



Westminster Seminar Towards a Better Future for Women

Baroness Sandip Verma of Leicester is sponsoring BFWG's Westminster Seminar on Thursday 28th October 2010. The meeting will take place in Committee Room 4A in the House of Lords and is one of the most popular events in BFWG's programme.

The theme this year is *Towards a Better Future for Women*. We're delighted that two speakers have already confirmed for this year's event. Baroness Helen Newlove is a community reform campaigner who came to prominence after her husband, Garry, was murdered by three youths in 2007. The Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone will also be speaking. As a Junior Minister in the Home Office Lynne has responsibility for equality. The Seminar starts at 2.00pm and will be followed by tea, probably in the Attlee room although a bigger room has been reserved. Entry to the House is via the St Stephen's visitors' entrance. Please aim to arrive no later than 1.30 pm to allow time for security checks.

Two tours are on offer in the morning both starting at 10.00am, the Parliamentary Archives, back by request, and the Supreme Court.

For registration details for the Seminar and tea see the Bulletin Board on page 8 of *News* or contact Gill Clerici. Members will need proof of identity for the Archives and the Seminar. I suggest photo ID such as a passport or new style driving licence. For more information see www.parliament.uk/archives/ and www.supremecourt.gov.uk

Gill Clerici, Worcester

INSIDE

- **AGM 2010**Pages 2,6 & 7
- **Research Presentations** ...Page 3
- **UWE Conference**.....Page 4
- **Sybil Campbell Lecture** ..Page 5
- **Inserts:** Programme, Booking Form, Centenary Award

BFWG Celebrates its 100th AGM



*Marianne Haslegrave with
The Venerable Sheila Watson,
Archdeacon of Canterbury
Photo courtesy of Barbara Jackson*

Top Crime Writer Entertains Us

Interesting, amusing, informative – just some of the words used to describe Frances Fyfield, bestselling and award winning author and our guest speaker on Friday night. From the moment Frankie, as she prefers to be known, began to describe her career path from solicitor with the Crown Prosecution Service to crime writer she had her audience enthralled. She explained how she develops her characters and weaves plots from everyday incidents and crafts them into psychological thrillers often not knowing 'whodunit' herself until a long way into the writing process of her many books which include the Helen West and Sarah Fortune series.

As well as a fascinating insight into crime writing, Frances Fyfield gave us a behind the scenes look at the production of radio programmes as she has presented a number of broadcasts including Radio 4's *Tales from the Stave* about the discovery of original musical scores. There were numerous questions from the audience and there would have been many more had time permitted. I am sure that Frances Fyfield extended her already-wide fan base that evening. Thanks to Marianne for persuading 'Frankie' to come and meet us.

Anna Frost, Vice-President

Was Eve framed?

Our keynote speaker, the Venerable Sheila Watson, Archdeacon of Canterbury, paid tribute to our overall theme in a thought-provoking and amusing talk, which focused on the position of women in the Church of England hierarchy. If progress in the recognition of the important role that women could play in the ministry had been slow, our speaker was keen to make us aware of just how much there now was to celebrate.

She herself had been amongst the first cohort of women to be ordained in 1994 but now 25% of Anglican priests were women, with more women than men in training, the majority in their 40s and 50s studying part-time, presumably fitting it in with family commitments. What the Anglican Church had perhaps only latterly come to value was the complementarities of approach between the genders and their input into pastoral care. As the Venerable Sheila said: 'In community life gender is irrelevant.'

