



Hello Everyone,

I hope you are all fit and well. Whatever, we can say about 2020 at least it has given us some lovely weather this year and as I write this it's another glorious day. Long may it last.

Our two picnics in the park went very well indeed, the weather was kind and it was so good to meet face to face and enjoy each other's company in the fresh air. We had representatives from Washington Station, Jarrow, Washington Concord, Rowlands Gill, Fells Angels, Bowes Belles and Herrington WI's. The raffle prizes were won by Elaine Wright and Maureen James. Afterwards I'd hope to arrange some more outdoor meet ups but sadly at the moment that is not to be as we must do everything we can to conform to the Governments new regulations.



Sadly, we have had to cancel the planned walk in Herrington Country park which was due to take place in October. We have had an advice sheet from National and it is printed in full at the end of this news bulletin. You will also see from the information that there is expectation that there may be further advice from Charities Commission about holding annual meetings, be assured that as soon as we get it, it will be sent onto yourselves.

The development of the 'role of 6' has been a blow to many of our groups but there is nothing we can do about it other than conform. My own WI had our first face to face committee meeting last week and it was lovely to see everyone but its back to Zoom and the Whats App groups for us. I know that a few WI's were starting to develop activities. Herrington WI had a lovely coffee morning at a local pub, The Board Inn. The staff made space available for them and they had a very enjoyable morning.

News from National

Last week was the end of the consultation period about the closure of Denman and sadly a large number of staff are to be made redundant. The consultation is a process within employment law so that all the stakeholders were aware of the situation. It was not consultation to discuss whether the college should stay open or not as there were no funds to make it viable. The National Board of Trustees are holding a series of zoom meetings for members to attend to ask any questions about Denman. The information about these sessions has been sent out to every member. Once this stage has passed there will be consultation with members about the disposal of the estate and the future educational platform for the WI.

Denman: Make your Thoughts Known

NFWI have organised a series of informal member Zoom calls in September to allow members the opportunity to ask them directly any questions they have outside the FAQs (or to ask for clarification on any of our FAQ responses). This is a stage that NFWI feel is important so that all members have the opportunity to explore the facts and hear directly from the NFWI Board. You can also make suggestions regarding the sale of the Denman Estate, however please bear in mind that your input will only be formally considered by the board if you follow the formal process of making a representation at the appropriate time, as will be outlined in the dedicated mailing secretaries will receive at the end of the month.

The zoom call dates/times are below:

17/9 (1000-1130)

17/9 (1300-1430)

18/9 (1500-1630)

22/9 (1900-2030)

These zoom calls are free for all members and you can book a space using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wi-member-zoom-calls-re-denman-tickets-116573603787>

There are 150 places available on each call, and these will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If demand significantly exceeds the number of places, NFWI will organise additional calls.

NFWI look forward to seeing many of you in September, and if you are unable to make these dates/times, please do continue to email over any questions to membership@nfwl.org.uk

Many federations are encouraging concerned members to write to the NFWI headquarters at 104 New Kings Road, London SW6 4LY

If you want the WI to keep the Denman estate make sure you tell the National trustees before it's too late.

HAPPY WI DAY !

September 16th is WI day and this year we celebrate 105 years of the WI's existence.

Why not drop us a line to tell us what the

WI means to you and it's impact on your life, we would love to hear your thoughts.

Try the Taster membership for 6 months for £10.75

It may seem a strange time to encourage new members to join but I know that in the last two weeks there have been five new recruits to the WI across the Federation. I'd like to offer a warm welcome to all of those new members and hopefully we can meet in the near future! From the 1st October we can offer a taster of the WI for 6 months for £10.75. This is a result of the extension of this year's subscription – our new subscription year starts on April 1st 2021 so why not encourage your friends to join and even though we are not meeting as usual they could participate in our zoom meetings, quizzes etc. They would also get copies of WI Life and access to My WI website. If you see posters for WI tasters please share them with other women.

Try the WI – Taster Membership for 6 months for £10.75!

