't want to go back to normal. I want a new normal. Where we are all kinder. Where we appreciate the good things around us. Where we have learned that material things are not important and where everyone is valued for the contribution they make to society.

Like many of you I'm relatively safe in isolation but my heart aches for those in my family who are key workers. In my close family we have a nurse, a postal worker, a teacher, a DWP worker dealing with benefits, a science lab worker and two in retail food shops and I am worried about them all. We have members across the Federation who are nurses, care assistants, shop workers, police officers and lots of other key workers. I hope you are all keeping safe and know that our thoughts, prayers and best wishes are with you.

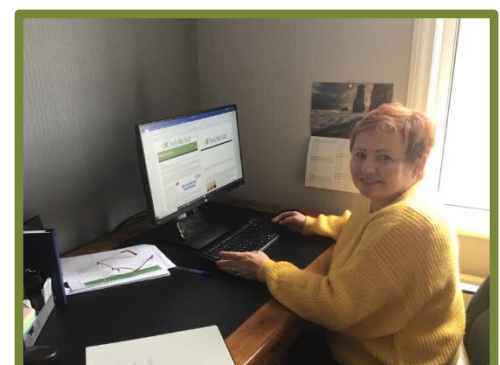
I am sure you all made of lot of noise last week in thanks for our NHS staff who are in the front line and I also know that a number of you have volunteered for the 'NHS volunteer responders' scheme as outlined by the prime Minister last Tuesday. The WI has always had a great reputation for stepping forward in a crisis and this week NFWI urged those of us who could do, to step forward and volunteer; the opportunities are on a number of fronts including the option to make telephone calls for friendly chats with lonely and isolated folk. So even if you are self-isolating or cocooning as we like to call it, maybe you could benefit from chatting to someone else as well as helping them. You can sign up quickly and easily at goodsamapp.org/NHS.



The advertisement features the NHS logo in the top right corner and the Royal Voluntary Service logo in the top left. The main text reads 'NHS VOLUNTEER RESPONDERS' in large blue letters. Below this, it says 'Your NHS needs you! Join our team today.' A small paragraph of text explains the scheme's purpose during the COVID-19 outbreak. At the bottom, it provides the website www.goodsamapp.org/NHS for volunteering.



Joanne is carrying on working from home so if you need help with anything, please call her on the office number as usual. She would be delighted to hear from you. She has taken over her husband's office and he is banished to the kitchen table!!!



Joanne preparing this news bulletin

theWI Tyne & Wear South

If you haven't tuned into Nova Radio North East on a Sunday afternoon between 2pm – 4pm yet, perhaps you should listen to the chat and hear what other WI members are doing. Next week just like a regular WI meeting Julie has invited a speaker to talk about beekeeping so that will be worth listening to. We also hope to involve other members in a Herstory feature, (as opposed to History) where we will hear about the lives of some of the amazing women in our Federation. Why not email me with suggestions of members who have a tale to tell. It needs to be someone who will chat over the telephone to Julie. The conversation will then be recorded and edited for the radio show.

I am intrigued by the various ways that WI members across the country are keeping in touch with their members and finding ways to have their monthly meeting regardless of being at home. Dilly Dollies, this week, were scheduled to have a craft evening, so instead they are having a competition to decorate an egg, entries to be photographed and posted on their Facebook page on the day of their meeting.



Whickham Village Belles craft group had spent some of their time making little chicks to hold cream eggs, which they were going to sell for their funds. Instead they have given them to local residents and services where they have been gratefully received.

If you have access to the internet Denman are doing cookery demonstrations most days.

Blueprint are offering free craft classes. Blueprint usually charges for its classes and they are high quality, usually delivered by an expert – definitely worth a watch. Go to <https://www.myblueprint.com/>

If you or your WI do anything via digital/virtual media you can let National Federation know by adding #MyVirtualWI to it.

We have had a number of enquiries about the annual meetings, minutes etc. please do not worry about constitutional matters at the moment – just keep safe and well. With reference to the tickets for the national raffle again don't worry about them, I believe the closing date is sometime in September.

I would love to hear what you and your WI's have been able to do and if you have anything you want to us to share, please let us know via the office number 0191 5845814 twsfwi@btconnect.com or myself macarter1@hotmail.co.uk or 0191 4165269.

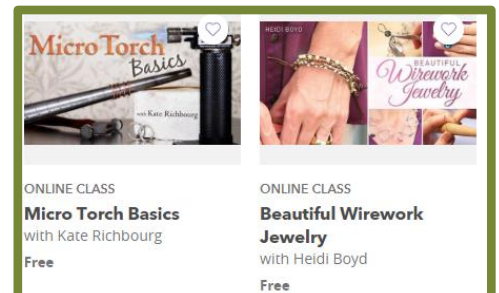


Take care my friends, I look forward to seeing you all sometime in the future.

Margaret Carter

Chairman

Tyne and Wear South Federation of WI's



ONLINE CLASS
Micro Torch Basics
with Kate Richbourg
Free

ONLINE CLASS
Beautiful Wirework Jewelry
with Heidi Boyd
Free

These jewellery demos are currently online but there is also cookery, quilting, sewing amongst many others.

Feeling trapped at home?
Worried about domestic abuse?
Don't face it alone.
We are here for you.

Call our helpline: 0800 066 5555
Information - Support - Help



*Please call 0800 066 5555
if you need help.*