

**Cornwall Federation of Women's Institutes**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE HALL FOR CORNWALL, TRURO**  
**ON WEDNESDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2011**

The meeting commenced at 11.00am, and after receiving the Mayor of Truro, Councillor Mr Rob Nolan, *Jerusalem* was sung.

**CIVIC WELCOME:** The Mayor of Truro, Councillor Mr Rob Nolan, welcomed members of the Cornwall Federation of Women's Institute and their guests to the City of Truro.

**EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO THE MAYOR OF TRURO** was given by Mrs Kathy Reed, County Vice-Chairman.

**WELCOME TO VISITORS** was given by the County Chairman, Mrs Yvonne Toms, who introduced the CFWI Executive committee.

**ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS:** proposed by Mrs Audrey Webb of St Kew WI, seconded by Mrs Margaret Morris of Tregony WI, and carried.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE 2011 SPRING COUNTDOWN:** proposed by Mrs Mary Phillips of Carbis Bay WI, seconded by Mrs Helen Kestle of Crowlas and Ludgvan WI, and carried.

**REPORT BY COUNTY TREASURER:** Mrs Marilyn Leggatt, County Treasurer, presented the Annual Report and Financial Statement for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010. Figures indicated a net deficit of £7,547, which included a figure of £6,754 for depreciation on Chy Noweth an Conteth (a paper figure required for accounting purposes only). Marilyn Leggatt thanked the Executive Committee and sub-committees for continuing to provide events, and members for supporting them. Income continued to be maximised through room hire and car parking charges. Outgoings were reduced wherever possible, with the photovoltaic system at Chy Noweth helping to offset the cost of electricity used. Thanks were also expressed to the staff at Chy Noweth for their continuing commitment.

**ADOPTION OF THE 2010 ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** proposed by the County Treasurer, seconded by Mrs Sylvia Merchant of St Germans WI, and carried.

**PRESENTATION OF BUDGET January-December 2012:** Mrs Marilyn Leggatt presented the budget for 2012, which had been formulated with the current financial climate taken into account. Members were asked to consider treating themselves to a holiday and book a place on the 2012 County Tour and they were urged to continue supporting Executive and sub-committee classes, as they are an important component of income. Administration and headquarters expenses are actively monitored and support costs for meetings are reduced where ever possible.

**ADOPTION OF 2012 BUDGET:** proposed by the County Treasurer, seconded by Miss Vivien Hancock of Perranporth WI, and carried.

**APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANTS FOR 2011-2012 (Robinson Reed Layton):** proposed by Margaret Wastall, Assistant Treasurer, seconded by Mrs Pat Paynter of Grampond WI, and carried.

**APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS FOR 2011-2012 (Inner Wheel):** proposed by Margaret Wastall, Assistant Treasurer, seconded by Mrs Anne Hoare of Treviscoe and Trethosa WI, and carried.

**COUNTY CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS:** Mrs Yvonne Toms told the meeting that the federation was experiencing the same difficulties as other charities and businesses in the current financial climate, but that everyone was continuing to work hard to increase income and reduce expenditure. The Executive and sub-committees were looking into new areas for funding. The Activity and Recreation sub-committee had achieved a grant of £3,000 from the Environment Agency to fund fly-fishing courses and a grant from Awards for All of almost £5,000 will buy laptops and projectors for WI Advisers to take with them to WI meetings.

The County Chairman thanked the staff, sub-committee members and the Executive Committee for all their hard work and support. Yvonne Toms reflected on her aims when she took on the role of County Chairman, and although work on the car park had not yet been achieved, a great deal of progress had been made. An increase in membership, one of her other aims, is something every WI needs to apply itself to in order to achieve National's aim for 250,000 members by 2015. The WI gives women excellent opportunities and had given her the chance to achieve her dream of teaching, something not available to her to do on leaving school.

Yvonne Toms is looking forward to having time to resume her role as a WI Adviser and to continue her work on the Exhibitions Sub-committee, and seeing everyone back at the Hall for Cornwall for Spring Countdown.

**BLAIKLEY SALVER COMPETITION 2011 – Winning Poem: *Unitary Cornwall*** – by Mrs Sheila Higgins.  
Mrs Sheila Higgins of Penpol and Point WI read her winning poem *Unitary Cornwall*, a humorous portrail of the lengths a local person went through to get her drains fixed.

