



WEST MIDLANDS COUNTY NEWS



Letter from the Editor

Dear Members,

Iris is off on her caravanning holiday this month finally able to enjoy some time out with her husband before she hands over the reins to the next Federation Chairman in October.

This month, the Federation usually sends out the August Special Mailing to Secretaries to cover the Business side of our Charity in accordance with our Constitution, this includes the Accounts, Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting and this years Annual Report ready for you to raise any questions in advance of our Annual Meeting.

This year we have opted to postpone our Annual Meeting from October 2020 to March 2021 but despite this we are still legally bound to send you our Annual Report and Accounts on-time despite COVID.

So, in this edition we have included the Annual Report for you and hope to be able to get the Accounts out to you as soon as we receive them back from our Accountant.

We don't usually produce a newsletter in August but as we've received more articles from you and indeed lots of lovely positive comments and feedback from you; how could we not?

So here is the COG and Annual Report combined.

I do hope we can all start and look forward to getting back to normal soon but in the meantime grab yourself a coffee, tea or your afternoon G&T and enjoy this edition!

Kim Slivinski (on behalf of Iris)

Diary of Events

5 December 2020	Carol Service – St Martins in the Bullring
Postponed to 9 March 2021 tbc	WMFVI Annual Business Meeting
19 April 2021 – New date	NFVI Annual Meeting – Royal Albert Hall
29 June 2021	45 th Celebration Afternoon tea, Birmingham Botanical Gardens
postponed to June 2021 tbc	Visit to Middleton Hall (and Robert Peel Museum)
8 July 2021	Talk by Dr Kathryn Harkup on Poisons in Literature at the BMI
16 August 2021	John's Garden visit (Ashwood Nurseries)
September 2021	Digital Forum at BMI
Postponed to 9 September 2021	ACWW Walk around the Lake at Barston

Send articles to The Editor @ wmfwi@aol.com by 2nd Tuesday of every month



Here is a Quiz kindly donated by my Hubby Steve Slivinski

1. Which actor has played the role of James Bond the most?
2. What two Premier League teams were the first to play against each other after lockdown?
3. What is the name of the new Bob Dylan album released on 19 June 2020?
4. Which American State has the biggest population?
5. What film did Leonardo DiCaprio win an Oscar for?
6. What is the longest river in the world?
7. What year was the Good Friday Agreement signed?
8. Who has the most UK Number One Singles?
9. What was New York called when established in 1625?
10. How many continents are there in the world?
11. What year was the Great Fire of London?
12. Who is the CEO of airline Ryanair?
13. What year was the film Titanic released?
14. What role does Dominic Raab hold in the UK Government?
15. How many letters are in the alphabet?

ANSWERS ON THE BACK PAGE

PROPOSED VISIT TO THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN FESTIVALHMS PINAFORE - BUXTON OPERA HOUSE4th AUGUST 2021

Since its premiere in 1878, Gilbert and Sullivan's wildly popular operetta *H.M.S. Pinafore* has delighted audiences with a nautically-tinged story of star-crossed lovers.

The gentlemanly Captain Corcoran of the good ship Pinafore has a daughter, Josephine, who is in love with a lowly but gallant sailor named Ralph Rackstraw.

The Captain forbids the marriage, wanting to match Josephine instead with the well-bred Sir Joseph, First Lord of the Admiralty.

In the meantime, the Captain finds himself in nearly the same position as his daughter: his former nanny, Little Buttercup, falls in love with him, but he hesitates to reciprocate due to his higher social rank.

The whole situation is turned on its head when Little Buttercup reveals a game-changing secret she has kept for decades.

A rollicking farce with endearing characters, memorable tunes, and a hilariously happy ending, *H.M.S. Pinafore* is a classic, time-tested delight not to be missed.

We are inviting members to enjoy this show at [Buxton Opera House](#)

The Opera House is a beautiful Edwardian building that is only partially accessible to wheelchair users. The wheelchair entrance is 72cms at its narrowest point. There are three wheelchair spaces in the Stalls area on the ground floor and an accessible toilet.

Date - August 4th 2021

Matinee performance – Seats in the stalls for easy access.

