



Wanstead WI newsletter April 2016

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Welcome to your newsletter

A Message from your President, Hazel Welch



Thank you for being our President Hazel – you have had to wear all sorts of hats during the past two years!

"I am writing to let you all know that I shall not be standing for President at the Annual Meeting on 19 May. It has been an interesting and exciting two years which have included the Centenary Year and our changing membership.

The President is elected every year and so we are looking for another member to take on this key role. Without a President a WI cannot exist so it is very important we find someone and they will be supported by the committee. I should say that I am intending to stay on the committee in another role.

We currently have a small management committee of five, who run the main business of Wanstead WI for the members, and this is actively supported by the extended committee who organise the various activities and meetings that go on during the year.

Thank you very much for your support during the last two years".

The Role of the President: The President is the lynch-pin of a WI and is its leader and sets the style. She should be enthusiastic and decisive, yet approachable and friendly in her manner, interested in her members' views and ready to listen to their suggestions. It is from the contributions of a growing and diverse membership that the development of a WI will spring and it falls to the President, more than anyone, to encourage and foster this development. The President is elected at the Annual Meeting from the elected committee members by a secret ballot of the members.

The President chairs the Committee meetings and the Members' meetings and coordinates the affairs of the WI, ensuring that the WI Constitution is followed. They represent Wanstead WI within the WI organisation and encourage good relations with the local community.

It is really important that everyone knows that the 'Committee' manage Wanstead WI on behalf of the members as well as the NFWI and Essex Federation. The committee would really like to ask you to attend the AGM in May. Often people shy away from AGMs because they think they will get roped into doing something they think they don't want to do. This can be true - two current committee members were recruited this way but both have stayed! WE do need more committee members but we can assure you that no one will force you to join. However we need as many members as possible to attend the meeting to hear the review of the year and to vote for the Resolutions as well as vote for a new committee. For members who do come there will be the treat of wine and snacks.

Talking of AGMs Christine and Maggie went to the AGM of Essex Federation and really enjoyed listening to the speakers (a horticultural auctioneer and Ruth Goodman of Victorian Pharmacy fame).

At the Spring Social there will be the chance to read details of the Resolutions and time to enrol for something you can do as part of your commitment to being a WI member. We would like everyone to join a group/ team to be involved in a small area of organisation according to your interests and skills. The pages from the Connections book as well as a plan of current and potential groups /teams (developed by Maggie and Teresa) will be displayed for you to find like-minded members for friendship and to sign up for a way of becoming an active member of Wanstead WI.

The two resolutions chosen to be put forward at the NFWI AGM in June are:

Avoid food waste, address food poverty

'The WI calls on all supermarkets to sign up to a voluntary agreement to avoid food waste, thereby passing surplus food on to charities thus helping to address the issue of increasing food poverty in the UK.'

Appropriate care in hospitals for people with dementia

'We call upon HM Government and the NHS to provide facilities to enable carers to stay with people with Alzheimer's disease and dementia that have been admitted into hospital.'

Regular Reminder of things to bring to meetings

- * a mug for your refreshment drink
- * your spare pennies for the 'Pennies for Friendship' piggy bank
- * raffle prizes and money for tickets
- * donations for the Food Bank always needed.
- * books and quality monthly magazines for the Book Swap Box
- * yarns, craft papers, materials etc. for Craft swap box

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN IN AT EVERY MEETING AND WEAR YOUR NAME LABEL

Our chosen charity for this year is The Hub. Pamela and Linda invite you to a -

Quiz and Curry night on Saturday 25th June at St Andrew's Church hall, 153 Colworth Road, Leytonstone, E11 1JD - just around the corner from Whipps Cross Maternity Hospital, starting at 7pm. This is to raise funds for our chosen charity, The Hub.

The cost will be £10 per person to include a curry supper supplied by the Star of India. We used them for the last quiz and everyone seemed to enjoy the food.

Please make an effort to come along and invite your friends, family and neighbours to make up a table, if you can.

Also, Linda Boot is kindly arranging the raffle so, if you have any new unwanted/unused gifts that might be suitable, please let Linda have them.

Please let me know how many tickets you would like and don't worry if it is only one, you will be placed on a friendly table. :)

Hope we will have a really good response and raise lots of money for this worthwhile cause. We hope that Beryl, from the Hub, will be able to come along to the April meeting and give us more of an insight into what happens at the Hub and how the money will be spent.

