



Lincs South Federation News

December 2020

Issue 76

Hello

The office inbox has received this week several newsletters from neighbouring federations. Most of them are adorned with images of baubles, Christmas trees and snowflakes. I've also spotted several illuminated houses and trees in our area. I've never considered myself to be in the 'Bah Humbug' club but I'm struggling to come to terms with including cute robins in this edition – it is still only November! However, after all that it's hard to believe that in less than four weeks Christmas will be here. Whilst we know and accept that celebrating Christmas will be far from normal for most of us, I'm of the opinion that celebrating this festive season is something we should embrace, but in December. So, I apologise for the limited Christmas references – I promise that there are a few.

Best wishes

Liz

Autumn Photo Winner



A beautiful Golden Alder tree submitted by Mary Aitken of Barrowby WI. I'm sure you will all agree that this was a very worthy winner of the Autumn Impression competition. Judged by our expert, Phil Crow, who said "Great autumnal colours, nice detail, great focus and exposure with nicely balanced composition."
Other winners over the page.....

Liz McIntosh

LSFWI Chairman

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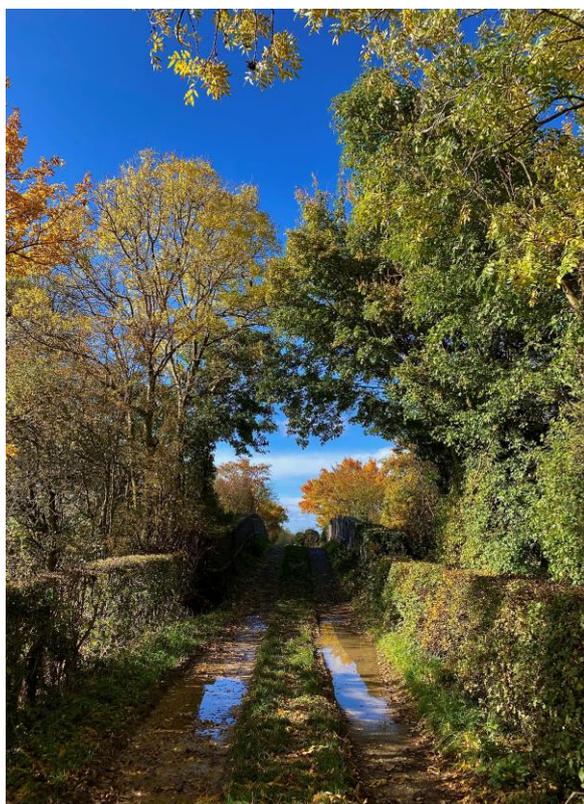
Lincoln Cathedral Connected

**Join us for a Zoom talk by Fern Dawson,
Curator of the Lincoln Cathedral Connected Project.
Thursday 3 December at 2pm**

Email for a free invitation to attend: fedoffice@lsfwi.org.uk

Lincoln Cathedral Connected is a high profile, multi-million-pound transformational project which will bring economic and social benefits to the Cathedral, as well as the city of Lincoln.

The Connected project is a scheme to radically improve the Cathedral's setting and visitor experience – offering more engaging and dynamic spaces for a wider number of visitors to enjoy.



'Sunshine and puddles' submitted by Abi Kelway of Wellingore WI. Judge Phil Crow commented "A nice sharp detail with good composition"

NFWI NEWS

Latest news items on MyWI:

WHITE RIBBON DAY 25 November

This day marks 16 days of action to end violence against women.

Despite Coronavirus, thousands of people across the country are speaking out to end violence against women. There has been an increase in domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women during the pandemic.

Please get involved - without your support we cannot continue our important work.

How many people can you get to wear a white ribbon - Everyone in your workplace? All your friends? Be active on social media follow us and spread the word using #WhiteRibbon #MakeThePromise #NoExcuseForAbuse

Whiteribbon.org.uk

NFWI 2021 Diary

If you pre-ordered a diary you may now collect it from the office. Alternatively, it can be posted. Please contact the office for postage costs. The cost is £5.10 for each diary.

We have a limited supply of spare diaries. If you would like one, please contact the office: fedoffice@lsfwi.org.uk

The office is open Monday and Tuesday between 9.30am and 2pm



'New England in the Fall' submitted by adviser Sharon Hurrell.

Judge Phil said 'The quantity of pumpkins and contrasting colour against a blue sky make this image 'pop'.

