

National Federation
of Women's Institutes
104 New King's Road
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www.theWI.org.uk

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Chair: Ruth Bond. Honorary Treasurer: Aleathia Mann. General Secretary: Jana Osborne.

NFWI NEWS AUGUST 2010

NO.386

CENTRAL SECRETARIAT

RUTH BOND, CHAIR; JANA OSBORNE, GENERAL SECRETARY; LOU COLLIS, BOARD SECRETARY; KARIN HICKEY, PA TO GENERAL SECRETARY; GRANT ATKINSON, COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS MANAGER; CHARLOTTE FIANDER, PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER; KERRI LE ROUX-MARX, COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS OFFICER

Timetable for NFWI Board of Trustees Election 2011–13

Nomination papers for the NFWI Board of Trustees Election have been sent to all WIs and federations in the June mailing. These should be returned to Anne Wheeler, Company Secretary, 104 New Kings Road, London SW6 4LY no later than Friday 29 October 2010. A letter to all nominees will be sent during the first week of November, requesting their willingness to stand and, if so, a short biography and photograph of themselves. These should be returned to the NFWI by Thursday 2 December 2010. A poster will then be compiled and this, along with the ballot papers will be sent to all WIs and federations in the January 2011 mailing. The closing date for receipt of these ballot papers to reach the Returning Officer (The Electoral Reform Services) is 1 April 2011. The formal announcement of the result, and introduction of the new NFWI Board, will take place at the AGM in Liverpool on 8 June 2011.

Election of Chair of the Federations of Wales Committee

Nomination papers for the election of the Chair of the Federations of Wales Committee will be sent to all the federations in Wales in August 2011 and these should be returned to Anne Wheeler, Company Secretary, by 1 October at the latest. Ballot papers will then be sent to the federations in Wales on 8 October and these should be returned to the Company Secretary by 26 November 2010. The result will be formally announced at the Wales Conference which takes place on 19/20 April 2011.

Appeal for help with research project

Rosalind Hall, Trainee Clinical Psychologist, University of Sheffield, is conducting a study into the way that thoughts and feelings change over the menstrual cycle. Sheffield University needs women between the ages of 18 and 45 to complete a ten-minute online questionnaire weekly for four weeks. If you are interested in taking part, or would like to know more about this study, please go to the following website: www.surveymonkey.com/s/TGFML9 or contact Rosalind Hall direct on pcp08rh@sheffield.ac.uk.

Abolition of cheques – Payments Council consultation

In December last year, due to continued decline in cheque use across the UK, the Payments Council set a target date of 31 October 2018 to close central cheque clearing, effectively abolishing cheques. The Payments Council is currently holding an extensive consultation for businesses, including charities. The Charity Commission is representing the charity and voluntary sector but individual charities are also invited to give their feedback about how the abolition of cheques will affect them. WIs will be receiving a form in the August mailing which they can return to the Payments Council to lodge their views and federations will soon be sent information about a series of national workshops being conducted by the Payments Council.

The final decision on the future of cheques is due to be made in 2016, but in the meantime the Payments Council is urging charities to prepare for this by thinking about and planning alternatives. The Charity Commission's document *Internal Financial Controls for Charities (CC8)* provides charities with updated guidance on alternative methods of payment. To obtain a copy of this form please go to the Charity Commission's website www.charitycommission.gov.uk or telephone their contact centre on 0845 300 0218. For more information about the abolition of cheques please see the Payment Council's website www.paymentscouncil.org.uk or telephone 020 3217 8200.

The NFWI on Facebook

The NFWI is on Facebook. You can read what is posted on the NFWI Facebook page by going to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-WI-National-Federation-of-Womens-Institutes/130129976138?ref=ts&v=wall>. Why not sign up and become a fan?

Promotional materials available on the WI MOODLE

Federation secretaries are reminded that electronic copies of promotional materials including: WI membership leaflet, Associate leaflet and WI poster, are available to download from the PR & Communications area of the WI MOODLE. Members and WIs requesting hard copies of this literature from the NFWI will be told to contact their federation office. Hard copies of materials can be requested from Monika Turlo in the NFWI Resources Department, telephone 020 7371 9300 ext. 201. A charge for postage will be levied for large quantity requests.

