

# BFWG news

British Federation of Women Graduates

Spring 2009

FREE TO MEMBERS

No 0809-3

## Tomorrow's Women: Tomorrow's World

**THE 2009 CONFERENCE FOR the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) was looking forward to the SET workforce and workplace in 2030.** It was a lively and interesting event **chaired by broadcaster Maggie Philbin.** Issues raised by the speakers or in workshops by the audience (predominantly women engineers or those involved in promoting women into SET positions) included whether there should be quotas (as in Norway where the quota is 40% of either sex) on public company boards; what were the factors which would keep women in SET professional careers (flexible working was considered a major issue); how we persuade firms to recognise the need to advance the women in their workforce. *There is now good evidence that firms which have an acceptance of diversity within their workforce are more productive and also that Stock Market prices go up when a firm accepts flexible work practices. The importance of women having the confidence to request promotion or salary increases or to go for positions of leadership was stressed again and again 'Don't wait to be told; don't wait to be asked'.*

The meeting was enlivened by electronic voting by the audience in answer to several questions posed - some both at the beginning and the end of the Conference - such as whether there should be a quota system on boards (at the end 80% was in favour); what creates change in society; and various other questions relating to a vibrant talk on futures; and whether Maggie Aderin-Pocock would get into space by 2030. Maggie Aderin-Pocock is Co-ordinator of the UK 'She is an Astronomer' programme launched at the meeting as part of International Year of Astronomy 2009.

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## A Stimulating and Interesting Day



*Mercia and Wales Regional Meeting, Abergavenny Outside the Priory Centre Photograph courtesy of Gabrielle Suff*

**S**aturday 28th February dawned dull and cold. However, some 26 members of the Worcestershire, Sutton Coldfield and Swansea Associations and a handful of Independents and husbands descended on Abergavenny. After very welcome coffee served in the impressive Priory Centre we were treated (and it was a treat) to **an introductory talk on Abergavenny by Sir Trevor Morris, chairman of the Priory Centre Development Trust.** He set the scene perfectly from the Iron Age foundation through the struggles between the Silures and the Romans, the later many Royal interests and visits to present day planning problems. Abergavenny, he pointed out, was on the crossroads to everywhere and thus a very desirable area with a rich, varied culture and history.

**This was followed by** what, for some, was the highlight of the day – **a visit to St. Mary's Priory Church.** Here Sir Trevor showed not only his encyclopaedic knowledge but enviable enthusiasm and humour. St. Mary never fails to surprise on every visit but to be guided by such expertise added another dimension. Everyone has her or his favourite feature – mine is the gigantic oak Jesse some 600 years old which makes all Jesse windows look puny! This is rivalled by the tombs of the Herberts, and the Lewis chapel including the tablet to Dr David Lewis who in the 16th century was the first principal

of Jesus College Oxford. Two exquisite wall hangings dedicated to the people of Zimbabwe brought the story up to date. Members left the priory vowing to return for a more thorough visit.

**We then repaired to the Tithe Barn.** This superbly restored building houses one of the best interactive exhibitions I have ever seen, tracing the life and tribulations of the Priory and its surrounding areas. The children's exhibits gave inspiration for future visits with grandchildren. **The jewel in the Tithe Barn was the Abergavenny Tapestry** – an impressive and truly remarkable community project to mark the Millennium. The Barn is as worthy a visit as the Priory. We ended the 'non-business' part of our day with a delicious and wholesome lunch provided by the Tithe Barn Foodhall Bistro – a great asset to the town. This was a stimulating and interesting day and thanks are due to Gabrielle for such an impeccably organised occasion.

*Nansi Mascetti, BFWG Swansea*

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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; 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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## Editorial

**AS I WRITE, I am looking forward to the Executive Meeting on this coming Saturday.** It is always good to meet up with the people who regularly send me copy for News. It is a sign of progress that Linda is now able to put the whole of each edition onto the BFWG website. In addition, this time, the reports to the Executive have been put onto the website, thanks to Jenny Morley and Sheila Stevens. This has resolved the problems thrown up by News now appearing only four times annually.