Cost – Approximately £35 - £40 including return coach and theatre ticket

To express an interest please

Email - Julie Afridi Martin - jtafridi@hotmail.co.uk Phone 0121 784 7010

Or post to - Julie Afridi Martin – 28 Vicarage road Yardley B33 8PH

BEFORE 1ST NOVEMBER 2020

Sub – Committee News**Science & Public Affairs – Liz Galloway**

WIs, you're being urged to sign up to the monthly Public Affairs Digest
<mailto:Pa@nfwl.org.uk> or 020 7371 9300 ext.238 and receive your own copy!

(Text below in green is directly quoted from WI website and Public Affairs Digest.)

Update on the new Domestic Abuse Bill Last week the Government's Domestic Abuse Bill passed its final stage in the House of Commons. This is a ground-breaking piece of legislation, but the WI maintains the bill still fails to protect migrant women. No survivor should be left behind. "We will continue to push for change so that all survivors have access to the support they need." There is more in-depth information on southallblacksisters.org.uk

The NFWI mounted a campaign for **Single Use Plastic Free July** which, sadly, arrived too late for us to be able to use it in July's COG. However, let's see if we can adopt it as an ongoing challenge. Here are some ideas from Surrey Federation:

- Have a virtual plastic free picnic with friends.
- Make a loaf of bread
- Find an alternative to clingfilm
- Share a 'meat free Monday' recipe
- Use reusable shopping bags
- Take a reusable water bottle on a walk
- Shop in your local community
- Use reusable alternatives to cotton wool/ makeup wipes
- Use a soap bar instead of liquid soap

Make Time for Mental Health

Launched in 2018, our *Make Time for Mental Health* campaign focuses on improving the way people view mental health. It calls for parity between mental and physical health and asks for better support **for those who need it.**

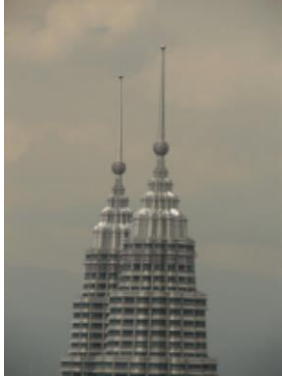
Find out more on thewi.org.uk There are also some excellent videos and other material which you can present and discuss at your meetings. Subjects range from 'The Six Ways to Wellbeing' to 'Women and Mental Health' and 'Mental Health Support Services' and also advises how you can take action in the light of the Covid-19 coronavirus outbreak.

There is also advice on **Linking Together to Alleviate Loneliness** as follows:

While tackling loneliness has always been part of the WI's ethos, members brought it to the **forefront of WI's national campaigning agenda** with the launch of our *Link Together* campaign in 2017. To help ensure people get the support they need, the campaign calls on members to work alongside health and social care providers and **raise awareness of the causes and impacts of loneliness.**

There's no local news this month but individual WIs are urged to follow campaign initiatives on the website and take any initiatives which are safe for them and others.

Quiz: Where in the World?



1. These towers were the world's tallest buildings in 1996.



2. Which country's flag is this?



3. You all know this one, don't you - or do you???

Clue - its in the States but its not in New York.

4. It leaned for years, but never fell over
A worrying sight if you've got a hangover!
Mediaeval, they say and eight storeys tall
It's stabilized now but was once a close call.



5. In which city would you find this bridge?



6. 10 pence a time to cross the Creek - which city?



7. Yes its in a National Park, but do you know the name of the rock?



8. In which country would you find this amusing shop? Their economy was founded on sheep.



9. Certainly a vast castle and the clue is its in the south of Francebut no cars here!



10. In which former colonial city is this garden?

11. In which country is the Burj Khalifa?

12. Who designed the Sagrada Familia?
....no points if you searched online!!

A Rather Unusual Bee



What a wonderful year it's been for catching up with those activities you've never really had time for before. Life rushes on and you struggle to keep abreast of those things you really want to ... and must do. They tell us we should find time to feed the soul the expressions of imagination and creativity which we all know we have but so often quieten them with 'one day ... when we have time'. Well, we certainly have time now!

You may wonder why the illustration of a bee. I spend quite a bit of time in my greenhouse (it's my 'shed'!) I began to notice a bee (or was it a bee?), which flew in and around – even *propriatorially* – I thought it was a bit odd and began to watch more closely. Then I noticed that it was indeed flying on a magic carpet of green, just like the one in the photo, and that its destination was one of my two litre plant pots into which I'd just transplanted a ridge cucumber plant.

