



## House of Lords Seminar

Thursday 29 October 2009

14.00-16.00

Sponsored by:

**Baroness Sharp of Guildford**

Seminar Theme:

### Skills Flexibility in Uncertain Times

Speakers include:

**Baroness Sharp of Guildford**

**Baroness Margaret Prosser**

and others tbc

Question and answer session led by:

**Prof Cornelia Boldyreff PhD FBCS  
Associate Dean (Research and Enterprise),  
University of East London**

### Tea on the House of Lords Terrace

16.00 - 18.00

Costs: £26 (Seminar and tea)

£10 (Seminar only)

### Morning Tours

10.30

**Jewel Tower**

**Parliamentary Archives (tbc)**

Booking form to Jenny Morley by  
2 October

See p3 for details



St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury (see p 7 for information about the 2010 AGM and Conference)

Photograph courtesy of Marianne Haslegrave

## BFWG 99th AGM - July 4 2009 London

Annual General Meetings are rarely highlights of the Calendar but on my return journey home my memories of so many previous AGM/Conferences flashed by. So how did this compare?

A business event of one day is not a fair comparison. Often in the past there have been opinions expressed that the formalities should be compressed. Shorter sessions could leave time for other pursuits but this was not thought possible. We now have the proof that this can be so.

Written reports previously downloaded were received and adopted. Comments and discussion were given time though there was little dissent. Domestic resolutions regularised many of the administrative changes that have been operating in the past year. There were some concerns (as always) about terminology and wording that might have provided complications for the future but these were resolved. Amendments to the Articles and the rotation for election of the Vice Presidents added to the excitement! We still had Finance and confirmation of other appointments and Trustees various to go. A buffet lunch was slipped in somewhere but the pace began to tell. Our Advisors kept their calm and

our President maintained order and at the end there was little unfinished business.

Lasting impressions of pleasure? Not really. I missed all the other parts that have built our contact and friendships over the years. The venue was business-like but not user friendly. I am deeply grateful for all the work and time that has been given to BFWG by the Officers in the past year. Without their incredible efforts the 99th might not have brought us to celebrate our Century. I am glad I was there... but I look forward to next year when hopefully business will be dealt with as efficiently but we will have the opportunity at Canterbury to continue 'To perfect the art of Friendship' and leave inspired to advertise our more clearly defined role in society.

Monica Dodds, BFWG Huddersfield

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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; and fosters local, national and international friendship.



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# Editorial

AUGUST HAS NOW GIVEN way to September and BFWG members are beginning to focus on the BFWG year ahead. *News*, together with our website [www.bfgw.org.uk](http://www.bfgw.org.uk), can both provide regular information on the activities of our members, local associations, regions and the Federation as a whole. They each serve our members and the Federation in different ways. A copy of *News* is something to be read and enjoyed, particularly by those members who don't spend all their time on computers. It can be given to new or prospective members. The website, on the other hand, can provide an ongoing conduit for members to give their views and opinions, as well as to get regular updates on our programme and activities.

It is important that the first impressions of both *News* and the website capture the attention of the reader. This year, therefore, the Management Team will be working to make sure that you, and other members of the Federation and 'the outside world', say when you get your copy of *News* either by post or by downloading it on line, 'Yes, I want to read this now.' We also want to be sure that our website is up-to-date and interesting and something you want to look at regularly.

We have been very fortunate in having such a willing and hard-working Editor of *News* over the past six years. Jean is already and will continue to be sorely missed. We are, however, going to take the opportunity this year of making some changes to *News*. Then, hopefully we will have a volunteer who will step forward to take on the position of Editor at the next AGM. Despite the fact that we are well aware of the problems of 'designing by committee', we do, however, want your comments as to whether you like the changes that we make, so please either send your comments by email to the Federation at [office@bfgw.org.uk](mailto:office@bfgw.org.uk), or by post to the BFWG Office.

The BFWG website will shortly be re-launched and will have a new look. Each issue of *News* will be posted and archived on the website for easy reference and for those who are willing to receive *News* on line. If you are happy to do this please send an email to [newsonline@bfgw.org.uk](mailto:newsonline@bfgw.org.uk). It will help save postage and printing costs.

In the meantime, please send articles for inclusion in *News* to me at [mh@commat.org](mailto:mh@commat.org).