**The range of articles sent in for this Spring edition of News, as usual, excites me.** There is still such a lot going on in BFWG. As Editor, I have a multi-faceted view of life in the Federation and the opportunity to communicate with a large number of members. Do consider whether you could be the next Editor, as I complete my second term of office this summer.

We have European Day and Research Presentation Day soon upon us. They have both proved stimulating annual events at

Headquarters. We look forward to seeing you there.

The AGM this year will be only one day but preceded by a programme and supper on the previous evening. **Last year has already shown us how less can be more!** Read all about it in the Exec and AGM 2009 supplement here and sign up soon on the booking form. Finally, there is International Day in the Autumn - very lively last year - put the date in your diary now. **The Management Team is reshaping our Federation and already so much has happened.** Now read how Jenny Morley, our BFWG Secretary, is part of this team (page 8).

As the days lengthen, perhaps in our local associations we look forward to more interchange with each other, interesting visits and getting out and about with a purpose. Enjoy!

Jean Cockling, Editor



## Research Presentation Day

**10.30 for 11 am at BFWG HQ.**  
**Saturday May 16th 2009**

**Have you ever been to one of BFWG's Research Presentation Days?**

Perhaps it is time you came!

Once again we are holding a Day when women postgraduate students present their work to the intelligent but general audience that BFWG provides. It is THE OPPORTUNITY each year for women postgraduate students - whether BFWG members or not - to mix and network at BFWG even if they are not giving a paper.

The papers presented are short and fascinating in range and style. So do come and join the occasion to listen to and to support the students even if your student days are far behind.

And if you are a student do come as audience (closing date for abstract submissions was in March). All postgraduate students are free. Others £5. Look on BFWG webpages nearer the day for detailed programme of presentations.

Elizabeth Poskitt, BFWG Independent  
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Entertainment was provided by Buttons, the magician engineer, who created various items such as a model Jodrell Bank telescope out of balloons during the course of the day and was commissioned, by electronic vote, to blow up (ie inflate) a space station at the end of the afternoon.

**The previous evening saw unveiled the more than life size portraits of the six Women of Outstanding Achievement in Science 2009.** The portraits are huge and there is a problem for some institutions over where to house them. Several hang in the Royal Society but the one of Professor Anne Glover, Scotland's first female Chief Scientific Adviser, hangs in the entrance of her institution and has been subject to some ribaldry with Lord Kitchener fingers 'Your country needs you' reaching out from it and, at one time, a prayer mat placed before it. But all that means a successful woman scientist is being noticed!

Further my overall impression of the speeches was that an ability to ride pillion on a motor bike was a useful attribute for achieving Woman of Outstanding Achievement in Science!  
Elizabeth Poskitt, BFWG Independent

## News in Brief Congratulations

TIIU MAI LOKO was the Estonian CIR when BFWG members visited the Baltic States in 1994. It was she who conducted our tours around Tartu and Tallin. Since then, almost every year she has brought a large party of teenagers from her school to visit Britain and written two books in English - one about Estonia so her pupils could converse with visitors and the other about England. **Members will be delighted to know that HM Queen last year awarded an OBE to Tiiu Mai in recognition of all that she has done to foster British-Estonian relations.**

*Margaret Smeaton, BFWG Worcestershire*

## Nancy Edwards Award

The Executive Committee decided at its March Meeting to give a named scholarship in 2011 in Nancy's name. Members who wish to contribute to this special award should make their cheques payable to BFWG Scholarship Fund and state on the back 'Nancy Edwards Award'.

*Marianne Haslegrave, BFWG President*

## French NFA Prize

**THE FRENCH ASSOCIATION, AFFDU, has been awarded the 2009 Irene Joliot-Curie Prize in the mentoring category.**

The prize was created in 2001 and is awarded every year by Ministry of Education and EADS Foundation in four categories, one of which is a person or association mentoring young women aiming at scientific careers.

