

countynews

CORNWALL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

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October 2020



Inside This Issue ...

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Press and Social Media Competitions | Page 3 |
| Blaikley Salver Winning Poems | Page 4 |
| Christmas Wreath Workshop | Page 4 |
| Help Reduce Carbon Dioxide Emissions | Page 5 |





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DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION IN COUNTY NEWS

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CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER



Well here we are, October already – even though we have been going through some very trying times lately, the year is slipping by all too quickly and before we know it we shall be decorating our homes with holly. Things are slowly improving. As you all know the office reopened on 4 August and seems to be operating well, although only three days per week; as and when that changes we will let you know.

It is my deep regret that we are all unable to get together for our Annual Council Meeting. I know many of you were looking forward to hearing from Reverend Kate Bottley, and the Board of Trustees were hoping that the situation would improve and allow us to proceed. Unfortunately, this was not to be.

We all heard the Government's rulings about social distancing and the number of people able to meet together, we heard from The Regal Theatre in Redruth about the procedures they would be putting in place and realised that we had to give up all hope of holding the meeting. So that is 2020 with neither our Spring Countdown nor our Annual Council Meeting. Please all keep your fingers crossed for better news next year and a resumption of our get togethers. I am very pleased to see how you have adapted to "lockdown".

I have received many of your local newsletters and read what you have

all been doing with interest; there has been such a variety of activities. I have even judged a virtual flower competition which was fun although a little unnerving – did I pick the right one? I took part in a competition to match a baby photo to the WI committee member – the answers were at the back of the newsletter. I didn't cheat and I didn't guess correctly either! I loved the competition that one WI organised – a flower display on a spoon, and would love to see that incorporated at the Royal Cornwall Show one year.

Life for me has been quiet. I am managing lots of walks now with regular forays into Truro which I vowed I would do after moving. These help to offset the invitations I get from my family living just along the road to go and try my grandson's latest baking achievements. I have to say he has developed a talent and I rarely decline an request to come and try!

Like you all, I wish there were an end in sight to our current difficulties, but we have to accept that it is doubtful if life will return to "normal" as we knew it. We have to accept that in future it is more likely to be a new normal and we have to learn to adapt and find new ways of coping, of running our WIs and of keeping up with our members. We shall be doing all we can within the Board of Trustees to find ways to help and support you.

Before closing, I am delighted to share with you that four new members are joining the Board so there will be more of us to help you all we can. Full details of our new members will be shared with you in next month's newsletter.

Until next time, stay safe.
- Margaret

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS TO ALL

Here we are now in the autumn of what has been an unprecedented year for us all and our WIs with so many events cancelled or postponed until next year. Many of you have been keeping in touch through various means and really supporting each other through difficult times.

Some of you may be meeting again by now and others not. It all depends on our venues and whether they are all Covid-safe, and of course numbers of members allowed to meet indoors will make it difficult for the larger WIs. You will all have received the NFWI Guidelines for Resuming Meetings that was circulated to your Secretaries over the summer and these are also available for you to view on My WI. Future updates will be issued in the coming weeks.

Whatever is happening in your WI at present, we hope that you are all keeping safe and well. 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.

- The Membership Support Team

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Shortlanesend WI, 55th
Tregony WI, 55th
Carn Brea WI, 80th



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COVER PHOTO



Members of Linkinhorne WI take their first socially distanced walk of the year, on a chilly July day. Read more about their walk on page 6.

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NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

COUNTY NEWS BACK TO NORMAL!

With this issue of *County News*, we have at long last returned to having our monthly newsletter produced and printed by Lance Print. We know some of you have got used to having an electronic version of the newsletter available during lockdown, but did you know that it has always been available? The three most recent issues have always been available for you to read, download or print from the CFWI website. Just go to cornwallwi.org.uk and click on the 'County News' tab.

CHY NOWETH HAS RE-OPENED

As of August, our offices at Chy

Noweth an Conteth have re-opened. The office is staffed and open from Tuesday to Thursday, 10am-4pm. We have strict Covid-19 safety measures in place, so feel free to drop in and say hello if you're in the neighbourhood.

