

Federation Office

Cresswell House, 11/12 Brenkley Way, Blezard Business Park, Seaton Burn, NE13 6DS

Federation Chairman:

Marjorie Read

Federation Secretary: Nancy Gash

Contact us:

Email: [federationoffice@northumberlandwi.co.uk](mailto:federationoffice@northumberlandwi.co.uk)

Check us out on:

Website: [www.northumberlandwi.org.uk](http://www.northumberlandwi.org.uk) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/northumberlandwi/](http://www.facebook.com/northumberlandwi/)

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Lockdown letter number 3 now in print as we all wonder when it will all end and the answer, I suspect is not all that soon.

By now I should have attended several Annual Meetings, received the votes for the Annual Meeting in June and on a personal level should have been looking forward to celebrating our son's birthday with him and our daughter at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. Oh well there's always next year (I hope!). It really is a great shame about the National Annual Meeting, as we were to have as two of our speakers, Cressida Dick and HRH, Sophie, Countess of Wessex which would have been fabulous. I have spoken to National about how voting may or will take place on the resolutions and we are expecting details in the near future on how we will proceed. As soon as we have any guidance it will be put on our website and Facebook page.

Also, the Officers (the Treasurer, both Vice Chairmen and I) have held our first meeting since lockdown began. We did take all the appropriate precautions but felt that we needed to begin to think about the way forward ready for when there is more easing of restrictions. As you know Federation events have been cancelled until the end of June and I am sorry to say that this has now been extended to the end of August. I would also urge you to visit our website and/or Facebook page as up to date information will be posted on there as soon as it happens.

I know that many of you saw the open letter I sent on behalf of the members of Northumberland Federation to all the local newspapers in our region thanking NHS workers, carers, key workers, delivery people, food producers, emergency services, local authority services and anyone involved in keeping us safe, supplied with provisions and working at this strange time. Of course you now all have the opportunity to send your own personal thanks due to the card you will have received in your copy of WI Life and I would urge you to fill it in and send it. I sent mine to my own GP practice who have always provided a wonderful service to their panel of patients and have continued to do so in the current situation.

You may also be pleased to know that I sent a message of thanks and congratulations on behalf of all the members to the Hon Colonel, Captain Sir Tom Moore for his magnificent effort in raising money for NHS Charities and for his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. What an achievement.

Desert Island Discs are having a broadcast for members of the public on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June so guess what, I have sent them a message too, requesting Jerusalem. This is because the day

before, 4<sup>th</sup> June, many of us would have been singing it at the Royal Albert Hall. As to why I requested it, well because it reminds me that I am a member of the most wonderful Women's Organisation and that makes me feel very proud and very special. It may not get played because I suspect there will be lots of excellent choices and stories but even if it doesn't then I can sing it at the end of the programme as my small tribute to all the wonderful members both past and present. The voice isn't very good, but the emotion is heartfelt.

I hope that you have done well in Sue's food quiz and are ready to take on her next challenge. I certainly am if the ever-lengthening hair doesn't interfere with what brain power I have.

Sadly, I have learnt of the recent death of Ann Morris. Ann was the very first Chairman of Tyneside Federation in 1978 and as a VCO, as Advisers used to be known, she opened many of the Tyneside WIs. She was an excellent flower arranger and demonstrator, visiting my own WI on several occasions. Ann won a National WI competition and, together with Moira Cullen, took part in the scheme to provide flower arrangements for the foyer of the Tate Gallery. She had been a member of South Gosforth WI and was a truly lovely lady who will be remembered with great fondness and love by many members. A card of condolence has been sent to her family on behalf of the Federation.



I will sign off by thanking all WI committees for keeping in touch with their members and to you all for sharing your thoughts, individual Newsletters, and ideas with the Board. It's lovely to hear about what you are all doing and your methods of keeping in touch. For many it has reminded us that we can indeed still put pen to paper and pop it in the post box for one of those unsung heroes of the post to deliver to our friends. Until we really all can meet again please stay safe, well and smiling.

