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Chairman's Update



I hope that by now many of you will already have received your first vaccination for Coronavirus as Dave and I have. It is at least the first step on the road to normal even if it has to be a new normal for us all.

I am writing my message on a very sunny but cold day just one day ahead of non-essential shops re-opening and we all know what that means don't we ladies, yes we can at long last visit the hairdresser again!

Many of you will remember that last year we invited nominations to the Board of Trustees for 2021 / 2023. Former Chairman Hilary Robson and co-opted member Dorothy Sowerby announced that they would be standing down from the Board and there were no other nominations from the Federation. I am however very pleased to tell you that we have co-opted a new member, Dianne Walton who is President

of Jesmond WI. Welcome aboard Dianne and I hope that you enjoy your time on the Board. I am sure that you will learn more about Dianne in future Newsletters.

For all the very obvious reasons I cannot let Hilary's departure from the Board go without acknowledgement for her phenomenal service to Northumberland as member and secretary of Lowgate WI, which of course she continues to do, as a Board member with over twenty years of service during which time (from 2010 to 2019) she led the Federation as Chairman. She took up the role of Chairman just after Tyneside merged with Northumberland and saw us through the alterations to Cresswell House, the Centenary of the WI in 2015 (can you remember her dressed as Britannia at the various afternoon teas?) and finally at Northumberland's own Centenary in 2018. I hope that all the memories are good ones and who knows she may put them down in print for us all to read!

Dorothy joined the Board along with myself in 2012 but left when her husband became ill and then re-joined the Board as a co-opted member quite recently. Dorothy will always be remembered for her humour and along with Sue Malloy as one of our dynamic catering team. I must not forget here the third musketeer, Hilary, who was in charge of salad chopping, washing up and making sure the tables looked top class.

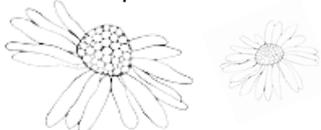
Thank you ladies for everything you have done and I hope that you enjoyed the floral gifts sent to you from all the members of Northumberland Federation. Also, on the subject of thanks, Kathleen Jones, one of our former Advisers has recently sent in a donation to Federation funds so thank you very much for that Kathleen.

I have heard from many WIs that subscriptions are being paid and membership is going really well so once again my thanks go to all members for re-joining and for individual WI committees for going the extra mile for their members during lockdown which I am sure has made them feel part of a very unique organisation and one which they really want to see continue to thrive. If you haven't paid yet please do so and if you are having any doubts about re-joining can I just tell you about Craster WI. One of their members who is 91 was finally persuaded to re-join by her two pals, one well over 80 and one over 90. The powers of persuasion and the fact that these ladies still get the WI experience really did cheer my heart and I can't wait to see them.

As promised in the last Newsletter, here are details of the venues for the Federation Quiz heats to be held on Thursday 30th September: Newbrough, Powburn, St Columba's and Ulgham. The final will be held at Stannington Village Hall on Thursday 21st October and further details and application forms will be sent out in due course. This is always a hugely enjoyable event, and I am sure that this year will be no exception. Applications for the Federation Quiz heats and various other events at Cresswell House will soon be coming your way.

One event I would like to highlight is **Tea, Cake and Chat**. As a personal thank you I would like to invite each WI President (or representative) to come to Cresswell House to meet up with other Presidents and find out what they did and what worked well during the past year. There are no dates fixed yet and of course it will not take place until after the end of June with all precautions being taken. We will have a small maximum number at each event so that invitees will be well spaced so don't worry that I am having over one hundred ladies at Cresswell House! Once the Officers and I have worked out the logistics more information will be available and I do hope that you will come and share your experiences and meet up with old friends and, importantly, make new ones. It really is beginning to feel like NORMAL

Marj x



News from the Committees...

Craft – Karen Coleman

Can I start this month by congratulating Alison Scrimshaw of Prudhoe WI and Jackie Young of Nedderton & Bedlington WI, in being voted the official Federation Face Coverings in the Mask for Marj Competition. What wasn't conveyed by the photographs was the skill, neatness and thoughtfulness that went into executing the tasks in hand. Both were comfy to wear, well made and conveyed the ethos of Northumberland WI ladies, 'anything we set our minds to we do and do it very well'. Congratulations and huge thank you to all the ladies who entered. The face masks will be on display at Cresswell House for you to have a look at next time you are in.



Well, it's started, that much awaited thing called 'forward planning', and to be honest I am thrilled. The Craft Committee will not be offering any activities before September, by which time, fingers crossed, the BoJo road map following the science, will mean that second rounds of vaccinations will have been almost completed, there could be the resumption of WI meetings and the singing of Jerusalem; but I am expecting the wearing of face coverings to still be in place if you are indoors and I am fine with that. Obviously if the situation changes be it for better or worse, we will respond as quickly as possible, be it to cancel or (being positive) increase the number of ladies who can safely attend an event but remember the time lag between what I write and what gets printed in NN, so if you have additional access to the net have a look on our web page or the events section on our Facebook page.

