

CENTRAL SECRETARIAT

JANICE LANGLEY, CHAIR; JANA OSBORNE, GENERAL SECRETARY; KERRI LE ROUX-MARX, BOARD SECRETARY & EVENTS MANAGER; KARIN GUMBLE, EDUCATIONAL GRANTS OFFICER; FIONA LAM, EVENTS OFFICER; CHARLOTTE MAUGHAN, RESOURCES ASSISTANT/ MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATOR; CHARLOTTE FIANDER, HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS; JOANNA RAYNER, PRESS & PR OFFICER; JASON DOUGLAS, WEBMASTER

Details for the NFWI contacts mentioned below can be found at the end of the newsletter.

WIs and trading activities

Recently, we have had enquiries from WIs considering carrying out trading activities. To further WI objects, WIs may raise funds by way of subscription, donation or otherwise, provided that the WI does not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities in raising funds, although they can trade in the course of carrying out the objects of the WI or as ancillary activity to carrying out the objects. This is further clarified under the Powers of the WI in the Constitution and Rules for Women's Institutes.

The threshold for charities whose income is less than £30,000 pa is £5,000. If the income exceeds £5,000 then all the profits become subject to corporation tax. Further information is available on:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/trustees-trading-and-tax-how-charities-may-lawfully-trade-cc35/trustees-trading-and-tax-how-charities-may-lawfully-trade>

Royal Garden Party

We are pleased to inform you that the NFWI has been privileged to be allocated eight places at this year's Royal Garden Party, which will take place on Thursday 19 May. After a ballot of nominated Federation Chairmen, the following names have been selected to be submitted to the Lord Chamberlain's Office for an invitation:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| ▪ Amanda Willday | <i>Powys Montgomery</i> |
| ▪ Sue Wilson | <i>Gloucestershire</i> |
| ▪ Christine Booth | <i>Derbyshire</i> |
| ▪ Elizabeth Lansman | <i>Suffolk West</i> |
| ▪ Diane McLaren | <i>Wiltshire</i> |
| ▪ Elizabeth Morrell | <i>Middlesex</i> |
| ▪ Beryl Ravensdale | <i>Kent – East Kent</i> |
| ▪ Ruth Rigg | <i>Cumbria – Westmorland</i> |

Staffing changes

Kerri Le Roux-Marx has been appointed to the role of Board Secretary & Events Manager. Fiona Lam has been appointed to the role of Events Officer. Sophie Page will take on the role of Membership Officer & PA to General Secretary at the beginning of April.

Please note the amended details below for telephone communications:

Kerri Le Roux-Marx t: extension 206

Karin Gumble t: extension 208

The Queen's Birthday Book

Friends and relations have created an electronic book of messages for HM The Queen's upcoming 90th birthday. Should you wish to get involved and have your good wishes included in this book, please visit

www.TheQueensBirthdayBook.com

'Station to Station' Queen's Celebration

Following a public appeal by both Prince William and Prince Harry who wished to replicate the Patron's Lunch across the UK on Sunday 12 June 2016, the rail industry is joining forces to deliver the 'Station to Station' Queen's Celebration in line with the official celebrations taking place in London.

The intention is to support local communities, encourage social cohesion and cultural integration while utilising

station assets. Each station seeks to offer locals and visitors good food, entertainment and market stalls in addition to any innovative ideas provided by those delivering the individual events.

Any WIs or federations wishing to join in with the celebrations should contact Vicky@nimblemedia.co.uk.

2016 NFWI Annual Meeting

11 June – The Brighton Centre, East Sussex

A number of observer tickets (priced at £20 each) are still available for this event. Please contact Events Officer Fiona Lam for more information or to purchase a ticket.

Inspiring Women Awards 2016

Nominations will close on 1 April 2016 for the 24th annual Inspiring Women Awards. Between now and the closing date, nominations are being sought for those women of the North West and North Wales whose achievements inspire us all. For full details on nominating for the awards visit the website

www.inspiringawards.co.uk

Celebrity gardeners urge men to ‘watch their backs’!

