

National Federation
of Women's Institutes
104 New King's Road
London SW6 4LY

www.theWI.org.uk

Incorporated in England & Wales as a Company Limited by Guarantee – No. 251 7690. Charity Registration No. 803793. VAT No. 239 4128 57.
Chair: Ruth Bond. Honorary Treasurer: Aleathia Mann. General Secretary: Jana Osborne.

NFWI NEWS FEBRUARY 2012

NO.400

CENTRAL SECRETARIAT

RUTH BOND, CHAIR; JANA OSBORNE, GENERAL SECRETARY; LOU COLLIS, BOARD SECRETARY; KARIN HICKEY, MEMBERSHIP OFFICER AND PA TO GENERAL SECRETARY; ANNA HARTLEY, DEPARTMENTAL/ MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE SECRETARY; CHARLOTTE FIANDER, HEAD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS; GRANT ATKINSON, COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS MANAGER; KERRI LE ROUX-MARX, COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS OFFICER

Resolutions

All resolution selection slips must be submitted to your local federation and **not** to the NFWI. Please contact your federation for details on resolution selection deadlines. Federations please note that tallied votes should then be submitted no later than 3 February 2012.

National Trust

The National Trust is looking for people to join their Board of Trustees and have extended the invitation to WI members who belong to the Trust. In particular, they are looking for new Trustees with expertise in nature conservation, countryside management, investment, and audit and risk management. Please see www.helpshapeourwork.org.uk for more information.

Inclusive Britain Campaign – your chance to win an iPad 2

In the run up to the 2012 Games many visitors, including those with specific access requirements, will be flocking to London and other parts of Britain.

Since its launch in March 2011, The Mayor of London's official access portal for the 2012 Games www.inclusivelondon.com has received 8 million hits from people with specific access requirements wishing to make informed decisions about where to stay, shop and visit. An Inclusive London iPhone app was recently launched providing people with access information while they are out and about the Capital. The Direct Enquiries family of websites including www.inclusivebritain.com and www.directenquiries.com now receives 20 million hits a month.

WI members are encouraged to participate in the Inclusive Britain awareness campaign.

Both [Inclusive Britain](http://www.inclusivebritain.com) and [Inclusive London](http://www.inclusivelondon.com) help to take the strain off people with specific access requirements by offering a simple yet effective way of searching for accessible places.

It may be you're a parent and know somewhere that's highly accessible for small children and allows you to push a buggy around without any hassle, or you may have elderly or disabled friends or family and you know of a place that makes it easy for them to get around - whatever your circumstances, we want to hear from you.

To do your bit we simply ask you to register here <http://www.inclusivebritain.com/wi.aspx> and add a review to an existing location or add a location and review it. You could get lucky and win an iPad 2!

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.

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| 10 November | – | Launch of Big Walk, Little Splash! challenge (Helen Neal) |
| 10 November | – | Launch of Huxley Cup competition 2012 (Helen Neal) |
| 15 November | – | Activity Leaders Award (Rhian Connick) (Federations of Wales only) |
| 16 November | – | Community Learning Champions area meetings 2012 (Helen Neal) |
| 28 November | – | Guidelines for use when referring to the Olympics (Charlotte Fiander) |
| 29 November | – | Changes to WI accounting periods (Anne Wheeler) |

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| 5 December | – | Changes to the Associate Scheme (Anna Hartley) |
| 9 December | – | Activity Leaders Award (Kate Thomas) (Federations of Wales only) |
| 12 December | – | International Women's Day gallery tour (Karin Hickey) |
| 13 December | – | NFWI correspondence (Karin Hickey) |
| 14 December | – | WI Eisteddfod banners (Lisa Howells) (Federations of Wales only) |
| 15 December | – | Promotional 'show pack' (Anna Hartley) |
| 16 December | – | Royal Garden Party (Lou Collis) |
| 16 December | – | Wales Committee meeting papers (Kate Thomas) (Federations of Wales only) |
| 19 December | – | WI Gardening Club (Helen Neal) |
| 21 December | – | Love Your Libraries (Sarah Thomas) (Federations of Wales only) |
| 3 January | – | Women Making a Difference – Pilot in England (Karin Hickey) |
| 6 January | – | Calendar of events 2012 (Lou Collis) |
| 6 January | – | Additional papers for Wales Committee meeting (Kate Thomas) (Federations of Wales only) |
| 9 January | – | Consultation on changes to the governing documents reminder (Karin Hickey) |
| 11 January | – | New WI membership promotion leaflet (Karin Hickey) |
| 11 January | – | Free events listing website information (Charlotte Fiander) |
| 16 January | – | Federation Trustee election process (Lou Collis) |

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

JANICE LANGLEY, CHAIR; KARIN HICKEY, MEMBERSHIP OFFICER AND PA TO GENERAL SECRETARY; ANNA HARTLEY, DEPARTMENTAL/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Changes to the Associate Scheme

Due to a rise in the numbers of NFWI Associates joining the organisation, the NFWI Board has revised the proportion of the subscription received by federations. The subscription will now be equally divided between the NFWI and federations, with each party receiving £20.

