

NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS

APRIL 2019

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INSPIRING WOMEN



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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As you all know Ann, our Federation Secretary, has decided to retire from her role. This will be the end of an era. Ann has worked tirelessly for eighteen years from day one as our Secretary; it is at this point I acknowledge publicly - "yes, she is the boss"! I have never seen anyone with such an incredible work ethic - nothing has been a problem and she is always willing to take on extra work without a word of complaint. She will be a hard act to follow and I am certain will be remembered by us all for her special skills and abilities. I have never seen Ann (or almost never) cross - she has the most amazing personality and is always willing to go the extra mile. We usually say to people "you will be a miss" and then they are forgotten. However, I am sure you will agree with me that we could NEVER forget Ann. So from the whole of the Board, Sub Committees, WI Advisers and members I am sure you would like me to wish her every success in whatever she plans to do and to say a huge "Thank You" to someone you rarely meet in life.

We have managed to appoint a new Federation Secretary, Nancy Gash. She has a lot of experience and I am certain will fit into the role very quickly. She is joining us on the 1st April and will be shadowing Ann until she retires on 18th April. Ann has already prepared for Nancy a manual to give her a head start. Nancy will find this all very new and alien but I am sure you will be patient with her as she finds her feet.

Federation Quiz - we are planning another Federation Quiz - the heats will take place in September and the final at Stanington in October. Come on ladies - put in a team and come along and enjoy a fun evening. Further details will be sent to your Secretary fairly soon.

The Federation is planning an exciting 4-day break to Norfolk which will include a visit to Sandringham House and Gardens. We leave Northumberland on Friday 27th September and the price will include three nights Bed and Breakfast and three evening meals at the 3 Star Holiday Inn, Ipswich Road, Norwich. Also included is a train trip and cruise on the Bure Valley Railway and Broads. It will be luxury travel with the services of an experienced driver. Get the date in your diary - the application form will follow in due course.

As I write this message, I am looking forward to the Council Meeting at the RGS. The delegates' tickets have all been sent out and the arrangements are all in place (thanks to Ann). We will be at full capacity and I am sure the mix of speakers we have will be enjoyed by all. This will be my final Council Meeting as your Chairman, as I will not be seeking re-election at the Appointments meeting which takes place the Tuesday after the Council Meeting. I feel it is time for a new Federation Chairman to be elected. Whoever that may be I am certain they will, like me, thoroughly enjoy the role and will obviously have her own ideas as to how the Federation moves forward. I made the decision to "retire" in 2018 and throughout our Centenary and in previous years, the Board has been an amazing support to me. It will be a huge change for me and I will certainly miss meeting you all. However I have thoroughly enjoyed the past nine years as your Chairman along with visits to your WIs where I was always met with friendship by every member and always had great fun both at your celebrations and Annual Meetings. It has been a great honour for me to represent you nationally and locally. Whilst I will miss the action, I am remaining on the Board so still have the opportunity to see you at various events throughout the Federation. Thank you so much for supporting me throughout my tenure as the Chairman - it has been an absolute pleasure and something I will never forget.

Hilary

Secretary's Enclosures: Application forms for: Diary Order Form; Vegetarian/Vegan Cookery Demo; Art of Machine Patchwork and Quilting; President's Workshop; Secretary's Workshop; Northallerton & Sion Hill Hall Trip; Fun Quiz Night; "Music Rocks"; Rotary Club of Hexham "Calendar Girls"

100 CLUB DRAW

1 st	92	Hilda Wilson (Blyth West WI)
2 nd	58	Anne Williams (Garden Village WI)
3 rd	5	Anne Hall (Pegswood with Bothal WI)



In the spotlight this month is Warden in Hexham WI. They challenged themselves to knit as many hats as they could for the RVI's Special Baby Care Unit, as well as blankets for donations and raffle prizes for Tynedale Hospice at Home.

They exceeded their expectations and produced a staggering 265 hats, 4 blankets as well as 7 large throws, which were presented to representatives of both organisations at their February meeting. Well done ladies!



News from the Committees.....

Federation Treasurer - Marjorie Read

WIs will soon be receiving their invoice for the expenses of the delegates representing them this year at the National Annual Meeting in Bournemouth in June where voting on the Resolutions chosen takes place. This year the amount has been set at £3.50 per member in each WI and has been presented to, and agreed by the Board of Trustees.

Some of the newer WIs may not be aware of how we arrive at the figure of £3.50 per member so here is a reminder for everyone. Each delegate is representing and will be voting on behalf of four different WIs and is not expected to be out of pocket when carrying out this very important duty (WI Advisers and observers are billed individually for the full cost of the event as they are **NOT** voting members). I have taken the cost of accommodation per person based on two delegates sharing (any delegate who has requested a single room will also be invoiced separately for the single supplement) and then added to that are out of pocket expenses to cover three stops en route to and from Bournemouth and lunch on the day of the actual meeting for each delegate. This figure is then divided by the number of members in Northumberland Federation who have paid their subscriptions this year and gives the figure per member to be invoiced.

