



European Day

Saturday 24 April 2010

10.30 - 15.30

BFWG HQ, Mandeville Courtyard.
£10 including coffee/tea and a sandwich
lunch and wine

Communicating Europe

The UK has been a member of the European Community and European Union for over 35 years. However, what is going on in 'Europe' and how we relate to it is for many still a closed book; not least because the political culture and the legislative processes seem often alien to us in Britain. The reporting of European issues reflects entrenched views however sincerely held by Euro-sceptics and pro-Europeans alike. In order to gain deeper understanding and insight into 'how Europe works' we need to take a fresh look at the role of the European Parliament, the implications of the Lisbon Treaty and the very concept of European citizenship.

Speakers

Marina Yannakoudakis MEP
(Greenwich, Con),
Member of the
Women's Rights &
Equality Committee
of the European
Parliament on 'Violence
against Women and
Human Trafficking'



Brendan Donnelly, Director of the
Federal Trust for Education and Research,
on 'The Lisbon Treaty'

Dr Susan Collard, Lecturer in French,
Department of Politics & Contemporary
European Studies in the University of
Sussex on 'Communicating European
Citizenship.'

It promises to be a very interesting and
informative day leading to a visit to the
European Institutions in Brussels later in
the year so we can see for ourselves 'how
Europe works.'

Send £10 cheque (one cheque for a group)
with your name, e-mail, telephone number
and address to BFWG HQ before Mon 19
April please. Book your place now, first
come, first served.

Gabrielle Suff, Swansea

Mercia and Wales Defy the Snow Regional Day, 20 February 2010

The meeting was held on a bright
cold day, with no new snow to add
to that already lying. Thirty five
members met at the Trinity Centre in
Sutton Coldfield. During the morning we
had two talks introducing us to Matthew
Boulton, the man who started life making
toys, buttons etc in the 18th century and
ended as the 'man who made what the
world wanted'. We heard of his background,
on to the creation of his manufactory
in Soho and then in more detail of his
interest in tokens, medals and coins. It was
a fascinating insight into the development
of the coinage system and life in this country
in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth
centuries, and of a remarkable man who
deserves to be better known for his many
and varied achievements. In the afternoon
Vivien Greenow gave us a short report
from the Finance Committee and Su Allen
updated us on the new structure of the
Management Team with the flexibility of
jobs being a great asset and making for
more streamlined working. She encouraged
more flexibility within Local Associations,
and perhaps more liaison with local
universities, either with Presentation Days
or meetings to attract new younger
members. There is a need for a web-based
communications and networks system,
but we should still encourage face to face
contact and workshops. Sutton Coldfield
is setting up a new website, and thank
Sheila Stevens for her help.



*Gloria Banner, President, Sutton Coldfield, welcoming
members to the Regional Day*

Photo courtesy of Su Allen

Nest Overend sent a report on the changes
to the Articles of Association agreed at
the AGM last June, which had been
forwarded to Company House and
accepted. The job descriptions of the
management team are now ready in
draft form, and the revision of the
Articles of Association is under way
and should be completed by 2011.

The regional financial position being
sound, it was decided to donate £100
as a further award / awards at the
Research Presentation Day for PhD
students. We discussed and agreed
to support the Scottish Federation's
proposal for a new structure for UWE
dues.

Finally, in view of the inclement
weather, and the distances involved,
a decision was made that future
meetings should be held shortly after
Easter, the date to be arranged by
the host association. This will be
Worcester next year.

Nesta Farrow, Regional Representative

Web Registration

All members should have received an
e-mail giving them a personal user name
and password so that they may login
and view the restricted areas of the
BFWG web site. If you have not
received such an e-mail, this may be
because we do not have your current
e-mail address.

Please contact webadmin@bfgw.org.uk
if you have not received your login
details.

INSIDE

- Reports to ExecutivePage 3
- International NewsPage 4
- BFWG Looks Outward ...Page 5
- Sybil Campbell Lecture ..Page 6
- Local AwardsPage 7
- Inserts: AGM Resolutions and
Vacancies

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.