EVENT CANCELLATION
A Day of Art and Photography –
Withiel Village Hall – 6 November 2020

YEAR BOOK CORRECTION
Page 37: The email address
for Maker with Rame WI is:

Page 42: The email address
for Praze-an-Beeble WI is:

DENMAN

I recently attended a Zoom meeting with Denman Ambassadors and with Jeryl Stone, Chair of Denman together with Lynne Stubbings, NFWI Chair following the proposal to close Denman. At the present time I am unable to give any further updates but hopefully we should be hearing more later this month or early November.

The online courses that Denman have provided during lockdown are still ongoing and will continue for as long as possible. You can sign up for these on the Denman

website www.denman.org.uk – look for 'Denman at Home', where all the courses are listed for you. Anyone on the Denman mailing list will be getting the updates at regular intervals via email.

Could I also ask you to be alert to any social media or other appeals for Denman fundraising? We have not been made aware of any so far but before making any donations please, please check them out first as they may be scams.

- Kathy Reed, Denman Ambassador

FEDERATION MATTERS

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.

Deadline: Thursday
31 December 2020

Further Information:

Jane Dover

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 cfwise secretary@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.

Deadline: Thursday 31
December 2020

Further Information:
Helen Kestle



MEET AN ADVISOR: YVONNE TOMS

I can still remember the evening many, many years ago when I was asked if I was interested in becoming a VCO (Voluntary County Organiser - the forerunner of WI Adviser). At that time I did not realise that they went out to WI Annual Meetings, among other things – only that it was a dark November evening. Even with a young toddler and no family nearby, I agreed to see what the role entailed, wondering what I had let myself in for, and I am so glad that I did.

Over the intervening years I have been to hundreds of WI meetings, usually Annual Meetings today, but when I began we also went to as many May Resolution Meetings as we could. Requirements change and so does manpower to undertake these meetings.

It is a real privilege to visit WIs on all sorts of occasions, enjoying your good times and helping where we can during difficult times, as well as attending ordinary meetings and events. Although every WI runs under the same Constitution, it can be amazing how differently they do things, yet still staying just inside the line. Sometimes I admit meetings can be a challenge too – but even if we do not know the answer, we will readily tell you that we will get back to you with the answer – we usually know



someone who will know or at least where to ask.

Across the WI Advisers in Cornwall there is a wealth of knowledge and information, gleaned both nationally and locally as part of our training. Over the lockdown period and the following weeks it has been interesting seeing and hearing how WIs are coping and we are still here for you if you need us.

The young toddler I mentioned is now in her mid-30s with a family of her own, but I still enjoy all the contact I have with WIs. My involvement with the WI at all levels has given me so many skills, and the opportunities to practise them, that I am very thankful that I said 'Yes' even if it was a little tentative at the time.

Would you be interested in becoming more involved? If so, let us know that you would like to see more of what we do – our details are in the Year Book or ring Chy Noweth.

BLAIKLEY SALVER COMPETITION RESULTS

The standard of entries for this year's Blaikley Salver Competition, on the subject 'trees for life', was very high, according to our judge. We are pleased to publish here the top three poems.

FIRST PLACE:

Please Could I Borrow a Spade?
**by Karrie Skaijfe, St Mary's
Isles of Scilly WI**

Please could I borrow a spade?
I feel the need to plant something;
A green living thing, in this
garden I have made.
I want to sow seeds;
Tiny bullets of hope that know nothing
of fear or dread or pain.
They are not afraid to
grow, send up shoots,
reach for the light, welcome the rain.

Please could I borrow a spade?
I must clear the weeds choking the tree
that, in Summer, casts a dappled shade.
I wish I had planted a hundred, a
sanctuary, a glade of green where I
could sit by the roots and feel
the pulse of the earth,
listen to the birds,
and be happy again.

Please could I borrow a spade?
I have here a sapling, a whip of life,
a pointed green finger of hope,
that can thicken, grow roots,
become sturdy, lay down rings,
until the trunk can thicken, gnarl
and be brushed by claws and wings.
It may not be mine to see,
But that is not what matters now:
It will be.

Please could I borrow a spade?
I feel I must bury my fears;
Lay something down in the
good clean dirt.
A tight bulb of panic that will lie deep,
absorb the loss and the hurt,
and, in time, push tiny
spears towards the air.
Today I will think of nothing
but the garden,
so please could I borrow a spade?

