



News Bulletin 14

24th June 2020

Hello Everyone,

I hope you and your families are all fit and well. Here we are at News Bulletin 14 and past midsummer and we have missed out on lots of lovely things we had planned. However, we are all making the best of it to stay safe and healthy.

The big news for the WI in the past week has been the news about our subscription for next year. A couple of weeks ago Clare Espie, our Federation Treasurer and myself took part in a consultation exercise by Zoom with the National Board. After the consultation each Federation had a vote. We held a Board meeting to decide what the Federation response would be and then voted. All 69 Federations took part in the vote and I had hope we would get the result in time for last week's bulletin. However, the result didn't get through to us until a couple of hours after. As a Board, we are delighted that the decision has been made across the country and feel that the three-month membership extension will be appreciated by members. The fact that the membership year will now be April to April will also be appreciated as it was widely felt that renewal in January came at a difficult time. The text of the communication from National is replicated below. There is also a Q & A fact sheet that has been sent to all WI's but anyone can read it on WI website.

“The NFWI has been very concerned about the disruption this lockdown period has had on WI meetings and activities and your membership experience this year. We recently held consultations with all federations to discuss ways in which we can acknowledge this in our membership subscription this year.

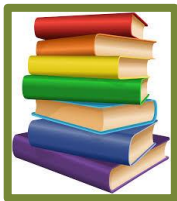
We are delighted to share with you that as a result we are offering a three-month extension to this year's membership subscription. The next renewal date for membership subscriptions will therefore be 1st April 2021. In addition, from this point onwards, membership renewals will always be in April. This is to acknowledge the feedback many of you shared with us during the recent Strategic Vision consultation about the challenges of the January payment date and how you wished to see this changed in the future.

We know that many WIs have responded creatively to the practical challenges posed by lockdown and we continue to be inspired by the activities being delivered to ensure members remain connected during this difficult time. However, we do appreciate that this period has meant that many members have experienced disruption to their WI experience and therefore we hope the additional three months will provide some compensation to acknowledge the disruption.

We are aiming to ensure that this message reaches all members as soon as possible. As well as the formal notification to federations and this announcement on social media, there is a memo in the July WI Life magazine and a letter in the July WI mailing. We hope that by ensuring the message is consistent across all our channels of communications, it will reach all members; but please do ensure you share the news with all the members in your WI too.”



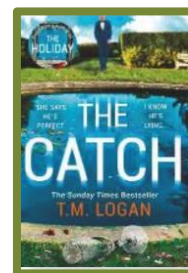
Read and Rhyme



Even though many of us will not be travelling far over the Summer we can still stock up on our books for staycation readathon! About this time of year, I start collecting books I want to read in the next few months. The books below have been added to my list: -

The Catch – T.M. Logan

When a protective Dad meets his daughter's new 'Too good to be true' boyfriend, he is convinced that the young man is not what he says he is. This is tension filled gripping read that takes us through the Dad's investigations and the surprising things he finds.



Curator – M. W. Craven



Although it's set at Christmas time this is a shocking and captivating novel at any time of the year. A serial killer, based in Cumbria and the victims have all one thing in common.

Valentine – Elizabeth Welmore

In 1976 in a small Texas town a young woman is violently attacked. A town where the men rule and story is told through the eyes of women. How will they react? A stunning debut novel and looks a very interesting read.

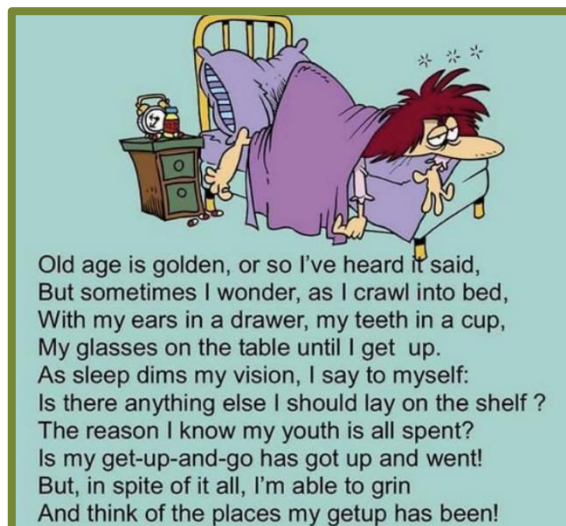


I read this one earlier in the year and was initially drawn in by the title

The Institute – Stephen King. It is an absolutely fascinating read. I avoided Stephen King's books for many years thinking that they were all gruesome. This is a very clever story about gifted children and their potential for the world – I really loved this book and would highly recommend it.

