

Smethcote WI Newsletter July 2020

Dear Member and Friend

I hope you are keeping well and beginning to enjoy the slight relaxation on social distancing.

In this month's issue we have:

- * Various news items
- * Flower of the month competition results and photos for this month
- * Vegetable of the month- Courgettes!
- * Contributions from members including photos and a couple of amusing jokes
- * Member's recipes
- * Quiz and answer from last month

The National Federation News

Subscriptions: The NFWI as an organisation have responded to the Covid situation and lockdown by agreeing to a 3 month extension of the renewal date for subscriptions. This means that the new date for subscription fees will be April 2021. April will remain the payment date in subsequent years. There will be a small increase in the fees from April 2021 to £44.

Attached on page 2 is a reprint from the NFWI website for information

Denman College

The college is currently closed but is still offering some brilliant online learning activities use this link <https://www.denman.org.uk/whats-on/> At the current time Denman do not have a date for re opening. Attached on page 3 is their most recent correspondence to us.

Resolutions for next year

Shropshire Federation are urging us to think about ideas we might have for resolutions. I have written out with one idea concerning the situation where

women and men who are not married are not entitled to widows pensions after the death of their partner, nor any bereavement payment if they have children. A legal challenge in 2017 through the Supreme Court said this was wrong but the government have not addressed the inequality. This has impacted many women and men; young and older, it continues to do so.

Another potential candidate for a resolution is the recent formal review by the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review of 3 areas of women's medical care; drugs used as a pregnancy test stopped in 1978, anti epilepsy drug and the harm in pregnancy and the use of pelvic mesh implants. The report has shown considerable suffering and adverse effects from these medical interventions. The review is calling for action.

The report can be found here

<https://www.immdsreview.org.uk/Report.html>

If you think either of these two or both might be worth pursuing as a resolution, please email/whats app /phone me. At this stage it won't involve you having to do anything I am happy to get more information on our behalf.

Smethcote WI meetings are still in abeyance until large group gatherings are allowed. However, we are studying the most recent guidance for meetings from central government.

Have a good month and if you have anything you would like to contribute to next month's newsletter please do. Photos, recipes, poetry, short stories or reflections on life.

Email or whatsapp marionjdakin@gmail.com

Chris Downes mchrisdownes@yahoo.co.uk

With very best wishes Marion

(Downloaded July 2020)

From the NFWI website the following information has been given in relation to subscription fees for 2020 and going forward:

“The NFWI has been very concerned about the disruption this lockdown period has had on WI meetings and activities and your membership experience this year. We recently held consultations with all federations to discuss **ways in which we can acknowledge this in our membership subscription** this year.

We are delighted to share with you that as a result, **we are offering a three-month extension to this year’s membership subscription**. The next renewal date for membership subscriptions will, therefore, be 1st April 2021. In addition, from this point onwards, **membership renewals will always be in April**. This is to acknowledge the feedback many of you shared with us during the recent Strategic Vision consultation about the challenges of the January payment date and how you wished to see this changed in the future.

We hope the additional three months will provide some compensation to acknowledge the disruption many of you will have experienced this year.

Please see below some **FAQs to explain a bit more about the process and how this will impact WIs**. *Please note we will be adding to these FAQs over time, as new questions arise.*

Q: Will the subscription fee still be increased in 2021?

A: Yes. The 2021 fee has already been agreed by federations and the NFWI, and budgets across the organisation will have been agreed based on this.

The cost of the three-month extension to the organisation as a whole (all three levels) is £1.7m, which comes with considerable financial challenges, particularly to our federations, and reducing the subscription fee for 2021 would put all three tiers of the organisation in an even more precarious financial position. It would also in all likelihood necessitate large increases to the subscription in subsequent years.

The NFWI Board of Trustees works hard to keep subscription increases as low as possible. Despite the predicted economic downturn, the costs incurred by WIs, federations and the NFWI will not go down. If membership fees do not keep pace with annual costs, it will financially destabilise all parts of the organisation. This will not only create a deficit position but will also decrease the organisation’s resilience to future issues and disruption, such as those faced during the Covid-19 period. There would also inevitably be a need to exponentially raise fees in later years, above the cost of inflation, which would no doubt result in a drop in membership.

The 2021 subscription cost will be £44. Of this, 49.3% (£21.70) will go to the WI, 23.20% (£10.20) to the federation, and 27.50% (£12.10) to the NFWI. Out of the £1 increase, only 20% is going to the NFWI, 20% to the federation, with the large majority of the increase remaining within the WI (60%).

