

**CORNWALL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE HALL FOR CORNWALL, TRURO ON WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2016.**

**OPENING OF THE MEETING:** The Federation Chairman Mrs Barbara Corbett welcomed everyone to the meeting and members stood to welcome the Mayor of Truro, Councillor Robert Nolan. Members and guests remained standing to sing *Jerusalem*.

**CIVIC WELCOME:** The Mayor was clearly impressed with the singing of *Jerusalem*, which he stated was "unbelievable", and on behalf of all the shopkeepers in Truro he welcomed all the WI ladies to the centre of Truro. He expressed his admiration for voluntary groups such as the WI, who play a very important part in the community.

**EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO THE MAYOR OF TRURO** Margaret Johnson, Federation Vice-chairman, thanked the Mayor for his very warm welcome.

**WELCOME TO VISITORS:** The Federation Chairman Mrs Barbara Corbett welcomed guests and visitors including former County Chairmen, Rosemary Slee, Sheila Goldsworthy, Mary McCabe, Annabel John, Yvonne Toms and Kathy Reed. Representatives from Truro Inner Wheel, Accounts Manager Gareth Williams, Jean Sims from Avon Federation, Ruth Andrews and Casey Worrall from Somerset Federation and Marilyn Holehouse from Dorset Federation, the guest speakers, and finally the delegates and members of CFWI.

Apologies were received from Trustee Judith Williams, former County Chairman Liz Anderson and Nan Collier, Accountants Robinson, Reed, Layton, Devon Federation, Chris Riddle from the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association, Sub-committee Advisers David Chapman, Cheryl Marriott and Edna Trudgeon and Gail Allen from the CFWI office.

**ADOPTION OF THE STANDING ORDERS** proposed by Mrs Barbara Corbett, a vote was taken by show of hands and carried.

**ADOPTION OF THE 2016 SPRING COUNTDOWN MINUTES** proposed by Mrs Barbara Corbett, a vote was taken by a show of hands and carried.

**REPORT BY THE FEDERATION TREASURER:** Mrs Jane Mills stated that she likened the 2015 Financial Statements, distributed at Spring Countdown, to a fairy story - they had started well, gone a bit haywire in the middle, but there had been a happy ending. Budgets are set using the worst case scenario. The 2015 budget had showed a deficit of £11k but due to legal expenses this had risen to £16k. However during 2016 there had been a happy ending and the money spent on legal fees has been recouped. The Federation Treasurer proposed the adoption of the 2015 Annual Report, seconded by Elaine Farrell, Hayle WI, a vote was taken by a show of hands and carried.

**PRESENTATION OF THE 2017 BUDGET:** Mrs Jane Mills stated that each of the sub-committees had agreed their budget for the coming year however she stated that she wished to take the emphasis off fundraising and put it on being a WI member, enjoying the new opportunities offered by the Federation, when these things are right we are all winners. The Federation Treasurer then proposed the adoption of the 2017 budget, seconded by Abigail Kirby-Harris, St Breward WI, a vote was taken by a show of hands and carried.

**THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ACCOUNTANTS AND TELLERS FOR 2016-2017** Board of Trustees member Mrs Grace Bradford proposed that Robinson Reed Layton should continue as Accountants, seconded by Pam Sewell, Bodmin Gaolbirds WI, and The Inner Wheel of Truro should continue as Tellers, seconded by Gill Higgins, Trematon WI, votes were taken by a show of hands and both proposals were carried.

**FEDERATION CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS:** Mrs Barbara Corbett offered her congratulations to those WIs celebrating special birthdays this year, and those who will celebrate their 100th birthdays in 2018 ahead of the Federation's Centenary in 2019. She thanked Trustees Sandra Buck and Judith Williams, who are both stepping down, for all their hard work and years of service for the Federation, they will both be greatly missed. The Federation is looking forward - the new editor of the County Newsletter, Helen Kestle, along with Helen Mills-Jenkins, have set up a CFWI Facebook page to enable information and photographs to be shared much sooner. Barbara Corbett stated that it had been an honour and privilege to be the Federation Chairman for these past two years and expressed her thanks to her fellow Trustees for their support. She left the members with a quotation from George V "*Have faith in life at its best and bring it your courage, your hopes and your sense of humour. Let us have no fear of the future, but think of it as opportunity and adventure*"

**GUEST SPEAKER –** Baroness Jolly, "call me Judith" – stated that her mum had been a WI member. She praised the WI for bringing attention to important issues through their mandates before giving an insight into the role of the House of Lords in British politics, and how the two Houses regulate each other. Following her talk she took questions from members.

**PRESENTATION OF THE AWARDS** Baroness Jolly presented cups and certificates to winners and runners-up in the 2016 competitions.