August mailing 2010

A reminder to all federations and WIs that the August mailing should arrive in the first week of September. If you have not received the mailing by the end of the second week please contact the NFWI Resources Department on 020 7371 9300.

Correspondence with Federation Secretaries

There have been reports that a number of federations have not been receiving emails from the NFWI. Please find below the information that federations should look out for since the last issue of the *NFWI News*. If you have not received some of these items please contact the department responsible as indicated in brackets.

- 11 June – Taylors of Harrogate (Central Secretariat – Karin Hickey)
- 24 June – WIE Board (Central Secretariat – Karin Hickey)
- 24 June – Delivery of new Denman College banner for Denman Reps (Denman College – Allie Hogsbjerg)
- 30 June – Date of the Annual General Meeting, Royal Albert Hall 2012 (Central Secretariat – Kerri Le Roux-Marx)
- 2 July – NFWI Board & Committee Structures (Central Secretariat – Karin Hickey)
- 5 July – Huxley Cup Competition – letter announcing competition results (NFWI Unit – Helen Neal)
- 5 July – Autumn National Council – 1 to 3 October 2010 (Central Secretariat – Kerri Le Roux-Marx)
- 7 July – News from Denman College and the WI Body Fit Camp (Denman College – Allie Hogsbjerg)
- 9 July – Consultation on the Future of Cheques (Finance – Claire Melvin)
- 11 July – Lady Denman Cup Competition: reminder to federations to be more vigilant when checking word counts (NFWI Unit – Helen Neal)
- 11 July – Crafts Council – announcing new dates and attached an application form (NFWI Unit – Helen Neal)
- 13 July – Federation Observers at NFWI Membership Committee Meetings (Central Secretariat – Karin Hickey)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

ALEATHIA MANN, CHAIR; ANNE WHEELER, HEAD OF FINANCE; CLAIRE MELVIN, COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Subscriptions and pooling of fares

The subscription for 2011 will be £30, which will be allocated as follows: WI: £13.07; federation: £6.41; NFWI: £10.52. The 2011 AGM pooling of fares will remain unchanged at £15 for WIs and £30 for federations. The above notification will be sent in the August mailing.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

JANICE LANGLEY, CHAIR; KARIN HICKEY, COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Working together for new WIs

It naturally takes time for new WIs to establish themselves as strong groups and fully understand the many workings of our organisation. There is a risk that they may not realise the extent of the network they have joined and miss out on support crucial to their development. All members, working together, are responsible for the success of new WIs, from the guidance of the federation representatives and WI Advisers to the welcome they receive from established WIs and local members. Here are some tried-and-tested ideas which have helped get some new WIs fully inducted into WI life:

WIs

Is there a new WI opening near you? Why don't some of your members pop down to their first meetings to get to know them and provide a warm welcome to the WI; you could invite them to activities your WI has planned so that they can learn how a WI goes about organising such events.

Federations

Why not invite a member from a local WI of a similar age/background to those wishing to start the new WI to join in the initial exploratory meetings and pass on her enthusiasm about the WI. If she is also a relatively new member she will have a perfect understanding of what the potential members are feeling and what they will need to know to begin with. This could also be a good way of establishing a supportive, networking bond between WIs.

During the first few months after formation, other members from the federation could be invited to talk to the new WI about their own experiences and opportunities gained from being a WI member.

To encourage the new members to take part in federation activities why not set aside some free tickets to federation events occurring in the first few months after a WI's formation, or invite the new officers to attend your next Council Meeting as guests? Encouraging this kind of interaction also provides a valuable, informal opportunity to follow their progress and provide support and encouragement.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MARYLYN HAINES-EVANS, CHAIR; MARIANNE SLADOWSKY, HEAD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS; EMILY BOOST, PROJECT MANAGER; KATE WEBB, RESEARCH & CAMPAIGNS OFFICER; EMILY CLEEVELY, RESEARCH & CAMPAIGNS OFFICER; YETUNDE AKINTOLA, CAMPAIGNS & RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Get involved in the UK's biggest single day of volunteering!