Will the new subscription payment date (April) be kept in place permanently?
Yes

A: Yes. A change of payment date away from January, a financially challenging month for many, will hopefully be a welcome change for members and reflect the feedback many of you shared with us during the recent Strategic Vision consultation. As we move out of this Covid-19 period and look to the future of the WI, our aims to be more inclusive and flexible are central to all considerations and we are delighted to be making this permanent change to what many of you have told us you feel to be a practical barrier to membership.

Statement from Denman – 26 June 2020

We hope that you are all safe and well.

We are delighted that 'Denman at Home' has allowed many of you to keep in touch with us and benefit from the variety of courses on offer, just delivered a different way, under the current circumstances. We are also proud to have been able to connect with many of you who have never been to Denman. Most importantly, we are **delighted** to see the enthusiasm for these courses so far.

As we all come to terms with the detrimental impact of COVID 19 and try to return to normal activities again, the safety of everyone who comes to Denman College still remains our utmost priority. Based on a review of these factors and following advice from our Health and Safety advisers, regrettably we have concluded that we will not be able to reopen on 1st July as we had previously hoped. The procedures we would need to put in place due to government guidance, would significantly **impact on** the delivery of our services at Denman and result in the **reduction of the capacity of the college**.

In addition, we know from speaking with you that many of you do not wish to visit Denman until life has returned to normal, but this of course means we have exceptionally reduced student numbers, making courses impossible to run. Based on reduced numbers and crucially the complexities around re-opening, Denman will therefore continue to remain closed until further notice. We will continue to monitor and review government guidance and keep you updated. Consequently, the few remaining courses in July and August will unfortunately now also be cancelled. For anyone still booked on these courses we will be contacting you shortly to process a refund.

We are profoundly saddened to take this course of action and apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but we hope that 'Denman at Home' will make up for this for the short term.

In the meantime we would request your patience and support whilst we review ongoing government guidance. If you have any urgent queries that are not answered by the FAQs on the Denman website, you can continue to contact the NFWI Membership and Engagement team on membership@nfwl.org.uk. However, please note that they will not have access to any information about existing bookings or be able to process any requests on behalf of Denman staff.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Please take care and be safe.

Jeryl Stone
Denman Chair

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Keeping Busy During Lockdown



Special Birthday Cards by Carol B



My own harvest on a Saturday morning!



Something else to do with too many courgettes— Chutney

Vegetable of the Month -Courgettes

love them or hate them?



Courgette Brownie

The recipe is at

<http://allrecipes.co.uk/recipe/7946/print->

This is my attempt– you wouldn't know it was made from courgettes, tasted great, fooled a couple of people with what it might be made of !

For those without internet:

125 ml vegetable oil, 300g caster sugar, 2 teaspoons of vanilla extract, 250g plain flour, 40g quality cocoa powder, 1.5 teaspoons of bicarbonate of soda, teaspoon of salt, 250g of grated courgette, 60g chopped walnuts

- 1.Preheat oven to 180 C Grease and flour 22x33 cm baking tin
2. In a large bowl mix together, oil, sugar ,vanilla. Combine the flour, cocoa, bicarb and salt and stir into the sugar mixture. Fold in the courgettes and walnuts. Spread evenly into the tin.
- 3, Bake for 25 to 30 mins. It's done when the brownies spring back when gently touched.



Courgette and blue cheese soup

Serves six, prep and cooking 1¼ hours

Approx. 700g (1½lb) courgettes, trimmed and chopped

40g (1½oz) butter 1 medium onion, chopped

2 cloves garlic, crushed, 2 pints (1.1 litres) vegetable stock

2 heaped teaspoons chopped fresh basil, Or 1 level teaspoon dried basil,Salt and pepper,

175g (6oz) blue cheese, 150ml (5fl oz) single cream

Melt the butter in a large, heavy-based saucepan, add the onion and garlic and fry very gently for about five minutes until soft and lightly coloured.

Add the courgettes and cook gently for ten minutes, stirring frequently.

Pour in the stock and bring slowly to the boil, then lower the heat and add the basil, with salt and pepper to taste.

Cover and simmer gently for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Remove any rind from the cheese and then dice it. If you have a stick blender, you can blend the cheese, cream (reserving a few tablespoons of cream for serving) and soup all together in the pan. If not, blend the cheese and cream with some of the soup, according to what your blender can take, and then blend the rest in batches. Serve with a swirl of the reserved cream and a sprig of fresh basil. (it freezes well) *Margaret Wilson*

Marrow and roasted garlic soup

1 large head of garlic,50ml olive oil, 1 marrow of about 500gm. (Or courgettes). 50gm butter,1 medium onion, chopped. 1.25 litres of chicken or vegetable stock,150 ml single cream,Snipped chives, Salt and pepper

Heat oven to 200 degrees C

Break garlic into cloves, removing woody bits, leaving on the skins.