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Editorial (and President's Notes)

I am writing this having just attended the 90th Anniversary of the French Association in the Grand Salon of the Sorbonne in Paris and part of the Swiss Federation AGM in Geneva. The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, also a member of the Korean Federation of University Women, explained a situation which is only too familiar to us, that while girls and women make up over 50% of the university intake in many faculties in Korea, women at the professorial levels and higher administrative levels in universities are few and far between ...



Below this editorial is an article from Sutton Coldfield on their work on missing children in the UK, a problem that is, unfortunately, constantly in the press and one that should concern our members. Another issue that some of our members are also concerned about is trafficking of young girls, in our case coming from parts of Eastern Europe and ending up as prostitutes. Some of our members travelled to South Africa on friendship visits over the years and I thank Hilde Betts for sending me the poem on page 5, which highlights the problem there. As an aside and on a lighter note, I would like to point out that traffic lights there are called 'robots' – how often do we think of a robot as being 'female'?

I am really pleased that I have only the last 300 words and have again merged the Editorial and Presidents Notes in this issue of News, which is full of your contributions. In addition, plenty of space has been devoted to the interesting meetings that are taking place in the lead up to the AGM. Please don't forget to keep the Conference insert if you are coming to Canterbury ... it looks forward to being an exciting meeting.

Marianne Haslegrave, President

Missing Persons

After coming across a system called 'Amber Alert' in America one of the Sutton Coldfield members raised the issue of the nature of specific action taken regarding missing children in UK.

The Amber Alert System was launched in Texas after the abduction and murder of a young girl named Amber. Since 1966 the scheme, which involves mass advertising on major roads, television and radio, has successfully recovered 300 children.

A working party of three members researched the topic resulting in Sergeant Brown being invited to speak to us as part of our programme. After commenting how pleased he was to be addressing a group of law abiding citizens (!) he shared a range of current interesting facts with us.

- 210,000 persons per annum are reported missing in the UK (7,000 in the West Midlands, 700 in our area - Sutton Coldfield).
- 60% are found within 72 hours.
- A search for an individual reported missing begins immediately. There is not a delay of 24hrs as many of our members believed before investigations are started.
- There are 100 under fives missing annually in the UK. A great deal has been done to improve the system by the mother of the murdered girl Sarah Payne.
- A report of a missing person entitles the police to search premises, remove mobile phones and lap tops.
- After investigations have been made a missing persons form is completed for High, Medium, Low Risk Assessment.

*Pat Brown, Nina Hamilton, Margaret Harget
Sutton Coldfield Association*

Sutton Coldfield Association of Women Graduates would like to acknowledge the kind support of The Four Oaks Neighbourhood Team, West Midlands Police in enabling the production of this report and photograph.



Report of the Management Team to Executive Committee, March 2010

BFWG has now had a 'Management Team' for just over eight months. For any organisation it would be a major change to move from a hierarchical system of a President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer etc, to one in which the leadership is 'shared' among a team. I feel that we have done remarkably well in such a short time. There are advantages in the old way of working, but when the reality is that it no longer works, because no one wants to take on the responsibilities tied to a specific position, changing to find a new way of working is easy. I find that there are roles that I still continue to carry out as President, but there are many advantages in being able to share the responsibilities with the four Vice-Presidents, Gill, Jasmit, Jenny and Su.

Slowly but surely, we have made progress in streamlining the running of the organisation, sometimes as a result of 'trial and error' and we are really grateful to all of you who point out shortcomings and help us to solve them. We appreciate your understanding that if we are to continue to maintain capitation fees at their current level, we have to make changes and forgo some of the support that we have had in the past. Our 'bottom line' is that the more we do 'on-line' the more money we save. I would therefore like to thank Sheila Stevens for all the work she does for us as our 'web-mistress'.

Thanks to the hard work of the Chair and members of the

Finance Committee and to our Financial Advisor, our investments have recovered and our finances have weathered the financial crisis extremely well so far. We have also managed to contain our expenses during the past year.

We are moving forward on our Articles of Association and the draft job descriptions of the members of the Management Team will be considered by the Executive. Our Programme is improving and we have had several very successful meetings. In the coming months we look forward to an exciting European Day, our next Research Presentations Day and a really interesting Conference and AGM. The common denominator is the commitment and hard work of our own members, who are making things happen.

