

BFWG news

British Federation of Women Graduates

Winter 2008/09

FREE TO MEMBERS

No 0809-2

Visit to the Royal Institution

WHY IS THE SKY BLUE? How is the Olympic flame carried safely and what's the connection with one of the early members of the Royal Institution? These questions and many others were answered during our visit before the House of Commons seminar. (The torch is a modified version of Sir Humphrey Davy's lamp, invented in 1815.)

Founded in 1799, not primarily for research, but **to inform the public**, it has retained this essential aim. There's a splendid new exhibition in the basement, which makes comparisons between early inventions or discoveries and today's world, in an up-to-date, brightly lit, hands-on way which is very effective. One area under construction will show how scientists test and understand new ways to use magnetism to diagnose, prevent or combat diseases and how the earliest experiments in magnetism have led to magnetism and magnetic materials being used in healthcare procedures.

The building comprises a pair of Regency houses re-furbished to give a bright, contemporary feel without losing the early nineteenth century ambience in the public rooms. We also had a peep in the lecture theatre, famous for its Christmas Lectures, where this year's lecture on computers was being rehearsed with a film crew.

Winchester members have decided to return for a longer visit next year. There's no need to pre-book and it's free to individuals (though conducted groups must pay). **It's a great place for youngsters and adults alike to learn about science.**

Rory Haigh, BFWG Winchester

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Women in Higher Education and Leadership

Baroness Margaret Sharp is the Lib-Dem spokesperson in the House of Lords on issues relating to education (particularly further education), science and technology. She had discovered she had a connection with BFWG through a relative of her husband who had sat on the Awards Committee at Crosby Hall. **She reviewed the improvement over the past fifty years in the percentage of women attending universities** and holding positions in university research and as lecturers. There were 10% female undergraduates in her time at university and now the figure is 53% with the medical profession being besieged by women applicants for training. Unfortunately, the ratios are not so good when looking at senior positions in academia, the professions and industry and there is still a pay gap of 17% between male and female wages.

Baroness Sharp acknowledged that the hours at Westminster are not compatible with the demands of family life. However, 28% of the 700 members of the House of Lords are women and they dominate the front bench. Often half the regular members (about 400) are women and the atmosphere is more polite and gentle than in the Commons. **Baroness Sharp regrets that there are not**



Baroness Sharp with our sponsor, Diane Johnson MP
Photograph courtesy of Margaret Smeaton



Teresa May and Jenny Morley
Photograph courtesy of Margaret Smeaton

enough women MPs as they are better at constituency work. She would like to see more financial help to enable women to study part time for qualifications and return to work and avoid the benefits trap where recipients cannot study for more than 16 hours per week.

Anne Acres, BFWG Reading

Nia Griffith entered Parliament as Labour member for Llanelli at the General Election in May 2005. This year she was appointed PPS to Harriet Harman, Minister for Women and Equality, and has been a member of the Welsh Affairs Committee since 2005. **In her address she outlined difficulties for women who have to promote change through legislation.** She is not complacent about women's achievements. There are problems with personal mobility and self-confidence. In many occupations there is still a gender pay gap.

She would encourage greater flexibility and **a part-time QUALITY work programme.** Often part-timers contribute as much as full time workers but lack

Continued on page 2 Cols 2&3

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)

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

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Editorial

THE UWE CONFERENCE, held in North Cyprus in September, CIR day held at HQ in October and House of Commons visit preceded by morning visit to the Royal Institution in November, regional and local events during this autumn – all our various interests are represented in this issue of News.

- **Do follow up articles here with longer ones on the website,** eg interesting speeches from our MPs at the House of Commons.

It is encouraging to see that, in spite of the present economic difficulties, FFWG are continuing to do a fine job in supporting women graduates. **Could you become one of the governors needed from August 2009 on the FFWG board?** Also, put the date for the Research Presentations Day in your diary now.

The Executive Agenda will remind us all that **reports will be needed fairly early**

Continued from page 1

comparable pay and promotion prospects. Women do most of the caring in families and need to benefit from further and higher education. **She advocates a Parents' Learning Allowance** for late developers to attend local universities and for science graduates to use their qualifications.

Today's women have to be more proactive, risk taking and persevering. We must aim high and build on what our forebears have achieved. There has been a deliberate attempt to appoint more women to the House of Lords, but the number of women MPs in the House of Commons is still depressingly low.