*Anne Harris-Hennon, CIR, France*

## Erratum

In the Autumn 2008 edition of News, in the article regarding BFWG Liverpool's Centenary meeting, Dame Lorna Muirhead should have been referred to as the **Lord Lieutenant of Mersyside**, the first woman to hold this prestigious post.

*Nan Mackean, BFWG Liverpool*

## Please note

The Southern Region website has moved to:

<http://southern.bfwg.org.uk>

*SheilaStevens, BFWG Winchester*

## President's Notes

**As we watch the financial crisis unfold here in the UK, we are becoming increasingly aware that the hard-won gains in education, in health and in employment are in danger of being eroded, as economic concerns take precedence.** What does this mean for women: are we in danger of being disproportionately disadvantaged? As family income and savings shrink, will we return to the situation of yesteryear when boys were sent to university in preference to girls? Will health services that only women need, such as mammograms or cervical cancer screening, be available less frequently? Or, will women, many of whom work part time, lose their jobs sooner than men? These are all areas that must be monitored, as times get harder.

**And, in developing countries at first thought to be less likely to be affected by the economic downturn, women and girls could also suffer more than men.** Girls could be taken out of school when school fees can no longer be found, or uniforms paid for, when they are a pre-requisite for access to free primary education.

Women who cannot obtain contraception, either because of cuts in overseas development assistance or because they just cannot afford them, will seek recourse to unsafe abortion, and like their sisters in developed countries, may also find themselves prey to increased domestic violence from husbands who have lost their jobs and are taking their frustrations out on their wives and families.

**As an organisation of women graduates we should be taking stock of what is actually happening both at home and in developing countries as a result of the current economic situation.** I therefore hope that LAs will organise a meeting and Independent members will take the challenge of future on-line discussions to share information so that we can make our voices heard on these important and current issues.

*Marianne Haslegrave, BFWG President*



## The BFWG Management Team, 2008-2011



L-R: Gillian Clerici (Vice-President), Su Allen (Vice-President), Marianne Haslegrave (President), Jenny Morley (Secretary), Jasmit Kaur Phull (Vice-President)  
Photograph courtesy of ?????

**Please bring Exec & AGM 2009 Supplement to the AGM Day**



## 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)

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### IFUW In Brief...

**THE DEVELOPMENT of a programme for action** for the next triennium is to be changed as a result of the online programme survey recently undertaken and professionally analysed.

**THE OPERATION OF THE Bina Roy Partners in Development Fund has been modified**, as promised last year when it was noted that the current system was becoming unworkable. Projects will now compete for funding based on the contributions given in the previous year so that it no longer eats into general reserves.

**THIRTYTHREE MEMBERS OF IFUW were at the Commission on the Status of Women in New York** at the beginning of March, taking part in discussions, leading debates and presenting workshops. Reports of the proceedings will be available soon.

**WE HAVE TWO DATES for your diaries for our own CIR days – 17th October 2009 and 26th June 2010** (the pre-conference meeting), though at the time of writing there is a possibility that the October meeting may have to be put back into November because of a change to the House of Commons date.

**IFUW's newest member email network - highered@ifuw.org is up and running**, linking professors, lecturers, researchers, women active in higher education governance, and others interested in issues concerning women in higher education.

## CIR - WEBSITES, MEXICO AND MISCELLANY

Since the winter edition of News, we now have the new website available for information and reports. This, and **the new-look IFUW website**, provide a great deal of information and reporting directly to members. If you have access to a computer please use these facilities by checking the sites regularly and ensuring that other members in your local association are kept informed if they are not online themselves.

IFUW has been holding more online discussions over the winter – one recently completed was on the subject of Women & Employment: **Women Working in a Globalised World**. This sparked lively contributions from all round the world about experiences of discrimination, encouragement, formal and informal employment, the effects of globalisation on employers and opportunities open to us. A summary should be available soon.

