

**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 09:30 – 15:45 Office Closed Friday  
**Contact us:** Tel: 0191 217 0808 Email: [federationoffice@northumberlandwi.co.uk](mailto:federationoffice@northumberlandwi.co.uk)  
**Check us out on:** Website: [www.northumberlandwi.org.uk](http://www.northumberlandwi.org.uk) FB: [www.facebook.com/northumberlandwi/](https://www.facebook.com/northumberlandwi/)

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



*Welcome to the lockdown letter that has to start with "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times" so I will turn it around and we shall do the worst bit first and save the best until the end.*

*It was a huge sadness to join in a Zoom meeting with all Federation Chairmen / Treasurers last month to be told by Lynne Stubbings that Denman would be closing and sold. For those who have visited in the past, you will have so many fabulous memories of friendship and achievement that you will always hold dear. But the real fact has been that for many years now it has not been able to balance the books and the enforced closure due to Covid 19 has inevitably hastened the closure. We shall of course keep you all updated with what happens as soon as we have the information ourselves.*

*I am also disappointed in having to tell you that the Board of Trustees have cancelled the Council Meeting due to take place at the RGS in October and also the Christmas Celebration at Hexham Abbey in December as guidelines on indoor meetings of more than 30 people are not expected until at least November at the very earliest. I know that most of you expected this, but it is still upsetting to see yet another date in the diary cancelled for this year and being in the Abbey and not able to sing our hearts out is quite frankly unthinkable.*

*On with the better news now which has to include the fact that indoor meetings of less than 30 can now go ahead as long as the very strict instructions from National, as well as the ones from the venue that your own WI meets in, are adhered to. It may be a small step, but it is indeed a start and I am already aware of some WI meetings which may go ahead in September.*

*The Board of Trustees also held their first meeting since March in August and what a huge delight it was to see them all face to face once again and to make a few decisions. At this stage can I remind you that in June your Secretary received a nomination form for the Board for the period 2021 - 2023 and this should be completed and returned to Cresswell House by 2 October 2020. Please remember that whoever you nominate must have been asked and agreed to their name going forward, however, you do not need to contact any of the existing Board members as they have already agreed to accept nomination.*

*One of the items discussed yesterday was Karen Coleman's wish to hold a paper cutting class at Cresswell House before the end of the year and full details and application forms will be in the October Newsletter. On the issue of meeting at Cresswell House I am aware that many WIs have book clubs, craft groups etc who have either not met or have managed to meet in members' gardens. But we are fast approaching the season where sitting outside to discuss a book may not be too inviting. We are therefore happy for any small groups of 10 or less to meet at Cresswell House. We can fulfil all the necessary procedures re sanitising, spacing etc and will happily offer the facility at a reduced rate for a meeting in an afternoon or morning during these restrictive times. If you would like more details, please contact the Office by email or telephone.*

*Once again, a huge thank you to all members for your continued support and to Presidents, Board members and Advisers for getting as much information and help to everyone as they can. You are all extremely inspiring women and Barbara Kilkenny one of our Vice Chairmen and President of Clousden Hill has taken this to another level by purchasing a face mask in suffragette / WI colours of green, white and purple. The light at the tunnel end is just a little bit brighter, let's keep it getting brighter still.*

*Take care and I hope to see some of you soon.*

*Marj x*

### ★ 1000 CLUB DRAW ★

#### August

- |                 |     |                       |           |
|-----------------|-----|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 10  | Kathleen Jones        | Corbridge |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 127 | Hedley on the Hill WI |           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 176 | Marion Stomsoy        | Wylam     |

#### September

- |                 |     |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 49  | Domini Pocock   | Heddon on the Wall    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 121 | Eileen Hearne   | Lancaster Park        |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 72  | Sandra Lonsdale | Guidepost & Sheepwash |

# News from the Committees



The **Craft Committee** are planning to run a Paper Cutting event later in the year. Details will be in the October Newsletter. Also **Sport and Leisure** haven't forgotten you... Keep watching this space... the Committee is poised for action in 2021!

