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Federation Secretary: Nancy Gash
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Facebook: www.facebook.com/northumberlandwi/



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am writing this in the knowledge that here in Whitley Bay Storm Dennis has been exceptionally kind to us which is not the case in so many other parts of the country. My thoughts and good wishes on behalf of the Federation go to those people, many of whom will be WI members, as they cope with the aftermath.

We have had quite an exciting February here at Cresswell House with a new stair carpet being fitted and a new and bang up to date computer that is 365 equipped (many of you will understand that but I am better on new carpet fitting to be honest). However you feel, Nancy is now much better equipped for the work that must be done and the entrance and stairs do not look shabby which is a definite plus.

Other news is that Moira Bengtson went along to Kingston Park for an exploratory meeting for a new WI and was bowled over by the number of ladies who turned up wanting to join. They are to be called *Kingston Sparks WI* and I will be meeting them all at their formation meeting on 19 February. We certainly wish them all well.

Our final piece of exciting news is that John Lewis would like to host an evening at their Eldon Square store for 200 WI ladies. You will be entertained on the ground and first floor to talks, counter demonstrations etc. Cecilia Stewart who is President of Whey Aye WI and who works for John Lewis has been the instigator of this event and my thanks go to her for arranging it. Full details and application forms will be available in the next Newsletter.

Wark WI celebrated their 100th birthday in February. I was invited along with Hilary Robson and Moira Bengtson to join in the festivities. As you can imagine the buffet supper was superb and entertainment was provided by a local ukulele band, one of whose members had indeed been taught a few years ago by the President of Wark, Judith Weir. There was a fantastic raffle (I didn't win anything mind you) and all in all it was a lovely evening. Thank you to all involved for the invitation, it was a pleasure to visit you.

This month's photograph is of me at a wedding 20 years ago. Dave has offered a bottle of wine if anyone can guess where it was!

Please make sure you read all the news about what is on offer so that you don't miss out on anything. Stay warm and safe and keep a watchful eye on those in your WI and wider community who may be vulnerable.

Marj

Highlights this Month:

- New WI – Kingston Sparks
 - John Lewis shopping event
 - Wark WI Centenary
 - Hear All About It
 - Group Conveners Get Together
 - Federation Day
 - Ladies That Lunch
 - Federation Craft Competition
 - Mary Quant at V&A Dundee
 - Copperplate Calligraphy
 - Beamish Museum Visit
 - A Fun Quiz Night
 - A Stroll in August
 - Members Information
- Contributions from:
Chapel House,
Cullercoats, Garden
Village, N Gosforth,
Rochester



100 Club Draw

First

102

Dorothy Forster

Bardon Mill WI

Second

217

Sally Dennis

Chollerton WI

Third

198

Sally Wade

Ulgham WI

News from the Committees...

Membership Support - Prudence Marks

How lovely it is to see the snowdrops in gardens and in the hedgerows - Spring is on the way!



National Annual Meeting 2020 - Arrangements for the National Annual Meeting are well underway and we look forward to seeing the Delegates, Observers and any interested members at "**Hear All About It!**" on Tuesday 7 April at 2.00 pm in Cresswell House. The resolution(s) will be discussed with experts and final details of the trip to the Royal Albert Hall will be given. We hope to see you then!

WIs will shortly be receiving invoices for their share of the Delegates' costs for the meeting. This payment of £2.40 per member has been calculated using the membership numbers appearing on the MCS as at November 2019.

Group Conveners' Get Together - Invitations are being sent out to the Conveners for a *Get-Together* to be held in Cresswell House on Monday 20 April at 7.30 pm. We hope that Conveners (or the Treasurer for Groups without a Convener) will come along to talk about their role within the Federation and share ideas for Group Meetings.

Federation Day, June 2020 - The Membership Support Committee will be running a "*Bag a Prize*" tombola stall at the Federation Day in June and would welcome any donations of suitable items in bags from WIs. If you can help with this, donations can be brought to Cresswell House or given to the WI Adviser when she visits for your Annual Meeting before June. Many thanks.