Patricia Beardmore, BFWG Swansea

Teresa May has been Conservative MP for Maidenhead since 1997, and currently is also Shadow Minister for Women.

She believes that it is important to make big efforts to reach young girls who can be easily influenced by the celebrity culture, and give them a much wider vision of the possibilities for their future. She has recently given talks to an audience of 150-200 schoolgirls about politics and also one on 'Tomorrow - should we bother about the pay gap?' **She questions the quality of the careers advice girls are getting in schools** and believes there is still a lot of stereotyping in people's expectations for girls. In December the Conservatives are supporting the Equal Pay and Flexible

on in 2009. They will be submitted by email, as last year, with arrangements being made for paper copies for those who need them. The Executive meeting and key reports will then feature in Spring News.



Keep your photographs and articles coming in. **The Women's Centre** at the University of Winchester will be informing us shortly what books and topics are available there for post-graduate research. **Enjoy reading** about the Sybil Campbell Library Lecture of November.

Patricia Green and I, from BFWG Reading, attended a dynamic talk at the University there recently by Professor Sir Peter Hall on Eco-Towns – what they should **really** be and when they are not. **Read page 8 and send in your views.**

Jean Cockling, Editor

Working Bill which aims to eliminate the pay gap once and for all. **She also began a campaign on 18th September entitled 'Equal Pay 4 Women'** and has started an open group on Facebook to make people more aware of the pay gap and what they can do to correct it.

Flexible working does not just mean part-time working and isn't just for women with children. **Companies who do have flexible working get a very high percentage of women returning to employment.** However it is still true that women of child-bearing age are at a disadvantage because employers may hesitate to employ them. If men were to take time off for family commitments as well, this would help to establish equality of opportunity.

Funding for part-time degrees has been cut back which disproportionately affects women who may want to improve their education at a later stage in life. There also remains a problem in getting women to come forward as potential candidates for election to Parliament and to get selected in winnable seats. **Women are still in a minority in the top jobs.** When candidates are being interviewed, men tend to exaggerate their qualities and expertise, whereas women tend to be overly modest about their capabilities. To sum up, the message is **'Yes we can!'**

Gillian Peach, BFWG London

Continued on page 3 Col 2

News in Brief

Gender Equality Resolutions

PLEASE LET ME KNOW what response you get to letters to MPs and local councils relating to the resolutions passed at the 2008 AGM. Possible letters are on the BFWG website or available from me at hq@bfgw.org.uk.

Christel Moor, BFWG Canterbury and District

Mercia and Wales Regional Meeting 11 October 2008

Gabrielle Suff put forward a proposal to reduce the number of regional meetings per year from 2 to 1. The Mercia & Wales region has now only 3 Local Associations: Sutton Coldfield, Worcestershire and Swansea and the distances between them make attendance at the meetings difficult.

This was discussed and by show of hands a majority indicated that they would be happy to adopt this proposal. However, it was open to further discussion with the new rep, Dr Nesta Farrow, in place if the region wanted to continue with 2 meetings.

Gabrielle Suff, BFWG Swansea

North West AGM - Focus on BFWG Award Winners

THE NORTH WEST warmly welcomed myself and my husband Ant to their Annual General Meeting on 25th October. **The speaker Michelle Grundy was the region's 2008 Travel Bursary Winner.** She's in her 4th year of a PhD exploring women's experiences at Magistrates Courts – hence Ant's interest as an architect specialising in court design. **A bonus for me was to meet again Diana Stirbu, a recipient of BFWG's scholarship awards 2008.** Diana is in the closing stages of her PhD entitled, 'The invisible constitution: rhetoric and reality in UK constitution making in the UK'.

It was a wonderful occasion. I picked up tips about the PhD process from Michelle and Diane as well as relevant anecdotes about women as carers with careers, the subject of my PhD.

Our thanks to Evelyn, Nan, Carmena and North West Region members.

Gillian Clerici, BFWG Vice-President

President's Notes

I am writing to you from Fiji. I have been here for a consultancy assignment and have just been **entertained to lunch by members of the Fijian Association of University Women.** Sitting in a restaurant on the other side of the world **I have listened to them articulating some of the same things that we discuss at the Federation level and in our local associations.**

They raise money for scholarships, but in their case for tuition fees for young women studying in non-traditional fields at the Fiji Institute of Technology. They also say that they have difficulties in getting members to come to meetings because of the demands on their time. They do, however, have **a thriving young members group, which has its own programme of activities,** and liaises with the rest of the association through its Board member and the website. **Perhaps this is an idea and success that we can look at replicating?**

One of the great things I have found as a member of BFWG is that **we are also members of the International Federation of University Women,** together with the members of some 77 other national affiliates. Many of us are what I would call 'avid travellers' and I know that

many a trip has been enhanced through a meeting with a member of the University Women in different parts of the world.