As it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet the growing demand for complimentary AGM tickets (particularly in smaller venues such as the Royal Albert Hall) it has been decided that this would be revoked as a benefit of the NFWI Associate Scheme.

Please note that these changes took effect from 1 December 2011 and all relevant documents and information provided by the NFWI has been amended accordingly. Full information about these changes was sent to all federation Secretaries on 5 December in an attachment titled 'Changes to the Associate Scheme'.

New membership leaflet available NOW!

The new membership leaflet is now available for federations to order. This leaflet promotes both WI membership and the NFWI Associate Scheme and has been designed to reflect the new visual identity of the WI.

WIs should contact their federations for supplies. Please note that the leaflet will be available in multiples of 50 (50 being the minimum quantity) and postage and packaging will be charged.

Full information can be found in the mailing sent to all federation Secretaries on 11 January and on the membership/federation Secretaries section of the WI Moodle.

NFWI promotional show pack

As part of the centenary recruitment drive, the number of federations and WIs taking stands at shows and events is increasing. In order to help promote WI membership and to ensure a consistent visual message is being presented, the following 'show pack' is available to purchase from the NFWI.

What is included?

- 3 x A3 posters with WI key messages printed on polyboard with matt finish
- 2 x A4 acrylic stands with membership/NFWI Associate recruitment signage
- 2 x Acrylic leaflet stands to hold membership leaflets
- 4 x 'Membership Representative' badges



The cost of the pack is £37.50 which includes postage, packaging and VAT. Please note that this is being provided by the NFWI as a service to members at cost price.

Federations and WIs can purchase as many show packs as they would like. The order form can be found in the 'membership' section of the WI Moodle. Please complete the order form and return it to Anna Hartley, Membership Committee Secretary, 104 New Kings Road, London SW6 4LY with a cheque made payable to the NFWI for the correct amount.

Centenary Membership Grant Scheme – for federations only

Following the fifth grant assessment meeting in November 2011, the following federations have been successful in securing funding for their proposed projects: Cumbria-Westmorland, Huntingdon & Peterborough, Norfolk, Sir Gâr–Carmarthenshire and Wiltshire.

The sixth assessment meeting will be held on 1 February 2012 (deadline for submission has now passed) and the seventh will be in May 2012 with an April deadline. Federation Secretaries will be notified once dates for this have been finalised.

Following completion of the first year of the Centenary Membership Grant Scheme, the criteria for applications has been reviewed and updated to reflect the feedback from the first four assessment meetings. Federations have been emailed the updated papers which are also available to view and download from the federation Secretaries' area of the WI Moodle.

April – MCS month

As the MCS forms the basis for all the NFWI's record keeping and correspondence, it is vitally important that the information stored there is kept up to date.

Introduced last year, April is designated 'MCS month' throughout the organisation. All WIs are encouraged to appoint an MCS Rep to take responsibility for their records, and those who already have one are asked to ensure that all their records remain accurate. Are all paid-up members listed, lapsed members removed and officer roles and committee positions assigned to the correct members? An easy to follow guide to the MCS can be found on the WI Moodle.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MARYLYN HAINES EVANS, CHAIR; RACHEL BARBER, HEAD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS; YETUNDE AKINTOLA, CAMPAIGNS & RESEARCH ASSISTANT; EMMA LINDSAY, RESEARCH & CAMPAIGNS OFFICER; SOPHIE HOWES, RESEARCH & CAMPAIGNS OFFICER

Contact details

Here are the full details for the NFWI contacts mentioned below:

Sophie Howes e: s.howes@nfwl.org.uk t: 020 7371 9300 ext 238.

Emma Lindsay e: e.lindsay@nfwl.org.uk t: 020 7371 9300 ext 213.

Love your Libraries update

Save the date – Parliamentary Lobby

The NFWI is working with other library champions to organise a mass Parliamentary Lobby on Tuesday 13 March 2012 in support of public libraries. The day will provide an opportunity for members to talk to their MPs about the future of the library service and highlight the role of libraries as an essential public resource in a time of recession. Contact Emma Lindsay to get involved (details above).

Select Committee inquiry

In an important development for the library campaign, the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee is undertaking an inquiry into public library closures. The NFWI has submitted written evidence to the Committee examining the impact that libraries have on local communities.

Legal Aid action

As the legal aid reforms are passing through the House of Lords we are asking WI members to 'pair up with a Peer'. We will match you up with a member of the House of Lords and ask you to write to them to raise our concerns about provision of legal aid for women who have experienced domestic violence. If you would like to 'pair up with a Peer' please contact Sophie Howes (details above).