Marianne Haslegrave, Acting Editor

## With thanks - Jean Cockling - and Gabrielle Suff News Editor 2003-2009



Christel Moor making the presentation to Jean at the 2009 AGM

Photograph courtesy of Marianne Haslegrave  
We have been lucky that Jean has been our Editor for six years and has maintained its progress in connecting the membership of BFWG. In reporting events she has encouraged a wide range of 'reporters'. She has initiated debate on relevant issues to interest members.

As a committed member herself she has done her job with real affection for BFWG. Thank you, Jean, for all your hard work in obtaining information and organising it to the best advantage.

Christel Moor, Canterbury

## Regional Rep 2006-2009

Gabrielle Suff has been a very dedicated Regional Representative for Mercia and Wales and is going to be a 'hard act to follow'. She was also the organiser of the Conference and AGM in Telford in July 2008, the first after the retirement of the Secretary and quite a challenge. Gabrielle, however, managed to deal with all problems and ensured that we had a very successful meeting. Thanks, Gabrielle, for all your hard work for the Region and the Federation.

MH



Photograph courtesy of Marianne Haslegrave

## 'Skills Flexibility in Uncertain Times'

OUR SEMINAR ON SKILLS Flexibility in Uncertain Times, which is sponsored by Baroness Sharp of Guildford, will be held in the House of Lords on 29 October from 14.00-16.00. We are waiting to confirm other speakers at the end of Parliament's summer recess.

The question and answer session will be led by Professor Cornelia Boldyreff, PhD, FBCS, Associate Dean (Research and Enterprise) at the University of East London.

We are very pleased to be able to inform you that we will be able to have tea on the Terrace of the House of Lords from 16.00-18.00. This will provide an opportunity to meet and talk with our speakers and each other.

The costs are £26.00 (seminar and tea) and £10.00 (seminar only). Use Houses of Parliament Black Rod's Garden Entrance, the public entrance nearest the Victoria Tower on the West Front. Allow time for the security check.

### Pre-Seminar Tours

Two tours are planned.

The first will be at 10:30 at the Jewel Tower, a moated medieval tower built around 1365. The entrance fee, which is payable on the day at the entrance, is £3.00; £2.60 concessions; and free for English Heritage members. The Tower is situated in Abingdon Street, opposite the Houses of Parliament.

The second tour will be to the Parliamentary Archives at 10.30 am. Details are again to be confirmed when Parliament returns from the recess.

Please book using the enclosed booking form, which should be returned to Jenny Morley at the BFWG Office by 2 October. Remember that seats are limited in the House of Lords meeting rooms so please apply for tickets early. If possible, members of the same Local Association could send a collective cheque to minimise bank charges.

*Management Team*

Please send  
Copy  
for the next issue to  
Acting Editor  
by 14 November

## President's Notes

For the past two years BFWG has been moving forward. Our 100th birthday in 2007 was not only a time of celebration but also one for what has become BFWG's 'gradual re-launch'. When I took over as President in 2008 the Federation swallowed hard and allowed us to work for a year with a very unconstitutional 'Management Team'.

Twelve months later at the AGM in July, the Federation formalised the structure by making some ground-breaking constitutional changes. The real essence of what took place was that the Federation made a commitment to **flexibility**, by which we mean 'if we can't do it one way we will find another'. Of course, great concern was, and is, being expressed by some of our members at our inability to find a Treasurer, but we are being realistic and have found another solution. We now have a member of the Management Team who has responsibility for Finance and we have a separate Chairman of the Finance Committee. Likewise we have a Vice-President with responsibility for Administration instead of a Secretary. As Margaret Livens, in writing for the Nottingham newsletter about the AGM, said:

'This was a serious meeting aimed, I guess, at survival. Few social moments, an awareness that numbers continue to fall (voting strength 43), members willing to take office scarce, but the number of Independent members is rising. Perhaps a radically changed organisation

with all national/ independent members will be the new model for this century.'

However, for the Federation, radically changed or not, to be successful and to grow and thrive, it is necessary that we become outward-looking. We have made significant changes to the running of the Federation, some of which are on-going and we are planning to rent out some of our office space to a charity, as soon as possible. It is now time to focus on our programme; recruiting and retaining our members; and developing our publicity and public relations. This will be the task before the Executive Committee at its extra meeting this month.

The Federation, like many other organisations, has in the past equated the cost of membership with that of so many cups of coffee each year. I was thinking about this the other day, and about why coffee shops are still full despite the economic crisis. That cup of coffee gives you **choice** - perhaps a latte, a filter or an espresso. It gives you **value for money**. And it gives you **enjoyment** - you can drink it with a friend, when you're tired from shopping, or while you are reading a book or newspaper. Do we in BFWG at the national, regional and local level do the same?