**GUEST SPEAKER: Mrs Ruth Bond, Chair of NFWI** The County Chairman introduced Mrs Ruth Bond, Chair of NFWI, who remembered the opening of Chy Noweth an Conteth in 2003, with its solar panels and eco-friendly design.

She has found it a privilege and honour being National Chair, and because the WI is held with such regard, it has taken her to places she would never have believed possible: she met three current or former Prime Ministers on International Women's Day and has spoken about climate change on panels where she was the only woman. The countries she has visited include Malawi and Poland, and she has been to Brussels and Strasbourg representing the WI. Last year the WI attracted 21,000 new members.

Members were encouraged to use Denman College, which is in need of students. The new cookery school is one of the best equipped in the country: the ovens are changed by sponsors every year and the equipment is second to none. She also mentioned the Care not Custody campaign and the Let's Cook Local courses being run around the country by WI members. Care not Custody campaign 'Lets Cook' is a popular class run at Denman for women ex-offenders, some of whom cannot read or write.

The WI has a lot to thank the founders for and the essence of the WI has not changed. In 1927 when the WI movement started it was talking about equality and the climate and it is a shame that these mandates are still necessary. The WI has to be relevant to its own time, and its members have to have a united front to bring new members in for them to discover the diversity on offer. Ruth Bond informed the meeting that the constitution has to be fit for purpose and will be tweaked in March, with particular attention being given to finance and junior membership. The WI is also a brand and has to change with the times and as a new venture there will soon be WI jam, biscuits and flour to be found on the shelves in garden centres, etc. Ruth Bond finished her presentation urging the meeting to make their WI relevant for today, as it can give women a voice; to never say never; to revel in their membership, enjoy it, innovate, experiment and support each other at every level.

**NOTICES:** Announcements of exciting forthcoming events were given by Executive and sub-committee representatives.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12.50pm.

**OPENING OF AFTERNOON SESSION:** The County Chairman welcomed everyone back to the meeting.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER:** Mrs Yvonne Toms introduced the Guest Speaker, Mr Colin Alderson: *Life in the Palace Kitchens*.

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:** The awards were presented by the Guest Speaker.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Mr Colin Alderson was lucky when he wrote a letter to the Master of Kitchens for the Royal Palaces: he was invited for interview and offered a position. He served a three month apprenticeship at Buckingham Palace, where there was such attention to detail that a mushroom never left the kitchen without it being cut in the shape of a chrysanthemum, even if it was in a sauce and would not be seen!

A book would go to the Queen with her breakfast order with the Master of Kitchens' recommendation for meals that day. The Queen would send it back with any changes she wanted; this is now done on-line. State visits happen twice a year on average, with up to 2000 guests invited. The Queen would inspect the dining room and everything would be given a thorough inspection; having pointed out anything she wanted changed, the Queen would dress for the event and then return to check that her instructions had been carried out.

At Christmas staff were asked what present they would like, up to a value of £20. The gifts were distributed personally by the Royal Family; it would take four hours. Colin left working for the Queen to open a hotel in Harrogate and now cooks for a hospice in Harrogate.

**EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO THE GUEST SPEAKER** was given by Mrs Phyllis Reddock, Executive Committee Member

**EXPRESSION OF THANKS:** Mrs Margaret Wastall, Executive Committee Member, thanked the Exhibitions Sub-committee, Stewards, Pooling of Fares Organisers, Flower Arranger, Trading Post Team, Caterers and British Red Cross.

**COUNTY DRAW:** The winning tickets were drawn by Mr Colin Alderson.

**DENMAN DIP:** The winner of the Denman Dip was Christine Jefferies, Donderry & Seaton WI.

**200+ CLUB:** The winners of the 200+ Club draw were, 1<sup>st</sup> South Hill WI, 2<sup>nd</sup> Altarnun WI, 3<sup>rd</sup> Luxulyan and Lanlivery WI.

**EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN:** Mrs Alice Brown, Combined Arts Sub-committee Chairman, thanked Mrs Yvonne Toms for her tireless work and made special mention of her husband, Mr Vyvyan Toms, for always being on the end of the phone when she was not available.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN 2010-2012:** Mrs Frances Armstrong, County Secretary, announced that the County Chairman for 2011-2012 would be Mrs Kathy Reed.

The meeting closed at 3.45pm with the singing of the National Anthem.