She likened women in the Church to those in the higher echelons of the private and public sectors. They were increasingly breaching the 'stained glass ceiling' and, of

Continued on Page 2

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 Headquarters

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

Tel: 020 7498 8037

email: office@bfgw.org.uk
www.bfgw.org.uk

Management Team

President

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

Vice-President and President-Elect

Jenny Morley BSc(Hons) (Independent)
email: jmorley@bfgw.org.uk

Vice-Presidents

Su Allen BSc(Hons) PhD MRSC (Nottingham)
email: suallen@bfgw.org.uk

Anna Frost MA BA(Hons) (Independent)
email : anna@frost5117.fsworld.co.uk

Jasmit Kaur Phull JP BSc(Hons), BMS (Lincoln)
email: jkphull@hotmail.com

**Chairman BFWG Charitable Foundation
Governors 2009-2012**

Prof Elizabeth Slater MA, PhD, FSA (Independent)
email: e.a.slater@liverpool.ac.uk

Designed and published by

Linda Hadfield BSc BA(Hons) PhD (Independent)

Next Issue: Winter 2010/11

**Copy should be sent to Su Allen at
suallen@bfgw.org.uk**

by 14 November 2010

Despatched by: 17 December 2010

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

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

BFWG News is the official journal of the
British Federation of Women Graduates
Reg. No: 278795 England

a Company limited by guarantee.

Scholarship Registered Charity No: 273043

The BFWG Charitable Foundation is BFWG's
wholly owned subsidiary.

© BFWG and contributors

Editorial

Welcome to the new academic year for BFWG. I trust that you are refreshed and invigorated by our summer and the chance to catch up with family and friends and hopefully, eager to participate in the variety of opportunities that the local, regional, national and international programmes offer. All members can access information about events from the BFWG website and become more involved by sending letters to your MP on the proposed spending cuts to university research funding, the general resolution passed at our AGM.

As Acting Editor of News I welcome articles from members, my contact details are listed opposite. BFWG members have been extremely busy participating at our AGM in Canterbury, in Europe and even in Mexico. Reports on UWE, Academic Scholarships and our AGM are included in this edition, with fuller accounts and coloured photographs available on the website.

Our 100th AGM and Conference in Canterbury was a great success with a mixture of business and pleasure, some vacant positions filled and members commenting on the friendliness and change in people's perception of the organisation. A big thank you to Christel Moor and all the members of Canterbury for their heartfelt welcome.

Since attending the Conference, I have been thinking about some of the comments made by one of our speakers, the Venerable Sheila Watson – is it actually a man's world we wish to succeed in or should we be more like our founder members who were a success on their own terms and followed in the footsteps of women such as Abbess Mildred (AD 700) and Deaconess Macrina (c.AD 379), who prove that women for centuries have held prominent positions in society. But how many people know this and is the real issue the need to be more vocal? This is a challenge to us all, letting others know about BFWG, our past achievements, our future plans and successes.

Su Allen, Acting Editor

Continued from Page 1, col 3

course, ironically, whilst we were assembled in Canterbury, the General Synod in York was debating the question of women bishops. A woman's confidence in her ability to do the job - and 'do it as a man would do it' - was paramount.

Sheila Watson endeared herself to us when she told us that, although raised in Scotland, she had had her wedding reception at Crosby Hall. She applauded the Federation's espousal of the education of girls worldwide as a means of raising living standards and helping women everywhere to fulfil their potential. Even Eve would have approved!

Gillian M Roche, Leeds Association

More than half the UK student population is now female



*Christel Moor with Prof Sue Piotrowski
Photo courtesy of Barbara Jackson*

Professor Sue Piotrowski, PhD, MA, BEd, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) of Christ Church University Canterbury, proposed the Toast to BFWG at the Annual Dinner held this year in the Cathedral Lodge, Canterbury. She enthused us with encouraging statistics concerning the much improved participation of women and girls in the Universities - at least as students. The picture, however, is not so rosy when it comes to the proportion of female Lecturers and Professors, and is even more worrying where Governing Body and Vice-Chancellor posts are concerned.

Jenny Morley, President-Elect

To address the issue of the lack of academics in the top positions at Universities a Colloquium for female university leaders is to be arranged for 2011. More details to follow in future issues of News.

President's Notes

The weeks after the Conference/AGM generally give members of the Federation a time to reflect and to enjoy summer days and summer holidays with any Local Association (LA) meetings being mainly social. This has indeed been the case with the exception of those of us who travelled to Mexico for the IFUW Conference, about which there will be more in the next issue of News.

