

Chat from the Chair

Hello ladies, I think that Autumn is now with us and we are drawing the curtains a little bit earlier each week so we shall soon be swapping sandals for boots

and I definitely would like a new pair so if Santa gets a copy of our Newsletter please make a note will you?

When you get this Newsletter the quiz heats will have been held and the three winning teams from each venue will be ready to do battle on October 9th at Cresswell House. Thank you to all who entered this year, it was an excellent turn out and I hope you all enjoyed testing your knowledge in the heats.

In November we are going to Chatsworth House to experience Christmas there and this event has been very well supported so I know that we are going to have a wonderful couple of days down in delightful Derbyshire. We shall be doing a bit of retail therapy on the first day at The Meadowhall Centre which is under cover but if the weather could be kind on our second day that would be a real bonus as the gardens at Chatsworth are marvellous.

The readers for this year's Service at the Cathedral have been chosen from the two WI's who celebrated being 100 years old this year along with the very newest one to open, Longfram WI and I hope that they will enjoy the experience. Please remember to get your applications in for this wonderful event that starts the Christmas season so well for us all.

On Saturday 5th December we shall be holding our Christmas Cracker Day at Cresswell House. This event is £5 but that does include tea or coffee and something nice and seasonal to accompany the drink as well as one third of all the money received going in "The Cracker" as first prize in the raffle. This year individual WI's can also "rent a table" for £15 and whatever they make will be for their own WI so please get your applications in as tables will be limited and allocated on a first come first served basis. We only need your payment and what you will have on your table so that there is a good variety of stalls for our members. My final plea this month is to ask you all to read your Newsletter thoroughly because each Committee put a lot of effort into events for you and we try to give you as big a variety as we can. As your Chairman I try to mention all the Federation events and all the other Chairs advertise their workshops, talks, demonstrations etc under their own piece in the Newsletter. Between all the Board members and their individual committees we cover so much that I am sure there must be something out there for each one of you and it would be lovely to think that every one of you will attend at least one event each year.

With that in mind and with some "big" things coming up I hope to see many of you in the near future.

Marj x



In this newsletter you can expect:

Chat from the Chair from Marj

Updates from the hardworking committees:

- Membership Support - *Moirá Bengtson*
- Arts & Leisure - *Barbara Kilkenny*
- Craft - *Barbara Kilkenny*
- Public Affairs, Education & Science - *Pamela Lamb*

Treasurer's Message from Barbara

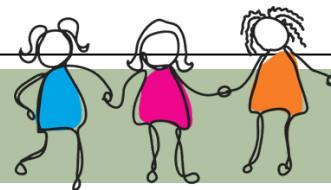
Secretaries' Enclosures:

- Applications forms

200 club draw

Editor: *Dee Ward*

Membership Support



Hello Ladies, I have a couple of serious subjects this month and both concern our Federation IFEs (Independent Financial Examiners). First of all - they're rather lonely as we only have two and they'd love more 'money minded' ladies to join them as they sometimes get very, very busy. Full training for the role will be given, partly on-line provided by National Federation, and much more 'hands on' within our own Federation. If you have a head for figures please get in touch with the office and your details will be passed on - you'll be welcomed with open arms!

Secondly, but still very much an IFE concern, WIs asking for their accounts to be examined are simply not giving our IFEs sufficient time to process them and get them back to the WIs in time for the Annual Meetings. Please take a look at closing your books in good time to prepare your accounts and get them to Cresswell House - it's not fair to ask for a 'quick turnaround' when the time allowed is simply not enough especially if there are a few problems to sort out. The IFEs will always help whenever needed...but they need time so please, please think twice and allow extra.

That's one of today's jobs done (in my dressing gown) so off to shower and dress. Yesterday we had four seasons in one day weatherwise and today is really chilly so perhaps it's time to break out the thick tights? Stay warm ladies, and enjoy life xx

Arts & Leisure

Two new application forms for you this month.

- **Christmas Beetle Drive.**

This now traditional event will be with Frosty the Snowman as our guest "beetle" and Christmas cake and cheese for refreshments.

Date: Thursday December 10th 2026.

Venue: Cresswell House. Time. 13.30-15.30.

Cost £9.00 pp which includes refreshments.

Closing date: Tuesday December 1st.