SECOND PLACE:

Trees for Life
**by Marian Richards, Connor
Downs & Gwithian WI**

Dappled spring sunlight
gently filters through
the canopy of fresh green leaves
beneath which precious bluebells grow
their delicate bowed heads and
strap like foliage huddled together

en masse, a haze of violet blue, a floral
carpet the sight of which lifts our mood
as we meander by.

To a background chorus
of sweet melodic birdsong
mischievous squirrels
scamper along outstretched limbs
playing chase, leaping
up and down, to and fro
these amusing agile acrobats
bring a smile to all who encounter

Below, the knobbly gnarled torso
hosts a myriad of drab but
industrious creepy-crawly creatures
who quietly tunnel and hide
feed and breed a source of food
a vital link in the eco-chain of
animals, birds, insects and bees
who all need and rely on our
wonderful trees.

THIRD PLACE:

Trees for Life
**by Sheila Allen, Roche
Rockers WI**

Greenwood canopy over all –
shimmering beech with silver bark
Stands of oak and redwood tall –
sheltering owl and fox and lark
On mountain tops the cedars soar and
gnarled and ancient trees still stand
Unconscious of the march of time
– defenders of an ancient land
Trees for life they grip the soil
holding carbon deep within
Then breathing out the balm of life
– clean ozone drifting on the wind
And sacrifice trees freely give to
every creature large and small
The beaver's dam the cabin home
from coppiced wood or pines so tall
A canopy of forest life with
branches spread to catch the sun
All useful in a myriad ways – they
stand apart yet act as one
Bringers of beauty and of shade in
red and yellow, brown and green

The architects of ebb and flow –
the silent frame to life unseen
Let's treasure them creation's gifts
before they disappear from view
Those woodland dells of dappled
shade by hungry fire a wasteland made
Till all we see is blackened
stumps and flooded plain
If we destroy these trees for life –
how will we live – what shall we gain?



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! 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

CUTTINGS FROM FLORAL ART & GARDENING

We have all been sorry to have to cancel the many carefully planned various events this year, and have missed seeing all our WI friends. But in true WI tradition, we have not been idle – our gardens (and even our indoor cupboards!) have benefitted not only from the glorious weather, but also our having so much more time to do those important jobs which had previously been put off.

We are busy re-scheduling the events planned for this year, so we can look forward to Heavenly Greenery workshops (held in churches to inspire the use of garden flowers and greenery) with Elizabeth Doidge in Falmouth Chapel, Elaine Reynolds in Jacobstow Church, St Anta's Church in Carbis Bay and St Dominick Church. We are also planning two 'Winning Ways with Flowers' workshops with our own Edna Trudgeon for all levels of flower arrangers, to inspire and give confidence in entering competitions. These will be held at Chy Noweth and Hayle Rugby Club. On the gardening front, we have a day at Duchy College in Camborne, garden visits in the Launceston area and a day at Bosue Vineyard near St Austell – and that's just for starters!

We always welcome suggestions from members for venues, topics and speakers, and we are all very hopeful that 2021 will be a really great year for us all.

GREEN CORNER

BUILD BACK BETTER: HOW TO HELP THE GREEN RECOVERY

It is vital that we work to reduce carbon dioxide emissions; these have the same effect as glass in a greenhouse, by stopping the heat from the sun rebounding into space. Anything that we can do to reduce the emissions from petrol and diesel transport will help the green recovery as well as reducing pollution and often saving us money.

For short trips, walking and cycling are so much better for us, cost less and help to keep us fit. If you think that Cornwall is too hilly for cycling, then think electric. Electric bikes make cycling easy, and enable you to go much further without getting tired. Hills are a doddle!

Many more cycle routes are being planned by Cornwall Council to make it safer. For longer trips, use public

transport and car-sharing when possible and safe. If using the car, save fuel and money with eco-driving. The AA provides many good eco-driving tips such as: drive smoothly and accelerate gently; read the road ahead to avoid unnecessary braking; keep rolling - stopping and starting uses more fuel; use air-conditioning wisely; stick to the speed limit; and check tyre pressures regularly.

See www.theaa.com for more tips. But best of all, if you can afford it, buy an electric car. Grants of up to £3000 are now available for electric cars and vans which, like electric bikes, are becoming very popular.

Photo caption: Pictured here is Mary of Truro WI who, in her 70s, regularly cycles the 4 miles

from Allet into Truro, effortlessly enjoying the hilly 'quiet lanes' while getting plenty of exercise.