*MH*

## Sybil Campbell Lecture 2009

At the annual lecture on 29 October in the University Women's Club, Professor Roberta Gilchrist of Reading University will speak on Medieval women and the care of the family: the archaeology of life, death and magic.

Professor Gilchrist is a foremost authority on medieval and social archaeology, with a particular interest in gender. She has published widely on the architecture of religious communities, on medieval and early modern burial, and on the archaeology of medieval and later standing buildings. An elected Fellow of the British Academy, she was President of the Society of Medieval Archaeology (2004-7).

An evening not to be missed. See box on page 8 of this issue of News for booking details.

*MH*

## Cheap Travel By Train

During the summer I discovered group travel by train. As a family plus grandparents six people travelled to Bristol for only £4 more than the cost of a child and senior citizen.

Ask at your local station as it is not available online. You are not tied to certain trains - only that you travel together in groups of four or more. Maybe you can take advantage of this for a BFWG meeting.

*Su Allen, Vice-President*

Membership Fees  
are now due - please  
send them to your  
LA Treasurer,  
or HO if Independent





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

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**CIR/IFUW Council Member** 2008-2011  
Margaret Middlemass BSc FCA (BFWG Leeds)

**UWE:** www.ifuw.org/uwe

**CER/UWE Representative** 2007-2010  
to be appointed

## International Day

Saturday 17 October 2009

11.00 to 3.30 at Mandeville Court-  
yard (coffee from 10.30)

### Who carries the can? (and almost everything else...)

The overall theme for the International Day will be the effects on women in particular as the world responds to the current financial problems and consequent challenges. In many countries it seems that women have responsibility for caring and providing, but traditionally they have also been the first to lose out when the going gets tough – is that still the case?

- are we in danger of losing much of what was gained over the last half century?
- are we affected differently from women in other countries?
- how do the generations differ?
- is gender equality a luxury some women can't pursue?
- are there even bigger issues to consider?

Speakers will include a representative from Oxfam, who will also look at how climate change may far outweigh the economic problems for those in the most vulnerable areas, and Helena McDermott, who has recently visited more remote parts of India looking at how people now work and seeing microcredit in action. Helena also has an interest in climate change, having previously worked for the Carbon Trust.

We will also look to develop a resolution and/or workshops for the 2010 IFUW conference – if you have ideas please let me know.

More information will be distributed via the BFWG website or contact [office@bfgw.org.uk](mailto:office@bfgw.org.uk)

## Next IFUW Programme of Action

The next stage of the IFUW programme survey is due in October – an email discussion following on from the new consultation process for determining the next Programme for Action for the triennium starting in 2010. Further email consultation will take place next spring and then some of the sessions at Conference will directly feed into the decision. I urge you to take part in this process, even if you can't participate in all the stages.

There is information about the 2010 conference emerging on the IFUW website; if you are interested in going but don't have access to a computer please let me know so I can arrange for you to have copies. Registration is scheduled to open in October and the deadline for submitting papers has now passed. The European federations are hoping to organise group travel from Amsterdam and a four-day trip before conference – I hope to have details in the next few weeks.

To tie in with International Literacy Day on 8 September, IFUW is currently hosting a blog about 'adult literacy – a worldwide problem'. This follows a report from UNESCO showing surprisingly high levels of functional illiteracy and difficulties with everyday literacy in wealthier countries as well as in the regions we might expect to have problems. Why not celebrate ILD in your association by organising a book drop – leave a book you have read and enjoyed in a public place (on a bus, in a park) with a note asking the finder to read it and pass it on. You could include a sentence or two about why you liked it. Alternatively look for a literacy programme in your area, which may be grateful to receive either books or volunteers. It is interesting to note that no equivalent appears to be in place for numeracy, an equally difficult problem holding back many in all cultures – perhaps we should start a campaign!

**The Egyptian Federation's** young members are already working on this topic – illiteracy eradication classes are to be offered at the Cairo Headquarters beginning on 1 October. The project, which will be supervised by a new group of young members, addresses a critical national problem. According to official estimates, 17 million of Egypt's population of 80 million are illiterate.