**A Working Group has been set up to develop an Education Advocacy Handbook for use by NFAs** to improve education in their respective countries. The members are Evelyn Aremu (USA); Alice Baucom (USA); Christine Bucher (Switzerland); Tanguil Hincal (Turkey); Madeleine Mattarozzi Laming (Australia); Dorothy Meyer and Alice Kagoda (Status of Women Committee); Marianne Haslegrave and Phyllis Scott (IFUW Vice-Presidents). The Handbook is expected to be completed by March 2010. It is encouraging to see two members of the WG-USA involved.

**More information about Mexico is emerging; the dates are now settled as 5th to 9th August inclusive – with Council meetings on 4th and 10th as well, and the venue has been changed to a more central location with better security and access.** There will be no tours during conference but some sightseeing is to be offered on 10th and other tours before or afterwards. 'Education, Empowerment and Development' will be the overall theme for the 30th IFUW Conference, to be broken down into four conference themes that will be explored over the course of two days (Friday 6 August and Saturday 7 August) in plenary sessions, interdisciplinary seminars and workshops. The sub themes are; Advancing Women through Lifelong Learning, Challenges to Women's Empowerment in the 21st Century, New Challenges for Sustainable Development and Towards A Just Society. We will have a choice of two themes on each day. These days will open with a speaker or panel of speakers for each of the day's themes, followed by three interdisciplinary seminars for each theme - two in English and one in Spanish. In the afternoon there will be five workshops (one in Spanish), which will provide an opportunity to examine the themes in a more interactive environment. Each day's activities will be summed in a plenary session for each theme. The call for papers for Interdisciplinary Seminars will be issued shortly and 31st May is the deadline for submitting abstracts.

Margaret Middlemass, CIR

## Launch of Commonwealth Group for Women Graduates

**AT THE END OF JANUARY members of the Federation met together at BFWG Headquarters to look at possibilities for setting up a Commonwealth Group of Women Graduates**, which IFUW affiliates in Commonwealth countries would be invited to join.

**Lalage Bown**, who in addition to being one of our members, has had considerable experience in working in higher education in countries in Africa, **gave an excellent presentation on the Commonwealth and its work in education and gender**, pointing out that Commonwealth Ministers of Education and Women's Affairs and Education respectively meet every three years. The next Commonwealth Education Ministers Meeting will be this June in Kuala Lumpur and the next Women's Affairs' Ministers Meeting (WAMM)

will be in Barbados in 2010.

**Annie Watson**, who was formerly the Director of the Commonwealth Trade Union Council, **outlined the relationship of Commonwealth organisations with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation which funds NGO work in the Commonwealth.**

**After a lively discussion BFWG members generally agreed that BFWG should explore further the possibility of setting up a Commonwealth Group of Women Graduates** as women in higher education was an area not specifically addressed by existing Commonwealth organisations. IFUW has been informed about the meeting and will continue to be informed of future progress.

Marianne Haslegrave, BFWG President



# Nancy Edwards 1929 - 2009

## "Scholar with a Razor Sharp Mind"

**N**ancy Edwards (professionally known by her maiden name, Briggs) was killed in a road accident in Chelmsford on 23 January 2009. The *Essex Chronicle* reported that 'when she retired from the Essex Record Office in 1987, it was the most important record office in the UK and she had made a significant contribution to making it so'. ***BFWG members have made their own tribute to Nancy.***

Nancy read History at St Anne's College, Oxford and qualified there in archives. Appointed to the Essex Record Office in 1953, she became a respected and inspiring supervisor there. She was an expert in Georgian architecture and life, writing the definitive biography of the architect, John Johnson. To the Federation she was a loyal and hospitable member of the Chelmsford Association, enjoying local activities and even reading books that aroused her historical ire. Nancy's professional knowledge and organisational expertise were invaluable to the Federation, whether she was working for the Sybil Campbell Library or on the Crosby Hall archives: dilemmas were resolved, mountains of paper tamed, books shelved at the University of Winchester and lasting friendships formed. With Margaret Roake and Cynthia Richmond and other dedicated members, she was still working up ladders on the SCL Collection! Members recall with pleasure the historical walks she arranged from 28, Great James Street.