Until getting her electric bike she hadn't expected to ever enjoy cycling again since her school days many years ago!



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LINKINHORNE WI MEMBERS GET WALKING

Linkinhorne WI members enjoyed their first walk together in July, exploring Bodmin Moor, near Minions. Pictured on the cover of this issue is a group of the walkers near Gold Diggings Quarry with the Cheese Wring and Sharp Tor in the background (despite the deceptive photo, the women are socially distancing!). The members plan to have a walk once a week, weather permitting. Some members have been litter picking and walking during lock down. Those with computers have enjoyed reading *County News* online and participating in 'Denman at Home' courses.

SEASIDE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS FOR MAWNAN WI

Throughout lockdown, Mawnan WI's Flower Group members have continued with their monthly arrangements using a variety of styles and approaches suggested by leader, Sue Hewitt, who demonstrates and encourages novices and experienced florists alike. For August, a beach theme was chosen – using a bucket instead of a vase. Fiery flashes of deep orange crocosmia and bright golden sunflowers featured in many of the arrangements, echoing the splashes of colour around us at this time of year. Hopefully the group will be able to meet together next month if the village hall re-opens, or perhaps an al fresco session will be possible where there will be the opportunity to have a good chat and catch-up.



HARROWBARROW & METHERELL WI CELEBRATE 'FACE COVERING DAY'

Harrowbarrow & Metherell WI President Joan Tall, Secretary Kathy Thomas and Treasurer

Jean Miller worked together to make face coverings, tissue holders and recycled paper

carrier bags to hold them, along with hand sanitiser. This made a very practical surprise gift for each member ahead of 'Face Covering Day' on 24 July.



PENPOL & POINT WI MEMBERS CAN DO

After a spring and early summer of "can't do", cancellations, and not being able to offer members much more than the dissemination of parish news and information about local food provision, Penpol & Point WI decided to concentrate on what they *can do* with the gradual easing of lockdown. Having previously Zoomed, they socially distanced their first "live" Committee meeting held in Secretary Pauline Ruddock's garden in July, and drew up the start of a rolling programme of "group of 6" activities, all outside, distanced and observing relevant government guidelines. Members have been able to resume their Book Club, and have done long and short local walks to suit both rambles and amblers, all organised to finish at a local take-away café venue. The walks have been so popular that they've had to be repeated to accommodate numbers! Thanks to the talents of the members, the WI has

been able to plan a session on flower arranging in one person's garden, flower printing into clay in another, to be followed by "Painting on the Quay" and a Dorset button workshop in September. Of course, all of these have been weather-dependent but so far, apart from toughing out a rather chilly Book Club,

the women have been lucky. Although they can't gather their full large membership together yet, the members have found it very refreshing to be able to catch up with each other in small groups. Who knows what winter will bring, and "normal" meetings seem a distant hope, but Penpol & Point WI members are going for it while they can!



TREVONE WI BRAVES THE WEATHER TO BE TOGETHER!

Trevone WI has been holding Zoom coffee mornings throughout lockdown but recently held two socially distanced events to enable members to meet up in person.

The first of these get-togethers was a strawberries and cream tea with prosecco. The second event was 'bring your own lunch'. Unfortunately the mist rolled in from the sea and covered up the sun, but a few hardy members braved the weather and were treated to a demonstration by Iola Cotterill on how to make a lavender basket. Here she is cold and exhausted after her efforts. Well done Iola, and thanks to Trevone member Sue for the use of her field.



A GARDEN MEETING FOR PENRYN WI



Penryn WI held their first 'meeting' in four months on 29 July! A quick phone around to members (thanks to Secretary, Pauline and Treasurer, Margaret) saw members gather (nicely socially distanced of course) centrally at Penryn Memorial Gardens on a beautifully sunny afternoon. It was great to catch up with everyone after such a long time. Picnic lunches and folding chairs were the order of the day, and the WI even gained a new member!

WEATHER WON'T STOP ILLOGAN WI!



Sea mist and heavy showers did not stop Illogan WI meeting up for the first time since March. It was great to get together and, after a little sprinkle of rain, the afternoon stayed dry. Everyone brought their own tea and cake and a good time was had by all – so much so they are all keen to do it again!

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