**The Canadian Federation** was recently invited to take part in a meeting

that looked at ways Canada could help end the use of sexual violence as a weapon in war, reflecting growing recognition of the CFUW's role as one of the leading national proponents of Resolution 1325 (the UN landmark resolution, adopted unanimously in 2000, which calls for women and a gender perspective to be an integral part of all conflict resolution and peace-building efforts). Among its many provisions, the resolution specifically calls for special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict.

**The Swiss Association** was one of three women's organisations offering a series of career advice workshops 'Approaching the beginning of your career in full knowledge of all the facts' to students and postgraduate students at the University of Zurich. These addressed difficulties young women face starting their careers; topics included wages ('earning, what I am worth'), job applications, active networking, employment law and work contracts, and balancing career and family. The exercise was so successful that it will be repeated in Basel and Lucerne.

**The VGIF 40th anniversary** friendship tour to India and Nepal is still open to anyone wishing to join – see their website for details. Joining date extended to 15 September: [www.faf.org/Individuals/vgifconference/travel2india.htm](http://www.faf.org/Individuals/vgifconference/travel2india.htm)

Please keep two dates in your diaries for our own CIR days – 17 October 2009 and 12 June 2010 (the pre-conference meeting – note change of date from 26th) even if you are not planning on attending conference, as your opinions will be fed into the BFWG responses.

You may have been wondering why we appear in IFUW and UWE publicity as 'England and Wales'; please be assured that we have not changed our name. This seems to be an attempt by the IFUW office to clarify the position for administrative purposes following the setting up of the Scottish Federation, but has actually increased confusion. We have made representations to have our correct title reinstated in their literature and websites and trust that it will be correct for conference in Mexico.

Margaret Middlemass, CIR

## 2009 Award Winners



**Natalie Garrett**, School of Physics, University of Exeter



**Franziska Schrodtt**, Faculty of Environment, University of Leeds



**Vanesa Pesqué Cela**, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

## 2010 Nancy Edwards Award

As announced previously, a special Scholarship will be given in 2010 in memory of Nancy Edwards, who was tragically killed earlier this year in a road accident. Funds for Women Graduates (FWG) will be contributing £4,000 on a one-off basis. Members of the Federation have also sent contributions. We are most grateful to both FWG and our own members. If you, or your Local Association, would like to make a contribution, please send it to the BFWG Scholarship Fund, stating on the back of the cheque 'Nancy Edwards Award'.

## Postgraduates Enthuse Over BFWG

Eight current PhD students, from a range of UK institutions, participated in our annual Research Presentation Day.

The audience, a mixture of BFWG members and PhD students, listened to the enthusiastic and informative presentations by the students on their doctoral research. Topics included: reconciliation in Argentina; the effect of poverty on predation in Africa; and sexual health choice for South Asian women. At the end of their presentations they coped well with challenging questions from the audience.

The day was full of real enthusiasm and there was a buzz all around BFWG. One of the presenters, Sangeetha Paramasivan, wrote after the event to thank us. I quote her email:

'Just to let you know how much I enjoyed the day... if I can in any way speak at least for a few of those present that day, the one constant opinion echoed across the group was that it was a thoroughly enjoyable day for everyone. Rarely do we go to a seminar/presentation day and feel as welcome, comfortable and free to mingle as we did that day. This was down to... the other wonderful members of BFWG, many of whom we ended up having interesting conversations with over lunch or sometime through the day. In addition, the range of topics made it all the more interesting as many of us had a chance to hear about research that we may not

have otherwise. ...Hope BFWG has many more such successful days for other PhD students, because I know it made a difference to those of us there that day.'

The standard of presentation was excellent and this made the judging for Christel Moor, Priscilla Lo (a previous scholarship recipient) and myself extremely difficult. After much deliberation we were delighted to present Maria Papapolydorou of the Institute of Education, London with first prize and a cheque for £100. Her topic was *Social capital and education: an alternative approach*. She had discussed current educational initiatives and suggested 'an alternative way to approach the relationship between social capital and educational attainment ...[by]... the examination of social capital in ... relation to how issues of class, ethnicity and gender ... [linked to] social capital and its role in educational achievement.'

Congratulations to all who presented and best wishes for their thesis write-up. Thanks also to all who attended and especially Elizabeth, who coordinated the whole day, for making this event so successful. This was the first time I had attended the Research Presentation Day and I would thoroughly recommend it to all members or maybe you possibly might want to hold a similar event in your region or Local Association?

