

Contact Details

Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes

Write to:

DFWI, County House,
18 Crown Street West,
Poundbury, DT1 3DW.

Telephone: 01305 266366

Federation Secretary Email:
federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org

General enquiries Email:
reception@dorsetwi.org

Office Hours

Monday & Friday: Office CLOSED
Tuesday: 10am-1pm; 2-4pm.
Wednesday: 10am-1pm; 2-4pm.
Thursday: 10am-1pm.

Federation Chair

Jenny Preston

Federation Secretary

Diane Towndrow

Editor of Dorset WI News:

Isabell van Millingen **Email:**
newseditor@dorsetwi.org

Website Editor:

Jane Doughty **Email:**
WebEditor@dorsetwi.org

Website: www.theWI.org.uk/dorset

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FROM OUR CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

ALL CHANGE!

What a difference a few weeks makes! Many of us are in quarantine others we praise for keeping us safe! Being even a little bit online savvy has had a massive effect on our well-being.

Several WIs across the county have carried on their meetings using Zoom. My WI has introduced a new Facebook page specifically for happy news! I have been introduced to Zoom and have taken part in several online meetings both with family members and with other Climate Change Ambassadors across the country – a report on that is in this issue.

My family have been great including me in online quizzes and a Poetry Party run by my grown-up granddaughter. Even my 8 year-old granddaughter

used her Mummy's phone to Facetime me so that she could show me what she had created!

Please don't be lonely we are all here to support each other – pick up the phone talk to a WI friend they will be pleased to hear from you. Family are wonderful but we all miss our WI friends don't we? Let's look forward to being together very soon and enjoying all our great activities!



Carol Brown
Trustee

100 PLUS CLUB:

Unfortunately we are unable to draw the 100 Club winners whilst we are in lockdown. Once things are back to normal we will make up for the missed months and the winners will be published in the Dorset magazine as usual.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Please send in news by post to The Editor, Dorset WI News, DFWI, 18 Crown Street West, Poundbury DT1 3DW, or by Email to me at: newseditor@dorsetwi.org Do, please, look through your photographs for pictures of Dorset scenes, or events for the news. You may send them by post to DFWI as above with a correctly-stamped SAE if you want them returned, or by Email attachment (as "jpgs") to the Email address above. *Please make sure you include your name, WI and details of where the scene/event is and the month it was taken.*

NFWI ANNUAL MEETING MONDAY 19 APRIL 2021

The **2021 NFWI Annual Meeting** will be held at the Royal Albert Hall in London on **Monday 19 April 2021**.

Next year is also the Royal Albert Hall's 150th anniversary so it is a particularly special year for us to be part of their calendar of events.



Albert Hall picture Creative Commons Bene Riobo

FROM OUR FEDERATION CHAIRMAN JENNY PRESTON

Well here we are – another month has passed and things are beginning to move.

It's good to know that shops are opening again although personally I've yet to venture to the High Street – once a week to the supermarket is enough for me.

It's also been lovely to meet up with others whilst observing social distancing. Thank goodness the weather has been kind.

I'm sure you're all pleased about the extension to our subscription this year and the subsequent move of the subscription month to April from 2021. This decision was taken after a consultation process initially by NFWI, the National Council were then included before a final decision was made by Federation Trustees. For those of you who are unaware, the National Council is made up of the Chairman and Treasurer of each Federation together with the National Board of Trustees.

Have any of you tried the online courses being offered by Denman? Take a look on the Denman website and see what's on offer. I've read some really positive comments and I understand the cost is only about £5 per session.

If you're like me you can't wait for hairdressers to be up and running again. At the moment I don't know which is the worst - the length or the ever increasing grey hairs!

I hope you enjoy this month's edition of WI News.

Take care and stay safe.

Jenny

COURSES AT COUNTY HOUSE

Because of the ongoing situation of Covid 19 I think it will be January 2021 before we will be able to restart courses at County House. We have planned in 2021 an Iris Card making session and also a Crochet course which gives us something to look forward to.

The Committee Room, which can be used for inexpensive day courses, can hold as many as 30 for audience purposes, but where tables need to be used for participation, a maximum of 12 can be accommodated. Lots of time to think about your secret talent or skill that you could share with other WI members when we restart the courses.

