

**Federation Office:**

**Federation Chairman:**

**Federation Secretary:**

**Office Hours:**

**Contact us:**

**Check us out on:**

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

Marjorie Read

Nancy Gash

Monday - Thursday 09:30 – 15:45 Office Closed Friday

Tel: 0191 217 0808 Email: [federationoffice@northumberlandwi.co.uk](mailto:federationoffice@northumberlandwi.co.uk)

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

## Chairman's Update



It is so exciting to be able to give a message with so much more hope than we have all enjoyed for the past twelve months. The Government roadmap of dates for easing us back into enjoying life as we would want to again is an absolute treat and that light at the end of the tunnel really is shining brighter. Of course we must all continue to observe the guidelines in order to make the final date of 21 June a reality and I know that we will all continue to do that. I know that you are all looking forward to face to face meetings again and also to all the events that are put on by your own WIs

and Federation and so we have been busy organising some events for you. The Federation Quiz is always an enjoyable event and once again Sue Malloy has agreed to set a quiz for you all. I am certain you will have been doing Zoom quizzes within your own WIs so you should all be very sharp and ready to pit your wits against fellow WIs. The quiz heats will all take place on Thursday 30 September and the venues will be confirmed later with the final taking place on Thursday 21 October at Stanington. Full details will be available later. Other events that we have "booked" so far will all take place at Cresswell House and more details are in the "News from the Committees" section of the Newsletter. I will also host a couple of "Chats with the Chairman" over the months from July to December and will also put dates in future Newsletters and on our website.

Many of you cast your votes for the *Mask for Marj* Competition and by the time many of you receive your Newsletter the result will be on the website. Thank you for voting and thank you to those who participated in this. I must say that all the masks were extremely comfortable to wear and a lot of thought went into them. So well done everyone!

Once more I am able to thank two more WIs for their very generous contributions to the the donations came from Corbridge WI and Shotley WI. You really are all stars and your kindness is very humbling.

I hope that most of you have now paid your Annual WI Subscription under the new ruling allowing flexibility of individual WI portions and I am pleased that WI committees are putting a lot of thought into the decision that they are making this year and will continue to make year on year.

Once again I am finishing my message on the very sad news that former Chairman Margaret Cadzow died recently. Margaret was known to many of you and was Chairman from 1989 to 1994. I only met Margaret when Tyneside Federation merged with Northumberland but despite poor eyesight, and as long as she could obtain a lift, she continued to attend our Annual Council Meetings and kept abreast of what the WI and Northumberland in particular was doing. A message of condolence has been sent to her family on behalf of the members of Northumberland Federation.

I do hope that the lengthening of daylight hours and the beautiful Spring flowers are, along with all the recent good news on vaccinations and reduced numbers of hospitalisation are putting a real "spring" into your steps and I sincerely hope to see many of you very soon indeed.

Marj x

### Highlights this Month:

- Federation Quiz
  - Mask for Marj Competition update
  - 2021 Resolution Selection Results
  - Wording of Resolutions
  - Treasurers thank you message
  - Dates for your Diaries!
  - National Annual Raffle 2021
  - Members Information
- Contributions from:  
Bellingham, Greenhead,  
Lowgate, Nedderton &  
Bedlington, Prudhoe  
and Stanington

### -100 Club -

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rosemary Barkes  
45 Kirkheaton WI
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Olwen Savage  
74 Slaley WI
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dorothy Toward  
218 Kirkley WI



# News from the Committees...

## Membership Support – Prudence Marks

I have just been reading three newsletters which have been produced by individual WIs within the Federation. A number of WIs are now producing their own monthly newsletters for their members and I think that this is a wonderful idea. How ingenious a lot of members are, writing about all sorts of things, such as favourite recipes, walks, books they have recently read and various crafts just to name a few. Then there are the quizzes, word searches, historical facts etc. I have spent many a dreary morning engrossed in reading these and I know that a lot of members look forward to them being popped through their letter boxes every month. If some WIs are planning to have committee meeting outside as not everyone has the facility to Zoom, then please wrap up well as Spring is quite a long way off from being sprung yet and we don't want anyone to catch a chill.