Su Allen, Vice President

## BFWG Scholarships Awards 2009

THIS YEAR THERE WERE 130 applications, of whom ten students were interviewed, including one by telephone. The quality was indeed impressive with a great range of disciplines and research subjects. The Academic Awards Committee was therefore pleased to recommend that the following awards be given:

### **Margaret K B Day Scholarship £5,500**

**Natalie Garrett**, School of Physics, University of Exeter

*Metal-enhanced vibrational imaging and spectroscopy of biological samples.*

### **Eila Campbell Scholarship £5000**

**Vanesa Pesqué Cela**, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

*The rise of self governing social organizations and the provision of public goods in rural China.*

### **Johnstone & Florence Stoney Studentship £3500**

**Franziska Schrodtt**, Faculty of Environment, University of Leeds

*New techniques to determine plant nutrient availability in natural ecosystems.*

### **Kathleen Hall Fellowship £3,500**

**Josia Razafindramanana**, School of Social Sciences and Law, Oxford Brookes University

*Comparative ecology and conservation of ring-tailed (Lemur catta) and brown (Eulemur sp.) lemurs in fragmented forests – South-eastern Madagascar.*

**Footnote:** The amount of money given each year depends on the income from the Scholarship Fund investments. While the current economic downturn has meant that the amount of money available this year was less than the previous year, the making of awards to post-graduate doctoral students in their final year of study continues to be a significant achievement for BFWG. We are very grateful to those Local Associations and individuals who contribute to the Scholarship Fund.

MH

# Actions Taken at the AGM, July 2009

**A**t the AGM held in London on 4 July the following changes were approved to the Articles of Association:

## Management Team

Instead of Honorary Officers comprised of the President, a Vice-President and a Treasurer with an Executive Secretary, there will be a Management Team which will include the President, supported by no more than five and no fewer than three Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall have responsibility for financial matters and one for administrative matters. Team members shall be elected at the AGM of the Federation. The Vice-Presidents shall be elected for a period of three years but in an exceptional case the period of office may be extended annually for a maximum of three years. In addition, in exceptional circumstances, the Federation may elect an Immediate Past-President as Vice-President with financial responsibility and she may be renewed in this position for up to three years being renewed annually.

As the need arises, the Executive may appoint to assist the Management Team non-voting paid staff or co-opted members.

## Composition of Executive

The composition of the voting Executive will be as follows: the Members of the Management Team, the CIR and one member from each of the four regions, each of whom will have a single vote. Where a region has 76 or more members that one Regional Representative shall have additional votes on the basis of one vote per additional 75 members or part thereof.

## Scholarship Fund

The Trustees of Charities Administered by BFWG, i.e. the Scholarship Fund, shall be appointed at the AGM of the Federation. Five Trustees shall be appointed to serve a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-appointment for a period not exceeding a further three

years. It was noted that setting up a separate Trust for the Sybil Campbell Library would have to be looked at this year as the Library is currently under the Scholarship Fund.

## Other important changes ...

Chairman of Finance Committee - As there is no longer a Treasurer, per se, the Finance Committee will be run by the Chairman, who will have greater responsibilities. When she has completed two terms on the committee, she may be re-elected on an annual basis, up to a maximum of three years. There will be three other members on the Finance Committee.

## Federation Leadership

The Federation agreed to a rotation for the retirement of the President and the Vice-Presidents. The current Management Team is:

- Marianne Haslegrave (Canterbury), President, and member of the Management Team responsible for Finance, retiring in 2011, with the President-Elect being elected in 2010;
- Gill Clerici (Worcestershire), Vice-President, retiring in 2010 with a new Vice-President being elected;
- Jasmit Kaur Phull (Lincoln and Lincolnshire), Vice-President, retiring in 2011 with a new Vice-President being elected;
- Jennie Morley (Independent), Vice-President and member of the Management Team with responsibility for Administration; retiring in 2012, with a new Vice-President being elected; and
- Su Allen (Nottingham), Vice-President, retiring in 2012, with a new Vice-President being elected.

Barbara Jackson (Canterbury) is the Chairman of the Finance Committee, having been elected for one year as she has completed six years on the Finance Committee.

With Gabrielle Suff's retirement as the Executive Committee member for Mercia and Wales, Nesta Farrow

(Sutton Coldfield) becomes the new Committee member for the region.