Marj

### ★ CLUB DRAW ★

#### APRIL

1 <sup>st</sup>	19	<b>Antice Coe</b>	Kirkheaton WI
2 <sup>nd</sup>	160	<b>Corrinne Campbell</b>	Seaton Valley WI
3 <sup>rd</sup>	103	<b>Anne Brunton</b>	Bellingham WI

#### MAY

1 <sup>st</sup>	22	<b>Bellingham WI</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	14	<b>Elizabeth Hogg</b>	Kirkheaton WI
3 <sup>rd</sup>	94	<b>Marjorie Hopper</b>	Embleton WI

## Lady Denman Cup Competition 2020

What I heard on the bus... There is a revised closing date of Friday **18 September 2020** for members to submit their entry to their Federation Office. Results will be announced by mid-December 2020. A revised schedule, individual entry form and Federation entry form is available to download from My WI.

## Ponteland WI 100 this month!

We all wish Ponteland WI congratulations on their 100 birthday this month but due to the COVID19 crisis their plans are currently on hold. Margaret Cowan their Secretary explains.



On 9 June 2020 Ponteland WI were going to celebrate 100 years since the formation and all plans had been made; food, entertainment, venue, decorations etc. - you can imagine. However, the invitations had been printed but not distributed and obviously Marj. etc. would have been invited. We have not met as a Committee to re-arrange this, but it will happen when it is safe to do so in the future. We are hoping the Council will say go ahead in planting one of the raised stone flower beds in the town with an appropriate plaque and WI colours for the flowers. Fingers crossed!

## Suspicious email reporting service

Now when we all are relying on technology to keep in touch with family and friends during Lockdown cybercrime is on the rise.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has launched a suspicious email reporting service in partnership with the City of London Police.

You can send your suspicious emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) and the NCSC's automated programme will test the validity of the site. Any sites found to be phishing scams will be removed immediately.

The service will also support the police by providing live time analysis of reports and identifying new patterns in online offending - helping them stop more offenders in their tracks.

6 top tips to keep secure can be found at: [www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware](http://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware)

**If you have been a victim of fraud or cyber-crime, report it to Action Fraud. Telephone 0300 123 2040**

*This message was received from the North East Regional Special Operations Unit.*



## Jesmond E Coffee Morning

The ladies of Jesmond WI had a lovely electronic coffee morning on 2 April 2020 via Zoom. Eight joined in total over the internet and never stopped talking. It was so nice to see and hear everyone.



## Lockdown at Rothbury

The members of Rothbury WI have been very busy over the last few, trying weeks. Katy Nicholls explains.

We have continued to meet using Zoom and, although we have had to alter our programme, have found the sessions on mindfulness and yoga very helpful. We have crafting, poetry and cookery sessions lined up as we don't see the restrictions ending anytime soon. We are also planning an afternoon tea with a garden party dress code too. On Zoom, of course.

Our weekly open coffee morning, part of the alleviating loneliness campaign, has moved to Whatsapp, with weekly topics set to start the conversation. There is a general WI Whatsapp group, plus a gardening and book group. All have featured daily, lively chat and photos. The book group strongly recommend "Once Upon A River" by Diane Setterfield, a recent, popular choice.

Members have been set two lockdown challenges:

1. Who can grow the tallest sunflower. There is a bottle of wine for the winner!
2. Craft an item for a fund-raising raffle.

We are supporting our local bereavement group and lunch club for the elderly and lonely this year. The gardening group also donate money each time they swap a plant or share seeds.

Members have sewn and delivered laundry bags for our local paramedics, NHS staff and carers. Over 70 have been made so far.

Any members not online have been phoned, as have those suffering ill health and bereavement. Lockdown seems to be just as busy, but in different ways

Let us know what you have been doing in isolation. Send in some more photos of your gardens or your local area when on your walks. Recommend a good book or a new recipe. Email [federationoffice@northumberlandwi.co.uk](mailto:federationoffice@northumberlandwi.co.uk) by 16 June 2020. Thank you

## Out and about



Wildlife in my garden at Whitfield – Christine Black



Walk along the River Tyne - Anon

## Your lockdown pics