Joanne suggests her Mam, Joy Inglis, adds these to her list aswell, as she is reading her way through lockdown, currently averaging one every 2 days!!!

Why not send your suggestions for summer reads? We would love to share them with everyone.





Federation Events still in the Diary

October 3rd 2020 Autumn Council

November 28th 2020 Rapunzel at the Customs House

December 19th 2020 Carol Service at Durham Cathedral

Zoom meetings



We had our first Federation wide zoom meeting today (Tuesday) an open meeting for Presidents, Treasurers and Secretaries and I was delighted that we had 12 WI represented.

Dilly Dollies, Washington Station, Washington Concord, Fells Angels, Chopwell, Herrington, Whickham Village Belles, Greenside, Ewesley Road, Tunstall, Jarrow and Bowes Belles.

As a number of people couldn't attend because of work commitments I have scheduled another meeting for Presidents, Treasurers and Secretaries on Monday 29th June 7pm

Meeting ID 884 2499 2826, Password 258039.

If you did join us on Tuesday, I would like to say thank you and please feel free to join again if you wish.

Don't forget that on

Tuesday 30th June 7pm 'Sex, Secrets, Scandal and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court, 1660 to 1830' by Sarah Slater



We have booked a speaker to come and entertain us on Tuesday 30th June at 7pm. Sarah Slater. She will talk about 'Sex, Secrets, Scandal and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court, 1660 to 1830' She will tell us about all the naughty bits of history you would probably not have learnt about at school! Discussing sexual diseases of the time and the methods used to prevent them. Warning, this talk is not for the prude, it is fun but rude!

Meeting ID 89045450594 - Password 537215



Post Bag - Once again thank you for all the lovely feedback we have received – it has kept us going this week.

“Many thanks to Joanne and Margaret for another great bulletin, I look forward to this arriving in my in box every week, it’s great to keep in touch and read about what our fellow members are up to at this unusual time, best wishes to you both and many thanks” Judith, Fulwell WI Committee Member. 😊

“Thank you very much for the News Bulletins. Every week now I look forward to these Bulletins and seeing what other members have been up to. Good news about the subscriptions” Alice O’Halleron - Winlaton WI

“Hello - I am the Chairman of the Membership Advisory Committee for East Yorkshire Federation and read in your latest newsletter about the above meeting. It sounded great and I thought it would be extremely useful to our Federation. Many thanks Cynthia Cray”

I have seen a number of people raise the question of the cost of membership fees, the fees will work out about £3.66 per month or 84p per week, do you think you’re getting 84ps worth every week? I saw this lovely positive statement from Judith Brown and I have her permission to quote it.

“Eee well as a newish member I think the membership fees are quite cheap, lots of things were going on before Coronavirus and it was good value for money. I remember the first headteacher I worked with used to say to the children “Life is like a money box the more you put in the more you get out”. That has stayed with me all my life and when you join a club you try to help out and join in you get more out of it. Any institution always survives because the whole is so much more powerful than individual members. So, let’s look on the bright side to the future of ***** WI and really look forward to next year - Remember the words of Sir Captain Tom, “if today is ok tomorrow will be better!”

Like Judith I believe that what you get out of something has a direct correlation with what you put in and it can apply in any area of our lives.



This week’s recipe **Apple Cake** comes from Ann Cleave of Jarrow WI, doesn’t the picture look gorgeous?

Ingredients

150 gms of Sugar

3 eggs

150 gms of Oil

50 ml milk

300 gms plain flour

15gms Baking Powder

6 apples – peeled and 4 of them chopped, 1 cored and sliced and left whole.





Method

1. Mix eggs and sugar together.
 2. Mix in oil and milk.
 3. Sieve in flour and baking powder.
 4. Stir in the chopped apple.
 5. Tip mixture into a round buttered cake tin.
 6. Hollow out centre of cake mix and push a whole apple into the cake mixture. Push apple slices into the mixture in a radial pattern around the whole apple.
- Bake for 45 minutes 180 C or 350 F

Let's see what you have been upto this week?



As usual our WI's have been busy in different ways and its heart-warming to hear what everyone has been upto. Sister of Shields WI's committee got together in a park in South Shields to put together 'A meeting in a bag' for their members. The bags included a tea bag, biscuits, craft pack and other goodies. The members were delighted to have these delivered to their doors by the committee, some on a bike. I think the committee enjoyed it too as it gave them the opportunity to have a chat (at a safe distance) with lots of ladies. Well done for carrying out such a great idea.

