



Towards a Better Future for Women

Five Baronesses Address BFWG at the Annual Westminster Seminar

This year saw over 70 BFWG members convene in Committee Room 4A of the House of Lords to listen to the views of and to question five baronesses on the topic of 'Towards a better future...'.
Our President Marianne Haslegrave said in her introduction that women members of the House of Lords in every case earned their position through their expertise and experience. This was certainly true of our sponsor Baroness Sandip Verma of Leicester. Baroness Verma, formerly an Opposition Whip is now delighted to be a Government Whip and is the government spokesperson on women and equality and also on international development, for which she leads the focus in the House of Lords. She welcomed us to the Lords and spoke of her passion that women should be at the forefront of all they do. Women like us must incite others to accept the challenges which confront us. It will mean keeping several balls in the air as we juggle our responsibilities, and at times some balls will fall, but there must be a shift in the processes of how we see ourselves – we are as good if not better than men!

Vivien Greenow, Worcestershire

Baroness Helen Newlove explained that her life and those of her three daughters were devastated by watching Garry, her husband, being fatally injured by a gang of drunken teenagers outside their family home in Warrington in 2007.

Due to this tragedy Baroness Newlove concluded that anti-social behaviour should not be tolerated and that peer pressure has too much influence on children to make them drink and lose control of themselves.

She has set up 'Newlove Warrington' aiming to make the town a better and safer place. The three goals for her campaign are to inspire people to lead a more purposeful life, to motivate people to enrich their lives and to provide for positive interaction with communities. She has extended this campaign nationally by joining forces with the media to campaign for a clampdown on gangs like the one that claimed her husband's life with heavier prison sentences and other punishments.

She felt honoured and humble when she was given a peerage on 15 July 2010 in the Dissolution Honours list as, in her own words, 'I am just an ordinary woman propelled into high profile by a set of



L to R: Ursula Soedring, Susan Butterfield, Sue Ouvry and Christine Smith outside Parliament
Photo courtesy of Rory Haigh

horrifying circumstances which I wish with all my heart had never happened'.

She has yet to make her maiden speech in the House of Lords. Wait for it.

Diane Ayerst, North London and South Herts

With humour and passion Baroness Vivien Stern delivered her message about progress for women using her recent experience of work with VSO in Kenya. She spoke of Masaai women making strides toward independence by capitalising on their beadmaking skills to make products for international markets and through involvement in local and national politics where these women have three main goals: 1) to make violence in the home illegal 2) to ensure that laws are introduced that allow women their own property and 3) to achieve equality for women in employment and society. Baroness Stern had visited the parliament in Nairobi, addressing women politicians which make up around 10% of parliamentarians. She contrasted their experiences with her own and talked of her plans to bring six female MPs over to the UK to experience Westminster and to gain experience on how to raise and fight for women's issues in the political theatre. Baroness Stern reminded us that issues such as employment, payroll and social equality are the same struggles so recently fought (and still being fought) by women in the UK. This recent experience provides hope for the Masaai women and women in general.

Elizabeth Massey, Lincoln & Lincs

Professor Baroness Haleh Afshar was appointed a commissioner of the Women's National Commission (WNC) in September 2008. Her opening words were a strong statement 'We are responsible for the future of the nation'. Baroness Afshar spoke of how education is necessary but in no way sufficient. Access to power requires a

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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 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: afrost@bfgw.org.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)

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

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Editorial

As Winter approaches I am overwhelmed by the many different activities that our members participate in. We certainly are a very active and increasingly, a more vocal organisation with many of our local MPs now aware of us and our concerns.

In this edition, members report on the annual Westminster Seminar including one of our newer members Tashia, for whom this was her first experience. Various Local Associations and Eastern Region also report on their meetings, charity work and support of students. On the International front there is a social report on Mexico and a summary on the business; more on IFUW business in the next edition.

Looking forward to 2011, in January there is a consultation on the revised Constitution and a chance to meet the IFUW President, February sees members visit the European Parliament and in March we hold our annual Executive Committee Meeting; more details of all meetings on the Bulletin Board.

Finally, this edition includes the important information and booking form for the Annual Conference and AGM 2011 at Dartington Hall, Devon along with the list of vacancies. Maybe there is a role you could take up in 2011 to enhance your CV or fill your 'free' time? Alternatively, your LA or a region may want to volunteer to host the 2012 AGM and Conference.

Su Allen, Acting Editor

Continued from Page 1, col 3

two-way process and in our democracy all the decision-makers are men. Women had an avenue and access to government through the WNC and she had been invited on as the token Muslim woman. However, the baroness reported how 'I can't represent Muslims, there is no one Muslim voice, they don't use alcohol, yet they suffer Islamophobia... but Muslims come in all shapes and sizes. We need to ask them all.'

She felt that blanket legislation will not work as we need a different kind of provision to access the resources. She spoke of how she was committed to defending the rights of women, as women perceive them. Concluding that women are equal but different, that women need more than men to represent them and that they are, in many cases, invisible, unpaid and unsung heroes.

Pamela Christina, Independent

The question and answer session proved to be lively and informative. Concern expressed on the demise of the Women's National Commission, which had been seen as an effective tool to 'transfer resources from the wallet to the purse', led to Baroness Verma assuring us that a Minister accountable for women's issues is to be appointed, a move she considered forward-looking and more efficient. However, the debate on the WNC's axing has yet to start in the House.

