

Federation Office: Cresswell House, 11/12 Brenkley Way, Blezard Business Park, Seaton Burn, NE13 6DS
Federation Chairman: Marjorie Read
Federation Secretary: Nancy Gash
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9.30 am - 3.45 pm Office Closed Friday
Contact us: Tele: 0191 217 0808 Email: federationoffice@northumberlandwi.co.uk
Check us out on: Website: www.northumberlandwi.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/northumberlandwi/

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



You always knew you had a good idea when former Chairman Hilary Robson "was excited". Well she is excited again along with myself and the rest of the Board of Trustees as I tell you that Northumberland Federation now has a brand new website and you can access it by going to www.northumberlandwi.org.uk - I hope that you all like it as much as we do and that you keep checking it for up to date information on everything that is happening in Northumberland. I know your feedback on the new look Newsletter and separate diary dates sheet is positive and I sincerely hope that your reaction to the website is just as good, so please let us know what you think.

I can also tell you that the next Chairman's Coffee Morning will be at Cresswell House on Saturday 7 December. There will be mince pies, Christmas cake and shortbread to go with your tea and coffee and festive stalls where you can spend money. The application will be sent out in next month's mailing. The application and details of this year's Christmas Celebration at Newcastle Cathedral are with your WI Secretary. Hard to believe that the schools have just returned from their summer break and I am talking about Christmas.

Since my last message I have been to Cambo, along with the Vice-Chairmen and Treasurer, to celebrate their 100th birthday and, on the subject of celebration, Kathleen Jones was 90 in August. Kathleen has given many years of service to the WI as a WI Adviser, Board of Trustee member, Denman Ambassador and WI judge and our love and thanks go to her for everything she has done for Northumberland and her own WI in Corbridge.

Prudence Marks, who is Chairman of Membership Support, recently had a nasty fall and suffered a substantial injury to her left leg. Those of you who know Prudence will know that it hasn't stopped her from doing WI work and we all wish her a speedy and good recovery.

I hope that all of you going on the Federation trip to Norfolk have a brilliant time and take plenty of photographs to send in to the office.

As I wrote a few notes in preparation for this message this morning, Radio 4 was telling me that it was the 50th Anniversary of Woodstock in 1969. I was 21 that year so can anyone tell me what happened to the tall, slim, blonde that appears in photographs with Dave but does not now look back at me in the mirror first thing each morning? Maybe as the song of around that time would say "the answer is blowing in the wind".

Have a good September ladies and I hope to see some of you on my travels.

Marj

Highlights this Month:

- New website launch
- The next Chairman's Coffee Morning
- New Members' Meeting
- October Food & Flowers Competition
- Christmas Craft Day
- Treasurer's Workshop update
- Christmas Pudding Beetle Drive
- Walking Netball
- Members Information:
Contributions from Cambo, Heddon on the Wall, Stocksfield and Whey Aye

Secretary Enclosures:

Christmas Craft Competition,
Christmas Pudding Beetle Drive,
Christmas Celebration at the Cathedral

News from the Committees...



Membership Support - Prudence Marks



We are very much looking forward to seeing new members from around the Federation at the New Members' Social Evening to be held in Cresswell House at 19:30 on **Tuesday 24 September**.

There will be the opportunity for you to meet some members of the Board of Trustees, WI Advisers and fellow WI members, and to hear all about the great organisation you belong to - hope to see you then!

We would also like to offer our congratulations to Jane Northwood who has recently completed her WI Adviser training and is now a 'fully fledged' WI Adviser.

ACWW - Marjorie Read

By the time many of you read this the Food, Flowers and Water event will have taken place. My thanks to all of you who attended and enjoyed the evening and of course huge thanks to Sue and Dorothy for the fantastic food.

The song says; *all you need is love* but really all you need is WATER and we are helping that cause along so once again ladies, thank you so much.