I immediately went online to learn more and discovered that it was a *leaf cutter bee*, one of nearly 250 species of solitary bees. Immediately, my heart went out to her! I learnt that her partner would now be dead and that she was left with the task of making a nest, lining it with leaves (rose leaves are the favourite), filling it with enough nectar and pollen and then laying an egg. She was creating this nest in the edge of my plant pot, but sadly, I was going to need to transplant the ridge cucumber very shortly. Worse still, the egg wouldn't hatch until spring, which made me realize how wise she was to find a sheltered spot in my greenhouse. Did she know there was no heating in the greenhouse over winter! *What should I do?*

Finally, I decided that my best option was, if I was very careful, to lift the nest and some surrounding compost before moving the cucumber plant and then to re-site her nest in a safer location. Translocation Day arrived and I carefully removed the nest but found to my concern that there was not just one nest but two and then three! All were neatly wrapped in a semi-circular leaf, rather like the paper sheaths that I remember having sweets in as a child.

I carefully moved all three nests to another plant pot, although it was rather different in size and shape - and then I covered them gently with a sprinkling of compost and watched with concern. *No mother bee anywhere to be seen.* So, I left, rather sadly and told the tale to the family. On returning to the greenhouse an hour or so later, I was aware that my bee was flying (again *propriatorially*) around the greenhouse. It's quite a small space, so a bit unnerving and I felt rather vulnerable having tampered with her nests. *Did she know?*

But then, miracle of miracles, she seemed to realize where her eggs were, and she made a beeline (sorry!) for the new location. Clearly my efforts had been lacking as she immediately set about cleaning out compost, re-siting the leaf homes and generally putting things to rights. You've no idea how happy I was but as a penance, I immediately looked up construction of bee hotels for solitary bees and have constructed one in the garden. Perhaps I have too much time on my hands, but I feel privileged to have shared this amazing insight into the life of a tiny insect.

By Liz Galloway.

Silhill WI – Emailed from Heather Lewis

Dear Kim,
I do hope that you are keeping well.

Many thanks for all the hard work that you and the committee are doing for us. The Cogs have been excellent, and our members are very grateful, especially those sixteen who are not on the internet and able to access information and entertainment at their fingertips. I have been getting the newsletters printed and then posting them out. I have also been told that husbands and partners have been enjoying the quizzes too!

So sorry to hear about the demise of Denman. I am so glad that Silhill managed to visit three times over the years. Unfortunately, in spite of our bursaries, not many of our ladies went for courses.

I thought you might like to have Christine Dainty's poem of life during the pandemic. As you will see, she hoped that she would be soon be reading it out to members on our return to meetings but that looks very unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Take care
Heather

Silhill WI – Christine Dainty

I wrote this poem with a view to reading it at the first meeting back. As the pages are now curling up, I thought that I would share it.

When last we met in March back then, little did we know
We wouldn't meet for quite some time and time would go so slow.
I had things in my calendar and as the months did end
I put a line through everything, WI, family, friends.
Oh, now what was I going to do with all the time I had
Catch up with things I had neglected, I really should be glad.
So now the shed is painted, not by me I say
The garden is immaculate and growing by the day.
Now what about a jigsaw, I'd really rather not
I see a piece and push it in, it doesn't fit, so what.
I turn then to my crafting, cross stitch first today
I've done so many Christmas cards I'll be giving them away.
So, let's have a go crochet, I fancy doing that
I could make a baby blanket or a fetching woolly hat.
The drawers that hold my bits and bobs are really a disgrace
That's a job that I can do, put everything in its place.
So, all things are sorted I'm very proud to see
But why so much ribbon that must have been bought by me.