I hope that this makes it clear for you but if you have any queries at all please send them via the office.

Membership Support - Prudence Marks

National Annual Meeting 2019 - Two resolutions have been chosen to appear on the agenda this year - "A call against the decline in local bus services" (35,194 votes) and "Don't fear the smear" (20,825 votes). Please make time at your May meetings to vote on these resolutions. You must vote "for" or "against" each resolution and the result for your WI should be relayed to your Link Delegate.

April is MCS month - It is important that WIs ensure that their entry on the Membership Communications System is up-to-date.

WI Officer's Workshops - A workshop for WI Presidents is being held on Wednesday 19th June and for WI Secretaries on Wednesday 12th June, both with afternoon and evening sessions. Application forms are being sent out this month for return by the end of May please. To offset administration costs, etc., this year we are having to make a charge of £5 per WI for each workshop. We look forward to welcoming Officers to these workshops, particularly those new to post.

ACWW - Marjorie Read

Many of you will remember that last year there was a lunch with a flower demonstration at Powburn to raise money for the Dalit Project. Well ladies, I am delighted to let you know that the dynamic duo that is Sue and Dorothy will indeed be doing a similar lunch later on this year and "you know who" will do some flowers for you. There is no date set yet but I can tell you that the venue may be Cresswell House this time. So please just keep watching out for the news and keep on raising money for ACWW in your own individual WIs - thank you for your continuing support.

Climate Ambassador - Karen Coleman

This month the focus for the Climate Ambassador is "wet wipes". These products are often labelled "Flushable". They do go down the loo, so are technically flushable; but do not biodegrade so form a mesh collecting all sorts of things, creating fatbergs which then contribute to flooding. It's a chain of events that we can change instantly, as we know what goes down the loo and it's not wet wipes!!

Public Affairs - Pat Douglas

Monday 29th April — "What Happens Next" at Longhorsley Village Hall. Speakers talking about plastic soup and dementia with a soup and sandwich lunch.

2018/19 Resolution Results — This year's total is the highest since the individual selection process was introduced with over 105,000 selections cast by members. To allow members to work on a breadth of issues, The NFWI board of trustees has decided to put forward the top two resolutions to the NFWI Annual Meeting in Bournemouth on the 5th June - "A call against the decline in local bus services" and "Don't fear the smear". WIs should now consider how they wish their delegate to vote.

Date for May — 20th May World Bee Day — get your WI buzzing with ideas!

Combined Arts - Marjorie Read

Included in your mailing and with your Secretary/Programme Secretary are two application forms for the first two Combined Arts events of this year. They are a proposed trip to Sion Hill Hall near Thirsk in North Yorkshire calling first at Northallerton for whatever takes your fancy, ie coffee in Bettys, shopping etc. This event will take place on Wednesday 3rd July and all the details you need are on the application form.

The second event is also in July, on the evening of Tuesday 16th July and will be a fabulous musical event with wine and first class nibbles at Bardon Mill. As before all you need to know is on the application form.

The forthcoming events for you to put in your diary are, three more Arty Parties with Rob and Lorna Cunningham on 21st August, 18th September and 16th October. There will be a Calligraphy day at Cresswell House on 13th September and Poetry and Cake will this year be at Dinnington Village Hall on 26th September.

I do hope that there will be something there to appeal to everyone and look forward to putting on these events for you.

Sport & Leisure - Barbara Kilkenny

"FUN" QUIZ NIGHT

Join us on Midsummer's Eve at Cresswell House at 7.30 pm for a quiz based on all sorts of things you will know. There will be a light supper to feed your brains and if you need any extra stimulus please feel free to bring any sort of beverage to assist your brain power - we will provide the glasses!!!

Price £7.50

Closing Date: Monday 24th June

Closing Date: Tuesday 11th June

REMINDERS

7th August

An Evening Stroll (venue to be confirmed) - Application form in May

16th September

Ten Pin Bowling, Wentworth Centre, Hexham - Application form in June

17th September

Golf Challenge at Matfen - Application form in June

Craft - Karen Coleman

By the time you read this the "Meet the Judges Day" will have occurred at Cresswell House. I want to thank the Craft committee & Board of Trustees who willingly donated items to be critiqued and of course thank the judges for their insight into how to get extra points and how not to lose points by not being aware of the class schedule, useful tips all-round. I hope this will help you put in more entries to our competition day.

The first of this year's competition schedule was out in last month's mailing on the theme a "Modern June Wedding". I hope you have had a chance to look at it. The ladies on the Craft Committee have worked hard to try to cover as much as possible in variety and skill level, given we have smaller space than last year's BIG celebration day. However, that doesn't stop you putting in an entry. I think the groom's cake top tier will be a challenge for those decorators used to the delicate finery of a more traditional cake, whilst the paper button holes for groom and best man present a very different challenge. Obviously for this June wedding good weather is guaranteed...! so no worries about soggy flowers! The cross-stitch wedding invitation will allow you to go wild with your creativity as will the wrist corsage made using beads.

