



Public Affairs Digest

Issue 47: May 2020

Dear Member,

Welcome to the NFWI *Public Affairs Digest*, an e-update on all the latest WI campaigning news, delivered directly to your inbox.

If you know anyone in your WI who is interested in our campaigns, please direct them to the campaigns area of [MyWi](#) to sign up to receive this Public Affairs Digest.

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The main priority for the NFWI is the safety and wellbeing of our members. If you haven't already, please visit [this link](#) for the latest, up to date government guidelines.

See more information about support [at the end of this Digest.](#)



Food Waste Action Week

Food Waste Action Week: from 11th May

A survey conducted by WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) has found that citizens are adopting 'food smart' behaviours and creating less food waste during the Covid-19 lockdown.

The survey found that:

- 63% are going to the shops less
- More than a third are enacting certain food-saving behaviours more often than before the lockdown (e.g. checking what is in their cupboard and fridge)
- 37% are increasingly making meals from random ingredients

For Food Waste Action Week why not check out these top 3 tips on reducing food waste and start sharing them with friends and family:

1. Chill out, and store safe

WRAP provides a range of advice on how to store food properly to make it last longer. For their A-Z of Food Storage [click here](#).

2. Learn your labels

A key part of cutting down on food waste is understanding the different food labels, so that you can buy what you need and not generate any unnecessary excess food waste. For some helpful guidelines on food labelling, [Click here](#) to visit the Food Standards Agency website.

3. Get creative with leftovers

During this lockdown period, people have been sharing their ideas on how to be creative with leftovers:

- Food writer Jack Monroe's Lockdown Larder twitter campaign (#JackMonroesLockdownLarder) shares recipe ideas at 5pm daily encouraging the British public to cook from existing cupboard stocks and substitute recipe ingredients for other items to avoid unnecessary trips to the shops.
- WRAP's Love Food Hate Waste blog [Flung Together Food](#) is an exciting take on what we can make from our leftovers as foodies share their recipes over Instagram.

Share with us your ideas for cutting food waste, by [emailing us](#)!



Cervical Screening Awareness Week

We're aware that the cervical screening programme in Wales and some appointments in England have been postponed in response to Covid-19, and that members or their friends and families may have questions or concerns about this. We want to ensure that women can access the information they need and know where to turn to for support, and so this Cervical Screening Awareness Week (15 - 21 June), we'll be focussing our efforts on raising awareness of what's available.

How to get involved:

- Help us reach more women by retweeting our posts on social media
- Use the hashtags #CervicalScreeningAwarenessWeek and #5MinutesthatMatter
- Take part in our cervical screening research, which will launch shortly. Your feedback will help us understand how the screening programmes could be improved once health services are back on a normal footing. You can register your contact details to receive a link to the survey [here](#).

Casting call: Could you appear in our bee-friendly gardening Instagram videos?

With World Bee Day around the corner (20th of May), the PA team is putting a call out to any green-fingered members who would be interested in appearing in short Instagram videos!



The videos would be focused on our SOS for Honeybees campaign, and would require members to record themselves on a mobile phone showcasing any bee-friendly planting tips they have.

All tips are welcome, but we would particularly like to encourage tips from any keen gardeners who only have access to a small space or balcony.

If you have any questions or would like further information, [please email us](#). The closing date for submissions is the 18th of May.



New poll data from the Food Foundation:

5 million people living with children are food insecure after 1 month of COVID-19 lockdown

More than 200,000 children are skipping meals because families don't have enough food during lockdown

#FoodMatters

#Right2Food

Food Poverty

New poll data by The Food Foundation shows that 5 million people living with children are food insecure after 1 month of Covid-19 lockdown. Furthermore, more than 200,000 children are skipping meals because families don't have enough food during lockdown and half a million children who rely on free school meals have received no substitutes since the lockdown. The government needs to do more to protect these vulnerable children.

The Trussell Trust has reported an 81% increase in people needing support from food banks and the Independent Food Aid Network has reported a 59% increase in demand for emergency support.

For information on accessing or supporting a food bank [click here](#).

Government pledge £76 million new funding for Domestic Violence Support

On 2nd May Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick announced a support package of £76 million for domestic and sexual violence support, vulnerable children & modern slavery, out of The Chancellor's £750 million 'charity bailout' announced earlier in April.



We welcome this announcement to support vulnerable people in getting the support they desperately need. Furthermore, a change to the rules will also mean that those fleeing domestic abuse will be automatically considered as priority by their council for housing, ensuring more survivors of domestic abuse have access to a safe home.

Lockdown can be a particularly difficult and worrying time for adults and children living with domestic abuse. It is important to know that you are not alone. You can find some resources that can help support you [here](#).

First Climate Ambassador Virtual Coffee Morning

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the inaugural NFWI Climate Ambassador coffee morning!

We had over 100 Climate Ambassadors attend the call chaired by Ann Jones, the NFWI's Chair of Public Affairs. The session also featured a presentation from Emma Holland-Lindsay, the Head of Public Affairs, on the NFWI's environmental campaigns in light of COVID-19 and news from the wider environmental sector, and a Q&A session. The session was closed by Lynne Stubbings, the Chair of the NFWI Board.



If you would like to become a Climate Ambassador, you can find [more information here.](#)



Dear NHS staff,

Our extraordinary NHS stands at the frontline of the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. From doctors to nurses, pharmacists to porters, GPs to paramedics, catering and care home staff, cleaners, hospice workers and more: you are the heroes battling to help us when we are at our most vulnerable. We want to show you our gratitude and appreciation. We want to **THANK YOU**.

NHS staff Thank you-letter

Inside the wrapping of the May/June issue of WI Life, you'll find a letter template you can send to NHS workers to thank them for everything they are doing during the coronavirus pandemic. Information on how to use the letter can be found on page 11, and, if you'd like to print more copies, the template is also available to download on [My WI](#).

It has been heartening to see how WI members have been supporting the NHS over the past few weeks, and expressing their thanks.

If you or your WI has a project or story that you'd like to share with us, please [get in touch.](#)

Campaigns Corner

We want to hear about local WI campaign activities. Please email us with your news!



The Queen Bee Quizmasters

This week, ahead of World Bee Day, we are looking back to one of your many bee-friendly events. Back in February, the Great Bookham Belles WI in Surrey dedicated a meeting to their newly formed Environment Group.





The meeting focused on how members could “do their bit” to stop or at least help alleviate climate change and bring the matter to people’s attention. The Environment Group invited a speaker from a local refillables shop, held an Eco Raffle and an Environment Quiz which was run by their two Queen Bee Quizmasters. All refreshments were made from Fairtrade products including loose leaf tea and homemade cakes. Milk was supplied by the local milkman.

Remember you can access our resources for honeybees [here](#)

Support and help during pandemic

This can be a particularly difficult and worrying time for adults and children living with domestic abuse. [This link](#) will take you to a page of support sources, please share as widely as possible. It is important that survivors know that they are not alone.

This can also be a difficult and worrying time if you require additional assistance. If you need emergency food or support you can find the contact details of your local food bank using your postcode [here](#).

If you are able to support your local food bank with donations or by volunteering, click here to visit the [FareShare website](#).

You can also visit [this section](#) of our website for information from the

NFWI on ways you can help your community, sources of support and other helpful information such as setting up a virtual meeting.

We have a PDF versions of the digest available, that you can share with the people around you. Please **get in touch** with the Public Affairs department if you would like a copy.

Please also encourage other members of your WI to sign up to receive this monthly digest.

Kind regards,

The NFWI Public Affairs team.

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