But, we must be aware that improving the administration and running of the organisation is only part of the answer for our future success. We must go further in concentrating on what we are offering our members and potential members, not how we are doing it. We are improving our programming; we are improving communications with our members; and now that we do have a logo – our coat of arms – we are working on our publicity and public relations. These are all the products that will assist us in encouraging our current members to renew their membership and new members to join.

Marianne Haslegrave, President

Report by Chairman of FfWG to Executive Committee, March 2010

Foundation Grants

In 2009 we received 257 completed applications for Foundation Grants and of these 54 applicants were offered grants ranging from £540 to £4,000; total commitment £160,840.

Late last year we were pleased to note the extensive media coverage of research that showed that honey bees can be used as a natural deterrent for crop-raiding African elephants as we had just given a Foundation Grant to support the student involved. Her fieldwork in Kenya has led to some ground-breaking discoveries including the fact that elephants run from bee sounds and that they emit a unique alarm rumble in response to the threat of bees (see article on p 7).

Emergency Grants

The value of Emergency Grants varied between £500 and £1,500. We received 154 applications and awarded 32 grants.

One grant was made to a Rhodes Scholar from Zimbabwe in the final year of her DPhil in Astrophysics. Her financial position was dire due to the difficult economic circumstances in that country, and further exacerbated by the fact that her husband had been made redundant and had little prospect of finding another position in his field.

Financial Position

The principal funding resource of the Charity is the income it receives from investments. In 2009 this was considerably less than in the previous year, as had been forecast, and we reduced the number of Emergency Grants rounds.

Figures quoted in this report are from the draft accounts for the year ended 31st December 2009 and could be amended as the accounts are finalised. The draft figures show a total income of £280,445 compared with £354,423 in the previous year. In 2008 we had a grants budget of £250,000; in 2009 our budget for grants was £200,000, a figure we hope to retain in 2010. The income forecast for 2010 is similar to that made in 2009. Costs

in 2009 were £41,624, excluding grants, compared with £45,145 in the previous year.

In 2008 our investments suffered unrealised losses of £1,753,955. However in 2009 the value of the investments improved and at the year end we had unrealised gains of £464,759.

The Trustees had been considering the most suitable place for the proceeds from the sale of the property in Great James Street, which was sold at the top of the property market. The money was put on the money market and enjoyed an income of £80,529 in 2008. Interest rates on cash deposits dropped markedly in 2009 and the funds generated considerably less and so the decision was taken to invest £1,000,000 in Charibond, a common investment fund. That investment was made in June 2009 and in the 6 months to the end of the year it yielded £32,699 and had appreciated in value at the end of the year by £50,560.

Val Considine, FfWG Company Secretary

Verbal update at March Executive meeting

The Trustees have decided to increase the Grants Budget for calendar year 2010 from £200,000 to £225,000. The 2008 budget was £250,000 and 2009 £200,000. There had been concern, with £4000 going to BFWG towards the Nancy Edwards Scholarship, that the Foundation Grants budget would have been less than in 2009 but this increase has allowed the Foundation budget to return to the 2009 level of £160,000. It has also allowed 3 rounds of Emergency Grants in 2010; the number was reduced to 2 in 2009 and this was seen as too restrictive.

In February 2010 the Trustees decided to move transfer £480,000 held on bank deposit into the Churches, Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) COIF Property Fund. In addition to the cash reserves, the FfWG monies are now invested in four charities-only common investment funds namely M & G Charifund and Charibond, the CCLA and Charities Aid Foundation UK Equity Growth Fund.

Elizabeth Slater, FfWG Board Member



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

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UWE: www.ifuw.org/uwe

CER/UWE Representative 2007-2010
to be appointed

UWE Conference and General Assembly 24-27 June 2010

**Ruhr-University-Bochum
Event Centre**

The 2010 UWE Annual General Meeting and Conference will be organised by our friends in the German Federation of University Women (DAB). The Meeting will take place in one of the European Cultural Capitals: Bochum/Essen, Germany.