Water campaign

The 'Make a Splash' campaign action pack is now available. For a copy of the pack, or to get involved in the WI's boycott of bottled water to mark World Water Day on 22 March 2012, contact Emma Lindsay (details above).

Associated Country Women of the World – Women Walk the World

On or around ACWW Day on 29 April 2012, friends across the world are joining Women Walk the World, aiming to raise funds for ACWW's work.

ACWW hopes that WI members will take part by arranging walks locally. Where possible, participants should seek sponsorship however **any fundraising activity must be undertaken in an individual capacity.**

ACWW is active in over 70 countries, offering women and their communities the chance of a better life with mutual support, friendship and practical help through development programmes and projects. ACWW gives women a voice at international level by its links with the United Nations.

Projects, proposed by local societies or communities, may relate to clean water, sanitation, food production, leadership and skill training, nutrition, education, literacy, health, income generating schemes, etc. Projects are monitored and assessed to ensure a successful outcome.

Women Walk the World hand-outs (with space for local walk information) and sponsorship cards are available on request. For further information, see www.acww.org.uk or contact ACWW Central Office, telephone 0207 799 3875, email info@acww.org.uk.

Rural and Farming Networks

Jim Paice, Agricultural Minister, told the Oxford Farming Conference at the start of January that, "For too long our rural towns and villages have been overlooked and had too little say in decisions which affect them. We are putting that right through the Rural and Farming Networks." The Rural and Farming Network will give rural people the chance to speak directly with Government and help shape future decisions so our rural businesses and communities can grow stronger. They will meet for the first time in early 2012 and then as individual issues of importance to rural communities arise. For more information on how you can engage with these networks go to <http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/> or email ruralandfarmingnetwork@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Take a step for Fairtrade in 2012

This year's Fairtrade Fortnight is challenging the public to think about what they can do each day, week or month in 2012 to make a difference to the lives of farmers in the developing world.

The Foundation will be launching a 'stepometer' to record every step that members of the public make towards a better deal for producers. A step is any action that supports Fairtrade from someone buying their first packet of Fairtrade tea, to organising a public event to mark Fairtrade Fortnight such as a Fairtrade bake-off or tea party.

Fairtrade Fortnight, from 27 February to 11 March 2012 will kick start a whole year of Fairtrade activities, aimed at inspiring people to think about Fairtrade outside the fortnight and get more involved with Fairtrade throughout the year.

See www.fairtrade.org.uk/step for more information.

FEDERATION SUPPORT COMMITTEE

STEPHANIE FORT, CHAIR; HELEN NEAL, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY; LESLEY QUIRK, CRAFT CLUB CO-ORDINATOR/CENTENARY PROJECTS ADMINISTRATOR

Contact details

Here are the full details for the NFWI Unit contacts mentioned below:

Helen Neal e: h.neal@nfw-unit.org.uk t: 01865 391788 ext 279

Lesley Quirk e: l.quirk@nfw-unit.org.uk t: 01865 391788 ext 239

NFWI-Unit, Denman College, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxon, OX13 6NW

Big Walk, Little Splash!

To celebrate the 2012 Olympics, the Federation Support Committee is inviting WIs to take part in the most challenging competition yet. To walk or swim 209 miles, which is the equivalent of the distance between Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwilllantysiliogogoch to the Olympic stadium in London (as the crow flies).

The challenge must take place between 1 April and WI Day on 16 September 2012 and the total mileage must be achieved by either walking or swimming. WIs are required to keep a journal of their achievements. WIs must present their completed journal, along with an entry form to their federation by the date given in the federation newsletter.

Entries will be divided into two categories: WIs with 35 members or less, and WIs with 36 members or more. The two WI's (one from each category) with the highest proportion of members who have taken part will then be submitted to National. Federations must submit their chosen journals to the NFWI Unit no later than 26 October 2012.

Fez News!

Work on the next edition of *Fez News!* will begin shortly – do you have any stories, experiences, photos, hints or tips that you want to share with your fellow Sport and Leisure, Combined Arts or Science Representatives? If so, then please send them to Helen Neal (details above) for inclusion in the next issue. Deadline for articles is 15 February 2012.

Centenary Choir competition

This year, the Centenary Choir competition will start the practical phase with Information and Singing Workshops for Federation Representatives commencing at Denman College on 30 April 2012. Each federation is encouraged to send up to four representatives who will then cascade the information to all the WIs in their areas. If you would like to be one of the four members to take this important project forward to 2015, please contact your Federation Secretary immediately as registrations need to be submitted by 9 March 2012.