September, however, means the start of the academic year and the time when BFWG and its LAs begin the yearly programme of activities. As a member of the Management Team, I am aware of the need to provide meetings at the regional and national levels that will interest all our members, particularly those who are Independent members and who therefore do not attend LA meetings. We shall be starting our year with the Seminar at the House of Lords, to be followed by the CIR meeting which this year takes place in Birmingham to allow members from the northern and western parts of the country to attend more easily. I look forward to seeing you at both of these meetings.

As I now begin my final year as BFWG President, there are still priorities to address with the help of the Management Team.

First and foremost we must increase and strengthen our membership, and provide opportunities for involvement through our programme activities. We also have to increase our visibility as we are generally unknown. This is particularly important in times when all women's organisations are facing problems with recruitment and women have no time or cannot afford to join more than one. And, last but by no means least, we must update and streamline our Articles of Association, which are, at the very least, archaic.

It is important that you, as a member of BFWG, share your ideas about the Federation. We need to hear from you not only about your LA but also what you think about BFWG activities and what you would like us to plan for the future. There are possibilities for you to make your views known for example by contributing to News or the website, or you can write or email me directly. I look forward to hearing from you so we can together work for the future successes of the Federation.

Marianne Haslegrave, President



Enthusiasm Abounds at the Research Presentation Day



L to R: Julie Ackroyd, Rosalind Willis, Denise Bannon, Teresa Arora, Rhiannon Marks (slightly behind), Lin Langley
Photo courtesy of Su Allen

A sunny Saturday in May saw six postgraduate students present their research to an audience of BFWG members and other postgraduates. All presenters were articulate and spoke confidently about their subjects. They also answered the thought-provoking questions asked by the audience with authority.

Over lunch discussions were forthcoming with members providing encouragement and advice and Jasmit working her magic on recruiting. Denise Bannon, University of Glasgow, was awarded the top prize of £100 for her talk on *Dietary iodine deficiency in the Scottish pregnant population*.

Additional prizes were awarded to Rosalind Willis, King's College, London and Rhiannon Marks, University of Aberystwyth who received £50 prizes; their topics were *What determines informal support in later life?* and *Menna Elfyn: an overlooked Welsh poet* respectively. Thank you to the Mercia and Wales Region for funding the extra prizes.

All participants were presented with certificates of participation and some BFWG merchandising. The other presenters were Julie Ackroyd, Birkbeck College, London who spoke on *Stolen children in 1600*; Lin Langley, University of Birmingham whose topic was *Trade and culture links between Minoan Crete and Egypt c. 1900 B.C. to 1450 B.C.* and Teresa Arora, University of Birmingham who described *Links between obesity, technology use and academic performance in a sample of UK adolescents*.

The North West are holding a research presentation day this year on 16 October, see details on the Bulletin Board, page 8.

Su Allen, Vice-President

Success for Former Academic Scholars

Congratulations are extended to former scholarship holders who have recently gained their PhD qualifications.

Natalie Garrett, University of Exeter, has completed her research in physics and sent the following euphoric message, 'I've just come out of my viva! I've got only minor corrections to do after 2.25 hours of fun chatting with two nice examiners - not bad.'

Jennifer Barth, the 07-08 Eila Campbell scholar, also successfully passed her viva. Jennifer had been studying at the School of Geography and the Environment, St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford. She writes 'This scholarship was so important to me - it allowed me to spend the time required to write the thesis without worrying about other work ... thank you to both BFWG and those that support the Eila Campbell award.'

Another former scholar, Janet Bultitude, has sent her thanks and copies of two publications from her PhD research; copies have been forwarded to the Sybil Campbell Library. Janet was based in the School of Psychology at the University of Bangor.