Charlie Dimmock and Alan Titchmarsh are joining a host of horticultural organisations in supporting ‘Watch His Back!’ a new campaign urging men to review their sun protection habits and get their backs checked regularly for the warning signs of skin cancer.

The campaign which was devised by the Myfanwy Townsend Melanoma Research Fund, is targeting gardeners – as they typically spend most time outdoors – with a set of guidelines called the ‘The Gardeners’ Sun Safety Code’.

To download the Gardeners’ Sun Safety Code, find out more about melanoma, or to request a free toolkit visit www.melanoma-fund.co.uk

News from the Charity Commission

Charities at risk of online extortion demands

Trustees, charity professionals and volunteers should be aware of online extortion or ‘ransom’ demands currently affecting UK businesses. This is because charities could also be vulnerable to attack and so are encouraged to be vigilant. This advice is particularly relevant for those charities which operate overseas and/or deal with international partners in high-risk zones.

What to look out for:

- a number of businesses throughout the UK have received online extortion demands from a group calling themselves ‘RepKiller Team’
- the group have sent emails demanding payment of between £300 – £500 in Bitcoins [a form of digital or ‘crypto’ currency] by a certain date and time
- if their demand is not met, they have threatened to launch a cyber-attack against the organisation and damage its reputation by automating hundreds of negative reviews online
- the demand states that once their actions have started, they cannot be undone

What action to take:

If you have received such a demand, or receive one in the future, you are advised to:

- NOT meet their demands and pay the ransom;
- make a report to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via their website www.actionfraud.police.uk;
- retain the original emails (with headers); and
- make a note of the attack, recording all times, type and content of the contact.

Correspondence with Federation Secretaries

Please find below the information that federations should look out for since the last issue of *NFWI News*. If you have not received some of these items, please contact the individual/department responsible as indicated in brackets (their contact details can be found at the end of the newsletter).

Date	Email title	Sender	Committee/department
10-Feb	Charity Commission public meeting	Fiona Lam	Central Secretariat
16-Feb	Federation formation dates	Karin Gumble	Central Secretariat
17-Feb	Trustee Benefit/Conflict of Interest	Eleanor Rudge	Central Secretariat
22-Feb	Royal Garden Party	Kerri Le Roux-Marx	Central Secretariat
29-Feb	Wales Conference	Lisa Howells	Wales
29-Feb	Not in my Name	Sarah Thomas	Wales
01-Mar	Stationery order pad	Carlos Fialho	WIE
08-Mar	WI Sports Week 2016	Helen Neal	Science and Leisure
08-Mar	Hanging 'BRAsket' entry form	Fran Branch	Cookery Committee
08-Mar	Moodle – Digital Storytelling	Val Andrews	Training Committee
10-Mar	Floral Art workshops	Fran Branch	Cookery Committee
10-Mar	NFWI Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for year ended 30 September 2015	Catrin Rosquist	Finance Committee

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

JOY THOMSON, CHAIR

Contact details for the NFWI contacts mentioned below can be found at the end of the newsletter.

April = MCS month

April has been nominated as a time to review the Membership Communication System (MCS) to ensure the details for every member and WI are fully up to date. By keeping correct and up-to-date MCS records you are helping us to provide the best and most efficient service to your members and limiting the costly waste of resources.

MCS Reps can be appointed at any time to take care of their WI's records, and useful step-by-step guides for the newly upgraded system are now available on the WI Moodle and the MCS itself. If WI MCS Reps are unable to log in, please contact your Federation MCS Representative who will be able to assist.

It is very important that each WI has the correct information listed for its Secretary, as incorrect entries will result in your WI missing out on national mailings, voucher books, and raffle tickets. Please ensure that only one member has been assigned as your WI 'Secretary', there are alternative options to assign members sharing the post as 'Assistant Secretary' or 'Correspondence Secretary' etc. When a Secretary leaves or steps down from the role, please ensure that the successor is assigned before the past secretary's position is 'revoked'. The system will not permit you to do this the other way around.