As I write this the 2026 Domino Competition final, between Newbrough and Netherton, has yet to be played but with your Secretary is the application for

- **2027's competition.**

Apply by Tuesday February 2nd to play from March through to December. Entry costs £10 per team. A WI can enter more than one team. Please contact me if you would like to enter for the first time and need details of how it runs.

Looking further ahead thank you to Longhoughton and Boulmer WI who have offered to host the circular walk in the summer.

The committee will meet at the end of October to continue our programme planning.

Public Affairs, Education, Science & ACWW

Craft

We look forward to welcoming some of you to the

- **Christmas Multi-Craft Day** on Saturday November 28th. A day of crafting. Coffee at 10, crafting from 10.30 to 14.30. All materials and equipment supplied PLUS lunch. All for the bargain cost of £35pp.

Closing date. Tuesday November 10th.

The committee meet on October 1st to plan a varied programme for next year.

Secretaries' enclosures...

- Applications
 - Christmas Beetle Drive
 - 2027 Domino Competition
 - National Meeting 2027 info, Link List and Booking form



200 Club - winners CONGRATULATIONS:

1st -
2nd -
3rd -



Treasurer's message

Three polite reminders this month. If none of these apply to you give yourselves a pat on the back. Firstly, payment by BACS is working well for WIs but not always for administration at the office. Your payment MUST be accompanied by details of contact for event, dietary requirements and anything else specific to that event eg pick-up for Chatsworth. An email or the original form can be used.

Secondly, when the current IFEs undertook their role it was suggested that WI treasurers should book their accounts in 6 weeks in advance of their annual meeting. There will be circumstances which means this might not be possible and problems will be treated sympathetically. However, we only have Julie and Rosie at the moment. They will always do their best to accommodate you but as much advance notice as possible would be much appreciated.

Thirdly, the copy of your financial statement that goes to the IFE should be signed by the President and Treasurer, The copy given to your adviser at your Annual Meeting which is returned to CH should be an original copy either the addition of the IFE's signature, You do all of this? It makes so many lives easier!!

And a bit more.....

National Annual Meeting 2027

The Connexin Live, Hull - Thursday 3rd June - in person and online

It's that time of year again when we make plans for us to attend the National Annual meeting. Full information is being sent out in the WI Secretaries' mail this month. We would be grateful if this could be read carefully and deadlines adhered to. Remember - if you know that your WI cannot provide a delegate, please do not wait until the end of November - get in touch right away so that alternative arrangements can be made. Attending a National meeting in person is a great experience especially for those members who have not been before. This year, one of the speakers will be the award-winning journalist and broadcaster, Steph McGovern whose book "Deadline" will be available to purchase (and be signed) at the meeting. The meeting will also be available online, and, although not quite the same as being "on the spot", can prove to be both interesting and entertaining.



Diary dates

Date	Event	Time	Vene	Price	Event code	Closing date
OCTOBER						
Sat 3 rd	Federation Annual Council Meeting	10:00 – 15:00	RGS Newcastle	Delegates £0 Observers £8.50	2621	
Tue 6 th	Hancock Museum talk	14:00 – 15:30	Cresswell House	£8 pp	2622	
Fri 9 th	Federation Quiz Final	19:00 – 21:00	Cresswell House			
Mon 12 th	Busy Bee Coaster – Goldwork Workshop	10:00 – 15:30	Cresswell House	£20 pp	2623	
Mon 19 th	Jigsaw Competition	11:00 – 14:00	Cresswell House	£11 pp	2624	6 Oct
NOVEMBER						
15 th / 16 th Nov	Christmas at Chatsworth	(See times on application form) £195 (pp based on 2 people sharing) £225 single			2626	
Tue 17 th	A Career in Forensics	19:00 – 21:00	Cresswell House	£8 pp	2625	30 Oct
Sat 28 th	Christmas multi-craft day	10:00 – 15:00	Cresswell House	£35 pp	2629	10 Nov
DECEMBER						
Thur 3 rd	Christmas at the Cathedral	14:00	Newcastle Cathedral	£6	2631	17 Nov
Sat 5 th	Cresswell Christmas Cracker Day	10:00 – 13:00	Cresswell House	£5 pp / £15 per table	2630	17 Nov
Thur 10 th	Christmas Beetle Drive	More details to follow				

Thank you for reading!

For more information on what you've all been up to, head over to our website, keep your pictures coming, we'll try to include as many as we can. Click here - (www.northumberlandwi.org.uk)

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