

BFWG news

British Federation of Women Graduates

Autumn 2008

FREE TO MEMBERS

No 0809-1

House of Commons Seminar

Tuesday 18th November 2008

14.00 - 16.00

The Jubilee Room,
Palace of Westminster

Cost £8

Sponsored by

Diana Johnson MP

Kingston Upon Hull North

Seminar Theme:

*Women, higher education
and leadership*

Speakers include

Nia Griffiths MP Llanelli
and 2 others tbc

Morning Tours

Tuesday 18th November 2008

11.00 - 12.00

*Banqueting rooms at
Whitehall*

£5 contact **Rosalie Brentnall**

Royal Institution

21 Albemarle Street

£5 contact **Joan Wright**

INSIDE

- International Day.....Page 4
- BFWG Scholarship Winners. Page 5
- Conference Workshops.....Page 6
- Local News.....Page 7
- **Enclosures:** Programme, Booking Form, HMCA

AGM at Telford - A Weekend to Remember



Members visiting Ironbridge on Sunday afternoon after the AGM. See Page 6
Photograph courtesy of Mark Bullock

The new shortened format for our AGM and Conference at Telford resulted in one of the most memorable in recent history. Federation business was accomplished in two business sessions leaving plenty of time for a keynote presentation on 'Education In Geodiversity for a Sustainable Future' by **Dr Cynthia Burek** and an afternoon of workshops on issues ranging from 'Zero Waste' to 'Social Skills and Leadership Skills', about which you can read further in this edition of News (See P 6). Members were also able to enjoy hearing from **Professor Joy Carter**, the dynamic Vice Chancellor of Winchester University on Saturday evening and **Louise Croot**, the President of IFUW just before the closing of the meeting.

One of the major issues in the first business session was, as always, the Federation's finances. **The presentations**, particularly from our in-coming Chair of the Finance Committee, **Barbara Jackson**, and the ensuing discussions clearly demonstrated that **our investments and funds are being managed carefully and our expenditures are being kept in check**. Confidence in the way that the Hon Officers and Finance Committee are

moving forward was demonstrated by the withdrawal of the resolution concerning the future running of the office. During the final business session, in the absence of 'in-time' nominations for key positions in the Federation, **the membership agreed that we could try working with a leadership team** (See P 2) While this may not be strictly as set out in the Articles of Association, it is permissible for the Hon Officers to make appointments if required. In the spirit of ensuring transparency this was done at the AGM, rather than considered later on.

Three resolutions on Gender Equality Strategy/Duty were adopted. Also passed was a resolution to allow the setting up of a **Working Group** to report back to the next AGM on the future running of our own Scholarship Trust Funds.

For those who were able to stay on, Maureen Bullock arranged a visit to Ironbridge, a World Heritage Site and a fitting end to a memorable weekend.

Our thanks go to Gabrielle Suff, Margaret Smeaton and all the other members of the Mercia and Wales Region for all their hard work in making the meeting such a success.

Marianne Haslegrave, BFWG President

British Federation of Women Graduates
THE VOICE OF WOMEN GRADUATES

Patron: The Baroness Greenfield, CBE

Founded 1907

BFWG promotes women's opportunities in education and public life; works as part of an international organisation to improve the lives of women and girls; fosters local, national and international friendship.



BFWG is affiliated to the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) and University Women of Europe (UWE)

Headquarters

4 Mandeville Courtyard, 142 Battersea Park Road
London SW11 4NB

Tel: 020 7498 8037 Fax: 020 7498 5213

e-mail: hq@bfgw.org.uk
www.bfgw.org.uk

President 2008-2011

Marianne Haslegrave MA (BFWG Canterbury)
e-mail: mh@commat.org

Vice-President voted in 2008-2010

Gillian E Clerici MA PGCE BSc(Hons) (BFWG Worcester)
e-mail: hq@bfgw.org.uk

Additional Vice-Presidents

Su Allen BSc(Hons) PhD MRSC (BFWG Nottingham)
Jasmit Kaur Phull BSc(Hons), BMS (BFWG Lincoln)

Secretary

Jenny Morley (Independent)

Chairman BFWG Charitable Foundation Governors

2007-2010 Mr Peter Letley
e-mail: peter.letley@cibc.co.uk

Editor 2004-2008

Jean M Cockling BA(Hons) (BFWG Reading)
6 Tilling Close, Tilehurst, Reading, RG3 6SX
Tel/Fax: 0118 941 3000
e-mail: hq@bfgw.org.uk
Correspondence should be sent to the editor at this address.