A fantastic opportunity has arisen to join the lively and happy **Combined Arts Committee!** There is space for two or three enthusiastic and willing ladies to boost the numbers. The Committee meets up to six times a year at Cresswell House, support the Committee's various events around the Federation on a rota basis - and have a lot of fun whilst doing it!! If you are interested and would like to know more please email Moira Bengtson at [moirawi@outlook.com](mailto:moirawi@outlook.com) or phone 01434 344 015 / 07889 928 064. She would love to hear from you.

## Membership Support - Prudence Marks

### CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19) ADVICE FOR ANNUAL MEETINGS

Hello Ladies.

The majority of Annual Meetings in our federation would have taken place in May or during the subsequent summer months if we had been living "life as we used to know it." However, since it was impossible for us to hold such meetings we have had to forego such events but there are certain criteria which must be met in order to comply with the Charity Commission requirements.

**Treasurers** must fill in the Financial Statement and if possible have it audited and signed appropriately and then send it to Cresswell House where it will be dealt with in due course.

**Secretaries** should write an Annual Report and file it in the record book. They must write in the Minute Book that the Annual Meeting has not taken place and give the reason why this is the case.

**Officers** should remain in post for this coming year unless you agree in your Committee that it should be otherwise. I know of one WI where the President has informed me that she no longer wishes to remain in post and so the Vice- President will take over the reins for the coming year.

At the moment meetings cannot take place if more than thirty people wish to attend. Social distancing and sanitising must be adhered to at all times. Many meeting places remain closed and very likely will remain so for some considerable time to come.

Along with my fellow Advisers I do hope that you will enjoy the remainder of the summer and look forward with some trepidation to Autumn. Keep safe and stay well.

# Members' Information

## Clousden Hill WI

For our August meeting we were sooo excited! Prayer mats out for September!



## Afternoon tea at Horsley - Stevie Glover

Inspired by reading some of the lovely inventive ways other WIs have spent these long weeks of lockdown the ladies of Horsley came up with the idea of 'Afternoon Tea in a Basket'.

We may be few but there is talent amongst us - several great bakers and good crafters too. We each played to our strengths and put together a lovely tea. At first, we thought about doing it as a raffle, but then we realised that knocking on doors, taking unwashed coins and handing over tickets might not be safe. So, we decided to pop every address in the village into a hat and draw a winner. The recipient was surprised but delighted to receive a gift from out of the blue.

She and her husband live many miles away from their family, they miss them keenly. She said winning the basket full of goodies really gave them both a much-needed boost.



## Ponteland WI in bloom

In June, Ponteland WI should have been celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. However, due to the Covid 19 crisis everything was cancelled, apart from one thing. Ponteland Town Council very kindly planted a commemorative flower bed in the Town centre to celebrate this event.

Therefore, our planned celebrations will now take place at a later date.



Please continue to let us know how you are doing and great to see your pictures. We would love to hear from you.

For September's newsletter please email the office by 14 September 2020.

Thank you

## Ponteland Village WI go virtual - Rachel Bowey Bland

One of the things we have done with our WI is virtual challenges, the first one was to climb up Big Ben (inspired by my 11-year olds virtual climb up Ben Nevis using the stairs!). Then as so many of our members were getting out walking during lockdown it was decided a walking challenge was more apt which turned out to be from St Marys Church Hall, Ponteland to NFWI HQ in London! This was 287 miles or 574,000 steps, we thought it would take a couple of months, but 8 members sent in their steps and between them could have walked there 5 times! So, we decided to up the challenge again and walk around the coast of mainland Britain which is 11,073 miles (source: ordnance survey) and 22,146,000 steps. In the first month we walked just over 10% of the way and with the easing of lockdown members have travelled further than their doorstep to enjoy our beautiful northern countryside! Hopefully more members will join in and we can get it completed in the next few months!

