



Public Affairs Digest

Issue 50: June 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.

Contents:

- [Healthy Start Vouchers for children](#)
- [The Time is Now - virtual mass lobby](#)
- [It's not too late to take part in the NFWI's survey about experiences of lockdown!](#)
- [Campaigns Corner](#)

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](#).

All children should have access to healthy food

The WI is proud to support the call by a coalition of 35 poverty, health and food organisations, led by Sustain, to ensure Healthy Start vouchers are made available online ASAP.



Together we have sent an open letter to health minister Jo Churchill MP calling for the Healthy Start voucher scheme to be available online. Families need better access to this vital support scheme and can't be asked to rely solely on paper applications forms during Covid-19.

The Government's decision to extend free school meals vouchers through the summer holidays is welcome. However, childhood food insecurity doesn't begin at school age – families on a low income need support during crucial early childhood development years too. This is precisely what Healthy Start brings to the table by supporting pregnant women and children up to four years old, and yet 47% of families missed out on the vouchers last year.

The Government must act quickly so that families can easily apply for the vouchers from home, thereby helping more children have a filling and nutritious diet.

We urge the Health Minister Jo Churchill MP to act faster so that no child is left behind by food poverty.

For further information [click here](#).

Show your support by sharing [our tweet](#).



The First Ever Virtual Lobby for Climate Change!

In conjunction with The Climate Coalition, the NFWI have invited all members to be part of the first ever virtual parliamentary lobby for climate, nature and people on **Tuesday 30th June**.

Just like many WI members did at last year's mass lobby at Westminster, WI members have been encouraged to come together again and tell politicians that **'The Time Is Now'** to put a healthier, greener and fairer future at the centre of plans to rebuild a strong economy.

The main difference from last year's lobby is that to comply with the ongoing public health measures, we are asking for these meetings to take place **virtually**, using the conference call facility 'Zoom.' MPs have been asked to block out an hour of their diaries on the **30th of June** to meet with constituents, co-ordinating the meetings themselves.

Even though it might be too late to arrange a meeting with your MP on the day, the Climate Coalition will be hosting a Time is Now Main Stage with a range of interesting talks and lectures.

You can sign up to attend the Zoom panels and events [here](#).

If you have any questions about the lobby, please do contact Fiona Thomas on f.thomas@nfwl.org.uk.

THE TIME IS NOW.

TUESDAY 30TH JUNE 2020

MAIN STAGE:

GET INSPIRED ABOUT CREATING A HEALTHY, GREEN & FAIR FUTURE

10AM
WHY WE NEED A GREEN RECOVERY
with host
SO HOT RIGHT NOW'S
LUCY SIEGLE

11.05AM
WHY DIVERSE VOICES NEED TO SHAPE THE RECOVERY
with host
SPRINGWATCH'S
GILLIAN BURKE

3.10PM
GREEN RECOVERY: IT'S WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE DESERVE
with host
RADIO 1'S
CEL SPELLMAN

confirmed so far...
CHRIS PACKHAM - ANGELA FRANCIS - BIRDGIRL: MYA ROSE
CRAIG - AOIFE MERCEDES RODRIGUEZ-URUCHURTU
PHILIP AKELLO - FARAH AHMED- JAMES MILLER
JULIET DAVENPORT- HOLLY GILIBRAND - HANNINGTON
MUYENJE - HATTIE PHILLIPS - JANNIS KOULMAN

2PM
TURNING ACTION INTO SUCCESS WITH YOUR MP HOSTED BY
BROADCASTER CLIVE ANDERSON WITH CAROLINE LUCAS,
MATT PENNYCOOK & ALEX STAFFORD

ALSO...
TOP TIPS ON HOW TO LIVE SUSTAINABLY
SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL - EMMA KEMP, SUSTAINABLE MONEY - BECKY O'CONNOR,
CHANGING HABITS - LIBBY KEMKAREN, GREEN GARDENING - ANGELA TERRY,
CAMPAIGNING - ELLA DAISH, ZERO WASTE LIVING - LAURA YOUNG

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS:
ELLIE GOULDING, PEARL MACKIE,
DAVID OAKES, KATE BOTTLEY



It's not too late to share your experience of social distancing and lockdown!

If you haven't yet taken part in our survey about WI members experiences of lockdown and the impact Covid-19 has had on local communities, there is still time!

Your responses will help inform our campaigning activity and enable us to call for any changes that might benefit women and their communities during these difficult times. The survey should take 10-12 minutes to complete and is completely confidential.

The survey will close after tomorrow (Tuesday 30th June), and is open to all members, so please feel free to share it with others in your WI who might be interested!

To take part in the survey, [click here](#).



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



Here is a new way of using the climate scarf pattern!

Marie from Llanddwyn/Newborough WI has shown that you can use the pattern for other creations too!

You can download the [pattern here](#).



This year, for The Great Get Together, Borough Belles WI took part in Bankside Open Spaces Trust's, Great Get Together On Air radio show.

They submitted a short interview between Becky, their Vice President, and Lara, a long-standing member and ex-President, talking about the WI and their group which they hope will encourage women to seek them out.

They have also created a how-to video with member Kiki demonstrating how to bake a cake in a jar.

This is a lovely way to make an individual-sized cake for sharing with loved ones, friends or isolated neighbours. You could even put one in the post as the cakes are happy at room temperature in their sealed jars for up to 3 weeks!

You can hear them [here](#) (18 minutes into the recording).

You can find their [recipe here](#) and the [video 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,

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