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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



I know that it's already February but Happy New Year to you all and I hope you all enjoyed a lovely Christmas with whoever you spent it and wherever it was.

I am sure that many of your WI had super Christmas parties. I went to a fabulous birthday party at Ulgham WI in December. They were celebrating 95 years and the day before the party, the hall, which belongs to them, was decked out for Christmas. By the time of the event it had been all change and was a wonderful delight of pastel pink, lilac and turquoise all around because, as the ladies of Ulgham said, it was a birthday party not

a Christmas one. The next day it would be all changed again and back to Christmas as they were catering for Pegswood with Bothal's Christmas party. It must have been hard work but it did look wonderful so thank you so much for inviting me to join you.

Barbara Kilkenny and I also went along to Horsley WI for their 75th birthday where the cake was cut by myself and a founder member, Mrs May Watson (93). Barbara also managed to win the most enormous basket of fruit in the raffle so that was her five a day sorted for quite a few days I can tell you.



We have always got so much to look forward to in 2020 and in the case of my own home, Dave cannot wait to get into the garden. I have to say those sturdy little stalwarts of spring flowers are pushing their way up to herald the Spring and longer, lighter evenings.

Like the flowers, Federation too never sleeps and we are busy planning events for the coming year. The usual events of the Council Meeting and the Annual Meeting (this year at The Royal Albert Hall) are well under way as you would expect and we are also looking forward to Federation Day at Stannington, with an Olympic theme, a trip to Denman and a Federation Lunch. Add in a couple of Chairman's coffee mornings, cookery demonstrations and all the events that the various Committees put on for you and you can see that it is going to be another full and exciting year.

Unfortunately during January Cheswick WI was suspended and I do hope that some of their members will manage to join other WIs. But on the other side of the coin we are hoping to open two new WIs very soon and you will find out more about them following their exploratory meetings. I was also sad to hear of Margaret Hobbs who died in early January. She had lately been a member of Shotley Bridge and a former member of Durham Federation where she served on various committees. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

The time for the Lady Denman Cup Competition has come around again for a piece of writing of no more than 500 words. The subject is "What I heard on the bus..." If you are interested in entering this competition, please contact the Office for an entry form and schedule. The closing date for entries to be sent to the Federation Office is Friday 26 June 2020.

I hope as always to see many of you in the weeks and months ahead.

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Highlights this Month:

- Lady Denman Cup
 - Chairman's Coffee Morning - Bamburgh
 - Marzipan Fruits
 - Machine Quilting
 - Federation Craft Competition - Olympics
 - Treasurer's New Year Message
 - Beamish Trip
 - Domino Drive
 - National's Vision for the Future
 - Members Information
- Contributions from:
Bygate, Nedderton & Beldlington, Norham, North Gosforth, Warkworth, West Moor Wonders and Whey Aye

100 Club Draw

First

147

Joyce Woodcock

Cornhill on Tweed WI

Second

222

Maureen Inglis

Alnwick Brizlee WI

Third

125

Gill Thompson

Darras Hall WI

Secretaries Enclosures:

Event application forms for Marzipan Fruit Making, Chairman's Coffee Morning at Bamburgh, Quilting As You Go, Domino Drive. Flyers for Yorkshire Lavender, Art & Craft in Howick Church

News from the Committees...

Craft - Karen Coleman

Happy New Year to you, I hope you were gifted some great craft projects, I got a pyrography set, how dangerous can it be, me with a wood burning tool?

2020 brings a new batch of creativity to the Federation hosted by the Craft Committee. We have two separate sessions for those wishing to have a go at **marzipan fruit making** on 20 March, at Cresswell House, with Noreen Brent, morning and afternoon. Priority will be given to those balloted out last year. The yellow forms are with this newsletter, closing date to be **10 March 12 noon**.

Due to massive demand we have a repeat of the 4 Thursdays starting 5 March "**Introduction to Machine Quilting**" with Linda Jewson. The yellow sheet is already out, closing date 25 Feb noon. Those successful will be contacted with a list of course requirements on that day.



The first of our **food demos** by Sue Malloy on the theme "**Fish, Fish, Glorious Fish**", will be on 25 March in the Cresswell House Demo kitchen, yellow info sheet with your secretary, closing date to be noon **10 March**. What's not to like a demo info and tastings....?

