

Stay Safe this Christmas
Shopping, eating, partying or at home

Merry Christmas

To all our members,

In this most difficult of years, myself and the Board of Trustees wish you and your families, whatever your belief system, the very best of the festive season. Most religions subscribe to The Golden Rule as listed here and we can all agree with this so whatever you do this Christmas, Be Safe, Be Well and Be Kind,

With love to you all,

Margaret Carter and the Board of Trustees.

This news bulletin comes to you as a Christmas edition and a review of the year. It seems a very long time ago in March when it became obvious, we had to close the office and lockdown began. As a pandemic was so out of the ordinary no-one envisaged us being in

the situation we are in today. At first, we were all a bit stunned then gradually we began to look for things we could do and it's heartening to see how WI's have adapted to the situation and kept in contact with members and you will find attached a summary of what the Federation has done in 2020. The greatest concern for myself and Board of Trustees has been how we can engage the members who have or had no experience of virtual meetings or using the internet widely. We sent out email news bulletins weekly until September then moved them to fortnightly editions. Everyone we had an email address for has been getting contact from the Federation on a regular basis. As time has gone on, more and more members have given us email details and we have updated our records on a regular basis.

The Golden Rule



Buddhism:

Hurt not others with that which pains yourself.

Christianity:

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Hinduism:

Treat others as you would yourself be treated.

Islam:

Do unto all men as you would wish to have done unto you.

Judaism:

What you yourself hate, do to no man.

Native American:

Live in harmony, for we are all related.

Sacred Earth:

Do as you will, as long as you harm no one.

A CHRISTMAS TWEET!

It's always a treat to see a lovely little robin relaxing in our gardens but never more so than at Christmas time. An iconic symbol of the festive period, the brilliant news is that there are plenty of these redbreasts doing the rounds this winter.

While we often hear the sad stories of bird species in decline, the robin is a good news story. Their populations have increased by 45 per cent since 1970, but if you want to increase your chances of seeing one it's recommended you leave out high quality seeds (such as kibbled sunflower hearts) and mealworms and hang an open-fronted nest box for them to take shelter in.



For those of you with no digital contact we have talked to committee members who stayed in contact by telephone, some have been able to print out the bulletin – not an easy feat when some of them ran into 17 pages.!! For those of you who haven't had the contact with the Federation you are missing out on things that could help alleviate the tediousness of covid restrictions. **Maybe you have family members who could help you get an email address, show you how to use zoom or develop a Facebook account?** If this is not possible – if you don't have the internet perhaps your family could help by downloading and printing you a copy of the bulletin – each edition is put on our web page on the NFWI website along with other Federation updates. If there is anything, we can do to help you access the Federation digitally please let us know. Hopefully we will be able to meet in person sometime in the Spring.

Denman comes to you

Denman At Home.

<https://www.denman.org.uk/calendar/>

Denman are now offering e-vouchers, these gifts will give you access to the online adventures from the comfort of your home. From cookery courses, craft demos, to history lessons and fun activities for all the family. Here's a sample of the courses available over the festive period – why not ask for a gift voucher for Christmas for the coming week.

Denman At Home Gift Experience

<https://denman.bookinglive.com/book/add/p/2776>

December 10, 2020

- all-day ● Online Course : Illustrating a Traditional Christmas Scene in Textiles with Embellishments with Stacey – 2 Part Course
- all-day ● Online Course : Gentle Mindful Yoga with Elaine – 2 Part Course (Daytime)
- all-day ● Online Course : Making Gift Bags, Gift Tags and Wrapping from Old Christmas Cards & Brown Paper with Liz
- all-day ● Online Course : Peter's talk on London's Liquid Highways – Part 1 (Daytime)

