

countynews

CORNWALL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Volume 4 issue 2 - 34p

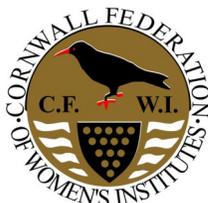
March 2021



COVER PHOTO

Toward the end of last year, and before we entered lockdown again, CFWI took part in a tree-planting ceremony in Falmouth. Over 400 trees were provided by the Woodland Trust, ready to plant in a glorious location next to a new housing development adjoining Tregonigie Woodland.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



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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:
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CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Here we go again. It is a Wednesday morning and I was reminded yesterday that my column was needed a couple of days ago. It is surprising what you can get away with if you wear the Chairman's badge!

So I am up washed and dressed and have a load in the washing machine whirring away, so it's time to do my duty.

Please don't have high expectations because precious little has happened since I last wrote, apart from Christmas, and I trust you enjoyed yours. It has been a quiet week so far, although that isn't quite right – I had an exciting and trying start to the week with a trip to the garage to put air in my car tyres followed by a visit to another garage to talk about a new tyre. You may be thinking, "What is she talking about? That is just normal stuff!", but these were jobs I always used to get my husband to do. My expertise was with things like selecting the wallpaper or choosing new furniture; his was looking after the cars – I tell you there have been some steep learning curves in the last three years so my advice to all you is widen your skills.

Talking of widening or sharing your skills, maybe now whilst it is unfortunately relatively quiet on the WI front you could think about offering help to our sub-committees, I know several of them would welcome new members with new ideas.

We sat having a Board meeting the other day and were discussing plans (or, rather, *hoped for* plans) for later in the year. Just to give you an update, for those who think we just sit about drinking coffee), we are beginning to make plans for the anticipated Royal Cornwall Show due now to take place 9-11 September. I still feel there is uncertainty about events for the autumn but if for any reason RCS does not go ahead, we are currently thinking of an alternative event to enable the competitions, and many of the stalls you would expect to find in the WI marquee, to carry on as normal. My message is if you are working on your WI's competition entry or on craft items for the stall, please carry on with them!

Please bear with me whilst I mention something you would probably rather forget – subscriptions. I know there is much controversy over this, but firstly I would like to point out that subs are set by NFWI and, although the individual Federations have made representation to National about the rate of the subs, we cannot do anything about the yearly increase or indeed the amount stipulated. Subscriptions of £44 are due to be paid in April. The other point I must draw your attention to is that many of you are electing to postpone your Annual Meetings until May or June – that is your prerogative, but please remember that in order to vote at your postponed annual meeting you must have paid your subs by April.

Right. Lecture over, I have climbed down from my high horse and it's now time to check the iPad again to see what delights are awaiting me. I am always on the end of the phone if anyone fancies a chat but above all, please do be careful, look after yourselves and your loved ones and STAY SAFE.

- Margaret

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

YEAR BOOK CHANGES

Page 26: Chacewater WI
Marlene Coombes reverts to being President and
Mavis Facey reverts to being Treasurer

DIARY UPDATES

MARCH CLOSING DATES

18 March – Explore the Moor: Minions Walk

25 March – Helford River Guided Walk



WI BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 2021 BIRTHDAYS

Penpol & Point WI	45 th
South Hill WI	75 th
Crafthole & District WI	80 th
Cuddra WI	90 th

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS TO ALL

Under normal circumstances, you would now be preparing for your March Annual Meetings but, due to lockdown restrictions, you were given the option to postpone for up to three months, i.e., February to May or March to June. Hopefully some restrictions may have been lifted by then and we shall be able to meet again, even if it has to be in reduced groups. Fingers crossed! However, several WIs took the option to hold their meetings via Zoom as they have been meeting in this way since the first lockdown, therefore keeping up their monthly meetings with some even gaining new members.

We owe a big thank you to all WIs and their members who have kept in touch with each other and organised their own newsletters, quizzes, competitions, etc. to keep up morale. I don't think that many of us thought that it would be so long before we could meet again.

Let us hope things will soon improve and we get a little more normality back in our lives.

If you have any queries or other concerns please contact your dedicated WI Adviser. Her full contact details, both telephone and email, are in the Year Book or can be obtained from the office staff.

- The Membership Support Team



2021 ROYAL CORNWALL SHOW UPDATE

Organisers of the Royal Cornwall Show have advised that the dates of the 2021 Show have been changed from June due to Covid-19. The new dates of the Show are Thursday to Saturday, 9 to 11 September. Please do keep working on your Royal Cornwall Show Cup competition entries!

CALLING ALL WRENS



CALL OUT TO FORMER WRENS

Frances Townsend, a member of Betjeman Belles WI, writes to us to say:

I served in the Women's Royal Naval Service during the 1970s and joined the service at HMS Dauntless, Burghfield, near Reading. This was a Part 1 training establishment but only for the years 1946-1981. During this period, 40 Divisions (classes) per year 'passed out' there. Each Division had a photograph taken, which means there is the potential for 1360 photographs. These women were the trailblazers for the modern day Royal Navy, where women now command ships, fly aircraft and serve at sea on ships and in submarines.