Due to the 3 month subscription extension, new members, and members who have not been a member in the past 10 years, can join the WI from October 2020 to March 2021 for £10.75. This is the pro rata rate that would usually last until December 2020. However, in light of the extension, this now lasts until March 2021.

The last few months have highlighted the importance of knowing your local community and supporting each other. As people are appreciating their neighbours and thanking those who have helped them, this is a brilliant time to welcome new members to the WI, which has always been a place of friendship and a force for good in the community. Keep a look out for the October edition of WI Life, which will include a Try the WI leaflet for WIs to fill in with their meeting information and distribute to family, friends and the local community.

Please also think about how your WI can prepare to welcome new members during the Try the WI taster membership period. It is a challenge with uncertain social contact rules but this is a real opportunity to show that the WI is relevant to all women especially in times of national crisis.

If WIs need help with setting up virtual meetings there is a Zoom guide available on *My WI*. If you have any questions about this please contact us using the information below.

You may wish to use the Let's Keep Connected note (mentioned above) to contact new members and introduce them to current members.

Media Centre

Read our latest press releases, blogs and find contact details for the WI's press office.

The NFWI's PR department oversees all aspects relating to press, social media, use of the WI logo and promotional materials for WIs.

If you would like to receive the latest WI news please [sign up to the WI newsletter](#) at the bottom of this page.

For all media enquiries, interviews, comments or information, feel free to contact us.

I am very impressed that in conversations with committee members from WI's across the Federation that many committees are now making plans that face life with the corona virus around us. Many have got to the stage of thinking about what we can do rather than what we can't do. The Federation committees are also looking towards that too and you will see from the future events table that we are trying to reach out across the Federation.



Dates for your Diary –

| Date and Time | Event | Meeting ID and Password |
|---|---|---|
| Thursday 24 th September 7pm | Members Social – Catch up with what members have been doing across the Federation, sit yourself down with a cuppa or a glass ! | Meeting ID 846 3614 0075 Password 763613 |
| Saturday October 3 rd 10am | Zoom Social – Join together for a chat and a catch up, have a coffee and cake or a glass of Bucks Fizz | Meeting ID 860 8222 0524 Password 865710 |
| Thursday 8 th October 7pm | Committee Catch up for Presidents and Committee members. Please join us to share what your WI's have been doing since we last spoke | Meeting ID 871 1217 5450 Password 864644 |
| Thursday 19 th November 7pm | Federation Quiz | Details to follow |



Now that the new term has started, I'm back on school runs on Mondays. Last Monday both boys had colds and their Mam (a nurse) decided to keep the older one at home because he has a cough and she figured school wouldn't be happy with him being in school. As I drove to school the little one chuntered all the way about how it wasn't fair that he had to go. When we got to school the school wouldn't accept him because his brother had a cough. He stood by very quietly and politely while the teacher explained this, as we headed for the gate his smile got wider and wider and he was full of grins all the way home. Their Mam was sent home from work and everyone had to take tests. It must be really hard for schools at the moment because everyone catches all the bugs going when they go back to schools and lots of the youngsters haven't been in schools for nearly six months. Well done teachers and all the school staff keeping our schools going.

If you are a Facebook user and you are looking for interesting things to participate in make sure you ask to join the WI Wanderers page, which is updated everyday. This months WI life has an article about the development of WI Wanderers and how they have acquired so many members.

Speaking of this month's edition of WI Life did you spot that Sister of Shields WI got 2 mentions, with a picture of the President Jayne Rudd in her SOSWI hoody on one page and a summary of how they picked their name on another.

Well Done to Catherine Lee of Bowes Belles who has, in true WI fashion, been making use of this year's harvest by making jars of jam, pickles and chutneys. Catherine has been selling her preserves to raise funds for a local food bank and to date has raised £127.00 this year.



Last month I had a letter from Sandra Boyers informing me that for a variety of personal reasons she was standing down as a WI advisor. I would like to publicly thank Sandra for the contribution she has made to the Federation and her work over the past years. She will be missed.

Be part of our Advisor team which is now down to three members – would you be interested in becoming an advisor? At the moment I am only asking for expressions of interest from those who might like to start working onwards becoming an advisor. As from January 2021, WI Adviser training will be delivered as a blended learning course; the letter received from National below explains the training in more detail.