Designed and published by

Linda Hadfield BSc BA(Hons) PhD (BFWG Cambridge)

Next Issue: Winter 2009

Copy to Editor by: 14 November 2008

Despatched by: Dec 08

There is no guarantee that copy received after this deadline will be included.

Please refer to the grey News schedule for reports required for the next edition.

Notice is hereby given that articles, letters and other matter appearing in this periodical do not necessarily express the official views of BFWG or Editor of News. The Editor and Publisher take no responsibility for any advertising printed or circulated with News. Advertising in News does not necessarily imply support for the views and aims of BFWG.

BFWG News is the official journal of the British Federation of Women Graduates

Reg. No: 278795 England

a Company limited by guarantee.

VAT No: 562 9130 42

Scholarship Registered Charity No: 273043
The BFWG Charitable Foundation is BFWG's wholly owned subsidiary.

© BFWG and contributors

Editorial

AS DULL AUGUST DAYS give way, we hope, to brighter September ones, we announce the arrival of newly streamlined News to represent our newly streamlined Federation. There will be 4 editions annually of 8 pages (plus another 8 for Conference Edition). Inevitably, this means that the Spring Edition will be mostly concerned with the Executive but there will be extra room in Winter News for articles of a more general nature. **Note the deadlines below**, decide what you will submit from your programme NOW and WHO will submit it.

There will be at least ONE International page and ONE for Regional/Local events or concerns per edition. **Articles will be shorter**, as in the past. Think 150 - 200 words per article. A shorter article based around an interesting photograph makes good copy. If a photograph is not appropriate, think of 'telling' quotes to report a speech or slant an event from one particular point of view. The idea now is to give a 'taster' in News and put longer articles on a newly-expanding website. So in this issue you can read up two Conference Speeches, while Margaret Smeaton's resume of the keynote speech is on the website: www.bfgw.org.uk. It is most interesting - worth a visit to a friend's PC! Also, to save paper and needless repetition, there will be

only ONE issue of the Programme for the whole of 2008/09 in this edition of News. Pin the Programme to your notice board for future reference. **Updates and amendments will go onto the website. You may still, of course, use News P 8 to advertise events open to all.**

I look forward to receiving your crisp, wide-ranging items of interest and know that the members of BFWG will rise to the challenge.

Jean Cockling, Editor

BFWG News Dates for 2008/09

Issue	Copy to editor by	Despatch from HQ
Winter	14th Nov	Dec/Jan
Spring	6th March	April
Summer	17th April	Early June

Yes, the last two deadlines are fairly close together but GENERAL news, remember, will mostly be reported in Summer News.

PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW

Gala Dinner Speaker with Passion for the Environment

The guest speaker at the Gala dinner of the National AGM held at Telford was **Professor Joy Carter**, the Vice-chancellor of Winchester University, who confessed that she, a scientist, has a real passion for the environment.

She reminded us of **Rachel Carson**, whose life made an impact on humanity in raising awareness of the damage inflicted on the environment by insufficient knowledge. Born in the rural countryside of Springdale, Pennsylvania, she developed a love of the countryside through her mother. **In 1932 she received her MA in Zoology from Johns Hopkins University** and was hired by the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries to write scripts during the Depression. Her interest was claimed by the **ecology of marine life** and she became a prolific writer on this subject. Embedded in all this writing was the view that **human beings were but one part of nature** distinguished primarily by the power to alter it, in some cases irreversibly

Disturbed by the profligate use of synthetic pesticides **after World War 2** she changed her focus in order to warn the public about **the long term effects of misusing insecticides** particularly D.D.T. **In Silent Spring (1962) she challenged the practices of agricultural scientists and the government, and called for a change.** She stated that new policies were necessary to protect human health and the environment and **considered her greatest responsibility was to ensure that the new generation was inspired sufficiently to protect the living world and all its creatures.** She died in 1964.

Joy Carter then produced a silver package, a wrap containing filling. This, she explained to her audience was modernisation..... a symbol of women wrapping around one another to aid each one of us to continue Rachel's work in educating humanity for a sustainable future.

Diane Ayerst. North London and South Herts.



News in Brief

Gender equality strategy

AS THE AGM RESOLUTIONS relating to the **Gender Equality Strategy** were passed, **it is important that we all, individually as well as in associations, write to our MPs on the issues which relate to Government.** MPs have to log all letters and therefore we have more effect if we all write. There is a suggested letter which is with Association Secretaries and is also on the BFWG website for you to use if you wish.