Elizabeth Poskitt, info from BFWG Office



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

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

CIR/IFUW Council Member 2008-2011
Margaret Middlemass BSc FCA (BFWG Leeds)
e-mail: m.middlemass@btinternet.com

UWE: www.ifuw.org/uwe

CER/UWE Representative 2010-2011 (Appointed)
Sheila Youngs, BA (Hons.), PGCE, MSt (BFWG
North London and South Herts)
Email: sheilayoungs@hotmail.com

IFUW Appointments

During the Conference in Mexico of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) a new board was elected. The names of the new members of the IFUW Board are:

President

Marianne Haslegrave (President of BFWG: England & Wales)

Vice-Presidents

Patricia Galeano (President of the Mexican Federation)

Willemijn van der Meer (Past President of UWE)

Anne Negre (Past President of AFFDU: France)

Jennifer Strauss (Australia)

Treasurer

Catherine Bell (S. Africa)

Congratulations to BFWG members Julia Bannister, Cynthia Burek and Margaret Tait on their elections to the IFUW Finance Committee, as Convener of the Committee on the Award of International Fellowships and as Convener of the Resolutions Committee respectively.

The Conveners of the other IFUW Committees are:

- Marion Minis (The Netherlands) Status of Women Committee
- Hazel Bowen (South Africa) Membership
- Marian Ennis (Canada) Hegg-Hoffet Fund
- Michelle Imison (Australia) Project Development

Details of all the committee members can be found on the IFUW website. The appointments are for the triennium from 2010 to 2013.

Information supplied by Anamaria Vere, IFUW office

Education Of Girls And Women In The Field Of Intercultural Tension

Over 80 members from 14 National Federations including seven from BFWG were welcomed to Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany by the DAB (German Women Graduates Association) hosts for the UWE meeting and AGM.

The meeting started with a welcome from Griselda Kenyon, UWE President, plus addresses from Professor Dr Elisabeth Sotelo, President of DAB, PD Dr John-Mikolajewski, one of the two UWE Vice Presidents, Erika Stahl, Mayor of Bochum, and Dr Marion Gierden-Julich, Secretary of State and Minister for Intergenerational Affairs, Family, Women and Integration.

Other sessions included talks on *Gender Equality in Spain* by Dr jur Diego Iniguez, Attaché for Education and Science at the Spanish Embassy in Berlin and *Young Women of Migrant Origin in Germany* by Professor Ursula Boos-Nunning of the University of Duisburg-Essen, workshops on dealing with different ways of achieving the successful integration of migrants, with special regard to human rights and a panel discussion on *Migrants between the country of origin and everyday life*. As a result a proposal was made that UWE should persuade NGOs to provoke discussion on the issues discussed in the Council of Europe next October.

At the start of the UWE business session the Jans Gremmee Award was presented to Ingeborg Lotterle, and tributes paid for her long service in the Dutch Federation and to UWE. We then discussed various reports including one, presented by the Treasurer, on the trips made by Board members to meetings of various bodies with the aim of improving UWE's profile in Europe, although concerns were voiced on the cost, and projects currently taking place in some national federations, including mentoring in the Netherlands, Finland and Turkey: The Dutch are running a 6-day workshop next March in Holland to produce a 'tool-kit' on how to attract new members, with several other NFAs taking part.

The potentially controversial item on UWE dues was discussed and, rather than arguing over technicalities, a two-year moratorium was agreed to allow a working party to discuss the proposals in detail and bring a recommendation for decision no later than at the 2012 assembly, with an interim report to be presented for discussion in 2011 and ready for circulation to all NFAs five months beforehand. In the meantime our Federation proposed that dues remain the same for 2011 and this was carried.

The cultural programme included visits to Essen, European Capital of Culture for 2010 for a visit to Zeche Zollverein, once the most modern colliery in Europe, and other sites in Essen, to the Henrichshutte Hattingen museum, the site of the Ruhr region's earlier iron and steel industries, to the permanent Ruhr University collection of Antique and Modern Art and to the moated castle of Kemnade where a meal was enjoyed in the outdoor courtyard on a perfect summer's evening.

As to the date and place for next year's UWE meeting there was only one invitation and that was from Turkey for a meeting in Istanbul next June which was accepted. There will also be a Friendship visit to Sibiu, Capital of Culture in 2007, organised by the Romanian Federation, probably from 9-12 September 2011.