The theme of the conference on Friday 25th of June will be:

Education of girls and women in the field of intercultural tension

The workshop topic will be:

Factors of a successful integration of migrants with special regard to women's rights.

The following social events are planned:

- Visit to Henrichshütte Hattingen museum, historical monument of local industry
- Reception at the Exhibition of Antique and modern Arts of the
- Ruhr-University- Bochum and "Get together Party" at the "Biergarten Lottental", open air restaurant in the forests
- Dinner at the moated Castle of Kemnade
- Sightseeing Tour of Essen-Ruhr, European Capital of Culture 2010

For the programme and registration visit the DAB-website - follow the link from

<http://www.ifuw.org/uwe/>

Countdown to Mexico Conference 5-9 August

Pre-conference online consultations

IFUW's online discussions in the pre-conference consultations series continued over the winter and a summary can be seen at:

<http://www.ifuw.org/docs/2009-pre-conf-consultation-discussion-summary.pdf>

This was phase II and phase III has begun, to be completed in April. These discussions are designed to shape the Programme for Action for 2010-2013 and all members are encouraged to respond directly – don't leave it all to the Management Team! The main areas under discussion are education, financial independence and the empowerment of women; these are the themes to be taken up in the conference. Other online discussions not directly related to the conference are concerned with the gender pension gap and the future of volunteering.

Conference registration and information

Information about the 2010 conference is now available on the IFUW website, including registration instructions and information about optional tours. By the time you read this, you will have missed the early bird rate and the registration fee will have increased to \$870 – don't delay, it goes up again at the end of June. Please let me know if you are planning to go so we can keep you informed, and we can also help if you do not have access to the website. We have nominated three candidates for IFUW positions; we have three workshops accepted and have proposed a resolution about the promotion of numeracy, so I am hoping for as much support as possible.

Candidates for IFUW Posts

Thank you to the voting members of Executive for dealing swiftly with the approval of the candidates in a new arrangement to cover the altered deadlines which meant it was no longer possible to have our candidates chosen at the previous year's BFWG AGM. For this year the nominations will be put to the BFWG 2010 AGM for confirmation and all candidates have undertaken to withdraw if approval is not given at that stage. The Management Team are considering proposals for how we can amend our procedures for future years to allow for new international systems while still ensuring that all members are given the chance to have their say. Electronic communications and variable dates for conferences mean we must adapt, and this will also need to be considered for UWE nominations.

BFWG candidates are: Marianne Haslegrave for IFUW President, Margaret Tait for Convenor of the Resolutions committee and Professor Cynthia Burek for Convenor of the International Fellowships committee. In addition, Julia Bannister had already been nominated by the Scottish Federation for the Finance committee and, of course, we will be delighted to support her.

Workshops, resolutions and amendments

Our workshops are concerned with 'Financial Skills - reversing the myth that men earn, women spend', 'Numeracy for all – vital statistics for girls' and 'Understanding the Psychological Contract for Women in Employment' – the latter to be presented by Ngozi Onyejeli. The resolution seeks the promotion of numeracy with the same vigour as literacy, in recognition of its importance for obtaining decent work and providing for a family, the concerns of many women around the world.

Proposals for constitutional amendments have recently been circulated and are on the IFUW website, concerning the introduction of electronic voting and the role of the CIR. These, which will be voted on in Mexico., move towards accepting and using the electronic world in which we now live.

Pre Conference CIR Day, 12 June

I hope everyone has the Saturday 12 June 2010 pre-conference CIR day in her diary – whether you are planning to attend conference in person or only in spirit, we need your input on the matters to be raised and the votes to be taken. In fact, if you are not going to be in Mexico it is even more important that your views are fed in through the June meeting. The resolutions and candidates are all published on the IFUW website from March, in time for Local Associations to discuss them and pass on their views and I do hope you all take the opportunity to make your contribution.