In the 1940s, we were coached together for University entrance at a time when 75% of the places were reserved for ex-service men and women. She taught me how to pack a boarding school trunk (books at the bottom, not on top of the clothes), walk the North Downs and rub brasses in medieval churches in Surrey and Kent. Later, when she and her husband, Gus Edwards, were tracing family connections in Liverpool, Cheshire and Lancashire, we delightedly learned more of our North West - horizons were broadened and the Liverpool Association benefited from her visits with memorable talks about Constable and East Anglia. Nancy did not change: we talked and laughed together for sixty three years - she was demanding, energetic, meticulous, incisive and single-minded in everything. To me she was the most steadfast of friends.

*Nan Mackean, BFWG Liverpool*

Nancy will be a great loss to the Library and sadly missed. She was Chairman of the Sybil Campbell Library Committee 1999 -2003, serving at the same time as a Governor of the BFWG Charitable Foundation (now FFWG). She continued to work at the Library when it was in Bloomsbury and after it moved to the University of Winchester, becoming a Library Trustee in August 2008. She was BFWG Archivist from 2001 and was working on BFWG archives up to the time she died. She had also worked on the Charitable Foundation archives. In the ten years that I

worked with Nancy she was tireless in her dedication to the Library, always totally reliable, always good-humoured and unassuming. We have lost a much respected colleague and a true friend.

*Cynthia Richmond, SCL Trustee*



Photograph courtesy of Margaret Roake

Nancy and I became firm friends when she joined the SCL team at Great James Street soon after losing her much-loved husband, Gus. We shared a love of history and literature and beyond the library Nancy would often include me in her visits to lectures and exhibitions, for her contacts in the world of historical research were many and various.

Nancy organised the display of BFWG's history for the Centenary Conference at Manchester in 2007. She wrote all the captions and was able to secure access, at the Women's Library, to some of the still un-catalogued BFWG records and we spent a day there, taking photographs. Our last working day together, just before Christmas, was spent at Winchester, putting into order and checking the booklets, pamphlets and papers stored in boxes.

We enjoyed Nancy's quirky ideas: her love of collecting (and wearing) elephants: her desire for us all to join in searching out images of St Anne in remote churches across Europe, in happy remembrance of her Oxford days.

A service of Thanksgiving for Nancy's life, in Chelmsford Cathedral on 25 February 2009, was attended by more than 200 people. The reception afterwards in the Shire Hall, proclaimed the honour in which she was held. 'Her mind was still razor sharp and she was immensely thorough in her scholastic research'. (*Essex Chronicle*).

We have lost a true scholar, a loyal and inspiring friend, a generous and warm-hearted member of the Federation.

*Margaret Roake BFWG Independent*



## FfWG - Annual Report

**WE RECEIVED THE NEWS of the death of Nancy Edwards with great sadness.** She was a strong supporter of the work of FfWG and undertook various responsibilities over a long period of time. She is already sorely missed.

**Two of the fund managers from M&G Group attended our recent board meeting in order to speak about the likely income for FfWG in 2009** bearing in mind the difficult economic conditions. They were able to indicate likely dividends for the first half of the year but, not surprisingly, not for the latter part of the year. However we felt reasonably confident with the figures quoted to allow for **a grants budget of £200,000 for this year.** We were able to do so because we had a reasonable costing structure and because we employed prudent investment tactics in the early part of 2007, such as selling the property in London before property prices fell and investing the proceeds on the money market rather than in stocks and shares. The grants budget, quoted above, included the small surplus of income over expenditure described in the following paragraph.