“Denman at Home”

December offers 50 online classes including:

Festive Treats with Lindy Wildsmith

Festive Papercutting with Christine

Christmas Decorations with Pat Lumsdale

London's Liquid Highways with Peter Lawrence

Janine's Talk '7 Years Inside!' - Working With Some of the Most Dangerous Men in the Country

Courses are from 1 hour in length and cost from £5

Check out the availability at:

<https://www.denman.org.uk/whats-on/?search=Online%20Course>



Why not donate all your used postal stamps this Christmas to a charity?

Charities that take stamps include:

Supportdog.org.uk, RNIB.org.uk, Parkinsons.org.uk.

Many charities will supply a pre-paid envelope.

(We are waiting for confirmation that ACWW still collect stamps)

LONG BENNINGTON WI INVITES YOU TO THEIR

GIN THEMED CHRISTMAS MEETING!

On 8 December at 7.30pm you are invited to join our Zoom meeting when Mildred Freeman, The Lady Historian, will present 'Mother's Ruin- The Story of Gin from the 1100s to today'.

There will be tales of plagues, Kings, crop failures, cocktail making sailors, alcoholic Georgians and tipsy Victorians. All washed down with songs about glorious gin from the Victorian Music Halls. Sadly, no free gin, so mix up your own gin cocktails and join in the fun. Cheers!

If you would like to join us on Zoom for this event, please mail President Jan Leventhall at longbenningtonwi@gmail.com to be added to the Zoom invitation list.



CHAIR'S CHALLENGE

Don't forget to start compiling your WI entry for this competition. The closing date is 31 January 2021 and the entry fee is £10.

Your programme can be as realistic or creative as you wish! It can be in a digital format or a hard copy. The decision is yours.....

Send your entry to Federation Office: fedoffice@lsfwi.org.uk

DIGITAL DIGEST.....

Don't forget to check out on Facebook

WI Wanderers:

There is a round up posted every day of events available to members and non-members alike.

Many are free although some require a payment.

WI Made: craft items and much more available for sale from members.

UWI Garden Chit Chat: hints, tips and questions answered on anything in your garden.

UWI Pen Pal Exchange: find a pen pal to correspond with.

Experience the Winter Solstice sunrise live with English Heritage.

8.09 am on 21 December.

Join the anticipated five million viewers globally who will enjoy this important event in the Stonehenge calendar.

Free on:

<http://www.youtube.com/englishheritage>



Note to secretaries:

The 2021 Membership Booklet and Membership Card will be delivered before Christmas. Whilst distribution of these will be a challenge in view of the lack of meetings, please try and circulate these as soon as possible.

Spare copies will be available at the Fed office: fedoffice@lsfwi.org.uk

Don't miss a copy of the Federation News

If you would like a copy of all subsequent newsletters straight to your inbox, please email the office with your details. Please include the name of your WI.

Send to: info@lsfwi.org.uk

If you need back copies of the Federation News these are available on our NFWI website page: <https://lincolnshire-south.thewi.org.uk/federation-newsletters>

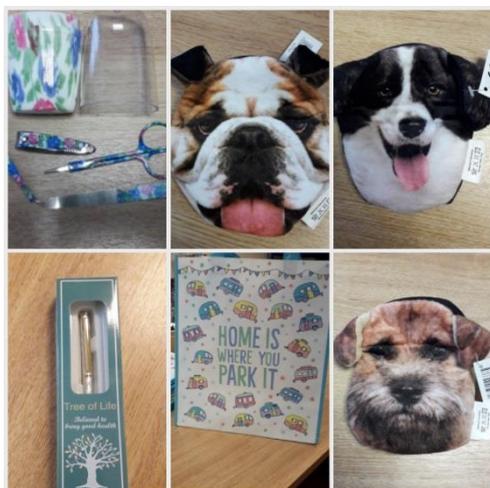
SALES SHOP

We have a number of items remaining from our sales tables. These would make ideal stocking fillers, raffle prizes or goody bag gifts for members. They include novelty purses, pens, bags, manicure sets and lots more. Prices from £1

A full flyer is attached.

Stocking Fillers Christmas Special Offer

WI Logo Pen and Post It Note Pad - £1.25



Here is a small selection:



Please contact Rosemary in the first instance if you are interested in purchasing any items:

Tel: 01775 640573

Email – the_paddocks@hotmail.com

Federation Office Christmas Opening



Tracey will be in the office every Monday in December from 9.30am to 2.30pm. If you do intend to visit, please contact the office in advance. This enables us to comply with our COVID-19 requirements.