Similarly, the resolution which concerns local authorities and local public bodies requires us to work in our own communities. **We need to ask to see the Gender Equality Strategies which have been, or are being, devised by our own authorities.** These can then be monitored to ensure compliance. It is up to us to make a difference in our own areas and use our resolution and the force of BFWG to make sure that gender equality becomes a reality.

Christel Moor, BFWG Canterbury

Resolutions passed at the 2008 BFWG AGM

FOR THE RESOLUTION DETAILS please see Spring and Summer BFWG News.

Domestic resolutions

- D1 Articles of Association
- D2 - D6 Resolutions concerning Capitation fees. (No change from previous year)
- SD9 Late filling of positions

General Resolutions

- G1 Gender Equality Strategy for whole of UK
- G2 Minister for Women
- G3 Gender Equality Duty and the Civil Service
- G4 Gender Equality Duty and Local Authorities

Elizabeth Poskitt, Past President

Copy for Winter News

Due to Editor's Galapagos trip, **please send copy for Winter News to Editor AND Linda Hadfield,** lindahadfield@yahoo.co.uk,

The Old Vicarage, High St, Thurleigh, Beds MK44 2DS
by 14th Nov

President's Notes

EVERY THREE YEARS BFWG elects a new President. While each President brings her own qualities and style to the running of the Federation, she is also part of a continuum. **As President I**, therefore, look forward to unique challenges, while recognising that **I am carrying on the work** of my most recent predecessors, Christel Moor and Elizabeth Poskitt, in **bringing about the necessary transition to meet the challenges to survive and thrive in today's world.**

The past few years have seen great changes in BFWG. The Scottish LAs have left to form their own Federation and we are in the process of becoming an organisation run by its Honorary Officers with administrative assistance. We are also living in a time of great challenges, both here and worldwide. **BFWG must, therefore, offer something that is unique to both current members and prospective members.**

This is not as difficult as it may seem as we provide something that no other women's organisation does, namely our scholarships. My time in the office has brought home to me the problems many young women face in trying to fund their post-graduate study. We are limited in what we can offer, but I am sure you will agree when you read about our scholarships awards this time, we are helping highly-qualified and gifted women to write up their important research to gain their PhD. During this year a working group will look at the running of our Scholarship Trust Fund, to make sure that we conform to the rules of the Charity Commissioners

and suggest ways of increasing our funds to provide more money for scholarships each year. **I hope that, whether as LAs or as independent**

members, you will find ways to contribute to the Scholarship Funds.

I strongly believe that a team of committed women can achieve far more than one or two working on their own. I am therefore delighted to have Gill Clerici, Jasmit Kaur Phull, Su Allen and Jenny Morley working with me as part of our 'management team', with Barbara Jackson as Chair of the Finance Committee this year. This is an experiment, which can be assessed at the time of the next AGM, but it is to my mind a very good way of addressing the problems that we have in filling positions. **More than one LA is finding it difficult to get officers,** partly because women nowadays have less time to give to organisations such as ours. **We, therefore, have to be creative. This is one such way and I am really looking forward to working with our team during the coming months.**

I also look forward to working with you and all our members. I hope to be able to communicate with you not only through News, but also by email and on our website, which is currently being revamped by Sheila Stevens to make it more accessible and 'user-friendly'.

Marianne Haslegrave, BFWG President

Reading/Liège Friendship Visit

Reading Association entertained seven members of the Liège Association, with whom they have been linked for over thirty years, at the beginning of June.

The weather was warm and sunny and our visitors enjoyed their visits to a garden in Hampshire, the Reading Museum of Rural Life and a trip on the Thames (which was in flood) followed by a tour of Mapledurham House. Members of Canterbury Association, which shares the link

with Reading, joined us for Sunday lunch. We hope to visit Liège, with Canterbury members, in two years' time, following the established pattern of visits.

Ann Acres, Reading





International and European NEWS • International and European NEWS

BFWG is affiliated to the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) and University Women of Europe (UWE)

IFUW: 10 rue du Lac, 1207 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: 00 41 22-731 23 80 Fax: 00 41 22-738 04 40
e-mail: ifuw@ifuw.org www ifuw.org
Office hours: 08.30 - 16.30 Monday to Thursday
08.30 - 12.30 Friday

CIR/IFUW Council Member 2005-2008
Margaret Middlemass BSc FCA (BFWG Leeds)
e-mail: hq@bfgw.org.uk

UWE: www.ifuw.org/uwe

CER/UWE Representative 2007-2010
Griselda Kenyon MA (BFWG Canterbury)
e-mail: hq@bfgw.org.uk

IFUW Action

Did you attend the IFUW conference or BFWG Centenary party in Manchester? If so, you may be on the IFUW website. Photos of the conference, pre- and post- conference activities can be viewed at www.ifuw.org.

