

CHESHIRE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES
RECORD OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 07th MARCH 2017

Members, guests and visitors were welcomed to the Lifestyle Centre by Chairman Jean Harding. The meeting opened with the singing of Jerusalem accompanied by Christine Clarke from Lymm Jubilee WI.

The Standing Orders for the meeting were adopted and the Record of the previous meeting was approved and signed by the Chairman.

Jean read out a letter she received from Angela Rippon on receiving her CBE in which Angela thanked Jean and the Cheshire Federation for their lovely comments.

Jean began her Chairman's Remarks by recalling a special achievement to Marie Lycett of Astbury WI on reaching the age of 100 at the end of February 2017, and for being a member of the WI for 60 years. Jean also advised of Christine Bailey being Highly Commended for the Capesthorne Cup which was presented by the Cheshire Agricultural Society for exceptional endeavour in promoting the interests of agriculture or countryside-related activities in Cheshire, which is well deserved. Jean also thanked Jean Johnston of Disbury Village as a runner up in the NFWI competition to design a bag which reflects what WI means to you, and a photograph appeared in February WI Life.

Jean went on to thank the WIs, Groups and events throughout the Federation as she had been made to feel so welcome. Christmas was also a very enjoyable time at WI House when it was open for the week for the excellent Archives Sub-Committee exhibition. Members enjoyed the exhibition and were able to relax with either a glass of mulled wine or a cup of tea together with a mince pie or enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by the Home & Garden Sub-Committee.

The Christmas Carol concert for Voluntary Services was held at Chester Cathedral where the Federation was represented by the choir from The Socialites WI, Flixton and several Board members attended. They also sang at Manchester Cathedral at a later date.

Dorothy Monks of Lower Withington WI was thanked for the lovely stage flowers which will be divided between Nina Grant, Jo Allen who retired as NF Judges and Minty Day who has been ill. The Sports & Leisure Sub-Committee members and WI Advisers were thanked for providing the stewards and Mary Diggle for organising them. Selina Prescott was thanked for organising a superb raffle. Ann Daughtrey was thanked for arranging the excellent publications table where she was helped by WI Advisers.

Sue Betley and members of the Home & Garden Sub-Committee were thanked for serving coffee/tea and lunch for guests. Jean expressed her gratitude and said she appreciated the hard work and efforts and thanks also went to the Lifestyle Centre especially Nick for help in setting up of the event. Jean welcomed Hazel Fogg, Federation Secretary with thanked Jane Condé, Financial Assistant and Ann Branton, Clerical Assistant also.

Thanks finally to all the Board of Trustees for their hard work and support over the last 12 months.

Jean took the opportunity to advise members about the NFWI AGM in Liverpool and the provision of transport for observers and delegates which was to be booked through the House.

Diane Coulton, Hon. Treasurer presented the 30 September 2016 accounts and Trustees Report and the proposal of the Adoption of the Financial Statement. She reiterated the importance of paying subscriptions on time and the pooling of affairs. Diane took the opportunity of thanking all treasurers in the Federation. The adoption of the Trustees Report & Accounts for the year was proposed by Diane and seconded by Trudy Knight, Hooton WI. The approval of the auditors was proposed by AnnDaughtrey and seconded by Ann Booth, Woodford WI.

Jean thanked Diane for her hard work in preparing the accounts, the Auditors for their ongoing help and support and Ann Daughtrey, Assistant Treasurer who is responsible for travel expenses and Treasurer Workshops.

Jean introduced Jennie Williams, Cyber Protect Officer at Titan the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit who spoke about being safe whilst using the internet, Facebook, Twitter, etc. She spoke at length about changing passwords and giving advice on taking time to reply to a suspicious email or telephone call. Jennie offered websites that you can contact for help. Rachel Hughes gave a vote of thanks.

2 Totems were on display and members were encouraged to buy for their WI and they should contact WI House.

Various Sub-Committee announcements were made.

The Chairman introduced the afternoon speaker Derek Poulson who is a witty linguist on the origins of regional accents. He was most entertaining with his accents from Scotland, Wales, both Southern and Northern Ireland, Newcastle, Liverpool, Birmingham and London which were all very funny to listen to. A light hearted end to a wonderful informative day and many members left with smiles on their faces.

Georgina Denny gave a vote of thanks to Jean Harding, Chairman for all her hard work over the last 12 months which is very much appreciated.