

countynews

CORNWALL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Volume 4, Issue 7

September 2020



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NOTES FROM THE BOARDROOM

Hello everyone

Here we are well into July as I write this and I guess we are all holding our breath to see how Cornwall survives the influx of tourists. I quite understand that the businesses in the County need the income, but all the same for many of us of a certain age it is a little scary. I have made masks for us and we will continue using them when in confined spaces.



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PUBLISHED BY

Cornwall Federation of Women's Institutes

DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION IN COUNTY NEWS

Items to be sent to the Editor by 12th of the month, two months prior to publication. No late entries can be accepted. Please send County News submissions to cfwi.publications@gmail.com.

Like many of you I am missing seeing my family with some of them living abroad and others a fair distance away. So no holidays this year.

You will no doubt be aware that I have been organising the Connect Cornwall sessions each week and what a godsend they have been. I have been motivated to challenge myself especially in the painting classes. I have not drawn or painted before – art was never my thing at school. However my daughter Karen in Brisbane, Australia is an artist, and has encouraged me to have a go. I know some of you ladies have joined with [ucreateartathome](http://ucreateartathome.com) and it has been great fun.

I now have a trilogy of Greek paintings framed on my wall!

I have done pilates, barre exercises and keep fit but I am afraid I have also eaten too much cake as each week I challenged myself with another baking class. I had a go at scrapbooking, I sang with the Couch Choir and I meditated – I have tried it all.

The aim of the project was to keep CFWI members connected during lockdown and we also advertised the session on the Facebook Page of WI Wanderers, which enabled WI members from all over the country to join in.

Denman at Home has also offered a selection of online courses and I know that many of you have taken advantage of these. What would we have done without social media?

Here at home, we are lucky enough to have a good size garden so that has given us lots of pleasure together with watching the myriad numbers of varying species of birds feeding together with their young, often splashing in the bird bath.

We have walked regularly and we



are able to walk to Lanhydrock from home. Some of my own members from Bodmin Gaolbirds WI also meet at Lanhydrock for a socially distanced walk. We have kept in contact with our members by regular Zoom meetings and telephone calls, especially to those who are isolated or shielding. But like many of you, we are all looking forward to some normality and meeting up in person.

Best wishes and stay safe.

- Pam Selley



Cover Image

Many of our WIs are finding creative ways to meet, something that hasn't been hard in the beautiful summer weather. Here are members of Mermaids: Mylor & Flushing WI, having an al fresco meeting at Mylor Creek.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

200+ CLUB

July winner of £51.50 – Sally Simcox, a family member of a member of Ladock WI.

Members can still join the 200+ Club at any time by contacting cfwisecretary@btconnect.com.

EVENT

CANCELLATIONS

We regret to inform you that the following CFWI events have been cancelled:

- Take a Town: Hayle – 7 September
- Heavenly Greenery: St Anta Church, Carbis Bay – 24 September

2020 ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees it was agreed that the 2020 Annual Council Meeting scheduled to be held on Wednesday 21 October should be cancelled.

It is with great regret that this decision has been made, however the safety of our members is of paramount importance, and many of you have expressed your personal reservations about attending, or travelling by coach or public transport.

The Regal Theatre is open and the staff are working within the Government Covid 19 guidelines, however with the current distancing measures the capacity would be reduced to approximately 35%.

The 2019 Accounts were posted on the CFWI website in April 2020 and, to date, no queries have been raised. If any WI would like a copy of the accounts emailed to them, please do let me know. CFWI Trustees have fulfilled their obligations with regard to Companies House and the Charity Commission. The Auditors have confirmed that they are happy to remain in post for the coming year and their appointment will be ratified at the next ACM to be held.

The nomination forms for the CFWI Board of Trustees 2020 – 2022 were sent out to WIs in March. Of those members nominated 12 accepted their nomination and will form the new Board of Trustees. This will be announced on Wednesday 21 October 2020.

The NFWI 2021 diaries have now been received at Chy Noweth, we have contacted those who wanted to collect theirs at the Annual Council Meeting to make alternative arrangements. We do have a limited number of spare copies.

Sadly many competitions have had to be cancelled; one that did go ahead was the Blaikley Salver Poetry Competition, and although there were fewer entries this year the judge said that the standard was pleasingly high. The winner will be announced, and their poems printed, in the October issue of *County News*. The closing dates for the Social Media and Press Competitions have been extended to 31 December 2020, and the Press Competition now includes WI newsletters.



The County Office is now open for business – it is wonderful to be back! We are currently open Tuesday-Thursday, from 10am to 4pm. Please do contact us if you have any queries or wish to arrange collection of diaries and stationery.

OCTOBER COUNTY NEWS

Beginning with next month's issue of *County News*, the October issue, we will return to having our newsletters produced and printed by Lance Print.

Please remember that the three most recent issues have always been available on the CFWI website, so you'll still be able to access the news electronically if you've got used to it!

