

CENTRAL SECRETARIAT

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

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

International Women's Day walk: 6 March

Join CARE International UK and an incredible line-up of guests from around the world to celebrate International Women's Day in central London, on 6 March. You will be joined by celebrated women's rights champions from stage and screen, as well as inspiring unsung heroes and campaigners from the world of gender equality and women's rights.

For more information visit <https://walkinhershoes.careinternational.org.uk/womens-day-walk/>

Women of the World (WOW) Festival

The globally renowned WOW Festival returns to the Southbank Centre from 8 to 13 March 2016. Returning for its sixth year, the week-long WOW Festival takes place in the week of International Women's Day (8 March), celebrating women and girls and looking at the obstacles that stop them from achieving their full potential. The festival features over 150 events including talks, debates, live music, comedy and workshops.

For more information visit <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whatson/festivals-series/wow-women-of-the-world-festival>

Inspiring Women Awards

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. The categories are:

- Business, sponsored by Deloitte
- Community
- Entrepreneur
- The Inspiring Young Woman Award
- Public Sector Front Line, sponsored by Manchester Metropolitan University

For full details on nominating for the awards visit www.inspiringawards.co.uk

NFWI archives

A guide to accessing the NFWI archives at the Women's Library at LSE has been circulated to all federations. The guide is also available to download from the WI Moodle.

Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust, alongside more than 40 other organisations from across all sectors of society, is calling for a Charter for Trees, Woods and People. They firmly believe that people and trees are stronger together, but our nation's woods and trees are facing unprecedented pressures from development, disease and climate change, and are at risk of being neglected, undervalued and forgotten. They are asking the public to help to create this charter, which will reflect how trees have shaped the UK's society, landscape and lives.

There are two ways to help:

- Become a charter champion – champions will help to ensure that no tree or wood is overlooked, and no person is unaware of the call for a charter and the importance of trees and woods. Supported with guidance and resources, champions will represent their community in the national conversation about the future of woods and trees.

- Share your tree story – our stories and memories of trees will make up the charter itself, showing the real meaning and importance they have in society.

It's time to stick up for trees. Find out more about the campaign and how to get involved at <https://treecharter.uk/>

WI Home in Canada – scam email alert

You may have received an email regarding a WI Home in Canada, and their plea for donations for its upkeep. The NFWI is not aware of this initiative and is unable to confirm whether or not this is a genuine cause. Please discard any requests from 'Women's Institute Home' as even if genuine, it would not be possible to donate WI funds or fundraise for this cause under the WI constitution.

Offer of insurance

You may have been, or will be approached, by DE Ford Insurance brokers regarding exclusive home insurance. We would like to make it clear that this is not an initiative undertaken in collaboration with either the NFWI or WIE, nor is it endorsed by the NFWI. We have asked the company to ensure it doesn't send out potentially misleading messages to federations and WIs.

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).

13 January	–	Wales Committee meeting papers (Lisa Howells) (federations of Wales only)
15 January	–	NFWI guide to the archives (Charlotte Fiander)
20 January	–	2016 membership fees and Pooling of Fares (Catrin Rosquist)
25 January	–	Reference notes for Federation Secretaries (Eleanor Rudge)
29 January	–	Show the love on Valentine's Day (Sarah Thomas) (federations of Wales only)
1 February	–	Wales Committee follow-up (Lisa Howells) (federations of Wales only)
1 February	–	Not in my Name prose competition (Sarah Thomas) (federations of Wales only)
1 February	–	New Federation Chairmen and Treasurers (Eleanor Rudge)
5 February	–	Declaration of eligibility for newly appointed charity trustees' forms (Fiona Lam)
5 February	–	Complaints procedure (Fiona Lam)
8 February	–	Royal Garden Party (Eleanor Rudge)
8 February	–	2016 NFWI Annual Meeting – observer tickets (Kerri Le Roux-Marx)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

JOY THOMSON, CHAIR; FIONA LAM, MEMBERSHIP OFFICER AND PA TO GENERAL SECRETARY

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.

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.

Organ donation survey

There's still time left to help us evaluate our Time to Talk campaign. Take this [short online survey](#) to let us know if you've had the conversation or joined the [NHS National Organ Donor Register](#). Alternatively contact Lisa Plotkin to request a paper copy. The deadline for the survey is 31 March.

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

1897 Foundation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies banner

The NFWI has been jointly awarded a piece of historic artwork honouring women's roles in democracy and struggle for rights.