December 11, 2020

- all-day ● Online Course : Illustrating a Traditional Christmas Scene in Textiles with Embellishments with Stacey – 2 Part Course
- all-day ● Online Course : Gentle Mindful Yoga with Elaine – 2 Part Course (Daytime)
- all-day ● Online Course : Festive 'Extras' Demonstration and Q&A with Lindy – Cranberry Relish, Remoulade & Red Cabbage
- all-day ● Online Course : Little Christmas Angel with Claire – Demonstration with Q&A
- all-day ● Online Course : Simon's Talk 'Tales of a Tour Guide' (Morning)
- all-day ● Online Course : Ukulele Sing-Along with Richard 9 – Christmas in Honolulu Special

December 12, 2020

- all-day ● Online Course : Illustrating a Traditional Christmas Scene in Textiles with Embellishments with Stacey – 2 Part Course
- all-day ● Online Course : Gentle Mindful Yoga with Elaine – 2 Part Course (Daytime)
- all-day ● Online Course : Christmas Decorations with Pat
- all-day ● Online Course : Lined Christmas Stockings with Claire

Federation News



Living in Lockdown

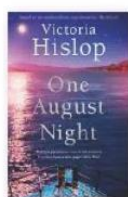
All members are invited to participate in this competition. We would like you to submit a photograph which shows us an aspect of 'Life in Lockdown'. We hope to make a printed display of these photographs at the Spring Council Meeting next April. If we have to have a virtual meeting then the photographs will be made into a video presentation to be shown during the meeting. Please accompany your photograph with an explanation – not exceeding 3 sentences, your name and your WI. The photograph must have been taken between March 15th 2020 and February 15th 2021. Photos to reach the Federation office by February 15th 2021 - **Great prizes for the winners.**



Federation Dates for your Diary –

Date & Time	Event	ID/ Password
Tues 15 th December 7pm	The Joys or Otherwise of the Festive Season by Judy Theobald. A light-hearted look at this time of year covering everything from nativity plays, fairy lights to tips on how not to cook the Christmas turkey.	851 5446 7700 488 313
Tues 22 nd December 7pm	Mince Pies and Members - festive gathering for any member across the Federation.	822 5730 8797 636 661
Thurs 28 th January 21 7pm	Cookery Demonstration (Vegetarian for Life) A lovely three course meal.	867 9181 1224 vegetarian
Thurs 25 th Feb 2021 7pm	The Life and Loves of the Taxi Driver Poet – By James Haddow who performs original, light-hearted comic poems (like Pam Ayres does) interwoven with a narrative based on encounters he has with people (and life) and how they have inspired his poems.	811 2610 0142 932304
Thurs 25 th March 2021 7pm	Flower Arranging by Susan Elsdon demonstration with a spring theme and make a couple of designs and talk about seasonal flowers.	874 0252 9298 922786
April 10 th 2021	Spring Council/Social Meeting – Annual Meeting	Details to Follow
CRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS		
Sat Dec 12 th 10.30am	Christmas Wrapping with a Twist	813 5842 5935 wrapping
Sat Jan 9 th 21 10.30am	Archive Tags	818 3298 0331 archive
Sat Feb 6 th 2021 10.30am	Valentine Tokens	816 0790 7881 valentine
Sat March 6 th 21 10.30am	Easter Crafts	885 6437 7125 easter
Sat May 1 st 2020 10.30am	Faux Enamelling	870 5685 9801 enamel
Sat June 5 th 2020	Paper Roses	841 2831 2909 paperroses

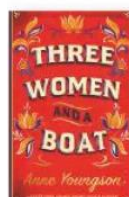
Read and Rhyme –



One August Night

by Victoria Hislop
(£14.99, Headline, HB)

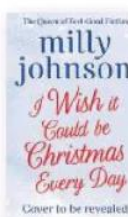
The sequel to her moving bestseller *The Island*, the story begins just before the release of families, friends and lovers who had been consigned years before to the leper colony of Spinalonga. The repercussions of a moment of terrible jealousy reverberate through many lives in a dramatic story of love, betrayal and allegiances. Hislop evokes Greece so you feel as if you are there.