L to R Audrey Kuhler, Renee Gerard, Griselda Kenyon, Marianne Haslegrave

Photo courtesy of Sheila Youngs

Sheila Youngs, CER

BFWG Announces Academic Scholarship Winners

The Academic Awards Committee announces the awarding of scholarships for the academic year 2010 to 2011, presented for academic excellence to the following recipients:

Award Holder	Institute	Awarded (value)	Title of Research
Mary Robb	School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dept of Music, University of Edinburgh	Nancy Edwards Scholarship (£6000)	<i>Outside the Academy: the music of Miriam Gideon during the Cold War.</i>
Claire Waters	Faculty of English, University of Oxford	Beryl Mavis Green Scholarship (£5000)	<i>Ageing women in Shakespeare's drama.</i>
Rosie Louise Perkins (nee Burt)	Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge	Elen Wynne Vanstone Scholarship (£5000)	<i>The co-construction of 'learning cultures': an ethnographically-informed case study of practices at a UK conservatoire.</i>
Lethy Krishnan Jagadamma	Dept of Physics, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow	Florence and Johnstone Stoney Studentship (£5000)	<i>Characterisation of nanostructured light emitters.</i>
Hannah Russ	Dept of Archeological, Geographical & Environmental Science, University of Bradford	Eila Campbell Scholarship (£2,500)	<i>Palaeolithic fishing in Europe.</i>
Maxie Roessler	Inorganic Chemistry, Dept of Chemistry, University of Oxford	Margaret K B Day Scholarship (£2,500)	<i>Electron paramagnetic resonance studies of metalloenzymes.</i>

Further details on the research of the Nancy Edwards Scholar and how to apply for awards can be found on the BFWG website at www.bfwg.org.uk.

Elizabeth Poskitt, on behalf of the Academic Awards Committee

Prominent Indian Academic and Feminist Delivers SCL Seminar

Dr Barnita Bagchi, from the University of Utrecht, gave the Sybil Campbell Library Seminar at the University of Winchester on 20th May 2010. She spoke on *Social Capital and Creative Agency: South Asian Women in the Public Sphere, 1920 – 1950*.

Dr Bagchi is a feminist historian and sociologist of girls' and women's education, and well known as a translator and scholar of the work of Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain. Her work combines analysis of field-based and literary narratives of education from a human development perspective. She spoke of her work being enriched by looking at material related to the Indian Federation of University Women in the Sybil Campbell Library.

Dr Bagchi considered the ways in which social capital as manifested in associations, networks and everyday sociability influenced the creative agency of South Asian Women. Women were good organisers and carers and it was in areas such as nursing, teaching and welfare that through their associations and in their writing, women promoted the establishment of hospitals, schools and women's refuges. Their achievements came about by challenging patriarchal ways and through activism.

Dr Bagchi described the lives of four prominent South Asian women, Ramabai Saraswati (1858-1922), Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain (1880-1932), Sarojini Naidu (1879-1949) and Lila Majumdar (1908-2007), who had exercised creative agency in the public sphere, primarily through their writings. All came from privileged, though not particularly moneyed backgrounds, and lived by their intellectual, social and cultural capital.

Susan Butterfield, Winchester

Autumn Lecture - Pen and Parsimony: Carriages in the Novels of Jane Austen

The presenter of this autumn's SCL lecture is Sandy Lerner, co-founder, in 1984, of Cisco Systems. The company produced the first commercially viable router to enable remote computer networks of various kinds to communicate with each other. She and her partner, Leonard Bosack, sold the company a few years later and set up a charitable foundation which supports animal welfare and science projects.

Sandy is also devoted to the works of Jane Austen. In 1992 she bought the scarcely habitable manor house at Chawton in Hampshire which Jane Austen's brother Edward inherited during his sister's lifetime. He settled Jane and her mother in a nearby cottage. Sandy had the house restored and donated 7,000 volumes by or about early English writers, mostly first editions. The house became Chawton House Library, established as a research centre for the study of early English women's writing. The Library's mission is also to protect and preserve Chawton House, an English manor house dating from the Elizabethan period; and to maintain a rural English working manor farm of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

To book a place at this lecture, please refer to the advertisement on the Bulletin Board, page 8 or the Sybil Campbell Collection website.