The workshops will be run by Jonathan Willcocks, Director of Music for the project and will be attended by a member of the Board of Trustees or Choir Working Group. Handouts, project materials and refreshments will be supplied and lunch can be ordered at a cost of £5.

The schedule for the six regional sessions is:

| | | |
|----------|---|--|
| 30 April | – | 12 federations at Denman College |
| 14 May | – | 16 federations at Minsterley Parish Hall, Shrewsbury |
| 15 May | – | 14 federations at Alma House, North Yorkshire West |
| 16 May | – | 12 federations at Harby Village Hall, Newark, Notts |

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 2 July | – | 9 federations at Otford Village Hall, Sevenoaks, Kent |
| 6 July | – | 7 federations at Clyst St Mary Village Hall, Exeter, Devon |

For more information, please see the WI Moodle or contact Lesley Quirk, Special Projects Co-ordinator (details above).

Sport and Leisure Federation Representatives Conference 2012

Sport and Leisure Federation Representatives are invited to apply to attend this conference, which will take place at Denman College from 25 to 27 April 2012. During their stay, representatives will have the opportunity to:

- Meet, exchange ideas and knowledge with and provide support and encouragement to fellow members
- Find out more about the role of a Federation Representative
- Learn new skills through a variety of activities and speakers
- Find out more about what the NFWI plans for the future of sport and leisure within the WI
- Discuss and find new ways to promote sport and leisure within their federations and the NFWI.

Should your representative be unable to attend, or if your federation does not have an appointed representative, the invitation is open to a member of your federation from a relevant sub-committee, or with an interest in sport and leisure, who has the ability and enthusiasm to cascade knowledge from the meeting. The cost to your federation would be £235 per member; this fee includes all accommodation and meals at Denman College. Please note that any travel expenses must either be covered by the individual or at the discretion of the federation.

Contact Helen Neal (details above) for an application and conference programme.

Have you heard?

Do you know of members that are not representatives or sit on a certain committee, but would love to know first hand what the NFWI has planned for sport and leisure, science and combined arts? The Federation Support Committee is now giving them the chance.

Members should contact Helen Neal with their email address, so they can be added to a national database. Any new activities, such as ‘one-off’ speaker days, special events, competitions and information from other organisations will then be sent straight to their inboxes.

Federation Representatives database

Don’t forget to keep us up to date with the contact details for your Combined Arts, Sport and Leisure and Science Representatives/relevant sub-committee chairmen – we don’t want anyone to miss out on anything. All details should be sent through to Helen Neal at the NFWI Unit (details above).

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MAGGIE SIMONS, CHAIR EDUCATION COMMITTEE; HELEN NEAL, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY; ELAINE SMITH, ACCREDITATION OFFICER; DIANE SANDERSON, HOME ECONOMICS ADVISER; PAT LUMSDALE, CRAFT ADVISER; LESLEY QUIRK, LET’S COOK LOCAL PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

Contact details

Here are the full details for the NFWI Unit contacts mentioned below:
 Helen Neal e: h.neal@nfwl-unit.org.uk t: 01865 391788 ext 279
 Lesley Quirk e: l.quirk@nfwl-unit.org.uk t: 01865 391788 ext 239
 Diane Sanderson e: d.sanderson@nfwl-unit.org.uk t: 01865 391788 ext 278
 Elaine Smith e: e.smith@nfwl-unit.org.uk
 NFWI-Unit, Denman College, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxon, OX13 6NW

Community Learning Champion workshops – your chance to find out more

All federations have been invited to attend an area meeting to discuss the possibility of a new and exciting change to the current NFWI Skills Co-ordinators scheme.

The Education Committee is very aware that, in some federations, the role of a Skills Co-ordinator flourishes and works well, whereas in others it continues to struggle. This year, following a grant from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the committee is taking the opportunity to investigate changing from the current Skills Co-ordinators to the Community Learning Champions (CLC) scheme. Developed by the Government, the scheme aims to increase opportunities for informal learning for all. It fits well with the objectives for the ‘Big Society’ which encourages community development and is nationally recognised and accredited.

We would welcome the opportunity to consult all federations in England (funding for this initiative is only available for federations in England) to fully discuss the implications and responsibilities that joining the scheme would require, before any final decision is made.

Area meetings will take place as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Wednesday 14 March | – | North Yorkshire West Federation office, Ripon |
| Wednesday 11 April | – | Keynsham Parish Hall, Avon |
| Friday 13 April | – | Derbyshire Federation office, Derby |

Thursday 19 April – Cambridgeshire Federation office, Girton
Wednesday 25 April – Surrey Federation office, Guildford

Federations may send up to two people to each meeting and we would recommend that the Federation Chairman plus the current Skills Co-ordinator, or another member who would be interested in developing their own skills to enable them to work as WI Community Learning Champions, should attend.

