NCFWI AGM – WED 27 OCT 2021

CHAIRMAN’S ADDRESS

Well after reading last year’s Annual report of 2019/20, and the fact that

so many cancellations had to be made during the course of the second

half of the year, it is a bit more heartening to be able to report now on

events which were able to take place during this last WI year.

It felt like a great reunion when we were able to get together at WI

House on 30 July for a Coffee Morning to be followed by two more

Coffee Mornings in August and September. These events proved to be

popular and well supported, with added attractions in the form of a

fabric sale and Craft book sale.

Of course, as a Federation we relied on our Zoom subscription for the

early part of this last year, with a meeting of sub-committee members

back in January, a Spring coffee morning in March and very interesting

evenings with guest speakers.

Sub-committee planning meetings, Information for Treasurers events,

Speakers Selection evenings and the Resolution Briefing Conference all

took place via Zoom along with Presidents\Secretaries coffee and chat

sessions in April and August, both of those events proving to be so

useful in allowing us to hear individual WI’s plans and coping strategies.

Finally as summer approached, we became more optimistic that some

events would be able to take place in person! And it became clear how

much more rewarding it would be to meet in person rather than having to

cancel at the last minute or meet on a screen.

We were so pleased to be able to take Northants “WI Show on the road”

to Blakesley in August and then to be able to extend an invitation to

all members to a very tasty Afternoon Tea at Barnwell in September.

Two very successful Travel events have also been able to take place –

Sudeley Castle in August and more recently to the National Arboretum.

All of these events have been organised by the various sub-committees

within our Federation and I would like to say now how much I have

appreciated their organisation, flexibility and skill. The Sub-committee

Chairmen have led with enthusiasm, alongside their members, as have

all our WI Committees and their Chairmen, Treasurers and Secretaries,

as we witnessed at the coffee and chat sessions. As Cate said earlier

we must treasure our Treasurers, (and our WI Chairmen and

Secretaries too).

My sincere thanks also go out to members of the Board of Trustees for

all their help through some very challenging times. Particularly I would

like to say a huge Thank You to Cate as she steps down as County

Treasurer. We will really miss her financial advice, her commitment

and her very wise words of advice. I know she is not far away though (literally)!

This has been a very difficult year for lots of reasons and on behalf of

all Board members, I would like to extend thanks and appreciation to

Jackie, Claire and Tina who have stepped up, supported and helped

us on so many occasions, being flexible with their workload and staying

cheerful throughout. Our thanks.

Finally, we all know the WI is a great organisation, an organisation

that has given us all so much. Long may it continue.