Margaret Bunch

Photo Competition

Photo Competition with a chance to win a lovely bottle of champagne.
Photographs submitted by WI members and voted on by WI members.

Closing Date 23rd June 2020 for photographs.

Voting closes on 30th June

Send your photographs to newseditor@dorsetwi.org and we will upload them to the Dorset FWI – News Website <https://dorsetfwi-news.weebly.com/> competition page.

Photo Competition



CLIMATE CHANGE: WE CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE!

FOOD WASTE

One of the major factors in helping reduce the impact on Climate Change is cutting down on food waste. I was surprised to learn that this is such a major factor until I read the details of plastic packaging, pollution caused by transporting food and then of course the waste. So what can we do?

We can decide not to buy anything that is wrapped or boxed in plastic (I shall miss my soft fruits!) that also means that we won't be buying out of season items that have been flown in from abroad.



Then we do things our Mums taught us like planning meals so that we don't waste food. Hopefully our sons and daughters will have learned from us and have taught their children but no harm in us encouraging them to think before they cook! We could probably be better at taking notice of sell by and use by labels too: Sell By being for guidance and Use By being the date to definitely use it. And storage is important to ensure the food is fit to eat.

I Know All This I hear you say but does the next generation that we are trying desperately to save our planet for? There's no harm in checking. Lockdown has brought about a cooking frenzy! A survey showed that 37% of people are increasingly making random dishes from things they have

forgotten all about! How many of you have created weird and wonderful dishes from the food at the back of your cupboards? Share your ideas on DFWI Facebook.

AMBASSADORS ZOOM IN!!

Over 100 Climate Ambassadors from across the country met online for the first time in a meeting Chaired by Ann Jones NFWI Chair of Public Affairs and Lyn Stubbings Chair of NFWI was also present, Emma Holland-Lindsay Head of Public Affairs made an excellent and detailed presentation on the activities in the year so far. NFWI are working with the Climate Change Just Transition initiative: a global project which aims to develop ways of working more effectively and in line with combatting Climate Change. Currently in the early stages this project is being launched in Yorkshire. This is certainly something to watch for!

Public Affairs are also continuing to work closely with Friends of the Earth on Plastic Soup. Emma was horrified to learn that the PPE plastic protection was being incinerated and not able to be reused. A Fixing Fast Fashion Toolkit is being developed – more on that later. Parliament has been approached regarding a Bill to ensure that domestic boilers are safe and not emitting gas into the atmosphere.

2020 was supposed to be a Climate Change super year with an international conference planned in Glasgow, 196 countries planned to attend – cancelled of course! However we can continue the good work on the ground! More meetings are planned potentially in geographic areas, which would be great because it would enable us to link up on projects and extend our reach.

Stay Safe Everyone!



Carol Brown Climate Ambassador

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMENS INSTITUTES RESOLUTIONS 2019/2020

WI members have, by using their combined influence, increased public awareness of issues and brought about important policy changes for over 100 years. They have campaigned on a range of social, education, health, food and agriculture, environment and international causes. Loneliness/Mental Health and No More Violence Against Women are particularly significant just now.

This year in the shortlisting selection stage the two resolutions (stem cells and modern slavery) attracted a clear majority of selections from members (over 70%). The NFWI Board of Trustees has decided that in these exceptional circumstances, the results of the shortlist selection process will be used as a proxy for the Annual Meeting vote.

The Board felt that this was the most democratic means available to determine the outcome of this year's resolution process taking into account time and resource constraints and the challenges of the current lockdown period. The Board also wanted to recognise the huge amounts of time and effort that members, WIs and federations put into the resolutions process this year.

This means that the two resolutions below have now been adopted by the WI, and members are free to campaign on these issues.

A call to increase potential stem cell donor registration

There is an urgent need to increase the number of people registered on the aligned UK stem cell registry in order to provide potentially life-saving treatment to people of all ages with certain blood cancers. We call on all WI members to promote registration to the database to avoid people dying whilst waiting for a match.



End Modern Slavery



There are tens of thousands of victims of modern slavery hiding in plain sight in the UK. Modern slavery has severe consequences for the health and mental wellbeing of survivors. The NFWI calls on Government to protect victims of modern slavery in the first instance and deliver longer term support to help them rebuild their lives. We call on our members to raise awareness of the prevalence of modern slavery throughout society and to campaign to defeat it.

