

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear members


As the 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' approaches, it definitely feels to me as though the new term is beginning. Many of our WIs have started to meet again, albeit under strict social distancing guidelines and subject to any local restrictions with regard to their venues, but there is definitely a feeling of optimism in the air. You will have received the helpful information from NFWI suggesting ways you can facilitate getting together which is fantastic, but if this isn't possible for you or your WI please do not feel you have failed in any way. The most important thing at this stage is to stay in touch with each other and make sure the safety and well being of you and your members is at the centre of any decisions you make with regard to restarting meetings.

If any of us had been asked in 2015 what we thought we would be doing in 5 years time, I doubt any of us could have predicted this! It has been the most challenging of years but, as always, you have been brilliant and managed to stay positive throughout. I really hope that things can begin to return soon to whatever the new normal will be in the next months for all of us.

I am delighted that we are now able to announce the launch of our brand new Oxfordshire 'magazine' which will replace *News & Views* from November this year. It will be available either digitally or as a hard copy and the federation office will be contacting your WI shortly to establish how many copies of each version your members will need. More details will follow but it is a credit to the very busy members of the Communications & Marketing team that we are now in a position to produce what we believe will be a new, exciting, interesting and informative publication for our members. As with the 'old' *News & Views* there will be a small charge for the magazine due to the costs of design and the fact that it will not contain advertising material. There will be 12 copies a year instead of the previous 10 and it will have the new title of *Oxfordshire Inspires* with the strapline 'The magazine of Oxfordshire WI'. Watch this space!

I bumped into a WI member today in the car park of a well known supermarket and we talked about the bursaries her WI had enjoyed awarding members to attend Denman. It was really good to be able to reassure her that even without Denman they can still award bursaries to members which can be used to access any educational activity anywhere they like. She was delighted to hear this and I left feeling very much that 'every little helps' in encouraging our members to stay positive during these difficult times.

I send my very best wishes to you all.



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The opinions expressed in *News & Views* are not necessarily those of the Oxfordshire WI.
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Designed By: Holly Daniels

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Sheila Griggs, Stoke Row WI



OXFORDSHIRE WI (OFWI) ANNUAL MEETING 2020

We have recently received guidance from NFWI regarding our constitutional requirement to hold an Annual Meeting each year. This is notice that a fully virtual Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday 30 September 2020 at 7.00pm via Zoom. Due to the current circumstances this will be a shortened business-only type meeting to ensure that the Federation has discharged its statutory duty.

The Standing Orders, Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting and the Accounts for the financial year ending October 2019, were previously circulated to all WIs in January 2020.

Information will be emailed to WIs about booking a delegate and an observer ticket; further details about other member tickets will be made available at a later date on our website at: <https://www.oxfordshirewi.co.uk/events>



ACWW

Many thanks to Chalgrove WI for supporting the Oxfordshire focus area SUSTAINABLE WATER, SANITATION & ENERGY within the 'WE' (Women Empowered) FUND - something extremely relevant in our climate changing world.

A reminder that when donating, all your cheques should be made payable to; ACWW WI PfF and on the reverse please write 'WE FUND Sustainable Water'. This will ensure your donations are allocated to the correct area of the fund. Please send cheques direct to ACWW, AO4 Parkhall, 40 Martell Road, London SE21 8EN.

Since the retirement of Mary Gregory, the position of ACWW representative is still vacant. For more details about what this role entails, please contact the office.

Save the date! - Saturday, 12th September - 10 am - 5 pm

Grand Sale of Cakes & Preserves in the grounds of St Giles Church, Oxford

Proceeds to be split between St Giles Church and Oxfordshire WI

Are you able to help?

Maybe you would be free to help run the stall for a while... Maybe you could bake a cake, a traybake or muffins etc... Perhaps you have some homemade jam, marmalade, pickles or preserves you would be able to donate... Maybe you'll be in Oxford for Oxford Open Doors or Ride & Stride, so please don't forget to drop by!

Donated items can be dropped off at the church at any time, collection may also be possible if required. All offers of help would be very gratefully received. Cakes and traybakes etc can be whole or portioned up.

Please ensure that all goods are thoroughly wrapped either as a whole or in portions. Please include a label/list of key ingredients such as eggs, dairy, gluten, nuts. Please help us by sharing this with your family, friends and WI friends.

Many thanks and best wishes

Virginia Lawrence: 01865 331521 sv.lawrence@btopenworld.com

Jane Finnerty: 07889 986042 janeafinnerty@icloud.com

SOS FOR OLD PHOTOS

Look at these two old photos found in the Kelmscott archives!