Deep breath, huge fanfare of trumpets.... The initial plans are that in September, **Paper Cutting** – Animals & Flowers plus a Christmas themed class in November is planned, led by me (Karen Coleman). **Food demos** led by Sue Malloy 'Holidays' in September; 'Fish' in October; 'Party Food' & 'Christmas' demo in November. In a new approach Sue has agreed to take a very small number of ladies for a 'do along' master class with her, first one being Quiche Lorraine. In October we will be running a floral workshop themed around Halloween, then December brings **Marzipan Fruits** with Noreen Brent & the whole Craft Committee will be on hand to help you make the Santa in a Box, for our **Festive Fill Cresswell House with Fun** event. This year we are not doing 5 or 6 mini activities but one piece which would make a fabulous gift or even an heirloom.

As WIs are not meeting currently, and there is the possibility your WI won't be meeting before September, I wanted to give you as much info about what we had planned as soon as it was passed 'ideas' stage. For this year you will be able to make direct individual applications for events to Cresswell House, as you might not have a meeting to complete the yellow application form via your Secretary, so please keep your eyes open for the application / closing dates for these events. Whilst the application system might be slightly different, I will be adhering to the balloting system for places, if you are unsure have another look at the sheet 'Fact or Fiction' that was sent out by Marj Read earlier in the year.

So, as the weather gets better gradually and we move slowly but safely following the science, towards being free range again, I hope you will have found something on our planned activities list to pique your interest, and that we will meet up at Cresswell House to learn new skills, as well as sharing our post lockdown 'thought I would try something different' hair styles.

Public Affairs – Pat Douglas



The WI proudly supports the **NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers Day on 5 July 2021**, and we are delighted to be a part of this special celebration to say thank you for the continued hard

work and dedication of NHS, social care and frontline workers. We are particularly so proud of the many incredible WI members are also NHS staff and frontline workers, our WI heroes, who throughout the pandemic have shown such strength and resilience by bravely stepping forward to support others.

We would love to see WI members across the country organise special Afternoon Tea events within their communities to mark the NHS and Frontline Workers Day and we encourage as many others as possible to get involved too. The WI has created a unique celebration cake, which can be made by people of all ages from all backgrounds, all across the country,



and be shared together at the same time on this special day. We hope this will be an opportunity for communities, families, and friends to come together in whatever way possible, to truly celebrate our remarkable NHS and frontline workers.

Each 'Afternoon Tea' or tea and cake sale is to raise money for 2 excellent Charities NHS Together and the National Carer Association, with a coordinated cake cutting at 4pm.

For additional information check out the website at: www.nhsfrontlineday.org And for the WI unique celebration cake recipe check out the NFWI website at www.thewi.org.uk/life-at-the-wi/food-and-cookery/a-taste-of-my-wi/nhs-cake

Come on ladies let's get cake planning, baking and celebrating a service which has saved lives and improved millions more. Let the Federation Office know of your plans and remember to take pictures at the 4pm cake cutting ceremony.



Membership Support – Prudence Marks

Please ensure your subscription payments are sent to Cresswell House this month and ensure your membership held on MCS is up to date. If you do not have an MCS rep, please ensure you send a full membership list with your Affiliation form for Nancy to update your records for you. Thank you.

Sports and Leisure – Barbara Kilkenny

Thank you to the four WI ladies that I rang me to see how they would feel about having last year's postponed Darts and Domino final held in September. No hesitation! Their enthusiasm and excitement to go ahead was a tonic. So to the WIs of Thropton and Stocksfield (dominoes) and Hepple and Hedgeley (darts) a date will be confirmed.



Are there any events that you have missed?

Any new fresh ideas for events?

If so we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch before the committee's meeting on 6 July.

Meanwhile, enjoy this next step on the road map. Meeting a few more people, going to the hairdresser and maybe some retail therapy. Keep safe and well.

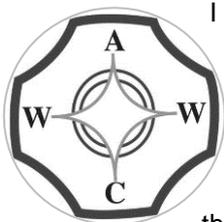
Treasurer's Message – Norma Birch

Thank you, ladies, for all your support during these difficult times.

Please note when finalising your accounts, please ensure you fully complete the Financial Statement before sending it to the Federation Office. It is usually recommended that you close the accounts approximately six weeks prior to the Annual Meeting in order for the books to be audited and the Financial Statement be collected by the WI Adviser at the Annual Meeting in normal times. However, at present please send in your Financial Statement to the Office at Cresswell House when the audit is complete and ensure it has been signed by the person who had conducted the audit.



ACWW – Marj Read



I appreciate that during lockdown we have not put very much into the Newsletter about ACWW, but it doesn't mean that it has been forgotten. Envelopes still come in and recently a lovely cheque for £400 was received from Bardon Mill from one of their fund-raising events. Thank you so much ladies and for thinking of others in the rest of the world who need help that is not even Covid related during this difficult time.