Every year tens of thousands of people get together across the UK to make a difference in their communities for CSV's Make a Difference Day. Charities, schools, community groups, universities, companies and the public sector all take part, and hundreds of local heroes organise their own projects for the day. This year it takes place on Saturday, 30 October 2010 – and you can be part of it!

Set up your own project or try volunteering!

Make a huge difference by setting up a project for the campaign. Whether you're an individual or part of an organisation, we'll help you to set up your own activity, with a wide range of fun resources, help and advice. Thousands of projects up and down the country will be looking for volunteers. There is something for everyone – all you need to do is get in touch with the organiser, turn up and get stuck in! It's the perfect way to have fun, meet new people and, above all, make a difference.

Start planning your activity today!

Any questions? Just give CSV a call on freephone 0800 284 533 or simply email CSV at difference@csv.org.uk

Mums Matter

This year, the Women Reaching Women project has focused on raising awareness of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To further increase awareness of the MDGs, the NFWI held a joint reception with Oxfam on 21 June to launch a new initiative on maternal health (MDG 5), entitled 'Mums Matter'. Together with Oxfam, the WI will be calling on the UK government to honour their commitments to improving access to maternal healthcare in poorer countries and to putting women's rights at the centre of their efforts. Please do support this campaign by signing the petition on pages 15–16 of the July & August issue of *WI Life*. For more information, please go to: www.thewi.org.uk/mumsmatter. This project is part-funded by the Department for International Development.

FEDERATION SUPPORT COMMITTEE

STEPHANIE FORT, CHAIR; HELEN NEAL, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Federation Representative Forums

The aim of the forums is for members to learn more about the role of Skills Co-ordinator and Federation Representative and how it can benefit, and work within, their federation. It is also a chance for members already in these roles to come and meet fellow Co-ordinators and Representatives to share ideas and support while learning more about the future plans and activities of the NFWI and what the NFWI can offer members, and to find ways in which we can all work together better:

Wednesday 13 October – Shropshire Federation Office, Shrewsbury
 Friday 15 October – St John's Church Hall, Keynsham (opposite Avon Federation Office)
 Monday 18 October – North Yorkshire West Federation Office, Ripon
 Wednesday 20 October – Northamptonshire Federation Office, Moulton
 Thursday 21 October – Surrey Federation Office, Guildford

Please note: these forums are an opportunity to simply 'find out more'. Your members are under no obligation to take on the role of a Skills Co-ordinator or a Federation Representative after the forum.

Federations may send up to four people each. These groups can be made up of potential/current Skills Co-ordinators and/or Federation Representatives, the Federation Chairman, Treasurer or any member from a relevant sub-committee. If no one within these roles is available to attend, please ask another member to attend who would be willing to pass on the information from the day.

Attendance is free and the day will include refreshments and a light lunch, but federations must cover any travel expenses incurred by their members. Please contact your Federation Secretary for more information or an application form. Alternatively please email h.neal@nfwl-unit.org.uk.

'Why try the WI tri?'

The committee received an outstanding response to this challenge, so during these long, sunny days there should now be literally hundreds of WI members out there swimming, walking, running or cycling! Do please keep in touch with us – it would be great to share your motivational stories with fellow members. Send us your stories, photographs and videos so that they can be shared on the WI Moodle and help inspire others! Contact Helen Neal at the NFWI Unit at h.neal@nfwl-unit.org.uk.

Lady Denman Cup 2010 – ‘Every picture tells a story’

Do not forget that the deadline for federation entries is Friday, 6 August. Entries after this date will not be accepted.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MAGGIE SIMONS, CHAIR EDUCATION COMMITTEE; HELEN NEAL, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY; ELAINE SMITH, ACCREDITATION OFFICER; DIANE SANDERSON, HEAD ADVISER; PAT LUMSDALE, HEAD OF NFWI UNIT / CRAFT ADVISER

Huxley Cup Competition 2010

The Huxley Cup Competition returned this year, yet again showcasing the talents of our members who demonstrated some beautiful and creative displays. The competition was held at the East of England Show, 18 – 19 June 2010, and entrants had to design and create a display based on the theme ‘What goes around comes around’.

