

Hello Everyone

I sincerely hope that you are well and staying safe. We are living in strange times and we are coming to appreciate things that we may have taken for granted for a long time.

In the last 10 days I have had contact with every one of our WI's and I have spoken to most of the Presidents. It is heart-warming to hear the efforts that are being made to stay in contact with our members. WI's have buddy lists, telephone chains, What's App and Facebook groups and all sorts of methods of keeping in touch.

As expected, the National Annual meeting has been cancelled. The delegates packs for the voting had been sent out and we are instructed by national to keep the packs as later this year I think provision will be made for us all to vote on the proposed resolutions.

However, it is not all doom and gloom....

Some members from Fells Angels, before the lockdown did their monthly walk around Saltwell Park (keeping their social distancing, apart from the photograph) and finished off by singing Jerusalem in the bandstand and members joined in!!!



Sister of Shields held their regular wine club meeting via the internet using messenger video call. The great thing was no one had to drive home afterwards.

In the National AGM pack that has been delivered there is a copy of the NFWI Annual review 2018-2019 and on page 22 there is a lovely picture of Bowes Belles members attending the Gay Pride march in Newcastle last year



The President of Whickham Village Belles put cards through the doors of her locality giving contact details so that anyone in need could contact her and I'm sure that others have done the same.



The following WI's have celebrated birthdays this past month: Gilpin 25 years old, Whickham Fellside were 49 and Rowlands Gill were a very young 90.



Well done to all our ladies

theWI Tyne & Wear South

Julie Pendleton is a member of 3 of our WI's and she has a regular Sunday afternoon radio programme on Nova Radio North East, you can find it on your phone, computer, I pad or any Alexa device. We hope to have a bit of each week's show featuring WI matters providing the technology doesn't let us down. So, if you have any stories or requests for Julie please pass them via the office email or the Federation Facebook page.

For myself, I am finding it difficult not having anything in my diary! I might get some crafting done, some books read or as a last resort some housework! I have no excuse now.

If you don't use my WI website now is a good time to have a look – there are some great ideas on there to help us through this time. There is a section on crafts to keep you busy, tutorials on writing poetry or short stories and whole range of other learning opportunities.

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.

There is a lovely phrase used by some Berkshire WI members who insisted they are not self-isolating but 'cocooning' a much nicer phrase which suggests looking after yourself and enjoying your house.

So, whilst you are 'cocooning' stay well and safe, don't watch too much news, watch old telly programmes and films catch up on your crafts and take care of you.

We can do this!



Margaret Carter

Chairman

Tyne and Wear South Federation of WI's