WIs may distribute October's newsletters to members by hand, popping them through people's doors, or by post, using WI funds.



FEDERATION MATTERS

2020 SOCIAL MEDIA COMPETITION

During lockdown, WIs have discovered a newfound appreciation for social media! For the past several months, it's been the only way for members to 'meet'.

All of this makes our Social Media Competition more timely than ever.



Tell us how your WI has used social media to navigate the tricky waters of lockdown. Have you held Zoom meetings? Have you used Facebook in a new way?

We'd love to hear about all the creative ideas you've come up with to make social media work for you and your WI.

To enter our competition, please email cfwisecretary@btconnect.com with a link to your website, Facebook page, Twitter account – or whichever platform you've used to help your WI – along with a description of how using technology has helped you cope with lockdown.

The WI deemed to make the most effective, innovative and creative use of social media or technology will

receive the beautiful Social Media trophy.

Closing Date: Thursday 31 December 2020

Further Information: Helen Kestle

ANNUAL PRESS COMPETITION ... STOP PRESS!

We know this year has been challenging on many levels. Some WIs will have had very few meetings from which to choose entries for the Press Competition. All over the county, WIs have been thinking creatively and producing other ways to keep their members informed and amused during lockdown.

In light of this, it has been decided to extend the Press Competition deadline to 31 December and rather than have Press reports only, we will include newsletters which have been written and sent out to members by individual WIs.

The Boslowick Cup entry form may be used if you are entering with newsletters. If you start to meet later in the year, reports can be entered as usual. Two press reports or newsletters may be sent to the Federation Secretary, preferably by email or post to Chy Noweth.

We hope this will give more scope for Press Officers and those WIs who have been active by keeping in contact with their members with information, news, quizzes and competitions.

Closing Date: Thursday 31 December 2020

Further Information: Jane Dover

DENMAN

I am sure that by now you are aware that the decision has been taken to close Denman. This is very sad news for all those members who have attended and supported Denman for many years, as well as the WI Advisers, Federation Chairmen and Treasurers and other sub-committee members who have undergone their training there.

Personally, I would like to thank all the members who have joined the past six Federation visits that have been organised for you. It was a pleasure to be with you all on those occasions, especially last year in our Centenary Year.

I know that some of you have joined in the online courses that Denman has provided and I do hope that you have enjoyed seeing some of your favourite tutors. These will continue for as long as possible and you can sign up for these on the Denman website www.denman.org.uk entitled Denman at Home, where all the courses are listed for you.



You will be informed of any future updates.

Thanks once again,

- Kathy Reed, Denman Ambassador

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS TO ALL

MEET AN ADVISER: JANE MILLS



Hello everyone,
I'm Jane Mills and I live with my husband David at Connor Downs, near Hayle.

The WI was a prominent part of my childhood as both my mother and grandmother were keen

members. I was taken along to most of the activities and events, so it was only natural that I too would join.

Over 50 years ago I became a member of Connor Downs and Gwithian WI where I have been ever since. When I joined, they were keen to welcome younger members and I was soon invited to join the committee then a couple of years later to become their President. Initially work, then the demands of a young family, meant that most of my activities were within my own WI but all of that changed when I was invited to train as a VCO (WI Adviser) in the late 1980s.

I've always lived in the house where I was born, a house which was built for my family about 250 years ago. At the beginning of this year, we realised that extensive renovation work was needed, and this necessitated putting our effects into store. Whilst packing and sorting paperwork I came across my letter of appointment as a VCO. The letter is dated 31 July 1991 and is from the then National Chairman, Susan Stockley. Part of it says, "This will be a challenging but we hope rewarding role for you". I'm sure that every Adviser over the years has found this to be the case. But whilst the work is occasionally challenging, it is also enjoyable and satisfying and we get the opportunity to meet lots of members.

We are trained and appointed by both the Federation and National and are very much part of a team, with each member having different interests and ideas – in essence much the same as any WI or committee. Would you be interested in this role? Why not think about becoming an Adviser? More information can be obtained from the office or from the Membership Support team.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR WI ADVISERS

We hope that you have all enjoyed the summer and with the easing of lockdown have had the opportunity to meet with and spend time with family and friends.

What we are all looking forward to is being able to meet again with our WI. However, it has been good to see how many of you have been holding virtual meetings enabling you to keep in touch.

Now that membership has been extended until end of March 2021 to compensate for some of our missed meetings, hopefully you will be able to enjoy some of your programme before too long. In the meantime do keep in touch with one another as we have all been doing in the past few months.

Please remember that your WI Advisers are all here to help if you have a problem or query or just for a chat about your WI meetings and future events.

From: The Membership Support Team

GREEN CORNER

BUILD BACK BETTER: HOW TO HELP THE GREEN RECOVERY

Much of the food we eat is delivered to Cornwall not just from 'up country', but from all over the world. The carbon emissions from transport, packaging and storage of this food all add to the greenhouse effect that causes climate change.