Two of Frances's friends are working to create an archive of these photographs for both historical and social reasons. Adding photos to the archive is bringing about reunions, creating moral support and easing loneliness for a lot of women now of advancing years. Thus far, only 650 photographs have been collected, 49% of what's possible.

A lot of women are not on social media and so the team is trying to spread the word widely and ask that if anyone reading this was in the Wrens, and has a Divisional photograph, to please take a photo of it and send it to: ddpwrens@gmail.com.

NATURE RAMBLE WITH DAVID CHAPMAN
Thursday 20 May 2021
KYNANCE COVE
10:30am-12:30pm

Photographer David Chapman will take us on a short walk to show us some of the special flowers of the area. We will also look for birds and insect life as we go.

You may also like to bring a camera to take photos of the views and flowers; bring binoculars if you have them because we might see choughs and other exciting birds.

We will aim to finish at 12:30pm at the café in the cove. You can then buy refreshments and perhaps take some more time to explore the area on your own or in small groups; alternatively bring a packed lunch.

We will meet at the National Trust car park at Kynance Cove (free for NT members). This will be a short walk of about 1 ½ miles but the terrain is quite difficult, with lots of steps, so this is for people who are sure-footed. Please come prepared with appropriate footwear and dressed for all weathers.

Cost: £5
Closing Date: Thursday 8 April 2021
Further Information: Sandra Buck

GUIDED HELFORD WALK
Friday 7 May 2021
NORTH BANK OF THE HELFORD RIVER
12-4pm

Please join us for a walk along the coastal footpath along the Helford River with a National Trust guide. There will be beautiful sea views along the river, including St Anthony's lighthouse, Pendennis Castle and, of course, the chance to see a variety of flora and fauna.

The walk will start at Durgan, and we will meet at NT Bosveal Car Park TR11 5JR. Free parking will be available for both NT members and non-members. As part of the walk will be on uneven surfaces, please wear appropriate shoes and be ready for changes in weather conditions. You may also choose to bring a water bottle.

Cost: £5
Closing Date: Thursday 25 March 2021
Further Information: Margaret Lugg

ARTS & LEISURE

CFWI 2020 CORNWALL COVID CHRONICLES



The newly amalgamated Arts and Leisure sub-committee would like to compile an illustrated record of 2020, to document the lives of Cornwall WI members in the momentous year we have just passed through.

This is history in the making and you were there! So tell us about it! This is not a competition; there will be no prizes, no joining fees, and no judges, just a chance to be part of something memorable.

Your experiences are unique to Cornwall. We are the only county to go through the lockdowns and all the tiers of restrictions in between. We have only one major hospital, a widely fluctuating population, difficult terrain and dangerous water. How do you cope with a pandemic in those conditions?

We are bombarded with news, rules, graphs, changes, advice and statistics.

What would be valuable to know is how all this has impacted on real women trying to abide by those rules, overcome their fears and get on with everyday life?

Other organizations may be making their own record but Cornwall has different pressures, both economic and social.

Would you like to take part in recording these strange times?

Tell us about your year, about how it felt, what you saw, what you did or did not do in 2020.

Paint a picture or send a photo of anything that illustrates how different things have been for you personally.

Strict rules could limit the spontaneity of response so here are some guidelines for your compositions:

Written pieces can be in any form, from one-liners to a maximum of 1000 words.

Poetry, letters, diary notes, short stories and even jokes are welcome.

Suggested headings:

- Viral Verses
- Stay at Home Stories
- Lockdown Letters
- Pandemic Pictures

Pictures /art work in any medium (photocopies only)

Photos

Entry is open to all members of CFWI, but WIs can work together if they wish.

The contributions may be used to compile a journal, have a slot in *County News* and may be mentioned in *WI Life*; it all depends on what response we have.

Entries by email only to cfwi@btconnect.com. If you do not have access to email, seek help from your WI committee; someone will sort things out for you.



GREEN CORNER

THE GREEN HOMES GRANT SCHEME

TAKE PART IN THE BBC COUNTRYFILE PLANT BRITAIN CAMPAIGN

Many members will have seen the launch of the Plant Britain Campaign on BBC's *Countryfile* last month.

The aim is 'to get everyone planting in a big, ambitious two-year project where we can all do our bit in the battle against climate change and to help wildlife and our own wellbeing.'

The Campaign has the initial goal of planting 750,000 trees across the UK – one for every primary school starter in 2020. An interactive map has been provided so that anyone planting a tree can show its location and add to the total. There is collaboration with the Woodland Trust, who can provide trees as well as advice about species, planting and tree care, and there is a chance for those planting a lot of trees to be involved with the Countryfile programme.