As I said goodbye to the Fijians we were arranging to meet up again at the next IFUW Conference in Mexico City in 2010.

The autumn is always a busy time for BFWG, and this year is no exception. In line with our strong international commitment **several of our members travelled to Northern Cyprus for the University Women of Europe meeting** and a number also came to the CIR meeting at which Karen Newman spoke on Population and Sustainability. **In January we shall be having a meeting to explore possibilities of developing a Commonwealth network** and to look at the work being carried out by the Commonwealth Secretariat in areas of particular concern to us, namely education and gender. And before too long we shall be involved in the run-up for Mexico.

Marianne Haslegrave, BFWG President

Continued from page 2

Prof Joy Carter, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Winchester (and a member of BFWG), responded to the speakers. She pointed out that the inequality between men and women in higher education was even worse than in the House of Commons; 80% of MPs are men but this percentage is 90% among Vice-chancellors.

She emphasised that much more positive action is needed to boost the confidence of young women. One answer is better advice to girls leaving school and those about to graduate, but also much more help and advice needs to be made available for women trying to return to work after a break to look after young children. Also, more needs to be done in tackling inequality through legislation.

There were many references during the seminar to the need for inspiring role models for young women. What better role model than Joy Carter? Poised, elegant, the mother of four teen-aged boys and a Vice-Chancellor.

Cynthia Short, BFWG Canterbury and District

Update on the Office

PROGRESS CONTINUES to be made in streamlining the day-to-day running of the federation. What has emerged from our experiences so far as an organisation which has had no regular office staffing for the past 10 months is that we experience 'peaks and troughs' as far as our staffing requirements are concerned. There are a number of periods of high intensity followed by very quiet periods. I have also been have streamlining our procedures to minimise the paper work both for LA officers and at HQ. As we approach the end of 2008 we are getting a clearer picture of our requirements for running the organisation in the future and the Finance Committee will be able to review the areas in which savings have been able to be made, which is indeed fortunate given the general financial situation. Personally, I have really benefited from having had such a 'hands on' experience for the past year, as it has given me insight into how we can really begin to grow our organisation, which I feel privileged to lead.

Marianne Haslegrave, BFWG President



International and European NEWS • International and European NEWS

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CER/UWE Representative 2007-2010
Griselda Kenyon MA (BFWG Canterbury)
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AFFILIATED FEDERATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS (79)

The date signifies the year of first affiliation with IFUW
* member of UWE

| | | | |
|----------------|------|--------------|------|
| ALBANIA* | 2003 | LEBANON | 1955 |
| ARGENTINA | 1938 | LITHUANIA | 1920 |
| ARMENIA | 1998 | LUXEMBOURG* | 1925 |
| AUSTRALIA | 1922 | MEXICO | 1927 |
| AUSTRIA* | 1922 | MOLDOVA* | 2001 |
| BANGLADESH | 1974 | MONGOLIA | 2001 |
| BELGIUM* | 1922 | NEPAL | 1992 |
| BOLIVIA | 1956 | NETHERLANDS* | 1921 |
| BRAZIL | 1931 | NEW ZEALAND | 1922 |
| BULGARIA* | 1925 | NIGERIA | 1965 |
| BURKINA FASO | 1995 | NORWAY* | 1921 |
| BURUNDI | 2004 | PAKISTAN | 1955 |
| CAMEROON | 1995 | PANAMA | 1963 |
| CANADA | 1920 | PHILIPPINES | 1948 |
| CHILE | 1955 | POLAND | 1926 |
| COSTA RICA | 1977 | ROMANIA* | 1925 |
| CROATIA* | 1995 | RUSSIA | 1992 |
| CYPRUS | 2000 | SAMOA | 2001 |
| DENMARK | 1922 | SCOTLAND* | 2007 |
| EGYPT | 1931 | SENEGAL | 1995 |
| EL SALVADOR | 1956 | SIERRA LEONE | 1977 |
| ESTONIA* | 1926 | SINGAPORE | 1994 |
| FIJI | 1983 | SLOVENIA* | 1995 |
| FINLAND* | 1922 | SOLOMON IS | 2003 |
| FRANCE* | 1920 | SOUTH AFRICA | 1923 |
| GERMANY* | 1926 | SPAIN | 2004 |
| GREAT BRITAIN* | 1919 | SRI LANKA | 1946 |
| GUATEMALA | 2004 | SWEDEN | 1921 |
| GUINEA | 2000 | SWITZERLAND* | 1924 |
| HONG KONG | 1958 | TANZANIA | 2004 |
| HUNGARY* | 1995 | THAILAND | 1948 |
| ICELAND | 1928 | TONGA | 2001 |
| INDIA | 1921 | TURKEY* | 1955 |
| INDONESIA | 1956 | UGANDA | 1959 |
| IRELAND* | 1924 | URUGUAY | 1938 |
| ISRAEL | 1932 | USA | 2008 |
| ITALY* | 1922 | VANUATU | 2001 |
| JAPAN | 1954 | ZAMBIA | 1991 |
| KOREA | 1954 | ZIMBABWE | 1956 |
| LATVIA* | 1928 | | |

