

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

THE
GREAT
GET
TOGETHER

INSPIRED BY JO COX

JUNE 21-23

Toolkit

A LETTER FROM ANN JONES



Right from the WI's earliest days, members have sought to reach out to others. In 1939, Lady Denman, the first National Chair of the NFWI, encouraged members to welcome any Land Army girls who come to their villages to prevent these volunteers from feeling lonely. 80 years later, with over 9 million people in the UK affected by loneliness, and 1 in 4 experiencing a mental health problem, bringing people together remains as important as ever.

In the short time since our campaign to alleviate loneliness was launched, the Great Get Together has already become an annual fixture in many WI calendars. Members have held coffee mornings, worked alongside local charities to host community events, and even organised craft fairs with stallholders to showcase local talent – to name just a few. We are delighted to be supporting the Great Get Together again this year, and to have partnered with The Jo Cox Foundation on this toolkit for WI members.

I hope this toolkit inspires you to get involved, and plan your own Get Together. Remember, it doesn't need to be a big event. You could organise something just with a few friends or family members – what's important is that it brings people together.

Ann Jones
NFWI Vice Chair & Chair of Public Affairs



A NATIONWIDE COMMUNITY

The Great Get Together is an initiative founded in 2017 by the family and friends of Jo Cox, who wanted to celebrate her commitment to bringing communities together with street parties, sports days, BBQs, picnics and coffee mornings.

Since then we've heard from all quarters that the Great Get Together shouldn't be a one-off, so it's now an annual, landmark event run by The Jo Cox Foundation.

Guided by Jo's conviction that we have **More in Common** than that which divides us, we want to encourage people to contribute to a more united country, and form relationships with new people who might at first seem different.

The third **Great Get Together** will take place between the **21st and 23rd June 2019**, in celebration of what would have been Jo's 45th birthday...We are delighted to be partnering with the Women's Institute this year to make the Great Get Together 2019 the best one yet!





WHY DOES GETTING TOGETHER MATTER?

- ◆ More cohesive communities lead to increased life expectancy, better recovery times from illness, and fewer mental health problems.
- ◆ We can make better collective decisions as we open lines of dialogue, learn to understand others and realise that we are all in it together. Building friendships across traditional lines can tackle isolation and social exclusion particularly amongst the most vulnerable.
- ◆ By partnering with us, you will join a growing movement actively trying to learn more about how we as a society can create stronger communities. This can help us to collectively tackle some of the biggest problems our country faces, including loneliness and social isolation.





HOW TO PLAN A GET TOGETHER THAT MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE

- ◆ We want to help you make sure that your Great Get Together doesn't just bring people together in the same physical space, but gets them truly connecting.
- ◆ Whether it's a picnic, or a tea party; a street party or a craft event – it's totally up to you, as long as it's fun for your community and brings people together.





TEN SIMPLE TIPS FOR ORGANISING A GREAT GET TOGETHER

1 DECIDE ON A TIME

Think about which dates and days would suit most of the people in your community so that everyone can make it. The most important thing is bringing people together, so if the official weekend of The Great Get Together doesn't suit you, go ahead and choose another date.

2 DECIDE ON A PLACE

Remember – a Get Together doesn't have to be big or complicated! It can be a few friends in your home, or a picnic in the park.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- ◆ Does your WI meet in a local hall? If so, why not consider using the same space for your Great Get Together?
- ◆ Some supermarkets and other local businesses provide spaces for community groups to meet. Check in with your local shops to see what's available in your area.
- ◆ Street parties are a great way to bring neighbours together. Get in touch with your local council as early as possible to find out what information you'll need to share with them.

When planning events, make sure to consider disabled access, how easy it is to find, public transport, travelling time and distance.

3 HAVE A THINK ABOUT THE TYPE OF EVENT YOU WANT TO PLAN

Your Get Together can be anything you want – you could bake for your neighbours, organise a BBQ, a sports match or even throw a street party.