Three Women and a Boat

by Anne Youngson (£14.99, Transworld, HB)

The joys of narrow-boat life are evident, but all is not as gentle for the women in this charming, uplifting story. While novice Eve and Sally are escaping their lives to start on a new adventure, independent narrow-boat dweller Anastasia is suddenly vulnerable as she awaits a life-saving operation. A tender story of female friendship.



I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day

by Milly Johnson (£8.99, Simon & Schuster, PB)

A new Milly Johnson novel – a festive one at that – is always welcome. In a small hamlet on the Yorkshire Moors, forced to shelter from the snow, six people have to hole up at the local pub where the magic of Christmas looks set to take hold. This is a tale about knowing when to hold on and when to let go.



News from our WI's



Shirley Raad from Bowes Belles spent a very creative session creating edible



decorations for her grandchildren after participating in the federation craft morning.

To celebrate their 90th birthday Cleadon WI Had a special edition of their regular newsletter to members. The whole publication was 1930's themed and had this very distinctive

cover. A fantastic donation from Whickham Village Belles WI to the food bank. Terrific effort ladies.



Gilpin WI had a virtual raffle, winners were Ruth Hedley, June French, Margaret Sinclair and Karen Gorman. They would like to wish Merry Christmas to all our members, they hope we take care and are looking forward to receiving their

vaccine!



Fulwell have supported two local charities by sending every member a St Benedict's Hospice calendar and a Christmas card from Grace House. Also included in the package was a raffle ticket to win one of three £20 M and S vouchers.

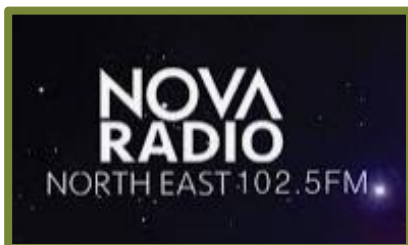


Seated Zumbacise Zoom workouts are taking on a festive feel on Tuesdays @ 10.00am throughout December. We will be working out to some of our favourite Christmas tracks as well as some of the usual favourites.

Santa hats and a bit of bling optional

Meeting ID: 313 006 8528

Passcode: 017697



Remember to tune into

On Nova Radio North East, Sundays 2-4, where Julie Pendleton talks to Margaret Carter and always has a variety of interesting guests



Resolutions Reminder

Get your choice of potential resolutions into the federation by January 18th 2021. All details in the latest edition of WI Life.

Count me in Survey

Please make sure you complete your survey and return to National before Sunday 31st January 2021. The form was in last month's WI life or you can complete it online. thewi.org.uk/countmein. This is a survey of all members to get an upto date picture of the membership.

Very few of us will have our traditional Christmas this year, this is a really interesting article that outlines that different isn't necessarily bad.

Christmas trees

Many of us may still have artificial Christmas trees that date back some years, but Janet Parke from Wiltshire officially had the oldest in the world. Her 1ft tree, bought for her great aunt in 1886 for six old pence, was passed down the generations. Janet's son Paul now owns the tree and displays it every Christmas. On the other end of the scale, the tree erected by the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi in 2010 was named the world's most expensive Christmas tree valued at £6.9 million. It was hung with 181 items of jewellery.

1886

All lit up

Making our Christmas tree lights work every year is always a challenge, so it was no mean feat when Belgians Kiwanis Malmédy and Haute Fagne clinched the record for the most lights ever lit on a Christmas tree. They used 350 garlands containing a total of 194,672 lights. Just think of the electricity bill!

YULETIDE

RECORDS!

