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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year everyone. I hope you are having a healthy start to 2019.

I must comment about the Centenary Service at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Newcastle. We have never had so many responses both verbally and in writing to any other celebration we have had. Everyone was in total agreement - it was the best yet "superb, stupendous" - without you of course it wouldn't have taken place. So thanks to you all. Because of the success of this venue we have booked it for Thursday 5th December 2019. I think what makes a difference is that everyone is facing the same way. Some of you may have been wondering how we chose the readers. We decided it was appropriate to invite a President from a WI who was 100, one of our newest WIs along with Jenny McLean (Board member and past Chairman of Tyneside Federation) and myself as Federation Chairman. There is a special lady called Peggy Wood from North Sunderland & Seahouses WI who has organised coaches to Christmas Celebrations and Council Meetings for a number of years for which I have always been appreciative. Unfortunately she will be unable to continue in this role and I would just like to say many thanks Peggy for your organization and support for the WI members - you will be missed.

At Christmas we said our goodbyes to two long-serving WI Advisers - Brenda Houlison and Kathleen Jones. Both Brenda and Kathleen have worked tirelessly for the WIs throughout the Federation, using their knowledge, giving advice where required and support, so enabling WIs to develop in the way that suited them. They will be missed by us all and I am sure on your behalf you would like me to say a big thank you for their commitment to the WI and best wishes in their retirement.

At the end of 2018 we had several members who trained as Independent Financial Examiners to work within the Federation. This will mean the task of auditing will be divided amongst more people. If you require an IFE to audit your accounts then get in touch with the Office who will pass on your request to Norma Birch who is liaising with all of the IFEs in the Federation and she will allocate an IFE to you.

We have recently upgraded our IT system in the office. We are no longer with BT therefore we have had to change our email address: federationoffice@northumberlandwi.co.uk. This address must be used immediately as the old one will no longer work. You will maybe find this one easier to remember!!!

Your secretary has received all the information re the Council Meeting on 6th April at the Royal Grammar School. The Board is working hard to ensure that the meeting will be as successful as 2018. I've got my fingers crossed. I do hope you will make the effort to attend as it is also a social occasion and old friends meet up and enjoy a good chat. So whether you have been before or this will be your first time, I am sure you will take something away from it.

We have been asked by National to appoint a Climate Ambassador for the Federation. Karen Coleman, a member of the Board of Trustees, was delighted to take on the role and will be travelling to Manchester to meet up with other Federations. There is further information "In the Spotlight". If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the office and Karen will be more than happy to speak to you.

Hilary



Climate Ambassador

I am very pleased to be representing the Federation at a National meeting of the Climate Ambassadors in late February. I will be bringing back the good ideas that we can use to keep climate and our role/responsibility in it to the fore.

As yet all we are being asked to do is make green hearts on or around 14th February to "Show the Love", Once I have seen and understood the roles/responsibilities I shall endeavor to keep you informed. I shall update you upon my return.

Secretary's Enclosures: Application forms for: "Meet the Judges Day"; Beginners Sugar Craft; What Happens Next?; Demo & Lunch at the Barrasford Arms; Duo Craft in Bardon Mill; Aide Memoir re Treasurers Day; Link List for National Annual Meeting; Subscription Pro Rate rates for 2019; Schedule for Competition Day; Lady Denman Cup Competition 2019 - Schedule and Individual Entry Form;

News from the Committees.....

Federation Treasurer - Marjorie Read

I hope that you have all enjoyed a good Festive Season and are now ready for the year ahead.

Enclosed with this mailing is an Aide Memoire which I promised at the Treasurer's Forums held last September. It does not cover all the questions raised so you may well be receiving another one with the "less common" questions at a later date.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind everyone that Officers and members of the Board of Trustees do **NOT** receive any payment for carrying out their Federation duties. They are of course entitled to claim a mileage allowance of 28p per mile for travel to and from venues where they are carrying out official duties. If they go along to an event purely to enjoy and not work at that event then they are not entitled to claim expenses. Similarly if a Board member is running an event and they have to provide refreshments and raffle prizes then these also may be claimed for as legitimate expenses.

This rule applies also to the Advisers when they either visit WIs in an official capacity, carry out exploratory meetings for new WIs or when they run training events.

Membership Support - Prudence Marks

National Annual Meeting 2019 - We hope you have been discussing the shortlisted resolutions at your WI meetings and have sent in your choice to the Office.