Many congratulations to:

First Place	–	Judith Nunn, Oxfordshire Federation
Second Place	–	Ros Renfrew, Gloucestershire Federation
Third Place	–	Daphne Furneaux, Glamorgan Federation

Photographs of the winning displays are available to view on the Moodle.

Craft Club – new training dates!

The Crafts Council has organised three new training dates for those members who are interested in training to take part in this exciting project:

9 September – Derbyshire Federation Office, Sherwin Street, Derby, DE22 1GP
14 September – Longdown Hall, Longdon, Nr Exeter, Devon, EX6 7SN
14 September – Durham Federation Office, Barnfield Road, Spennymoor, Co. Durham, DL16 6EB

All days will begin at 10am and be finished by 4pm. Lunch will be provided.

If you are interested in attending one of these days and in training to become a Craft Club, please download an application form from the Moodle, contact your federation office or visit the website www.craftclub.org.uk.

Federation Representative forums

In conjunction with the Federation Support Committee, the Education Committee will be hosting a number of forums around the country during October 2010, aimed at cascading information to members about the role of a Skills Co-ordinator and a Federation Representative. Please refer to the ‘Federation Support Committee’ section of this newsletter for further information.

Staging and Interpretation for Beginners

Setting up a display, whether it is for a WI event or on a bigger scale at federation level, can often be a challenge! Come and learn the basic principles of display design, staging and interpretation at Denman College from 13 to 15 October 2010. This will be your chance to learn how to apply basic principles to make your display stand out from the crowd! To find out more, please contact the Enrolments Department at Denman College or visit the website www.theWI.org.uk.

British Egg Week – 4 to 10 October 2010

Health experts are advising us to eat more eggs but new research confirms that people still struggle to cook even the most basic egg recipes. A survey found that a large percentage of Brits find it challenging to cook simple meals using eggs and frequently make mistakes. More than a third of those questioned said they found poaching eggs difficult; and boiling an egg was a strain for 27%, cooking an omelette was a trial for 24% of people and frying for 23%!

Ahead of this year’s British Egg Week, celebrity chef Paul Merrett is helping less than confident chefs by sharing his cooking tips and inspirational recipes. Paul’s recipes and advice will be available in supermarkets next to the egg displays and a new website www.timeforeggs.com will provide hints, tips and recipe ideas.

Eggs have been called a ‘superfood’ because they are packed with essential vitamins and minerals, including high levels of vitamin D, contain only 80 kcals per medium egg, and the previous limits recommended on consumption of eggs due to the cholesterol they contain have now been lifted. They may also keep you feeling fuller for longer, and so help with dieting.

For further information, please contact the British Egg Information Service on 020 7052 8899 or email sara@britegg.co.uk.

NFWI-WALES

MARGARET LLOYD JONES, CHAIR; RHIAN CONNICK, HEAD OF WALES OFFICE

WI presence at summer events

A warm welcome is extended to all to visit our stands at the following events:

- **Royal Welsh Show, Llanellwedd (19 – 22 July)**

Located in the South Glamorgan Exhibition Hall, our stand will be hosted by Ceredigion Federation on the theme *Wealth of Wool*. The display will show that wool is a product for the future with a wonderful range of uses from clothing and bedding to carpet and insulation – in fact from cradle to grave.

- **National Eisteddfod, Blaenau Gwent and the Heads of the Valleys (31 July – 7 August)**

The stand, hosted by Gwent Federation and based on the theme *Change Your World with the WI*, will be located on the maes (stand no. 247–249.) The stand will depict ‘old and new’ through photography and other mediums and will highlight how women can change their world with the WI. On display will be a Welsh ‘cariad’ quilt made by the members of Gwent Federation.

NFWI-Wales 2011 Interfederation Sports Day

The 2011 Sports Festival will take place on Saturday, 17 September 2011 in Newtown, Powys from 10.30am to 4.30pm. Competitions will include bowls, badminton, table tennis, swimming, ten-pin bowling, darts, whist, scrabble and dominoes. Further information will be circulated to federation offices in August.