UWE Business Meeting

UWE ENLARGED ITS EXECUTIVE to five persons: President, two Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary. **The two new Vice-Presidents are: Marie-Jose Jongczy from France**, a lawyer who has worked at Community level on legislation for equality between men and women; and **Vera John-Mikolajewski from Germany** who has served on a national working group on 'University and Scientific Careers of Women' and is a member of the board of the Institute of Gender Research at the University of Duisburg-Essen. **The new Treasurer is Elsbeth von Navarini from Switzerland** who has her own consultancy firm. The current President, W. van der Meer, and Secretary, G. Leshuis, remain till next year.

Action on the new draft constitution was postponed till next year. A working group will examine further revisions.

Three other working groups are: a think tank, membership undefined, which will work on new ideas on how UWE can contribute to parity for women in all fields within Europe; European Women's Lobby 50/50 campaign, contact person in each NFA, to campaign for women to be elected in next year's European elections; CEDAW and how it is incorporated in the legislation in each of our countries; contact Anne Negre, France, who will send a questionnaire.

Next year's meeting will take place in Vienna. The theme will be: Empowering Women for Leadership and Decision-making: The consequences of Project- and Flex-Jobs on the lives and careers of women. Date 4-6 September 2009.

Griselda Kenyon, CER

50/50 Campaign

DID YOU KNOW 77 % of MEPs and 66% of European Commissioners are men? June 2009 sees the European Elections and the European Women's Lobby (EWL) wants your help.

Their 50/50 Campaign aims to push decision-makers to improve European democracy and the representation of women in European decision-making bodies. At a recent meeting I attended at the House of Commons on women's participation in UK society, Rt Hon Harriet Harman, Minister for Women, acknowledged the fact that an increase in women in civil society brings women's and

family issues to the forefront.

So what can you do given that the UK political parties have already published their lists of prospective MEPs?

- Individually, find out who are your prospective MEPs.
- As an individual or LA, write to them about the EWL 50/50 campaign, ask their views on the issue of women's representation and gender equality.
- As LAs, write to regional or national political parties to raise the issue of women MEPs, ask if they applied gender equality to their prospective MEP list and how they will consider issues pertinent to women if women have a minority voice.
- As LAs or regions, write to the national political parties to raise gender equality as an issue when considering the composition of the next Commission and jobs within the European Commission and Parliament.

More information can be found on the 50/50 Campaign website.

Please feedback any responses to BFWG headquarters so we can coordinate information forwarded to EWL. And remember, at the end of the day you can use your vote wisely to promote gender equality.

Su Allen, BFWG Vice-President

UWE in North Cyprus

There were three social events at the UWE meeting. The poolside area was the setting for our **opening evening**. We were able to renew friendships and introduce those attending for the first time.

The Northern Cyprus Association were our generous hosts at the ruined **Bellapais Abbey** where we enjoyed the view towards the sea, the beautifully lit ruins, the string quartet and the company. It was a memorable evening.

Following the conference many members learned more about Northern Cyprus with **a tour** which went to St Barnabas Abbey, ancient Roman Salamis, and Famagusta.

We are very grateful to the members of the Northern Cyprus Association who had worked hard to make our stay so enjoyable.