A reminder to all the delegates, observers and interested members that the resolution meeting, "Hear All About It!", will be held on Tuesday 2nd April at 2.00 pm in Cresswell House where a speaker will be on hand to discuss the subject of the resolution/s with us. Delegates will also receive details of travel arrangements to Bournemouth, hotel accommodation, etc. The application to attend this afternoon of discussion was sent out in a previous mailing - please return the completed forms to the office by the 15th March to give us an idea of the approximate number of members attending.

For your information, a copy of the Link List is being sent to Secretaries with this month's mail, indicating which WIs will be sending a delegate to the National Annual Meeting.

ACWW - Marjorie Read

I know that many of you will have read about various issues surrounding the new method of allocating money to projects as it was felt that the six generic project headings we were given may have included projects that did not fit within the aims and objects of the WI.

I am pleased to tell you that the issues have now been resolved (although our wish to support water projects was not a problem one). It would still however be better if all payments are sent via the Federation Office and cheques can be made payable to **ACWW Pennies for Friendship**. You should also write water project on the reverse side of your cheque. If you prefer to make your cheque payable to Northumberland Federation that is also fine as long as you put ACWW Pennies for Friendship, water project on the reverse.

Watch out for more ACWW events later in the year including a lunch by the Dynamic Duo of Sue and Dorothy, and I will be attempting some flower arrangements with a suitable theme - shouldn't be too difficult as water features somewhere in the arrangements anyway!!

Combined Arts - Marjorie Read

Happy New Year to you all. The Combined Arts sub-committee will not be holding their first meeting of 2019 until after this has gone into the Newsletter so I am asking you all to be patient and wait for our exciting programme in the next edition.

Thank you for your continued support

Sport & Leisure - Barbara Kilkenny

Hope all readers have had a good start to 2019 and are ready for lots of WI events.

REMINDERS

Tuesday 2ND APRIL 9.30 - 14.30 - CARPET BOWLS

At Acklington Village Hall - new format - **Closing Date: Tuesday 19th March**

Monday 8th APRIL 7 pm - FINAL DARTS & DOMINOES

In the Ridley Arms, Stanngton. Supper PROVIDED for participating teams.

Diary Dates:

Monday 20th May - Domino Drive in Stannington Village Hall - enclosure with March newsletter

Monday 24th June - A Fun Quiz in Cresswell House, with emphasis on FUN! An evening event. Enclosure with April newsletter.

A Request

Would any WI like to host the Car Treasure Hunt in September? Please contact the office and I will be happy to discuss what is involved. The success of the day makes it worthwhile.

Public Affairs - Pat Douglas

What Happens Next?

Date: Monday 29th April 2019 12 noon - 3.30 pm

Following resolutions on "Plastic Soup" and Dementia, come along to Longhorsley Village Hall NE65 8UR, birthplace of Emily Wilding Davison for soup (not plastic) and a sandwich when we will hear from a County Hall speaker on waste management and how they are tackling it and Dementia Friendship. It will also be an opportunity to see the Wall Hanging showcasing the history and life of Longhorsley.

Price £8 Venue:

Closing Date: Monday 14th April 2019

Craft - Karen Coleman

As the New Year spreads out ahead of us the Craft Committee have some more plans to share with you and hope that you'll want to join us.

As you will know the '**Meet the Judge's Day**' is planned for 15th March - come along, have a chance to hear and see what the judges are looking for as well as ask them specific questions. The first **Dual Craft day** of Powertex (best described as turning paper or fabric in to stone!) and Foil pewter work (embossing out shapes in metallic sheets then filling in the embossed area to hold shape), the day will be held in Boulmer village hall on 23rd March, spring weather requested, please park in the village car park nearby. We take you up to Easter with a food demo and tasting of **Easter celebrations around the World** held at Cresswell House on March 30th. All details were in the last Northumberland News or on Facebook if you can't find your old copy. Get those yellow forms back to Cresswell House!

New to announce this month is the second of the **Dual Craft days**, this time to be held in Bardon Mill on Saturday 13th April. Here we will be doing a jewellery making day but the skills can be transferred to make other items, enamelling on to metal and polymer clay jewellery. Both tutors, who are new to the wider Federation, come highly recommended and are very skilled in their field. Priced at £42 for the whole day, bring a packed lunch. Doors open 9:30 probable finish around 4.

It's hoped that the Dual Craft days planned at Boulmer and at Bardon Mill will be duplicated at two additional locations (potentially Powburn & Seaton Sluice) later in the year.

Our next announcement is the **Chef's demo and then lunch** at The Barrasford Arms, on Wednesday 15th May. How wonderful will that be to have lunch out without washing up. See the yellow booking slip for details. Priced at £28, tea and biscuits on arrival from 10 am for a 10:30 start of the Chef's demo followed by a 2 course lunch with a glass of wine, then retire to the bar with tea or coffee.