Margaret Middlemass, CIR

BFWG Looks Outward

Generous Local Associations have as usual made gifts to many charities and other organisations in their local area - Emmaus, Maggs Day Centre for the Homeless, Women's Aid, War Veterans Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Riding for the Disabled, adults' and children's Hospices, Pestalozzi Villages, Childline, and Chadsgrove School for Children with Disabilities. In two quite separate areas, gifts have been made to a girl student in difficult circumstances about to enter university; and sizeable donations have been given to one of IFUW's Bina Roy literacy projects, and to the Hegg Hoffet Fund.

It is good news too that fourteen Associations have contributed to the education of girls overseas. Even a little goes such a long way! Support from the Northern Region continues for four girls at Issenye school in Tanzania. Annual school fees are paid by Worcester for a girl in Rwanda who hopes to become a doctor, and Southern Region has helped a secondary schoolgirl in Uganda. Funds have been given by North Herts to a Kitabu project in Kenya for a Primary School library. Liverpool Association has supported for a long time New Horizons school in Ghana, the only school for mentally handicapped children and young people in the country.

Dr Anna Wilson, former President of the Winchester Association, who died in January, was a keen supporter of 'Wells for India'.

Dr Anna Wilson Opening a
New School
Photo courtesy of Betty
Pritchard



By constructing a rain-water harvesting system, 'Wells for India' make it possible for girls to go to school. Without running water and suitable sanitary arrangements, they are not able to attend regularly. Donations in memory of Anna Wilson will be used by Winchester to fund another similar school project in Rajasthan.

It is not possible to detail gifts from Independent members, but their contributions are equally valued and much appreciated. However, we still have not reached our target of 'Something we ALL do'. Please, if you or your LA are not already involved, think about giving even a small amount to one of these projects (contact HQ or Local Secretaries) so that we can tell the world that every part of BFWG contributes to the education of schoolgirls overseas.

Betty Pritchard, North Eastern

Red Light Child

Go!

A stranger
grabbed me at the bus stop
caught me at the station
took me across the border
met me at the airport
pushed me into a dark room
bought me my first lace bra and panties

Stop!

bought me my first lace bra and panties
Go.

My parents
ignored my begging and tears
married me off for the money
forced me to work in the factory
in the fields, in a foreign country
sold me for a false promise
eventually forgot all about me

Stop!

eventually forgot all about me
Go.

My neighbour
told me to keep it secret
said I was so pretty he couldn't help
touching me
called his friends to join the party
offered me drugs and more money
drove me there and left me
said he'd be back in a week to fetch me

Stop!

said he'd be back in a week to fetch me
Go.

A friendly woman
helped them track and catch me
shoved me into the car
showed me how to wear heels and make-up
gave me pills for the pain
a towel for the blood
said I would die if I didn't shut up

Stop!

said I would die if I didn't shut up
Go.

The old man
explained he was making a movie
another stood swaying above me
asked me to smile while he studied me
some held my mouth closed as they
shoved into me
one dressed me up, took care of my bills
in the beginning I believed I was helping
my family

Stop!

in the beginning I believed I was helping
my family

I'm a Red Light child
I am not dead, I am lost
In another city, another country
I am not missing, I've been stolen
I am not a number on a screen
Do you recognise me?
Will you remember my name?

I'm a Red Light child
Asking you to stop!
To listen, to question
To see, speak for me
Make the law to protect me
Take action to free me
Make it stop!

I'm a Red Light child

This is a game no-one should play

Each one of us

Is another one you lose

Make it stop!

Before another day

Another season begins

Make it stop!

© Malika Ndlovu, 2009

Research

Presentations Day

Saturday May 22nd 2010
At BFWG HQ 10.30 for 11.00
until about 4pm

Have you ever been to BFWG's Research Presentations Day (RPD)?

This is your opportunity to support and encourage young women academics. Presentations are fascinating and varied, and this year's abstracts are no exception. There is sure to be something to catch your interest. And there is a real 'buzz' between BFWG members and the young researchers who present their work or who come to listen and learn. All welcome - bring your friends: postgraduate students; lively Third Age minds; anyone in between.

Postgraduate students: no charge.
Others: £10 on the door.

Please let Elizabeth Poskitt e.poskitt@btinternet.com or the BFWG Office office@bfgw.org.uk know you are intending to come. Lunch is provided.

Book this event in your diary NOW.