Baroness Newlove, concerned for the victims of crime and how society had failed them, wants to provoke debate on the

problems of anti-social behaviour. When questioned on the funding of a Foundation set up to publicise the problems of alcohol and crime and to emphasise parental responsibility, she said funding had been found through the local community. Video games and television programmes were thought contributory factors to anti-social behaviour, denying conflict resolution and leading to public de-sensitisation to violence; solutions suggested included a greater discretion be exercised by media to refuse reporting excessive violence and active policing of communities. It was regretted by all that the freedoms achieved for women appeared to result in an increase in female drunkenness.

Questions were asked about the lack of women in higher positions in Universities and the impact on women of increased tuition fees. Baroness Sharp joined the Seminar at this point; she emphasised that as the Universities' teaching budget had been slashed something needed to make up the shortfall. A surcharge on Income Tax after graduation, at a time when setting up home and launching careers, seemed unfair; she preferred a graduate tax of 1 to 2 per cent of earnings, ring-fenced for university funding; Baroness Afshar, a university lecturer, expressed her anger that academics were avoiding teaching because the salary levels were so comparatively low.

The Seminar was concluded by Gill Clerici who warmly thanked participants and helpers for a most successful Event.

Margaret Tait, Independent



President's Notes

Looking out of the window at the wind and the rain as I write this, I am reminded that we are now approaching the worst of the winter weather. There are, however, too many issues that we have to address for us to go into hibernation.

Being trapped outside the Houses of Parliament by the thousands of students, who were at that time protesting peacefully, reminded me that BFWG should be addressing concerns as to the gender aspects of the proposed changes in tuition fees ...ie will they affect women more than men? Many members have also communicated their concerns about the demise of the WNC, which was also discussed at the House of Lords seminar. Two issues clearly need to be resolved that are outside the scope of the Government Equalities Office into which the WNC is being absorbed and whose website states that its remit is 'Putting equality at the heart of government'. The first is the loss of access to the UN, particularly the Commission on the Status of Women, through the consultative status that the WNC enjoyed. This may

not affect BFWG as a member of IFUW, which has consultative status, but it will affect members of WNC that aren't part of an international organisation. The second is the co-ordination of NGO input into a shadow report to go to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), when the UK reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women next year. To my mind, having the report co-ordinated by the GEO is like 'putting the vixen in charge of the hen house'. So please take time to pick up your pens to ask questions of your MPs as they begin to discuss these key issues.

I wish you a very happy New Year ... and look forward to 2011 being even more successful for BFWG

Marianne Haslegrave, President



Archives Tour and Westminster Seminar

For a first event on a grand scale this day was a terrific way to start. I have only been a member for a few months and was not sure what to expect, particularly as I had gone along on this day on my own and had not thought to ask if any of my local members were going as well! I had chosen to start with the tour of the Parliamentary Archives and this was absolutely fascinating with a terrific host and a wealth of information. Then I was taken under the wing of some more experienced 'goers' who made sure I knew the way to the seminar and saw all the sights along the way.

As to the seminar, I thought this brought home issues that are relevant to women today. I felt that Baroness Newlove's talk was particularly poignant and gave a fantastic message of the need for core community cohesion and that today's children are everyone's responsibility but particularly that responsibility must begin in the home. Baroness Stern's talk about creating sustainable livelihood for women who suffer domestic violence, I thought, was significant for both the Kenyan women she was talking about and for women in the western world. Women in this position have to have the opportunity to get away from violence and have the support to gain the confidence to believe in themselves again. Each Baroness who spoke brought home the message of the need for access to resources to enable women to progress and gain equality.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable and thought provoking start to my entry into the BFWG and can't wait to see what happens next!

Tashia Scott, Winchester



*Marianne Haslegrave taking tea with Baroness Verma
Photo courtesy of Jasmit Kaur Phull*

Tea and Cake in the House of Lords

After a valued opportunity to visit the Supreme Court and a very successful Seminar, we followed Baroness Sharp downstairs to the Attlee Room. Members were looking forward to afternoon tea, giving attendees the chance to sit and discuss the day's events before leaving for the journey home or the evening event. It soon became apparent that this year would be different; yes we did have our view of the river through mul-lioned windows and the sandwiches and cakes were delicious; but the opportunity for our members to exchange views was not suited to a buffet format with very limited seating.

To the credit of the catering staff - when they realised that members were disappointed with the arrangements, they rallied round and opened up more seating spaces and looked after those who were left with extra care.

The Management Team was also quick to respond and explain why there had been a change of plan this year and to apologise to members. So let's hope that those who went home feeling that they had missed the ambience of sitting and taking tea by the Thames, will be prepared to 'give it a go' again next year.

With thanks to BFWG members who had arranged the day - the Westminster Seminar being a star attraction - especially for us Independent Members.

Pam Gavin, Independent

With Thanks

The Management Team, on behalf of members, would like to express their sincere thanks to Gill Clerici for organising the Westminster Seminar and Tours and volunteering to continue in this role for 2011. She has already confirmed Baroness Stern as our sponsor.

Thanks also to Elizabeth Walker for her assistance with the Parliamentary Archives Tour.