**BLAIKLEY SALVER COMPETITION:** Mrs Mary Ellis, Mullion WI was not able to attend the meeting and her winning entry “*Too Good to Waste*” was read on her behalf by Jackie Holland, Downtery & Seaton WI

**GUEST SPEAKER** – Luci Isaacson, Director Climate Vision explained that Climate Vision have created a list of 10 easy to implement pledges to help achieve global carbon reduction. She had attended the United Nations Climate Change conference in Paris and demonstrated the impressive savings that can be made, but stressed that it is now important to keep the pressure on by lobbying MPs to help ensure the government follow through on their commitment in Paris.

**GUEST SPEAKER** – Pippa Stillwell, President of Zennor WI and NFWI Climate Ambassador for Cornwall congratulated Luci Isaacson on her work, before giving details of Zennor WI's climate lobby that has been arranged at Trythall School on 14 October, to be attended by Derek Thomas MP, as part of the NFWI Week of Action.

**EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO SPEAKERS** – Miss Alison Latham, Board of Trustees member thanked the three morning speakers.

#### **THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12.50PM FOR LUNCH AND THE AFTERNOON SESSION RESUMED AT 1.55PM**

**OPENING OF AFTERNOON SESSION:** The Federation Chairman introduced Cdr Ian Fitter RN, Executive Officer RNAS Culdrose, standing in for Capt Stembridge RN, Commanding Officer of RNAS Culdrose. Cdr Fitter, clearly impressed to be on stage at the HfC, talked about the future of RNAS Culdrose following the withdrawal of search and rescue facilities. Culdrose is the largest ‘single site’ employer in Cornwall (3,000) and brings £100m per annum into the local economy. It is a training establishment, a naval base and helps protect the UK's interests.

**DENMAN DIP AND ASHFORD AYRES BURSARY WINNERS:** Aided by Cdr Ian Fitter, Denman Ambassador Mrs Kathy Reed, announced the winner of the Denman Dip – Sarah Symonds, Wilcove WI, (reserve Sue Walters, Wilcove WI) and the Ashford Ayres Bursary – Lesley Lewis, Helston WI (reserve Janine McKay, Truro WI) following which Cdr Fitter left the stage to return to RNAS Culdrose for a prior appointment.

Denman Ambassador Kathy Reed then updated members on the Save Denman Appeal and reminded them about the Federation visit to Denman in May 2017.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE GUEST SPEAKER** – as Kathy Reed finished her update music was heard and the centre screen raised to reveal a garden scene, featuring The Cataclews, a ceilidh band from Trevone, and several Trustees dressed as flowers. A gardener watered his plant pots and Bill, Ben and Little Weed ‘grew’ – the Cataclews played several tunes under the watchful eye of a stranger sitting on a garden bench, and accompanied by appreciative clapping (and some dancing) from the members. Once The Cataclews had taken a well-deserved bow, Chairman Barb Bill introduced the ‘stranger’ as Toby Buckland, our guest speaker.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Toby Buckland was clearly delighted to be reunited with his ‘house band’ and the welcome he had received from the members. He explained how members could achieve ‘Continuous Colour in the Garden’, gave some very useful advice on plants particularly suited to coastal regions and how to deal with garden pests. Following this he took questions from the floor.

**EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO THE GUEST SPEAKER** Board of Trustee member, Julia Havard, still sportingly wearing her English Rose head, thanked Toby Buckland for his very interesting and informative talk and for agreeing to take part in his own introduction.

**RAFFLE** Barbara Corbett then invited Toby Buckland to draw the raffle.

**EXPRESSION OF THANKS** to the Exhibitions Sub-Committee, Stewards, Flower Arrangers, Trading Post Team, Pooling of Fares Organisers, Caterers (Truro Afternoon WI members), Hall for Cornwall staff, all the delegates, members and visitors, and the Cataclews by Mrs Jane Dover, Board of Trustees member.

**VOTE OF THANKS TO THE FEDERATION CHAIRMAN:** Mrs Abigail Kirby-Harris, Floral Arts and Garden sub-committee Chairman, thanked the Federation Chairman for arranging such an enjoyable meeting and for her ongoing support to all members and sub-committees.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR 2016 – 2018** Barbara Peters, Federation Secretary, announced the elected Board of Trustees for 2016-2018, Grace Bradford - Falmouth WI, Barbara Corbett - Carbis Bay WI, Jane Dover - Truro WI, Julia Havard – Crowlas & Ludgvan WI, Margaret Johnson – Bodmin WI, Helen Kestle – Crowlas & Ludgvan WI, Alison Latham – Crowlas & Ludgvan WI, Jane Mills – Connor Downs & Gwithian WI and Pam Selley – Bodmin Goalbirds WI. There will be a Special Board of Trustees meeting on Monday 3 October to elect the Chairman and Officers of the Federation.

Barbara Corbett thanked everyone for attending and wished them a safe journey home. The meeting closed at 4.00pm with the singing of the National Anthem.