This is an opportunity and encouragement for individual members and WIs to plant trees and contribute to increasing the numbers in Cornwall on the interactive map. Please send your stories and photos to CFWI (cfwi.publications@gmail.com) as we would like to collate and celebrate the efforts of our members and feature them in a future issue of *County News*.

More information is available on the BBC's Plant Britain website.



In the WI we are becoming more and more aware of the impact of climate change on our lives now and in the future, and we need to know what we can do about it. Forty percent of UK greenhouse gas emissions come from households, and so our homes have an important part to play in reducing the UK's carbon footprint. The government has introduced a Green Homes Grant Scheme that could make our homes warmer and our energy bills cheaper.

If you are a homeowner or residential landlord, you can apply for a Green Homes Grant voucher toward the cost of installing energy efficient improvements to your home. These improvements include insulating your home to reduce your energy use or installing low-carbon heating to lower the amount of carbon dioxide your home produces. Low-carbon heating can be provided by heat pumps that can be ground sourced or air sourced and there have been many technological advances in these in the last few years. The grant scheme also covers solar thermal and biomass heating systems, as well as other types of insulation.

Vouchers will cover two-thirds of the cost of eligible improvements up to a maximum of £5,000 and if you, or someone in your household, receive certain benefits you may be eligible for a voucher covering 100% of the cost up to £10,000. You must redeem the voucher and ensure improvements are completed by 31 March 2022.

By making these improvements to your insulation and heating you could save up to £600 a year on energy bills as well as well as making a valuable contribution to our environment.

There is more information on the government website.



ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAKER CUP COMPETITION

The theme set for the 2021 Baker Cup Competition is '**Rediscovering Footpaths – The Way Forward**' and required a group of four or more members to submit a report on rediscovering footpaths. With the continued uncertainty as to when and where members can meet in small groups we have taken the decision to postpone the competition until the same entry and closing dates in **2022**. Another deciding factor is that some members were excluded due to no access to the internet. On the positive side, while meeting outside with others is currently limited, walking alone or with one other socially distanced is a permitted activity where you could be collecting information for a report. Who knows what joys lie on the path not taken?

WI NEWS

HAYLE WI KEEPS ON GOING

Although Hayle WI only managed two meetings before the 2020 lockdown, two activities have been able to continue. The WI's walking group has continued to enjoy their monthly local strolls including an evening walk away from the crowds, especially in the summer months. This has proved beneficial not only for physical health but also for mental wellbeing. Thank you to Carol Curnow for organizing these walks. The gardening group led by Julia Jackson has continued to be busy throughout the year and many locals and visitors alike have commented on Hayle's colourful flower bed on Penpol Terrace, which received a certificate of recognition (see below) from the Royal Horticultural Society and South West in Bloom.



BODMIN GAOLBIRDS WI CLIMATE CHANGE SAMPLER CRAFT PROJECT

Bodmin Gaolbirds WI's Craft Club members have challenged themselves with making a knitted weather sampler scarf. It's a project for them to do every day of the year.

Each temperature range is allocated a colour and, depending on the temperature that day, two rows are knitted in the appropriate colour. Different stitches can be used to create an effect.

It will be fascinating to see the final outcome!



WILCOVE WI PUBLISHES 70TH BIRTHDAY BOOK



Wilcove WI President, Su Hillman, proudly shows off the book which has been published to celebrate their 70th birthday in 2020. Entitled 'Good to Share', it includes items of local interest and history, reminiscences of members, creative writing and recipes - all contributed to share with others.

It has taken several years to collect the material for the book and then the editing and design stages during 2020 have met challenges due to the pandemic. However, with the help of Zoom the project was completed at the end of the birthday year and copies were distributed to all members as a late Christmas present.

Copies can also be purchased for £5.



Lady Denman Cup Competition 2021

“Let me show you what a woman can do!”

Here’s a great project for you to work on while you’re stuck in lockdown! Get your creative juices flowing and write a piece for the Lady Denman Cup Competition!

This year’s theme is: **“Let me show you what a woman can do!”**

The Lady Denman Cup Competition 2021 will be held in partnership with the National Gallery. Using no more than 500 words, WI members are invited to submit a piece of writing, fact or fiction, in any style (story, poem, etc.) based on the painting pictured here by Artemisia Gentileschi.

Entries can be submitted either via email or by hard copy.

Entrants must submit an email of their entry, or 4 copies of their entry (typed if possible, on A4 paper) to their Federation Secretary no later than **Friday 30th July 2021**. Any entries sent directly to the NFWI without being approved by CFWI, cannot be entered and will be returned to the entrant.

Entries must be accompanied by a completed Individual Entry Form. The entry form can be downloaded from the website, or email the office for a copy.

All entries will be judged by CFWI, and up to three entries may be chosen to go forward to the national competition.

Good luck!