We haven't stayed in all the time we're walking around the street
We have to abandon friendships with anyone we meet.
If the path is very narrow, we step onto the tar
No risk of catching anything, just get run over by a car.
Thursdays are exciting, to Sainsbury's I would go
And do the trolley shuffle, so long and so slow
I took what I could, it really wasn't bad
But toilet roll envy made me feel so sad.
I never realised before how badly I would miss
A three-pound bag of self-raising flour that was always on the list.
A friend was very kind to me and sent her son around
He opened the porch and gently left the prize upon the ground.
I then had to do some baking for that had been the aim
But the recipe I then chose used flour that was plain.
Although I am a technophobe, I checked online each day
I couldn't resist the bargains although I had to pay.
Heather was a lifeline she kept us all in touch
With poems, pictures, videos, kindly words and such.
We heard of creative activities that members did at home
Painting, sewing knitting too, what talent they did hone.
Then there was the hair, it looks anything but fine
And what about the colour, which bit is truly mine?
How did we know what was happening in our hour of need?
We tuned into the TV and warnings we did heed.
With Boris at his podium so serious and concerned
And that nice Mr Whitty who told us everything he had learned.
This was of course the serious side so many people died
We did our bit though oh so small we went and clapped outside.
I've thought of friends and family of those who'd passed away
And counted our blessings with every passing day.
So now we're here and feeling glad that this must surely pass
Look to a better future and good times that will last.
So, let us now be thankful and don't forget to try
To think of all the good in life as every day goes by

Christine Dainty

Email from Meriden WI

Dear Iris and Kim.

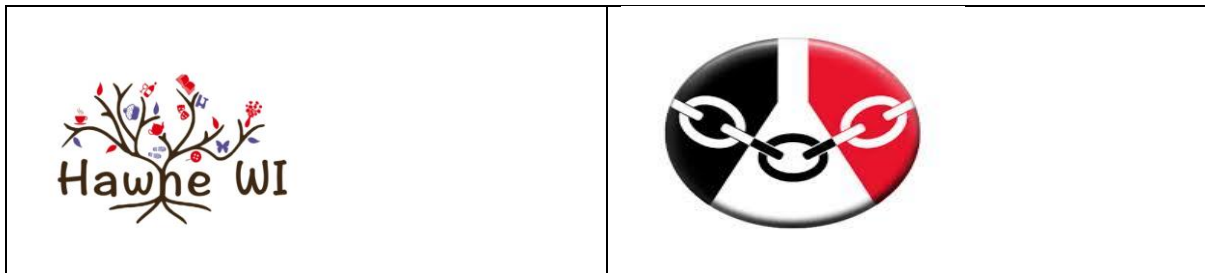
Many thanks for the enjoyable newsletters each month. You've done a splendid job during this most trying time.

There are numerous issues to face now about meeting up again, I hope most members are keeping in contact somehow.

Thank you very much for sending the cheque for pooling of fares and transport expenses. Meriden WI is quite well off for funds, but the Federation must be lacking in income from the various events that are usually providing support, so we will forgo our refund, we'll shred the cheque, so that you will be saved that bit of expense!.

Kind regards to you and the team
Stay safe

Joan Russell
President Meriden WI



Avril from Hawne WI sent in this email and notes from her most recent Zoom meeting so I thought I'd share it with you all so you can see what they have been getting up to – sounds great FUN

Hi Kim,

I thought you would like to see a copy of our Report of Members meeting from last month.

We held a Zoom Meeting to celebrate Black Country Day, wore caps/hats and scarves to look the part. (sorry no photo)

Anne organised a Black Country Quiz and Roxie wrote a song 'The 12 Days of Black Country Lockdown'. Great fun.

This month's Zoom is all about Summer holidays...yellow polka dot bikini's anyone.-:-)





Notes from Hawne WI recent ZOOM meeting

No agenda for this meeting as it was just a bit of fun to celebrate Black Country Day, but we had received a letter from Federation concerning membership funds for next year, and as soon as we knew what was happening, we would let members know. Helen had received the refund for Strictly tickets and would be contacting the 5 members for their bank details.

Roxie started the evening by telling **Tommy Mundon jokes**. The old ones are the best Roxie! ☺

Anne had organised a **Black Country Quiz**, in 2 halves. 10 questions each half. Thank you Anne. ☺

Norma won both rounds. Well done! ☺ Excellent knowledge of the Black Country.

Roxie had written a song to the tune of 12 days of Christmas...but called it **The 12 days of 'Black Country Lockdown'** which we all then sang beautifully and nearly in time with each other.....☺☺☺

On the first day of lockdown the “old mon” sent to me...