Christel Moor, BFWG Canterbury and District

International and European NEWS



CIR Meeting Follow Up

We began with a discussion of what the current economic and financial turmoil means to us - what we understand about it and what we believe about it - and considered how it might affect our members here and in other countries, and the wider implications for richer and poorer countries. In particular we noted the huge sums found at apparently very little notice to prop up banks and other financial institutions around the world; these contrast starkly with the figures quoted by the STERN Report of 2006 for countering climate change (\$1 trillion by 2050) and by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation this July to 'eradicate the scourge of hunger' (\$30 billion pa). These now appear to be small change by comparison, so we can take something good from the chaos by continuing to press for funds to go towards the Millennium Development Goals and the urgent need for carbon reduction.

I have made representations to Government on behalf of BFWG about the need to keep up pressure on all the richer countries (our country has not too bad a record, though we are not yet near the target of 0.7% GDP in overseas aid, as some of the Scandinavian countries are). Please urge your association to take this up with local councillors, MPs and MEPs, and take action individually.

During the meeting we took part in the world-wide 'stand up' campaign against poverty, marking the World Food Day on Thursday 16th and UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty on Friday 17th October. I'm delighted to see that the total number of participants joining this symbolic call on governments to carry out their promises and take action on poverty far exceeded the target of 67m (1% of the world's population) - in fact the total was almost 117m! Even more surprising is that this seems to have been achieved without any input from North America. Details are at www.standagainstpoverty.org.

We dealt with business matters including the IFUW accounts and current spending and the launch of an art competition open to all members. Members were saddened to learn of the death of a former IFUW president Dame Daphne Purves.

The Quality Education Discussion report following the online discussion forum last year is now available to download from www.ifuw.org or we can get a copy for anyone interested.

We were delighted to have present at the meeting Judith Bovensiepen, recipient of one of our scholarship awards given for excellence. She explained briefly her study of attitudes to and memories of colonialism in East Timor, and was formally presented with her award.

Margaret Middlemass, CIR

Population: A Critical Element in the Sustainability Equation? Human impact on the environment = population + affluence + technology

Has the population problem gone away? Is that why we are not talking about it any more? Or has it just been overshadowed by other issues such as HIV, Aids and environmental change?

Our speaker Karen Newman, co-ordinator of the Population and Sustainability Network, believes that reproductive health and rights are central to women's empowerment and the key to healthier and more productive families, communities and countries. Karen, like many BFWG members, is monitoring the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set for 2015, especially the ones relating to environmental sustainability, poverty eradication, maternal health and child mortality. At the moment 90% of

the world's population growth is in the world's poorest countries, although it is essential to note that the carbon footprint of a baby born in a developing country will be about one quarter that of a baby born in the developed world. Maternal deaths are 1 in 76 in the developing world compared with 1 in 8,000 in the industrial world and an estimated 41% of pregnancies globally are unintended. These problems, like all the world's most pressing problems, demand the full participation and empowerment of women. Our silence is not helpful, so keep monitoring those MDGs, write letters and register your concerns. We are grateful to Karen for her pro-active stance and her thought provoking and engaging talk.

Pat Bays, BFWG North London/South Herts

Mabel Hall Papers

MABEL'S PAPERS have survived her death and provide a record (1963-1973) of the system set up to provide financial help for secondary education to African schoolgirls. The Africa Sub-Committee (minutes, 1965-70) was preceded by a working group on the educational needs of African women. Mabel kept in touch with local associations through liaison officers and a newsletter. Does any local association or member still have copies? There is also correspondence with African countries about Bursary Funds, mainly with Kenya and Uganda, who sent copies of reports. Some British members sent reports on visits to Africa. Some papers relate to visits by African members. There is also a smaller group of recent letters and photographs from African pupils.

A brief examination of the papers endorses Mabel's view of the importance of BFWG's work in this field, perhaps comparable to pre-war work with refugees.

Nancy Edwards, BFWG Archivist

BFWG Academic Awards Committee 2008-09

Convener:

Dr Alexandra Blakemore,
Department of Genomic Medicine
Imperial College London.