The office will close at 2.30pm on Monday 21 December 2020 and reopen at 9.30am on Monday 4 January 2021.

Wishing all members a safe and Happy Christmas.....from Tracey and Carole

MEMBERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In November we held a very good Speakers' Corner event via Zoom. This was something new for all of us but on the whole went very well. At least it gave some speakers the opportunity to tell members what they talk/demonstrate about and hopefully when we get back to "normal" your WIs will be able to book them for your meetings. The feedback from members has been very positive.

Our usual Resolution Discussion day will not be taking place in early 2021 but we do want you all to vote for whichever proposed resolution you prefer. The five choices can be found in WI Life and also on MyWI. You can return the slip to the WI office in Sleaford or let your secretary know via email or telephone which resolution gets your vote. She can then collate them and forward your WI choices to Tracey at the office. The votes must be sent through by 18th January 2021.

Another matter that needs action by your members is the Constitutional changes which all WIs were emailed about at the end of November. There is quite a lot to digest but as a democratic organisation all members must get the opportunity to either agree or disagree with the proposed additions/alterations. The deadline for your WI's comments by email or post is 15 January 2021.

Finally, a note to treasurers. Whilst your WI may not have been doing much over the last few months it is still necessary for you to complete the year end accounts for your WI, have them audited and ready to present at your Annual Meeting in 2021. The year end is still 31 December even though subscriptions will not be due again until April.

The Members Advisory Committee would like to wish all our WIs and their members a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Jane Root
Chair

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Join the Federation team via Zoom on Wednesday 16 December
from 7.30pm to 8.30pm

No agenda, nothing to discuss - just a chance to see other WI friends and to wish them a Happy Christmas.

We will all miss our WI Christmas parties this year and this won't be a substitute – but get your Christmas jumper out, settle down with a glass of your favourite tippie (or in my case, a mug of cocoa), break out the mince pies and enjoy a chat.

We hope that as many of you as possible will join us!!

Please email for an invite: fedoffice@lsfwi.org.uk

Shelagh's Bird News



How well do you know your swans?

Next time you're out walking during this winter by a river, lake or field take a closer look at the swans feeding there. The best way to distinguish the three different species is usually by close examination of their beaks!

During the winter months you may see a flock of large noisy white birds flying above your head often in a 'V' formation. These are most probably Whooper Swans. With a trumpet like call and a wingspan of two metres they have migrated back for the winter from Iceland. Easily distinguished from our orange-billed Mute Swans, they have pure white feathers, with black webbed feet and legs. The beak is the telling bit as the tip is black and the base orangey-yellow.



So how do our resident Swans differ? As well as the colour of their beak they are fairly quiet, hence the name Mute! Similar in size to the Whooper Swans, the males are often seen cruising with their wings partly raised and their necks arched, making them look particularly large and majestic.

The third species is the Bewick Swan. It is a smaller version of the Whooper Swan and although the beak is similar in colour, the extent of the markings is different. They migrate to the UK from northern Siberia to spend the winter here. More common in Cambridgeshire but over the years more are being seen in the fens of Lincolnshire, often amongst the flocks of Whooper Swans.



Migrating swans fly non-stop to their first port of call at a height of several thousand feet. For Whooper Swans it is Scotland, for the Bewick Swans mostly the Baltic Sea coastline. The life span of a swan is 20 – 25 years. They weigh between 8 and 11 kilos and can fly up to 140 km per hour.

Shelagh Coates, Trustee, Deeping St James WI

TAKE A CHANCE

November winners:

- Sandy Edwards Tollgate WI
- Annie Smith Gosberton WI
- Karen Davies Tollgate WI

And the winner is

Huge congratulations to Aleta Miller of The Deepings Lunchtime WI who won third price in the NFWI RAFFLE 2020. Her prize is a Magimix 3200 XL food processor

Climate Ambassadors

Greenwashing

As reports suggest that a growing number of consumers say they're willing to pay more for products with a sustainability message, it's not beyond the realms of possibility that some brands may lead us to believe they are more 'eco' than they really are! This is called 'greenwashing'. Many businesses and brands are starting to use words such as 'sustainable' in their marketing. Whether it's a t-shirt made of 'sustainably sourced' cotton, or household products that use terms such as 'green' or 'eco-friendly'.

But how ethical or environmentally friendly are they???

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) is undertaking work to understand better how consumer protection legislation can be used to tackle false or misleading environmental claims, and they need your help!

They need us to complete a questionnaire to determine the best way forward.

