

**CORNWALL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES**  
**MINUTES OF THE SPRING COUNTDOWN MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE REGAL THEATRE, REDRUTH ON WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2019.**

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

**WELCOME BY THE FEDERATION CHAIRMAN:** Mrs Margaret Johnson then welcomed former Federation Chairmen Liz Anderson, Barbara Corbett, Annabel John, Kathy Reed and Yvonne Toms. Apologies had been received from Former Chairmen Sheila Goldsworthy and Rosemary Slee, Trustees Julia Havard and Liz Llewellyn-Jones, and Anne Foreman, delegate from Hayle WI. The Chairman thanked Avril Woolcock and Grace Bradford for arranging the flowers.

**ADOPTION OF THE 2018 ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES** was proposed by Mrs Margaret Johnson, seconded by Judith Williams, Ladock WI, and on a show of hands the motion was passed.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND WI ADVISERS** - Mrs Margaret Johnson introduced the Board of Trustees; Jane Dover, Helen Kestle, Penny Picton, Grace Bradford, and Pam Selley. She thanked the Federation Secretary, Barbara Peters, and office staff Gail Allen, Sue Martin and Wendy Trevenor. She then introduced the WI Advisers; Liz Anderson, Barbara Corbett, Helen Kestle, Jane Mills, Pat Paxton, Kathy Reed and Yvonne Toms, and finally herself.

The Chairman offered congratulations to Roche Rockers WI the first WI formed in the Centenary Year, Pendeen WI and Launceston WI also celebrating their Centenaries and Liskeard WI celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**THE OPENING OF THE RESOLUTIONS SESSION** – Mrs Margaret Johnson invited Mrs Kathy Reed, Chairman of the Membership Support Sub-committee, to chair the Resolutions session. Mrs Kathy Reed then invited Pat Paxton, Resolutions Adviser, to give an update on previous resolutions.

**UPDATE ON MANDATES** - Mrs Pat Paxton thanked the delegates and members for their active support and raising awareness of previous resolutions including, Mental Health Matters, Alleviating Loneliness, Plastic Soup, Climate Change, Organ Donation and many more. She stated that they had done well but could still do better, and that updates and campaign packs are available to download from My WI.

**2019 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 decisions on to their Link Delegate, who will attend the National AM on Wednesday 5 June at the Bournemouth International Centre. She advised members to contact her if they are unsure of whom their Link Delegate is. Guest speakers will include the Rt Hon Lord Bradley of Withington and Broadcaster Maggie Philbin. The coach will be travelling from Cornwall on the 4 June, returning on the 6 June, dinner at the hotel on Tuesday evening is included. Delegates reasonable out of pocket expenses are to 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 – A call against the decline in local bus services.** Kathy Reed read the Resolution and introduced David Edwards, Passenger Transport manager for Cornwall Council, who advised what action Cornwall Council is currently taking, and its plans for the future. Many were surprised to learn that in excess of £30m per annum is currently spent on public transport. Following his presentation he took questions from the floor.

Kathy Reed then invited Cate Mack, founder and Vice-Chairman of Travel Watch South West, to speak. She stated that Cornwall is one of the better counties for providing rural transport, but bus companies are no longer permitted to subsidise rural routes. She talked about how the lack of rural transport can affect employment, and how the provision of good rural transport links can help attract tourists to rural areas, and also combat climate change. She then took questions from the floor.

**NATIONAL RESOLUTION 2 – Don't Fear the Smear.** Kathy Reed again read the Resolution and invited Emma Kent, a Clinical Nurse Specialist for Gynaecological Cancer, to speak. Emma stated that although, for various reasons, there has been a decline in the number of ladies attending for smear tests over 200 gynaecological cancers are detected each day. She then introduced Louise, a patient who was diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2013, and treated with chemotherapy and radio therapy. Louise spoke frankly about the decisions she had to make, the implications and her treatment. Both speakers then took questions from the floor.