## 2021 Resolution Selections

The results of the 2021 resolution selection process are shown in the table below. The National Board of Trustees has decided to put forward the top resolution to the 2021 National Annual Meeting which will now be held as an online event on 8 June (details later). No votes on the resolution will be taken but discussion will be held. The wording of the

| 2021 Resolutions          |   | Selections |
|---------------------------|---|------------|
| 1                         | A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer.                       | 30,240     |
| 2                         | Stop women dying prematurely from coronary heart disease.                                 | 16,285     |
| 3                         | Racism and discrimination.  | 5,363      |
| 4                         | Now's the time to act! Protect your nature space to create wildlife-friendly communities. | 7,808      |
| 5                         | Stop the destruction of peat bogs to tackle climate change                                | 6,616      |
| Total selections received |   | 66,312     |

resolution is given below, and more information about the subject of ovarian cancer can be found in the April edition of WI Life and on the National and MyWI websites.

**"Every two hours in the UK someone dies of ovarian cancer. Making sure GPs and the public know what to look for will not only ensure the early detection and treatment of this disease but transform lives today and for generations to come. NFWI calls on WI members everywhere to help increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer."**

WIs now have until the deadline of **9 July 2021** to cast their votes "for" or "against" this resolution. Votes should be collected from members via virtual meetings, face-to-face meetings (if this is possible in line with Government advice) or by any method the WI may decide upon. The WIs majority vote, whether it be "for" or "against", should be registered on an online form (to be issued by National at a later date) by **9 July 2021**. An alternative will be available should this not be possible.

NFWI appreciates how difficult it has been for WIs to participate in the resolution selection and voting process this year and thanks all members for their involvement and support.

## Treasurer's Message – Norma Birch



As always, thank you WIs for your continued support especially through this last unprecedented year. We have been humbled by all the generous donations received to help in the running of the Federation for which we are most grateful. Now that we are on the road to easing the lockdown restrictions, plans are taking shape for various events in the hope it will be possible to attend events later in this year. Please support these events if you can and where I look forward to seeing you once again. Until then stay safe and well.

## Sports and Leisure – Barbara Kilkenny

Dare we hope to make plans now that Boris has given us a road map? It will, I feel, be small steps to begin with as we regain our confidence to return to socialising. The Committee have **6 JULY** in their very empty diaries for a first planning meeting and no doubt lots of catching up. However, we already have couple of dates for your diaries.



- \* **10 and / or 19 November** - Noreen Brent is excited to deliver a Tai Chi class at Cresswell House.
- \* **9 December** - will be the ever popular Christmas Beetle Drive held at Cresswell House.

Keep watching for more details!!

## Public Affairs – Pat Douglas



Now that we seem to have some light at the end of the tunnel, we hope to plan a small-scale event at Cresswell House. It may be somewhat ambitious to think of staging a full-scale International Event as we have done in the past but hope to come up with something that allows us to "go abroad". Meanwhile, let's look forward to Spring and meeting up again.

## Craft – Karen Coleman



“Oh, how happy can I be, we are hoping to be busy as busy, busy bumble bees.”



Following a longer than anyone expected break in activities, the Craft Committee have been planning to come back into the light and offer activities to the wider WI.

Plans are well advanced for Paper Craft, Food demos and the Christmas Craft day. I have contacted some tutors and drafted plans for when the BoJo Roadmap is a thing of the past. We will be ready and waiting to start offering you craft activities.

So, the lead in times for events might be shorter than in the past. But if things are popular, we will try to duplicate them.

Being positive, please give us your support. As always if there is something you would like to have a go at either from the past or in the future, let either me know via the Office or any of the Craft Committee.