Craft - Karen Coleman

It sounds like the excitement for the Food & Flowers competition in October based on a Halloween theme is building judging from the comments so far. It seems there have been many practice runs at the set recipe for the cake as well as the challenging ombre cake for the party. I also heard that there have been some practice runs at displaying mushrooms in a decorative style before they were eaten... practice makes perfect... I am so looking forward to the mass display of WI talent, even if you don't enter, please come along to support us on the day.



It's only seems 5 minutes since I was planning summer events and here I am, now going to write the C word... Christmas! Sorry, but it had to be written. Yes, on 23 November we are going to fill Cresswell House with 4 separate activities, which will be done by all who attend. There will be a festive table arrangement to make, a big beautiful paper star to decorate your home, a pair of beautiful festive cards to make and you will be shown how to wrap a bottle to look like a Christmas tree and then do it yourself!

All of this for £20, everything will be provided bar your lunch & a bottle to wrap (empty or full your choice). We will provide hot drinks during the day and if you are well behaved(!) maybe a mince pie or two on offer...! The singing of Christmas songs is of course expected. Sessions will start at 10am sharp, but coffee will be available from 9:30, and you will move around Cresswell House creating Festive magic as you go.

There will also be a craft sales table including craft books on sale along with a craft/festive themed raffle, so in brief bring your purse too!

Closing date will be NOON on **1 November**. We expect it to be popular so late entries won't be accepted. On behalf of the craft Committee we are all looking forward to seeing your competition entries and the festive fun crafting day.

Public Affairs - Pat Douglas

Many thanks to all who attended the "Grisly and Ghostly" walks in Newcastle on the 1st August. This event proved to be extremely popular and my apologies to those of you not successful after the ballot. Something to bear in mind for anything similar in the future is to have more Guides available.

Details of the International Event on Thursday 7 November at Stannington, when we will be visiting India, are with your Secretary and are in the August Newsletter.

Hope to see you there!

Or as they say in Hindi

आओ - "vahaan milate hain"



Combined Arts - Moira Bengtson



I'm starting this with HUGE thanks to Ashleigh Humble and Jason Arnup for a night to remember at the "Music Rocks" launch event at Bardon Mill Village Hall. Great atmosphere and nibbles (thank you BM ladies), incredible music and the feedback from all of our very young-at-heart members who were there has been fantastic. I'd almost forgotten how to dance and was up at 4am to Voltarol the knees...but it was worth every twinge and I'd do it all again in a heartbeat! We'll be repeating the event at more venues and are currently considering Stannington and Powburn but please let me know if you have an idea for a suitable hall by contacting me by email moirawi@outlook.com or on my mobile 07889 928064.

The Combined Arts Team are looking forward to seeing as many as possible at Calligraphy on 13 September, our Poetry & Cakes event at Dinnington on 26 September, and at the Arty Parties in September and October - all of the application forms are with your secretaries now. You certainly can't say we don't give you variety ladies!!

Federation Treasurer - Norma Birch

For the next Treasurer's Workshops it was originally planned to host two events on 20 and 23 November. However, I am sorry to let you know that due to a conflict in events it has been decided to hold the workshop on **20 November** only at Cresswell House from 10am. Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused. As always we appreciate all your help in everything you do to support the Federation.

Sport & Leisure - Barbara Kilkenny



Christmas Pudding Beetle Drive

What will we think of next? Join us at Cresswell House to get in the festive spirit.

On 12 December from 13:30 - 15:30 you can enjoy the game with light refreshments of tea and coffee with Christmas cake and cheese. All for £5 per person!

Closing date **4 December**.

Walking Netball Regional Festivals

These are organised by NFWI in partnership with England Netball. The furthest north will be held in Yorkshire. Cost is £5 per member. You can enter individually or as teams. If you are interested please contact Barbara Kilkenny at b.kilkenny@btinternet.com

Reminder: Tuesday 15 October - All the Fun of the Fair at Bardon Mill. Closing date **1 October**.



Climate Change Ambassador - Karen Coleman

Do you know your 'Bio-Plastics'? There are three types:

COMPOSTABLE is biodegradable and breaks down in industrial and sometimes home composting systems.