OFFICE NEWS

2021 Diaries—closing date is **Thursday 17 September** 2020. They can be collected at the Annual Meeting at the Lighthouse in October, from the office at County House or posted out to WIs. We look forward to receiving your diary orders.

BOT NOMINATIONS 2020—Despite the office being closed at this time, we do still require the nominations to be sent in for processing. However, we have now been advised by NFWI that we can extend the deadline. Please note that the new closing date will be **Friday 31 July** 2020.

LADY DENMAN CUP COMPETITION 2020—‘*What I heard on the bus ...*’ we have been advised by NFWI that the competition will still be going ahead. Closing date for entries to Dorset Federation Office is **Friday 18 September** 2020.

Diane Towndrow

MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Chairman: *Yvonne Marsh.*

Vice Chair *Lyn Coleman & Jan Watson*

YOUR ADVISERS DURING LOCKDOWN

When lockdown was announced the WI Advisers had full diaries with Annual Meetings, meetings at the Poundbury Office and training days as well as all their other activities then everything changed. Diaries were empty so what have they been up to apart from supporting WIs by phone and email and attending Zoom meetings.

Lyn Coleman



I wish I could tell you that I had read the entire works of Shakespeare, learnt the art of calligraphy or needle felted an exquisite item that would be much admired, but I can't!

However, I decided that as we had been given a set of boules then the least we could do was to make a boules court! Just a small one, so please don't get the idea it is anywhere near the size of those you might see in town squares in France.

What I didn't bargain for was for having to shovel a ton of crushed limestone. I still don't know how you can shovel and shovel a big bag of gravel and it still looks as if it is completely full.

So the court is complete, we felt truly exhausted after all the manual labour and I have not yet won a single game!

Maybe I should have opted for the calligraphy after all.

Jan Watson



I've swapped the bar for a barre.....

Been doing lots of exercise in 'lockdown'.....dog walking, pilates and HIIT videos. THEN 'hit' upon the Silver Swans. Some of you probably know all about this, but

there I was doing plies, battements tendus and the like with the best of 'em. Who knew that this overweight and ungainly child who was thought more suited to piano lessons could become an elegant and graceful mature swan (well I think so anyway). Its great fun...just need a bit of space and the back of a chair for a barre. You can find U tube lessons through the Royal Academy of Dance website.

Gill Samways



I've been using the time to walk and get to know my new puppy Sammy who is a mini schnauzer, walking him twice a day has been good for losing weight. He will not be happy when life gets back to normal and I have to go out, in fact my daughter

calls him Velcro as he doesn't let me out of his sight except at night when we go to bed.

Liz Smith



I can't play Walking Netball but have taken part in "the Biggest Virtual Walking Netball Challenge in lockdown" This consisted of joining in with netball related exercises on You Tube. My WI also had fun making this Walking Netball video

<https://youtu.be/TraC-c5Fis0>

I am knitting teddies with masks for Dorchester Hospital to reassure the children who are not used to seeing nurses and doctors with masks on

I am enjoying the peace and quiet of the Dorset countryside when going out for our daily exercise and being able to hear the birds with so little traffic.

Sue Hibbard



I have discovered that it is surprising how far you can walk without leaving your house. I have been following the Lesley Sansone "Walk at Home" videos on YouTube. They are great for having some exercise during

lockdown without having to social distance and not worrying about the weather.

Yvonne Marsh



I have discovered how to cut hair on You tube and my husband has not complained too much about the results, however I know he will be pleased when the barbers are open again.

I have also developed new IT skills, like attending and arranging Zoom meetings, how to send a video message, and taking part in Whats app video calls.

I have also enjoyed the daily walks discovering new areas around our home.

Remember your WI Advisers are here for you please contact us if you require any support.

Yvonne Marsh.

DFWI ANNUAL MEETING – THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2020

At The Lighthouse Theatre, Poole



Our morning speaker, Dr Annie Gray historian and author, specialises in the history of food and dining from c1600 to present day. Her book, *Victory in the kitchen*, tells the story of Georgina Landemere who worked for the Churchills between 1940 and 1954.