Travel expenses, up to a total of £40 per federation, will be reimbursed upon receipt of a completed and signed NFWI expenses form which will be issued at each meeting.

Don't miss this chance to learn more about the CLC scheme and to make your opinions count! **'Improving your techniques' – new floral art workshops coming your way.**

The Education Committee in conjunction with NAFAS is pleased to launch a new and exciting opportunity for WI members. Two regional floral art workshops, 'improving your techniques' have been organised for 2012 and are open to all members.

Using NAFAS accredited Floral Art Tutors, the demonstration and practice workshops are a chance for members to improve their skills and learn various tricks of the trade. Workshops start at 10.30am and finish at 3pm and cost £40.

Workshop dates:

15 May – Northamptonshire Federation office, Moulton

3 October – Essex Federation office, Hatfield Peverel

For more information and to book a place, contact Diane Sanderson, Home Economics Adviser (details above).

Huxley Cup competition 2012

This year's Huxley Cup competition will take place in the East and West Sussex Federation of WI's marquee at The South of England Show, Ardingly, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. The event is hosted by the South of England Agricultural Society from 7 to 9 June 2012.

The overall theme for the marquee is **'Simply the Best'** and the title for the Huxley Cup competition will be **'Crowning Glory'**. Competitors are invited to enter a pedestal exhibit of plant material and may interpret the title as they wish.

Each federation may submit up to two entries to the competition although the current holder of the Huxley Cup is not eligible for entry. An entry form for each competitor must be completed and sent, with a C5 SAE, to Helen Neal (details above) by Friday 23 March 2012.

Deadline approaching

The new WI Gardening Club project gives members the opportunity to improve their community and link with local schools to start up and improve community growing spaces. This project started in January 2012 and will take place over two years. WIs are encouraged to form their own Gardening Club and put forward an application to the Education Committee as to what they plan do, including how, where, when and how much it will cost. All ideas will be welcomed; big projects as well as more modest ones. Once applications have been considered, funding will be awarded to successful WIs. The deadline for first-round funding applications is Tuesday 28 February 2012. To find out more about the project or how you can apply, contact Diane Sanderson (details above).

NFWI Cookery Judges' training course

A training programme for members interested in becoming NFWI Cookery Judges has been booked for 2012, and is now open to members and non-members interested in training to become an NFWI Judge. The introductory day will take place on 29 March 2012 and the practical workshop will take place from 17 to 19 October 2012. Both events will take place at Denman College. To find out more about the new training scheme, or to receive an application form, please contact Elaine Smith (details above).

Craft Clubs

Now the schools have returned after the Christmas break, it is an ideal time to make contact with schools, libraries, museums, galleries or local community venues to offer to start a Craft club. Remember to complete and return the evaluation form on the WI Moodle which will generate many free teaching materials and goodie bags for the students.

Two 'Pass It On' training dates are still available in February as follows:

Friday 10 February

Lakeside Arts Centre, Nottingham

craftclubtrainingnottingham.eventbrite.com

Wednesday 22 February

Sheffield Millennium Gallery (10am – 12.30pm)

This event is a mini follow-up training date as there are many women in Yorkshire who were not able to attend the original date. This event is very limited and will be by invitation only.

Please contact Lesley Quirk (details above) if you wish to attend.

Let's Cook Local

Let's Cook Local courses are taking place across England. 14 courses were completed in 2011 with more being booked for 2012. Feedback from members shows that they are thoroughly enjoying the courses. One tutor reported, "All the students made items or dishes they hadn't done before and enjoyed most of the things they cooked, as did their children. They learnt how to recognise and prepare unfamiliar vegetables such as leeks and celery." The same tutor reported that the course ran in an area of real need; low employment and aspiration "I could see students gaining confidence and hope; one or two may even think of catering as a career."

The project needs to complete 112 courses over its lifetime and so trained tutors should be commencing arrangements to hold their sessions during the coming year. New recipe books and training manuals have been printed and will be available for all forthcoming courses. Tutors wishing to receive all the training materials should complete and return the course details forms (available to download from the WI Moodle) without delay. Any tutors needing assistance with venues or local food producers should contact Lesley Quirk or Diane Sanderson at the NFWI Unit (details above).

On with the Show

Despite some unexpected delays, *On with the Show* is almost ready for purchase. We are anticipating receiving stock of the glossy and colourful new versions by early February. Please contact Helen Neal (details above) if you wish to reserve a copy.

Go on – be a sport

The NFWI Education Committee, in association with PME Sugarcraft, is inviting WI members to take part in a novelty cake competition to mark the 2012 London Olympics. Entrants are initially required to create a design on paper for a novelty cake depicting an Olympic sport. These are to be sent to the NFWI Unit for preliminary judging. Finalists will be required to make up their designs in a suitable medium for final judging. The cost is £5 per entry and designs and entry fees should be sent to the NFWI Unit for preliminary judging by 30 March 2012. The overall winning novelty cake will be displayed at Denman College and at the International Cake Show, NEC, Birmingham in November 2012. The top three entries will receive £70, £50 and £20 worth of PME Sugarcraft equipment. In addition, all finalists will receive two tickets for the 2012 International Cake Show.