Put oil into a shallow oven proof dish and turn the garlic cloves in it until well coated.

Put the dish into the oven and roast the garlic for 15 minutes. Cool slightly, then drain (keep the excess oil for a delicious garlicky salad oil or to roast potatoes. Press out the pulp from the skin and mash.

Peel, de seed and chop the marrow into 1" cubes. With the courgettes wash, dry, top and tail and then chop up as marrow.

Melt butter in a large pan and soften the onion without browning, add the marrow and stir, then add stock, garlic and seasoning.

Cover and simmer gently until the marrow is soft then leave to cool.

Liquidise until smooth. It can be frozen at this stage. Re-heat gently without boiling and stir in cream. Garnish with chopped chives.

Margaret Wells

Things to appreciate and amuse

Thanks to Jean H for these:

Joke for anyone who has made masks: *Just made a face mask for my pet duck. Nothing flashy, but it fits the bill.*

And for the bakers: *Tomorrow there's going to be a protest in London about cake decorations.*

Police are expecting hundreds and thousands to turn up.



RED
HOUSE
FARM

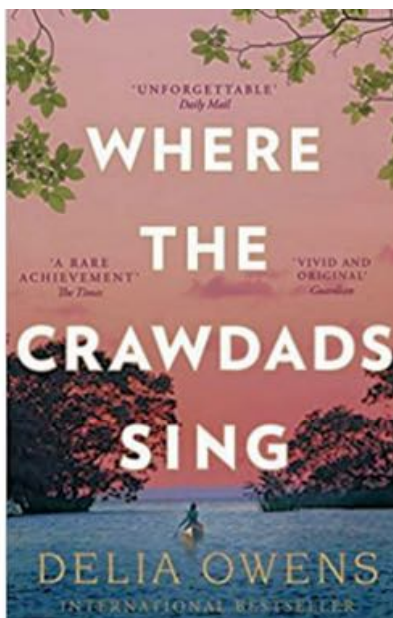
Owlet being weighed, one of 4 females to be hatched this year

Marigold on a visit



CORNER FARM

Bemused ponies during soil sampling



Book Recommendation. Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. Part murder mystery but mostly a description of the desolate marshland of North Carolina. Seen through the eyes of a child who notices how people and nature exist in this wild and beautiful area. Set in the 1950's and 60's it is a beautifully written story of love, sadness and growing up. Enjoy the language and picture the fragile ecology as told by Delia Owens.

Carol B

Flower of the Month

**Vote for your
favourite
Continues on
next page
by phone, text
email, what's
app**

**Marion 07968
268505**

**Chris 07803
281722**



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281722**



**Last Months Flower of the
Month winner was: Margaret
Wells**



Quiz: Postage and Stamps

1. What is the price of a first class stamp today ?

2.What is the price of a large letter first class?

3.What is the price of a second class stamp ?

4.In what year was the Penny Black first issued?

5.How much would an average Penny Black be worth today?

6. What was the worlds first sporting stamp to be issued?

Olympic games FA cup Wimbledon Tennis Commonwealth Games

7. Self adhesive stamps were first issued by the PO in which year?

1993 1994 1995 2000

8. Which country in 2013 issued stamps that smelt and tested of chocolate?

France Belgium Germany Switzerland

9. Where was the first pillar box erected?

Guernsey Jersey Isle of Man Isle of wight

10. What is the name of the cartoon postman who has a cat called Jess?

Quiz Time Answers

All roads lead to Smethcott or Smethcote but where are these sign posts located?



1

From
Smethcott
to leebot-
botwood



2

Oppo-
site
Corner
House
Smeth-
cote



3

Dorrington to Picklescott Rd



4

A49



5

Nr Walkmills

Around the world in 10 minutes

1 Where is "Old Faithful Geyser"? *Yellowstone National Park*

2 Where is Cloudy Bay Winery?

California -Napa Valley

New Zealand- Marlborough

Chile - Ma Po Valley

3 The largest waterfall in the world form the border between which 2 countries? *Iguaza between Brazil and Argentina*

4 Where would you find Fynbos? *On Table Mountain South Africa*

5 Where is the driest place on Earth? *Dry Valleys in Anartica*

6. What does the 49th Parallel divide? *Divides Canada and the USA*

7 Name the 4 main Balearic Islands *Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza & Formentera*

8 What is the capital of Finland? *Helsinki*

9 What water does the strait of Hormuz link? *The Gulf of Oman & the Persian Gulf*

10.Which city is nearest to Kangaroo Island? *Adelaide*