APRIL
showers
BRING
-MAY-
flowers

Board of Trustees 2021 – 2023

The Board of Trustees are happy to announce that they have unanimously re-elected Marj Read Chair of the Northumberland Federation for the next two years and the current Board of Trustees are listed below.



Marjorie Read

Federation Chairman

WI Adviser

Southridge WI



Karen Coleman
Vice Chairman
Craft Committee Chair
Shotley WI



Barbara Kilkenny
Vice Chairman
Sports & Leisure
Committee Chair
Clousden Hill WI



Norma Birch
Federation Treasurer
Garden Village WI



Moira Bengtson
Combined Arts
Chair
WI Adviser
Bardon Mill WI



Pat Douglas
Public Affairs
Chair
Dilston WI



Pamela Lamb
Ulgham WI



Jenny McLean
WI Adviser
Nth Gosforth WI



Sue Malloy
Roddam WI



Diane Walton
Co-opted
Jesmond WI



Judy Woodsford
Pegswood with
Bothal WI

100 CLUB DRAW

Drawn on 14 April 2021

1 ST	Judith Arthur	217	Kirkley WI
2 ND	Trish Flegg	59	Craster WI
3 RD	Flo Moore	113	Heddon on the Wall WI

Members' Information:

Happy 76th Birthday Prudhoe WI - Ann Leech

On Wednesday evening Prudhoe WI celebrated its 76th birthday. There was no party in 2020 for the 75th anniversary as lockdown started. 2021 sees many organisations doing things very differently. Therefore, this year we celebrated our birthday with a Zoom party. Bags were made up for every member which included a bespoke handmade cupcake, a small bottle of Prosecco, daffodil plants and two little chocolates together with a card wishing everyone a happy virtual birthday.

On the morning of the party the bags were all ready to be loaded into the car then hand delivered to all members.



Happy 90th Birthday - Kathleen Mowat

As with the cancellation of our 90th Anniversary Celebrations last year, friends and fellow members of Whorlton and Westerhope Women's Institute were greatly disappointed in not being able to join in the celebration of Audrey Dixon's 90th Birthday on 18 April.

Audrey joined the WI in the days when there was a waiting list and you had to be nominated and seconded before you could become a member. She has been on the committee since 1983 serving as Secretary from 1991 to 2005 and as President from 2006 and 2019.

We all hope she had a very happy day and that we'll soon be able to acknowledge the occasion at a future WI meeting.



1921 - 2021

On hearing about the death of HRH the Prince Philip, our Chairman, Marj has sent Her Majesty and the Royal Family a letter of condolence on behalf of the Board of Trustees, WI Advisers and members of Northumberland Federation at this sad time.

Secretary Enclosures: 2021 Yearbook and amendments x3, Adviser Request form, 2022 Diary Order form – Next year is green but there are still some diaries for 2021 left in stock. If you would like to purchase one for £3, (plus postage) please email Nancy at federationoffice@northumberlandwi.co.uk.

A 97th Birthday Party with a Difference! - Mary Christer

Every year we have a party in our Hall for our birthday. Last year we could not, but we have been meeting by Zoom all year, so we decided to have a Zoom Party.

Hexhamshire's Committee members delivered (safely!) goodies bags to other members on the day. The bags contained: 4 local cheeses, oat cakes, fruit cake and chocolates as well as a birthday gift. The cheeses and cake were supplied by a local shop in Hexham.



At the Zoom meeting, with their own drinks to hand, members were invited to open and try each cheese in turn. Once we had discussed each one our President revealed its name and maker. We then voted for our favourite.

The gifts were key ring torches which will prove useful when we are able to resume meeting in the Hall!

We finished an excellent meeting with a good chat and the rest of the goodies.



NFWI Board Election 2021 – 2023

The elected members of the NFWI Board of Trustees, who will take office in June 2021, are as follows:

1. Adams, Catriona – Lincolnshire North
2. Amos, Nicky - Somerset
3. Baker, Tracy - Hampshire
4. Beedan, Pamela – Isle of Man
5. Booth, Chrissie - Derbyshire
6. Carter, Helen - Hampshire
7. Haworth, Hilary - Buckinghamshire
8. Jones, Ann - Ceredigion
9. Kingman, Sally - Cambridge
10. Pierce, Paula - Shropshire
11. Price, Yvonne – West Sussex
12. Stone, Jeryl – Warwickshire

Please note that Eirian Roberts, who has been elected as Chair of the Federations of Wales Committee, will be an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees. These results will be formally announced at the National Annual Meeting on 8 June 2021.



Speakers Corner:

Change to speakers contact details. Please note that Elspeth Horsfield (Silk Painting) has moved to 5 New Berwick Farm Cottages, Alnwick, NE55 2DS. Phone is 01668 217 172 - mobile and email remain the same.