“WI Adviser Training -

On behalf of the Training & Development Committee, I am writing to inform you that due to the current unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, the committee has taken the opportunity to review how WI Adviser training is delivered.

Following a successful recent pilot, it has been decided that with effect from January 2021, WI Adviser training will now be delivered as a blended learning course delivered in two cohorts per year; January and September. One cohort will be held in the evenings and at weekends and the other during the week. The course will still include an element of face to face training but this has been reduced from 6 nights; split into two 2-night residentials. Venues for the residential elements in 2021 will be confirmed in due course but it is anticipated that they will remain in Oxfordshire.

The next training course will start in January 2021 and will begin with the pre-course webinar held in the WI Adviser trainee area of WI Training. Following this webinar, the trainees will undertake preparatory work for the course before attending the first series of live webinars covering Modules 1 & 2. Live Q & A sessions will be held during this period to support the trainees learning. The first 2- night residential course will take place after these sessions.

Following completion of their assignments, the trainees will attend another series of webinars for Modules 3 & 4 in the same format. The training concludes with the final 2-night residential where trainees will hopefully be able to visit 104 New Kings Road and complete their final projects.

The time scale to complete the training will take approximately 7 to 8 months. Due to the revised training delivery, this will now result in a lower cost to the federations; however the full schedule, along with the new pricing, will be published in October.

It is hoped that the new blended learning course will not only provide the opportunity for federations to recruit more Advisers to their membership team but also offer a more flexible and inclusive learning package”

It would be good to know we have some interested “provisional” advisors waiting in the wings. Please contact me to let me know macarter1@hotmail.co.uk or 07718 231984.

What have you been upto this week?



It was all excitement this week for Judith Brown of Jarrow WI who runs a shop in Cleadon called ‘Cleadon Antiques and gifts’ when Antiques Road trip TV programme came to visit. Presenter Natasha Ruskin arrived in a lovely Silver Cloud Rolls Royce Royce, looking much younger and prettier than she does on screen.



She bought some Carlton ware serviette holders. The whole process took four hours and will result in a few minutes of TV time. Judith was able to show Natasha her Jarrow WI badge which features the Jarrow Marchers and had a conversation about the marches. We will all look forward to seeing its screened in future.



Many thanks to Liz Matthews from Washington Station WI who sent us this lovely photo of Washington Village in bloom. Liz has also finished her hand warmers project where she has knitted 30 pairs and donating the money to Tyneside Samaritans. Another well-deserved big clap for Liz.



Despite being pals for over 40 years, some ladies from Whickham Village Belles WI braved our first meet up since February and lockdown. They are missing all the ladies of the Whickham Belles W.I. but do enjoy the zoom meetings for now.

Bowes Belles WI members Katherine Watson and Tracey



Wood successfully completed this month's This Girl Runs challenge of 150km in August. During July and August, they have each completed 250km (that's 155 miles!). School holidays are now over so it's back to work with the bar is set a little lower for September.

Doreen Wilson from Washington Station forwarded us these pictures of the lovely quilts she has been making for the *Quilts for Comfort" group. They send them to the hospitals for sick and traumatised babies, children and teenagers going through Cancer treatments. Another great cause





A UFO gets completed - Whickham Fellside WI member Pauline Ormston shared this photo of a gorgeous cross stitch picture and told us "About six years ago I purchased this cross stitch kit in Disney World, Florida. I completed half of the picture and then it was put to one side. while I did other projects. When lock down came I decided this was the time to complete the picture as a visit to Disney World would not be happening this year" The embroidery is now framed and displayed on her wall.

Is this our oldest UFO project – why not show us yours finished or completed and tell us its age !!!