In celebration of 800 years of Magna Carta, Parliament commissioned artists to produce banners to hang in Westminster Hall during the course of 2015 to commemorate pivotal moments in the history of British democracy. Artist Alinah Azadeh was tasked with creating a banner representing the 1897 Foundation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, the umbrella group of women fighting peacefully for the vote.

The NFWI was awarded the 3m x 5m banner in honour of our historic links to the suffrage movement, our past and current campaigns for gender equality, and our continued commitment to encourage women to engage in all areas of public life. Sporting the WI and suffrage colours of green, violet and white, the banner features a typewriter to symbolise the role of the women's press in the suffrage campaign, alongside a chain representing the militant suffragettes, and a poem about the equality of men and women. We will be displaying the banner at some of our national events in the future for members to see.

We share ownership of the banner with the National Football Museum in Manchester, which will use the banner to educate their visitors about women's sporting history.

International Women's Day: 8 March

To mark International Women's Day there are two marches across the weekend in London.

The annual Million Women Rise march will take place on Saturday 5 March 2016 to bring together women from across the UK to break the silence surrounding violence against women and to demand more support and justice for victims. Every year WI members from across the country participate in Million Women Rise as part of the NFWI's No More Violence Against Women campaign. This year the march starts at Oxford Street in central London at 1.15pm and ends two hours later in Trafalgar Square. If you're planning to attend, be sure to wear red, carry some WI placards, and link up with other WI groups. Visit <http://www.millionwomenrise.com/> or email pa@nfwl.org.uk for more information.

The second event is being held on Sunday 6 March by CARE International UK to launch the charity's annual Walk in Her Shoes campaign; among those attending will be Helen Pankhurst. The initiative asks women around the UK to walk for 10,000 steps a day (about four miles) for one week from 21 to 27 March and raise £100. The campaign aims to highlight the plight of women and girls around the world who are forced to walk for miles daily in order to collect water for their families. Visit <https://walkinhershoes.careinternational.org.uk/> for more information.

SCIENCE & LEISURE COMMITTEE

CATRIONA ADAMS, CHAIR; HELEN NEAL, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Contact details for the NFWI 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 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

Come and spend the day at Wroxall Abbey, Warwickshire, and learn from the experts at the Institute of Advanced Motorists. The day is aimed at building confidence and refreshing skills in various driving situations such as motorway and night driving. Members will be encouraged to bring their own cars and go out with an instructor for one-to-one sessions to help develop their skills in parking and manoeuvring and to assess their basic driving ability. Cost to attend is £35 per person. Places are filling fast – members whose applications are unsuccessful will be placed onto a waiting list. Please contact your Federation Secretary or Helen Neal for an application form.

‘Autumn Antics’ – WI Sports Week: 12 – 18 September 2016

Jump out of that chair, get moving and get fit for the future! The aim of ‘Autumn Antics’, 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 for further information.

Elizabeth Bell challenge 2016 – timescale change

Please note that the Elizabeth Bell challenge will now be launched in March 2016. This is to allow for the new digital area on the WI Moodle to be completed and available for members to access. To remind you of the details: WIs will be challenged to create a digital story showing the impact that the WI has had on their community (*digital stories are multi-media narratives – a short film with a mixture of photography and audio that represents a personal story*).

Combined Arts Federation Representatives Conference: 18 – 20 April 2016

The conference will take place from 18 to 20 April 2016 at Denman. During their stay, representatives will have the opportunity to meet fellow members to exchange ideas and knowledge, provide support and encouragement, find out more about the role of a Federation Representative, learn new skills through a variety of activities and speakers, find out more about future committee plans, and discuss and find new ways to promote combined arts within their federations and the NFWI. Please contact the NFWI-Unit for an application form.

COOKERY COMMITTEE

MARY CLARKE, CHAIR; HELEN NEAL, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY; DIANE SANDERSON, HOME ECONOMICS ADVISER

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

Baking and Preserves courses for federations

Following the extremely successful pilot of the NFWI Baking and Preservation certificates, we are now offering these two NFWI certificates nationally.

Federation Representatives and prospective tutors are warmly invited to attend an information day to find out more about these two new practical cookery courses, which can be delivered in federations. The day will provide attendees with full information on how to run the course, as well as hearing how the two tutors who piloted the courses were successful in achieving excellent results and feedback.