Here is to a positive, happier, brighter WI future where we can all participate in activities.



## Combined Arts – Moira Bengtson

Greetings Ladies, and Happy April! With the clocks going forward, new lambs in the fields, Spring flowers and (hopefully) better weather to help, we may all begin to feel a little better and brighter! Although our Combined Arts Committee are yet to meet, I've been thinking of a few ideas to get us going again.



Numbers will need to be small to keep everyone as safe as possible, but we're hoping that our previously planned Calligraphy sessions can go ahead later in the year. A musical quiz might well be possible (without joining in to sing - is it possible??) and a dramatic evening of "Truth or Lies?" might well be an excellent laughter tonic!

I'm sure many of you will be choir members and, like me, will be missing the joy of belting out various musical offerings...it's just not the same in the shower is it? Or perhaps you're keen drama or film fans who are totally fed up with Netflix and TV in general - is there anything on tele that's not a repeat, I'm beginning to know the next line in the scripts!?

"Namaste" ladies, we're getting there, and our first priority will be safety for everyone. We're watching the horizon get brighter by staying safe. Love Moira

## Members' Information:

### Nedderton & Bedlington - Marilyn Taylor

At Christmas we made all our members a Christmas Santa bag. Included in the bags were a handmade face mask, a handmade scarf and a handkerchief donated by the family of Sonia Yardley.



Sonia was one of our long-standing members who died last year. Apparently, she had lots of boxes of handkerchiefs stored away, some of which were extremely old. We thought it would be a lovely way to remember her if every member had one of her handkerchiefs. As you can see from the photo, we also asked our members to take a photo of themselves wearing the scarf then send it to us to make into a collage.



### The lowdown at Lowgate - Betty Boaden

Although activities at Lowgate have been curtailed now for almost a year we have managed to achieve a lot. At the beginning of lockdown, we met outside, socially distanced of course, to hold two brief meetings with fish and chip suppers. During the following month a long-awaited refurbishment of the outside and roof of our hall was completed. A few months later the offer of free trees from Northumberland County Council to assist the slowing down of climate change provided an ideal opportunity to start an orchard on a redundant piece of land behind the hall. More wildflower seeds were sown to cheer up 2021.

To start the New Year our members were given a little *Bag of Happiness*. We all have those days when we feel a little blue and this bag had things inside to help to see them through:

- ♥ An eraser, so your mistakes can disappear.
- ♥ A coin, so you can never say you're broke.
- ♥ A marble, in case someone says, 'you've lost yours.'
- ♥ A rubber band to stretch yourself beyond limits.
- ♥ A piece of string to tie things together when they fall apart.
- ♥ A kiss (a cherry lip) to remind you that someone loves you.

It brought a smile to members' faces and hopefully we'll get together in the not-too-distant future. Meanwhile Zoom and WhatsApp are keeping us in touch.

## A Little 'Hello' from Bellingham

Trish MacPherson wrote this for all the WI members in Bellingham as they are all missing their meetings. All thought it was lovely and thought to share it so many more members can enjoy the spirit.



*I just wanted to write and say a BIG hi  
to all of the ladies at the WI.  
It has been far too long since we all did meet  
or even saw anyone who lives down our street.  
Everyone everywhere is suffering too  
but sometimes it seems it's just me and you!  
During lockdowns I wonder what you have done  
has it been really boring or did you have fun?  
Making and doing things you don't normally do  
or sat by the fire and supped a good brew.  
Maybe you have learned how to sew a fine seam  
or made a light sponge and filled it with cream.  
Perhaps you've made bread without a machine  
or taken up cooking from a foreign cuisine.  
Have you painted a masterpiece of Niagara Falls?  
Or just ended up by climbing the walls!  
If you crocheted the reindeer from November's mag  
did it turn out to be little or grow into a stag.  
Have you learned to Skype or call using Zoom,  
playing virtual games from your own front room  
with family and friends who live near and far  
or maybe at last learned to play the guitar.  
Jigsaws and books have come into their own  
as telly's not great when repeats are being shown.  
Whatever you've done I have a question to ask,  
how do you eat with your mouth in a mask?  
I think we all are completely agreed  
in hoping the vaccine will definitely succeed.  
But for now, fingers crossed and this is my wish  
we'll meet very soon, stay healthy,  
from Trish*