You can find more ideas on what makes a wonderful Great Get Together here:

www.greatgettogether.org/how-to

4 REACH OUT TO SOMEONE NEW

The Great Get Together aims to bring together people from all walks of life to celebrate what we have in common. Why not co-organise your event with other organisations or individuals in some way different from you who could bring along a totally different crowd?

We challenge you to reach out to groups in the local community who you and your friends or members might not know – can you find a residential care centre or a youth group? A refugee support group or a local tenants association? A cultural centre? An opposing sports team or arts group? What about your local Scouts or Girlguiding group? (Send us an email at hello@greatgettogether.org with the name of your WI or federation and we can help match you with a local group that is also involved with the campaign!) We hope you feel inspired to find **More in Common** with your wider community!

5 SPREAD THE WORD

Invite as many or as few as you like! A great place to start is by adding your event to the [interactive map on our website](#) so people can find your event when they search your area.

You can advertise your event more traditionally with posters and leaflets, or through social media – either way, we have lots of [resources here](#) to help with this.

Remember – inviting people face-to-face is also a great way to encourage people to join in.

6 DECIDE ON THE FOOD

We've included a delicious WI More in Common Chocolate Chip Cookie recipe on page 10 that is sure to be a crowd favourite.

Organising small, private street parties and community events should be simple and things like risk assessments, licenses and food hygiene certificates aren't normally necessary. However, it's still important to make sure that you handle food safely. Visit the FSA [website](#) for more information and guidance on providing food at community and charity events.

7 PLAN SOME ACTIVITIES

Activities such as craft, gardening and quizzes are a great way to bring people together. If you're looking for some tips and inspiration, take a look on [My WI](#) at what other WIs have been doing. We have also included some craft projects on pages 11 and 12. You may, through working with an external organisation, come into contact with children and/or vulnerable adults. It's therefore important to consider safeguarding. To download the NFWI's policy on this, visit [My WI](#)

8 CHECK WHETHER YOU WILL NEED INSURANCE AND CONSIDER HEALTH AND SAFETY

Once you know where you are going to hold your event, it is important that you consider the safety of the venue. For example, the evacuation routes in case of an emergency, the use of electric appliances

TEN SIMPLE TIPS FOR ORGANISING A GREAT GET TOGETHER

and first aid kits. Depending on your venue and the type of event you are holding, you may also wish to get in touch with your federation office to find out about insurance and public liability. Take a look at the NFWI's Health and Safety [Guidance](#) for event organisers for more information.

9 GET YOUR GINGHAM ON!

Don't forget to incorporate The Great Get Together theme and the WI logo into your event. There are loads of ways to go crazy with gingham. Turn to pages 11 and 12 for some ideas. For tips on how to use the WI logo visit [My WI](#).

We're keen to care for our planet, so please use sustainable materials to decorate your event, and recycle wherever possible.

10 FINALLY – SIT BACK AND ENJOY!

Please do share your experience of the day!

Post your photos, videos and stories on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) using the hashtags [#GreatGetTogether](#) or [#WILinkTogether](#).

You can also email them to us at hello@greatgettogether.org or get in touch with the NFWI's Public Affairs Department on publicaffairs@nfwl.org.uk



INSPIRATION

BURTON LEONARD WI

BURTON LEONARD WI AND FRIENDS CELEBRATE THE GREAT GET TOGETHER - AGAIN!

The North Yorkshire village of Burton Leonard, near Harrogate, led the way with this year's Great Get Together on Sunday, June 17th, a week before most of the events held in tribute to the values of the late Jo Cox MP.

The community tea party on the village green, inspired by Jo's words 'we have more in common than that which divides us' brought together people of all ages and backgrounds.

North Yorkshire charity Dementia Forward hosted the party in their local hub, the village's former Methodist Chapel, where Burton Leonard WI and Village Hall Committee members served delicious home-baked cakes and savouries – and plenty of tea, of course.

Rainbows and Brownies from the village arranged beautiful posy vases for the tables, then helped to serve and clear away dishes. Dementia Forward staff and volunteers kept children and adults alike busy with a giant tombola and outdoor

games. For those who wanted to reminisce, the village's History Group presented a photographic display of village get-togethers over the past 80 years.