Kelmscott WI was the first in Oxfordshire, sadly now disbanded. The photo at Denman was taken in the 60s, so very poignant just now.

I am compiling an Oxfordshire Centenary Scrapbook/ Album. It has been a challenge to locate old black and white photos. I have contacted several EARLY WIs and have had some response. Others have proved harder to get hold of. Your records might be locked up somewhere, difficult to access just now or in some member's house? PLEASE can you have a look so we can include as many as possible? Just a couple would be lovely!

We have many clippings from *News & Views*, but nothing beats a real photo. Hopefully we can display the finished product at future events and get help from members to name and date photos.

I hope to be finished by Christmas, but just now there are many gaps to fill. My email inbox is ready and waiting, or call me to make alternative arrangements.

Trine Lucy - 01235 535243 - trine.lucy@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

#MYVIRTUALWI OXFORDSHIRE

To book your space visit: www.oxfordshirewi.co.uk and click What's On

JOHN VIGAR - MURDER, SEX & MAYHEM IN ENGLISH CHURCHES WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER, 7pm

Like most people, John enjoys the peace and serenity offered by our parish churches but, having visited and recorded over 12,000 of them, he has found they also contain countless images of Murder, Sex and Mayhem.

Medieval murals and stained glass depict the martyrdom of saints from home and abroad, and the grisliest of dooms. At a lower level may be found misericords showing whippings, wife beatings, and brawls.

Price: £5

GRAHAM HARRISON - ARSENIC: THE VICTORIAN HOUSEWIFE'S FRIEND TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER, 7pm

Arsenic pervaded almost every aspect of life in 19th Century Britain, leaving a toll of illness, death and murder. With lightness and touches of dark humour, we explore everyday uses of arsenic in the home, in manufacturing, and in the realm of medicine; the tragedy of accidental poisonings and the sinister application by those with malice aforethought.

Price: £5

HAYLEY SCOTT - LIFE OF A CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATOR THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER, 2pm

Listen to Hayley Scott, an ex Crime Scene Investigator, who worked examining crime scenes for 14 years with the Metropolitan Police in London. Hear all about the role of a CSI and learn about fingerprints and how to code them. Hayley shares some real stories from her time in the Police and there will be a chance to ask questions!

Price: £5

CHRISTINE RAMSEY - BRINGING THE OUTSIDE IN: AUTUMN ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR HOME - TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, 2pm

Christine Ramsey, an Area NAFAS Demonstrator, returns to show us how to make arrangements for our home using flowers from our garden.

Price: £5

ELAINE WHITTAKER - GENTLE MINDFUL YOGA - THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER, 3pm

Elaine will guide us through a gentle yoga session where we'll enjoy some breathwork, postures and a lovely deep relaxation. Whether you are a beginner or regularly attend a yoga class you'll be able to benefit from this class. Elaine teaches in a gentle style and encourages everyone to do just as much or as little as they wish. There will be a variety of movements seated, kneeling, standing or lying down. All you need is a non-slip yoga or exercise mat and a cushion. Wear loose comfortable clothes.

For insurance purposes, you do need to complete a health questionnaire to attend Elaine's classes (although if you have already completed one of Elaine's forms there is no need to do another unless something significant has changed).

Price: £5

ALICE MAY - CREATIVE ACRYLICS - WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER, 7pm

In this presentation, Alice May demonstrates how to create one of her colourful, textured signature canvases. Using a mixture of video clips and original art work, watch as Alice creates a brand new flowered canvas using a stretched canvas, tissue paper, PVA glue and a mix of bright acrylic paints. There will be an opportunity to ask questions during the demonstration.

Price: free event

TOM WAY - TOOTH, CLAW AND MANE - THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER, 2pm

In Tom's latest talk he gives a detailed review of the most recent images taken on his travels. Tom will discuss one of the most exciting but also one of the hardest assignments in the last few years, photographing tigers in India. He will also relive moments photographing brown bears in Northern Europe and beautiful Camargue horses racing along Mediterranean beaches. Tom will finish by revealing the most current images from his African adventures particularly focusing on rhino, cheetahs and lions.