- Day 1. A Bostin cup of Tay
- Day 2. Two 'Bugle' Beauties ...and a ...
- Day 3. Three Lads a Leggin
- Day 4. Four 'Don Guest' Fagots
- Day 5. **FIVE LINKS OF CHAIN**
- Day 6. Six Babbies Wailing
- Day 7. Seven hot baked 'Opples'
- Day 8. Eight Yampy Wammells
- Day 9. Nine Miners Mining
- Day 10. Ten pints of Bathams
- Day 11. Eleven Buxham Wenches
- Day 12. Twelve bags of scratchings.

Well Done and thank you Roxie! ☺

Club / Zoom Updates

Hawney Crafters	1 st Monday in the month	7.00pm	ZOOM
Natter	Every Tuesday	3.00pm	ZOOM
Members Mtg	3 rd Tuesday	7.00pm	ZOOM
Coffee Morning	Every Thursday	11.15am	ZOOM
Happy Hour	Every Friday	8.00pm	ZOOM

Theme for next meeting :- Summer Holidays – everyone to wear a hat /sunglasses/drink cocktail/ some form of summer prop , and expect another sing along ☺



QUIZ ANSWERS

Answers to Steve’s Quiz

1. Roger Moore (7)	9. New Amsterdam
2. Aston Villa v Sheffield United	10. 7
3. Rough and Rowdy Ways	11. 1666
4. California	12. Michael O’Leary
5. The Revenant	13. 1998
6. The Amazon (some dispute this and say the Nile)	14. Secretary of State
7. 1998	15. 26
8. Elvis Presley	

Where in the World Quiz Answers:

1. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 2. North Macedonia. 3. Half-sized replica at the New York Hotel, Las Vegas. 4. The Leaning Tower of Pisa. 5. Sydney (Australia). 6. Dubai. 7. El Capitan (Yosemite National Park). 8. New Zealand. 9. Carcassonne (France). 10. Singapore. 11. United Arab Emirates. 12. Antoni Gaudi.

**The following pages are the Federation Annual Report
1st June 2019 to 31st May 2020**

**WEST MIDLANDS****ANNUAL REPORT 1st JUNE 2019 – 31st MAY 2020****FEDERATION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – MRS IRIS MONTGOMERY**

Board of Trustees:

Mrs Iris Montgomery, Federation Chairman, Hobs Moat WI
Mrs Kim Slivinski, Federation Treasurer, Yardley WI
Mrs Lynn Smith, Federation Vice Chairman, Bournville WI.
Mrs Debbie Arkinstall, Trustee, Erdington Carnegie WI
Mrs Liz Galloway, Trustee, Kings Norton Afternoon WI
Mrs Judy Massam, Trustee, Hobs Moat WI
Mrs Cathryn Marsh, Trustee, Walmley Evening WI
Mrs Chris Sears, Trustee, Green Lane WI
Mrs Claire Woodland, Trustee, Victory Belles WI
Mrs Donna Haddock, Trustee, Black Country Wenches WI
Mrs Julie Afridi Martin, Trustee, Yardley WI

This year we welcomed five new members of the Board of Trustees: Claire Woodland, Victory Belles WI, Donna Haddock, Black Country Wenches WI, Cathryn Marsh, Walmley Evening WI, Chris Sears, Green Lane WI and Julie Afridi Martin, Yardley WI. We were sorry to lose Jackie Gregory a long- standing board member but she is remaining as our archivist.

Following our Annual Meeting in October our Delegates and members gave us feedback on our ACM that was held at the Birmingham and Midland Institute (BMI). Whilst members were extremely impressed with our chosen Speaker Mandy Hickson who gave an excellent talk on her life as a female Tornado fighter pilot. Mandy received a well-deserved standing ovation from the audience. Our members also told us that they were dissatisfied with the facilities at the BMI. We have taken your comments on board and in view of these we will return to our usual venue at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham.

We received so many Trauma Teddies that members had made for our chosen Charity project and these were all collected up in 'evidence' bags by Inspector Glen and his team ready to go to a good home to bring comfort to those children affected by trauma.

This year our members have been busy making bags for Beads of Courage charity and more twiddle muffs were called for along with beanie hats for adult patients and traffic light hats in red, amber and green for babies. The coloured hats are placed on babies for the first 24 hours after birth according to how healthy they are, and we look forward to receiving these in due course.

Many of our members have told us that they have been supporting our NHS by making scrub bags and face masks.