Things to do in the next few weeks

Don't forget if your having zoom meetings you can invite other members to attend. Last week, Bowes Belles invited members across the Federation to participate in their monthly meeting when they once again hosted Tony Harris. This time in the guise of Sir Winston Churchill he kept everyone entertained and educated. Thanks to Bowes Belles for extending the invitation. This month they would like to invite you to join their Zoom meeting on 13th October. The speaker is Seema Kohli with an Essential Oil Master Class - Learning about the power of essential oils. The masterclass will cover what essential oils are and how they can support us physically, mentally and emotionally. Seema will talk about some of the common areas that women use essentials oils for support e.g. sleep, emotions, hormones etc. We will be distributing essential oils to use at home as part of this session at a cost of £7 for guests (i.e. non-Bowes Belles WI) and **if you'd like them to be delivered to you, you need to advise ASAP and by no later than Friday 18th September** to allow time for Seema to send the oils to us for distribution. You can of course take part in the session without the oils (no charge) but they will add to the experience.

Denman At Home talks

<https://www.denman.org.uk/> - Press CTRL key on your keyboard and Click to follow link – this will take you directly to the courses on offer at Denman

Explore Denman at Home online courses



Online cookery courses to suit all abilities



Online craft courses from felting to stitching



Online learning – including fascinating history talks!



Share virtual experiences with like-minded people



Read and Rhyme –

I have been reading a lot lately and exploring some writers who are fairly new to me. A few weeks ago, I recommended the Seven Sisters Series by Lucinda Riley. Having read

these I have since read a few more by the same author- 'The Butterfly Room', 'The Girl on the Cliff', 'The Olive Tree' and 'The Love Letter' were all excellent reads and quite different to each other. Being a big fan of 'Vera' TV series I thought about reading the Ann Cleeves Vera books but until last week I steered clear of them. However, I have decided to try them and now I'm hooked and strangely they are quite different to the TV series but familiar too! I am very fond of books set in the North and of North East and happily there are no shortages at the moment. I recently read 'A Teesdale Death', the latest in the John Nicholson Nick Gyman series. Set in and around Teesside they are novels which are funny, surprisingly heart-breaking and clever all at the same time. If like me, you were enthralled by the TV series our Yorkshire Farm then you'll enjoy 'The Yorkshire Shepherdess' by Amanda Owen, we've all marvelled at her capacity to take everything in her stride and reading her book also brings home what a hard life farming is but it's heart warming to read about how she and her husband are bringing up their brood of lovely children.

BOOKS
THE HAPPIER OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SUSPENSE

NICCI FRENCH
NEVER UNDERESTIMATE
A WOMAN WITH NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE...

HOUSE OF CORRECTION

MUST-READS

House Of Correction
by Nicci French
(Simon & Schuster)
Tabitha is in prison, awaiting trial for the murder of a man found dead in her shed. The day is such a blur, though, she can't remember clearly what happened. But she knows she's not capable of murder. The only one she can trust is herself, so she must fight against all the odds... A twisty and shocking read.

Inheritance by Jenny Eclair
(Little Brown)
In Cornwall, Kittiwake mansion has been handed down through the family, and now it belongs to Bel's adoptive brother. It's where he'll celebrate his 50th birthday, which means Bel returning to the place where events were set in motion that still ripple through the generations. A brilliant read.

The Life We Almost Had
by Amelia Henley (HQ)
Anna wasn't looking for love when Adam swept her off her feet, but she believed they'd be together forever. Years later, cracks have appeared and the only way to repair their relationship will have consequences. Is it worth the sacrifice? A lovely tale.

One Perfect Morning
by Pamela Crane (AVON)
Mackenzie, Robin and Lily have been best friends since college. Twenty years on, they all live in the same neighbourhood with their perfect families, perfect houses, perfect lives. Then, one of their husbands ends up dead. They thought they told each other everything – apart from the truth. Gripping.

eBOOK
NICOLA GILL
We Are Family
by Nicola Gill (AVON)
Sisters Jess and Laura are very different. Laura is relaxed, while Jess is the classic overachiever. When their mum dies, the sisters struggle to agree on anything. But as life forces them together, they realise the only way through is as a team...

WHAT'S COOKING?

Two recipes for you this week – one is a gorgeous autumnal treat and the other is a great way to use apples and pears that are so plentiful at the minute

Blackberry & elderflower dump cake

This American-inspired dessert takes minutes to prepare and is ideal served warm with ice cream after your Sunday roast.