Price: £5

JENNY MALLIN - FIVE GENERATIONS OF A BRITISH RAJ, AS SEEN BY THEIR GRANDDAUGHTER - MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER, 2pm

A Berkshire-based award-winning author and public speaker - 'Best in World' cookbook award winner for 2017 from the prestigious Gourmand World Cookbook Society for her book "A Grandmother's Legacy"; Jenny delivers a fascinating insight into five generations of her family who lived during the days of the British Raj in India. Seen through the eyes of their granddaughter, Jenny captures a period of British history and the "legacy" that she has been given - a 170 year old cookbook penned by her great 4 x grandmother in 1844 when she was aged just 15 and a newly-wed bride, married to an English schoolmaster. Jenny also describes other members of the family and their fascinating lives.

Price: £5

DAVID ALLEN - BLOOD, GUTS & GORE. TRUE STORIES OF MURDER IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND - TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER, 7pm

David takes you on a meticulously researched journey through the world of plots, deadly poisons and the occasional chopped-up body, using contemporaneous accounts from The Times and law reports. Fascinating true stories.

Price: £5

FROM YOUR TREASURER

Pauline Goddard | 01869 240663 | treasurer@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

IFEs

It is a requirement to have your annual financial statement examined by an independent examiner. You are encouraged to use an Oxfordshire WI IFE who is fully trained and has extensive knowledge on all financial matters dealt with by individual WIs. Once an IFE has been allocated in October 2020, WI Treasurers will then be able to contact her prior to the end of the year with any queries they may have, but in the meantime do please contact myself.

A request form was sent to all WIs last month and **MUST BE RETURNED TO THE OFFICE BY Thursday 1 OCTOBER** at the very latest.

BARBARA GRAY MEMORIAL LECTURE FUND

We have received funds from the following:

Barford St Michael & St John WI
Bloxham WI
East Challow WI
Freeland WI
Quarry WI
Judy White
Ann Spalton

FROM THE OXFORDSHIRE WI OFFICE

Linda Mustill | fedsec@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

ELECTION OF OXFORDSHIRE WI BOARD OF TRUSTEES - NOMINATIONS

Oxfordshire WI is run by a Board of Trustees consisting of 12 elected members. Every two years an election is held and one is due in 2021. A letter and nomination form has been posted to every WI for you to make your nominations. Remember any member from a WI within the federation is eligible to stand for election as a Trustee.

All nomination forms are to be posted to the office or scanned and emailed to fedsec@oxfordshirewi.co.uk to arrive no later than **Friday 6 November 2020**.

OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the office continues to be closed until further notice. Post is now being collected on a twice-weekly basis, as we are still partially furloughed with significantly reduced office hours or are working from home. However with effect from 7 September the telephone will be manned Monday to Wednesday 9.00am to 3.00pm.

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Chairman - Hilary Dix | 01608 646228 / 07866193772 | hilary.dix@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

We are now in September, Autumn is on the horizon. There has been some mixed summer weather ranging from searing heat to chilly with some magnificent sunsets, and thunderstorms. Have you managed to meet up with any members of your WIs? There has been an update of the guidance for resuming meetings which your Committees will have looked at. It is getting nearer the time that your venues will be reopening their doors so you can start to prepare now. Meeting outside in groups of up to thirty is still an option for a while. This still requires a risk assessment and everyone's ICE and personal mobile numbers logged. I wish you luck with your plans and obviously it will only happen when each WI is comfortable with going back.

You have also had advice on how to hold your Annual Meeting if you did not manage it before lockdown. Your WI Adviser is there to help you with this if you would like to hold it remotely. When your members have seen and agreed the Financial Report, please make sure a copy goes to the Tackley office and if there are amendments to the officers and committee please update MCS.

I hope those of you who attended Gill Thomas's workshop on 'A Fresh Look to your WI' will now be firing on all cylinders for planning next year. Another opportunity will be to book into the 'Programme Planning' workshop on October 13th and 14th. We must be positive in looking ahead. This has been a tough year. Please ring your Adviser for any help you may need.

Best wishes from the Membership Support Team

WI Adviser – Jean Geary

In 1915 Madge Watts came over from Canada and formed the first WI in Llanfair PG, in Wales. Very soon, with demand for WIs growing rapidly, help was needed. With money available to pay for organisers, many WIs were soon formed. Demand however quickly outgrew the money and in 1918 training began for VCOs – Voluntary County Organisers. The dress code was a brown corduroy suit and brown felt hat. In the early 2000s, VCOs became WI Advisers.

It was with a mixture of excitement and trepidation, that in 2008 I entered through the doors of Denman to begin my WI Adviser training. Friendships began, opinions, views and ideas were shared and as my knowledge grew, so did my confidence. We learnt every aspect of the WI, how we can help and support WIs, financial guidance and how to present ourselves when speaking to an audience. To this day I check that I don't have too many dangly bits of jewellery, apparently the audience listen to the tinkle of your jewellery and not to you.