Several WIs took part in our Trustee Trophy competition to produce a Wall Hanging to depict one or more of the seasons, in any medium. Congratulations to this year's winner Sheila Kelly of Bournville WI. Congratulations also to Carole Handley the winner of the 2019 Valerie Daggatt Cup for creative writing and I look forward to reading all your entries to this year's competition to write about Christmas

In March we were forced to make the decision to cancel our planned activities due to the Covid-19 outbreak and this included our 45th Birthday Celebration at the Botanical Gardens, the Resolution Discussion meeting, our Annual Kurling Tournament and Quiz, our Spring outing to Windsor, Skittles, Croquet and Rummikub, the Digital Forum to name just a few and we were so lucky to have the chance to visit Steelhouse Lane Police Cells in December before the Coronavirus lockdown. The visit was so popular that Liz Galloway had to arrange for 3 visits!

Members and I also enjoyed the theatre visit to see The King and I

In May we were invited to take part in the Lord Mayor's 75th Anniversary VE Day Celebrations but sadly this too was cancelled

We are still hopeful that we will be able to hold our Annual Carol Service set for 5th December and we look forward to rescheduling our cancelled activities this year to 2021

TREASURER'S REPORT – MRS KIM SLIVINSKI, FEDERATION TREASURER, YARDLEY WI

Committee Members:

Mrs Kim Slivinski, Federation Treasurer, Yardley WI
Mrs Iris Montgomery, Federation Chairman, Hobs Moat WI
Mrs Judy Massam, Trustee, Hobs Moat WI

This year our membership has again reduced with just 1850 members joining or renewing their membership compared to 1950 previous year. Our guaranteed Income this year from affiliation fees is £18.5k.

In addition to this we receive a guaranteed monthly income from our Investments made with St. James Place of £705.00pm.

Our previous investment with Investec of £48500.00 matured in June 2019 and this money has now been re-invested with St. James Place with additional investments made totalling £125k. In April 2020 our Financial Adviser advised that this investment be put on hold given the adverse impact on the stock market as a result of the Covid -19 pandemic. This has since been re-invested in May of this year (ethically)

The vast majority of our planned programme of events for this year were cancelled from March 2020 due to Coronavirus and as a result of this the Federation Board of Trustees has agreed to refund WIs' contribution to the travel fund (£0.50p per member) and £16.00 Pooling of fares. This will be made in September 2020

Our Day to day running costs this year (excluding planned activities) is as follows

BT & House (Safestore storage)	£3.426k
Insurance (NFU)	£1.329k
Bank Service Charges	£0.498k
Accounting Fee	£2.460k
Printing & Stationery (includes Postage)	£2.318k
Executive Expenses (travel)	£0.714k
Membership (includes training, room hire & resolutions meeting)	£2.393k
Annual Meeting (2019) (excludes Speaker fee paid previous year in advance)	£1.156k
TOTAL Running costs	£14.294k

This year we received £498.61 from NFWI for our portion of the sales of NFWI Raffle tickets, we also received a small income of £60.39 from the Bulb scheme.

200 Club - thank you to everyone who has participated in the scheme this year; we look forward to drawing the winning numbers in October 2020. Good luck to everyone.

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees regularly review potential Risk that may result in any of the following

- loss or fall in membership / WIs closing
- Security of Investment and security of bank details, cash and cheques
- loss of revenue / income / funds
- loss of reputation/ image of the WI
- loss of Records / Archives
- theft / fraud /phishing /scams / viruses
- loss of key people
- maintenance and security of Office and Storage facilities

The Company Risk Register is reviewed annually and assessed by impact and likelihood in accordance with Charity Commission CC8 guidelines to ensure risk is minimized accordingly and actions taken to prevent risk.

Person with Significant Control (PSC)

The Federation has no person with significant control (PSC)

OUTINGS

On 23rd November 2019 172 members in 4 coaches joined the Federation outing to the Medieval Christmas Fayre at Ludlow. We all had a wonderful time despite the drizzle.