Please try and find the time to complete the questionnaire

(before 14 December!) to make sure that we are getting what we are paying for

- products that don't cost the earth!!

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1PJIGcILXkyMNMqsnXNoNGtkupC5OwVAg7xnNB1TNmpUMDFIWFM1NVBER1JYWVhHSjk3NE41R0VIRC4u>

If possible, after the disastrous effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, it would be lovely to support our local businesses and shops this year.

Lincolnshire has a wealth of locally produced items from foodstuffs to crafts. Why not look up some that are local to you and put your money into supporting local businesses.

Check out some virtual Christmas markets or even actual markets that are planned. Sleaford is hosting the Twelve Market Days of Christmas from the 27 November. Look out for eco-friendly products and gifts lovingly produced by artisans in their own homes!

They all need our support far more than any global corporation.

Have a Happy Eco Christmas!!

Chelsea College of Arts and the Women's Institute

Are you passionate about art and design? Are you skilled in weaving, print, knitting, stitching or embroidery? Would you like to team up with some of the UK's most experimental textile designers to create work which brings together the craft, expertise and heritage of the WI with contemporary textile design?

Chelsea College of Arts, in partnership with the NFWI, are **looking for skilled and forward-thinking craftswomen of the WI** to take part in a project with BA Textile Design students from the Chelsea College of Arts that will encourage skill-sharing, communication and creativity.



The BA Textile Design course at Chelsea focuses on the synthesis between ideas and making, concept and process. It encourages students to take creative risks and test out ideas through an experimental approach. Taking the current WI campaigns as a starting point and working in collaboration with the students, participants in this project will:

- Create design solutions to contemporary issues. Participate in online workshops.
- Raise the profile of the WI, Chelsea College of Arts, and raise awareness of the WI campaigns.
- Promote the sharing of traditional craft skills.
- Aid lifelong learning.
- Celebrate and enhance collaborative learning.
- Use online platforms to develop a wider community within art and design.
- Develop digital literacy.

Need more information?

If you're thinking of applying but would like to hear more about the project before submitting your application, then why not attend the free online briefing...

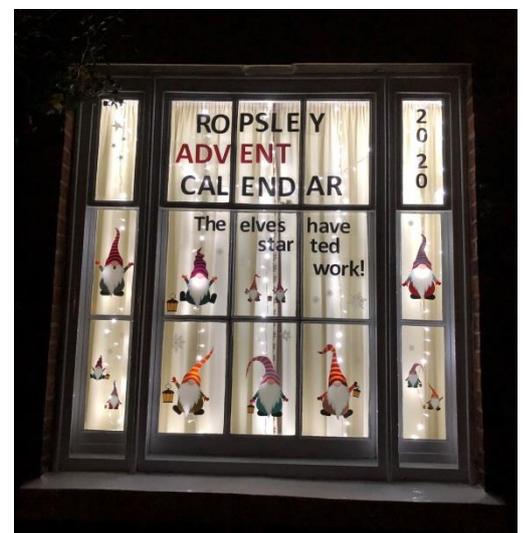
9 December at 1 pm via Zoom

If you would like to join a small group of members, open to collaboration and mutually sharing craft skills to inspire some fantastic ideas, then please complete and return the "Application of Interest" ([click here to download](#)) or register your interest in attending the online briefing, by emailing h.neal@nfwl-unit.org.uk.

LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR

In our last edition we highlighted this project which was being taken up by Foston WI. Ropsley WI have also decided to join this and to advertise the event Elizabeth Mantle of Ropsley WI has set this up in her home. If your community decides to join in please send any photos you may have.

<https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/stuff-to-do/organise-a-living-advent-calendar>



Helping households save this Big Energy Saving Winter

Citizens Advice Mid Lincolnshire (CAML) covering Boston, Sleaford and North Hykeham, will be helping people reduce their energy bills and save money as part of **Big Energy Saving Winter** (November-January).

They will be supporting people across the region to follow three simple steps to prepare for the winter ahead.

- **Check** to see if they are eligible for discounts, grants and support
- **Switch** their tariff or energy supplier to get the best deal
- **Save** money by becoming more energy efficient

Citizens Advice Mid Lincolnshire are offering individuals and groups the chance to join in with a specially designed online presentation that will lead you through the check, switch and save messages.

As Big Energy Saving Winter 2020 kicks off, new research shows that one in three (35%) bill payers say they are using more energy than they usually would at this time of year.