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: office@bfwg.org.uk

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@bfwg.org.uk

IFUW AFFILIATED FEDERATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS (65)

The date signifies the year of first affiliation with IFUW

* member of UWE

ALBANIA*	2003	JAPAN	1954
ARGENTINA	1938	KAZAKHSTAN	2010
ARMENIA	1998	KENYA	2010
AUSTRALIA	1922	KOREA	1954
AUSTRIA*	1922	LEBANON	1955
BANGLADESH	1974	MEXICO	1927
BOLIVIA	1956	MOLDOVA*	2001
BRAZIL	1931	MONGOLIA	2001
BULGARIA*	1925	NEPAL	1992
BURKINA FASO	1995	NETHERLANDS*	1921
CAMEROON	1995	NEW ZEALAND	1922
CANADA	1920	NIGERIA	1965
CHILE	1955	NORWAY*	1921
CROATIA*	1995	PAKISTAN	1955
CYPRUS	2000	PHILIPPINES	1948
EGYPT	1931	ROMANIA*	1925
EL SALVADOR	1956	RUSSIA	1992
ENGLAND & WALES*	1919	RWANDA	2010
		SAMOA	2001
ESTONIA*	1926	SCOTLAND*	2007
FIJI	1983	SIERRA LEONE	1977
FINLAND*	1922	SINGAPORE	1994
FRANCE*	1920	SLOVENIA*	1995
GEORGIA	2010	SOUTH AFRICA	1923
GERMANY*	1919	SPAIN	2004
GUINEA	2000	SRI LANKA	2010
HONG KONG	1958	SWEDEN	1921
ICELAND	1928	SWITZERLAND*	1924
INDIA	1921	THAILAND	1948
INDONESIA	1956	TONGA	2001
IRELAND & N IRELAND*	1924	TURKEY*	1955
		USA	2008
ISRAEL	1932	ZIMBABWE	1956
ITALY*	1922		

Impressions of Mexico

Where can I start? This country is amazing. It is beautiful, colourful, teeming with people of so many different backgrounds, mixtures and hues. There are the tiny Indian women who can be no more than four feet tall, with long black, plaited hair, surrounded by children who will probably never go to school. There are ancient monuments like the pyramids to the sun and the moon linked by an enormous square and avenue much as it was many centuries ago. There are ruined palaces from ancient times, and churches to appeal to every taste. Mexico has an identity and relishes it proudly.



Buttresses at Hidalgo's Church
Photo courtesy of Pam Davies

Mexico City is vast, housing some 29 million people, and was originally built by the Aztecs on the top of a volcano for defensive reasons. In time man-made islands were built divided by canals, the remains of which can be seen in the 'floating gardens', now enjoyed by punt. The centre is not unlike any European city, with imposing government buildings, influenced by Spain. There are many green and lush parks and the roads are lined by trees usually with neatly trimmed canopy to give maximum shade over the death trap pavements! Street sellers abound. Traffic is a nightmare.

Behind the imposing buildings are streets with charming houses with elaborate, iron balconies. Some houses are in plain stone, but some are painted the most amazing electric blue, bright mustard or burnt sugar. Such was the house of the artist, Frida Kahlo and her husband, Diego Rivera; a single storey surrounded by a peaceful garden, pool and fountain with various statues of frogs because Frida said Diego looked like one! Her work didn't appeal to me, but Diego Rivera's was really special. Mexicans are justifiably proud of him with his huge frescoes depicting a pictorial history of Mexican struggles decorating the central staircase in the Ministry of Finance. Their history and War of Independence is remembered widely with the imposing gold winged statue of the Angel of Independence soaring above the traffic on its pedestal of marble in the heart of Mexico City.

Before the conference, some 24 of us went on tour up the Freedom Trail to Morelia, via important towns such as Dolores, the cradle of independence, where Hidalgo, a priest, at odds with the Vatican, and happy with a mistress, called for revolt. His church, a wonderful yellow and pink affair in a baroque style, with elaborately shaped buttresses (like curly Cs on their backs) overlooked the town square.

The next stops were San Miguel de Allende and Queretaro, both of which produced famous freedom fighters. The 17th century founders of these towns were immigrants who got rich from the silver in the Sierra Madre. Their mansions reflect their new wealth and a fondness for architecture from back home. In Morelia, a more industrial town, we admired the churches, cathedrals and government buildings. Flashy murals within buildings depicting the history of the freedom fighters are common.

The post conference tour to Oaxaca, a beautiful town to the south, was quite different from other towns. The inside of one church was covered in old frescoes, another had white elaborate plasterwork edged in gold; and there were so many of them, all different. One interesting difference in Mexico is that church statues are covered with cloth.

From Oaxaca our minibus tour explored the impressive ruins of a pre-Hispanic fortress on Monte Alban, and visited an Indian weaving co-operative, traditional potters and artists. We ate in isolated hamlets with the choice of many open pottery bowls of food, kept hot over open fires. We never saw anyone angry or cross despite their poverty the whole time we were there.

Our trip to Oaxaca and Mexico ended with an evening of Mexican dancing. It is delightful to watch - full of fun, flirting, noise from stamping boots, and real enjoyment by the dancers and audience alike.

What a country. Viva Mexico!

Pam Davies, Reading

Celebrating our Achievements and Looking Forward to 2012

In 2012 BFWG celebrates the anniversary of our first Scholarship, awarded to Caroline Spurgeon. Rory Haigh, a Trustee of the Scholarship Fund, has been delving into our history.

Extract from the Annual Report 1 July 1913:

'The Prize Fellowship was this year awarded to Dr MA Whiteley; it is henceforth to be offered if possible, in alternate years to candidates in Arts and Science'.