## Sad time for Greenhead WI

Greenhead WI have sadly lost two members to Covid/Sepsis. Dot Watters and Rose Bracher were loyal members for many years and words can't express their loss.

## Zoom Corner

Jesmond WI had the good fortune of seeing **Alex Connell** present a **Vegetarian Cookery Demonstration** in February on Zoom. Alex has had a variety of roles in the catering industry including principal tutor at the Vegetarian Society Cookery School and currently works for the charity Vegetarian for Life. Thank you so very, very much Alex. The Zoom session was thoroughly enjoyed by all and a tremendous success. You'll find a wide range of cooking demos, online training, recipes and publications on the website [Vegetarian for Life](http://Vegetarian for Life).

## A Lockdown Story from Stanington

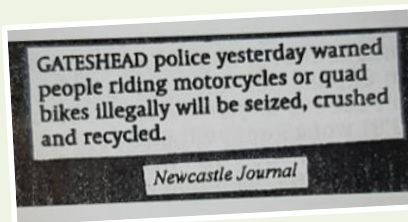
This is the story about our lovely Chris Bound who has been housebound since lockdown.

"I was first contacted by Kate who works for the R.V.S. She was looking for someone who had used the service and would like to speak to Boris. Never thinking I would be chosen - but I was. I found the volunteers absolutely fantastic; they rang me weekly and picked up my medications. After numerous phone calls it was arranged for me to have a Zoom meeting with the Prime Minister. The press came two hours prior, and I have not been photographed as much since my wedding day! It was all quite surreal. The day it all came together I was nervous and excited. I spoke to Boris and Carrie and they were very easy to chat to. Boris said I looked very well, thank goodness he could only see my face and not the rest of my body - a lot of chocolate had been consumed this last year! I felt honoured to have been chosen. It has been the highlight of an extremely difficult year, and my claim to fame!"

As a WI we always come together to enjoy our experiences and share our love for life. The lockdown was traumatic and akin to bereavement to all of us. The fact that we were unable to meet, join together or do anything 'normal' has made us feel disconnected. We started Zoom meetings with the usual hilarity - many times did we say, "you are on mute", "your washer makes a terrible background noise", "turn your camera round, we can only see your fruit bowl"! Chris was one of our members who persevered and taught herself (with a bit of prompting) to use Zoom. We were thrilled to hear her story and also her beautiful laugh.

## Prudhoe have fun on Zoom - Anne Leach

Prudhoe WI have monthly Zoom meetings and in February we had a talk by Dr Ray Lowery who's been a doctor, writer, comedian and speaker. He's performed a one man show at Edinburgh and written sketches for many famous comedians. He gave a very amusing slide show about the early days of his medical career. For his show he collects amusing captions from newspapers and magazines.



It was a great evening and it felt good to have a laugh together with everyone.

One evening, we were invited to join Fairford Ley WI from Aylesbury's Zoom meeting.

They were having a quiz and had invited other WIs to join them. It was great to meet and see members from a different part of the country.

## theW National Annual Raffle 2021

Ticket price is £1 (book price £10). If your WI needs any more tickets, please contact Cresswell House. Cheques should be made payable to WI Enterprises Ltd with your name, address and telephone number. Send in your counterfoils to: The WI Raffle 2021, NFWI, PO Box 4531, Maidenhead SL60 1GH by: **24 September 2021**. The drawer takes place on 8 October 2021 and 60% of the proceeds goes to Federations.

1<sup>st</sup> prize  
**£10,000**