**EXPRESSION OF THANKS** - WI Adviser Mrs Yvonne Toms thanked all the Resolutions speakers and Mrs Kathy Reed. Mrs Kathy Reed brought the Resolutions session to a close. Mrs Margaret Johnson resumed the Chair.

**UPDATE ON 2018 ACWW PROJECT** – Federation Representative, Kim Sudell, advised the members that their 2018 'Pennies for Friendship' donations of c.£2,500 had been used to support displaced people living in a settlement in Koda, in Central Asia. The project has provided an irrigation system and wells in addition to providing training in organic gardening and pest control. This has led to better nutrition and increased income through sale of surplus produce. Kim Sudell thanked the members for their ongoing support and stated that she is happy to attend WI meetings or fund raising events if required.

**EDEN PROJECT – BIG LUNCH** – Lindsey Brummitt, Programme Director for the Eden project, invited members to join in with this year's Big Lunch, to be held the first weekend in June, as a way of bringing communities together and helping alleviate loneliness. She stressed that it does not have to be big, and it does not have to be a lunch, the key ingredient is the people. Information packs were available to help with planning.

**CFWI CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS** – Federation Vice-chairman, Helen Kestle, reminded members of the forthcoming events, and announced that information packs for the Cake, Craft and Camping weekend would be available in the foyer at lunchtime.

**DENMAN BURSARIES** – The Federation Chairman announced that in addition to the Denman Dip, 2 Bursaries are being awarded this year, one for first time visitors to Denman, and one for members who had previously been to Denman. Entries should be submitted to Chy Noweth by 30 September, the winners will be drawn at the Annual Council Meeting.

The Federation Chairman then brought the morning session to a close at 1.05pm, and reminded delegates and members to be back in their seats by 1.55pm for the start of the afternoon session.

**OPERATION HEDGEHOG** – Tom Shelley, Cornwall Wildlife Trust Conservation Manager, talked about the decline in the hedgehog population from over 30m to around half a million and invited members to take part in Operation Hedgehog, an assessment of the hedgehog population density across Cornwall taking place in May, the start of a long term monitoring programme. He announced that there is to be a Training and Information Day at Chy Noweth on 12 September in preparation for the 2020 Allsop Cup Competition

**LET'S TALK ABOUT CLIMATE CONTROL** – NFWI Climate Ambassador, Pippa Stilwell, updated members on the work being undertaken by the Climate Ambassadors, and that NFWI are keen to recruit more. There have been 17 'Show the Love' events this year, including one at Chy Noweth. There is to be a *Songs for Earth* Service in Truro Cathedral on Sunday 17 November. Following her talk Margaret Johnson presented Pippa Stilwell with a certificate acknowledging her attendance at the recent Climate Ambassadors Training in March.

**GUEST SPEAKER** – Margaret Johnson introduced Cal Major, a vet and founder of Paddle Against Plastic. Between clips from films of her Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP) expeditions she told us the story of how she became so passionately involved in raising awareness of the damage to our oceans, and our wildlife, by plastic pollution. She is an advocate for connecting with nature as a way of improving mental health, and shared the story of her closest friend, Sarah, who sadly took her own life as a result of mental health issues. During the discussion session that followed Cal was delighted to hear about some of the WI campaigns and shared ways of tackling plastic grievances in our communities. The members thoroughly enjoyed her talk. Cal clearly loved being part of the day and thanked the WI for making her so very welcome.

**VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GUEST SPEAKER** – Vice-chairman, Helen Kestle, thanked Cal Major for sharing her experiences and told her she really is an 'Inspiring Woman'.

**RAFFLES:** The winners of the main raffle and the Stithians raffle were drawn by Mrs Margaret Johnson and Cal Major.

**VOTE OF THANKS TO THE FEDERATION CHAIRMAN** – Vice-chairman, Jane Dover, thanked Margaret Johnson for chairing such a diverse, interesting and enjoyable day, and stated that although the Chairman had introduced herself last in the morning she really is the Federations number one!

Mrs Margaret Johnson then thanked members for attending and for their support throughout the meeting, and wished them all a safe journey home. The meeting closed at 4.00pm with the singing of the National Anthem.