Report of the Fellowship Committee 1913

'Eight applications were... received for the Fellowship, two in History, two in Literature, one in Physiology, one in Zoology, one in Chemistry and one in Botany. The work submitted was of a high standard and the Committee found great difficulty in deciding between the candidates; after very careful consideration they recommend that the award be made to Dr MA Whiteley [who] ... proposes to devote the Fellowship to the payment of a research assistant and to the purchase of the expensive materials necessary for the continuation of her work.

Miss CE Spurgeon, [recently]... appointed Professor of English Literature in the University of London, hopes that her book *Five Hundred Years of Chaucer Criticism* will be ready for publication during the coming year.'

Prof Edith J Morley – UK's First Female Professor

Edith J Morley started her studies for the Oxford degree in English at the Ladies Department of Kings College London, graduating in 1899. On graduation Edith became a tutor at the Ladies Department. In 1901 Edith was invited to teach Anglo-Saxon at the Reading College, where she rose to Head of the English Department by 1905. In 1907 Reading College became the University of Reading. All department heads, except Edith, were given the title professor. Edith later concluded that the new University 'must have feared that it might suffer if it risked being the first in the British Isles to give a woman the title Professor'. At that time however, she felt compelled to fight the decision and she was finally appointed the first female Professor in the UK in 1908. Edith remained at Reading until her retirement and was a compatriot and close friend of our first scholar Caroline Spurgeon.

Viveynne Rubenstein, BFWG Past President

More information on past scholars and a more detailed background on Professor Morley can be found on the BFWG website.

Su Allen, Acting Editor

Preparation for the Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) Meeting

Chair Baroness Joyce Gould, on behalf of the Women's National Commission (WNC), welcomed 64 delegates to the meeting to discuss the 2012 priority theme of the CSW 55th session next March on *Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work*. Partners had been invited to contribute papers on the theme and BFWG has done, after consulting members on line (submission available on the BFWG website).

The speakers were Loraine Martins, Head of Equality, Inclusion, and Employment & Skills at the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) speaking on the equality priorities of the ODA and the legacy of the 2012 Games; Marion Scott whose topic was the role of the UK Resource Centre (UKRC) to develop and embed a strategic response to support and increase women's participation in Science, Engineering & Technology (SET) given that only 5.35% of working women are in this field; and Professor Averill Macdonald,

Director of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Engagement Centre at Reading University who spoke passionately about supporting women in science, advocating 'Do not be as good as the lads - be better and do it our way'.

Delegates later took part in workshops. I enjoyed one on STEM run by a member of UKRC where we considered the role of gender stereotyping and attitudes in limiting the participation of women in STEM, the effect of the economic downturn on STEM industries and on women, and how to tackle the attrition of women at each stage of the vocational and professional career ladder in SET and STEM—known as 'The leaky pipeline'. The plenary feedback from the workshops was rushed and some rapporteurs rode their own hobby horses rather than reporting objectively on outcomes. The WNC is due to produce a report of the day, and also send feedback to CSW.

Jenny Morley, President-Elect

Sybil Campbell Autumn Lecture, 2010: 'Pen and Parsimony'

Dr Sandy Lerner, the benefactor of Chawton House and Library, provided a fascinating study of the social messages indicated by the carriages mentioned in Jane Austen's novels. A self-confessed addict of the novels, Dr Lerner explained that many points in Jane Austen's eighteenth century novels were not fully understood by a modern reader; using carriages to emphasise her theory, modes of transport she likened to motor cars today.

Carriages are mentioned in Austen's novels 348 times, half in generic terms and half in specific terms; the latter used to indicate a person's wealth or social position. She believed that over the years the knowledge about these vehicles had been lost and the significance of the function of particular vehicles and their attachment to social status misunderstood. We learned that type of carriage, type and number of horses, number of carriages and number of staff accompanying the passengers were all indicators of character and/or social status. For example, the Curricule was

very light and sporty and driven by 'young men about town'; the Ferraris of their time. In contrast, the Chaise with two or four horses and servants was larger, more stable and more comfortable to travel in. However, it was considered staid and unfashionable, particularly as you did not drive yourself.

Dr Lerner gave several specific examples where the use of a particular carriage shed light on the character, citing examples such as General Tilney in Northanger Abbey, a man of wealth, sending Catherine Morland home alone in a Post Chaise, a dangerous way of travelling not suited to a young girl from a good family, putting her in danger in both of her safety and moral standing.

This was an absorbing insight into Jane Austen's novels and the social history of the eighteenth century. I think all who were present will read these stories again with enhanced understanding and interest.

Sue Ouvry, Trustee Sybil Campbell Collection

What BFWG did in Mexico

- Put forward a successful resolution on the promotion of numeracy and supported Canada's resolution on financial literacy.
- Passed constitutional resolutions to improve the way IFUW works.
- Presented workshops on numeracy and financial literacy, attended other workshops, learned of other Federations, discussed common problems and solutions.

And yes, we did do a bit of sightseeing!

Margaret Middlemass, CIR

Academic Awards Committee

We have vacancies for women academics to join the Committee as full members. We also need other women academics who may be reluctant to commit to formal meetings but who are prepared to assess scholarship applications in their disciplines.

All nominees must be active academics currently supervising doctoral students and prepared to assess applications from second year doctoral students at British universities. Applications are assessed mid April - mid May and it is hoped full Committee members will be able to attend two meetings in London each year which short-list and then interview students. The meetings are usually held between mid May and early July. Members need not be members of BFWG although they are encouraged to join. Please send nominations (self nominations acceptable) with brief details of present position and experience to office@bfgw.org.uk

Canterbury and District Association Supports Others

A big 'Thank you' to all BFWG members attending the AGM in Canterbury who contributed to the 'Bring and Buy' sale and to the Raffle. The Bring and Buy raised £180.63 which has been donated to the 2012 Centenary Scholarship Fund. The £278 for the raffle has been donated to the Canterbury Women's Refuge.

