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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The Office (ie Ann) is very busy preparing for the Council Meeting on 6th April at 11 am. The Board of Trustees are all looking forward to the event and there will be Stalls. The Year Book will be available - so please ensure that you pick up and sign for 4 copies for your WI - your stationery orders will also be available for collection. It will be hard to trump last year's entertainment but I am fairly certain you will enjoy what we have planned for this year. I always look forward to this event and this year is no different. However, Ann is retiring and, as this is her last Council Meeting, we must make it a "special" one for her. Don't forget the "Denman Dip" - the draw will be made at the Council Meeting and you may be the lucky recipient of the cash towards a visit to Denman.

Diary of Events - there are many events in the pipeline for the coming year. I feel that the Board of Trustees and the Sub-Committees are determined to have many activities over the coming months, so that we have plenty going on for everyone. The annual planner, which will be coming out next month, certainly looks very full and varied. Some of the events will be held in different parts of the Federation.

There is a very exciting event taking place on Saturday 18th May 2019 in Seahouses Methodist Church. As part of their Summer Season the Staffordshire WI Choir "and friends" will be performing in a joint concert with Seahouses Village Voices Choir which has a number of WI members within it. I am sure this will be a Concert to suit all tastes and should be a very enjoyable evening. So make a day of it in Seahouses and finish off with the Concert. There are no tickets it's pay at the door, Concert starts at 7 pm, and the contacts are George Scott 01665 720466 and Lynne Angus 07762083527

Northumberland County Show 2019 - we have had word that there is a WI Competitive Exhibit Class again. The theme is "Show Day". Schedules will be available very soon however, there is a copy in the Office which you can view at any time.

You will remember last month I announced the retirement of Peggy Wood from organising coaches to various events. I am delighted to say that Janet Laycock (Roddam WI) has picked up the mantle and she will now be "in charge" of organising coaches. - Thank you Janet.

Information is through for the Huxley Cup Competition. It will take place at Kent Showground between Friday 5th - Sunday 7th July and staging day will be Thursday 4th. It is an imposed exhibit again this year. If you would like to take part please contact the Office for an application form. The cost is £55. Closing date is Thursday 2nd May. So come on ladies, stop hiding your "flower arranging" light under a bushel.

BREAKING NEWS - Something to look forward to: The NFWI's preferred date and venue for the 2020 Annual Meeting is Thursday 4th June at THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL in London.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Council Meeting.

Hilary



South Gosforth WI have a Knit and Natter Group and have made 103 tiny hats for one of their members to take out to Thailand where she will be visiting her son and his wife. The hospitals in the area are delighted to receive much-needed baby hats for their maternity units. Well done ladies - you have obviously made a difference.

News from the Committees.....

Federation Treasurer - Marjorie Read

Yes it's that time of the year when all I really have to say is that I hope all WIs are getting their subscriptions in - please send them in to the Office as soon as you can. Don't forget that now is also the time to be paying pooling of fares, insurance and bursary money. All you need to send is on the form already with you.

Included in your mailing this month is a copy of the Financial Statement for 2018 which will be presented for adoption at the Council Meeting in April. If you have any queries about the statement can you please send them either in writing or by e-mail to the Office as time will not allow for discussion on the day of the meeting.

Many thanks, Marj

Membership Support - Prudence Marks

National Annual Meeting 2019 - 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.

ACWW - Marjorie Read

Oh what a night! and I don't mean the song much as I love it!!

February 1st will go down in Federation Folklore like Thunder Thursday did many years ago when we had a coffee morning up at Bamburgh before the heavens opened. This time the snow conspired against us but we went ahead and were rewarded with 42 members attending along with several Board members (who made the most upmarket canapes you can ever imagine). Everyone there had a great time and all got home safely. My journey back via Wallsend to drop off the Clarin's demonstrator was something else, just ask my other two passengers if you meet them.

The aim of the Pamper Night was to make money for ACWW's Sustainable Water project and like Bob the Builder would say to "Can we do it?", well yes, we certainly can, making over £500 on the event. I can only say thank you and tell you that you are all fantastic.

Well done ladies.

Combined Arts - Marjorie Read

As I said in the last Newsletter Combined Arts will hold their meeting too late to make it into the next Newsletter but I am going to give you a preview of what we expect to do in the coming year.

We are going to have a music evening at Bardon Mill, three more Arty Parties hopefully at different venues and this time featuring Claude Monet, John Singer Sargent and Edward Hopper, another trip out, two calligraphy days and, of course, Poetry and Cake.

Dates and venues etc have now to be arranged and discussed at our meeting but I hope I have whetted your appetite enough to keep an eye out for details in future Newsletters.