SERVES 6 **V** **HANDS-ON TIME 10 MINS** **TOTAL TIME 1 HR**

For the filling

- ◆ 600g blackberries, washed if foraged
- ◆ 4 tbsp elderflower cordial
- ◆ 1 tbsp cornflour

For the topping

- ◆ 150g light brown sugar
- ◆ 150g plain flour
- ◆ 1 tsp baking powder
- ◆ zest of 2 lemons
- ◆ 150g unsalted butter, melted
- ◆ vanilla ice cream, to serve

- 1** Preheat the oven to 190°C, fan 170°C, gas 5. Put the blackberries in a bowl with the elderflower cordial, cornflour and a pinch of salt, stir well to combine. Tip into a shallow 20cm x 26cm baking dish.
 - 2** For the topping, mix the sugar, flour, baking powder, lemon zest and a pinch of salt together and scatter this over the surface of the blackberries.
 - 3** Slowly pour over the melted butter so it completely coats the surface. Bake for 50 minutes, or until the topping is golden and crisp and the fruit is bubbling underneath. Leave to rest for 5 minutes, before serving warm with ice cream.
- 441cals; 21g fat (13g sat fat); 4g protein; 5g fibre; 57g carbs; 35g total sugars; 0.2g salt ➤



APPLES & PEARS

APPLE, PEAR AND BLUE CHEESE SLAW

Core and finely slice

1 apple and **1 pear**,

then toss with the

juice of 1 lemon in

a large bowl. Finely

slice **1 red** and **1 yellow**

chicory, then add to the bowl

with **1 tsp dijon mustard**, **3 tbsp mayonnaise**, **200g crumbled blue cheese** and a **handful of toasted chopped walnuts**. Mix, then serve with grilled meat.

BACON AND SIZZLING FRUIT PANCAKE TOPPER

Fry **4 streaky bacon rashers** until crisp, remove from the pan and set aside. Core and finely slice **1 eating apple** and **1 pear**, then add to the pan with a **knob of butter**. Cook until the slices are golden on each side, then serve with pancakes, the crispy bacon and a drizzle of honey or maple syrup.



Monday 7th – Sunday 13th September 2020 was Organ Donor Week

The system for organ donation has changed to an opt out system. This happened in May this year. The most important aspect is to have a conversation with family and friends about your decision.

It may be a very difficult time for them if something was to happen to you and talking now can take away some of that stress because you've made your wishes clear. If you're an organ donor your family will be asked for permission in the event of your death.

This is not an easy conversation to have but an important one for you to make your wishes known.

Organ donation saves lives but there is still a shortage of donors. You can make an extraordinary difference. One donor can save or transform up to nine lives. Patients are dying while organs are going to waste. Even if your organs can't be used, you could help others by donating sight.

You could leave your family feeling proud that you saved lives.

I hope this helps you to make a decision to have this important conversation but also the WI is promoting this as one of our campaigns. You could also encourage others in your family and friends circle to have the conversation too.



Marmalade vodka

MAKES 1 x 700ml bottle **PREP** 5 mins
plus 48 hrs steeping **NO COOK** **V**

700ml vodka
250g marmalade
½ vanilla pod, split and seeds
scraped out (optional)

1 Pour the vodka into a sterilised 1-litre sealable flip-top jar. Stir in the marmalade and the vanilla pod and seeds until the marmalade has mostly dissolved, and just the peel is left. Seal and leave in a cool, dark place for 48 hrs, or longer if you prefer a more bitter flavour.

2 Strain through a fine mesh sieve, then bottle. *Will keep for several months in a cool, dark place.* Use in a cosmopolitan or breakfast martini with vermouth, or top up with sparkling water and a dash of bitters.