Medieval Women and the Care of the Family: The Archaeology of Life, Death and Magic

Sybil Campbell Lecture, 29 October 2009

The Sybil Campbell lecture, held on 29 October 2009 was given by Roberta Gilchrist of the University of Reading in which she described how medieval archaeology can shed new light on the private lives of medieval women, by revealing the deeply held beliefs and intimate practices that surrounded life and death in a medieval family. The source material for her work was the archaeology of English settlements and cemeteries dating from the twelfth to the fifteenth century, drawing comparisons between devotional practices in domestic and mortuary spheres.

Certain materials and objects were used for the care and protection of the family during life and death. Connections were drawn with charms used in the practice of traditional folk magic, and with occult materials more associated with medieval 'natural magic'. Certain animals, plants and minerals were considered to possess special properties. Three main categories of 'magical' item occurred in medieval graves and domestic contexts: healing charms and protective amulets; objects believed to possess 'occult' natural power; and 'antique' items. The first two types are attested categories of medieval magic; the third was suggested on the basis of the archaeological evidence of medieval burials.

Amulets are worn on the body or kept in the home to preserve against affliction; the principal medieval types comprise textual amulets, charms and consecrated objects. Archaeological examples of textual amulets include the possible remains of two birthing amulets written on parchment and interred in female graves. Charms include jewellery and other objects with magical inscriptions, such as the names of the Three Magi, used as a charm to ward off sudden death. Such charms are found in considerable numbers in the home, but were only rarely deposited in graves. Consecrated objects include pilgrims' badges and papal bullae, the latter detached from indulgences and circulated as amulets.

The pilgrim souvenirs recovered from domestic contexts show a strong correlation with shrines venerated by women for their connection to childbirth, such as Aachen, which held a relic of

'the holy nightgown', said to have been worn by the Virgin at the conception and birth of Christ.

Occult materials comprised fossils, stones and gems that were perceived to have special healing or protective properties. In graves, white stones of quartz or granite were prized, while objects carved from jet, coral or amber were better represented in domestic contexts. Jet was considered to be efficacious in childbirth, while coral was highly valued for offering protection to infants and young children from the evil eye. Antiquities deposited in graves may also have been considered to possess occult properties, especially Roman coins and beads. Medieval graves provide sealed archaeological contexts in which grave goods can be directly associated with individual bodies that can be aged and sexed. On this basis, it is possible to detect a correlation in the use of 'magic' objects and materials especially for the young, and perhaps also for the physically disabled. In contrast, 'old' items excavated from medieval households were interpreted as family heirlooms that may have circulated for only two or three generations before being discarded. Examples include objects possibly connected with marriage, such as women's headdresses. By opening up the question of heirlooms, we begin to see connections between the lifecycles of people and things.

Charms, amulets and objects of special materials, such as jet and coral, provide insight to the material practices of life course rituals and thresholds – especially birth, marriage and death. Archaeological evidence of the home and grave shows the extent to which religious devotion and 'magic' were combined in medieval popular belief, and connected with family memory. Magic rooted religion in everyday life, in folk memory and in protecting and healing the family. Perhaps most significantly, magic provided the opportunity for women to engage directly with the divine through their own agency, without the need for the intercession of priests.

Also see *R Gilchrist (2008), Magic for the dead: the archaeology of magic in medieval burials, Medieval Archaeology 52, 119-59.*

Food for Thought in Coventry

This was my first opportunity to participate in the BFWG event, as I have just become an independent member of the organisation. The event started with the presentation about Roger Fry, a British artist of post impression, and a unique analysis of a painting at the museum. This was followed by a harp workshop. Everyone seems to enjoy playing this unusual instrument. After the event, I went to the (new) cathedral with some of the members of BFWG (the cathedral locates very close to the museum). I saw a thousand of cranes, folded with origami (Japanese folding papers), in the Chapel of Unity. These origami cranes have been dedicated to a Japanese girl who was fatally injured by the atomic bomb that fell on Hiroshima. I had visited Hiroshima a few weeks ago and I have found certain parallels with what happened to Hiroshima and what happened to Coventry.