In the afternoon we have Amanda Owen, also known as The Yorkshire Shepherdess. 3 bestselling books, two hit TV series, 1000 sheep, 9 'free-range' children, 1 husband and an assortment of farmyard animals — life for Amanda is anything but dull. In her latest book, *Adventures Of The Yorkshire Shepherdess*, Amanda brings readers up to date with life on the farm. Life at Ravenseat is truly in tune with nature.



Tickets will be available when the office reopens.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Angela Britland, VP and past President of Heaton's WI in Cheshire contacted us recently to share a find!

Whilst looking for something, Angela found this tea towel that she had bought many years ago from the Post Office in Morcombelake. Angela explained that it had been purchased long before she became a WI member.

Angela has been a frequent visitor to Dorset since 1975 and should have been in Morcombelake at the beginning of April.

Does any one remember, or was a member, knows someone who was a member of "Whitchurch & Morcombelake WI"?



SKITTLES



Please get in touch with Margaret Bunch, Events Chairman if you would like to take part in the Skittles League this Autumn. We are not sure if the format will be as previous years but it would be good if we knew how many WIs would like to play and we could then think about what we can do when venues begin to open up.



KURLING



We have plenty of time to think about how we are going to play the Kurling competition, This could be in the same league format as in previous years, or perhaps since many Institutes now have their own Kurling kit, a different system, enabling more matches to be played, could be devised. All suggestions welcome!

ALTOGETHER WI

has good WI china for hire to other WIs for events. Nominal fee £10.

Please contact Mrs Chris Smith on 07915 404091 or

chris.smith1979@virginmedia.com

The Events Committee

Chairman: Margaret Bunch

Vice Chair Jean Filby

WILLOW WORKING

Have you ever tried your hand at Willow working? Come along to our Willow Working Workshop on **Friday 2 October** at Moreton Village Hall. Jenny Knight, (no relation) is a delightful and experienced tutor, who will show you how to make different willow Christmas decorations. The number of participants is limited to 20, to ensure you have sufficient support from the tutor, so do apply promptly to DFWI to secure your place.

The cost, for a whole day's tuition, including all the equipment, is £35, which I'm sure you'll agree is very good value.

Booking forms will be available when the office reopens.



THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS FLORAL EXTRAVANGANZA

Now, here is something to look forward to.

We are very fortunate to have Emily Broomhead demonstrating, in flowers "The Magic of Christmas" at 2pm **Wednesday 9 December** at the Allendale Centre in Wimborne.

During the afternoon, Emily, who is a National Demonstrator with the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies, will transform the stage with her fabulous flower arrangements. It's a really delightful way to spend an afternoon, and could always be supplemented with a little retail therapy in Wimborne perhaps, (or having lunch out with your friends?).

Tickets for this event, which will be open to WI members and non-members, are very reasonably priced at £12.

Booking forms will be available when the office reopens.

Golf Croquet at Winterborne Valley CC, Winterborne Stickland

A chance to play on the new lawns of the Winterborne Valley Croquet Club (formally Kingston Maurward CC).

It is still planned to hold the Annual Golf Croquet competition there in August details have still to be confirmed but hopefully this will be one event that will take place this summer.

Email: tessculeaze@aol.com for details.

SLIMBRIDGE WETLAND CENTRE

It is planned to have a visit to Slimbridge Wetland Centre on **Wednesday 18 November**. We would arrive at 12 noon and depart at approximately 5.30 pm to take advantage of seeing the birds come back in the evening. Lots of time for lunch and a wander round. There would be pickup points at Christchurch, Wimborne, Blandford and Dorchester. Cost of the trip would be £30.00 per person.

Booking forms will be available when the office reopens.



FUTURE EVENT DATES 2020 FOR YOUR DIARY

Xmas Crafts—7 November Carey Hall

Longleat Lights—3 December

Wreath Workshop—5 December County House

Dorset Federation Denman Weekend 7th to 9th May 2021

At the present time Denman is in the process of planning its reopening and future courses and the booking documentation is not available for me to send out to members to book their places for the 2021 Dorset Weekend. To allow members to make choices from the courses arranged earlier in the year, I am keeping a 'save a place' list and when I have the documentation I will send it out to those on the list immediately and take deposits.