The LA holds several charity fund raising events throughout the year. Since January 2010 we have raised, through the generosity of our members, husbands, partners and friends, £231.08 for the Hegg Hoffet Fund, £110 for the Canterbury Women's Refuge and £249.53 from our Summer Lunch. We use £100 of this to provide a prize for a second year student studying at Keynes College, Kent University.

Kate Amos, Canterbury and District

Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Saturday 12 March 2011, 10.30 for 11.00-16.00 at BFWG Office

- Please bring a copy of this agenda and other documents which can be downloaded from the BFWG website, or contact Anna Frost via the Office for hard copies.
- Please confirm your booking using the booking form (enclosed), or email your intention to come to office@bfgw.org.uk by Friday 4 March. Observers are welcome but space is limited to 50 on a first come first served basis.
- We must allocate sufficient time for consideration of the revised draft Constitution. Given the time constraints, all reports should be submitted in writing to Anna Frost by Friday 18 February and any brief updates by Friday 11 March. Any matters raised by LAs should also be submitted by Regional Representatives by the same date.
- Coffee/tea on arrival and a glass of wine at lunchtime will be served. £6 (in cash) will be collected from Observers on arrival. Please bring your own lunch.

1	President's Opening Remarks	<i>Marianne Haslegrave (MH)</i>
2	Apologies for Absence	
3	Minutes of Exec Committee Meeting, 6 March 2010	<i>Anna Frost (AF)</i>
	3.1 Accuracy	
	3.2 Matters arising from the minutes not included elsewhere on Agenda	
4	Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting, 11 July 2010	<i>AF</i>
	4.1 Accuracy	
	4.2 Matters arising from the Minutes, not included elsewhere on agenda	
5	President's report on behalf of the Management Team	<i>MH</i>
	5.1 Review of work of the Management Team	
	5.2 Update on running of the Office	
6	Chair of Finance Committee	<i>Barbara Jackson (BJ)</i>
	6.1 Update/comments	
	6.2 Financial Resolutions	
7	Revised draft Constitution/ Articles of Association	<i>Nest Overend (NO) / Jean MacDonald (JMac)</i>
8	FfWG (BFWG Charitable Foundation)	<i>Elizabeth Slater (ES)</i>
	8.1 Update/comments to written report	
	8.2 Nominations for Governors	
9	Programme Report	<i>Su Allen (SA)</i>
10	Membership	<i>Jasmit Kaur Phull (JP)</i>
11	Public Relations	<i>Jenny Morley (JM)</i>
12	Charities (Scholarships) administered by BFWG	
	12.1 Update/comments	<i>Elizabeth Poskitt (EP)</i>
	12.2 Financial update	<i>Margaret Gotheridge (MG)</i>
	12.3 Academic Awards	<i>EP</i>
	12.4 Sybil Campbell Collection	<i>Cynthia Richmond (CR)</i>
13	Regional Representatives' Reports	<i>Regional Representatives</i>
14	BFWG International Relations	
	14.1 CIR/IFUW Council Member	<i>Margaret Middlemass (MM)</i>
	14.2 CER/UWE Representative	<i>Sheila Youngs (SY)</i>
15	BFWG News	<i>SA</i>
16	Other Reports – update/comments	
17	AGMs 2011 and 2012	
	17.1 Update on arrangements	<i>JM</i>
	17.2 Domestic resolutions	<i>AF</i>
	17.3 General resolutions	<i>AF</i>
	17.4 Nominations received	<i>MH</i>
	17.5 AGM 2012	<i>MH</i>
18	Correspondence (not included elsewhere on the agenda)	<i>MH</i>
19	Any other Business	
20	Date of next meeting	

Lincolnshire BFWG take a journey on the Fosdyke Canal

Enjoying a sunny day out last summer the Lincoln BFs took a historical cruise down the Fosdyke canal on the Brayford Belle: a 40 seat double decker cruise ship complete with a bar and smiling crew ready to provide drinks and a history of Lincoln and the Fosdyke. A 50 minute cruise down the canal provided scenic river-front culture complete with stories about Norman and present day structures that co-exist in ecological harmony. A post-trip lunch at the Royal William on the Brayford waterfront finished the day in culinary style. For current news and the Lincoln BFWG 2011 programme of events visit: lincoln.bfwg.org.uk.

In other news, the BFs supported a coffee morning held at Jasmit Phull's house to raise funds for the Soroptimists' Sierra Leone project. The quadrennial project, *Project Sierra; a Family and a Future* started in 2007. Their goal is to raise £1m to address issues of poverty and illness that lead to the breakdown of families in poor villages in Sierra Leone.

Elizabeth Massey, Lincoln and Lincs



*Lincoln and Lincs members in front of the Brayford Belle
Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Massey*

Eastern Region Meet in Wymondham

The Eastern Regional Meeting was held at the Abbey Hotel, Wymondham, on Saturday 23 October, hosted by the Norfolk and Norwich Association. It was very well-attended: sixteen of our members were present and there were members from North Herts, South Herts and North London as well as Independents from Cambridge. Our National President and President of IFUW, Marianne Haslegrave, was also in attendance.