From the homepage use:

- ◆ Conference & meetings
- ◆ 2007 Conference Manchester
- ◆ Photos

There are also links introducing the IFUW board, resolutions and constitutional amendments, interdisciplinary seminar papers and a summary of the Manchester conference.

For more recent news, access the list of new IFUW Fellows and Grantees or the Young Members Network Newsletter with reports on current projects.

Su Allen, BFWG Nottingham



**Commonwealth
Countries League Fayre
Kensington Town Hall
Saturday 8 November**

Tickets on day

£5 Adults

£3 Children

**or in advance
from Parveen Yusuf**

Tel: 07958 471075

International Day Sat 18th October at BFWG HQ

Following our commitment to educate ourselves for a sustainable future in line with IFUW's aims this triennial, we will be looking at one of the key aspects – population. This has recently been called the 'elephant in the room' in discussions of environment, climate change and security and we are delighted to have **Karen Newman, Coordinator of the Population and Sustainability Network**, joining us to speak on the subject '**Population: A critical element in the sustainability equation?**' We will consider what constitutes a sustainable population and **what are the pressures on women in particular around the world as we try to reconcile rights, beliefs and needs with family responsibilities.** The International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 set goals for the following 20 years which are closely related to the UN MDGs: **how much progress has been made?** A series of international conferences and reviews in 2008/09 will mark 'ICPD+15' and monitor progress towards 2015.

This is an important aspect of sustainability – join us to learn more!

See box on P 8 of News

IFUW Update

IT WAS GREAT TO have an international flavour to our own conference in July with IFUW president Louise Croot joining us and one of the workshops being led by Jessica North. I was able to report at conference that the new US virtual association **WG-USA** has progressed to being proposed for membership of IFUW, and we are pleased to support its admission.

Following the online discussion about **Quality Education** moderated by the Status of Women Committee, a report is being compiled to summarise the contributions for all IFUW members. IFUW is planning a working group to **develop a handbook to assist national federations and associations (NFAs)** in monitoring the right to education in their countries – this should be a useful tool.

We have a new representative in **New York - Polly Woodward**, who has a strong background in community needs planning, care for the elderly and HIV/AIDS

programmes. She joins IFUW's team of representatives to ECOSOC.

Award winners of the 2008/09 **scholarships** are pictured on the IFUW website with a brief description of their areas of research – have a look at the fascinating range of subjects and backgrounds.

Margaret Middlemass, CIR

European News

Transatlantic IT row Heats up as US Requests WTO Ruling: An EU-US dispute over tariffs on high-tech goods, such as flatscreen TVs and multifunctional printers, reached new heights as the US asked the WTO for a formal ruling and admitted that bilateral talks had failed to reach an amicable agreement.

Germany Unveils Law to Block Foreign Takeovers: A law aimed at protecting domestic industries from unwanted foreign takeovers was approved by the cabinet, despite insistence by business associations that the move goes against EU rules on the free movement of capital.

Bulgarian Farmers Block Roads Over Frozen EU Subsidies: Almost a month of protests culminated when Bulgarian milk producers set up roadblocks in retaliation for the loss of millions of euros of EU subsidies following a decision by the European Commission to punish Sofia for its failure to fight corruption and organised crime.

Commission to Test Free Access to EU Research: A pilot project that will give unrestricted online access to EU-funded research results was launched which the Commission claims will ensure better exploitation of scientific studies and guarantee a 'fair return' for taxpayers. But specialist publishers are unhappy with the move.

Serbia Warned not to Play Against EU Camp: As the EU prepares to assume responsibility for policing Kosovo from the French and British, diplomats have warned Serbia that its strong opposition to the EU mission and its decision to sue the UN International Court of Justice over the legality of Kosovo's declaration of independence could complicate the country's EU membership bid.

The information above is from the euractiv website. For more detailed information on these and other items please go to www.euractiv.com.

