

CORNWALL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES
MINUTES OF THE SPRING COUNTDOWN MEETING
HELD AT THE HALL FOR CORNWALL, TRURO ON WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2017.

MEETING OPENS The Federation Chairman, Mrs Barbara Corbett, invited members and guests to stand and sing *Jerusalem*.

WELCOME BY THE FEDERATION CHAIRMAN Mrs Barbara Corbett welcomed everyone to the meeting, with a special welcome to those attending for the first time, including members of the newly formed WIs, Crofty Girls WI and Saffron Buns WI, and Juliet Turner the new gardening adviser for the Floral Arts and Gardening sub-committee. She welcomed former County Chairmen Kathy Reed, Yvonne Toms, Liz Anderson, Annabel John and Mary McCabe. Apologies had been received from Nan Collier, Sheila Goldsworthy and Rosemary Slee. The Chairman thanked Fran Calver, St Breward WI for arranging the flowers.

ADOPTION OF THE 2016 ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES was moved by Mrs Barbara Corbett, seconded by Susan Fern, Crantock WI, and on a show of hands the motion was passed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND WI ADVISERS - Mrs Barbara Corbett introduced the Board of Trustees, Jane Mills, Margaret Johnson, Julia Havard, Grace Bradford, Alison Latham and Pam Selley. Apologies were received from Jane Dover and Helen Kestle. She thanked the Federation Secretary, Barbara Peters, and office staff Sue Martin and Gail Allen for all their help and support. She then introduced the WI Advisers, Yvonne Toms, Liz Anderson, Marilyn Leggatt, Kathy Reed, Pam Parnell, and herself and Jane Mills. The Chairman offered congratulations to St Teath WI who celebrate their 75th Anniversary this year, and advised that a certificate from NFWI was available for collection. The Chairman gave a special mention to Marion Yelling, a WI member for 65 years.

THE OPENING OF THE RESOLUTIONS SESSION – Mrs Barbara Corbett invited Mrs Yvonne Toms, Chairman of the Membership Support Sub-committee, to chair the Resolutions session. Mrs Yvonne Toms then invited Pat Paxton, Resolutions Adviser to give an update on previous resolutions.

UPDATE ON MANDATES - Mrs Pat Paxton concentrated her update on the progress made to date on the 2016 resolutions "Avoid Food Waste" and "Appropriate Care" She urged members to download the NFWI 'Food Matters' action pack and participate in the Weekend of Action 19 – 21 May, she invited WIs to create a food waste map and share their stories. The "Appropriate Care" resolution seeks to improve care for people suffering with dementia, and their carers', with extended visiting hours, family rooms, tea and coffee making facilities and educating members about the rights of carers.

2017 AM VOTING PROCEDURES AND NOTICES – Mrs Kathy Reed, WI Adviser and NFWI AM Co-ordinator, reminded all WIs that they must vote on both Resolutions at their May meetings and pass their decision on to their Link Delegate, who will attend the National AM on Wednesday 7 June at the Echo Arena, Liverpool. She advised members to contact her if they are unsure of whom their Link Delegate is. Guest speakers will include Jo Fairley, author and cofounder of Green & Black's Organic Chocolate and Susie Dent, author and resident dictionary expert on Countdown. The coach will be travelling from Cornwall on the 6 June, returning on the 8 June, dinner at the hotel on Tuesday evening is included but delegates will be free to do as they please after the meeting on Wednesday. Delegate's reasonable out of pocket expenses will be shared by all WIs in the link and Delegates will be required to give a report to the WI's in their link after the meeting.

NATIONAL RESOLUTION 1: - PLASTIC SOUP: *Microplastic fibres are shed from synthetic clothing with every wash and are the main contributors to microplastic contamination of the oceans. The NFWI calls on Government and industry to research and develop innovative solutions to this problem in order to stop the accumulation of microplastic fibres in our oceans.* Mrs Yvonne Toms read the Resolution: She then introduced Miss Imogen Napper, a PhD student at Plymouth University studying 'the sources and Fate of Plastic Contamination in the Marine Environment'. Firstly Imogen Napper explained about her research into the use of microbeads in cosmetics which had resulted in the banning of microbeads in cosmetics and has been referenced by the United Nations and UK Parliament. She explained that this had led to further research into the release of microplastic fibres from domestic washing machine and the effect on marine life and the environment. She explained about the different type of plastic fibres in fabrics and the various ways in which their release could be minimised, such as washing at lower temperatures, varying wash durations and spin speeds and fitting filters to washing machines. The meeting was then opened to questions.