Information days are taking place at:

Denman	Wednesday 24 February
Durham Federation Office	Monday 7 March
Broneirion, Wales	Tuesday 15 March

NFWI Cookery Judges course

Do you have a talent for baking and want to encourage others? If so, the NFWI Cookery Judges course is just for you. It is a mix of online learning on the WI Moodle to find out more about judging, followed by a one-day course at Denman on 22 March. To complete the course, you practise judging in your area and produce a portfolio during the summer before returning to Denman in October for a three-day residential course. The course is for people who know how to bake cakes and biscuits, bread and pastry, etc. and who wish to encourage others when they judge exhibits at village and country shows. For more details contact Helen Neal.

2016 Huxley Cup – floral art competition

Calling all floral art exhibitors! This year's competition will be held on Wednesday 14 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 on 15 and 16 September 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, re-use and re-purpose, 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.

Food and Flowers days

We are very pleased to offer the first of four Food and Flowers days in 2016. The first one will be held at East Sussex Federation Office on Monday 6 June. A workshop demonstration of flowers with NAFAS tutor Sue Flight will be held in the morning. In the afternoon, Sarah Watson of Wild Feast will offer practical help in using hedgerow produce. Priced at £30 for the day and includes lunch and refreshments.

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.

'ShoWling 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 'ShoWling 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. 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 already coming in for this competition. Remember, the closing date for entries is 21 March 2016 and final pieces should be sent to the NFWI-Unit by 1 June 2016. This upcycling competition is about being creative and having fun. It is a great way to use existing materials without having the expense of purchasing materials to create something new. The application form and full schedule can be found in the Competitions area on the WI Moodle. Look out for 'Cashmere' who has been created out of two jumpers and has become the poster creature for this new competition. Have a go and see what you create.

NFWI Creative Craft Award

This new award has now been announced, so look out for further information and application forms on the WI Moodle. This award is about learning a new craft, and all suggested areas will have a downloadable project to help and inspire you. Please contact Clare Spender for more information.

Craft Adviser's blog

The Craft Adviser's blog is always being updated with crafting news. Do look out for New Year projects and information that will be continually updated and featured. Please send in any craft workshops that your WIs are doing – 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.

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 crafts 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 instructions on how to create a stitched butterfly project that *Crafts Beautiful* has created for the WI Moodle and also have a go at creating an upcycled balloon vase.

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-Unit can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Digital WI month

The Training Committee would like every WI to 'Do something digital in September 2016'. Information will be circulated in the near future to tell you how you can get involved.

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 refreshers 2016

Two IFE Trainers refresher courses will be held at Denman on 9 & 10 March, and 10 & 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. There will also be the opportunity for students to look at the 'off the shelf' IFE refresher course for use by IFE Trainers. 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 & 15 September 2016	Communication Skills
23 & 24 November 2016	Understanding the WI
6 – 10 March 2017	WI Money Matters and WI Activities
Closing date – 14 April 2016	

14 & 15 January 2017	Communication Skills
1 & 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

- **Digital storytelling:** A new interactive workshop will be available from the end of February for you to discover how to put together your own digital story. You will gain an understanding of basic storytelling skills and how best to structure and script a story, edit the audio recording and illustrate and edit the voice-over to create a finished digital story.
- **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 45,054 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 <http://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 & 21 April 2016

The 2016 Wales Conference will take place on 21 April on the Royal Welsh Showground in Llanellwedd, Powys. Hosted by Powys Radnor Federation, the conference will be based on the theme *Ein Gwlad Hudol* (Our Magical Land). Guest speakers include Julia Roberts, NFWI Honorary Treasurer; Carolyn Hitt, award-winning journalist and broadcaster; and Diane McCrea, Chair of Natural Resources Wales. Admission by agenda is £10.

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.

Please contact your federation office as soon as possible to reserve your place.

'Not in my Name' prose competition

As part of the 2016 Not in my Name campaign, NFWI-Wales has established a competition for WI members to write a piece of prose on the title 'Not in my Name' reflecting, and inspired by, the campaign to end violence against women.

The prose should be previously unpublished and a maximum of 50 words. Entries can be submitted in the English or Welsh language. Entries will be judged by an independent panel and winners will be announced at the NFWI-Wales Public Affairs Conference in Builth Wells on 12 October 2016. Entries should be submitted to the NFWI-Wales Office by 30 June 2016.

