

AUGUST UPDATE

Dear Members

Although WI House has to remain closed at this time it is lovely to welcome Hazel and Jane back to work for one day a week during August as the Trustees assess the situation as lockdown eases.

Recently we learnt of the proposed closure of Denman College, the 'jewel in the crown' of our organisation. The decision has not been taken lightly but sadly lockdown has not helped finances as there has been no income for several months. Sadly, it will result in staff redundancies. We must now look forward as we learn of NFWI thoughts with regarding educational plans.

Early in July we heard Margery Hall, Former Federation Chairman, had suffered a stroke. She is currently in hospital rehabilitation and we send her our best wishes for a full recovery.

Enclosed in this mailing is the Certificate of Insurance for the coming 12 months and the Trustees have come to the decision not to make a charge for the coming year, the Federation will meet the cost.

The same decision has been made regarding the Cheshire News so those members who have subscribed in 2020 will automatically receive their 2021 copies free of charge. I know many of you will be pleased to read the following notice from Chris Bailey, Cheshire News Editor. "We hope to produce a Christmas Edition of the Cheshire News. Apologies for the lack of a newsletter during the coronavirus pandemic. The Cheshire News team are looking for interesting articles for the Christmas issue. Please submit these to the editor, Chris Bailey, by email chrisbaileyor@gmail.com by mid-September".

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone the Scrabble and Dominoes evening and Walking the Walks but be assured as soon as possible we will arrange new dates for both events.

In the meantime, Trustees are looking at holding two zoom meetings during August with the theme of inspiring women. Earlier zoom meetings have proved

successful and I am sure the next two meetings will prove just as interesting.
Please see the enclosed flyer.

All WIs have received the information on starting their monthly meetings in the near future, however many of you are finding this impossible whether due to the size of membership being well in excess of 30, availability of venues or reluctance of members to venture out. Please do not feel you have to meet if your WI is encountering difficulties and remember your WI Adviser is willing to help with any concerns you may have. I am delighted to say I am hearing so many positive reports telling me how you are all keeping in touch whether by a phone call, a newsletter, or zoom meetings, you are all making such an effort, well done.

The Great British Clean is to be held 11th-27th September and this might be an opportunity for your members to have an outdoor activity but please ensure members socially distance, wear gloves and use pick up sticks.

Many of you who have visited WI House, Chester will know that in the coffee bar there are photographs of various events and activities held around the Federation. These are now out of date and I would enjoy seeing photographs submitted by you showing your achievements during the lockdown. They could include your craft item(s), cookery item(s), how you have transformed a section of your garden, your favourite plant, items made for your community or the most interesting object seen whilst out walking.

Your submissions can be by post to CFWI, 11 White Friars, Chester CH1 1NZ or emailed to info@cheshirewi.org.uk for the attention of Jean Harding. I really do look forward to receiving your photographs and displaying them in WI House ready for when we can again hold events at White Friars.

As always please do not feel you are on your own, you can contact me, the Trustees or your WI Adviser if you feel you need help, we will be only too pleased to help so pick up the phone, email or write to CFWI at Chester. I do hope that we will soon be able to move forward and meet as lockdown eases. In the meantime, please keep safe.

Best wishes
Jean
Federation Chairman