If you would like more information on courses, including costs, please email me Denmanambassador@dorsetwi.org and I will email on how you can add your name to the list of your chosen course.

Marilyn Holehouse Denman Ambassador

The courses are:

BEDROOMS, BANQUETS AND BALLS OF THE ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSE

This course will look at the development of country houses and the people who lived in them. Expect some gossip and intrigue with examples from all over the country. Includes visits to two historic houses.



VIENNOISERIE BREAKFAST PASTRIES

Learn to make your own pain au chocolate, croissants, brioches and danishes from a true pastry master.



SPRING MEADOWS & WOODLAND GLADES WALK –Up to 5 miles per day.

Remote dark woods & nature reserves in the Chilterns Rolling landscapes & meadows. Exotic orchids, bluebell carpets & colourful butterflies. Shimmering reeds, lakes & fens. Oxfordshire's Jurassic marine landscape, curious Ice Age "Puddingstones". Come along and discover the delights of the stunning countryside of the Chilterns and Oxfordshire.



SILVER CLAY JEWELLERY—This is a really exciting and creative form of jewellery making using silver clay which can be shaped like clay but, when fired, is transformed into stunning fine silver jewellery. You'll also learn some traditional techniques to finish your piece professionally.



KICKSTART UKULELE – beginner's course on playing a Ukulele will give you a new or improved skill along with an enjoyment of music.



WET FELTING –Make a lovely sturdy felt bag using the wet feltmaking method. Your bag will be made without using any sewing and can be as decorative as you like. You can personalize it by adding a funky cotton fabric lining with an inside pocket. You will learn how to design the shape and create your own unique decoration.



2021 EVENTS

MURDER MYSTERY EVENING WITH FISH & CHIP SUPPER: Burton Bradstock Players are running a Murder Mystery Evening for us, including a Fish & Chip Supper. This will be held at Charlton Down's Harrison Hall DT2 9UA on **SATURDAY 13 MARCH 2021**.

CHAVENAGE HOUSE: The trip to Chavenage House has been rescheduled for **TUESDAY 8 JUNE 2021**. WI members who booked for this year's trip will have priority.

BLenheim PALACE: We hope to arrange the Blenheim Palace trip for **AUTUMN 2021**.

The Helping Hand of Dorset WIs

More WIs have sent us reports of what they have been doing during this Covid-19 crisis. It seems there is no end to the talents of the ladies of the Dorset Federation of WIs. From sewing scrubs to helping neighbours to growing plants to sell for charity. The message from the whole Dorset Federation of WIs seems to be what can we do to help.

Hopefully it will not be too long before we can meet up again and see each other. Perhaps with the good weather a picnic is called for, socially distancing of course.



C.O.—Child Okeford; C.B.—Christchurch Belles; L.M.—Lytchett Matravers; S.&W.—Sandford and Wareham; Stob'rg'h—Stoborough; A.H.—Amberwood Highcliffe; B.B.—Burton Bradstock; B&WK—Broadmayne & West Knighton; W.E.—Wimborne Evening; Ash.H.—Ashley Heath; Wyke R.—Wyke Regis; S.M.E.—Sturminster Marshall Evening; Shaft'b E.—Shaftesbury Evening

SHAFTESBURY EVENING WI

Several members of Shaftesbury Evening WI have dusted down their sewing machines and rallied to support the Shaftesbury Scrub Hub. Over several weeks, scrub bags, face masks, scrubs and gowns have been made which the Hub has then distributed to our local Medical Centre and Care Homes.

Jill Mawdsley

STURMINSTER MARSHALL EVENING WI

Champion for Women's Refuge

Sturminster Marshall Evening WI member, Jane Champion, has been busy raising money for the Women's Refuge by selling plants from her garden wall. With the glorious weather and people spending more time at home and in their gardens, Jane has sold a lot of plants. By the end of the lockdown period Jane hopes to have raised £600. What a fantastic achievement! In addition to raising money for the Women's Refuge, Jane along with other members of SMEWI have been busy sewing masks for the organisation, Frontline Facemasks, whilst other members have been delivering food to locals who have been self-isolating. We are looking forward to all being able to meet again but until then SMEWI members will continue to support the community in whatever way they can.