Apologies for the cancellation of the Bardon Mill multiple craft day. Thankfully the error was picked up before we turned up on the morning raring to go. I have also had to cancel the Boulmer dual craft day. Despite being asked to do more away from Cresswell House, it's not being supported. If you have a view on how I can improve uptake then please email me via the Office, but as I write this, I am planning more craft days as the craft committee agreed. I do hope you will be able to support the Craft Committee as we move Around the Federation.

New out this month is the Cookery demo looking at the rise of plant-based diets. Sue Malloy is going to show us what is possible and tasty with vegetarian and vegan foods. Cost £10. Full information on the enclosed yellow sheet.

And looking a little further ahead we have secured a 4-day introduction to the art of machine patchwork & quilting, with Linda Jewson - information is on the enclosed yellow sheet. Cost £49.

Member's Information:

Wingrove WI - Freda Thompson - A Night at the Pictures. A trip down Memory Lane at the old picture houses in Newcastle's West End and East End. Lots of nostalgia and funny stories.

North Gosforth WI - Ken Smith who talked about "Northern Ghosts". This was very interesting; there were no graphics - and no photos of Ghosts, but nevertheless a very interesting subject.

Westergate WI - Westergate WI is hoping to collect 100 picture postcards from WI Groups who are at least 100 miles away. The WI is village based, close to Bognor Regis and Chichester. They are hoping to make a lovely centenary year album for their members and others to enjoy. If you would like Westergate to achieve their goal then please send your card to: Deirdre Berry, 19 Aldingbourne Park, Hook Lane, Aldingbourne, West Sussex PO20 3YR - thankyou.

Dates for your Diary:

Date	Event/Competition	Time	Venue	Closing Date
MAY				
Wednesday 15 th	Demo & Lunch	10 for 10.30 start	Barrasford Arms	Tuesday 30 th April
Saturday 18 th	Sugar Craft Flower Spray	10 am for 10.30 am - around 3 pm	Widdrington WI Hall NE61 5EN	Thursday 25 th April
Monday 20 th	Domino Drive	From 12 noon	Stannington Vill. Hall	Wednesday 8 th May
JUNE				
Saturday 8 th	Competition Day	TBC	Cresswell House	Noon 24 th May
Monday 24 th	A Fun Quiz	7.30 pm	Cresswell House	Tuesday 11 th June
JULY				
Wednesday 3 rd	Northallerton & Sion Hill Hall Trip	9.30/9.30 am Pick Ups	Cresswell House/Hexham	Thursday 20 th June
Wednesday 16 th	"Music Rocks"	7 for 7.30 pm	Bardon Mill Village Hall	Wednesday 3 rd July
Friday 26 th	Veggie Food Demo	10 am for 10.30	Cresswell House	9 th July at 12 noon
AUGUST				
Wednesday 7 th	An Evening Stroll	TBC	TBC	TBC
Wednesday 21 st	Arty Party	TBC	TBC	TBC
SEPTEMBER				
Friday 13 th	Calligraphy Day	TBC	Cresswell House	TBC
Monday 16 th	Ten Pin Bowling	TBC	Wentworth Centre,	TBC
Tuesday 17 th	Golf Challenge at Matfen	TBC	Matfen Hall	TBC
Wednesday 18 th	Arty Party	TBC	TBC	TBC
Thursday 26 th	Poetry & Cakes	TBC	Dinnington Vill Hall	TBC
OCTOBER				
Thursday 10 th , 17 th , 14 th , 31 st	Art of Machine patchwork and quilting	9.30 - 3.30	Cresswell House	22nd August 12 noon
Wednesday 16 th	Arty Party	TBC	TBC	TBC

SPEAKER'S CORNER

Update of Speaker's details: Mr. John Moreels MBE will visit WIs in all parts of the Federation to give presentations on 'Nostalgic Views of the North'. Address: 7 Coventry Road, Durham City, DH1 5XD. Email: johnmoreels@outlook.com Telephone: 0191 3867297 and mobile 0771 8498788. Visit the website at www.photomemoriesarchive.org.uk for further details. Fee: £45 - 50.

New Speaker: Jenny Thomas volunteers with the Northumberland Greyhound Rescue organisation and will visit WIs with her presentation of the history of greyhounds from Egyptian times and their role in history, famous greyhounds, how greyhound racing developed and greyhounds as pets. She starts with a fun quiz followed by her talk and brings along her two retired greyhounds (both registered Pets as Therapy dogs and happy to meet members!). Jenny will cover the southern part of the Federation and will travel as far north as Alnwick and out west to Hexham. A small contribution for travel expenses would be appreciated and if possible a small donation for Northumberland Greyhound Rescue. Telephone 01661 822387 or email: jenny531thomas@btinternet.com