Competition guidelines can be obtained from federation offices and the NFWI-Wales Office. They are also available to download from WI Moodle and the WI website <https://www.thewi.org.uk/wi-in-wales>

Online today: helping people with sight and hearing loss to get online

Three of the leading sight loss charities in Wales have teamed up to deliver an exciting project to help people with sight or hearing loss discover and enjoy the world of the internet. RNIB Cymru, North Wales Society for the Blind, and Vision Support are helping make every day digital skills available to people across the country. Their colleagues at Action on Hearing Loss help with people who are profoundly deaf too.

The project helps people gain the basic skills and confidence to use technology through home visits, one-to-one sessions and group events. A team of staff and volunteers help with anything from learning to use a smartphone, tablet, setting up email or using Skype or FaceTime.

If you, or someone you know, would like further information about how to get involved, please contact the project staff by telephone on 029 2082 8518, email at OnlineTodayCymru@rnib.org.uk, or website at <http://www.rnib.org.uk/onlinetoday>

Free information resources and Voluntary Arts Week

Voluntary Arts Wales is a charity that champions and promotes participation in creative cultural activities throughout Wales, and works to support and advise those who participate purely for the love of it. It has an extensive library of information resources, which it hopes will benefit the arts and crafts activities that take place in WIs across Wales. This includes over 150 free briefings on everything from event planning and volunteering to fundraising and new media. Its website also hosts a directory of over 100 organisations that can

help people develop their creative passion. Each year, the charity celebrates the work and achievements of groups through Voluntary Arts Week, a national festival of creative participation. This year, Voluntary Arts Week takes place from 6 to 15 May 2016. There are grants of up to £250 available for volunteer-led events that take place within Voluntary Arts Week.

For further information please email info@vaw.org.uk or visit the website at www.vaw.org.uk. There will be regular updates on social media – Twitter @volartswales and Facebook www.facebook.com/voluntaryartswales

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

The Saving Denman Appeal

Since the news of the college's financial position was announced at ANC, many members have expressed their wishes to raise funds to support the future of Denman. As a result, the NFWI Board of Trustees, inspired by the enthusiasm of members, has agreed that the Denman Committee should launch an appeal to enable members to donate. This appeal is aimed at federations, WIs and individual members and is asking them to donate a suggested amount of £10 per person over the next two years; however, smaller or larger amounts will, of course, be welcome. The money raised will be added to the budget for ongoing maintenance of the buildings and grounds.

The fundraising initiative was brought to the Denman Committee by Christine Hounslow, a WI member from Wiltshire, who is a Denman Ambassador and Guide. Christine will take on a leading role in the appeal and will be a focal point for feedback. The Denman Committee are very grateful to the members for initiating this appeal. We do hope you will support this fundraising campaign and you will spread the message in your WI and to members in your federation.

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

Thank you Hampshire Federation

Denman would like to say a special thank you to Hampshire Federation for donating over £2,000 to pay for a new carpet in the Drawing Room. It looks absolutely fantastic and we are very grateful!

Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) Day: 12 March 2016

Priced at £50 for members or £55 for non-members, this is a day to explore the history and current work of ACWW, meet the World President and members of the board and delight in an international cookery demonstration with ACWW's own celebrity chef HRH Princess Azizah of Malaysia and others.

History of British Gardening – in conversation with Katie Campbell and Letta Jones: 4 April 2016

Come along to Denman for a lively and engaging discussion on gardening with Katie Campbell, author of the book *British Gardens in Time*, which inspired a recent BBC4 programme. Katie will be in conversation with Denman tutor Letta Jones and their chat will highlight the history of British gardening from the earliest cultivated spaces to the present day, exploring trends, influences and pioneers. There will also be a fascinating slideshow and the option for the audience to ask questions, and it will all be followed by a lovely two-course lunch at Denman. Priced at £50 for members and £55 for non-members.

Henley's Heritage with Elizabeth Hazeldine: 26 May 2016

Nestled in a valley and surrounded by stunning countryside, Henley-on-Thames is a small market town in the heart of Oxfordshire. Come to Denman and enjoy a talk given by popular local author Elizabeth Hazeldine. Elizabeth will entertain guests with her 'Henley through time' talk in the morning. Then, after a two-course lunch at Denman, you will be taken by coach to Henley and will have the opportunity to accompany Elizabeth on one of her acclaimed heritage walks through the town. Priced at £50 for members and £55 for non-members.

There is also the option to stay over the night before the event. Priced at £109 for members and £119 for non-members, this includes both a three-course dinner on 25 May and breakfast the next morning.

CONTACT DETAILS

Here are the details of the NFWI contacts mentioned above.

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Science & Leisure Committee

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Cookery Committee

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NFWI-Wales

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