A colourful butterfly collage created by Burton Leonard Primary School pupils from recycled plastic, checked cloths and red and white bunting completed the festive atmosphere.



INSPIRATION

**BURTON
LEONARD
WI**

‘We held our first Great Get Together last year in the Village Hall and raised a substantial amount for the Jo Cox Fund. This year we wanted to work with our new neighbours, Dementia Forward’, said WI member Vivienne Ravis, who was one of the team behind last year’s successful event. ‘Our aim was to encourage people to chat to their neighbours, make new friends and really come together as a community to celebrate all that we have in common.’

‘We wanted everyone to feel welcome, whether they came alone or with family or friends. On the day, over 70 people of all ages joined us for tea and fun, including local residents, friends of Dementia Forward and the people we support,’ said Debby Lennox, Dementia Forward’s Community Liaison Worker.

‘Our hub opened in the village just over a year ago and we are delighted to be a part of the celebrations. Events like this are a great way of bringing people together and we are so grateful that the event raised over £250 for the charity’s work in supporting people with dementia to live well in the community.’

Words by Burton Leonard WI
and Dementia Forward



**WE'VE GOT
MORE
IN COMMON**

GREATGETTOGETHER.ORG



MORE IN COMMON CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES



These naughty choc cookies are perfect to bake and take to Great Get Together events this June.

Recipe: Kelly Mauger, Denman Cookery School Chef Manager

Makes 18-24

125g unsalted butter – softened
110g light brown soft sugar
110g caster sugar
1 egg – beaten
1 tsp vanilla extract
230g self-raising flour
½ tsp salt
175g milk or white chocolate chips

To decorate

Your favourite chocolate bars

- 1 Using a mixer, cream the butter and sugars together in a bowl until pale and fluffy.
 - 2 Once creamed, add the egg and beat until fully incorporated.
 - 3 Add the flour and salt to the mixing bowl and mix thoroughly, then add the vanilla extract and chocolate chips and stir through by hand.
 - 4 Roll the mixture into a long, thick sausage shape and roll in parchment or cling film to hold shape. Place in the fridge for 1 hour to harden.
- 2 Slice the cookie dough into 1 cm thick rounds and place on the prepared trays spaced well apart. Bake for 8-10 minutes, until the cookies are just setting. They should look lightly browned on the outside but still pale in the centre.
 - 3 Take out of the oven and immediately place a chunk of your favourite chocolate bar in the centre of the cookies to slightly melt as the cookie cools. Leave to stand on the tray for 5-10 minutes before transferring to a cooling rack to cool completely.

To bake

- 1 Preheat the oven to 180°C / 360°F / Gas Mark 4 and prepare 2 baking trays with baking parchment.

- 4 Store in an airtight box and consume within 5 days.

CRAFT TOGETHER

HERE ARE TWO FUN
GINGHAM PROJECTS THAT
YOUR WI CAN TRY!

THE
GREAT GET
TOGETHER
BROOCH

Get your gingham on with these fun gingham makes – rosette badges to show your support for the event!

Skill level: Beginner

You will need:

- ◆ 21cm (approx.) diameter plate
- ◆ 14cm (approx.) diameter bowl
- ◆ Pencil
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Gingham fabric
- ◆ 29mm self-covered button
- ◆ Needle
- ◆ Thread

To make

1 Draw around the upturned plate and bowl onto the fabric and cut out the two circles.

2 Thread a needle with doubled thread and knot ends firmly together.

Working on the large circle first, make a row of small gathering stitches all around the edge of the

circle, turning under a 5mm hem as you work.

3 When you get back to the start, pull up the gathers as tight as you can and secure the end of the thread with a few back stitches to make sure the gathers don't come undone.

Now flatten out your puff shape with the gathered section in the centre.

4 Repeat steps 2 and 3 with the smaller circle.

5 Now cut a small circle of fabric to the size stated on your button packaging.

6 Make a row of gathering stitches around the fabric circle. Place button in centre and pull up gathering thread to draw fabric snugly over the button. Secure

thread ends and trim. Snap on button back.