TRAINING COMMITTEE

LYNNE STUBBINGS, CHAIR; VAL WATSON, SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY (NFWI-UNIT)

WI Moodle

NEWS! Have you registered for the WI Moodle yet? The automatic member registration is now available. To become registered as a WI Moodle user, please contact your local Membership Communication Services Representative (MCS rep) – if you do not know who this is in your WI, please contact your WI Secretary. Your MCS rep will need to add your email address to your basic details if it's not already there and assign you as an ‘online learner’ using the drop-down menu in the positions area. You will then receive an email with your login details. Please note that it can take 24 hours from registration to access the WI Moodle.

The site contains useful resources and information on competitions, crafts and links to other websites. There are forums and links to WI blogs, Facebook and Twitter. So join up – there is something for everyone!

If you have any queries about the WI Moodle, please contact Elaine Smith, Moodle Administrator at e.smith@nfwi-unit.org.uk.

PowerPoint presentation workshops

These free courses are now available for those federations which have not yet taken up this offer. The Training Committee can come to your federation to train your Federation Trustees, WI Advisers and members who train others in their federation. This will include putting together a PowerPoint presentation, setting up equipment and tips for delivering the presentation in a professional way. Workshops must take place before the end of March 2011. Please contact Val Watson for further information.

Trustee training

Free Federation Trustee training will continue until the end of March 2011. All days include a basic recapping of the responsibilities of a Federation Trustee. The Training Committee can come to your federation to train your federation trustees. For further information please contact Val Watson at the NFWI Unit, Denman College, Marcham, OX13 6NW.

IFE training

Do you have a group of members who would like to be trained to independently examine WI accounts? The Training Committee can come to your federation to train a team of members to undertake independent examinations of WI accounts and to advise you on the best methods of setting up a scheme within your federation. This training is being offered free until the end of March 2011. A refresher course is also available under this funding. Contact Val Watson at the NFWI Unit for further information.

Public speaking workshops: ‘So you need to be heard?’

The Training Committee is pleased to offer free public speaking workshops for WI Advisers, Federation Trustees, and Denman and ACWW Reps who have to give talks/presentations to large groups. The aim of these workshops is to build on basic public speaking skills. These workshops must take place before the end of March 2011. The Training Committee can come to your federation. For further information please contact Elaine Smith at the NFWI Unit, Denman College, Marcham, OX13 6NW.

Speaking with Confidence courses

If your federation held an 'A Chance to Speak' day you may be interested in holding a 'Speaking with Confidence' course (two days). These NFWI courses aim to develop students' confidence and ability to speak in public, to express themselves clearly without undue stress and to make the best use of their voices. The Training Committee will pay for the cost of the trainer's travel. For further information please contact Elaine Smith at the NFWI Unit, Denman College, Marcham, OX13 6NW.

WI Adviser badges

The Training Committee is redesigning the WI Adviser badges to reflect the new logo. Look out for further information in the near future.

WI Adviser Forums (formerly Refreshers)

WI Adviser Forums for 2010 – 2011 are as follows:

5 – 7 November 2010 at Denman College

14 – 16 March 2011 at Denman College

15 – 17 July 2011 at Denman College

HOLD THE DATE! The WI Adviser Conferences 2012 will take place from 20 to 24 February; information on venues will be sent out later this year!

Federation Chairmen's/Treasurers' workshops: 16 – 18 March 2011

These workshops will run concurrently and take place at Denman College.

Closing date – 1 November 2010

Membership Chairmen's workshop: 21 – 23 January 2011

This workshop will take place at Denman College.

Closing date – 1 September 2010

Federation Secretaries' workshop: 7 – 9 February 2011

This workshop is aimed at both new and experienced Secretaries.

Closing date – 1 October 2010

Application forms for the above courses can be obtained from Val Watson at the NFWI Unit, Denman College, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxon, OX13 6NW. Email: v.watson@nfw-unit.org.uk.

WI ENTERPRISES

DIANA BIRCH, CHAIR; MARK LINACRE, GROUP MANAGER; HILARY RANSOM, GROUP MANAGER'S ASSISTANT

Following the meeting of the WI Enterprises Board of Directors on Wednesday 16 June I would like to bring to your attention some changes which have taken place. Stephanie Fort has resigned from the Board to free up her time to work on other NFWI committees and after six years as the Chair of WI Enterprises Janice Langley has decided to resign, but will remain a Director of the Board. Diana Birch has been duly elected as the new Chair of WI Enterprises, and Maggie Simons to the position of Vice-Chair.