Sue Ouvry, BFWG Winchester

With Thanks

Elizabeth Poskitt

BFWG President 2005-08

Elizabeth had the pleasure of being BFWG President at the IFUW Conference in Manchester and leading our delegation. Her international connections were valuable for BFWG. She led us in celebrating at our Centenary Party last summer and supporting other special events in the Associations.

She has represented us most ably in national meetings. She speaks with clear conviction and this is a great asset. Since our secretary retired at Christmas, *Elizabeth has spent untold hours in the office, as she sorted out everything in planning for a smaller, poorer, Federation.*

We owe her a great debt in this, as she has the background knowledge of the Federation, its place in IFUW, and its place in all our lives.

Thank you Elizabeth for your monumental effort on our behalf – and we look forward to seeing you at local and national events in the future.

Christel Moor, BFWG Canterbury

Rory Haigh

AT THE END OF Conference 2008, when thanking various members leaving office, I totally overlooked the end of Rory Haigh's three years as *Regional Representative for the Southern Region*. This was a major error as Rory has been an outstanding Regional Representative not only in her contributions to the work and decisions of Executive but in creating lively Regional meetings, attracting new members and developing an excellent webpage for her Region which is the envy of us all. Many thanks, Rory, and I hope the Federation can build further on what you have achieved and what I expect you will continue to achieve from a new perspective.

Elizabeth Poskitt, Past President

Carola Bibiane Schönlieb, winner of the Mary Bradburn Scholarship for 2008/09



Keynote Speech by Prof Cynthia Burek

Education for a sustainable future

Our keynote speaker, Prof. Cynthia Burek, addressed conference on Geodiversity, the core aspect of our environment, less familiar to many than Biodiversity. Today, Cynthia is the holder of the first ever Chair of Geodiversity in the U.K. She argued that understanding and valuing the earth itself, rocks, fossils, minerals, soils, was essential to interpreting and managing the biodiversity which it supports.

The essential differences between conservation and preservation were explored; the one saving with no physical change, the other retaining but working with nature, developing to sustain. Different geodiversity sites should be managed differently; e.g. exposure sites where erosion could reveal more of the same and integrity sites where the resource was finite and needed to be preserved. Landscape, however, could not exist in a vacuum. *It was vital to link people and their culture with their environment.* Just as the one had shaped the other in the past, so it was essential for local people, local needs and enthusiasms to be part of the planning and conservation process. *The process of naming and protecting sites of special geodiversity interest has begun. Geoparks are spreading,* with several in the UK and the first European Geopark underway but there are already fifteen established in China. Perhaps not so surprising given the Chinese historic

respect for landscape, so often displayed in their art.

Our speaker ranged widely in her talk. Hugely well informed - there was a real sense that Cynthia was where it was happening - this was an original take on a very old established discipline through the eyes of a twenty first century scholar committed to sharing her conviction that responsibility for a sustainable future lies in all our hands. *The programme described Professor Burek as Professor of Geoconversation - a felicitous misprint* which aptly described the easy, engaging style which kept her audience totally involved in sharing the discoveries and reflections of the speaker on this fascinating and vital topic.

Margaret Livens, BFWG Nottingham

A Web Site for your Association or Region?

THE HON OFFICERS ARE allowing any Local Association or Region to share BFWG's web hosting and to have their own site as a sub-domain of bfwg.org.uk. The Canterbury Association has already taken advantage of this, their domain name being canterbury.bfwg.org.uk

If your Association or Region would also like to take up this offer for your existing web site or a new one, please contact Sheila Stevens (e-mail: hq@bfwg.org.uk).

BFWG Scholarship winners 2008

Name	Institution	Award	Title of research project
Lizelle Bischoff	University of Stirling	FfWVG Special Award (£5,000)	<i>The role of women in African cinema</i>
Judith Bovensiepen	London School of Economics	Johnstone & Florence Stoney Studentship (£3,500)	<i>The land of gold: remembering colonialism in East Timor</i>
Karuna Ganesh	University of Cambridge	Ruth Bowden Scholarship (£3,500)	<i>Targeting activation-induced deaminase to the immunoglobulin locus</i>
Priscilla Lo	University of Nottingham	Kathleen Hall Fellowship (£3,500)	<i>Stem cell biology in planarians: how are neoblast progeny cell fates correctly specified during regeneration?</i>
Carola Bibiane Schönlieb	University of Cambridge	Mary Bradburn Scholarship (£3,500)	<i>Modern PDE techniques for image inpainting</i>
Diane Stirbu	University of Liverpool	Elen Wynne Vanstone scholarship (£3500)	<i>The invisible constitution: rhetoric and reality in UK constitution making in the UK</i>
Svenja Wurm	Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh	J Barbara Northend Scholarship (£3500)	<i>Translation from written into sign language</i>