Cynthia Richmond, Chairman of the Library Committee

The full report of the May 2010 SCL seminar is available on the BFWG website www.bfwg.org.uk.

100th AGM of BFWG – Reports of the Proceedings

On a brilliantly sunny morning, the Conference began with a warm welcome from Cynthia Short, President of Canterbury AWG. In the first session, Marianne Haslegrave, BFWG President, welcomed members including six former Presidents. After approval of the 2009 AGM Minutes the President gave her annual report. She apprised members that regularisation of Management Team meetings and the sharing of administrative responsibilities has resulted in good working practices – and with additional representation from the Regional Executive Committee and a strong Finance Committee, working procedures are now in place to enable the Federation to function more efficiently. Future tasks include work on our Programme of Events, Membership (recruitment), Publicity and PR, and the production of an Office Procedures Manual. Marianne stressed the need to strengthen the Regional Level, for more Local Associations and members as now, with internal working procedures more settled, it is time to go outside the Federation, to publicise it more and to recruit more members.

The Vice-Presidents verbally updated their reports with Baroness Helen Newlove confirmed as a speaker for the Westminster Seminar and membership at 497, including 88 Independent members. Because of the General Election, Government consultations have been few, but it was agreed that when BFWG does respond then responses plus Press Releases would be made available on the website for use by LAs. BFWG News, produced four times a year, is available on-line and articles and colour photographs are welcomed. Jenny Morley reported she hoped to update the website weekly.

The idea of a Colloquium with women Vice-Chancellors in Universities was warmly welcomed and considered important. Members felt invitations should include Pro Vice-Chancellors and other women holding high positions in Higher Education - the aim being to find a way to increase awareness of the work of the Federation and to encourage recruitment – the event is being planned for London probably in the early Spring.

Catherine Pinion, Huddersfield

The afternoon session brought mixed news. In her report on the Women's National Commission (WNC) Elizabeth Poskitt indicated that the WNC was under threat as a result of the Government's review of quangos. There was also discussion about the role of the WNC, which had greatly expanded its membership and subsequently split its meetings into interest groups. Different members of BFWG attend different groups. It was agreed that wording be prepared for an emergency resolution on the matter, this was drafted by Griselda Kenyon and others. The separate issue of trying to improve the way the Commission operated was best done from within.

In Wales, the Wales Women's National Coalition (WWNC) had already lost its funding. Gabrielle Suff explained that there was hope that an independent new organisation could be set up.

Cynthia Richmond brought good news about the Sybil Campbell Library. She brought us up-to-date on how the books in the Library had been made part of the Library Trust Fund, which had now been separated out from the Scholarship Fund. Much gratitude was expressed that this work was now complete.

Barbara Jackson, as Chair of the Finance Committee, presented a healthy balance sheet, with an increase in investment income despite the economic situation. She commented that Administrative and Membership expenses were now being kept to a minimum but from 2011 onwards there would be a need either to make use of volunteers who lived near London or to budget for more paid administrative assistance. The deficit was around £3,000 for the year and was forecast to be the same for this year. The way to avoid the deficit was to increase membership! It was agreed that the capitation fee would remain the same for another year.

After tea we had an interactive session to think of ideas for the Programme and for publicity. One idea to be considered was for each LA to hold an event in 2012 to mark the 100th Anniversary of the first scholarship awarded by BFWG.

Gillian Ramsay, North Eastern

Amendment to Articles of Association

Option 1 of the Amendment to Articles of Association 8.1.2 concerning the representation of Independent members (IMs) at Executive and Conference was passed unanimously. Response to a prior circulated questionnaire produced a clear majority in favour of being represented by a Region of their choice. In future, IMs when paying their Capitation Fees, will be given the option to choose a Region. Those who do not choose will be allocated to a Region geographically close to where they live.