**The draft accounts for the year ended 31st December 2008 showed a small surplus of income over expenditure of £59,000** but an overall loss for the year of £1,694,677. The value of the investments had fallen by £1,753,955 by 31st December 2008. If we had invested the property proceeds that loss would undoubtedly have been much higher.

**Applications for our first round of Emergency Grants had been received. These totalled 85 and represented an increase of 39% on the previous year.**

Peter Letley, Chairman of Governors, FfWG

Please send copy for the Summer issue AGM supplement to

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by 17th April

## Sybil Campbell Library Seminar

### BFUW, IFUW and Interwar Intellectual Co-operation

In this seminar at the University of Winchester on 18th February **Professor Joyce Goodman** explored the 'entangled history' of 'intellectual sociability and the transfer of ideas and practices' between the wars. She looked at the role of women's organisations in this 'entangled history' and particularly at the BFUW and IFUW in relation to intellectual co-operation.

**The term International Intellectual Co-operation (IIC) was adopted by the League of Nations, which created an International Committee of Intellectual Co-operation (ICIC) in 1922.** 'Collaboration between nations in all fields of intellectual effort in order to foster a spirit of international understanding' was seen as 'a means towards the preservation of peace'. By 1926 the ICIC became part of the wider organisation of Intellectual Co-operation located in Geneva and in Paris. **National committees of Intellectual Co-operation served as links between the ICIC and the intellectual life of the various member countries.**

By 1932, intellectual co-operation had been re-defined as Moral Disarmament with a focus on teaching the young about peace, co-operation in the intellectual world, broadcasting and film.

The 'big four' women's organisations, including the IFUW, fed into the structure of intellectual co-operation as members of the Liaison Committee of Major International Associations. **The area where it probably had the most influence at the League of Nations was related to its work on the equivalence of degrees.**

**BFUW made a particular contribution to international understanding through its teacher exchange scheme.** The chair of the BFUW teacher exchange committee (who also chaired this work for the IFUW) noted that 'no other method of propaganda could be so successful as that done by women from one country living and working successfully in another country.' **BFUW organised 124 exchanges between 1926 and 1929.**

Professor Goodman concluded that education constituted a cultural, social and intellectual space for women in the interwar period which was highly 'political'. She suggested that much more work is needed on the role of women in relation to international intellectual co-operation.

Sue Ouvry, BFWG Winchester

## Support for African School girls

ISSENYE SECONDARY SCHOOL is in the North of Tanzania, Started almost 20 years ago it has become one of the highest achieving schools in the country for girls and boys.

**Linked to Region North, money is sent each year to support as many girls as possible.** At present fees and costs of boarding have been provided for Mary Kondoro (year 4) and Nyabakereti Matuki and Nyambura Gambagiraha, (both in year 3). The year refers to standard and not age as the girls often have to wait some years for funding or even family circumstance before they can begin their secondary education.

The money is transferred through the Diocesan links between Wakefield and Mara and this means that there is clarity for sending and receiving. There are no transfer costs.

**I report regularly to our donors and provide an annual balance sheet.**

Associations and individual donors are welcome to contribute. This year £850 has been sent for the 2009 school year. This is such a relatively small amount of money which will change the lives, the hopes and the future families of these three girls.

If you would like to know more please contact me.

Monica Dodds BFWG Huddersfield  
e-mail: [office@bfwg.org.uk](mailto:office@bfwg.org.uk)

## Projects Supported

- Tanzania-secondary school (Wakefield, Huddersfield, Leeds, Sheffield, North East)
- Rwanda - secondary school (Worcester)
- Malawai - secondary school (Sutton Coldfield)
- South Africa - primary school in Soweto (Manchester)
- Ghana - school for mentally handicapped children in Accra (Liverpool)

## Annual Birthday Lunch For Bfwg Huddersfield

WE WERE PLEASED to welcome *Mrs Gillian Roche* and *Mrs Mary Chettoe* from Leeds Association to our 86th Birthday Luncheon, held at Lepton Parish Hall on Saturday 14th February.