'The Voices of the WI' is ready to be heard

As you will be aware by now, the WI has been working with HotSource – a production company – for the past few months to search for the singing stars of the WI. After the members' submission of demos and holding final auditions at Abbey Road Studios, the final five members have now been chosen and recordings are taking place over the summer. The Harmonies' debut album, featuring a beautiful selection of classic favourites and several new original songs, will be released this October through Universal Records but it is already available to pre-order on Amazon.co.uk. Inspired by influences including the Carpenters and Carole King, in the unique style of The Harmonies – winners of the *Search for Stars of the WI* 2010 competition (please see the February and March 2010 editions of *WI Life*).

So get behind your fellow WI members: spread the word among your members, friends and family and encourage everyone to pre-order their very own copy of this album.

To pre-order your copy of The Harmonies' debut album please visit www.amazon.co.uk and type The Harmonies on the search browser.

The WI tea towel – NEW

Featuring the WI logo and made of cotton drill – a strong and durable drying cloth – the new WI tea towel is not only practical but also makes a lovely addition to any kitchen. This tea towel is also perfect as a souvenir with its retro inspired design.

Price: £3.75 including postage

Size: 75cm(h) x 45cm(w)

WI member's badge

Featuring the new WI logo, this enamel lapel badge is covered in hard-wearing clear acrylic. The badge has a silver-plated outer rim and a butterfly tie pin attachment.

Price: £3.50 including postage
Size: 2cm (h) x 3cm(w)

To order the WI tea towel and the WI member's badge, please phone Brechinset on 01394 44 88 24 or visit www.theWI.org.uk/WIproducts.

DENMAN COLLEGE

ANNE HARRISON, CHAIR OF DENMAN COLLEGE COMMITTEE; STEPHEN HACKETT, PRINCIPAL; JEANETTE BOOTH, HEAD OF COLLEGE SERVICES

A weekend of getting physical the WI way: 27 – 29 August 2010 (Course No. 091.1107)

The WI Body Fit Camp weekend course has been designed to inspire anyone who wants to start to get fit or improve their existing level of fitness. There are only a few places left for this unique course, so if you want to get fitter or start a programme to lose weight, book your place.



Working with your lead instructor, Ryan Potter, you will have the opportunity to try a range of activities including body pump, circuit training, body combat, team games, relaxation exercises, sessions in nutrition and cookery demonstrations.

Ryan has many years' experience helping people to get fit and lose weight, from his time serving in the army with the Royal Engineers to his time as a personal trainer. Ryan understands other people's goals having won a silver medal representing Great Britain in squash and having played for England in rugby sevens.

Working in a small group is tremendously motivating – you will be amazed at what you can achieve through the power of training together. Classes will be run in the Ferris Theatre and around the 17 acres of grounds at Denman College, so no two sessions will be the same. There will also be plenty of time in the evenings to unwind and relax in good company. We believe that you will be amazed by the results you can achieve through the WI Body Fit Camp.

Prices for the WI Body Fit Camp weekend

£325 WI member, £360 non-member

Garden Design and Visits: 13 – 16 September 2010 (Course No. 101.1073)

A wonderful introduction to the skills and joys of designing a garden from concept to the final planting. The course will include inspirational visits to the world famous gardens at Hidcote Manor and Kiftsgate. This will be a comprehensive course covering all aspects of garden design.

Subjects to be covered will include: the basis of good garden design, garden design principles, tension mystery and surprise, garden styles and preparing an outline scheme. We shall also look at the importance of hard landscaping, ways with water and that all important subject of planting design and the preparation of planting plans. The course will include highly illustrative slide presentations and the teaching will have a strongly interactive element; we shall all be gardeners and designers together!

Price: £374 for WI members



Feature Writing for Beginners: 6 – 8 October 2010 (Course No. 101.038)

Write a feature, opinion column or review for a newspaper, newsletter or magazine. Ideal for those interested in pursuing feature writing as a possible career or lucrative hobby, using their expertise or special interests.