Fuller details about the MCS month initiative will be going to each WI in the NFWI March mailing.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MARYLYN HAINES EVANS, CHAIR; EMMA HOLLAND-LINSAY, HEAD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS; OLIVER HICKS-PATTISON, RESEARCH & CAMPAIGNS OFFICER; LISA PLOTKIN, RESEARCH & CAMPAIGNS OFFICER

Contact details for the NFWI contacts mentioned below can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Public Affairs digest

The Public Affairs Department is producing a monthly digest sent directly to members with the latest public affairs and campaign news. If you would like to receive these updates then please email publicaffairs@nfwl.org.uk

2016 Annual Meeting Resolutions

More than 98,500 members have taken part in the resolution selection process this year, an increase of over 12,000 members. Thank you to everyone who made a selection.

Two resolutions have been selected to go forward to a final vote at the Annual Meeting in Brighton on 11 June. WIs should vote on each resolution separately. They should NOT vote for one resolution over the other, but need to look at each resolution independently and vote for or against each of them. If both resolutions achieve a majority of votes 'for' at the Annual Meeting, then the NFWI will pass the two resolutions and the NFWI will campaign on both these issues.

The two resolutions selected to go forward to the Annual Meeting are:

Avoid food waste, address food poverty

'The WI calls on all supermarkets to sign up to a voluntary agreement to avoid food waste, thereby passing surplus food on to charities thus helping to address the issue of increasing food poverty in the UK.'

Appropriate care in hospitals for people with dementia

'We call upon HM Government and the NHS to provide facilities to enable carers to stay with people with Alzheimer's disease and dementia that have been admitted into hospital.'

The Public Affairs team will be producing more detailed briefing notes on the two resolutions and these will be sent out in the March mailing to all WIs. Further resources, including presentations and interactive quizzes, will be made available on the NFWI website and on the Moodle on 1 April.

Following a successful social media question and answer session held in January, the Public Affairs team has arranged the following dates and times for future discussions. This is an opportunity for members to ask questions about the resolutions process and find out more about how to get involved.

- Thursday 7 April – 3pm and 6pm
- Tuesday 20 April – 3pm and 6pm
- Wednesday 4 May – 3pm and 6pm

Members can ask questions online via Twitter using the hashtag #Wiresolutions, or by posting on the Women's Institute Facebook page.

The WI at 100 – Executive Summary

To mark our centenary, the NFWI Public Affairs undertook a large survey, polling over 5,500 WI members to get their views on five overarching categories of historical and current importance to the WI: our homes and families, our work and society, our health and wellbeing, our natural world, and our global society. The findings of *The WI at 100* present a WI view on some of the most pressing issues of our time, from climate change to the NHS. [To read the full report click here.](#)

An Executive Summary of *The WI at 100* has been exclusively produced for every WI across the country and will reach your WI Secretary in the NFWI March mailing. If you have any questions about the report or Executive Summary please contact Lisa Plotkin.

SCIENCE & LEISURE COMMITTEE

CATRIONA ADAMS, CHAIR; HELEN NEAL, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Contact details for the NFWI-Unit contacts mentioned below can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Lady Denman Cup Competition 2016

This year's competition invites WI members to write a letter to their younger self. Using no more than 500 words, members must draw on their life experiences and imagine what they would say if they had the opportunity to guide (or warn!) their younger selves. Entries will be judged in the first instance at federation level – please check the closing date set by your federation office. Federations can then select up to three entries to go forward for judging at national level – deadline for federation entries is Friday 5 August 2016. Late entries will not be accepted. Each entry must include a total word count; entries with over 500 words will not be accepted and will be returned to the Federation Secretary. It is the responsibility of the federation to ensure that all entries submitted have the correct word count.

Spend a day with the Institute of Advanced Motorists

This event is now fully booked; we are continuing to accept applications and these will be added to a waiting list. Due to the high demand, we are already working with the IAM to repeat the day again in September 2016. If we are unable to offer you a place at the event in April, then those on the waiting list will be given priority

booking for the next event. Application forms can be obtained either through your Federation Secretary or by downloading from the WI Moodle/Sport and Leisure area.