Eat seasonably

There is nothing like fresh fruit and vegetables at their seasonal best. Bursting with taste and health giving nutrients, seasonal produce is great value and low in food miles. For ideas on what to grow as well as what to eat now, visit the website www.eatseasonably.co.uk.

TRAINING COMMITTEE

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

Contact details

Here are the full details for the NFWI Unit contacts mentioned below:

Val Andrews e: v.andrews@nfw-unit.org.uk

Elaine Smith e: e.smith@nfw-unit.org.uk

NFWI-Unit, Denman College, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxon, OX13 6NW

FEDERATION OFFICERS WORKSHOPS

Membership Chairmen's workshop

18 – 20 January 2013 – Denman College

Federation Secretaries workshop

This workshop is aimed at both new and experienced secretaries.

28 – 30 January 2013 – Denman College

Federation Chairmen's & Federation Treasurers' workshops

25 – 27 February 2013 – Denman College

Contact Val Andrews (details above) for further application forms.

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINERS TRAINERS COURSE

The Training Committee has developed a new blended learning course for Independent Financial Examiner Trainers. Students will complete a 12 week online course starting on 1 September 2012, followed by a residential weekend at Denman College from 23 to 25 November 2012. Full trainer support will be available for this course which will provide students with the technical knowledge and skills to train Independent Financial Examiners in their own federation. On successful completion of the course, students will gain an OCN at level 3.

Further information and application forms are available from Val Andrews at the NFWI Unit (details above).

WI ADVISERS

WI Advisers forums

WI Adviser forums for 2012 – 2013 are as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| 5 – 7 October 2012 | – | Denman College – closing date 1 June 2012 |
| 11 – 13 February 2013 | – | Denman College – closing date 1 September 2012 |

WI Adviser training

In response to comments received from federations, the Training Committee has reviewed the length of WI Adviser training and condensed the time period to around six months.

The dates of the next training to be held at Denman College are:

21 – 22 September 2012, 7 – 8 December 2012, and 18 – 22 March 2013

Closing date 22 April 2012

or

14 – 15 January 2013, 11 – 12 March 2013, and 24 – 28 June 2013

Closing date 14 September 2012

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

Workshops

All the workshops in the WI Adviser area of the WI Moodle are in the process of being updated. These are 'off the shelf' workshops, complete with suggested handouts that can be downloaded for you to deliver in your federation. They're in Word format so you can adapt and amend them to your own federation needs. Workshops available are:

- Talking for the Terrified – **NEW**
- WI Presidents' workshop
- WI Treasurers' workshop – updated 2010
- WI Secretaries' workshop
- Planning the Programme – updated 2011

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

WI Adviser badges

WI Adviser badges are now available. To order please phone Brechinset on 01394 448824 or visit the WI Shop on our website –

www.thewi.org.uk. **Please be aware that this badge has a magnet and is therefore not suitable for members who have pacemakers.**

The WI Moodle

Have you visited the WI Moodle recently? We now have nearly 11,500 WI Moodle users! Specialist courses for WI Treasurers, Federation Trustees, Independent Financial Examiners as well as information on training as an NFWI Judge and how to create your own WI website and much, much more 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 (details above).

Enrolling to areas

The WI Moodle was originally developed as a virtual learning environment for the educational sector so you will see terms such as 'courses', 'students' and 'teachers' on the WI Moodle website. However organisations such as the WI use the WI Moodle as an online training area where people can safely access information, download items of use and interact with each other, as well as learn new skills. When you enter an area for the first time on the WI Moodle you will be asked if you wish to 'enroll'; you need to click on 'yes' and this will take you into the area – you are not enrolling onto a training course.

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 on-line learner.

Important!

WI Advisers – when a new WI is formed please can you make sure the formation form is sent to the Membership Administrator in London as soon as possible to enable the new members to be registered for the WI Moodle.

PowerPoint Presentation workshops

These free courses are still available for those Federations who have not yet taken up this offer and who have their own laptop and projector. The Training Committee can come to your federation to train your Federation Trustees, WI Advisers and members who train others in their federation. This will include putting together a PowerPoint Presentation, setting up equipment and tips for delivering the presentation in a professional way. Workshops must take place before the end of March 2012. Please contact Val Andrews for further information.

Trustee training

Free Federation Trustee training will continue until the end of March 2012. All days include a review of the responsibilities of a Federation Trustee. The Training Committee can come to your federation to train your Federation Trustees. For further information please contact Val Andrews (details above).