WANTED More knitters and crocheters to make squares for our blankets for refugees. If members want the craft club to continue to make blankets on their behalf we must have squares to join together. The squares can either be made using the Knit for Peace pattern or made so they are 15 cm or 6" in length. Finished squares can be brought to the meeting or given to a craft club member (or join the club too).

<http://www.knitforpeace.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Blanket-in-squares.pdf>

We have started a craft swap box at meetings like the book swap. Please bring unwanted craft items to get it going.

News from the Wanstead WI committee

1. Annual fees of £37.50 should have been paid by now. 41 members and 1 visitor attended the March meeting. We currently have 76 paid up members.

2. Have you thought about Carol Massey's bequest? Christine T says Carol loved the seaside – she grew up in Southend. How would members feel about a Wanstead WI outing to Southend and fish and chips on the pier?

3. Please make a record of the number on your new membership card. It is needed if you wish to use the NFWI Moodle (Intranet service).

4. In order to make our meetings run more smoothly we need to emphasise to members that any friends who say they want to come along as a visitor **must** let us know beforehand. It would also be helpful if when visitors came to a meeting they had the correct money to make the £4.00 donation we ask for. If your details have changed please make sure Jennifer and Pamela know.

5. The 'Members Welcome Pack' will be available for members' comments at the April Social. Please write comments on the copies on your tables and return. Many thanks to Carole Blundred for leading the focus team and producing the document.

6. Please buy your raffle tickets as soon as you arrive to make it easier for Linda and Linda to get to everyone. There is also time to buy at the tea break.

7. Current format for meetings

7.45 **SIGN IN** Arrive and collect a chair and arrange in a **horse shoe shape** (help with tables if needed).

8.00 Briefing to draw attention to events to sign up for and organisers to talk to in the break.

8.15 Feature of the meeting

9.00 Social time - meet new members, chat with regulars, buy raffle tickets, enjoy refreshments, browse noticeboards, swap books.

9.40 WI formal information and raffle

9.50 Clear away. **All members round a table are responsible for putting away their table and chairs so please share this task fairly and consider those less able.**

8. Please bring change to buy refreshments. Time is wasted trying to find change for notes.

Ideas please Do you have any suggestions for making Wanstead WI better?

Information about subscriptions

- Subscriptions run from January to December
- New members joining for the first time (not previous members) will pay a pro-rata sub depending on the quarter in which they join
- If you belong to more than one WI the additional fee is £18. No pro-rata rate.
- Membership includes 8 copies of WI Life and information from your Federation. At least 11 meetings where you are entitled to contribute ideas to the annual programme.

Monthly Meetings

Spring Social 21 April

Enjoy our first social of the year

Come wearing something to do with Spring. Bring some food and your plate, glass and cutlery.

Spring type items to decorate tables and the hall would be welcomed.

Refreshment rota: Kate C Julie B Eufemia A



Previous meeting

*A Poem in Twenty Minutes workshop, Jeanne Holland,
Creative Writing Group, Wanstead House*

Jeanne runs a popular evening class at Wanstead House and is very good at getting novices to write with confidence. Everyone who attended Jeanne's session enjoyed the evening and soon the poems will be published for all to read.

Refreshment rota: Thank you Annie S Rita B Margaret B

A TWENTY MINUTE POEM

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Looking forward...

21 May Wanstead WI Annual General Meeting

Don't forget to come along. See front page of newsletter for details.

Dates for your diary

6 April	Extended Committee meeting
11 April	Craft club 2 -5 at Maggie's
13 April	Meet at the Cuckfield 7.30 for social evening and drinks
21 April	Evening meeting Spring Social
25 April	Craft club 2 -5 at Maggie's
28 April	Coffee morning at The Manor - across the road from Majestic Wine.
28 April	Thursday Book club at Susanne's.
4 May	Committee meeting
9 May	Craft club 2 -5 at Maggie's
9 May	Sissinghurst Castle with West's
11 May	Meet at the Cuckfield 7.30 for social evening and drinks
19 May	Evening meeting
23 May	Craft club 2 -5 at Maggie's
26 May	Coffee morning at The Manor - across the road from Majestic Wine.
26 May	Thursday Book club at Susanne's.