New members

serving 2008/9 -2011/12:

Dr Kate Devlin,
Department of Computing Science,
Goldsmiths College,
University of London

Professor Tamara Hervey
School of Law
University of Sheffield

Professor Isabelle Szmigin
Birmingham Business School

Other members

Dr Katie Fleming
Dr Mhairi Gibson
Professor Helen Gunter
Dr Karima Laachir
Dr Janet Montgomery
Dr Louise Mullany
Professor Linda Newnes
Dr Patricia Pulham
Professor Sandra Walklate

FfWG - A Difficult but Worthwhile Year

IN JULY THREE governors left the board. Daphne Matthews and Leila Buheiry had completed two terms of office and Sarah Andrew had completed one term. Daphne, Leila and Sarah did so much for FfWG and we are most grateful to them for the time and effort they expended on behalf of the Charity in their different roles. **We welcome four new governors to the Board** - Marianne Haslegrave as an ex officio member, Pat Beardmore, Elizabeth Slater and John Matthews. Elizabeth, in addition to joining the board, has taken the Chair of the Grants Committee.

As we are all too well aware it has been a very difficult year, as we try to cope with the effects of the collapse of the US housing market, the credit crunch and a global economic slowdown. However in spite of the difficulties of the economic environment **the FfWG has, to date, been able to stay within its grants budget.** As at the end of September we had awarded just over £233,000 in grants. The final round for awarding Emergency Grants will take place in November. We had a total grants budget of £250,000 for the year and we anticipate meeting it.

The income from Charifund is expected to be a little in excess of its forecast figure by the end of December. It might also exceed the income we received in 2007 by more than 4%. However neither of these expectations will be confirmed until December. At this time we think it would be rather foolish to predict the grants budget for next year but **we hope to be able to continue to help a significant number of women graduates during 2009.** Our investments are held in common investment funds giving the diversification which is particularly important in times such as these. **Our investment managers have served the Charity well over the past few years and we remain confident in their judgment.**

Val Considine, Secretary to FfWG

The full text of reports from the House of Commons Seminar can be found on the website www.bfwg.org

Executive Meeting Agenda

Saturday 14 March 2009, 10.30 for 11.00-16.00 at BFWG HQ

- Please bring a copy of this agenda and other documents **which can be downloaded from the BFWG website**
- Please confirm your booking using the booking form (enclosed), or email your intention to come. Observers are welcome but space is limited to 50 on a first come first served basis.
- Oral updates to reports should be kept to a maximum of two minutes and LAs should brief their Regional Reps on matters they would wish to be raised.
- A £5 cash payment will be collected on arrival. Coffee/tea on arrival and a glass of wine at lunchtime will be served. Please bring your own lunch.

| | | |
|----|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 | President's Opening Remarks | <i>Marianne Haslegrave</i> |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Minutes of Executive Meeting held on 8 March 2008 | <i>President</i> |
| | 3.1 Accuracy (minutes circulated in HQ April mailing) | |
| | 3.2 Matters arising from the minutes not included elsewhere on this Agenda | |
| 4 | President's report on behalf of the Management Team | <i>President</i> |
| | 4.1 Review of work of the Management Team | |
| | 4.2 Update on running of the Office | |
| 5 | Vice-President's Report | <i>Gillian Clerici</i> |
| 6 | Additional Vice-Presidents' Reports | |
| | 6.1 Membership | <i>Jasmit Kaur Phull</i> |
| | 6.2 Public Relations | <i>Su Allen</i> |
| 7 | Chair of Finance Committee | |
| | 7.1 Update/comments | <i>Barbara Jackson</i> |
| | 7.2 Financial resolutions | |
| 8 | Charities (Scholarships) administered by BFWG | <i>Margaret Giotheridge</i> |
| | 8.1 Update/comments | |
| | 8.2 Report of Working Group on Future Management of Scholarship Funds | |
| | 8.3 Sybil Campbell Library | |
| | 8.4 Academic Awards Committee Report | <i>tbc</i> |
| 9 | FfWG (BFWG Charitable Foundation) | <i>President</i> |
| | 8.1 Update/comments to written report | |
| | 8.1 Nominations for Governors | |
| 10 | Regional Representatives reports | <i>Regional Representatives</i> |
| 11 | BFWG International Relations | |
| | 10.1 CIR/IFUW Council Member | <i>Margaret Middlemass</i> |
| | 10.2 CER/UWE Representative | <i>Griselda Kenyon</i> |
| 12 | Editorial Committee | <i>Jean Cockling</i> |
| 13 | Other Reports – update/comments to written reports | |
| 14 | Discussion on BFWG Pathway to the Future (Background paper to be prepared based on experience of 2008) | <i>President</i> |
| 15 | AGMs 2008/09 | |
| | 15.1 Feedback on the 2008 Conference | |
| | 15.2 Approval of registration fee | |
| | 15.3 Update on arrangements | |
| | 15.4 Articles and Byelaws changes (review) | |
| | 15.5 Domestic resolutions | |
| | 15.6 General resolutions | |
| | 15.7 Nominations received | |
| 16 | Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on this agenda) | <i>President</i> |
| 17 | Any other Business | |
| 18 | Date of next meeting | <i>President</i> |

Sybil Campbell Library Lecture

THE LECTURE WAS GIVEN by *June Purvis* of the University of Portsmouth on Emmeline Pankhurst, leader of the suffragettes.