The committee at Whickham Fellside had the same idea and it especially pleased Mary Gourley, she wrote in and wanted to express her thanks "What a caring WI I belong to 😊 :-) Today a pretty pink envelope popped through my letterbox with this lovely poem and a tea bag!! I'm sure all fellow



members of Whickham Fellside WI will appreciate such a kind and thoughtful gesture by the committee members! Here's hoping it won't be long before we can all be together again!"



Judith Ann Brooksopp from Fells Angels WI joined on online watercolour class and produced a lovely House and Garden picture and I think she was pleased with the outcome too.



Look at these fantastic items Rona Burr from Washington Concord has complete – a mitre square throw and a patchwork quilt – there must have been hundreds of hours of time gone into making these. – Well done Rona.

Jarrow WI had a trip out this week to Herrington Park in a socially distanced group of 6 – they look like they really enjoyed themselves and took advantage of the fine weather. Looks more like a party with food & drink - not exercising girls, but we are so pleased you organised this. Isn't it lovely to get together for whatever reason?



Ann Thomley from Jarrow has also been busy painting and upcycling furniture, she made these units at woodwork class 50 years ago, they have been in the garage 38 years, disgustingly filthy, scrubbed them, then painted with oddments of paint Voila – perhaps that's the longest UFO ever.



Lots of you have been participating in Denman at Home events and I've seen beautiful photographs of delicious food prepared alongside the tutors At Denman.

Fiona Wilson of Dilly Dollies WI prepared a Mexican Feast and as you can see from the picture of the fish taco it was a delicious meal.

I think Denman have found their on line courses are very popular and so each week they are providing more. The new ones this week, all costing £5.00, are:

Simons talk on the City of London	Friday 26 th June	11am
Richards Ukulele Singalong	Friday 26 th June	2.30pm
Friday Night Chill out with Elaine	Friday 26 th June	7.30pm
Cook along with Darryl – Chocolate Fudge Cake	Sunday 28 th June	2pm
John's talk of Murder, Sex and Mayhem in English Churches	Monday 29 th June	8pm
A taste of Eco Dyeing with Sue	Wednesday 1 st July	11am

Full details are on the Denman website and its worth checking on a regular basis for updates. I am delighted that Denman is becoming so accessible to members. Make sure you share what you have been learning with us all.



Gay Pride month

As part of the Gay Pride month, NFWI has published a blog outlining a large number of women who are Gay Pride activists, it covers a range of women from all aspects of life. Here is an extract from the blog, if you want to read more check out My WI website.

Munroe Bergdorf

Munroe Bergdorf is a British model and activist. Munroe is an influential speaker on transgender rights and anti-racism. She won 'Changemaker of the Year' at the 2018 Cosmopolitan Awards, and was awarded an honorary doctorate in 2019 by the University of Brighton. She joined UN Women UK as an advocate in 2019, supporting its #DrawALine campaign, aiming to put a stop to female genital mutilation (FGM).

Rosie Jones

Rosie Jones is a British comedian. She has written for panel shows Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule, Would I Lie to You?, The Last Leg and 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown, and has appeared as a guest on The Last Leg, 8 Out of 10 Cats, 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown and Hypothetical. Rosie has cerebral palsy and incorporates this into her comedic style. Rosie has spoken out about how disabled people are portrayed in the media and has called for more disabled characters on TV who are "gritty, and flawed, and three-dimensional as every other person is".

Charlie Craggs

Charlie Craggs is a British transgender activist and author from London. She was listed in The Independent newspaper's 2015 "Rainbow List" of the 101 most Influential LGBTQ+ people in the UK.

In 2017, Craggs published her first book, "To My Trans Sisters", a collection of letters by successful trans women. In 2018, the book was a finalist in the 30th Lambda Literary Awards. Craggs began a campaign in 2018 for the inclusion of a transgender rainbow flag emoji in Unicode, which was subsequently included in 2020.



Starting at 11am on Saturday 27th June 2020, (next Saturday) its festival time in the WI.



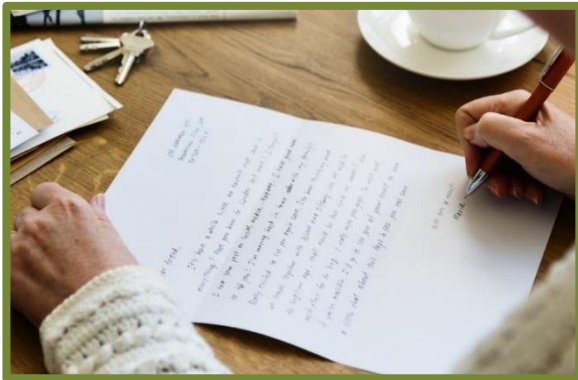
The weather forecast is looking good so take it as an excuse to party! You can decorate your garden, make a pretty table, dance and play happy music or follow National WI play list on You Tube from 11am. Treat yourself to some delicious Summer party food, summer drinks and maybe a cocktail or two! My raspberry gin will be all ready to decant by Saturday so I will have to sample it. Check my WI for ideas for food and festival themed crafts. Make sure you share your photographs and enjoy!