Gladys Quick



WI NEWS FROM AROUND DORSET

CANFORD AND MERLEY WI



A member since 1976, Margaret Bailey, was 100 years young today 9th June. As we are in lockdown and not able to wine and dine her as we would have liked, a group of her WI friends visited her garden with a banner, balloons and crown to sing happy birthday. She is seen opening a card from the Queen and wearing her own crown! She was then having a garden party with her family.

Liz Cleghorn

ALWESTON WI

Members all received a pot plant on their doorstep being asked to "look after yourself and the plant and we will see you both at our next meeting we know where just not when" Members agreed in their thank you messages that it had really cheered them up.



Shirley Warr

BLANDFORD EVENING WI

WI visit to the Ancient Technology Centre, Cranbourne

On a beautiful bright day with a bitter wind, the ladies of Blandford Evening WI were shown around the superbly crafted buildings of the Ancient Technology Centre at Cranbourne. The visit was a thank you for all the hard work undertaken by BEWI making tunics for the Centre which the visiting school children wear when on residential stays at the Centre experiencing the real everyday life of children of the Dark ages.

The visit began with a brief introduction to the history and ethos of the Centre given by long time Centre Volunteer Colin Allborough.

Starting with the Mesolithic shelters the ladies progressed to the Roman Water wheel where team effort was employed in a practical demonstration of the power of organized women! Then on past the medieval garden to the Original Round house, the Roman Forge and the Dartmoor building.

The newest construction on site was the sunken Saxon Gruben Haus alongside the teaching shelter of timber and thatch which is being built by the Centre Volunteers. The ladies were in awe of the impressive Earth House with its 80 ton earth roof held up by massive oak timbers and able to seat over 200 people. Our President, Simone Walls-McDonald, a well known member of Forum Drama was convinced that one of the Shakespeare Dramas should be staged there.

Instruction was given by Clive Perrin in the use of the pole lathes, with a number of the ladies trying their hand.

At the end of the tour warming beverages were served in the full size authentic Viking Long House, which serves as overnight accommodation for the school children who come to experience the Centre throughout the school terms from April to October.

The ladies were invited to bring their families for a visit on the Dark Ages Open Week-end at the Centre on the 28/29th March (for more information see the Ancient Technology Centre website)

Most of the Ladies had never been to the Centre previously. They were thoroughly impressed with the site and could not understand how such an asset to the County and education was not better known.

Sheila Chapman



CHIDEOCK WI

At the start of lockdown, I decided to make a dress with pockets, facings and invisible zip just to make things interesting! Then came the Chideock WI challenge.... we volunteered our sewing and organisational skills to the West Dorset Scrubbers, realising very quickly that we had no platform for letting the rest of the world know what we were doing. We made good use of the DFWI Facebook page and our village website, but the time had come to be brave and take on the internet. Having decided that Facebook wasn't for us, we invested in a domain name and after some research settled

on a web builder. Without any previous experience in building a website from scratch, our intrepid President, never one to shy away from new challenges, started the ball rolling. It was quite good fun, planning the layout, colour scheme and uploading photos, with only a few snags along the way (don't forget that invisible zip) because we were faced with website terminology and like my zip it was a case of trial and error. Nevertheless, we got stuck in and have now successfully designed, built and published our very own website and like my dress hope it will stand the test of time. Find us at www.chideockwi.org.uk. We're by no means experts but if you'd like to chat about our experience please email chideockwi@gmail.com.

Tish Wynford-Thomas



LYTCHETT MATRAVERS WI

We are unable to celebrate our Centenary in the way that we had planned but, after hearing the talk that Lynne Stubbings gave Sandford and Wareham WI via Zoom, I was inspired to get us involved in the Scarecrow Competition that is currently being held in the village - all done via a dedicated Facebook page. We are still able to 'fly the flag' for our Centenary - just in a slightly different way!

8 members have made scarecrows - some collaboratively (in a socially distanced way of course!) - based on the theme "100 years of fashion". We have a 1920s flapper, a 1940s land army girl, a 1960s hippy and an artist from the 90s era as well as a socially distanced WI Lockdown Centenary meeting.

We are trying to adopt the "what we CAN do" approach rather than regretting "what we CAN'T do".

Karen Hesketh