*Minako Takamiya-Allen,
Independent*



The Sybil Campbell Library Seminar

May 20th 2010, at 6.00 pm at The University of Winchester in Main Building, Room 1, ground floor.

Dr Barnita Bagchi (from the University of Utrecht) will be speaking on: 'Social Capital and Creative Agency: South Asian Women in the Public Sphere, 1920-1950'.

This talk will consider ways in which social capital, as manifested in associations, networks, and everyday sociability, mutually inflected the creative agency of South Asian women in the public sphere during 1920-1950. While the term social capital, as adumbrated by Robert Putnam and Pierre Bourdieu, is well-known, 'creative agency' needs explanation.

At the Sybil Campbell Library, Dr Bagchi's research was enriched by looking at material related to the Indian Federation of University Women. She was struck by the way official association business, social and political activism, creative performances, and food and drink enmeshed to form a dense web of associational life.

info@sybilcampbellcollection.org.uk

*Members taking part in the harp workshop at the Herbert Museum
Photo courtesy of Gill Clerici, Vice-President*

Lincoln Association Bursary

About two years ago I was invited by the Lincolnshire LA to speak to one of their meetings about the current work of Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln. Little did I know that I was going to become so impressed by the organisation that I would decide to join! For me, the group has offered both mental stimulation through the fascinating variety of speakers and companionship as I come to know the members socially. It has also offered me a chance to help the group reinvigorate one of their longstanding projects, a bursary to support women undergraduates in Lincolnshire. At one of my first meetings as a fully paid up member, the topic of the bursary came up – I had known about it before as we had in the past been contacted by BFWG to identify suitable recipients, but had not realised that this scheme had not proved easy to manage. I was able to suggest a way forward that maintained the emphasis on achievement and determination rather than simple academic excellence and which allowed us to give the bursary a higher profile.

The bursary is now to be given annually to two undergraduates, one from Bishop Grosseteste and one from the University of Lincoln, at a point in their studies where they can help them progress. In each case the award goes to a female student from Lincolnshire who has achieved against the odds or who has made notable progress. In our case we have also identified a specific programme, namely our Foundation Degree for teaching assistants, and have specified that the bursary is to be given to someone who

intends to continue to a BA (Hons) 'top-up' programme of study. We used these criteria and were delighted to be able to present the bursary to Helen Cozens at our graduation ceremony last summer. Helen told me: 'Having encountered adversity alongside ill-health throughout the duration of my degree, it was through absolute determination, hard work and true self-belief with the support of my family, that I was able to achieve the BFWG (Lincolnshire) Award for an



Bursary winner Helen Cozens with her family
Photograph courtesy of ???!

Outstanding Foundation Degree Student Intending to Teach.'

This bursary seems to me to sum up some of the real strengths of BFWG – a pleasure in learning, a determination to support women in becoming graduates and a belief in the value of qualities beyond academic excellence as worthy of recognition. I hope that the recipients will also consider joining BFWG in due course.

Professor Muriel Robinson, Principal, Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln

Rochester Award, Reading



l to r: Elizabeth Cader, Sarah Costello, Vivienne Rubinstein and Audrey Harrison

Photograph courtesy of Dr Peter Sweby, Reading University

Reading Association presented the Rochester Award to Sarah Costello at a prize-giving ceremony at the University of Reading in December. Three members, Elizabeth Cader, Audrey Harrison and Vivienne Rubinstein were present. The Association awards an annual prize to the woman student who gains the best marks at the end of the second year in the mathematics department. The award is in memory of a former member who was a mathematics graduate and who left money to the association in her will.

Sarah plans to complete her teaching diploma at the university and teach mathematics to primary school children. This is encouraging news as Sarah is the first Rochester award winner who has chosen teaching as her future career.

Ann Acres, Reading

AGM and Conference

Canterbury and District Association is looking forward to welcoming everyone to the AGM and Conference in July.

To avoid the late booking fee register before May 26, though we welcome members after that date.

Full details and registration form in Winter News

Amazing Escape of FFWG Award Winner

Lucy King, the 2009 FFWG Foundation Grant recipient who was mentioned in the FFWG report because her research had attracted national media coverage, has recently suffered difficulties when her research centre in Kenya was flooded.