Sadly, our planned trip to Windsor was postponed due to Covid-19

MEMBERSHIP REPORT- CHAIRMAN, MRS LYNN SMITH, BOURNVILLE WI

Committee Members:

Mrs Lynn Smith, Federation Vice Chairman, Bournville WI.
Mrs Iris Montgomery, Federation Chairman, Hobs Moat WI
Mrs Jackie Gregory, Trustee, Dickens & Forshaw Heath WI.
Mrs Judy Massam, Trustee, Hobs Moat WI
Mrs Kim Slivinski, Federation Treasurer, Yardley WI (Ex Officio)

NFWI ANNUAL MEETING: was held in Bournemouth on June 5th, 2019. 12 members attended as Link Delegates and voted in favour of both Resolutions; Save our Rural Buses and Cervical Screening saves Lives. 16 other members attended as Observers.

RESOLUTIONS CASCADE: arranged for 21st April: cancelled.

DELEGATES COFFEE MORNING: arranged for 20th May: cancelled.

CLOSURES: sadly, this year has seen the closure of Kings Norton WI, Marston green WI and Walmley Ash WI.

WI ADVISER: Jackie Poyner from Bournville WI is to train as an Adviser with effect from January 2021.

**SCIENCE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS - CHAIRMAN MRS LIZ GALLOWAY, KINGS NORTON
AFTERNOON WI**

Committee Members:

Mrs Liz Galloway, Trustee, Climate Ambassador and Trustee, WMFWI
Mrs Margaret John, Great Barr WI
Mrs Nancy Coldwell, Knowle WI
Mrs Pamela Griffiths, Berkswell WI (ACWW Representative)
Mrs Claire Woodland, Trustee, Victory Belles WI
Mrs Donna Haddock, Trustee, Black Country Wenches WI.

Sadly, this year we have lost Jackie Gregory (ACWW representative and a fountain of knowledge and experience) from our Committee and also, Barbara Evans, formerly a Trustee and leader of the Climate Change Group. Barbara continues as a Climate Ambassador and a member of Specialised Crafts. We welcome Donna Haddock (Black Country Wenches WI) to take charge of the Climate Change Group.

This year saw me talking to a number of WIs (Mere Green, Kings Norton Afternoon, Meriden, Hobs Moat) about Climate Change and further meetings have needed to be postponed due to the pandemic.

At the end of July, a very successful visit was organized to Churchfields farm on the Salwarpe where salt is extracted and marketed. On 10 October, a visit took place to the Steelhouse Police Cells in Birmingham arranged by Margaret John; this was so popular that three further visits had to be planned.

The planned visit to Middleton Hall, home of Robert Peel has also been postponed until June 2021. A visit to John's Garden at Ashwood Nursery on 20 August will now be arranged in 2021, as will the talk by Kathryn Harkup on Poisons in Literature.

ACWW Walks were planned in Cannon Hill Park on Earth Day (29 April) which was of course, cancelled and around the lakes at Barston (10 September) and this is likely to share the same fate. A donation of £1694.88 was received by ACWW from WMFWI and ACWW expressed their gratitude.

Contributions to the Trussell Trust Foodbank were collected in December 2019.

This year, Science and Public Affairs set up a Digital Group with the intention of improving members' access to the digital world and communication between WIs and the Federation. Members are Claire Woodland, Victory Belles WI; Jen Barrow, Moseley and Balsall Heath WI; Donna Haddock, Black Country Wenches WI; Lorraine Legge, Halesowen WI; and Satya Devi, Arden WI. The Digital Group, led by Claire Woodland, has worked hard this year on producing a Digital Workshop which was to have run on 18 May 2020 in the Birmingham and Midland Institute. It has now been postponed until 10 May 2021. Delegates wishing to attend will be contacted next year. The Group has also set up a WMFWI Facebook page.

Quarterly meetings of the Science and Public Affairs Committee and the Digital and Environmental Groups took place in the early part of the year, but further meetings were cancelled in March 2020. Meetings such as the NFWI Public Affairs Committee and the Climate Change Group have taken place on Zoom.