Visit to Ironbridge Sunday July 13th 2008

FOLLOWING CONFERENCE an afternoon visit to Ironbridge was led by **Maureen Bullock, BFWG Shropshire, and her son**. Maureen had given a Seminar on this historic town on Friday evening, and fifteen **BFWG members went to experience something of the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution** in the now picturesque town and museums. The hot sunshine, the shady walk by the River Severn in full spate and red with Welsh soil, made our visit to the wooded gorge delightful, whilst we visited some of the buildings and saw the machinery and exhibitions which demonstrated human ingenuity and hard labour. **Ironbridge gave an object lesson in the ways man and nature can combine**, with the once sustainable environment of the town's geographical and mineral resources for industry (represented now by the emblematic iron bridge) being replaced by another sustainable industry - tourism. Thanks to Maureen and Gabrielle, for arranging this concluding demonstration of the Conference's theme!

Johanna Procter, BFWG Swansea

POSTSCRIPT: Three days after the visit I was staying in Hungary with friends, and the photos of Ironbridge were still on my camera. When my friend's husband saw the pictures he recognised it at once and knew all about it - truly a World Heritage site!

Linda Hadfield, BFWG Cambridge

Vice Presidents



Gill Clerici, Elected Vice President for 2008-2010

Su Allen, Additional Vice President



Jasmit Kaur Phull, Additional Vice President



Margaret Tait, Independent

- Conference Workshops - Plenty of Ideas for Action Here!

Workshop A Zero waste: Essential waste for a sustainable future

WHAT IS ZERO WASTE? And how and by what methods can we aim to achieve it? **Jessica North**, whose career to date has been in waste management, skillfully led our discussion.

- ◆ **Problems:** Overflowing domestic dustbins, agricultural production techniques, water pollution, disease, deforestation and industrial procedures.
- ◆ **Answers:** Ideas to eradicate waste from the products and services design stage upwards, and to make what must be discarded fully recyclable.
- ◆ **Our mantra** must be avoidance, reuse, recycling and, only as a last resort, disposal and in so doing we are helping to support IFUW's current environment and economy programme.

Gillian M Roche, BFWG Leeds

Workshop B: Sustainable Urban Planning and Design

Ruth Reed MA Dip.Arch, a lecturer at the Birmingham City University led this Workshop on sustainable urban planning and design:

- ◆ Why we must develop new homes, what is the most sustainable way to do so – and how much is it the government's problem and how much is it our own?
- ◆ Eco-towns, as built in the Netherlands, with efficient planning, effective organisation and good transport links are one solution.
- ◆ Flooding is another problem – the run-off from buildings, soils and concreted gardens create floods, and with wind speeds increasing roofs must be 'held on' more effectively.
- ◆ The role of the individual will be vital in future – where, why and how we live must be considered carefully by all; **a good start is to calculate your carbon footprint at www.carbonfootprint.com - the average is 9.8 tonnes for the UK – make sure yours is less!**

Workshop C: Educational Skills for Sustainable Development

This workshop was led by **Dr Joan Lockyer** Stafford University and Lifelong Learning Coordinator for Staffordshire, Shropshire and Wrekin. **Most of the workshop focussed on the role of Higher Education (HE) for a sustainable future.**

- ◆ 'Given that human behaviour is undermining our ability to survive, **education can contribute to our understanding of how to live "sustainably"... through the skills and knowledge that its graduates learn and put into practice, and through its own strategies and operations**'. HEFCE (2003).
- ◆ To meet the changing needs of society, HE will have to change, adapt and offer new awards such as Foundation Degrees and Vocational Diplomas, to value vocational pathways along with academic qualifications. (HEFCE 2006-2011 Report, currently under review).

Margaret Harget, BFWG Sutton Coldfield

Workshop D: Social and Leadership Skills for the Future

THE WORKSHOP, LED BY **Dr Su Allen**, BFWG Nottingham, started with **discussing one personality, a good leader and a Role Model.**

Three activities were organised in teams:

- ◆ **Tower Block Activity:** Each member had different instruction but worked together without saying anything. Results were discussed.
- ◆ **Cards:** Nine Cards showing personal characteristics were given to each team. Team members made a Diamond Shape with these cards to express their importance.
- ◆ **Doll/Witch:** All members had to touch it in the shortest time possible. The shortest time proved to be for one member to stand in the middle of the circle holding the doll/witch and for all to touch it at the same time!!

