

WI LIFE Stories

Do you have a story you would like to share with 226,000 WI members? We explain here what we're looking for in each of the different sections of the magazine and on page 2 there is a form for you to download and return to us as and when you have a story to tell. We look forward to hearing from you. This form can also be found on the Moodle.

News pages

We're on the hunt for great ideas worth sharing, for example: your successful fundraising venture / Federation and WI and individuals' achievements / interesting events (including those that might be worth us sending a photographer along to).

Features

We want member-led features that put you at the heart of your mag. Previous examples include the Suffolk member who organised a Pea Festival, a Yorkshire WI who ran an awards scheme to encourage greater participation; and an Essex WI who set up a market. If you're doing something great that will inspire others, we want to know. Or is there an issue you want us to cover? Tell us.

The Big Picture (new feature)

A picture is worth a thousand words. Do you have a photograph that tells the story of a compelling moment in your WI life? Of a quilt you made to make a difference, or an outing you and your gang took to research an issue close to your WI's heart, or celebrate a special occasion? Perhaps you visited a place that inspired you? Please send the image to us with a brief outline of the story behind the picture.

Member Profile

Do you or a WI friend have an interesting job/hobby/passion in life, a story that's crying out to be told? Members we've featured include an open water swimmer, a fencer, a seamstress and even an opera singer. Don't hide your light under a bushel. Submissions should include a brief synopsis and a photo.

Garden

Size doesn't matter. We're looking for passion and knowledge and a willingness to share this with others. Submissions should include a brief write up of what you've done and why and a few photos to give us an idea.

Me, Myself and WI

New feature launching Feb 2017 posing the question: What does the WI mean to you? Have a read and if you'd like to be considered, write in, including a photo as we need to put a face and a name to this piece.

Craft

We use members' projects, usually in a 12-step format. We've featured a knitted necklace, Christmas bunting and papercutting. Projects shouldn't cost the earth and need to be do-able at home. Send us your ideas.

CONTACTING US

Please use the form on the next page to contact us via email or post.

Please email your form to **wilifestories@nfwi.org.uk** or post it to WI LIFE STORIES, WI Life, 104 New Kings Road, London SW6 4LY.

Thank you.

Also, below are 3 stories we're currently working on – can anyone help?

The Friendship Issue

We're planning a series of features about different aspects of friendship – please consider the ideas below and see if one of them resonates with you. If so, get in touch.

Tell us how your WI friendships have impacted your life for the better, with solid examples (i.e. a friend encouraged you to stop procrastinating and take a course; or perhaps was there for you when you were grieving or recovering from illness).

Do you have a WI friend you'd like to champion for being a true friend in your time of need? And if so, what did she do that was so special?

What are the five qualities a great WI friend possesses?

It happened to me

We want to hear about a defining moment in your career. Maybe you're retired now, but in your time at work you had some nail biting moments where you were able to make a difference – or make people laugh or feel special? We know many members have had colourful careers. Tell us about your pivotal moment – perhaps something that would surprise others...

You joined the WI?!

If you're under 35 and your friends raised an eyebrow at your joining the WI, you're not alone. But, what do they know? We'd like to interview members who are juggling their work/family/social life and find time to thrive in the WI. Maybe you set up a WI at 20, or perhaps it brings something to your life you just don't get anywhere else. If this sounds like you please get in touch, send us a photo and a brief description of your WI involvement.

Please email your form to **wilifestories@nfwl.org.uk** or post it to
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WI Life STORY SUGGESTION form

YOUR NAME.....

WI.....**FEDERATION**.....

EMAIL.....**TEL**.....

SECTION (please circle the one you feel is most appropriate)

News / Feature / Member Profile / Craft / Me, Myself and WI / Garden)

WHAT'S THE STORY? (Include date and location if it's an event).

Please email your form to **wilifestories@nfwl.org.uk** or post it to
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Please let us know about your event as far in advance as possible as this helps us plan our coverage. We look forward to hearing about your activities. We can't squeeze everything into the magazine, but we'll try our very best. Thank you.