

NFWI-Wales Public Affairs contacts

Rhian Connick, Head of NFWI-Wales: r.connick@nfwl-wales.org.uk

Sarah Thomas, Public Affairs Officer: s.thomas@nfwl-wales.org.uk



Winter 2017

NFWI-WALES

Public Affairs Bulletin

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

A date for your diary – A Public Affairs Conference will be held on the Royal Welsh Showground in Llanellwedd on 11 October 2018. Further information will follow in the spring.

CARERS' WELCOME

Thank you to all members who took part in our research about dementia care and support for carers in hospital. In early spring, we plan to publish our findings and recommendations along with key actions that members can take to help us achieve change in policy and practice.



LINK TOGETHER

On 7 December, the Assembly's Health and Social Care Committee published a report on their inquiry into loneliness and isolation. The report can be viewed from the following link:-

<http://www.assembly.wales/en/newhome/pages/newsitem.aspx?itemid=1794&assembly=5>

Over the summer, the NFWI launched a short survey to gather views on how loneliness could be tackled.

Thank you to members who kindly shared their personal experiences, existing projects and activities as well as innovative ideas for further action. We are currently looking at how we might spread good practice more widely.



Shutterstock

On 13 November, WIs and Federations came together to mark World Kindness Day, each in their own way. Members painted and decoupaged rocks with thoughtful messages, organised coffee and cake mornings in their local communities and visited their local care homes. Look out for a blog on the NFWI blogsite with more inspiring ideas for next year!

Action for members

As part of the Link Together campaign, we are asking members in Wales to write to their Local Health Board or Public Services Board to find out how they are addressing loneliness. Please contact the Public Affairs Department at pa@nfwl.org.uk for template letters that you can adapt.

RESOLUTIONS

A reminder for federations that the deadline for resolution selection results to be returned to the NFWI is 16 February 2018. WIs – Please note that you can ask members to make selections in your meetings using the selection slip which is available from federation offices or the NFWI Public Affairs team. A range of resources can be accessed on the WI website to support members in considering the five resolutions -

<https://www.thewi.org.uk/campaigns/news-and-events/current-news-and-events/resolutions-2017>

NFWI-Wales

19 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9HA

Tel: 029 2022 1712 E-mail: walesoffice@nfwl-wales.org.uk

Winter 2017 Newsletter

NOT IN MY NAME

NFWI-Wales held 2 events at the Senedd on 21 November to bring together stakeholders and supporters to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (VAW) and White Ribbon Day on 25 November.

At 12 noon a panel debate was held based on the theme 'engaging men and boys in challenging all forms of VAW'. Panel members included Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales; Richard Murgatroyd, White Ribbon UK; and Gwendolyn Sterk, Welsh Women's Aid. Pupils from Ysgol Coedcae in Llanelli were present to share a video they have produced around healthy relationships.

Later that day, a Candlelight Vigil took place at the Senedd to show solidarity with victims of VAW across the world. Following a short walk around the Pierhead building, supporters were addressed by Mair Stephens, Chair of NFWI-Wales; Joyce Watson AM; Julie James AM, Leader of the House; Nadia Salaman; Jemma Shepherd, Help4Wales Foundation; Garry Davies, South Wales Fire and Rescue; and representatives from each of the political parties – David Melding AM, Rhun ap Iorwerth AM, Kirsty Williams AM and Caroline Jones AM. To close the evening, Bechgyn Bro Taf male choir performed an octet.



Group photo at lunchtime debate



Mair Stephens leading the candlelight walk

Federation action

Thank you to federations and WIs for supporting the campaign for the 6th year. Candlelight vigils were organised by Ceredigion, Gwynedd Meirionnydd and Sir Gâr/Carmarthenshire federations and Conwy Valley of WIs. Gwent Federation held their annual Light a Candle Service. Federations also recruited male ambassadors, held awareness raising events for members and provided donations to refuges.



Penlan Indoor Bowls Club supporting Not in my Name



Gwent Federation's Light a Candle Service

White Ribbon logo competition

Thank you to all members who entered our competition to produce a White Ribbon logo from any craft medium (including art). Ken Skates AM, Cabinet Secretary for the Economy and Transport announced the winning entry, second place and third place during our event at the Senedd on 21 November to mark White Ribbon Day.

Congratulations to Jenny Keal, Aberedw WI, Powys Radnor for producing the winning entry of white ribbon earrings and a pendant made from polymer clay and silver. Second place was awarded to Joan Mallett, Bryn WI, Sir Gâr/Carmarthenshire for her calligraphy and third place was awarded to Annette Beattie, Felinfach WI, Ceredigion for her machine embroidery.



Winning entry by Jenny Keal

CLIMATE CHANGE



Get involved with Show the Love 2018!

The Show the Love resources, which include the community pack and new craft and baking guides, are available to download from our [website](#) or [My WI](#).

The community pack outlines three ways you can get involved:

- 1. Notice the changes around you** - keep an eye out for early signs of spring in your neighbourhood and fill out the activity sheet
- 2. Make a green heart and wear it with pride** - share your heart with the hashtag #showthelove
- 3. Bring people together** - hold a green heart themed meeting.