Professor Purvis began by talking of **the estrangement which arose between Mrs Pankhurst and her daughter, Sylvia**, over Mrs Pankhurst's refusal to join the Labour Party because she felt that the Labour men were as patriarchal as those in other parties. **Sylvia felt neglected because of her mother's involvement in the WSPU** which meant that she had little time for home life. She portrayed her mother as very competitive and autocratic and criticised her because she encouraged wealthy women to join the movement.

The Women's Social & Political Union was founded in 1903 and **under Mrs Pankhurst's leadership organised hunger strikes and demonstrations**. Suffragettes, including Mrs Pankhurst, were imprisoned and some were forcibly fed. The action of the WSPU escalated into violence and the breaking of windows and damage to private property.

Mrs Pankhurst led her last deputation to Buckingham Palace in 1914 and **during the first World War became a 'patriotic feminist'**, campaigning for women to do men's work and for equal pay. In 1915 she adopted four 'war babies'.

After the war she travelled and lectured, returning to England in 1925. The news of Sylvia's baby was kept from her and **she was heartbroken when the family dispute became public news**. She died in 1928.

Wendy Good, Independent

Award Presentation in Cambridge



L to R Linda Hadfield, Carola Bibiane Schonlieb, Olena Fimyar, Karuna Ganesh, Elizabeth Poskitt, Pam Gavin
Photograph courtesy of Nafsika Smith

Elizabeth Poskitt presided over a recent meal in Cambridge to present BFWG Scholarship Awards to two University of Cambridge students - Karuna Ganesh (3rd R) and Carola Bibiane Schonlieb (2nd L).

Pam Gavin, BFWG Cambridge

Reading Association 80th Birthday Lunch



Guest of honour Elizabeth Poskitt with RAWG Members
Photograph courtesy of Ann Acres

ON SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER, members (and some husbands!) of the Reading Association gathered for a celebration lunch at The Mill at Swallowfield near Reading. We were particularly pleased to welcome Elizabeth Poskitt as our guest, Marianne Haslegrave being unable to join us due to commitments at the other side of the world.

Ann Acres had looked up a few facts concerning 1928, the year in which we were founded, and one of the most appropriate was that it was only in that year that all women over 21 were given the vote! She mentioned the names of many members who had been vital in the development of the Reading Association, and wished to highlight Vivienne Rubinstein, the only National President to come from Reading. She asked Elizabeth Poskitt to propose a Toast to the Reading Association and some long standing members, Elizabeth Cader, Gill Day and Vivienne herself, entertained us with amusing reminiscences. All agreed it had been a most successful and enjoyable occasion.

Audrey Harrison, BFWG Reading

An Inspiring Visit for Mercia and Wales Region

Thanks to the good offices of our Vice President, Gillian Clerici, on Saturday October 11th 2008, 28 members from the Mercia & Wales region were offered **a tour of Chadsgrove School and Sports College, near Worcester. This is a specialist school for children who have physical disabilities** and was recently awarded Outstanding in the majority of areas assessed by Ofsted.

Pupils between the ages of 2 and 19 are accepted here in all senses of the word. The school draws from North Worcestershire; other Local Authorities pay to send their students to the college. **The huge range of activities**, challenges and opportunities available **on site is awesome**. Some students also are taken on school trips abroad. GCSE examinations are taken in Science and Mathematics. **The school has**

100% success rate for students going on to Further Education.

One of the most impressive areas in this immaculately maintained school **is the Multi Sensory Room**. A variety of specialist equipment enables students to become aware that their actions have an effect, encourages greater focus and empowers them in a variety of ways. A kaleidoscope was obtained - merely for the asking - from the Millennium Dome. This Japanese technology picks up the movement of students' limbs and shows them that moving their arms, legs etc has an effect.

A wonderful and humbling day for us. Let us abandon the label 'disabled' - it does not exist here.