7 Now place the small flattened puff on top of the large one and stitch the two layers together through the centre hole.

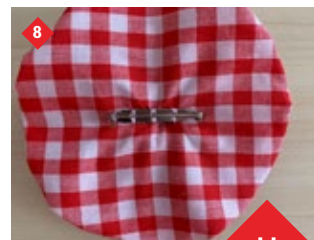
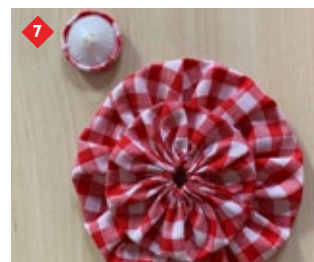
8 Sew the button to the centre of the brooch to cover up the gathered section. Secure threads firmly on the reverse side.

Finally, sew a brooch back to the reverse of the large puff. It is now ready to wear!

Brooch size: 10cm diameter approx.

Tip: If you'd prefer, swap the fabric covered button for a large red or white standard button.

This project was created by Jane Bolsover – NFWI Craft Consultant



CRAFT TOGETHER

HERE ARE TWO FUN
GINGHAM PROJECTS THAT
YOUR WI CAN TRY!

GINGHAM CARNATIONS

Get your gingham on with these fun gingham makes – a posy of ribbon carnations for your party table!

Skill level: Beginner

Materials for one flower:

- ◆ 1m of 40mm or 50mm-wide gingham ribbon
- ◆ Needle and white sewing thread
- ◆ Pins
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ 1 x 25cm long, 20 gauge green floristry wire
- ◆ Green floristry tape

To make

1 Bend the end of the florists' wire over by 2cm to form a flat loop at the top and place to one side.

2 Fold each cut end of the ribbon diagonally over to meet the long finished edge and pin in place.

3 Thread a needle with a doubled thread and knot ends together. Starting at one end where the ribbon is folded over, work a couple of backstitches to secure the thread. Then, stitch a row of small gathering stitches (approx. 5mm in length) along the entire length of the ribbon, catching in the folded ends as you sew. Remove the pins.

4 Pull up the gathers tightly and secure the stitching with a couple of backstitches at the finishing end to hold the gathers in place – DO NOT cut off the thread. Untwist the gathered ribbon, so that you can lay it flat in an arched shape, as shown.

5 Now tightly wrap the gathered section of the ribbon around the wire loop. Stitch the gathers together across the base and around the wire loop to form your carnation flower and attach it to the stem.

6 Finally, wrap floristry tape around the base of the flower to cover the stitching and the wire stem.

This project was created by Jane Bolsover – NFWI Craft Consultant





SPREAD THE WORD!

Advertise your event on the Great Get Together event map so that we can promote it to a wide range of audiences!

www.greatgettogether.org/submit

Tell us why your event is special, and we can write it up on our website or social channels.

hello@greatgettogether.org

We have prepared some handy posters and invitations for you to use anywhere from local restaurants, to council offices or supermarkets.

www.greatgettogether.org/resources

You can always reach out to local newspapers including local cultural newspapers with the story of your event.

Let the NFWI's Public Affairs Department know what you've got planned by emailing

publicaffairs@nfwl.org.uk



THE GREAT GET TOGETHER

INSPIRED BY JO COX



Jo Cox's life was defined by her compassion and dedication to social justice. She worked tirelessly for a fairer, kinder and more tolerant world.

Jo was a humanitarian and an active member of her community. She was a colleague, a friend, a wife, a daughter and a sister. Above all, she was a mother to two beautiful children.

The public reaction to Jo's death – in Yorkshire, across Britain and around the world – showed that the values she lived by are widely shared. A week later, thousands of people came together in towns and cities across the UK to celebrate her life and her belief that we have **More in Common** than that which divides us.

An extremist act designed to tear the country apart had, inadvertently, helped bring people and their communities closer together. **The Great Get Together** was born.