You can show the love even further by making the seeded green heart and attaching it to the postcard that will be in your February WI Life. Leave the heart somewhere in your community, such as your local bus stop or café for someone to find or send directly to your AM or MP.

If you would like to receive physical copies of the pack, green heart stickers or would like any advice with organising an event, please get in touch at pa@nfwi.org.uk

SCC Cymru engages the Welsh public in standing up to climate change

During the autumn, SCC Cymru engaged its members in #WalesStandsUp to show their support in standing up to climate change to ensure Wales' global responsibility to fight climate change. Ahead of COP23, SCC Cymru wanted to demonstrate to all politicians the urgency of Wales' responsibility to tackling climate change for those worse affected now, and for our future generations.

Thank you to WI members who supported the campaign by sharing photographs of their feet on social media. A banner was produced made up of all the images submitted by supporters.

In November, SCC Cymru held a photo exhibition at the Assembly highlighting the effects of climate change around the world through case studies of local communities and activists who are living with the effects of the changing climate.



Wales Committee members

END PLASTIC SOUP

Our End Plastic Soup campaign is calling for innovative solutions to stop the release of microplastic fibres into the environment. Microplastic fibres are small plastic fragments 5mm or smaller that are shed from synthetic clothes when laundered and end up in the sea and wider environment. Due to their small size, microplastic fibres are readily ingested by aquatic life, filling up their stomachs which can eventually cause death. We also know that these fibres are ending up in the food we eat, the long term effects of which are not yet clear.



Take action:

1. Learn more on the topic, watch 'A Plastic Tide' Sky's documentary looking at the scale of ocean plastic waste.
2. Use our template letters to call on your MP and Welsh Assembly Member to raise awareness of this issue.
3. Register your interest to take part in the NFWI's washing habits survey to help understand the scale of the problem.
4. Hold an awareness day in your community and hand out our A5 checklist which outlines ways in which you can make a difference in the home.

Get in touch at pa@nfwl.org.uk if you would like to register your interest to find out more information.

FOOD MATTERS

Debate on supermarket food waste

On 25 July, NFWI-Wales held an event at the Royal Welsh Show which brought together consumers, producers and retailers to discuss the role of supermarkets in helping consumers reduce their food waste.

The event was chaired by Mair Stephens, Chair of the Federations of Wales Committee. Panel members included Ann Jones, NFWI Vice Chair and Chair of NFWI's Public Affairs Committee; John Davies, Deputy President of NFU Cymru; Alec Brown, UK Head of Stakeholder Relations at Tesco; and Hugh Jones, Programme Area Manager on Food Waste Prevention at WRAP Cymru.



A report of the debate is available on the website:- <https://www.thewi.org.uk/wi-in-wales/news-and-events/debate-at-the-royal-welsh-show-on-the-role-of-supermarkets-in-helping-consumers-reduce-food-waste>

Food waste campaign successes

In a big win for the WI Food Matters campaign, WRAP, the Food Standards Agency and Defra have called on industry to review labelling on food products, and published new guidance on the design and use of labels to reduce food waste. This reflects what WI members called for in the Wasted Opportunities report.

We are also happy to see that the East of England Co-op will become the first major retailer to sell food beyond its "best before" date. They estimate that by selling this perfectly edible food, over 50,000 items every year which would otherwise have gone to waste will now be eaten.

NFWI-Wales
19 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9HA
Tel: 029 2022 1712 E-mail: walesoffice@nfwl-wales.org.uk

Winter 2017 Newsletter

Food waste statistics

Thank you to all members who took part in the postcard campaign calling on all supermarkets to publish their food waste statistics. We will soon be handing in your postcards to supermarkets to encourage them to take action.

Food poverty

In the second phase of the Food Matters campaign, the NFWI will be launching a national debate on the issue of food poverty in March.

We will be producing a toolkit for WIs to take part in this national event by organising local events and taking action.

Help tackle holiday hunger

It is estimated that up to three million children are at risk of going hungry during the school holidays in the UK. To address this issue, in January 2017 the Welsh Government established a grant of £500,000 to fund lunch and fun clubs providing free meals to primary school children during the summer holidays. This initiative aimed to help reduce holiday hunger for children whose families find it hard to provide good food when free school meals aren't available.

Such initiatives do not exist across the UK. A new cross-party bill aims to empower local councils in England to offer programmes that provide free meals and activities for children in the school holidays. The bill is expected to have its next stage on 19 January 2018, but for it to progress further more MPs need to support the bill. Further information is available here:- www.thewi.org.uk/holiday-hunger

NFWI-WALES TWITTER ACCOUNT

NFWI-Wales has set up its own Twitter account to promote our activities in Wales. Please follow us @NFWIWales to keep up to date on our public affairs work and policy developments in Wales relating to our campaigns. We will also continue to share our activities on NFWI's Twitter handle @WomensInstitute