*This year the Association has awarded two prizes to post graduate women students at the University of Huddersfield. President Mrs Lynn Free presented a cheque to Miss Martina Whitehead* who is a research student in the School of Applied Sciences. She gave a short talk on her career and studies to date and described her research into cooperative effects in chemistry systems, with a particular reference to metals mimicking biological systems for her PhD degree. *Ms Tahina Akther*, a practising barrister, was unable to be present. She was given an award by the Association in commemoration of the late Miss Mary Freeman, a former member and one of the first women to qualify and practise as a solicitor. Tahina's dissertation for her LLM degree was on the principles of fairness in ancillary relief and on the treatment of pensions and its effect on women.

*The Association also celebrated the award of a doctorate to one of its members, Miss Imogen Long* whose research subject was on French women intellectual writers of the latter part of the twentieth century. Once more we enjoyed a very happy occasion with entertainment provided by Mrs Eileen Twigg and Miss Vivien Gill.

*Jane Carter, BFWG Huddersfield*

## Something We Can All Do?

SUPPORT FOR GIRLS OF school age in African countries is as vital now as ever. Even where actual schooling is free, other essential elements that we take for granted are not.

We BFWG members tend to vary in our replies to the question: 'What does BFWG actually do?' An impressive list was published in Spring News last year of the generous contributions that Local Associations make to charities. This is not an appeal to change that. But could we ALL seriously consider this year one of the current African school projects listed opposite? Through our LAs or independently, could we ALL offer some amount, however small, to one of them? Then we could say to the world: 'Support for African schoolgirls? Of course, in BFWG, this is something we ALL do!'

*Betty Pritchard, BFWG North East*

## Advice for Post-Graduate Students

In November, four enterprising post graduate and research students, *led by Mary Ownby*, held the first lecture for a possibly renewed Cambridge Association. They felt that there was a need for more information and support for women students in the University, who were studying arts and social science subjects. *Therefore, they invited Dr Eleanor Robson, a Senior Lecturer in the Dept. of History and Philosophy of Science to give advice on setting out on an academic career.*

*Talking frankly about her own experiences, Eleanor urged students to be flexible in their thinking about future directions and to make use of opportunities offered.* She clearly valued her private life and set boundaries between that and her academic work through 'ruthless time management'. She acknowledged that friends and family might not fully appreciate a passion for scholarship and was realistic about the potential for conflict between 'parenthood and promotion', which can still affect women's decisions. She emphasised the value of a mutually supportive climate within a Department and the contribution individuals can make towards maintaining that.

## BFWG Southern Region Day

ON 28 FEBRUARY 2009 a most pleasant gathering of BFWG members met in Winchester Cathedral Visitors' Centre for Southern Region's 37th Annual Meeting. Business was followed by lunch and a *talk, by Ms Evelyn Thurlby, on The English Project.*

It was good to see numbers of Winchester, Chiltern, Reading, and recently re-joined Canterbury members, as well as a growing group of Independent members.

*The meeting was conducted by Southern Region Representative, Robin Ketteringham.* In her Report she commented on the closing of Bath Association and welcomed their continuing members as Independents. She also said we were sad to lose any earlier friends and commented on one or two like Elise Broadbent and BFWG's Archivist and Sybil Campbell Committee member, Nancy Edwards.

*A Financial Report* for the year to January 2009 was given by Marijke van der Sluijs.

*News of the African Education*



Photograph courtesy of Gillian Clerici

Further counsel with life-long application included:

- Knowing one's limits
- If a job's worth doing... do it NOW

All of the attendees appreciated Eleanor's advice and enjoyed the wine reception after the lecture. *This venture was also supported by BFWG Vice-President, Gillian Clerici and Regional Rep(Eastern) - Sheila Youngs.*

*Pam Gavin in collaboration with Mary Ownby, BFWG Cambridge*

### Note from Editor:

Perhaps other associations with university links might organise a similar day on a topic of their choice for their student members?