## Scholarship Fund

Gill Clerici, Elizabeth Poskitt (Liverpool) and Margaret Middlemass (Leeds) continue as Trustees. Rory Haigh (Winchester) and Christel Moor (Canterbury) were elected as new Trustees. At the meeting of the Trust, which took place during the AGM, Elizabeth Poskitt was elected as the Chairman of the Trust. All Trustees start their 3-year term in 2009. Margaret Gotheridge (Nottingham) continues as the Chairman of the Trust Finance Committee.

## UWE Presidency

After a discussion and vote as to whether the fact that UWE had received no nominations for the post of President constituted an emergency for BFWG, delegates voted to give Griselda Kenyon permission for her self-nomination for this position to proceed.

## Revision of Articles of Association

A Working Group of up to five members was set up to carry out a full revision of the Articles of Association over a period of two years. Among the first tasks will be agreeing terms of reference for the Management Team.

## Extra Executive Meeting

An extra meeting of the Executive Committee is being held on 19 September at the BFWG Office.

## 2010 Conference and AGM

The 2010 BFWG Conference will be held at the Christ Church University in Canterbury from 9-11 July (see page 7).

## 2010 Conference and AGM

The AGM accepted an invitation from Independent members of the Federation to hold the 2011 Conference and AGM at Dartington Hall, Devon. The dates will have to be 1-2 July 2011 as this was the venue for the Daily Telegraph's 'Way with Words' literary festival, which clashes with our accustomed dates.

## Profile

### Miss Flora Murray OBE

LINCOLN AND LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION were greatly saddened by the death of Miss Flora Murray OBE at the age of 96.

Flora Murray came to Lincoln in 1935 as assistant to the Director of Lindsey Rural Community Council, subsequently being appointed Director herself. Her work and her service to the community were recognised by an Honorary MA from the University of Hull and by her OBE.

A founder member of the Association in 1942, she was in due course a much respected President. At Lincoln and Lincolnshire's fiftieth birthday in 1992 it was Flora who gave the vote of thanks, and in 2007 she attended our dinner to celebrate BFWG's Centenary.

Flora was active in many organisations in Lincoln well into her 90s, and was often 'double-booked' for meetings. Last year she was made an 'Honorary Member' of our Association as a mark of our great respect and affection for her.

Lines read by Flora's godson at her funeral indeed reflect her positive outlook throughout her life:

*You can cry and close your mind, be empty  
and turn your back  
or you can do what she'd want:  
smile, open your eyes, love, and go on.*

A truly remarkable lady, with grace, kindness and concern for the welfare of others, she was an inspiration to us all.

*Maureen Blow, Lincoln and Lincolnshire*



Photograph courtesy of Maureen Blow

## Looking forward to our 100th AGM and Conference

Even though there are still 10 months to go before we meet at Christ Church University in Canterbury next July, preparations are already underway for what should be an exciting and exhilarating weekend.

Frances Fyfield, winner of the 2008 Duncan Lawrie Dagger Award and author of many crime novels, who formerly worked as a lawyer with what is now the Crown Prosecution Service, has accepted an invitation to speak on Friday 9 July and the Venerable Sheila Watson, Archdeacon of Canterbury, and the first woman in the post, has agreed to be the keynote speaker on Saturday 10 July.



Frances Fyfield

Photograph courtesy of Marianne Haslegrave



The Venerable Sheila Watson, Archdeacon of Canterbury

Photograph courtesy of Sheila Watson

Sheila was installed in 2008 after 27 years of ministry and will be happy to talk about 'Making it – in a man's world'. Several websites give details of both their careers.

The Conference is to be held in Christ Church University, which is very near the cathedral, the ancient walls, historic buildings and the modern city. Keep the dates in your diary: July 9-11, 2010. Canterbury looks forward to welcoming you.

*Christel Moor, BFWG Canterbury*

## BFWG Programme 2009-10

FLEXIBLE SKILLS FOR UNCERTAIN times was introduced at the AGM as the BFWG programme theme for 2009-2010. With the continuing rise in unemployment in the UK, it is very relevant as increasingly it is women who will be among the first to lose their jobs, particularly as so many women are in part-time employment. As you will see elsewhere in this copy of News, the topic for the House of Lords Seminar reflects our theme. We very much hope that during the year, Local Associations will also hold a meeting or discussion on this topic or one that is closely related.

A major awareness of the Management Team is our need to do more for those of you who are Independent members. We are therefore adding an extra event to our programme calendar particularly for you. This is a visit on Saturday 14 November

to the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in Coventry, with a talk on the painting by Roger Fry 'Italian Hill Town', followed by an informal harp workshop.