SPORT & LEISURE – ORGANISER MRS JUDY MASSAM, TRUSTEE, HOBS MOAT WI

Committee Members:

Mrs Christine Dainty, Silhill WI
Mrs Chris Sears, Trustee, Green Lane WI
Mrs Sally Herd, Knowle WI
Mrs Joan Russell, Meriden WI
Mrs Wendy Salmon, Halesowen WI
Mrs Judy Massam, Trustee, Hobs Moat WI

The Sport and Leisure events calendar 2019 concluded with continued success. The Skittles evening was as noisy as ever and the two Croquet sessions took place in good weather. A rule change was suggested by our resident expert and was, on the whole, enjoyed. The small number playing Petanque had a fun afternoon

Having welcomed two new committee members in January 2020, a busy year of events was planned and booked. All of these events have now been cancelled. It is disappointing that members will be unable to socialise and demonstrate their skills. Hopefully we will reinstate the usual activities next year and we can look forward to seeing you all again.

The darts teams had begun to play their matches. Later in the year discussions will be held with the teams to decide if matches will be played this year or carried over into 2021. In the meantime, keep practising

MUSIC & DRAMA – ORGANISER MRS LYNN SMITH, TRUSTEE, BOURNVILLE WI

Committee Members:

Mrs Lynn Smith, Vice Chairman, Bournville WI
Mrs Liz Galloway, Trustee, Kings Norton Afternoon WI
Mrs Anne Sutton, Bournville WI
Mrs Diane O'Connor, Barston WI
Mrs Julie Afridi Martin: Yardley WI.

ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE: was held at St Martin in the Bullring in December. The service was led by the Reverend Jeremy Allcock and readings were given by members of Aldridge WI, Kings Norton Afternoon WI, Meriden WI, Quinton WI and Walmley Wood WI. Second City Sounds sang for us and after the service the congregation enjoyed a glass of sherry or juice and a mince pie.

LADY DENMAN CUP: The 2019 competition was to write 500 words on the subject of Amazing Discoveries and 3 entries were forwarded to NFWI for judging but sadly did not win.

VALERIE DAGGATT CUP: Entrants for the 2019 competition were asked to write a story beginning with the words "They always thought the world was their oyster-----". Only 4 entries were received this year and the judging was undertaken by Mr. Leslie Stringer (English teacher and actor). The winning entry was by Carole Handley of Erdington Carnegie WI and her story was read and greatly enjoyed by members at the Annual Meeting in October.

THEATRE VISITS: the visit to the Hippodrome to see "The King and I" was greatly enjoyed by those members who attended. Unfortunately, both the performances of "We Will Rock You" and "Mamma Mia" had to be cancelled due to Covid 19.

SPECIALISED CRAFTS – ORGANISER MRS DEBBIE ARKINSTALL, ERDINGTON CARNEGIE WI

Committee Members:

Mrs Debbie Arkinstall, Trustee, Erdington Carnegie WI
Mrs Iris Montgomery, Federation Chairman, Hobs Moat WI
Mrs Sue Bubb, Newton WI
Mrs Barbara Evans, Kings Norton Afternoon WI

This year, we should have been at the NEC with our display based on one of the resolutions. Unfortunately, "The Wheels on the Bus" were not turning! Due to Coronavirus, the Sewing for Pleasure event was cancelled.

We held one craft dabble this year in a member's home. We are hoping to re start Craft Dabbles later on in the year, but this is dependent on government regulations.

DENMAN - ORGANISER MRS DEBBIE ARKINSTALL, ERDINGTON CARNEGIE WI

The new beds for our West Midlands bedroom at Denman have arrived so if you are planning a course soon, then you are sure of a good night sleep. We were hoping to purchase new curtains and matching cushion covers for the bedroom.

Due to Coronavirus, Denman has had to close but hopes to re-open in July.

Congratulations to Annie Jones Arden WI who was the lucky winner of the Denman Dip drawn in October.

FEDERATION ARCHIVIST

Federation Representative: Jackie Gregory - Dickens & Forshaw Heath WI

Archivist Report 1st June 2019 to 31st May 2020

Your Federation Archivist has made 4 deposits into the Federation Archives held in Birmingham Central Library

Deposits made covered items from the following Institutes: Kersley Newlands, Hall Green, Kersley Coundon, Sutton Coldfield, Whateley Green, Shirley, Lyttelton, Lode Heath, Harborne, Dorridge, Walmley and Pelsall

Items from the Federation cover the Federation Executive Minutes 1976 to 1996, Annual Reports and boundary change information in 1974/75

Jackie Gregory has assembled into a collection a number of interesting and unusual items which have been seen by members when she has been invited to talk at meetings. More Institutes are becoming aware of their archives and seeking advice.

End of Report