Modern Leadership is 'The Ability to see Reality as it is and to Mobilise the Appropriate Response'.

Jasmit Phull, BFWG Lincoln and Lincs

Profile

Jean Dawson

JEAN DAWSON WHO DIED earlier this year was a valued member of BFWG for more than 50 years in North West Kent Association and then Canterbury and District Association.

Jean was Secretary of the Women's National Commission while *working in the Cabinet Office in the 1970s*, a time when the Commission had considerable influence. She became an Assistant Principal in the Department of the Environment and later Principal in the Department of Education.

Jean was Chairman of the Building Committee for Crosby Hall and became Deputy Chairman of the Governors until the sale of the Hall. She gave great service in these roles and her clear mind and considerable administrative skills were put to good use for our benefit.

Representing the South East Region, Jean *served on the BFWG Executive for 3 years* and was a valued member of the Canterbury Committee as well.

Jean's distinguished career started with a first degree in history from Leeds University in 1946 which led to a BLitt from Somerville and a job in the Historical Section of the Cabinet Office. Here she worked with John Ehrman of the 1943-5 volumes of the Official Military Histories of the Second World War. *She became John Ehrman's assistant in the writing of the biography of William Pitt the Younger.*

Jean had loved dancing and walking until rheumatoid arthritis made these impossible. She enjoyed the theatre, music and exhibitions. She was a very hospitable hostess and had a lively sense of humour.

Christel Moor, BFWG Canterbury

Mabel Hall (see article in RH column) contacted me just before she died earlier this year.
Editor

**Choose your events
for the year and fill in
your booking form
Now!**

BFWG Lincoln & Lincs Part of an Historic Moment

Members of Lincoln and Lincolnshire Association organised two 'Indian Evenings' in April 2008 at Moe Restaurant, Lincoln and **raised £1208 in aid of the New Mace Appeal for the Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln**, - an institution that began 146 years ago, educating and training women. We were supported by two members from Nottingham Association - Margaret Gotheridge and Margaret Livens.



L to R Elys Varney, Diana Randall, Maureen Blow, Jasmit Phull, Prof Muriel Robinson, Beth Massey, Jason Dyer
Photograph courtesy of Jasmit Phull

As this was the first year in which the Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln awarded degrees in its own right, **President Jasmit Phull JP, Hon Secretary Maureen Blow and Founder Member Flora Murray OBE were delighted to attend the Graduation Ceremony** to mark this historic moment. We met Mrs Doreen Lawrence OBE, mother of Stephen Lawrence and Dr C Michael Foale, Astronaut from Louth in Lincolnshire who were given Honorary degrees. We also met the first Provost of the College, Dame

Judith Mayhew Jonas.

The Principal, Professor Muriel Robinson, is coming as a Speaker to our Association, later this year and she has also expressed her interest in joining BFWG.

Jason Dyer - Director of the Foundation is enthusiastic on promoting BFWG and is interested to discuss a feature on our Women Graduates for their next edition of *BG Talk*.

Jasmit Phull JP, BFWG Lincoln and Lincs

Liverpool Special Centenary Celebration Supper



L to R Iris Nightingale, Nan Mackean, Elizabeth Poskitt, Dame Lorna Muirhead Deputy Lieutenant of Mersyside, Mavis Hardman
Photograph courtesy of BFWG Liverpool

TOOK PLACE ON 25 APRIL 2008 at the Liverpool Medical Institute, founded in the 1830s. It was **the happiest of parties with lots of laughter** - especially when the Emeritus Professor of Tropical Paediatric Medicine got silence when the PA system would not work, by barking like a dog fight! It worked and got the evening off to an uproarious start.

Nan Mackean. BFWG Liverpool.

Mabel Hall and the African Schoolgirls

MABEL WRITES THAT SHE is delighted to see continuing support for schoolgirls in Africa. She was **Secretary of the original sub-committee** set up to give financial help for secondary education to help girls of newly-independent colonial countries, likely to face difficulties. **She remained the liaison officer between BFWG and Africa for over 20 years.** BFWG members gave generous support and for a number of years **Mabel produced a newsletter** which listed the girls helped and gave a brief account of each of them from information obtained from LAs or their African countries, mainly Uganda and Kenya. This was printed at HQ and distributed at the AGM. She helped a number of girls herself and most wrote to her throughout their schooldays, at least 5 doing well enough to go onto university and 3 obtaining good degrees.

