

CFWI PUBLIC AFFAIRS and PALs Link

- We are very fortunate in **Cheshire** to have a very active Public Affairs sub-committee with a network of public affairs liaison links, known as PALs. Ideally each WI will have a PAL who will cascade information back to her WI.
- We currently have about 143 PALs out of a potential 200, so please do consider joining our PAL network if your WI is without one.
- Public Affairs are concerned with debating issues of public concern and interest. This may lead to resolutions (both National and at Federation/County level) and subsequently, if mandated by vote, to campaigns to change policy.
- The WI has been successfully mandating resolutions by vote since 1918.
- With some 220,000 members in about 6,300 WI's, it is the largest women's voluntary organisation in the UK and a powerful campaigning force with the potential to change national policy.
- Recent campaigns in Cheshire have included Chinese lanterns, Honey Bees, Grandparents' rights, Dementia and Food Waste.
- Twice a year meetings are held for PALs to provide them with an opportunity to meet each other and to hear speakers on a wide range of topics. If numbers permit other members may attend as visitors.
- Recent PAL meetings have been arranged on topics as diverse as domestic violence, nano-technology, poverty, making change happen, mathematics, drug research science, stem cell research, 'care not custody' (treatment rather than imprisonment for vulnerable prisoners, with eg mental health problems and /or addictions, Fracking and climate change.
- Meetings are arranged in venues around the county of Cheshire so that PAL members don't always have to travel a long way.
- Outings are also arranged for PALs, for example, recycling plants, a dairy mega-farm, and a nano-technology laboratory
- Bulletins are issued regularly to keep PALs up to date through the Cheshire News and website.