There have been so many opportunities and experiences that I wouldn't have had otherwise; forming my first WI at Ducklington, just months after I had qualified; the warm welcome I receive when visiting WIs - both those in the groups I look after and others that I get the opportunity to visit.

I'm pleased that I don't have to wear a brown corduroy suit and felt hat, but I am very pleased that I didn't say no when asked to train as a WI Adviser.

HOME & GARDEN COMMITTEE

Chairman - Tracy Strain | 01235 765285 | tracy.strain@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

ONLINE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Thank you for sending in your fabulous photos showing just how creative you have been over the last few months. We have chosen a small selection for this month's magazine – more to follow in our future editions. We hope you feel inspired and if you've not yet shared your photos with us don't be shy. We know there is a depth of amazing talent amongst our members. You can enter something under each category. See the full article in July's *News & Views* for how to enter, or contact Tracy Strain if you have any questions: tracy.strain@oxfordshire.co.uk

1. A cake or baked item

Liz Garside, Peachcroft WI made this vanilla and buttercream sponge for her granddaughter's 18th birthday.

2. A planted container with brief plant list

Frances Harris, Wooton District WI sent in this photo of a datura plant given to her by her neighbour, which has brightened her garden during lockdown - looking its best with 10 blooms!

3. A best kept vegetable plot or container – identify the plants

Sandra Rhodes, Peppard WI provided photos of her allotment in Gallowstree Common. Sandra grows tomatoes along the ground and on arches, aubergines, peppers, hunter beans, onions, swiss chard, beetroot and carrots. Her allotment is surrounded by cosmos and each bed contains companion plants of either tagetes, marigolds or sunflowers to encourage pollinators and deter pests.

4.a. A craft item you have completed this year

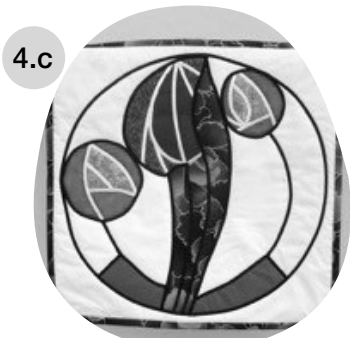
Marilina Roxburgh, Great Rollright WI created a mosaic name plate for the house. It was made on top of a leftover bathroom tile, using pieces of ceramic tiles and broken crockery with waterproof grout.

4.b. Val Garnier, Grove WI sent a photo of her Lockdown Tablecloth hand stitched using spare material, an old transfer, embroidery silks and lace.

4.c. Christine Wootton, Radley WI stitched a wall hanging for her new porch to reflect the leaded lights in some of the windows. Inspired by a Rennie Mackintosh design Christine used only materials she already had: a (no longer required!) sheet for the background, left over maroon fabric from the bridesmaid's material for her daughter's wedding in the middle, various scraps and bias binding from previous projects. Applique and quilting techniques, approx. 50cm square.

5. A flower arrangement using items from the garden

Ursula Davies, Shiplake WI created this attractive arrangement but sadly didn't send us any details.



WISHH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Trine Lucy | 01235 535243 | trine.lucy@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Plans for 2021 - November 24 2021 - Northcourt Centre, Abingdon OX14 1NS, AM only

When I was young I used to count the sleeps till Christmas. We are talking close to Christmas 2021, so rather a lot of sleeps I'm afraid. Never mind - something to look forward to. I do of course mean the very aptly named talk **How to sleep well**. Dr Neil Stanley, a director of sleep research has agreed to reschedule his lecture on various aspects of sleep.

Hopefully we can soon ease into more talks as restrictions are lifted. The end of February is a possibility for a talk by Dr Christine Whyte and Dr Fiona Story, both scientists working for Oxford University Innovation, who have confirmed they are happy to come and explain more about managing the University's technology transfer and consulting activities. The venue for this talk is to be confirmed.

We have also booked Benson Parish Hall for May 25 – more news to follow.

There is hope at the end of the rainbow so PLEASE keep smiling.

Take care and stay safe, Trine

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chairman - Veronica Wilson | 07855 414045 | veronica.wilson@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

RESOLUTION TIME 2020/21

The next step in the Resolution process takes place on 1 October 2020 as a virtual meeting on Zoom, so, more of our members are attending, enjoy! Results will be out in November.

