

The Membership and Support Team is made up of WI Advisers and a representative of the Board of Trustees. We are supported by our Federation Secretary and report to the Board of Trustees.

WI Advisers are WI members who have undertaken special training provided by NFWI and are appointed by the Federation.

Who are we?

Yvonne Marsh: Chair

Lyn Coleman: Vice-Chair

Jan Watson: Vice-Chair and Resolutions Officer

Sue Hibbard

Gill Samways

Liz Smith

What is our role?

Support: WI Advisers are here to support WIs in every way that we can. We might not always know the answer straight away, but we usually know where to look or the right person to ask. We can all be contacted by email or phone, and we will arrange to visit your WI if that is the best way we can help you. You can always contact the County Federation Office to pass on messages to us.

Training: We have a planning meeting every year to ensure that we regularly hold workshops for Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers. From time to time we hold other workshops such as how to hold an Annual Meeting and Programme Planning. We can always arrange to link you up with another member if that helps. For example, a one to one via Zoom to look at the electronic accounts book.

Opening new WIs: This is an item that is always on our agenda as we look to increase membership and ensure potential members can join a WI. Some areas that have an afternoon WI may benefit from an evening one too or vice versa. Although a WI may close in an area, a new one may open again if a new group is keen to start.

Suspending WIs: This is not something that we like to see happening, but sometimes it is the only option. However, suspending a WI is something that constitutionally can only be undertaken by a WI Adviser. If a WI is thinking of suspending then a WI Adviser will visit to talk through the options that can include trying to keep that WI active and possible enlargement with another WI.

Some helpful sources of information:

The WI Handbook. A new addition is available on the NFWI website. A text only version is available to print.

MyWI - The members only area of the NFWI website. Running your WI has a lot of helpful information including financial information.

The Constitution. Every WI should have a copy of this and the latest version can be found on MyWI.

Interested in being an Adviser:

Talk to a WI Adviser about the role. We are happy to share information about what we do.

Come and see us at our stand at the Federation Annual Meeting.

Look at the NFWI website training area. There is a short video of what the role entails. Request to attend a Membership & Support meeting as an observer.