We are fortunate in Cornwall with many local, village and farm shops and markets selling fresh local food. So could you buy local seasonal produce as much as possible starting with at least two meals a week? A bonus is helping our farms and local businesses as well as providing you with a healthy diet.

Green Corner is brought to you by the Environment and Public Affairs sub-committee.



FLORAL ART & GARDENING

CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

Thursday 3 December 2020
BODMIN NURSERY
10am-3:30pm

Bodmin Nursery - one of our favourite venues - looks forward to welcoming the return of WI members to our annual event there!

This year it is to make Christmas Wreaths, using all natural materials and tutored by nursery staff.

Many members have enjoyed these 'Day at the Nursery' events over the years and for any newcomer it is a real treat!

The day starts with welcome coffee from the Mill Café, and then the

workshop (either morning or afternoon) and a delicious lunch from the Mill Café, with plenty of time to enjoy a bit of retail therapy!

Members attending this event have a 10% discount on all shopping that day - and there is masses to tempt you!

The nursery has provided a most detailed Risk Assessment and has covered all the current regulations to make it a truly safe venue. Since it re-opened, it has been extremely busy, demonstrating public confidence in the PPE measures put in place.

We do hope that members will welcome this 'return to normal' event, and will book early to give us an indication of take-up.

Cost: £44 (includes all materials and refreshments)

Closing Date: Thursday 22 October 2020

Further Information: Abigail Kirby-Harris



HOME ECONOMICS & CRAFT

DESIGN AND DECORATE A TUNIS CAKE

FOR CHRISTMAS
Tuesday 24 November 2020

CHY NOWETH
AN CONTETH
10:30am-3:30pm

During this workshop you will create a beautiful Tunis cake ready for Christmas.

You will make a chocolate ganache with Bailey's as a thick top coat for the cake, shape and colour a selection of marzipan fruits as the decoration with appropriate foliage and finish your cake sides

with a cellophane wrap and a ribbon on a silver board. You will also box the cake to complete the presentation.

You may provide your own basic almond-flavoured cake, or one can be provided for you at an additional cost of £4.

Tea, coffee & biscuits will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch

Cost: £15 (to include all materials,



other than the cake)

Closing Date: Wednesday 30 September 2020

Further Information: Dot Rogers

ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BUILDING BACK BETTER

Covid-19 has been a dark time for many of us. Some of us have had the virus – and more of us will do so in the future - and we know how very frightening and horrible it is. When friends and family have been untouchable and so distant, that has made it all the harder to bear.

We thought it might be heartening for all of us to look ahead a bit. Don't for a second take this as a sign that we are side-lining the losses and distress of Covid-19, or wishing for a return to "normal", whatever that is. But one thing is clear; as our lives start coming together again, if we put our hearts and minds to it, we can build

it back better – including climate action, care for the environment, sustainability and resilience. Treading gently on this beautiful and fragile planet.

We decided that "Build Back Better" should be the overall theme of the Environment & Public Affairs sub-committee's competitions in 2021. This includes the big Royal Cornwall Show Cup Competition next summer. We are busy designing the individual competitions for you to enter and enjoy and have fun with. In November's *County News* we will publish details of the Royal Cornwall Show Cup Competition that we are organising. So get ready to be creative!

WI NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

GAOLBIRDS VISIT LANHYDROCK



Pictured above are some of the members of Bodmin Gaolbirds WI meeting for a walk around Lanhydrock Estate. Despite appearances to the contrary, the women are social distancing! It's just a deceptive photo!

THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE: A VIRTUAL GARDEN SAFARI

Mawnan WI has held an Annual Garden Safari for a number of years; each time about a dozen gardens around the village have been open to visitors.

Last year Mawnan WI raised nearly £3,000 for Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) and they wanted to be even more successful with their fundraising efforts this year.

However, the pandemic meant that members had to change their plans, and they decided to run a virtual event: *Through the Garden Gate*. An amazing 44 members and friends took part by sending a photo of

themselves by their garden gate and four others of different parts of their gardens. Everyone then had to guess who owns which garden - this was more challenging than you would think although some participants had included helpful clues.



As 2020 is Mawnan WI's centenary year, members wanted to do something really special to celebrate. The result was a video of *Through the Garden Gate* which gives a glimpse of some of the beautiful gardens in Mawnan Smith. In these difficult times the CHSW care team is even busier than usual and the charity depends on fundraising in the community: every pound counts. Mawnan WI's *Through the Garden Gate* video can be seen on the WI's Facebook page, and members would like to invite as many people as possible to view it and support the fantastic work of CHSW by donating via Virginmoneygiving.



MERMAIDS GO PICNICKING

Mermaids: Mylor & Flushing WI are keeping in touch by having regular socially distanced picnics.

The playing fields by Mylor Creek have provided an ideal venue.