Gloria Banner, BFWG Sutton Coldfield

Bath Independents

WITH GREAT REGRET BFWG Bath has withdrawn from the Federation. A few of us are now Independent Members and we now meet as a Book Group. While we have some money left we shall continue to encourage girls to aim for careers in science by awarding a prize of £100 in book tokens to a girl from a Bath state school who is going on to read one of the sciences at university. We were much encouraged to learn that the girl nominated by her school this year for the Nancy Catchpole Science Bursary was reading engineering at Imperial College, London.

We are also promoting the annual Valerie Peacock Science Lecture when the science staff of a local school talk about



Members of the Bath AGW with some husbands and friends at Mary Faulkner's 80th birthday party in June 2008
Photograph courtesy of Nancy Catchpole

the relevance and excitement of studying sciences to university or college level and the interesting and rewarding jobs they can lead to. This is a public lecture aimed at parents as well as girls over 12 years.

Nancy Catchpole, Independent

Your Points of View

Eco towns

A New Urban Golden Age?

(based on a lecture by Sir Peter Hall at the University of Reading on 4 November 2008)

WHY?

1. To meet the challenge of climate change, CO² emissions and rise in sea-levels.
2. To meet housing need where the great increase in small households has been greater than housing completions.

WHERE?

Mostly in the South-east and East Midlands.

WHAT?

They are seen as urban extensions or satellites of cities such as Milton Keynes, Stansted and Cambridge **but with a separate and distinct identity**, committed to developing zero carbon communities; a good range of facilities, such as schools, smaller shops, business and leisure; mixed housing regarding tenures and size of houses; conciliar organisation to manage the town and its development

eg **Bedzed, Beddington** (west of

Croydon) with a 60% recycling aim and car miles 50% of the national average, due to the close proximity of Hackbridge station and shared use of vehicles in a car club.

eg **Northstowe** 5 miles NW of

Cambridge, aiming at a 50% reduction in energy and water use by means of micro-generation, photovoltaic panels and solar water heating.

RESERVATIONS

Some communities eg Henley Grange, a satellite of Cambridge, and Middle Quinton, 7 miles SE of Stratford upon Avon have 25-30% of people who commute to Oxford or London.

National AGM

**Saturday 4 July
2009**

Details in Spring News

QUESTION:

Eco town or commuter town?

Growth constraints in UK include green belt land, areas of outstanding beauty and National Parks.

It would seem best for these schemes to be **corporation led** (as in New Towns earlier on) in order to ensure

1. the proposed mixed housing with 25%/30% provided by housing association/local authority and
2. to ensure the satisfactory post-completion needs of social centres, recycling and transport. 'Beware letting in private developers too soon'.

What are **your** views on this thought provoking and important subject?

Jean Cockling, Editor

Cynthia Burek at Winchester



Photograph courtesy of Rory Haigh

Prof Cynthia Burek is pictured here receiving a gift of a shell necklace from Winchester's President, **Mrs Liz Legg** after her presentation on geoconservation and geodiversity last October at the University of Winchester.

Sixty five members and guests attended the meeting, which was held jointly with the University.

Rory Haigh, BFWG Winchester

Hegg Hoffett Fund

THE HEGG HOFFETT FUND helps displaced women graduates. This is a very personal fund which really supports other women. Details of those currently being helped are at www.ifuw.org/hegg-hoffett. Please consider having a small event - coffee morning, tea party, ploughman's lunch, book sale - to support this fund. I would be happy to advise or send monies. *Christel Moor, BFWG Canterbury and District*

IFUW Commonwealth Group Launch

**Saturday 31 January 09
10.30 for 11.00 - 16.00**

BFWG HQ

Speakers from Commonwealth Consortium for Education and Annie Watson formerly of the Commonwealth Trade Union Council

£5 at the door

Bring your own lunch

Executive Meeting Saturday 14 March 09

10.30 FOR 11.00 - 16.00

BFWG HQ

Mandeville Courtyard

£5 at the door

European Day

**Saturday 25 April 09
10.30 for 11.00 - 15.30**

BFWG HQ

Mandeville Courtyard

Speakers tbc

£5 at the door

Bring your own lunch

Sybil Campbell Library Seminar

Tuesday 17 February 2009

18.00

University of Winchester

Professor Joyce Goodman
Dean of the Faculty of Education

BFUW, IFUW and
Interwar Intellectual Co-operation

There is no charge, just turn up,

DATA PROTECTION ACT

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