For those who have already done (or will have done by the closing date) the "**Introduction to Machine Quilting**", I am pleased to announce that Linda Jewson, our talented tutor has agreed to do a 'next level' course in May this year, so watch out for that information sheet next mailing,

A date for your diary is the **Federation Competition Day** to be held at Stannington Village hall on 20 June 2020, themed on the Olympics, which are being held this year in Tokyo.



The first Craft Committee meeting of 2020 will have been held by the time you read this so there will be more dates for your diary still to come.

Thank you for your support in 2019 and I hope we will see you at Craft committee events in 2020.

Federation Treasurer - Norma Birch



Happy New Year and as we begin to move into the *roaring twenties* please consider when signing and dating cheques and important documents.

There has been lots of advice going around not use 20 as the 2020. For example the 3rd March 2020 being written as 3/3/20 could be modified to 3/3/2019 or in the future to 3/3/2021. Protect yourself - do not abbreviate 2020!

Please also note, if WIs have a speaker at their meeting who then wishes to sell their goods, the WI should receive 10% of the sales.

Public Affairs - Pat Douglas

Hope you all have had a good start to 2020. We are currently in the planning mode at Public Affairs and really excited how the plans for the year are coming together. More will be revealed in the coming months but before then a gentle reminder about the "**Angels of the North - Notable Women of the North**". A talk by Joyce Quin and Moira Kilkenny on Monday 9 March at Heddon on the Wall cost £7. Details are with your Secretary.

Combined Arts - Moira Bengtson

Hello, and Happy New Year to all of the WI members of Northumberland Federation! Hope your festive season was perfect, and that you managed to escape the nasty bugs that were flying around.

Although the Combined Arts team have yet to have their first meeting of 2020 I can tell you that we have lots of plans for the coming year....and one of the events is to be a trip to Beamish Museum. They've been very busy at Beamish over the past year and there are lots of new things to see...so we can look forward to a modern Charabanc taking us to see original Charabancs. We could even dress up for the occasion ladies....now where did I put that hatpin...and corset??



Look out for great events in the next few months....and stay warm and dry!

Sport & Leisure - Barbara Kilkenny

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you are beginning to think of events you might sign up for this year. A Domino Drive will be held on Monday 18 May at Stannington Village Hall from 12 noon. The price is £9 which includes sandwiches and home made cakes. Closing date - **5 May**.

On 23 June we will be hosting a Fun Quiz at Cresswell House starting at 7.30pm. Details and application form will be with the next newsletter.

The committee will have met by the time you get this so look out for more events in March's Northumberland News.



News from National



VISION

A Vision for the Future

As the WI enters its 105th year, the National Federation of WIs (NFWI) is developing a strategic vision to help shape and secure its future. This ambitious vision will guide and focus the organisation's work over the next five years, building on the successes it has achieved over the last 104 years, and ensure it continues to be the largest and most influential women's organisation in the UK.

As part of this work four draft vision statements have been developed by the Board of Trustees, the National Council (representing all Federations) and the organisation's professional staff. In the February issue of WI Life, you will find an article which explains what the four draft vision statements are, and over the next three months the NFWI wants to engage as many members as possible to test these statements and develop them further. Please look out for the article and tell National what you think of the four draft vision statements. The article will also explain how you can feed your views back to the NFWI.

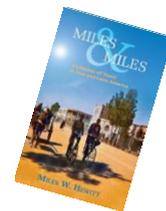
The hope is that at the end of the consultation process we have a set of vision statements that capture our ambition for our organisation, and upon which we can build our strategic plan for years to come. It's a discussion, a collaboration and a collective step forward. The WI is your organisation and yours to shape for the future... so let National know your views!

Speakers' Corner

Please note an amendment: The September 2019 Newsletter gave details of Mr Alan Curry and his three talks which included "From Life on Mars to Police and Crime Commissioners". The email address given was incorrect and should read allanc7789@hotmail.co.uk

This month's new speakers are:

Miles W Hewitt is an actor and author (a member of the Society of Authors) who would like to visit WIs with his digital travel presentation based upon the content of his novel **Miles & Miles - A Lifetime of Travel in Asia and Latin America**. He brings his own equipment but may require a screen. He lives in Morpeth and is happy to travel to any location in Northumberland and the Tyneside areas, and does not charge a fee or travel expenses. Contact by email: milesplayco@aol.com or call 07984 045 866



Caroline Armstrong of **Life Memories** lives in Catherine Cookson's old home in Langley-on Tyne and helps people to create Life Memories books. The books are not just details of the family tree but they weave photos with the stories to create lasting special memories. Her talk describes how the books are created, the processes used and topics explored.