Future Wanstead WI events

Another Jane Kelly, City of London Blue Badge Guide guided walk. A Walk through the East of the City - Wednesday 8 June, 11am, meeting at Tower Hill tube station - upstairs entrance

The walk starts at the Tower of London and ends at Bank. This guided walk includes Samuel Pepys's church - St Olaves, All Hallows by the Tower and the church of St Magnus, the Martyr. It is best done in the daytime when the churches are open, hence the morning start time! The walk usually lasts about 2 hours...probably a bit longer based on our previous performances!

Cost for walk £ 6 per person. Jane, as always, can recommend somewhere nice for us to lunch afterwards (refreshment at own cost).

A new walk guided by Jane Kelly, City of London Blue Badge Guide. Literature and the City - Tuesday 21 June, 6pm, meeting at St Pauls station near Café Nero.

The City of London has always attracted intellectuals and artists. A total mystery tour (as Jane has provided no further details) as to what great (or not so well known) personalities, interesting facts and places we will see! Her walks usually last about 2 hours...probably a bit longer based on our previous performances!

Cost for walk £ 6 per person. For those who wish to linger, Jane can recommend somewhere nice for us to drink or dine afterwards (refreshment at own cost).

Thank you Gladys for organising these excellent walks

Linda Andrews invites everyone to join

Monday 9th May

A Wests coach trip to Sissinghurst Castle in Kent.

Some of us have already bought tickets, if you would like to come, please **ring 0208505 8833** and the nice lady will take your booking.

Cost is £29.00 or £28.50 if you are senior or £18.00 if you belong to the National Trust.

Things to read on the noticeboards at WI meetings

Calendar of events

Minutes of meetings

Connections Folder

NFWI and Essex Federation info Wanstead Events and outings details on notice board

Essex/National Federation news

Lots of courses on offer at Hatfield Peveral see Essex News

Don't forget Denman

Look out for the Denman Course booklet on the noticeboard table. We're keen to support Denman College as much as possible, so if you are interested in any of their courses, Wanstead WI will help with the costs. Just get in touch with any Committee member. The NFWI also provides various bursaries.

Members Corner – Wanstead WI out and about

On Thursday 10 March some members met Linda Andrews at Leytonstone tube station to visit **Leighton House Museum**, former home of the Victorian artist Frederic, Lord Leighton (1830-1896). The only purpose-built studio-house open to the public in the UK, it contains a fascinating collection of paintings and sculpture by Leighton and his contemporaries.

Built to Leighton's precise requirements, the house grew into a 'private palace of art' featuring the extraordinary Arab Hall with its golden dome, intricate mosaics and walls lined with beautiful Islamic tiles. Many of the most prominent figures of the Victorian age were entertained at this house; including Queen Victoria herself who called on Leighton in 1859.

Currently there is an exhibition of Pre-Raphaelite drawings from the Lanigan Collection.

We walked to Hyde Park for a cup of tea and were surprised to see a man using chopsticks to feed two herons from a tin of sardines! *Thanks Jennifer for this and Linda too.*



Teresa F said there was an interesting two page article about Sarah Campbell in the recent Homes and Antiques magazine.

Angela K asks if anyone is interested in Circle Dancing. If so you might like to join the Circle Dancing group at the Welcome Centre St Mary's Church 8 Church End E17 9RJ. Every 1st Thursday of the month 1.30 – 3.30. No need for a partner. Contact jean.duggleby@virgin.net



Silver Screen Anyone fancy going to the Odeon South Woodford on Tuesdays and Thursdays 11 or 2 o'clock every week for £3 each session? Includes tea and biscuit! Can we get a group together? **Mystery Screen** on Mondays. See notice board. Is anyone interested in organising a list for this?

Look at our website.

Frances S says "Thank you for continuing to bring donations for the Food Bank and have a look at Sally's Kitchen on Facebook". Please bring what you can for our monthly collection for food bank - the basics are always needed. Here are a few suggestions:

Canned fruit, meat, fish, vegetables, canned pulses such as chickpeas, kidney beans, Sugar, jams Cooking Oil
Breakfast Cereals

Tinned and packet soups Ready-made sauces for pasta and rice Tinned custard, tinned puddings, squirty cream

Toiletries, e.g. soap, sanitary items, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razor"

East London and Essex Electronic Keyboard Club have regular Wednesday concerts playing a variety of music from the shows to classical and the Big Band sound. Concerts start at 7.50 'til 10.15 at Wanstead Library.

Tickets £7

Also look out for events at The Cadogan Hall featuring The Jazz Repertory Company.

Join Wanstead WI Facebook group.

WI education, interest and empowerment