THE NATIONAL RESOLUTION 2: ALLEVIATING LONELINESS: *This meeting calls on every WI and the NFWI to work alongside health and social care providers and their community to raise awareness of the causes and impacts of*

loneliness, thus ensuring better identification of lonely people in order to be able to offer them the appropriate assistance and support. Mrs Yvonne Toms again read the Resolution: She then introduced Amanda Whitlock, National Wellbeing Manager, Independent Age, who was accompanied by Gemma Jones a Community Champion Volunteer for Independent Age. Amanda Whitlock explained that Independent Age provides clear, free and impartial advice on issues that matter to older people and their families. She talked about their befriending services to help relieve loneliness and isolation, and their campaigns to put pressure on decision makers to make changes happen. The meeting was then opened to questions. Mrs Yvonne Toms brought the Resolutions session to a close.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS – WI Adviser Mrs Liz Anderson thanked all the Resolution speakers and Mrs Yvonne Toms, the resolutions session closed and Mrs Barbara Corbett resumed the chair.

NFWI CLIMATE AMBASSADOR – Pippa Stilwell stated that NFWI is committed to tackling Climate Change, and that 100% renewable energy is 100% achievable. She gave notice of “Cornwall Tackles Climate Change” event to be held at Chy Noweth on 6 July.

LAUNCH OF SOCIAL MEDIA COMPETITION – Trustee and Treasurer Designate Alison Latham MBE launched the new Social Media Competition, and displayed the trophy to be presented at the Annual Council Meeting in October.

NFWI RAFFLE - Federation Treasurer, Mrs Jane Mills, reminded members that the Federation receive 60p in every £1 for each NFWI Raffle ticket sold in Cornwall, this is a valuable source of income which also gives members the opportunity to win one of the many valuable prizes.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12.45PM FOR LUNCH AND THE AFTERNOON SESSION RESUMED AT 2.00PM

OPENING OF AFTERNOON SESSION – Val Budgen-Cawsey, President of St Stephen's by Launceston WI gave an amusing account of “My Denman Experience”. Mrs Kathy Reed, Denman Ambassador, thanked Val Budgen-Cawsey and then announced that the Saving Denman Appeal has reached £306,543.16.

RAFFLES: The winners of the main raffle and the Stithians raffle were drawn by Mrs Barbara Corbett and Mrs Kathy Reed.

LAUNCH OF THE 2017 ACWW PROJECT – Mrs Barbara Corbett announced that the chosen project for CFWI to support in 2017 was *Women Empowerment through Skill Training Project* in Pakistan. The Federation Chairman then introduced Nick Newland, Media and Communications Manager for ACWW.

GUEST SPEAKER NICK NEWLAND – advised that ACWW, founded in 1929 by Madge Watt comprises of 1 Board, made up of 6 committees, working in 75 countries and supporting 9 million women. He then handed over a £5 donation to the Saving Denman Appeal and presented the Federation Chairman with a certificate for the £2,094.78 raised by CFWI members' Pennies for Friendship donations in 2016. He then explained how the money raised by this year's donations would be used. Mrs Barbara Corbett, thanked Nick Newman for his informative and inspiring presentation, and invited any members interested in becoming the Federation Representative for ACWW to contact her.

WELCOME TO THE GUEST SPEAKER – The Federation Chairman then introduced the guest speaker Jean Heard

GUEST SPEAKER – JEAN HEARD – ROYAL MISTRESSES – In costume Jean Heard performed 3 monologues, a prostitute gossips about Nell Gwyn (1685), Queen Adelaide laments over her husband (William IV's) affair with Dorothy Jordan (1834) and Lillie Langtry's important decision to take to the stage (1818). Each monologue combined comedy and tragedy and was filled with historical fact.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GUEST SPEAKER – Mrs Margaret Johnson, Board of Trustees member, thanked Jean Heard for her fascinating insight into the lives of these historical ladies.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE FEDERATION CHAIRMAN - Chairman of Home Economics and Craft sub-committee, Miss Dot Rogers, then gave a vote of thanks to Mrs Barbara Corbett.

Mrs Barbara Corbett then thanked members for attending and for their support throughout the meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm with the singing of the National Anthem.