WI Sports Week: Monday 12 – Sunday 18 September 2016

Ready, Steady, Go! The aim of the WI Sports Week is to encourage as many members as possible to take part in a range of sports – it can be anything from swimming or dancing to rock climbing or archery. As long as members are getting active, then we don't mind how they do it! We would like federations to use this week to plan a variety of sporting activities for their members; in return we will be sourcing appropriate sporting bodies and organisations and providing the link for federations. Members will be able to share their ideas, contacts, videos and images leading up to and during the week via the WI Facebook page. Please contact Helen Neal at the NFWI Unit for further information.

Elizabeth Bell Challenge 2016

This year's challenge invites WIs to create a digital story showing the impact that the WI has had on their community. Picture, drawings, photographs, maps and charts, etc., can all be used within your story, as well as any type of audio resources such as music, speeches, interviews and sound effects. The finished story must last no longer than two minutes. Entries should be sent to federations for initial judging; federations may then select up to two entries to go forward for national judging. Closing date for federations to submit their entries: 25 November 2016. Full details, including entry forms, are available from Federation Secretaries or from the WI Moodle/competitions area.

COOKERY COMMITTEE

MARY CLARKE, CHAIR; HELEN NEAL, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Contact details for the NFWI-Unit can be found at the end of the newsletter.

2016 Huxley Cup – floral art competition

Calling all floral art exhibitors! This year's competition will be held on Wednesday 14 September to Friday 16 September in the Cromwellian Building at Grey's Court, near Henley-on-Thames. It is the former home of Lady Brunner, past chair of Oxfordshire Federation and Chair of the NFWI. The title of the competition is 'Reflections – Lady Brunner and the WI'. Members interested in visiting Lady Brunner's house and gardens and viewing the exhibits will be very welcome at a special reduced rate of £5. For more information see the WI Moodle or contact the NFWI-Unit.

Hanging 'BRAsket' competition

To continue its aims to recycle, reuse and repurpose, the NFWI has developed the Hanging 'BRAsket' competition with the support of Suttons Seeds. We are challenging members to use an old bra for growing flowers, herbs, fruit or veg. Please send in a photo, plus a list of contents and a completed entry form by 31 August to the NFWI-Unit. For more details see the WI Moodle or contact the NFWI-Unit.

Sustainable gardening

To introduce the NFWI's new gardening activity 'Growing for Our Future' and to offer members practical advice and ideas on how to garden more sustainably, a sustainable gardening day is planned with the support of Suttons Seeds for Wednesday 28 September in the Ferris Room at Denman. Cost to attend is £30 for the day; refreshments and lunch will be provided. The results of the Hanging 'BRAsket' competition will also be available to view. For more details and to apply for a place, visit the WI Moodle or contact the NFWI-Unit.

Floral art workshops 2016

Make 2016 your year to learn new and contemporary ideas. Three floral art workshops have been arranged for WI members as follows:

- Thursday 23 June at Northumberland Federation Office run by Pam Alexander, NAFAS tutor
- Tuesday 28 June at Steventon Village Hall, Oxfordshire, run by Pat Dibben, NAFAS tutor
- Thursday 7 July at Westerham Village Hall run by Patricia Bashford, NAFAS tutor

Priced at £25 for the day, the workshop includes refreshments and lunch. Members should please provide their own flowers and toolboxes. For more details contact the NFWI-Unit.

Home Economics on the web

www.thewi.org.uk

Each week, new and seasonal recipes are added to the recipe pages, as well as a Menu of the Week, using tried and tested recipes ideal for inspiration for meals for family and friends. Other pages on the website include healthy eating and food safety along with ideas and updates on floral art and gardening.

The WI Moodle

'Growing for our future' project launch: General/Home Economics/Gardening/Topic 2

This new project encourages the practice of growing plants without squandering natural resources in order to create a more sustainable future for our children and grandchildren.

Secrets Shared WI Cookery Clubs: General/Home Economics/Food

Aimed at encouraging members to come together in the comfort of their own homes to share and enjoy one another's cookery skills.

Food Safety E-Module: General/Food Safety

This short free module covers: the reasons why food hygiene and safety are so important, hazards to be aware of, food handlers' hygiene, remembering the 4Cs, and what WIs can and can't do. Complete and print off your certificate of completion.

https://twitter.com/NFWI_HomeEc

The Home Economics Adviser is on Twitter. Catch up here for food, health, flowers and garden news and updates.

