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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



As the Startrekking song from several years ago said: *It's life Jim but not as we know it!* I think we can certainly say that this is the case at present even as the easing of restrictions are hurtling towards us at quite a pace now. Everyone is getting appointments at their hairdressers and their manicures sorted out too. Not sure about tattoos so if you want one and have to wait a bit longer then I am sure it won't be too long. Who knows we may even be able to sing again in public before the end of the year!!

Many of you will have seen on our website or National's or even through your own WIs information platforms that meetings can go ahead from 1 August for groups of 30 or less. This number has to include speaker(s), carers and any visitors. There are as you would expect very strong guidelines around these meetings and of course around the places where your WI meets and so although it sounds marvellous for those WIs of a "correct" number there may well be ramifications imposed by the venues. In fact some WIs could struggle with compliance imposed upon them by their meeting place and so I really must urge all WI Presidents and their committees in the very first instance to contact the owners of their meeting places to find out what they, as a group, will be required to do. Guidance on the resumption and risk assessments are on the document available on MyWI and the website. Despite all the precautions and guidelines it is good to move forward, albeit tentatively, and to see a light at what has been an extraordinarily long tunnel.

I am sure that you were all delighted by the news that your Annual subscription for 2020 had been extended by three months and that your 2021 subscriptions will not be due until April 2021. April will continue to be the due date in future years which I know from long experience will be welcomed by members and Federations who have wanted a change in the subscription date for quite some time.

Your secretaries will have received details from National about next year's Annual Meeting at The Royal Albert Hall in April and information confirming that the two resolutions which should have been debated and voted on at this year's meeting (Stem Cell Donation and End Modern Slavery) have been passed and are now campaigns. Details of how to submit a resolution for next year's meeting are also with your Secretary. They have to be submitted to National by 11 September. Your timescale is very short because your submission will have to be with the Federation for approval by the Board before it is sent to National. Can I ask any WIs

submitting a resolution to send it, in the correct format, to Cresswell House by Tuesday 1 September to allow for any amendments which may be necessary before final approval and submission to National.

I hope you all enjoyed the fabulous photo on the front of the latest WI Life which featured Linda Garner's (Shotley WI) balloon festooned farmhouse. It won first prize in the recent photography competition for Life during Lockdown. Didn't it look wonderful and what a tribute to all the hardworking members of the NHS. As you will have read it took a lot of time and effort to produce the winning result but well worth it and many congratulations to Linda and the rest of the Garner family.

The Board of Trustees will hold their first meeting since March in August, all correctly distanced and observing all the guidelines as we try to work out what we can/can't/will do in the coming months, creeping back to some form of normality. I would love to hear from any of you who do manage to hold a meeting in your usual venue to tell me how it went - how many members came along and did you just have a lovely catch up and games type evening or did you get a speaker? We can all learn from each other as we move forward so it will be good to get your views. Of course many of you have managed Zoom meetings or done quizzes by Zoom. I can only congratulate you all on how you have managed to stay in touch and come up with such novel and inventive ideas. Again, please let me know what you have done that has been different because these few months have been so unique that I would like to keep a formal record for our archives. I am positive we can create something that will inspire future members because I am very aware that we are indeed all inspirational women.

At this moment the RGS remains booked for October for our Council Meeting and Hexham Abbey for December but as I am sure you will appreciate these may have to be cancelled. As soon as we have any further information we will put it on to our website.

I am sorry that there has been quite a lot of formal and business information this time but it is all very important as we move on. It has nothing to do with the fact that as I write this I still haven't been for a haircut and am getting more demented by the day. However I am going next week for the long awaited haircut and also visiting the dentist, two entries in one week in my diary and if you add in a Zoom with National and one with our son and daughter, it's a positively overflowing week!! Take care. Please continue to follow appropriate guidelines wherever you are and whatever you are doing. Hopefully we will all see each other for real in the not too distant future.

Marj x

## Membership Support – Prudence Marks

Hello Everyone. The saying goes that "no news is good news" so "so far so good!" I must say that it was good to speak on the telephone with over thirty Presidents and I am delighted to report that almost everyone I spoke to is thinking of something to do with their members and keeping in contact, be it by Zoom, telephone calls, newsletters, quizzes, etc. A human voice can mean much more to people rather than an email. I have to say that at the moment I am extremely reluctant to attend any meetings as I think that it is far too early.

We have been so lucky with such wonderful weather over the last few months and a little rain now and again helps everything to grow. There isn't much action in our household these days, but a lot of thinking is taking place!!

Take care and enjoy the rest of the summer. I fully intend to do that!