We also hope to see many of you at our regular events at the BFWG Office in Mandeville Courtyard, the next being the CIR meeting in October. We would like to hold the CER meeting in the spring in a different part of the country. Would your Local Association like to be the host?

*Management Team*

**Please keep the  
Programme  
included with this  
issue for reference  
through the year**

## What Does BFWG Do?

THIS IS A QUESTION THAT you may struggle to answer. At our recent AGM some BFWG members were asked just this question, completing a survey about their experiences of BFWG.

So what do we do?

The answer is lots!!

Most Local Association groups meet at least once monthly. Formal meetings include speakers on topics such as travel, their work and places of interest and discussion groups look at topical issues. On the literary front, many meet to discuss books as part of a book group, enjoy the theatre or share poetry in themed meetings like 'poetry and pottage'. Coffee mornings, lunch, afternoon tea and supper dates also feature highly – we need brain food as well as intellectual stimulation.

Fundraising also features highly on the list of what we do. Many groups and individuals contribute to the schooling of schoolgirls in developing countries in countries such as Rwanda, South Africa and Tanzania. But giving does not stop there, most also donate to local charities such as Royal Jubilee Fund for Girls in Newcastle and Manchester Settlement. Some groups also support awards to local or regional students at school or university level including a history prize at Leeds and the North West Travel Bursary. Disappointingly, not many LAs have formal links with universities anymore. Maybe hold a meeting in a senior common room and invite the postgraduates or do you have any other ideas on how we can address this?

We do all these wonderful activities but not many people know about us. This is partly because we don't all advertise our existence. Some groups are very good at advertising events in local libraries and universities, in 'what's on' guides and free papers and as a result have thriving associations. Others tell no-one. As an LA why not think about having one or two big meetings where you can bring a friend so that they can hear about BFWG and what we do.

*Su Allen, Vice-President*

## Federation Admin

### BFWG Logo:

At the AGM members of the Federation in a straw poll chose our crest as our new logo. Please use it on communications from your Local Association to members and outside bodies and on your publicity materials.



### Booking forms:

Unless otherwise stated, please send or email your booking forms for Programme events to the BFWG Office as early as possible and pay on the door. This is to minimise the bank charges which we incur on each transaction.

### Capitation fees:

These remain unchanged for another year. Treasurers are asked to collect them and send them to the BFWG Office as soon as possible. Receipts for the dues of the bulk of your members will be sent by post and those for individuals by email to save costs.

### BFWG News 2009-10:

Please send us short reports (preferably with a photo) about your meetings and events for inclusion in *News*. We also encourage all members to submit articles – the ideal length is 200-300 words. Copy dates for 2009-2010 are:

| Issue  | Copy to HQ by | Despatch from HQ |
|--------|---------------|------------------|
| Winter | 13 Nov        | Dec              |
| Spring | 5 March       | April            |
| Summer | 16 April      | Early June       |

### 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.

## International Day

**Saturday 17 October 09**

**10.30 for 11.00 - 15.30**

**BFWG HQ**

**Mandeville Courtyard**

**£5 at the door Bring your own lunch**

**Who carries the can? (and almost everything else...)**

## Sybil Campbell Collection Annual Lecture

**Thursday 29 October 09**

**18.00 for 18.30 lecture**

**University Women's Club**

**2 Audley Square, London W1Y 6DB**

**Professor Roberta Gilchrist**

**University of Reading**

**Medieval Women And The Care Of The Family**

**The Archaeology Of Life, Death And Magic**

**£19 postgraduate students £10**

Please apply by 20 October, giving names of guests and enclosing SAE and cheque payable to 'University of Winchester', write on the back 'Attention Dr S Spencer'.

Post to: Dr S Spencer, Faculty of Education, University of Winchester, West Hill, Winchester, Hants. SO22 4NR

## Independents Day

**Saturday 14 November 2009**

**10.00 for 10.30 for talk**

**13.00 lunch**

**Herbert Art Gallery & Museum  
Coventry**

**Talk by Jack Shuttleworth on  
The painting 'Italian Hill Town' by  
Roger Fry  
followed by informal harp workshop**

**£8 cash on the day to cover room hire  
and harp workshop Lunch extra**

Contact: [office@bfgw.org.uk](mailto:office@bfgw.org.uk)

or call the office 020 7498 8037

by 31 October

Open to all