CRAFT COMMITTEE

JANE PROBITTS, CHAIR; ELAINE SMITH, ADMINISTRATOR; CLARE SPENDER, CRAFT ADVISER

Contact details for the NFWI-Unit can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Spoons – a stirring tale!

Workshops at Salisbury Museum

Salisbury Museum is holding a series of workshops on Wednesday 12 and Saturday 15 October 2016 for WI members to knit and stitch spoons inspired by the museum's collection. The finished spoons will be dipped in porcelain and exhibited at the museum early 2017.

There will be two workshops on Wednesday and one in the afternoon on Saturday; each workshop will last approximately 2½ hours. Cost to attend the workshops is £5 and includes all materials and refreshments. To purchase tickets, please contact Salisbury Museum on 01722 332151 quoting 'The Knitted Event'. Information can be found in the craft area on the WI Moodle or contact Elaine Smith or Clare Spender at the NFWI Unit.

'ShowWling Off', Staging & Interpretation demonstration workshops

Fancy having a go at displaying your skills? Have you got a show or exhibition that you have to attend or host? If so, the new 'ShowWling Off' workshops could be just what you need. Aimed at all levels of skill, these fun and informative workshops will demonstrate how to create a balanced and structured presentation to maximise attraction value. Members will also learn how to display visuals while delivering a talk or workshop.

The workshops will take place at various venues around the country and will run from 10am to 3.30pm. Cost to attend is £20 per person, which includes a light lunch and refreshments. There are still a few places left and for full details of dates, venues and an application form can be found in the Craft and General Information areas on the WI Moodle. Alternatively, please contact Elaine Smith.

'Something Old, Something New' – your jumper needs you!

Entries are starting to come in for this competition. Remember – if you have registered for this competition, please make sure your finished item is at the NFWU Unit by 1 June 2016.

NFWI Creative Craft Award

This award is all about learning a new craft and having fun. There are lots of downloadable projects to help and inspire you in the Craft Area on the Moodle, which include how to put together a visual diary, how to print your own fabric, and silver clay projects. Ultimately you can decide on what you wish to study and create. To find out more information please go to the craft area in the WI Moodle and download the general information and an application form, or contact Elaine Smith at the NFWI Unit.

Craft Adviser's blog

The Craft Adviser's blog is continually updated with crafting news. Do look out for new projects and information. Is your WI holding a craft workshop? If so, please send them into the NFWI Unit – they may well end up being posted on the blog too!

Craft projects on the WI Moodle

If you haven't visited the Craft area on the WI Moodle for a while, then do have a look. There is a range of craft projects free to download on the Projects page as well as a link to the Craft Adviser blog, member forums and craft noticeboard. Easter-themed projects are currently available.

If you are feeling the urge to get making, why not check out the Craft Adviser Pinterest pages (www.pinterest.com/Clare0031/knit-crochet) for some fresh inspiration for 2016. Don't worry – there is no need to set up an account to view the pages. However, should you wish to find out how to set up an account, there are downloadable instructions in the Craft area on the WI Moodle.

Look out for...

The Craft Adviser's column in *Crafts Beautiful* has gone down well. This column features small projects and information on craft within the WI, and highlights courses at Denman and other events in the WI calendar. It will also feature individual WI's crafting projects. This month you can download information on how to create a stitched label project that *Crafts Beautiful* has created for the WI Moodle and have a go at creating eggshell candles – a great way to use up all those eggshells when baking!

We'd love to hear your ideas for other content you would like to see on the WI Moodle or NFWI website, so please contact Clare Spender with any suggestions.

Let's keep in touch

You can now follow the Craft Adviser on Twitter at twitter.com/cspendnfwicraft for updates and news. Let us know if there are any activities you would like us to promote via Twitter. Also, remember to use the member forums in the Craft homepage on the WI Moodle to post questions or share successful projects. We look forward to hearing from you.