Visit her website at www.lifememories.co.uk for further information. You can contact her by email caroline@lifememories.co.uk or call on 07967 156233. There is no fee but she would require travelling expenses.

Elaine Cusack is a writer and performer who would like to visit WIs to give her talk **Princess and Poet: a Writer's Life** which is a mix of autobiography and a performance of poems. This concentrates on her latest book called "The Princess of Felling". Elaine lives in Whitley Bay and her fee is £50 plus possible travelling expenses depending on venue. Email: elainecusack@hotmail.com and telephone nos. are 0191 340 8144 or 07798 645 459

Isobel Shaw would like to thank members for their support. She now has three talks:

- * Developing the garden at Rothley House.
- * Get the Most from your Garden - gardening tips for all the year interest.
- * Extreme Gardening - choosing plants that will cope with extremes such as drought and flooding.

Fee is £30 plus travelling expenses. Contact her on 01670 774 526 or email swallowhouseplants@outlook.com
Visits to her garden can be booked at £5 per person (includes tea and cake).

At North Gosforth WI meeting on 6 November. We had Kim Suleman talking about "The Partnership Quilt." She was absolutely wonderful, so passionate about her subject, she was such a good speaker.

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 recommendations - we regret that we cannot promote commercial businesses or products.

Members' Information:



Jonny Hannah Needs You!

Jonny Hannah. A Scottish writer, illustrator has been asked by Museums Northumberland to make some new work for their four museums inspired by Northumberland folklore for next summer.

He is collecting songs and stories and if you have any to share he is collecting fragments via social media [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and the Northumberland Folk website at www.northumberlandfolk.info

Whey Aye get all wrapped up!

At their November meeting, Whey Aye WI had a great demo on Christmas wrapping from Marj (pictured with Whey Aye WI member Karen Collins).

A great time was had by all...



West Moor Wonders Show the Love



At their January meeting, the ladies painted rocks with green hearts on one side and a **green** message on the reverse. These will be placed in the West Moor and wider community from

5 February, for residents to find.

It is intended that they will generate conversations about climate change. A special rock will bear a message that by texting a number, the first finder will receive a prize. There will be publicity sent out concerning these plans from the start of the *Show The Love* period.

90th Birthday Celebrations



Mrs Amelia (Millie) Wilson, cut the celebration cake at Nedderton and Bedlington WI's 90th birthday party on 5 November 2019.

Everyone had a beautiful afternoon tea at Shotton Grange, Blagdon followed by an excellent singer then a raffle and auction. A most enjoyable day was had by all our members and guests.

An update from Warkworth WI

Kate Burnham gives an update on the project to make re-usable washable sanitary pads for a Masai village in Kenya.



The re-usable sanitary pads will be taken to Kenya by Jane Bell, a friend of one of our members. There has been much interest shown following the letter in WI Life. Stannington WI produced many pads and wash bags and handed them over to Jane. There have also been enquiries from

Earsdon and Wellfield WI in our Federation and from further afield; Pattishall WI, Northamptonshire, East Dulwich, London, Bromley Cross, Lancashire and Mitchelldean in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire.

We are so pleased that others share our view that this is a worthwhile way to help women and girls. Jane Bell is thrilled with the response and has been able to enlist the help of other charities to help deliver them to impoverished areas. There is a link on our website for patterns and other information at: www.warkworthwi.wordpress.com

Norham WI Ladies in line for BAFTA

Members of Norham WI were highly entertained at their Christmas meeting by four members acting out a comedy sketch about judging a cake competition. The sketch was penned by the President's daughter, Jillian, and the husband of one lady was also persuaded to appear in a cameo role as a Vicar. It was a brilliant production and the



actors definitely deserve BAFTAS for their performances and comedic timing. This was followed by a delicious afternoon tea.

Bygate WI get down to earth

The September speaker at Bygate was Duika Burgess Watson. She spoke about the Whitley Bay community garden, Station master's garden and then went on to talk about her work at Green Beans market with a chef to help people with a compromised palate due to chemo, Parkinson's etc. She lectures in nutrition at Northumbria University. It was a well-received talk and Duika is happy to talk to bigger audiences. You can contact her at stationmastersgarden@gmail.com

Like to share what you have been doing in your WI?

To provide contributions or feedback, contact Nancy Gash on 0191 217 0808 or Email federationoffice@northumberland.co.uk