Funding of University Research – General Resolution

The very important motion that BFWG calls upon the Government, in view of the current financial situation, to ensure that the universities have sufficient resources to maintain at least present levels of funding for fundamental research and to develop additional financial incentives to encourage individuals or other bodies to support university research was passed unanimously.

Some expressed concern that Science and Technology would be undervalued with equal concern for the Humanities which might lose out if more weight was placed on the former. Conference was reminded that curiosity-led research has often led to the biggest breakthrough in discovery and learning.

This resolution carries a high degree of urgency since all university funding will be discussed by the Government over the summer. *Editor: A letter for members to send expressing their concerns to their MP is on the website.*

Upcoming Conferences

Jenny Morley reminded members that the 2011 Conference is to be held in the beautiful setting of Dartington Hall, Devon. Business will be kept to a minimum and the Conference theme will be *Towards a Better Future*. The venue for 2012 Conference is not yet known. A request was made for a hosting Association.

Emergency Resolution

Following concerns expressed earlier about WNC's future, and particularly in view of its direct link to Government, an Emergency Resolution was drawn up proposing that letters be sent to the appropriate minister, preferably via local MPs, regarding the threat. Representations were made for other letters to be sent expressing our concerns on the removal of the concept of 'equal pay for work of equal value' from the Equality Act 2010 and funding cuts to the Wales Women's National Coalition (WWNC). This Resolution was passed unanimously.

Daphne Matthews, Independent

AGM of FfWG

On Sunday morning the first session was the AGM of the BFWG Charitable Foundation, Funds for Women Graduates (FfWG) when the Chairman reported to the four Nominee Shareholders who alone are allowed to ask questions. A briefing session had previously instructed the Nominee Shareholders on the questions to be asked.

The meeting proved to be lively and interesting. Elizabeth Slater, completing her first year as Chairman of the Governors of FfWG, reported that during the past year income from investments had dropped by £73,000 (13%) because of the current financial situation and low interest rates. The Nominee Shareholders, comparing this with a rise in investment income achieved by BFWG during the same period, asked whether a better result might have been obtained had FfWG employed a financial advisor as BFWG had. Elizabeth vigorously defended FfWG's policy on the grounds that the comparison with BFWG was inappropriate because the two had started from very different positions, FfWG had already revised its investments and it would cost 1% of its income to employ a financial advisor, money which would be better devoted to granting awards. However, she promised that the Governors would keep the position under review. She was hopeful that changes in investments already made would show results in 2011.

The Chairman noted that approximately £250,000 per annum was awarded, some as foundation grants at the beginning of the academic year and some in emergency grants during its course. The proportion of applicants receiving a foundation grant was around 25%.

In answer to further questions from the Nominee Shareholders, the Chairman reported that hitherto recipients had not been encouraged to join BFWG but said that from now on they would be. She further reported that she was looking for ways to record as much detail as possible on recipients (without breaching confidentiality) for the benefit of future research into social and academic backgrounds.

Finally and unusually, she offered to take questions from any member of BFWG. Noting from her own experience as an Independent member how difficult it was for members of BFWG to obtain information on FfWG, she agreed that in future Nominee Shareholders may share their copies of FfWG minutes with any interested member of BFWG.

Cynthia Short, Canterbury & District

As requested by the AGM, Elizabeth Slater has produced an analysis of the 2010 applicants' subject, university and ethnicity, available on the BFWG website.



Florence Kirby and Margaret Tait at the pre-dinner reception

Photo courtesy of Jenny Morley

Sybil Campbell Collection to be an Independent Charity

At a special meeting on 11th July members of Executive, as BFWG Directors, voted unanimously that the Sybil Campbell Library Trust should be separated from the Scholarship Trust and become a separate charity. The proposal had been fully debated at the AGM previously and met with a very positive response. The original Library Trust Deed of 1955 is being updated to make clear that the Library Trust includes the books as well as the funds, that it will be an independent trust very closely linked to BFWG, that BFWG will appoint, and may remove, the Trustees and that it will be called the BFWG Sybil Campbell Collection. The resolutions have now gone to the Charity Commission for approval. In the complicated process of devising these proposals we took advice from a charity lawyer who drew up the legal resolutions on which the vote was taken.