TRAINING COMMITTEE

LYNNE ANDREWS, CHAIR; VAL ANDREWS, HEAD OF NFWI-UNIT

Contact details for the NFWI contacts mentioned below can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Digital Storytelling

The Training Committee has developed a new, interactive course for the Moodle on how to create your own digital story. A digital story is like a talking scrapbook and can be shared in all sorts of ways with friends and family – in exhibitions, in presentations, and online. Creating a digital story is a perfect way to record your WI or federation Centenary celebrations. See the link on the WI Moodle front page.

Social media/networking resources

Social networking is a way of using your computer/smartphone to talk to other people, and to share information and media like photographs or videos – whatever you want! There are many social networking websites that allow you to do the above, but the NFWI primarily uses Twitter and Facebook – currently two of the biggest social networking websites.

If you are looking to explain social media to members, you can download and use our Social Media Training Presentation under the Communications section of the WI Moodle. There are also useful step-by-step guides to using Twitter and Facebook that you can download. If you need any further help, or have any questions about Twitter or Facebook, you can contact the NFWI Press and PR Officer, Joanna Rayner.

Federation Trustee training

Federation Trustee training will continue to be offered free of charge, apart from trainer hospitality and photocopying. All days include a review of the responsibilities of a Federation Trustee. A member of the Training Team will come to your federation to train your Federation Trustees. For further information, please contact Val Andrews.

A guide to being a Federation Trustee

A short interactive course for members who would like to find out what being a Federation Trustee involves can be accessed on the WI Moodle. After completing the course, if you decide you may be interested in being a Federation Trustee, please contact your federation office. This course would also benefit existing Federation Trustees who would like to refresh their skills and knowledge.

IFE training

Do you have a group of members who would like to be trained to independently examine WI Accounts? A member of the Training Team will come to your federation and advise you on the best methods of setting up a

scheme within your federation. A refresher course is also available. The cost is £205 for a one-day course, plus trainer hospitality and photocopying. Contact Val Andrews for further information.

IFE Trainer refresher 2016

The next IFE Trainer Refresher will take place at Denman on 10 and 11 November. This two-day refresher course (with overnight stay) covers all aspects of running an IFE Scheme in your federation, including promotion of the scheme. The cost of the course will be £165; travel and taxi costs should be paid by the federation. Please note that IFE Trainers are required to complete Modules 1 – 9 of the WI Training Course on the WI Moodle prior to attending the refresher. See the link on the WI Moodle front page.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Communication Skills for the Leadership Team

This new one-day workshop is aimed at Federation Trustees, WI Advisers, Digital Champions, Denman Ambassadors, Federation Contacts and anyone else involved in speaking in public at federation level. A member of the Training Team will come to your federation and the day includes preparing for speaking in public, persuasive speech, impromptu speaking, listening skills, and dealing with difficult issues. The cost is £205 plus trainer hospitality and photocopying. Contact Elaine Smith for further information.

Stand Up and Be Heard

This is an informal one-day workshop open to any member. It is particularly useful for building the confidence of WI Presidents and Secretaries and those members who find it nerve-racking to stand up at their WI to make an announcement or to thank the speaker. It looks at learning how to relax and enjoy speaking to others. Federations that have held these workshops have all said how helpful and exciting the day was. A member of the Training Team will come to your federation or WI. The cost is £205 plus trainer hospitality and photocopying. For more information, please contact Elaine Smith.

Speaking with Confidence courses

For a more structured communication skills course, your federation may be interested in holding a Speaking with Confidence course. These two-day courses aim to develop students' confidence and ability to speak in public, to express themselves clearly without undue stress and to make the best use of their voices, and can lead to a Laser Learning Awards accreditation on completion of Parts I & II. If they wish, students can progress to Part III, which is accredited by the English Speaking Board. For further information, please contact Elaine Smith.

WI ADVISERS

WI Adviser Forums

WI Adviser Forums for 2016/2017 are as follows:

21 – 23 October 2016 Denman

6 – 8 February 2017 Denman

All applications should be endorsed by the Federation Board of Trustees.

WI Adviser training

14 and 15 September 2016 Communication Skills

23 and 24 November 2016 Understanding the WI

6 – 10 March 2017 WI Money Matters and WI Activities

There are still a few places available on this course.