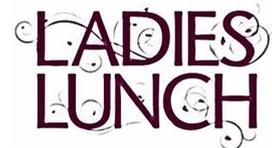
Federation Treasurer - Norma Birch

Would it be possible to ask all WI treasurers to include the previous year's Financial Statement with their accounts bundle for the IFE, please? (It would be a great help for the IFE checking the b/fwd figure, unrepresented cheques etc.) Thank you.

Craft - Karen Coleman

This month, as I write this there is snow on the ground, but I ask you to forget that cold, damp time of year and focus on the positive offering of the Craft Committee this month.

In soon to be warmer times, we are repeating the very popular and very scrummy '**Ladies that Lunch**', again at the Barrasford Arms NE48 4AA, meeting 10:30 demo at 11 then lunch. Same format on both dates, priced at £33 due to increases by the Barrasford Arms but it is still a good deal. The first lunch will be held on 5 May - closing date of noon 21 April and the second on 3 June - closing date of 19th May. I have requested the same glorious weather as last year, if you know of a hostelry that could do something similar then let the Office know so we can spread the experience wider.



Then the **BIG** reveal, fanfare of trumpets ...the **Federation Competition Day** schedule is out for discussion, class selection and practice run of the set recipes. Entries must be in to Cresswell House on 1 June before noon. We will be running the show number allocation system as previously, so that on competition day your entry submission will be as swift and painless as possible. The theme this year is

The Olympics. I hope there is something for everyone to enter and have a go at - there is plenty for each skill level.

The Northumberland County Show this year will be on Bank Holiday Monday 25 May 2020. They are having a WI Cooperative so perhaps you could put an entry into them as practice for our Federation Competition day?

The details of the Prize Money are: 1st £10 / 2nd £8 / 3rd £6

Special: The Tynedale Agricultural Society WI Shield. Presented to Winning Institute only. £5 per Entry and the theme is - '*Olympic Sports*'. Exhibit on a base with backing boards - depth 60cm, width 60cm 2 craft, 2 cookery, 1 flower. Staging and interpretation to be judged. Accessories allowed. Please identify items to be judged. More details on www.northcountyshow.co.uk

Come on ladies let's show them how it's done!!

ACWW - Marj Read

Thank you to all of you who continue to send in your donations for ACWW. It is very much appreciated and an update will be given at the Annual Council Meeting at the RGS on 4th April this year.

Public Affairs - Pat Douglas



We are delighted to announce a 2-day trip to Dundee to visit the V&A Museum on Saturday 27 June 2020. So, dust off your miniskirts and bring back memories at the Mary Quant Exhibition being staged by the Museum. The 2-day break to Dundee is to include the following:

- ✿ Admission and coach transfers to the V&A Museum, Dundee at 11.00am on Sunday 28 June.
- ✿ Shopping time in Dundee on Saturday
- ✿ 1-night bed, full breakfast and 3 course evening meal at the Hilton Hotel, Dundee.

Various pick up points and times are to be arranged which will be notified to your Secretary. The price is £125.00 based on 2 people sharing a twin room (single room supplement £35.00 per person). Please indicate if you have a preference for sharing a room or if a single room is preferred. Closing date is Thursday 7 May 2020.

Thursday, 5 November 2020 is the International Event and this year will be sunny Spain.

As the song goes *Y Viva Espania!*



Combined Arts - Moira Bengtson

Following on from the very popular Calligraphy sessions last year we are holding another, but this one is Copperplate Calligraphy (which is "slightly trickier" according to Angela). It's to be at Cresswell House on Friday 24 April, 10am 'til 1pm, cost is £18 which includes coffee and biscuits, and a kit for you to take home.

BEAMISH



We're also off on our Charabanc trip to Beamish Museum on Tuesday 28 April, and the cost of £27 includes your entry fee as well as the transport. We leave Wentworth car park, Hexham, at 9am, and pick-up from Cresswell House at approx. 9.30am before heading off to Beamish. You'll have the whole day to enjoy exploring the 'Living Museum of the North' in its 50th Anniversary year before we leave for home at 3.30pm. Hopefully there'll be no mishaps with our modern-day

Charabanc this time, and I'll request a bright sunny day, so you don't have to take your gansey and gamp!!