A strong practical emphasis is designed to build confidence so that course members will be able to contribute to publications of their choice, offering features ranging from human interest to specialist subjects ... and be paid for them. But, first, they have to be written in the right way.

A 500-word feature will be written under deadline conditions. This course, which is fun and exciting, will send you home bursting with ideas.

Price: £220 for WI members



Tassels for Interiors – Traditional Techniques: 6 – 8 October 2010 (Course No. 101.035)

Tassels and trimmings (or passementerie – as it is called in France) have been made in small specialised workshops since the mid 17th century. It is only in recent years that this obscure craft has been introduced to textile enthusiasts. On this course we will be looking at traditional techniques of making a full sized tassel, working with high quality linen yarns. You will learn an amazing set of new specialist techniques that are extraordinary and great fun to do.

Price: £220+ materials for WI members

Painting on Silk Velvet: 11 – 13 October 2010 (Course No. 101 054)

Silk velvet painting offers an opportunity for bold designs on an extremely rich surface. Specific painting techniques, along with the use of fibre reactive dyes, ensure wonderful results for coloured velvets to be used for fashion, decorative uses, accessories and cards.

Techniques covered will include: hot stamping, devoré and shibori, all not to be missed in this creative and productive course. Enhance luxurious silk velvet through hand-painting techniques, dyeing and devoré and create your own exquisite masterpieces. Novices and experienced students welcome.

Price: £220+ materials for WI members



Don't forget, the new calendar of courses and events at Denman College is available in booklet form. Please contact the college for your copy, telephone 01865 391991. You can also download the brochure from the WI website: www.theWI.org.uk/college.

FEDERATION NEWS

‘Northern Inspirations’ – a festival of crafts and flowers

Six of the WI northern federations, (North Yorkshire East and West, East Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Humberside and Lancashire), are holding this prestigious event in the superb setting of Carlton Towers situated between Goole and Selby. This venue allows WI members to show the wide variety of crafts and skills that women in the country enjoy. The exhibition allows the public a unique opportunity to visit the home of Lord and Lady Fitzalan Howard (he is the second son of the Duke of Norfolk). Their distinctive gothic house, with a Victorian exterior and a three-storied square Jacobean block, was created by such illustrious architects as Edward Welby Pugin, Thomas Atkinson of York and Yorkshire-born Francis Bentley. The exhibits of crafts and flowers will be displayed throughout the ground floor rooms, the Minstrels' Gallery and upper landings.

Each federation has an individual theme interpreted in their own designated area where their members' skilled, original crafts and flower arrangements will be displayed. There will be a variety of craft demonstrations each day allowing visitors the opportunity to observe and question WI members at work. Demonstrations include: needle felt, water colour painting, acrylic painting, parchment craft, doll making, knitting, bead embellishments, lace making, Japanese folded patchwork card making, and sugar craft. Light refreshments are available throughout the day. A variety of stalls including Country Markets will be there daily. The exhibition runs from Tuesday 14 September to Friday 17 September 2010. Opening hours are Tues – Thurs, 10am – 4.30pm (last admission 3.30pm) and Friday 10am – 3pm (last admission 2pm). Admission is £7.50 at the door. Please note that there is no wheelchair access and no lifts.

Marmalade Festival

The World's Original Marmalade Festival will once again be taking place at Dalemain Mansion, near Penrith in the Lake District, 12 – 13 February 2011. The categories (including the conventional – Seville Orange, Any Citrus, Dark & Chunky – and less conventional – Man-Made, Military & Merry) are judged by an experienced panel of four WI judges from the Cumbria-Cumberland and North Yorkshire West Federations. The money raised from the entry fee, in addition to all the money from the ticket sales on the Festival days goes to Hospice at Home Carlisle & North Lakeland, caring for terminally ill patients at home. At the Festival, all marmalade entries are on display, there are cooking demonstrations, marmalade tastings and the all important prize giving. Two other competitions are running: one for B&Bs/hotels and another for artisan marmalade makers which offers the chance of getting products on sale at Fortnum & Mason in London's Piccadilly. For more information visit www.marmaladefestival.com or send an email to marmalade@dalemain.com.