Cynthia Richmond, Chairman of the Library Committee

Au Revoir and Welcome

The AGM marks a time of changeover and this year was no exception. Marianne explained members were elected if their nominations were received by the deadline and appointed, initially for one year, if received after the cut off date.

Thank you to Gillian Clerici on successful completion of her three-year term as Vice-President. Gill has been an integral part of the team in overseeing changes in the management of the organisation. She continues to organise the Westminster Seminar 2010 and as a Governor of FfWG.

Thanks are also extended to Catherine Pinion, Monica Dodds, Sheila Youngs and Hilde Betts for their tireless work as Regional Representatives and Alternates in the Northern and Eastern Regions.

Welcome to members in their new roles:

- Hilde Betts & Christine Christopher - Eastern Region Representative & Alternate
- Gillian Ramsay & Elizabeth Massey - Northern Region Representative & Alternate
- Sheila Youngs - Co-ordinator Of European Relations (CER), appointed
- Nancy Catchpole - Archivist
- Jenny Morley - President-Elect (her office as President will run from 2011 to 2014)
- Anna Frost - Vice-President (appointed)

Finally a big thank you to the many members who work tirelessly at the local, regional and national level, there are too many of you to mention but your enthusiasm and efforts are much appreciated by all, especially those on the management team.

As the saying goes to be forewarned is to be forearmed, at next year's AGM there will be a number of vacancies. Think about whether you or one of your members can help - it may be a good addition to your CV.

Su Allen, Vice-President

++BFWG Bulletin Board++BFWG Bulletin Board++

North West Association Academic Presentation Day and Annual Meeting

Saturday 16 October 2010

10.00 – 16.00

Hollins Hey Hotel, New Brighton, Wirral

£20.00

including buffet lunch and refreshments

For further details and booking contact:

ecdyslex@hotmail.com 0151 678 1620

BFWG News Schedule 2010-11

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

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.

CIR Day

Saturday 27 November 2010

**Carrs Lane Church Centre,
Central Birmingham**

See booking form for further details including cost
Contact: m.middlemass@btinternet.com 0113 269 1491

Sybil Campbell Collection Annual Lecture

Thursday 28 October 2010

18.00 for 18.30 lecture

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

Sandy Lerner

Chairman and Trustee of Chawton House Library

Pen And Parsimony:

Carriages In The Novels Of Jane Austen

For further details and booking contact:

stephanie.spencer@winchester.ac.uk 01962 827125

see Summer News or the website

Westminster Seminar

Making a Better Future for Women

Thursday 28 October 2010

14.00 - 16.00

House of Lords

Committee Room 4a

Sponsored by Baroness Sandip Verma

Cost £12 (seminar) + £20 (tea)

Speakers:

Baroness Helen Newlove

The Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone, MP

Others tbc

How to register

Bookings with payment please, preferably cash by hand to Gill Clerici, otherwise cheques by post to the Office, payable to BFWG, by 21 September

Are you a BFWG Member?

Having difficulties with accessing the members' only section of our website?

To register or to check your registration, send an email to webadmin@bfgw.org.uk

Remember, for all meetings, if you cannot access the website and need a paper copy of documents please send a request to Anna Frost at anna@frost5117.fsworld.co.uk or contact the office

Eastern Regional Day

Saturday 23 October 2010 (was 16)

**The Abbey Hotel, Wymondham, Norfolk
(8 miles from Norwich)**

Afternoon tour of the Abbey

Further details from Joan Wheatley

wheatleyjoan@yahoo.co.uk 01603 812668

Keep the Date

Regional Meetings

Northern (Derby), 26 March 2011

Mercia and Wales (Worcester), 2 April 2011

Southern (Canterbury), 9 April 2011

AGM 2011

Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon

1-3 July 2011

Further details on the Year's Programme and in future editions of News

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.