

Hampshire Federation of WIs

The Spring Council & AGM meeting was held virtually on Tuesday 23 March 2021 at 2pm by Zoom.

MINUTES

To a soundtrack of M People's 'What Have You Done Today to Make You Feel Proud?', the Spring Council Meeting & AGM opened with a collage of activities, from handicrafts to haircuts, which members had undertaken over the year. On what had been designated a national day of reflection, Gina Ireland, Federation Chairman took the opportunity to thank all front-line workers for their dedication and selfless commitment during the pandemic.

A recording of Jerusalem sang at the NFWI Annual Meeting from the Royal Albert Hall in 2015 played.

AGM

The Adoption of Standing Orders and minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2020: proposed by the Chairman, were sent out to WIs to vote by proxy and unanimously accepted.

Presentation of HCFWI Accounts for the year ending 30 September 2020: Gail Pussard, Federation Treasurer.

Gail Pussard presented a detailed summary of the Federation's accounts. Gail covered the Statutory Accounts to 30 September 2020, gave her best estimate for the forecast to 30 September 2021 and a draft budget for 2020 to 2021. She confirmed the deficit of £52,000 for 2020. She is now forecasting a deficit in the region of £32,000 for 2021 with the hope this can be reduced to £20,000 in 2022.

Gail proposed the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2020, seconded by Jacquie Carver and that the Board of Trustees are empowered to negotiate the Independent Examination of the Accounts and fix a fee for that examination, seconded by Gina Ireland., unopposed by the delegates by proxy vote.

Resolution to adopt the 2021 Federation Constitution was seconded by Gina Ireland and from the 113 votes received from proxy votes, 107 were for, so this was carried by a large majority.

Using PowerPoint slides, Gina Ireland introduced the 2021 – 2022 Board of Trustees; she thanked all the Trustees for their hard work and patience during the unprecedented last months and welcomed Rachel Neudegg who was co-opted to the Board in November 2020 and gave her thanks to Christine Hayes who had stepped down.

Gina introduced the WI Advisers and acknowledged the hard work they all do behind the scenes and thanked them. She said goodbye to three WI Advisers; Annette Bradshaw, Angela Brice, and Sue Crump.

Gina stressed that the Federation needs volunteers to join and support events and activities and a National video clip played to remind members that the WI is run by its members for its members.

Signed.....

22 March 2022

HCFWI Calendar Competition ‘Creative Hampshire’ Winner of the Judges Cup selected by the Managing Director of Judge Sampson Ltd, Hannah Morgan, Sotonettes WI. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Hampshire Poetry Winner: Sylvia Macey, Bitterne WI

Hampshire Story of Hope Winner: Beryl Wragg, Wallington Village WI

Lady Denman Cup National 2nd place Winner: Wendy Collyer, Sway WI.

HCFWI Chairman's Address: Gina Ireland, Federation Chairman.

Gina praised the Events team under the leadership of Board member Helen Carter for all their hard work trying to source speakers and plan events which we can all enjoy together, as a Federation and they have, and still are, providing a varied programme. We have learned how to make macarons, sung along with Retro Rita, and listened to the story of wartime heroine Violetta Szarbo to mention just a very few of the events we have enjoyed.

She gave praise to the staff of WI House, her fellow Trustees and team of Advisers for their flexibility and support during this time. The Trustee strategy teams are reviewing procedures and mapping a way forward for the future and she wished them well.

Denise Smythe-White, Climate Change Ambassador, gave a graphically illustrated presentation on the devastating effect climate change will have if it is not addressed sooner rather than later. She stressed that this was not a short-term problem simply involving changes in the weather, but a long-term project which required a radical change in attitude by governments worldwide.

If we were looking for someone to raise our spirits after such a stressful year, we certainly found her in Amanda Owen, The Yorkshire Shepherdess. With her long glossy hair, clear skin and engaging smile, she was the perfect advert for living on the highest, most remote hill farm in England. And having nine children. Amanda admitted she had been ‘a bit of a dreamer’ at school; but she loved books and was drawn to James Herriot’s tales about his life as a vet, which in turn inspired her love of animals. In 1996 she was lured to Ravenseat, a bleak and austere spot in Swaledale, by an ailing sheep. Four years later she married its owner, Clive, a down-to-earth Yorkshireman, and over the past two decades the farmhouse has been transformed into a home filled with children and the bustle of family life. Ravenseat is situated smack in the middle of the Coast-to-Coast Walk, its path meandering through the farm: so, in addition to her many other chores, Amanda now provides light refreshment in the form of cream teas to the passing trade! A further television series about The Yorkshire Farm will be broadcast soon, and another book published later in the year. Needless to say, Amanda writes during the early hours, when the family are asleep – the only time the house is quiet. Though not a WI member (the nearest she comes is her WI cookery book), she can still aptly be described as An Inspiring Woman.

The conclusion of the meeting also brought to an end Gina’s term as Chairman, for which she was generously thanked by Katrina Kemp.

In closing Gina expressed her profound thanks to all those who contribute to the running of the meeting and a hopeful note that we will all meet together face to face very soon. 572 members attended virtually.

The meeting closed at 4.10pm with one verse of the National Anthem.

Signed.....

22 March 2022