Energy is an essential service and everyone should be confident they can adequately heat their home and protect their health. It's crucial no-one is paying more than they need to for their energy especially during this global pandemic when many of us are spending more time at home.

For more information and to book a presentation please email:
events@citizensadvicemidlincs.org.uk

Happy 102nd Birthday to Long Bennington WI!

On 3 November, we invited everyone in our village community to join in our Zoom Birthday Bash for free. Members hosted socially distanced parties in their homes to enjoy the celebration.

All 53 members had previously been gifted a goody bag, hand delivered with a friendly door step chat. The contents ensured that we could party in style with birthday cake and candle, party blower, wine for the toast, a quiz sheet and two Birthday gifts: a trendy nail file and a faux silk scarf, locally sourced. A lovely surprise and very much appreciated by all.

Entertainment was provided by popular local performer Clive Rudd and we all enjoyed his anecdotes and singing along to the retro hits of the 50s, 60s and 70s. Such a happy evening and good company; a great celebration of friendship in these strange times and a very special birthday.



Valley of the Moon (Harper Collins Publisher) by Melanie Gideon

A new author for me. This is the third novel written by US author Melanie Gideon, after 'Wife 22' and 'The Slippery Year'.

This is a time travel novel, not as sophisticated as *The Time Traveller's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger but easy to read and believable as well as enjoyable.

It begins in San Francisco 1975. Single mum Lux Lysander is underpaid and overwhelmed by life, she has an adorable 5-year-old called Benno, but not much else in her life.

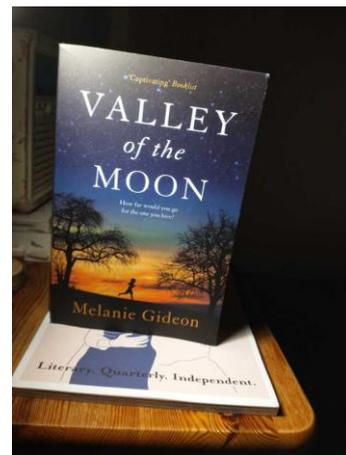
When a trip is organised for Benno to visit his grandmother Lux takes the opportunity to take herself off camping alone in the Sonoma Valley, California, to recharge and reflect on her life.

On her first night away Lux is woken up at midnight. Stepping outside, she sees a dense fog has settled. Going to investigate she sees, and walks towards, a distant light, (brave lady), and finds herself in a community called Greengage, where the year is 1906. She is approached by local residents who are trapped in 1906 and cannot leave their community. If they walk into the fog they perish.

Life in Greengage seems very simple and calm. All residents live very basic lives, wear plain clothes and help out with different roles in the community. They meet up each day to eat together and have no idea about the world Lux is from in 1975. Lux explains the world she is from and tells them of notable events which have taken place since 1906. Of course this is all very bizarre to them, but exciting to hear about. Lux rapidly begins to really enjoy her time in the world of Greengage, making friends and taking advantage of the time to do things which she enjoys but never gets time for in 'real life'.

You come to love each one of the characters as the story toys with the notion of time and place, family and forgiveness plus grief. In short the book features the lives of two complete strangers who meet under extremely odd circumstances. I found the story compelling, and was not disappointed by the ending. A good book to curl up with on a cold wintery weekend.

Tracey Copeland, Federation Secretary



COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Are you fab at Facebook, innovative at Insta and a whizz at websites???

If so we would like to invite you to join our Communications team.

We would like to put together a team to improve our social media presence and help update our website.

To find out more please contact the office: fedoffice@lsfwi.org.uk

FOSTON WI

For their November meeting Foston WI presented each member with a goody bag. Secretary Jenny and treasurer Carole prepared and delivered them. The bags contained a hyacinth bulb which members



have been asked to record with a photo, to be shared, once the bulbs have bloomed. The bags included, amongst other things; chocolate treats, a WI pen and post it notes, a quiz prepared by Jenny and a lovely message from president, Kathryn.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS & EDUCATION

WANTED

HEALTHY YOUNG MEN

(because they produce more stem cells than women)

Make a Match

A call to increase potential stem cell donor registration

The best chance of survival for someone with blood cancer is replacing the cancerous blood cells with a stem cell transplant from a matching donor. Registering as a potential donor gives blood cancer patients a better chance of finding a match

**Find out more. Join us for a Zoom talk by
Liz Jenks, Stem Cell Courier**

Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 7.30pm

Email for an invitation to attend: fedoffice@lsfwi.org.uk