Marianne updated us on what the Management Committee is doing to increase publicity for BFWG, but she also stressed that we, as individuals, should take every opportunity to publicise the valuable work we do for women's education both at home and world-wide.

Reports were received from Sheila Youngs, retiring Regional Representative, who also gave an account of the International Conference in Mexico City, and from Hilde Betts, the new Regional Representative. Hilde put forward some most interesting ideas for making the Region more cohesive, including topical research which each Association would undertake. This would be followed by a special meeting to pool our results and decide how to take them forward. A venue at Cambridge was immediately offered for such a meeting. There is also the possibility of an exchange visit to the Romanian Federation.

The Norfolk and Norwich Association had organised a raffle which raised £48. The proceeds, originally intended for our Education Award Fund, were unanimously donated to IFUW's Pencils for Pakistan appeal, to provide writing material specifically for girls in Northern Pakistan which is still badly affected by flooding.

After lunch we enjoyed an interesting guided tour of Wymondham Abbey and the sun came out just in time to shine on the marvellous golden reredos which, we were told, is unique in Europe. It was a fitting end to a good meeting.

Joan Wheatley, Norfolk and Norwich

Norfolk and Norwich Make Award to Local Sixth Former



*L to R: Margaret Garwood, award winner Christine McHardy and Peter Mayne,
Principal of Paston Sixth Form College
Photo courtesy of Joan Wheatley,*

Norfolk and Norwich Association Education Consultant, Margaret Garwood, presents The Betty Robinson Education Award to Christine McHardy of Paston Sixth Form College, North Walsham. Each year the Local Association present an award of £200 and a Certificate to a Sixth Form student, chosen from a different school or college in Norfolk/Norwich.

Margaret Garwood, Norfolk and Norwich.

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@bfwg.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 afrost@bfwg.org.uk or contact the office

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

Consultation on Revisions to the BFWG Constitution

Saturday 8 January, 2011

10.30 for 11.00-15.30 at BFWG Office

The meeting is primarily to give Members of Voting Executive Committee an opportunity to meet with the President and a Constitutional Advisor to be appraised of the suggested revisions so far identified through the work of the Group set up at the 2010 AGM and due to report finally to the 2011 AGM and Council.

The day includes a Workshop for Regional Representatives to input ideas from their LAs and Independent Members. Any paperwork in preparation for the meeting will go on the Website under the Members Only Section, once received. Post the meeting Regional Representatives can report back to LAs and Independent members. It is anticipated that the revised draft Constitution will be presented to the Executive on 12 March 2011.

Any members are welcome; however due to space limitations we suggest that no more than two members per LA attend at their LA's or own expense. Input can also be given through the Regional Representatives.

Please indicate your intention to attend by completing the booking form by Wednesday 5 January 2011 or sending an email to afrost@bfgw.org.uk.

Meet the IFUW/BFWG President

Saturday 29 January 2011

10.30 for 11.00-15.00 at BFWG Office

A chance for International Independent and BFWG Independent Members and newer members of BFWG to meet the IFUW/BFWG President, to find out more about the organisations and to network.

A sandwich lunch and refreshments will be provided.

If you wish to attend, please complete the relevant section of the booking form and return it to the office or email:

office@bfgw.org.uk

by Monday 24 January 2011

Spring Regional Meetings

Northern

Saturday 26 March 2011

the Lecture Hall, Ockbrook Moravian Settlement, Derby

Further details from Su Allen

suallen@bfgw.org.uk 01332 676994

Mercia and Wales

Saturday 2 April 2011

Bishop Allenby Hall, St Stephen's Church, Droitwich Road, Worcester

Cost £12.50 Further details from Clare Dickson

office@bfgw.org.uk 01905 355338

Southern

Saturday 9 April 2011 in Canterbury

Speaker: Sari Firkia Weaver – Chair of Canterbury and District Domestic Violence Forum

The importance of multi-agency work in tackling domestic violence

Cost £25.00 Further details from Ann Temple

ann@temple.orangehome.co.uk 01227 771751

Meeting of the Executive Committee

Saturday 12 March 2011

10.30 for 11.00-16.00 at BFWG Office

For Agenda see Page 6 of this issue of News

For booking details, see booking form

Cost £6 at the door for Observers

Please bring your own lunch

BFWG visit to

European Parliament Brussels

Monday 7 – Thursday 10 February 2011

For more information please contact Sheila Youngs, CER at sheilayoungs@bfgw.org.uk

Tel: 020 8363 2920

Although the booking deadline has passed there may still be space available

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.

BFWG 101st AGM & CONFERENCE 1-3 JULY 2011



at **Dartington Hall, Dartington, nr Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EL**

Towards A Better Future

Registration Form

Please: Complete the form in CAPITAL LETTERS in black ink.

SEND the original

PLUS a photocopy of the completed form

PLUS a stamped, self addressed A5 envelope

PLUS a cheque made payable to BFWG Conference Account

TO: Christel Moor, 39 Nackington Road, CANTERBURY, Kent, CT1 3NP.

Please put BFWG clearly on the envelope.

Telephone: 01227 458829

e-mail: christel.moor@yahoo.co.uk

Enquiries: Jenny Morley, Walnut Cottage, Chapel Lane, Lower Downgate, Nr Callington, Cornwall, PL17 8LA

Telephone: 01579 371057

e-mail: jmorley@bfgw.co.uk

Dartington Hall

(www.dartingtonhall.com)

is set in 1200 acres of countryside amidst listed Gardens, and is a Grade I listed, medieval building, arranged as a Courtyard. It is a totally 'no smoking' environment. 30 rooms are en-suite, and a further 15 have private bathrooms, some of which have full bath. Double and twin rooms are available for members attending with partners.