Sport & Leisure - Barbara Kilkenny

Domino Drive

Date: Monday 20th May from 12 noon

This will be held at Stannington Village Hall on Monday 20th May from 12 noon. Lunch is included in the cost of £8 for members. This will be sausage in a bun (after successful offering at Newbrough), followed by cake, plus tea and coffee. Please inform us of any DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Price £8

Closing Date: Wednesday 8th May

Diary Dates:

24 th June	Fun Quiz Evening at Cresswell House (Enclosure in April)
7 th August	An Evening Stroll - venue tbc (Enclosure in May)
16 th September	Ten Pin Bowling at Wentworth Centre, Hexham (Enclosure in June)
17 th September	Golf Challenge at Matfen (Enclosure in June)

REMINDERS

Carpet Bowls, Acklington - closing date 19th March. NB we MUST have 16 pairs for this event to go ahead. Still hoping for a WI to volunteer to host the Car Treasure Hunt, ideally in September.

Public Affairs - Pat Douglas

REMINDER

"What Happens Next" on Monday 29th April 2019 at Longhorsley Village Hall — soup and sandwich.
Closing date 14th April 2019

Craft - Karen Coleman

I hope you have been getting organised, with the applications on yellow paper, for craft activities the Committee has on offer for the first part of the year. Now it's the big reveal..... the first of the Competition days. The first one will be on June 8th Cresswell House, based on the theme 'A Modern June Wedding', I don't view this day as having any less importance as the one held in a different/bigger venue. The judges are of same qualification/skill/ability and the entries are judged to the same standard, so it's not a lesser competition - just different.

So, I hope when you read the schedule in this month's mailing you find something of interest and something to give you a challenge.

The Committee has agreed to alter the way you enter your items into the actual show, following feedback from our last show. Entrants will be allocated an individual show number prior to the show, this will be available on Friday 7th June between 2 pm & 4 pm by telephoning Cresswell House, don't call before as it WILL NOT be available on the show day. This will be your personal number should you enter one or 10 classes.

The Committee will be working hard on the day so I hope you will be understanding if things aren't as fast as you would like. We would rather get the right number on the right entry so that the right name goes on the right winning card. So ladies get those crafty fingers working and get your entries started.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Due to problems with the booking of the Hall, the Duo Craft Day at Bardon Mill will have to be cancelled. However, it will be re-booked for later in the year. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Member's Information:

North Gosforth WI - Speaker - Daisy James talking about "Life as a Romance Author". This was a lovely evening, warm and friendly, informative and fun.

Newbiggin by the Sea WI - Very informative and interesting talk by Mary Kelly, one of 230 volunteers from the People's Kitchen in Newcastle.

Jersey Festival of Words and Jersey Federation of Women's Institutes Short Break

Are you a reader, a bookworm, a bibliophile? Then the Jersey Federation has the perfect short break for you. From 26th to 30th September 2019 Jersey will be holding its fourth Festival of Words book festival. The programme is being put together at the moment but past authors who have appeared at our previous festivals include Carol Ann Duffy, Victoria Hislop, Alison Weir, Michael Morpurgo, Louis de Bernieres, Simon Scarrow, Jeremy Paxman, Richard Dawkins, Dame Jenni Murray, Alexander McCall Smith and Joanna Trollope to name but a few. It is anticipated this high standard will be maintained if not exceeded at the 2019 Festival. Also included in the programme are visits to places of interest. You will be based in St. Helier at the well-appointed Hampshire Hotel and we will be walking between venues. The cost will be dependent on whether single or sharing and is on a B&B basis, this does not include travel to the Island. The price will include one event on both Thursday and Friday evenings and two each on Saturday and Sunday. There will be of course numerous other choices to enjoy in your free time. For those of you who have been on or heard of our WI Liberation Week holiday will know that you have the warmth, care and attention of the W.I. at all times. For further information please contact Anne Pasturel on 01534 730409 or email apasturel@live.co.uk

Prudhoe WI - it is with great sadness to report that Mrs. Margaret (Peggy) Bell, the last of the founder members of Prudhoe WI, passed away aged 103 on Saturday 9th February 2019. Mrs. Bell was a member of Prudhoe WI until her death and served on the committee for many years.

Lady Denman Cup Competition - All entries for this competition need to be back to the Office by the beginning of July 2019.

100 CLUB DRAW

1 st	-	47	Chapel House District WI
2 nd	-	170	Lynn Watt (Slaley WI)
3 rd	-	159	Iris Crawford (Bamburgh 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
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	Tuesday 30 th April
Monday 20 th	Domino Drive	From 12 noon	Stannington Village Hall	Wednesday 8 th May
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
AUGUST Wednesday 7 th	An Evening Stroll	TBC	TBC	TBC
SEPTEMBER Monday 16 th	Ten Pin Bowling	TBC	Wentworth Centre, Hexham	TBC
Tuesday 17 th	Golf Challenge at Matfen	TBC	Matfen Hall	TBC

COACH FOR COUNCIL MEETING

Janet Laycock (Roddam WI) has kindly offered to run a coach for the Council Meeting. The coach will start at Alnwick and anyone wishing to book a seat should get in touch with Janet on:

01668 282420