IFE training

Do you have a group of members who would like to be trained to independently examine WI Accounts? The Training Committee can come to your federation and advise you on the best methods of setting up a scheme within your federation. This training is being offered free until the end of March 2012. A refresher course is also available under this funding. Contact Val Andrews for further information.

Communication Skills**So you need to be Heard?**

The Training Committee is pleased to offer these free one-day workshops for WI Advisers, Federation Trustees, Denman and ACWW Reps or anyone working at federation level that has to give talks/presentations. These workshops are designed to look at how we communicate with our members and how federation members work together. They cover presentation skills, including voice projection, both with and without microphones; listening skills; working with PowerPoint and general advice on getting our message across. These workshops must take place before the end of March 2012 and the Training Committee can come to your federation. For further information please contact Elaine Smith (details above).

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, 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 who have held these workshops have all said how helpful and exciting the day was. The Training Committee will pay for the cost of the trainer's travel. For more information please contact Elaine Smith at the NFWI Unit.

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 (formerly OCN) 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 (details above).

NFWI-WALES

MARGARET LLOYD JONES, CHAIR; RHIAN CONNICK, HEAD OF NFWI WALES

Contact details

Here are the full details for the NFWI-Wales contacts mentioned below:

Sarah Thomas e: s.thomas@nfwl-wales.org.uk t: 029 2022 1712

Ethne Biggs e: e.biggs@nfwl-wales.org.uk t: 029 2022 1712.

Love your Libraries campaign**Overview of the situation in Wales relating to libraries**

Are libraries in your area under threat of closure or reduced service provision? Has your WI or federation been involved in campaigning against library closures? NFWI-Wales would be keen to hear about any library changes proposed in your areas.

Action Day – 4 February

We would also like to hear about WI and federation plans in Wales for the Libraries Action Day in February. Please let us know if you are planning an action day on 4 February or anytime during the week beginning 30 January.

Please send your responses to Sarah Thomas at the NFWI-Wales Office by 25 January (details above).

Campaign postcards

NFWI-Wales is arranging to present the Love your Libraries campaign postcards to the Welsh Government Heritage Minister, Huw Lewis AM, at the National Assembly for Wales on 31 January. Please note that completed postcards should reach the NFWI-Wales office by 27 January.

Royal Welsh Show Winter Fair: 2011 competition winners

Thank you to all members who entered the 2011 competitions. Congratulations to the following winners:

A decorative Christmas cushion

1. Sheila Chalmers, Dwyfor WI, Gwynedd-Caernarfon
2. Eluned Davies, Dihewyd WI, Ceredigion
3. Julie Bellinger, Margam WI, Glamorgan

Five decorated Christmas cup cakes

1. Joyce Copley, Llanon WI, Ceredigion
2. Sara Skinner, Aberhonddu Angels WI, Powys-Brecknock
3. Kath Armishaw, Tremont WI, Powys-Radnor

Wales Annual Conference

Great Hall, Aberystwyth Arts Centre

29 March

Members are warmly invited to attend the 2012 Wales Conference hosted by Ceredigion Federation. The conference theme is *Horizons / Gorwelion* with confirmed speakers including Anne Harrison, NFWI Vice-Chair and Chair of Denman College Committee; Professor Laura McAllister, Chair of Sport Wales; Harriet Lamb, Director of the Fairtrade Foundation; Nicola Davies, zoologist and author; and Gwawr Edwards, soprano. Admission by agenda is £8.

The eve-of-conference entertainment, organised by Ceredigion Federation, will be held at the same venue on 28 March. Admission is £7. Please contact your Federation Office as soon as possible to reserve a place at the conference and eve-of-conference entertainment.

Public Affairs Conference

Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells

17 April, 10am – 4.15pm

This all-day conference will be addressed by Marylyn Haines Evans; Linda Tomos, Director of CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales; Baroness Jenny Randerson; and Dilys Burrell, Energy Saving Trust.

To register a place at the conference, please contact Ethne Biggs at the NFWI-Wales Office (details above). Please provide your e-mail address, postal address and telephone number. Please also provide details of any special dietary or other requirements.

International Women's Day events

NFWI-Wales will be co-ordinating three International Women's Day (IWD) events across Wales in March:

Monday 5 March – Llandudno Town Hall

Wednesday 7 March – Morlan Centre, Aberystwyth

Thursday 8 March – The Pierhead / Senedd, Cardiff Bay

All the events will focus on the 2012 IWD theme 'women and men united to end violence and domestic abuse against women'. Further information will be circulated to federations in early February.

To register an interest in attending one of the events, please contact Ethne Biggs (details above).