PER SERVING (25ml) 73 kcal • fat none • saturates none • carbs 2g • sugars 2g • fibre none • protein none • salt 0.01g



Christmas Corner – Christmas Corner, make these now for enjoyment over the festive season or bottle up as gifts for friends



Festive pink gin

MAKES 1 x 700ml bottle
PREP 5 mins plus 24 hrs steeping
NO COOK **EASY** **V**

200g fresh or frozen cranberries,
defrosted if frozen
700ml vodka
2 tbsp juniper berries, bruised
4 cardamom pods, bruised
2 clementines, zest peeled into strips
1 cinnamon stick
2 tbsp pomegranate molasses
1 bay leaf
3 tbsp caster sugar
1 star anise
2 cloves

1 If the cranberries are fresh, put in a bowl and burst with the end of a rolling pin. Put everything into a sterilised 1-litre sealable flip-top jar. Seal, shake so the sugar dissolves, and leave in a cool, dark place for 24 hrs.

2 Strain through a fine mesh sieve, then bottle. *Will keep for several months in a cool, dark place.* Serve with tonic, or a dash of prosecco.

PER SERVING (25ml) 66 kcal • fat none • saturates none • carbs 1g • sugars 1g • fibre none • protein 0.1g • salt 0.01g

Puzzles

Wordsearch

Find all the words relating to the violin. Words can run horizontally, vertically, forwards, backwards or diagonally.

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| AMATI | PAGANINI |
| BAROQUE | PIZZICATO |
| BOW | ROSIN |
| BRIDGE | SCROLL |
| CATGUT | STRADIVARIUS |
| CLASSICAL | STRING |
| EBONY | SUZUKI |
| FIDDLE | TAILPIECE |
| FINGERBOARD | VARNISH |
| HARMONIC | VIBRATO |
| HORSEHAIR | WOOD |
| NECK | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Y | Q | H | P | I | Z | Z | I | C | A | T | O | D |
| E | C | M | A | P | G | T | U | G | T | A | C | R |
| E | E | L | G | R | J | N | R | W | R | J | I | A |
| V | C | N | A | E | M | O | I | I | O | K | Y | O |
| A | D | E | N | S | S | O | A | R | U | B | N | B |
| R | O | C | I | I | S | H | N | Z | T | B | O | R |
| N | O | K | N | P | E | I | U | I | R | S | B | E |
| I | W | E | I | S | L | S | C | I | C | A | E | G |
| S | U | I | R | A | V | I | D | A | R | T | S | N |
| H | Y | O | E | L | M | G | A | O | L | N | E | I |
| P | H | T | F | E | E | L | Q | T | H | N | S | F |
| E | L | D | D | I | F | U | S | C | R | O | L | L |
| A | M | A | T | I | E | V | I | B | R | A | T | O |



A very different puzzle - Identify this fungi – lets see how many of you get it right. We don't have a clue but Liz Matthews will let us know the answers in the next news bulletin.

And finally, once again, it is with the saddest of hearts that we let you know of the passing of Carol Casey. Carol was the Treasurer at Cleadon WI for a number of years and an active and popular member of Cleadon WI and the wider WI community too. She had had been unwell for a while and sadly passed away on 26th August 2020. She will be deeply missed by all her friends.

Take care of those around you.

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

Office number and email 0191 5845814 twswfi@btconnect.com

Margaret Carter 0191 4165269, 07718 231984 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

Important update about WI meetings

England

Earlier this week, the Government announced a ban on gatherings, indoors or outdoors, of more than six people in England. You must therefore not meet with people from other households socially in groups of more than six unless the activity falls within an exempted category. This rule, enforceable by law and referred to as 'The Rule of Six' will apply indoors and outdoors, including in private homes.

Gatherings of over six people in England will therefore be unlawful outside of the exempted activity categories, and the potential consequences are dispersal by police or COVID-secure marshals, fines, and possible arrests. This is will be effective from Monday 14 September.