SPECIAL OFFER

For bookings paid before 28 February 2011, the registration fee is reduced. Other fees stated are for bookings received before 31 May. Bookings received after 31 May - if space is still available - will be subject to a late booking fee of £15.

Alterations or cancellations of bookings incur a BFWG cancellation fee of £10 plus Dartington Hall charges: 4 weeks before the event 100%; 4-8 weeks 50%; 8 weeks or more 20%. Cancellations after 2 June will receive no refund. (Cancellation and personal property insurance is advised).

NB: All members intending to come to AGM and Conference MUST register and pay day registration even if staying elsewhere.

ALL BOOKINGS ARE TO BE MADE THROUGH BFWG, NOT VIA THE HALL

NAME

Please tick room & bathroom preferences:

Single

Double

Twin room

En-suite

Private bathroom

With bath

With shower

Are you prepared to share a room with another delegate if we run out of rooms? A price adjustment would be made (details overleaf)

No

Yes

sharing with.....



NAME **TITLE**

E-MAIL ADDRESS

ADDRESS

..... **POST CODE**

TELEPHONES: Home..... **Mobile**.....

NAME OF BFWG ASSOCIATION/INDEPENDENT Independent

AGM VOTING STATUS (if known): Voting Executive Delegate Proxy Observer

NAME OF RESIDENT GUEST:

	Guest	Member	£ Total
REGISTRATION FEES			
Full Conference Early Registration (before 28 Feb)	£20	£35	_____
Conference Registration (1 March - 31 May)	£35	£50	_____
Day Delegate Saturday	N/A	£25	_____
Day Delegate Sunday	N/A	£15	_____
Additional late booking fee (after 31 May)	£15	£15	_____

ACCOMMODATION & Conference Facilities (incl VAT @ 20%) PER PERSON			
2 nights full board with English breakfast 1-3 July (Fri tea-Sunday buffet lunch incl. Sat Conf. Dinner)		£275	_____
*2 nights as above, sharing with another delegate		£245	_____
*2 nights own room, sharing a bathroom/shower (2 others)		£265	_____
1 night Residential 2-3 July (Sat tea, Sat Conf. Dinner, B&B, Sunday Buffet lunch)		£145	_____
2 night Residential Partner Rate (B&B, both Dinners, no lunch)		£160	_____
<i>*This package only available after 45 singles are booked</i>			

NON-RESIDENTS (Day registration fees also need to be paid)			
Day Delegate's Rate (Conf. Facilities & lunch)		£45	_____
Saturday 2 July, 3 course Conference Dinner (and 2 wine)		£40	_____
		TOTAL	_____

Please state as appropriate

Name of Dinner Guests

Parking required Disabled parking needed

Wheelchair access required Ground Floor room required (no lift)

Special dietary requirements - please give details

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BFWG AGM and Conference 1-3 July 2011

Dartington Hall, Dartington, nr Totnes, Devon

PROGRAMME

Friday 1 July

- From 16.00 Registration and tea in Great Hall
19.00 Hot buffet dinner in Great Hall
20.30 Caucus to discuss draft of revised Constitution – nominated member from each Local Association, nominated Independents' representative, Executive Committee and Observers to attend

Saturday 2 July

- 7.30 Breakfast in White Hart Dining Room
8.00 Registration
9.00 Business session
10.30 Coffee in Great Hall
11.00 Conference session/ Keynote Speaker
13.00 Lunch (cold fork buffet) in Great Hall
14.00 Business session
16.00 Tea in Great Hall
16.30 Workshop sessions
18.00 Session ends
19.00 President's Reception
19.30 Conference dinner in Great Hall

Sunday 3 July

- 7.30 Breakfast in White Hart Dining Room
8.00 Registration
9.00 AGMs of FfWVG, BFWG Scholarship Fund and Sybil Campbell Collection Report back from Workshops
11.00 Coffee in Great Hall
11.30 Business session - End of conference
13.00 Lunch (cold fork buffet) in Great Hall

INFORMATION

'Being in a place of beauty liberates the mind and spirit. We call it the Dartington Effect'



Choosing an AGM and Conference venue other than a University Campus is a break with tradition, and is in response to Members' requests for more comfortable rooms. The costs are in keeping, and please note the MUCH earlier Registration needed to offer best value to Members. The Dartington Hall Trust runs the accommodation to support the aims of the Trust in advancing the arts, social justice and sustainability, and to enable the upkeep of the listed buildings. The hammer-beamed Great Hall where we will dine and take coffee is a scheduled Ancient Monument. The well appointed bedrooms are in Grade I listed buildings to the east and west of this Hall, set around a courtyard completed by the 14th Century Gatehouse building. The AGM will take place in the Upper Gatehouse which can be accessed by stairs from the front or from a path behind. Dartington Hall is the largest medieval house in the West of England, and is set in lovely Grade 2 listed gardens and extensive grounds, with 350 acres of woodland and three miles of river bank. The promise given is - 'as the atmosphere of beauty and tranquillity refreshes the soul, our award winning food will take care of the body'.

History: This neglected estate was rescued by Dorothy and Leonard Elmshirst in 1925. They transformed an ailing rural economy through their conviction that art, education, research and work could be integrated into an abundant life for all. This is where the Welfare State manifesto for the post-war government was drafted, where the idea of making glass in North Devon was dreamed up, where progressive education flowered, and where radical child protection policies were debated and drafted.