## Mad Hatters at Wylam - Viv Smith

Wylam WI organised a village Decorate a Hat competition to support *Brain Tumour's Wear a Hat with Flowers* day on 19 June. It was lovely to see lots of people wearing hats that day in the local shops.



Several members of the choir Wylam Singers wore hats at the Zoom rehearsal that day. Winner of the children's section was Isla Davie aged 6 who had been inspired to enter when she saw the entries on our Facebook page. A WI member Kaye Jourses won the adult section.

The competition was judged by local florist Marion Stobo.

## Zoom Corner

**Murray Jacobs** is a Cambridge Green Badge Guide and provides a virtual Zoom tour of the "Must-Sees of Cambridge" using Google Street View and PowerPoint slides. The tour shows anyone who hasn't been to Cambridge the most important areas to visit. Mostly based around King's College and King's College Chapel so those who listen to "The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" or watch "Carols from King's" on Christmas Eve will appreciate this. The tour lasts 35 minutes and cost is £25 for the whole group. The timing of the talk is flexible.

You can contact Murray on 07733 424 792 or email him at: [murrayjacobs@hotmail.com](mailto:murrayjacobs@hotmail.com) For further information check out his website at <https://hiddencambridge.co.uk/>



## Alnmouth say 'be kind' to one another.

*Katherine Archibald explains*

Every newsletter is sent out around every 10 days or so. If someone has been poorly or is just out of hospital, a special 'welcome home' newsletter is sent out separately as well. Additionally, we have had a WhatsApp group from the start of lockdown, and we have been supporting each other with errands, shopping, prescription collections etc. for those who had to self-isolate or shield themselves or a loved one. Wisdom, humour, pathos, nature, beauty, tidy cupboards and helpful hints - along with a lovely summary of how we should be kind to each other as we start the long journey from lockdown to normal life - thanks to Wendy Goodwin for sharing the poem and everyone for their continued contributions.

## Lockdown Recipes - Sue Malloy

Thanks to everyone who has already sent me recipes, I now have an interesting selection for the booklet but still have room for a few more. So, if you have a favourite recipe that you have discovered during lockdown, I'd love to include it. You can email it to me at [suemalloy@btinternet.com](mailto:suemalloy@btinternet.com) or by post to Burn House, Doddington NE71 6AR.



## National Raffle 2020

Ticket price is £1 (book price £10). If your WI needs any more tickets, contact Cresswell House. Please note cheques should be made payable to WI Enterprises Ltd with your name, address and telephone number.

60%  
of proceeds go  
to Federations

## Eyes down and look in... Jesmond WI

Diane Walton shares how lockdown has been in her WI.

We have been in touch with friends and family after acquiring the skills on Zoom. We had members who had been to E-birthday parties from 80 years to 3 years of age, sharing cake and blowing out candles online! Some had sessions with quizzes, one with a scavenger hunt which made adults and children chase across the house to be first with a shoe, toothpaste, pillow, egg etc. Such fun and what a laugh. There had even been a Bingo session at a friends and family E-gathering. For those who fancy following suit, this is the link for Bingo cards <https://mfbc.us/m/zjw8zf> Each person downloads a card onto their phone then the caller reads out numbers 1-75. They had a prize for a line (across, down or diagonal) then full house. The caller can add all the bingo terms (which can be found on [winkbingo.com](http://winkbingo.com)). A game of Scrabble had been enjoyed over the internet as a 1 to 1 activity. Just like the real thing - a board in each location but one person taking out both sets of letters. Some also had 'pub nights' with friends catching up with news while sitting with a drink and nibbles.

Members had also been involved in singing in online choirs and one was a participant in an incredible circle dancing tribute where 250 people from across the world joined through Zoom to do the same dance.

Another member cut her husband's hair for the first time!

Such Trust eh! The hair cutter was some 45 years old. Do you remember these?



## AS WE START TO OPEN UP...YOU DO YOU, I'LL DO ME.

- Some people don't agree with opening...that's okay. Be Kind.
- Some people are still planning to stay home...that's okay. Be Kind.
- Some are scared of getting the virus and a second wave coming... that's okay. Be Kind.
- Some are sighing with relief to go back to work knowing they may not lose their business or their homes...that's okay. Be Kind.
- Some people already lost their jobs and businesses. Be kind.
- Some are thankful they can finally have surgery they have put off...that's okay. Be Kind.
- Some will be able to attend interviews after weeks without a job...that's okay. Be Kind.
- Some will wear masks for weeks...that's okay. Be Kind.
- Some people will rush out to get their hair or nails done...that's okay. Be Kind.
- The point is, everyone has different viewpoints/feelings and that's okay. Be Kind.

**BOTTOM LINE: EVERYONE HAS A DIFFERENT STORY...DON'T JUDGE - JUST BE KIND**