Mabel feels that BFWG can be proud of what has been, and continues to be done.

Jean Cockling, Editor (From information supplied by Mabel Hall - BFWG)

Your Points of View

FROM SEPTEMBER 2008 SCHOOLS will be required to teach about **sustainable development**. What is a sustainable community? The department for Communities and Local Government defines the components of Sustainable Communities as:

- * active, inclusive and safe
- * well run
- * environmentally sensitive
- * well designed and built
- * well connected
- * thriving
- * well served
- * fair for everyone.

- ◆ **Do you agree?**
- ◆ **What would you add?**
- ◆ **What is missing from where you live?**
- ◆ **To whose attention are you going to draw the omissions?**

Recent publications

some to purchase, some to persuade your local library to acquire:

- ◆ **Diamond J 'Collapse'** Penguin £9.99 *Will people step back from the global catastrophe ensuing from climate change?*
- ◆ **Pearce F 'Confessions of an Eco-sinner'**, Eden Project Books £12.99 *Do you live under an ethical veneer?*
- ◆ **Ponting C 'A New Green History of the World'**, Vintage Books £8.99 *An examination of the over use of the world's resources. First published in 1991.*
- ◆ **Porritt J 'Capitalism as if the World Matters'**, Earthscan
- ◆ **de Rothschild D** (consultant editor) **'Earth Matters'**, Dorling Kindersley £17.99 *A review of the world's different eco-systems.*
Margaret Smeaton BFWG Worcestershire

Diary Dates
is now
Programme
and included
for the year

Creating a Wildlife Garden at Winllan

“**W**hen we first came to Winllan, thirty years ago, the land was a wonderful wildlife site but frankly it looked a mess. As both my wife and I are botanists, we wanted to increase the wild flowers by creating several different habitats.

The first thing we did was to create a pond by draining the bog below the house. Over the next couple of years we introduced native water lilies and pond weeds, and planted up the margins with flag iris, marsh marigolds, purple loosestrife and spearwort.

There was no way that we could tackle the brambles and gorse which covered the slope beyond the pond. We had to employ a bulldozer which scraped off the top three or four inches. After this the area was completely bare but **within a couple of years it was covered with grasses and wild flowers.**

While all this was going on **we changed the management of the main four-acre meadow.** We allowed sheep to graze it from September until the end of March, after which the grasses and wild flowers were allowed to grow and a crop of hay was taken in July. Sheep improve the quality of the sward as they are very efficient grazers. The process of turning the cut hay in order to dry it is the perfect way of spreading the seed of wildflowers. Our last major project was to create a small wood. We did this where the second bog had been.

The development of the flora and fauna has exceeded all our expectations. We now have well over 200 flowering plants. We are particularly pleased with the way in which the orchids have increased in the meadow. In 2007 it was estimated that there were over 10,000 marsh and 500 greater butterfly orchids.

In the autumn we get a good variety of fungi, including several quite rare wax-caps. The numerous insects, the most conspicuous of which are the butterflies and dragon/damselflies, have in turn increased the number and variety of birds.

Ian Callan

Winllan Wildlife Garden is situated on the B4342 between Talsarn and Llangeitho and is open to the public every afternoon in May and June.

CIR Day Population and Sustainability

Saturday 18 October
2008

10.30 for 11.00 - 15.30pm

BFWG Head Office

Mandeville Courtyard

Karen Newman

Coordinator of the Population
and Sustainability Network
cost £5 bring your own lunch
(see booking form)

More details on Page 4

Sybil Campbell Library

Annual Lecture

Tuesday 18 November 2008

18.00 for 18.30

University Women's Club
2 Audley Square, London W1Y 6DB

Professor June Purvis

Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928)

Cost £10

Postgraduate students £5

Contact: Dr Stephanie Spencer

hq@bfgw.org.uk

01962 827125

Morning Tours

Tuesday 18 November 2008

11.00 - 12.00

**Banqueting rooms at
Whitehall**

£5 contact Rosalie Brentnall

hq@bfgw.org.uk

01277 213085

Royal Institution

21 Albemarle Street

£5 contact Joan Wright

hq@bfgw.org.uk

01905 381515

Booking form

in this issue of News

More details on Page 1

DATA PROTECTION ACT

All members' data held on computer by BFWG is processed pursuant to the Data Protection Act and is only used for the purpose of BFWG administration and business. All members are obliged to use any information about other members only for BFWG administration and business purposes.