Moving around the Federation a little more, brings us to Widdrington WI's Hall when on May 18th you will be able to have a go at the delicate craft of making a **spray of sugar paste flowers**, led by a very skilled tutor. Bring a packed lunch, a box to take home your creation & a small pair of sharp scissors, everything else will be provided. 10 for 10:30 start. See yellow slip for details.

Finally, for this month, the Craft Committee is thrilled to announce the first of the Competition Days. The theme of '**A Modern June Wedding**' will be focussed on multiple crafts, held in Cresswell House. The schedule will be included in NEXT month's posting, so you'll have the chance to look at the classes giving you time to get ready for the big day on June 8th. Closing date for entries will be noon 24th of May. Committee is looking forward to that so much ...! The Food and flowers competition will be held in October

We look forward to seeing you at our Federation events.

Member's Information:

I am sorry to tell you all that I have decided not to organise a coach for the Council Meeting this year. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me over the years and I sincerely hope that someone else will take this on.

Many thanks, once again, Peggy Wood

SPEAKERS' CORNER

Amendment: Mentioned in the August 2017 Newsletter, Erin Cavanagh from Blyth West WI is happy to visit WIs to speak about her 'Adoption Journey". She has a new telephone no. which is 07469 928710.

New Speaker: Julie Swan is the Regional Manager for the Macular Society in the North East and would like to visit WIs to talk about macular conditions and support - she stresses the importance of having your eyes checked annually. No fee or travelling expenses - will travel throughout the Federation. Email: julie.swan@macularsociety.org Tel: 0191 2582901

New Speaker: Contact Clive Goodwin to arrange a talk on the Victoria Tunnel, Lime Street, Newcastle and surrounding areas. Email: clive.goodwin@Ouseburntrust.org.uk or telephone him on 07518 802832. Will visit WIs in the Tyneside area, up to Alnwick in the north and west to Hexham. No fee but a donation would be appreciated. You may like to arrange a visit to the Tunnel following a talk at your WI.

New Speaker: Nick Johnson of the Northumbrian Veteran Tree Project is willing to give talks on ancient, veteran and noble trees. He will travel throughout Northumberland and asks for a donation towards the project plus travelling expenses. Telephone Nick on 07824 489789 or email: Nick.Johnson@Northland.ac.uk

Amendment: Judith Taylor of Humshaugh WI (mentioned in Speakers' Corner in August 2017) is no longer able to give talks - please remove her details from your list.

Some speakers contact us requesting that their details be sent out to WIs. We would point out that we issue them as suggestions and not necessarily recommendations - we regret that we cannot promote commercial businesses or products. If you have enjoyed a speaker at your WI, or know that a speaker on our list no longer visits WIs, please let us know.

100 CLUB DRAW

1 st	-	160	-	Liz Cockburn (Bamburgh WI)
2 nd	-	107	-	Liz Hogg (Kirkheaton WI)
3 rd	-	42	-	Dorothy Sowerby (Newbrough WI)

Dates for your Diary:

Date	Event/Competition	Time	Venue	Closing Date
MARCH Friday 15 th	"Meet the Judges Day"	1.30 - 4.30 pm	Cresswell House	Thursday 28 th Feb.
Saturday 23 rd	Dual Craft Day Around The Federation	9 am - 4.30 pm	Boulmer Village Hall NE66 3DS	Thursday 7 th March
Saturday 30 th	Easter around the World	10.30 am for 11 am start	Cresswell House	Thursday 14 th March
2019 - APRIL Tuesday 2 nd	Carpet Bowls	9.30 - 14.30	Acklington Village Hall	Tuesday 19 th March
Tuesday 2 nd	Hear All About It	2 - 4 pm	Cresswell House	Friday 15 th March
Saturday 6 th	Annual Council Meeting	11 am	RGS - Newcastle	TBC
Monday 8 th	Darts & Domino Final	TBC	Ridley Arms Stannington	TBC
Saturday 13 th	Craft Day	9 am - 4.30 pm	Bardon Mill Village Hall	Thursday 28 th March
Monday 29 th	"What Happens Next"	12 noon - 3.30 pm	Longhorsley Village Hall NE65 8UR	Monday 15 th April
MAY Wednesday 15 th	Demo & Lunch	10 for 10.30 start	Barrasford Arms Stannington Village Hall	Tuesday 30 th April
Monday 20 th	Domino Drive	TBC		TBC
JUNE Saturday 8 th	Competition Day "A Modern June Wedding"	TBC	Cresswell House	Noon 24 th May
Monday 24 th	A Fun Quiz	TBC	Cresswell House	TBC