Get inspired for the day with some of the craft projects we have added to My WI. These include a flower power festival makeup tutorial, a paper bead necklace, a beaded festival t-shirt and more. These are great projects to try by yourself or with family and friends!



<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/interests/craft/summertime-twist!/craft>



This **#LonelinessAwarenessWeek**, why not get involved with the WI pen pal exchange programme?

For a couple of years WI member Valerie Hughes has been running the WI pen pal exchange programme, to encourage members to keep in touch via handwritten letters, with the aim of alleviating loneliness.

At the moment, staying connected is more important than ever and this programme provides an alternative for those who may not use social media. With the help of another member, Chloe McNaught, Valerie has paired hundreds of women with pen pals spreading across the globe.

Members can recommend friends who might not have access to a computer to join in the pen pal exchange.

Join the UWI Pen Pal Exchange Facebook group here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UWIPenpalExchange>





A little bit about public affairs



Climate Coalition

The NFWI is inviting everyone to participate in the first ever virtual climate lobby, taking place next Tuesday 30 June!

Just like last year's mass lobby at Westminster, WI members are encouraged to come together again and tell politicians that #TheTimeIsNow to put a healthier, greener and fairer future at the centre of plans to rebuild a strong economy. The main difference from last year's lobby is that to comply with the ongoing public health measures, we are asking for these meetings to take place virtually, using Zoom.

Sign up for the lobby at: [https:// www.theclimatecoalition.org/virtual-lobby](https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/virtual-lobby)

The Climate Coalition has set up regional Facebook groups which you can use to get chatting to like-minded people in your area and meet other constituents who will be attending the virtual meeting with your MP. Find your regional group here: https://www.facebook.com/pg/theclimatecoalition/groups/?ref=page_internal

If you are planning on taking part in the lobby, let National know by emailing f.thomas@nfwl.org.uk



The Parliament Project

Just 36% of local councillors & 35% of MPs are women. Let's change this. As part of #EqualPower, The Parliament Project is running free inspiring online sessions for women on getting into politics. They'll be explaining what local councillors and

MPs do and how to get into these roles. Find out more at <https://bit.ly/2SGY1CX>



Future Activities

Two possible activities for the future depending on members interest.

1. I attended a Zoom meeting with craft judges and they were discussing ideas around having 'Shows' exhibiting what members had made been during lockdown. I thought that would be something we could do? Would members be interested in that? Please let us know.



2. The Board of Trustees have discussed setting up a 100 club or similar. The idea being that members would pay an amount per month, there would be a draw with the winner taking a percentage of monthly money and the remainder would go into Federation funds to support training costs. To run this, we would not be able to advertise but we would recruit members of asking for expression of interest. There would be a formal code of participation if there are is enough interest to develop the scheme.

Please let Joanne know if you would be interested obviously there is no obligation at this stage. If there is interest on both ideas, we will then take the idea further. Just drop us a line with your thoughts.

National raffle – We have advised by National that this year’s Raffle will continue to go ahead as planned. They have been very fortunate in that, other than the first prize, all the prizes have been given to the Raffle free of charge by our very generous donors. Hilary Ransom, who co-ordinates the Raffle for WIE on NFWI’s behalf, will be writing to us again shortly with a reminder of the details for the special draw and with some initial ideas on how members might be able to help to pick up ticket sales in the months until the Raffle closes on Friday 25 September 2020. (The draw will take place as advertised on Friday 9 October 2020 and the prize winners will be announced as usual during National Council towards the end of October.)

Joanne will be taking a much deserved holiday w/c 13th July, there will be no news bulletin that week but you can contact me on 07718 231984 or by email macarter1@hotmail.co.uk.

All that’s left for me to say is enjoy the sunshine, enjoy the festival if you are taking part and have a great time.

Take care

Margaret Carter - Chairman - Tyne and Wear South Fed of WI’s

Office number and email 0191 5845814 twsfwi@btconnect.com

Margaret Carter 0191 4165269 macarter1@hotmail.co.uk

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

Survivors say domestic abuse is escalating under lockdown