Details for both events are with your Secretary now, please apply very quickly...

Sport & Leisure - Barbara Kilkenny

The Fun Quiz Night will be held at Cresswell House on Tuesday, 23 June at 7.30pm. During the interval a supper of quiche and salad will be served with dessert to follow. The cost per member is £7.50 and the closing date for your applications is Tuesday 9 June.



Don't forget the Carpet Bowls closing date is 24 March and the Domino Drive's closing date 5 May! For the future there will be **A stroll in August** - the venue is to be confirmed. The Car Treasure Hunt on 13 September will be hosted by Bellingham WI and a few dates for your diary include: Ten Pin Bowling - 28 September and the Golf Challenge - 29 September.

Watch this space - there is more to come!

Speakers' Corner

Thank you!

Since the 1980s, Marjorie Goodchild has been visiting WIs with her cookery demonstrations showing members how to prepare all manner of tasty dishes. She has decided that now is the time to "hang up her apron" and Chapel House District WI were the last to enjoy Marjorie's company at their recent meeting. Please remove her details from your list of speakers. Thanks Marjorie, we look forward to seeing you at future events around the Federation.

New Speaker: Lotty Thompson has recently returned from a three-year adventure at sea on an old wooden sailing boat with her family. She would like to share her experiences with the WIs via her talk "A Family Sailing Adventure". Lotty lives in Alnwick but would travel around the Federation and use her own equipment for a digital presentation. Her fee is £40 (+travelling expenses). You can contact her on 07717 767550 or email: lotty.thompson@outlook.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. 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.

Members' information:

Sharing the

As February is National WIs Show the Love campaign, Cresswell House hosted a board display by Rosie Harden-Vane of Westmoor Wonders WI and the climate change scarf by Sue King of Jesmond WI.

Here Federation Chairman Marj Read can be seen showing the love. One Board member has pledged to reduce her usage of single use pens and has gone back to her refillable ink pen...

What did you do to show the love in your WI?



For their first meeting of the year, Cullercoats WI members made a selection of cards in the afternoon. These were displayed in the Newcastle Building Society, Whitley Bay during a community event to raise awareness.

North Gosforth WI had Phil Patterson talking about The Ouseburn Valley and Victoria Tunnel. He was hugely entertaining and well worth booking.



Garden Village on walk about

Garden Village WI's Walking Group annual lunch at Gibraltar Rock in Tynemouth on the 8 January.

The day was bright but chilly and as you can see, well attended.

Rochester WI honour longest serving member

This is a photo of 89-year-old Mrs Margaret Anderson who has been a member of Rochester WI for 58 years.

She made the cake and cut it at their recent birthday party.



Chapel House give tribute to Marjorie Goodchild



Chapel House had a wonderful demonstration by Marjorie Goodchild who inspired all with her cooking for a Valentine Supper for two. There was a choice of two starters, two mains and a pudding.

Marjorie generously donated each dish for the raffle at the end of her demonstration. Whilst Marjorie was cooking, she entertained us with funny stories and gave alternatives to the various recipes that she made - many of us were making notes as we had been given a list of ingredients for each dish.

As this was to be Marjorie's last ever event after having presented 479 before our meeting, we were really pleased that we managed to book her. Chapel House WI wish Marjorie well in the future and send her many thanks for a lovely evening.



Secretaries Enclosures: Final Link List

Event application forms - Beamish Museum, Copperplate Calligraphy, Dundee V&A Trip, Fun Quiz Night, Ladies that Lunch 1 and 2, Schedule and form for the Competition Day 2020.

Flyers - Starlight Theatre Production of Kinky Boots, Northumberland Theatre Company - Angels of the North.

Climate Change Corner

Wash days contribution to climate change!