From the oldest tree to the fastest-scooped advent calendar chocolates, we take a look at some of the best - and barmiest - Christmas Guinness World Records

Festive feasting



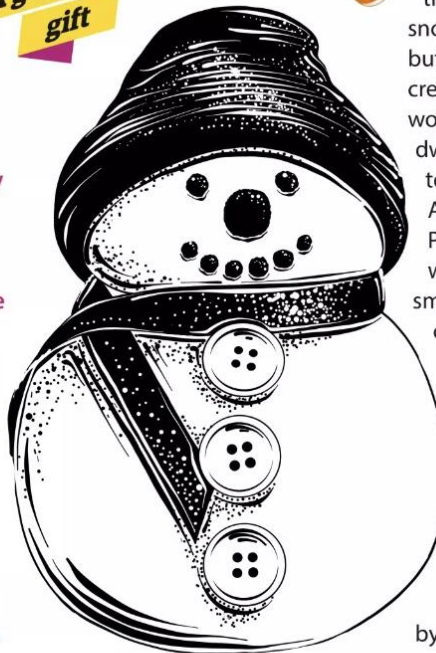
Fancy making your way through a 9.6kg plate containing 6,000 calories of turkey and trimmings? Served up at the Duck Inn pub in Worcestershire on Christmas Eve, 2013, it broke the record for the biggest traditional Christmas dinner! In 2017 American eating-challenger Kevin Strahle broke the record for the fastest time to eat chocolates from an advent calendar, polishing off the treats behind all 24 doors in 1min 27.84 secs.

The largest ever Christmas stocking measured more than 51m (168ft) in length and 21m (70ft) wide when it was produced by volunteer emergency services in Tuscany in 2011 to raise money for a charity that helps older people. To fulfil the World Record rules the

stocking had to be filled so dozens of volunteers got to work stuffing it with balloons and sweets.



A generous gift



There's nothing like a bit of family competition over

who can build the biggest snowman, but our creations would surely

dwindle in comparison to that made by Austrians Gerhard Peer and Erwin Petz who earlier this year smashed the record for creating the world's tallest snowman.

Nicknamed 'Riesi' the snowman measured a gigantic 38.04m (125ft) tall and took 40 days to build in which he even survived a battering by very high winds.

Super-size snowman

BEST OF THE REST

WHITE WINGS – 8,962 people broke the record for the largest number of people making snow angels simultaneously in North Dakota in 2007



SWEET STUFF – 1,251 was the total number of buildings in the largest ever gingerbread village, constructed by Jon Lovitch in New York in 2017

DEAR SANTA – In 2006, Canada Post broke the record for the most letters to Santa. Volunteers responded to 1.06m letters and 44,166 emails

Dear Santa

Although we might all come together to celebrate Christmas, there are lots of different traditions across the world. Read below to get an idea of the rich traditions across the world.

Lifestyle

Enchanting TRADITIONS

Which Christmas tradition jingles your bells?

All around the world, Christmas appears like magic thanks to some hard working elves behind the scenes!



1

Hugely delicious

38.4 million calorie gingerbread house – Texas

Made from nearly a tonne of butter, 7200 eggs and covering nearly the entire size of a tennis court stood the biggest ever house made of gingerbread. In 2013 the edible house was built in Bryan, Texas. The sweets who built this 21-foot tall Christmas treat did so to raise money for St Joseph's hospital to build a new trauma centre. Visitors at the gingerbread house were also able to meet Santa and have their photo taken with him.

Miracle on 83rd Street – New York City

For the past 27 years, as the clock strikes midnight, on the 25 December baby Jesus's are delicately placed among the nativity scenes and glistening lights outside the homes of Dyker Heights. Row upon row of warm glowing lights, gardens filled with candy canes and grottos. A sight that's so Christmassy it seems only possible that it was created by Santa himself. At the end of November, every year, at the heart of New York City the residents of Dyker Heights turn on their enchanting Christmas displays from 11th to 13th Avenues, and from 83rd to 86th street.



2

Midnight mag



3

Royal decor

A Royally fantastic Christmas – England

Did you know, you can see what Christmas for the Royals is like? If you visit Windsor Castle at Christmas time you can see what a Christmas Castle looks like. A 20-foot tree decorated with velvet and gold stands proudly in St George's Hall in Windsor Castle each year – the traditional Normann Fir tree gets taken from Windsor Great Park. In addition to the tree you will find the entire castle decorated to the Queen's taste from the 1 December. You'll find an array of pinecones, sparkling fairy lights and ornaments – there isn't a better time to visit.