WI ENTERPRISES

DIANA BIRCH, CHAIR; MARK LINACRE, GROUP MANAGER; HILARY RANSOM, GROUP MANAGER'S ASSISTANT; CARLOS FIALHO, MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Uchange4better and WI Enterprises

WI Enterprises has recently partnered with Uchange4better – a free and unique, 100% impartial energy search engine which allows you to compare the prices of all gas and electricity suppliers and find the very best deal for your home.

You can compare by savings alone, CO₂ savings, customer service standards or a combination of all three. To make your comparison please go to www.theWI.org.uk/WIoffers

Customers have saved on average £142.50 on their gas and electricity bills with this energy search engine. This external website is powered by Energylinx and uchange4better. Energylinx is fully accredited to the new Consumer Focus Confidence Code.

The WI tea towel

Featuring the WI logo and made of cotton drill – a strong and durable drying cloth – the WI tea towel is not only practical but also makes a lovely addition to any kitchen.

This delightful tea towel has a charming 'retro'-inspired design and is also perfect as a souvenir.

Size: 75cm/30in (h) x 45cm/18in (w)

Price: £3.90 including postage



The WI apron

The WI apron co-ordinates beautifully with the WI tea-towel, sharing the same vintage-inspired pattern and colours, and featuring the WI logo.

Made of high quality cotton drill, this easy-care practical apron is machine-washable and made to last.

Size: 82cm/33in (l) x 57cm/23in (w)

Price £8.95 including postage

To order the WI tea towel and apron please phone Brechinset on 01394 276520 or visit www.theWI.org.uk/WIproducts



DENMAN COLLEGE

ANNE HARRISON, CHAIR OF DENMAN COLLEGE COMMITTEE; JANE DIXON, HEAD OF DENMAN COLLEGE; JEANETTE BOOTH, HEAD OF COLLEGE SERVICES

NEW WAVE WEEKEND

25 – 27 May

Alongside the likes of Jam Free in Surrey and WI Lite in Stratford-upon-Avon, lots of 'new wave' WIs are continuing to spring up all over the country. At Denman College we're hosting a very special weekend get-together for members of these groups and those interested in joining or starting them. As well as meeting other like-minded members from all over the country, you'll get to experience Denman College's fantastic facilities on a selection of great taster workshops. If you've been hooked on *Kirstie's Homemade Britain* then try your hand at something crafty like beading or learning how to use a sewing machine. There will also be zumba classes, wine tasting workshops, and cookery demonstrations to enjoy.

The weekend will include welcome drinks, a cocktail and canapés demonstration, your choice of three out of four taster workshops, sumptuous meals, staying in comfortable ensuite rooms and not least, the chance to meet and socialise with new friends in the bar. What better way to spend a weekend away with the girls!

The price is just £255 for members and £292 for non-members and a free taxi service is available from Oxford and Didcot stations. If you get a group of four or more get 10% off the total price. For more information call 01865 391991, or go to www.denman.org.uk.

BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

PILATES

23 – 25 April

Feeling like you want to get your body and mind in shape for the New Year?

Step by step, you can change the way you look, the way you feel and the way you move. If you want a new body – reshaped, rebalanced and realigned – a body that is longer, leaner and more supple, and yet with a hidden strength, then Pilates is for you.

Price is £235 for members and £272 for non-members.

BED AND BREAKFAST AT DENMAN COLLEGE

Fancy a few days away? We now offer bed, breakfast and evening meals at Denman College. Come and enjoy a relaxing break in our beautiful house or wandering in our grounds, visit nearby Oxford or tour the local villages. For more details telephone us on 01865 391991 or go to www.denman.org.uk.

We recently carried out a survey of members to ask the reasons why more of you don't come.

You said: ***'It's too expensive'***

Our answer: A two-night residential costs £235. Included in this price is:

- Two nights' accommodation in your own ensuite room
- All meals – a full English breakfast, morning coffee and homemade biscuits, a two-course lunch including hot choices and a full salad bar, afternoon tea with homemade cake and a three-course evening meal with waiter service
- Tuition by well-qualified experts in their subject
- Taxi service to and from Oxford or Didcot.

So it's very good value for money!

You said: ***'The travel costs too much'***

Our answer: Joyce Little, Federation Chairman for Tyne and Wear South, says, "I book my train as soon as I can, usually 10 weeks before the course, using my senior rail card. Recently I got from Newcastle to Oxford return, without having to change trains, for £29.50. Then, of course, there's a free taxi from the station. I love coming to Denman so I always ask my family for gift vouchers for Christmas and birthdays!"

The lucky winner from our prize draw, Jenny Harris from Leckhampton WI, has won a free residential course at Denman College.

FEDERATION NEWS

Devon Federation

Teas, hospitality and accommodation booklets are on sale for £1 each, plus A5 SAE.
WI officers list also on sale for £2.50, plus a large stamped envelope.