*Project was presented by Christine Miles.* Christine gave news of two girls that we have helped to support recently and of her contacts who visit the Bishop Kivengere Girls' School. They report well of it. After some discussion it was decided that we should continue to sponsor individuals and, if agreed by our Associations, £2.50 per member should be collected and sent in to Christine.

Preparations for the BFWG Executive Meeting of 14 March 2009 were outlined by National President, Marianne Haslegrave. There is a strong Management Team of five whose aims are to streamline the administration and to free up some office space that can be let out to help the finances. Headquarters papers would be on the Internet and can be reached by using a password. See the BFWG website for further details.

*Elizabeth Cader, BFWG Reading*

Please note new email address  
for BFWG HQ:  
**office@bfgw.org.uk**

## Catching up with my reading

### Open Secret, by Stella Rimington

**THIS BOOK IS THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY of a former head of MI5.** When it was first published in 2001, the book caused a storm. It was bad enough that she had allowed her name to be known when appointed Director-General in 1992 – but to ‘go public’ with a book after her retirement really shook the Establishment.

Stella Rimington seems to have been making waves throughout her career, in ways that BFWG members would applaud. She encountered many of the old prejudices and dismissive assumptions that are still discussed at women’s group meetings everywhere, and it is heartening to read how in the Civil Service *she manoeuvred her way past one glass ceiling after another.*

*In doing so she forced Civil Service posts to become based on ability and professionalism rather than the old boy network.* Mrs Rimington was clearly a fine administrator, adopting up to date management techniques and policies. She was appalled to find out later that businesses, including many of the City’s finest, often did not have such policies. In the 1990’s she came across boardrooms that were unrepentantly old fashioned and determined to stay that way.

She makes perceptive comments, and those concerning *the differences between the responsibilities and financial rewards of top Civil Servants and their counterparts in business and industry strike a strong chord today.* The book is written with clarity and humour and it is an enthralling read.

PS – I loved the references to my old school!

Patricia Green, BFWG Reading

To catch up  
on reports to the  
Executive, go to the  
website  
[www.bfwg.org.uk](http://www.bfwg.org.uk)

## Jenny Morley

**BFWG Management Team Appointee  
2008-09 Secretary to the team**

**Jenny Morley is a physicist and educator.** Her professional experience has included being Head of Science at a City Academy, lecturing at a University in the USA, tutoring for the Open University since its inception and teaching in a girls’ school where she encouraged her students to enter the SET arena.

Recently appointed Honorary Secretary to the Management Team of the British Federation of Women Graduates, she has also served a three year term as Vice President (1988-1991). During her term as Vice President she founded the Networks and helped recruitment and fundraising initiatives.

A founding member of Solihull and District Local Association she has been President of both Nottingham and Derby Local Associations, served three terms as Regional Representative on the Executive Committee, and twice as Alternate to the Co-ordinator of International Relations. A Delegate to many IFUW conferences, all over the world, she ran a workshop at the last 2007 International Meeting.

A member of the Phoenix Think Tank, she also helped to organise the Party for BFWG 100 years in 2007.

In any spare time she enjoys sailing, travelling, theatre and opera.

Jenny Morley, BFWG Secretary



Photograph courtesy of Jenny Morley

## 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**

## Research

**Presentations Day  
Saturday 16 May 09  
10.30 for 11.00 - 16.00  
BFWG HQ  
Mandeville Courtyard  
Details on P2  
Please use booking form in Winter  
News or on the website**

## National AGM

**Saturday 4 July 09  
Kings College  
London University  
Franklin Wilkins Building  
For details and booking form, see  
supplement in this issue of News**

## Sybil Campbell Library Lecture

**29th November**  
Due to the changed date  
of the House of Lords visit,  
details for this will be in  
Summer News  
**Please note date now**

### 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.