14 and 15 January 2017 Communication Skills

1 and 2 April 2017 Understanding the WI

22 – 26 May 2017 WI Money Matters and WI Activities

Closing date – 14 September 2016

All applications should be endorsed by the Federation Board of Trustees.

Workshops on the WI Moodle

These are 'off the shelf' workshops available in the WI Advisers' area of the WI Moodle, complete with suggested handouts that can be downloaded for WI Advisers and others to deliver in their own federation. They are in MS Word format so they can be adapted and amended to each federation's needs. Workshops available are:

- Talking for the Terrified – Communication Skills
- Taking the Lead – WI Presidents
- WI Treasurers
- Success for Secretaries – WI Secretaries
- Planning the Programme.

If you haven't already requested access to this area, email Val Andrews putting WI Moodle/WI Adviser in the subject bar.

Formations / Suspensions / Enlargements/ Reformations

WI Advisers – when forming, suspending, reforming or enlarging a WI, please make sure the appropriate online form is completed and sent from the WI Advisers' area of the WI Moodle or the relevant card is sent by post to the Membership Administrator in London as soon as possible to enable the MCS to be kept up to date. In the case of formations, this will also activate the sending of the formation pack to the WI Adviser. Further supplies of cards can be obtained by federations from the NFWI Resources Department in London.

The WI Moodle

- **So you think you want to be a WI Adviser? Information for potential trainee WI Advisers:** This interactive online course has been developed for members who are interested in training to be a WI Adviser. This course is available to all members on the front page of the WI Moodle – members do not have to log in to the Moodle to access this course.
- **WI training resource:** This online training resource has been developed for Federation Trustees, WI Advisers, Independent Financial Examiner Trainers (IFE Trainers), Digital Champions, Federation Contacts, NFWI Judges, Denman Ambassadors, Let's Cook Local Tutors and anyone else who trains others in the WI or the local community. The course can be accessed through the front page of the WI Moodle. All the above people who already use the WI Moodle have been 'enrolled' onto the course. If you have a member of your Federation Board of Trustees who does not hold one of the above posts or any other member who would like to access the area, please contact Elaine Smith who will allocate them to the course.

Have you visited the WI Moodle recently? We now have over 50,609 WI Moodle users. There are all kinds of resources for WI members, including information to help run your WI, as well as specialist courses for WI Treasurers, Federation Trustees and Independent Financial Examiners. There is also information on training as an NFWI Judge, how to create your own pages on the WI website and much, much more. The WI Moodle can be found at www.witraining.org.uk. Please note that most areas are open to all WI Moodle users. However, if you need access to those areas marked with an asterisk * please contact Elaine Smith.

Important!

MCS Reps / Federation Secretaries – when you register a member for the WI Moodle on the MCS, please make sure you enter their email address and **save** the changes, before you assign the position of online learner.

NFWI-WALES

ANN JONES, CHAIR; RHIAN CONNICK, HEAD OF NFWI-WALES

Contact details for the NFWI-Wales contacts mentioned below can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Wales Annual Conference: 20 and 21 April 2016

Bookings are still being accepted for the 2016 Wales Conference which will be held on the Royal Welsh Showground in Llandrindod Wells, Powys on 21 April.

Hosted by Powys Radnor Federation, the conference will be based on the theme Our Magical Land (*Ein Gwlad Hudol*). Guest speakers include:

- Julia Roberts, NFWI Honorary Treasurer;
- Carolyn Hitt, award-winning journalist and broadcaster;
- Diane McCrea, Chair of Natural Resources Wales; and
- Dr Anwen Mair Jones, lecturer in Physiology and Health at Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Admission by agenda is £10. Agendas are available from the NFWI-Wales Office. Tel: 029 2022 1712.

The eve of conference entertainment, organised by Powys Radnor Federation, will be held on 20 April at The Albert Hall, Llandrindod Wells, commencing at 7.45pm. Admission is £8.