The Government has made a limited number of exemptions:

- where everyone lives together or is in the same support bubble, or to continue existing arrangements where children do not live in the same household as both their parents
- for work, and voluntary or charitable services
- for education, training, registered childcare, or providers offering before or after-school clubs for children
- fulfilling legal obligations such as attending court or jury service
- providing emergency assistance, or providing support to a vulnerable person
- for you or someone else to avoid illness, injury or harm
- participate in children's playgroups
- wedding and civil partnership ceremonies and receptions, or for other religious life-cycle ceremonies – where up to 30 people will be able to attend
- funerals – where up to 30 people will be able to attend
- organised indoor and outdoor sports, physical activity and exercise classes (see the list of recreational team sports, outdoor sport and exercise allowed under the gyms and leisure centre guidance)
- youth groups or activities
- elite sporting competition or training
- protests and political activities organised in compliance with COVID-19 secure guidance and subject to strict risk assessments

As the guidance currently stands, WI meetings are not considered exempt from 'The Rule of Six'. The second bullet point does state there is an exemption 'for work, and voluntary or charitable services', however this does not apply to WI meetings as we are not offering a charitable service.

The inclusion of education is aimed, predominately, at schools, colleges, children and young people's groups and universities.

Sadly, this means that all WI and Federation meetings with more than six people in attendance must be cancelled with immediate effect. The WI resuming meetings guidance is therefore suspended until further notice. We will re-issue it very soon with the new rules taken into account and with ideas on ways some face-to-face activity might be considered within the new guidance, so please keep an eye on social media and My WI for any updates. Some WI activities in groups of more than six may still be able to take place if they fall into the 'organised team sports' category, but we are exploring this further and will include it in our updated guidance. We are also carefully considering if any other WI activities, such as campaign actions and active charity work organised by the WI, falls into the exemptions. A decision on this point will be updated at a later date.

This also applies to AGMs/Annual Meetings, which we know many WIs have been planning for the upcoming month, in order to adhere to constitutional requirements. The new emergency temporary legislation and guidance from the Charity Commission has made provision to the end of this month for virtual and hybrid AGMs, but we know many of you were hoping to use the previous guidance and 30 people limit to deliver face-to-face events. Any face-to-face events planned will sadly have to be postponed to ensure adherence to the new guidance. Like us, the Charity Commission must also now review its guidance based on the Government update this week and we will update you as soon as this revised guidance is published. This guidance will include information on whether the emergency legislation will be extended to December to provide an opportunity for charities to continue to deliver virtual or hybrid AGMs while face-to-face gatherings are still prohibited.

If you are planning to organise breakout group meetings or multiple events for groups of six or less, please apply the usual health and safety guidance. Always remember to wash your hands, cover your face, and keep socially distanced. Further guidance and safety measures will follow from NFWI, but please do consider the safety of members first and foremost if organising any WI meet-up. Whilst these meetings do not constitute full WI meetings and therefore a risk assessment is not mandatory, we would encourage you to undertake a risk assessment for any activity you are planning even with smaller numbers.

We acknowledge that the Rule of Six does give scope for multiple groups of six in COVID-secure venues such as pubs or cafes. However, the guidance also stipulates that people should avoid social interaction with anyone outside the group they are with, which means this is not an appropriate way for WIs to meet up in larger groups. The Government's Rule of Six is attempting to reduce the numbers of people interacting as much as possible to avoid a future national lockdown, and the WI cannot undermine this.

Please check any information and details on [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) as this will always be the most immediate source of any information. A link to the Government's latest update which this guidance is based on is [here](#). We appreciate that government advice is changing fast and this creates anxiety for you and your members. Please be assured that we will share information with you as soon as we receive it and do contact your federation or NFWI if you have any questions or concerns.

Wales

The Welsh Parliament has announced restrictions for how many people will be able to meet indoors. This will apply from Monday 14th September.

At the moment, people are allowed to gather socially indoors with people from up to four other households, but only if they have formed an exclusive extended household (also known as a bubble).

From Monday, only a maximum of six people from the extended household will be able to meet indoors at any one time. This rule applies in pubs and restaurants as well as in people's homes. Children under 11 will not be counted in the six.

The stricter rules for Caerphilly County Borough Council area still applies – extended households are no longer allowed and no social meetings with anyone you don't live with are allowed. This applies in pubs and restaurants as well as in people's homes.

A link to the Welsh Parliament's update is [here](#)

the **WI** Tyne & Wear South

invites you to our

Federation Quiz

online

November 19 7pm

Put the date in your diary ,
further details to come

GREAT PRIZES

GREAT FUN

and all from the comfort of your sofa!