4

Worlds tallest

A terrifically tall Christmas tree – Netherlands

Glowing in the sky, reaching a height of 1,200 feet, this Christmas tree is so huge it can be seen from 50km away. Although it is the world's largest Christmas tree, it isn't a tree of the evergreen sort. Located in the Netherlands, the Christmas tree is erected using the Gerbrandy Tower, a broadcasting tower, as the backbone. Strings of fairy lights stretch from the peak to the ground with the brightest shining light the top.

Magical glowing Christmas forest – England

Towering trees illuminating a pathway through the award winning National Pinetum located in Kent, really gives the feeling of walking through a pine forest in Lapland. Bedgebury Pinetum is different from many other Christmas time experiences, this winter wonderland gives you the chance to explore an abundance of trees from around the world with a spectacular display of lights. Walk through the Tunnel of Light, experience the Electric Forest or walk under the trees which rain droplets of lights.



5

Wonderland walk

Christmas glitz, at the Ritz – England

A Christmas lunch at the Ritz begins with a welcoming sight of the iconic Nordic pine Christmas tree grown especially for The Ritz in the Scottish Highlands. It stands 25 feet tall and is dressed in red and gold with shimmering baubles. The six-course menu is priced at a dear £450. The dining experience is in a room featuring marble columns, ceiling frescoes, gilded neoclassical statues and a breath-taking garland chandelier. With the Michelin-starred meal there will be a live band, a magician and a skill caricaturist.



Five-star favourite

6

THE RITZ

Need a rest from Turkey? Try this lovely warming casserole for the dark days of winter.

Mushroom and Sausage Casserole

Course: **main** Skill level: **easy** Serves: **4**

- ☐ 2 tbs vegetable oil
- ☐ 500 g (1 lb 2 oz) closed-cup mushrooms, halved or quartered
- ☐ Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- ☐ 2 medium onions, sliced thickly
- ☐ 8 thick pork sausages, cut in half
- ☐ 6 rashers streaky bacon, chopped
- ☐ 2 large carrots, peeled and cut into large chunks
- ☐ 2 large potatoes, peeled and cut into large chunks
- ☐ 2 tbs freshly chopped thyme
- ☐ 300 ml (½ pt) vegetable stock (or

use a 330ml bottle of Guinness instead of stock as an option)
To Serve: green vegetables of choice.

1 Heat half the oil in a large frying-pan and fry the mushrooms on a high heat for about 5 minutes until golden. Season well, then transfer them to a large dish and set aside.

2 Add the remaining oil to the pan along with the onions, sausages and bacon and fry for about 6 to 8 minutes until the meat is browned but not cooked through.

3 Tuck the vegetable chunks around the

sausages and onions, sprinkle over half the thyme and season well. Pour in the stock (or Guinness) and cover the pan with a tightly fitting lid or a large piece of foil.

4 Cook over a medium heat for 15 minutes, then stir in the mushrooms, re-cover the pan and continue cooking for a further 10 minutes or until the vegetables are tender, the sausages have cooked through and almost all the liquid has evaporated.

5 Stir gently to mix everything and serve sprinkled with the remaining fresh thyme and some green vegetables of your choice.



Puzzle

WORDSEARCH: CARD GAMES

Find the words in the grid



BEGUINE	CONGA	MACARENA	RUMBA
BELLY	FOXTROT	MAMBO	SALSA
BOLERO	GAVOTTE	MAZURKA	SAMBA
BOP	HOKEYCOKEY	POLKA	SQUARE
CANCAN	JIG	QUICKSTEP	TANGO
CHACHA	JIVE	REEL	TWIST
CLOG	LINE	RIVER	WALTZ

We hope you enjoyed this special edition, we hope you have a fantastic Christmas, the next letter will be week commencing 4th January 2021. See you in the new year.

Best Wishes

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

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUJV-9wvdB8>

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: 0800 2000 247

sending love to

crazyheadcomics