2016 Winter Fair Competitions

The competitions for members are as follows:

Craft – A penguin (any medium – no cards)

Produce – A Christmas pudding (turned out)

Floral Art (one entry per federation) – ‘Winter Holiday’ using fresh and/or artificial plant material (maximum space allowed 15" x 15")

WI ENTERPRISES

LYNNE STUBBINGS, CHAIR; MARK LINACRE, GROUP MANAGER; HILARY RANSOM, GROUP MANAGER'S ASSISTANT;

CARLOS FIALHO, MARKETING EXECUTIVE

The WI raffle

DON'T FORGET! 60% of the proceeds from tickets sold in your area will go directly to your federation, so please do all you can to encourage all WIs in your federation to sell a **BUMPER** number of tickets!

If you feel you have a problem with gambling, please visit www.gambleaware.co.uk for help and advice, or contact The National Gambling Helpline on 0808 8020 133 (open 8am to midnight daily)

We would be most grateful if you could draw to your members' attention to these WI-branded products.



WI cotton bag

Made of strong, durable cotton drill, this pretty and practical bag is ideal for being carried by hand or over the shoulder. Wash at a cool temperature.

Dimensions: 40cm (l) x 39cm (w)

Price: £6.50 incl. postage

WI tea towel

Made of strong, durable cotton drill, the tea towel matches the cotton bag with its bunting print and would be a welcome kitchen gift. Wash at a cool temperature.

Dimensions: 75cm (l) x 45cm (w)

Price: £5 incl. postage



To order, please phone Brechinset on 01986 785 234 or visit www.wishop.thewi.org.uk

DENMAN

PAT TULIP, CHAIR; JANE DIXON, HEAD OF DENMAN

Contact details for Denman can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Saving Denman Appeal

Don't forget, we have an ongoing fundraising appeal for Denman asking federations, WIs and individual members to donate a suggested amount of £10 per person over the next two years. Smaller or larger amounts will, of course, be welcome!

If you would like to give a donation to Denman, simply pop a cheque made payable to 'Denman' in the post to us: Saving Denman Appeal, Finance Office, Denman, Marcham, Oxfordshire, OX13 6NW.

Craft Material and Fabric Sale

Saturday 11 June

There will be a sale of donated papercraft items, threads, fabric pieces and general sewing goods at Denman on Saturday 11 June 2016 from 10am–5pm with free entrance and parking.

Please note: There will be no demonstrations, house and garden tours or lunches provided at this event. It is volunteer run. All proceeds go to Denman (charity registration no. 803793).

Artisan Cheese and Wine Evening

Thursday 23 June 2016

Wine and cheese may be a match made in heaven, but clearly not every wine is made for every cheese! This event will reduce the complexity with some simple rules and you will have lots of fun along the way. The evening will comprise of a tutored tasting of at least six quality wines with six artisan cheeses. They will be mostly sourced from the Cotswolds and will include St Eadburgha, a Brie-style cheese, which will be paired with sparkling wine, and Oxford Blue with a dessert wine. Explanations will be given as to why the combinations work and what to avoid when it comes to pairing the two, as well as background information on the wines. Priced at £35 for members and £40 for non-members.

Denman Summer Schools

Enjoy Oxfordshire with Anna Steven and John Vigar

9–12 June 2016 and 4–7 August 2016

M £505 NM £565

On day one, visit Blenheim Palace, which commemorates the life and achievements of John Churchill and his descendants. On day two, visit the heart of Oxford University, explore two colleges, shop in the Covered Market and take a Thames River cruise to Iffley Lock before returning to Denman later for afternoon tea. And on day three, the course culminates with a morning visit to the Ashmolean Museum.

The Georgian Experience with Anna Steven

4–7 July 2016

M £490 NM £550

A fantastic day out to the beautiful Georgian city of Bath to visit the Royal Crescent, the Pump Rooms and the Assembly Rooms. You will also go to the Bath Preservation Trust Museum to see early town planning, Georgian style. The second day you will visit the delightful 18th century Basildon Park to really feel the Georgian experience.

The Oxford Writers with Geoff Doel and Fran Doel

18–22 July 2016

M £595 NM £655

An exploration of famous writers and their biographical and literary Oxford connections through visits to colleges and other relevant sites, such as the Oxford Union Murals.

CONTACT DETAILS

Details of the NFWI contacts mentioned above.

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