5 MINUTES THAT MATTER

Our Cervical Cancer campaign – NFWI online research – your responses are completely confidential. Please do take part if you have a cervix. The results will highlight why we are not going for these tests – I am guilty of this – and I filled in the form. Hopefully, the system will improve. The end of the programme will be 12 October 2020; you can complete this online at www.thewi.org.uk/s/cervicalscreeningresearch.

Once health services return to normal after Covid-19, changes will be put in place.

PRISON WIs

Covid-19 has had a serious effect on women prisoners. Serious reports of these women being kept in solitary confinement in their cells for 23 hours a day – is this torture? Some WIs are preparing crafting supplies into packs and sending them to the Prison WIs as they have no funds. Perhaps you would like to assist?

CAMPAIGNING IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Another feature of our Campaigning, often forgotten, is looking out for people in our community. Our locality or County may have a specific issue you would like to change so we can tackle it.

Many Oxfordshire WIs have been, and still are, making equipment for the NHS. Others are having WI Virtual meetings on Zoom, so, can you arrange for a buddy system between your digital savvy members and those who are not? You will be enabling all your members to take part and feel less isolated or alone.

Stay safe and well, Veronica

DENMAN COMMITTEE

Virginia Lawrence | 01865 331521 | sv.lawrence@btopenworld.com

DENMAN AT HOME

WI members and non-members alike are welcome to join Denman's new series of informative, entertaining shared virtual experiences in the comfort of your home. From cookery courses, craft demonstration, history lessons and activities for all the family, there is something to suit all tastes, and best of all, still only £5 per session.

- Online cookery courses to suit all abilities
- Online learning – including fascinating history talks!
- Online craft courses from felting to stitching
- Online courses of gentle exercise

Check out www.denman.org.uk for more information.

#OVERTOYOU

Thank you to all of you who are submitting articles for 'Over to You' pages. Remember that we can only reproduce decent quality photographs, so please send them in as JPEGs in as high a resolution as possible (300 dpi) or large from a phone and send as individual attachments – no collages and not embedded in Word documents or in emails. Good quality prints by post are also ok. By receiving photos for News & Views, Oxfordshire WI assumes that permission has been given by the people featured for their photo to appear in News & Views and any other Oxfordshire WI media.

HARWELL WI IS BLOOMING!

Next year is **HARWELL WI's** Centenary. We have planted 100 nerine bulbs in the borders in front of our village hall and in the rear car park to bloom next year and in the years to come. In the Autumn, 100 fritillaria bulbs will be joining the 90 daffodils we planted in 2011 at the top end of the village recreation ground. Our village will be blooming!



Auriel Lancashire, Harwell WI

DENMAN CLOSURE

CHARLBURY WI was saddened to read of the decision to close Denman. Being an Oxfordshire based group, many of our members have attended and enjoyed courses and events there. However, there is little doubt that several of the courses and events were beyond the financial reach of WI members living on fixed incomes. The forced closure of Denman during the ongoing health emergency has demonstrated that new opportunities have arisen making courses more accessible. Over the past few months members from all over our region, have been able to join online talks and courses without incurring the costs involved with travelling to and staying at Denman. We hope this online presence will continue and that the number of events provided will increase, thereby opening up more opportunities for members to participate in a variety of learning/crafting/cooking courses.

Jackie Hague, Charlbury WI

STAYING IN TOUCH

For **WHEATLEY WI's** second Zoom Meeting, our committee member, Lucy Collinson, gave a demonstration of using sourdough starter discard to make pikelets and crumpets (see recipes below).

Also, Wheatley WI delivered 'Tea in a bag' to all their members in August, which included everything needed for a cream tea plus an educational quiz. *Lucy Collinson, Wheatley WI*



LUCY'S RECIPES

If you live close to Wheatley and would like any of Lucy's sourdough starter, please let her know and she may be able to get some to you. Otherwise you could look for a recipe to make your own online.

Pikelets

100g sourdough discard - 125g plain flour - 1 tsp sugar - 1/2 tsp salt - 1 tsp bicarb - 150g milk - 100g water

Mix all ingredients together and rest for 30 mins

Pan fry spoonfuls in butter for 1-2 mins, flip and cook 1-2 mins, enjoy with jam.

Crumpets

1 cup (227g) - sourdough discard - 1 tsp sugar

1/2 tsp salt - 3/8 tsp baking soda

Mix all ingredients together.

Grease crumpet rings, place in hot frying pan and add a knob of butter to the inside of each.

Pour 1/2 cup of batter into each heated crumpet ring.

Cook for 5 mins and until bubbles have appeared on top. Remove ring and flip crumpets, cook for 3 mins. Both recipes freeze perfectly.