'I am fine and amazingly managed to get ALL my three years of DPhil research paperwork and data out of the camp before it flooded. Unfortunately I have lost my tent and all my furniture but at least I was safely in Nairobi the night the flood hit.

I am in the research centre now in Samburu and helping with the clean up. Our team have done well to salvage what they can from the bushes and even discovered a couple of our tents wrapped around trees downstream! Our living area has been destroyed and will need to be rebuilt on higher ground. The mud and sand that has deposited itself has changed the look of our camp permanently. Yesterday a man was swept in from the river and when our staff pulled him out and pressed the water out of his chest he came round quite quickly. It turned out he was looting a lodge upstream from us, was chased by the guards, jumped in the river and got swept away! He rested, then dashed off again and we haven't seen him since! We have also had dead camels swept into our camp and a whole tree floated downstream with a troop of live baboons having a ride in the branches.

We have set up a 'refugee camp' for our staff on the hill behind camp and we now think this will be a good place to rebuild. There is a great view and our study elephants come round in the evening so we feel very at home. We are in good spirits and several kind donors have given goats for us to eat with our rice which is also helping morale as our staff have lost all their personal possessions, documents, ID's, clothes etc as well as their personal research notebooks and sketches which have been waterlogged. We are loading updates onto our site www.savetheelephants.org.

Many thanks for your sponsorship which has been my lifeline for the past few months.

Lucy King, FFWG Foundation Grant Recipient 2009

Women - the Most Under-utilised Resource on the Planet?

The Women's National Commission is on a mission – to encourage more women of working age to apply for positions on the boards of public or local bodies, whether as school governors, board members of PCTs or national commissions or even magistrates. In order to improve the proportion of women on public boards from its present low figure of 33% the WNC organised a series of one-day workshops on Women in Public Life during February and March. I attended one in Leeds on 24 February, with participants from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Able facilitated by Helen Jackson – MP for Sheffield, Hillsborough from 1992-2005 and a WNC Commissioner – the workshop set out to remove some of the mystique of applying for positions and serving on boards. There was also a presentation by Jane Carter, the current Director of Coaching for Hope, who stressed the importance of appropriate networking and brought the three Cs to our attention, namely confidence, composure and competence. One interesting network which I learnt about was Forward Ladies, a northern-based business women's organisation.

How to overcome barriers to participation, whether real or imaginary, was the overall theme of the morning. To what extent those present have been motivated enough to take part in what is predominantly a man's world (and I've noted the theme of our AGM this year!) remains to be seen but there is no longer any excuse not to do so.

Gillian M Roche, Leeds

Reports to Executive

Edited versions of the reports of the Management Team and FFWG Board to the Executive are included on page 3 of this issue of *News*. Full versions of these and all other reports to Exec are available for download from the members' area of the website.

If you would like to receive hard copies of the reports, please contact the office on 020 7498 8037.



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Upcoming Events

Communicating Europe

Saturday 24 April

BFWG HQ 10.30 for 11.00

For Details see Page 1

Cost £10 including lunch, please book in advance before 19 April

Sybil Campbell Library Seminar

Thursday 20 May

University of Winchester 6.00PM

For details see Page 6

Research Presentations Day

Saturday 22 May

BFWG HQ 10.30 for 11.00

For Details see Page 5

Postgraduate students: no charge. Others: £10 including lunch, pay on the door

CIR Pre-IFUW Conference Meeting

Saturday 12 June

BFWG HQ 10.30 for 11.00

For Details see Page 4

UWE AGM and Conference

Thursday 24 - Sunday 27 June

Ruhr-University-Bochum Event Centre,
Germany

For Details see Page 4

BFWG AGM and Conference

Friday 9 - Sunday 11 July

Christ Church University, Canterbury
Registration form in Winter News and
online

IFUW Conference

Thursday 5 - Monday 9 August

Mexico City

For Details see Page 4

Westminster Seminar

Thursday 28 October

Details in Summer News

Sybil Campbell Library Lecture

Thursday 28 October

Details in Summer 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.