BIODEGRADABLE is broken down by living things, like microorganisms and fungi - often requires UV light and warm temperatures to decompose.

DEGRADEABLE plastic breaks apart into smaller pieces that will exist forever.

Break the plastic bag habit. It is estimated that by 2050 there will be more plastics than fish (by weight) in the oceans. Are you ready to break the habit?



Facebook

Did you know that the Northumberland Federation has its own Facebook page? Well, we do, so if you would like to share what you have been doing in your WI you can add a visitors post to the page and add images too! We would love to hear from you at: www.facebook.com/northumberlandwi



Members' Information:

Cambo hear of 'Troublesome Times'



It was a lovely birthday party that was held to celebrate Cambo WI hitting its Centenary and one of the highlights was a short history put together by a descendant of the Trevelyan family who happens to be the husband of Cambo member Frances Dower. Frances read out this history and we learnt that in the 1920's Home and Country (the forerunner of WI Life) ran a national competition and Cambo WI came second with their book entitled "In The Troublesome Times - The Cambo Women's Institute of 1922" which contains all manner of interesting items about life in rural Northumberland in the aftermath of WW1. Frances then very kindly went home and brought back her own copy of the book.

You too may see it or some extracts from it if you come along to visit the exhibition at Cresswell House in the Archive Room from 2 September to 9 October between 10:30 - 15:30 (office closed Fridays). It is also open to view on Sat 5 October - afternoon only.

Please ring the office in advance to book your visit.

Fascinating Forensics - The Shocking and Tragic

Mr Norman Kirtland, came to Stocksfield WI and gave an interesting presentation on some of the forensic cases he had dealt with during his time as a Policeman. It was a truly fascinating and tragic talk and we can highly recommend him.

Although there were some shocking pictures during the talk, members were told they could cover their eyes before a picture was shown, nobody covered their eyes. Norman has other topics for talks in his repertoire and we will certainly be booking him again for our next year's programme. He is happy to be contacted by WI groups. His fee is reasonable and he can be contacted at forensicart@yahoo.co.uk



Say "Cheese!"

Heddon on the Wall WI had a grate visit to the Wensleydale Creamery in the Yorkshire Dales.

A fondue was had by all! Sorry was that too cheesy? I dis a brie!!



Raising money for Cancer Research UK

Enid Rivers (Dinnington WI) and Christine Margetson (Whey Aye WI) took part in *The Race for Life* on Sat 14 July. Both walked the circuit. Enid walked in memory of her dear brother Nicholas who died from bowel cancer (14 July would have been his birthday). Both have been overwhelmed with everyone's support and have raised a magnificent (not to mention incredible) amount of £1,160. Christine said: "I never expected to raise this amount so am delighted. After losing 71/2 with Slimming World I wanted to do something special to celebrate the loss of weight and the finding of extra energy!"

Speakers' Corner

This month's new speakers include:

- 📣 **Suzanne Lambert** would like to visit WIs with her talk "From Humble Beginnings to Published Author". She wishes to restrict her visits to North Shields and the Tyneside area and would charge no fee but would appreciate travelling expenses. Email: scmlambert@yahoo.co.uk Telephone: 07342 284435
- 📣 Retired **Chief Superintendent Mr Allan Curry** has three talks - 'From Life on Mars to Police and Crime Commissioners', 'Political Incorrectness!' and 'How to be a Grandad'. Allan will travel around the Federation. Fee: £20 + possible travelling expenses. You can contact him by Tel: 0191 2854617 Mobile: 07961 405288 Email: allanc7789@hotmail.com
- 📣 **Pauline Fraser** is a trained mindfulness instructor and also works with textile and fibre art. She has several relaxed but informative talks which include 'What is mindfulness?', 'Travels in Peru', 'The Story of Paper' and 'The History of Buttons' (this can be combined with members making their own buttons - £1 per person for materials). Fee: £35 - £40 + travelling expenses when visiting a venue outside a 20 mile radius of Morpeth. She is prepared to travel the Federation. Tel: 07969 586903 Email: paulinefraser@mail.com

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.