Access: Dartington Hall is reached easily by road, being a short drive from the A38. It is a short taxi ride from Totnes Station where trains from London Paddington stop frequently.

Accompanying Persons Programme: This will be on a pay as you go basis. Suggestions include a river trip from Totnes to Dartmouth or Dartmoor walk and pub lunch. A Guided tour of the gardens is also available at £6.

Jenny Morley, President-Elect

Vacant Positions and Those Requiring Confirmation

Nominations are needed for the following positions.

If you are considering applying for any of these positions and would like further information, please contact Marianne Haslegrave or any other member of the Management Team

■ ELECTIONS

Vice-President	Jenny Morley, President from July 2011; nominations are therefore requested for Vice-President.
Vice-President	Jasmit Kaur Phull retires as Vice-President in July 2011; nominations are therefore requested for Vice-President.
Vice-President	Anna Frost was appointed for 1 year and is willing to stand for a further 2 years.
CIR	Margaret Middlemass has served 2 terms; nominations are requested.
CER	Sheila Youngs was appointed for 1 year and is willing to stand for a further 2 years.
Alternates CIR and CER	Nominations are requested for CIR and CER Alternates.
Regional Representatives	Robin Ketteringham retires as Southern Regional Representative; nominations are requested.
Regional Alternates	Southern; nominations are requested.
Chairman Finance Committee/ Treasurer	Barbara Jackson retires as Chairman of the Finance Committee in July 2011; nominations are requested.
Finance Committee Members	Vacancies to be confirmed.
Editor BFWG News	Nominations are requested for Editor of BFWG News.
Editorial Committee	Nominations are requested for 2 members of the Editorial Committee.
Academic Awards Committee	Committee Members are required – see BFWG News Winter 2010/11 page 6.
Scholarship Fund Trustees	Margaret Middlemass & Christel Moor are to resign as Trustees; both are eligible and willing to stand again but other nominations are welcome.
Scholarship Fund Finance Committee	Vacancies to be confirmed.

■ APPOINTMENTS

BFWG Nominee Shareholders	Monica Hunter appointed for 1 year; to be confirmed for a further 2 years.
Sybil Campbell Collection*	Three Trustees were appointed at the AGM in 2010; a further 3 Trustees to be appointed.
Independents Liaison	Elizabeth Poskitt has completed a term and wishes to step down; volunteer sought.
Website Administrator	Sheila Stevens is willing to continue, however volunteers are welcome.
Alternate Website Administrator	This is a new post; volunteer sought.

■ VACANCIES FOR FFWG (BFWG CHARITABLE FOUNDATION) CHARITY NO: 312903

Governor	At least 1 vacancy with a possible further 4 vacancies.
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*The BFWG Sybil Campbell Collection is now an independent charity but BFWG continues to appoint the Trustees. The new Trust should have a minimum of three Trustees with the following experience; membership of the Management Team, experience with charities and/or financial management. In addition current expertise in the literature and culture of the late 18th to early 20th centuries would be an advantage.

Resolutions for AGM

Resolutions for the AGM should be sent to the BFWG Office or emailed to
office@bfgw.org.uk
and copied to Anna Frost
afrost@bfgw.org.uk
by 31 January 2011

BFWG National Events

Booking Form 2010/11-2



British Federation of Women Graduates
4 Manselville Courtyard
142 Battersea Park Road
London SW11 4NB
Tel 020-7498 8037
Fax 020-7498 5213
Website: www.bfwg.org.uk
e-mail: info@bfwg.org.uk

Spring/Summer 2011

As this is a multi-purpose Booking Form, please complete slips, as appropriate in CAPITAL LETTERS (one per member) and send them to BFWG HQ, unless otherwise directed as soon as possible, but at least 5 days before the event in question.

Capacity for events at the BFWG Office is 50, so registration will be on a first come first served basis. Unless otherwise stated the price per head includes tea, coffee and biscuits and a glass of wine/juice. Please bring your own sandwich lunch.

Cheques for events, unless otherwise identified below, should be made payable to BFWG and can include as many events as you wish. Alternatively, you may send a group cheque; in this case include a list of all attendees.

Cancellations, notified at least 7 days before the event, will be reimbursed less £6.00 cancellation fee.

Please note that all members, particularly Independent and Corporate members, are very welcome.

You may like to record events for which you have registered:

- Consultation on the Constitution Meet the President Executive Committee
 Research Presentations



Saturday 21 May

PhD Research Presentations

10.30 for 11.00 £10 including lunch

BFWG Office

Reply by post to the Office or to suallen@bfwg.org.uk
by 13 May 2011

Name

Address

Postcode Tel:

Email

LA/Indep/ Corp

Date

Saturday 12 March

Executive Committee Meeting

10.30 for 11.00 £6

BFWG Office

Reply by post to the Office or to afrost@bfwg.org.uk
by 4 March 2011

Name

Address

Postcode Tel:

Email

LA/Indep/ Corp

Date



Saturday 29 January 2011

Meet the IFUW/BFWG President

10.30 for 11.00 £5

BFWG Office

Reply by post to the Office or to office@bfwg.org.uk
by 24 January 2011

Name

Address

Postcode Tel:

Email

LA/Indep/ Corp

Date

Saturday 8 January 2011

Consultation on revisions to the BFWG Constitution

10.30 for 11.00 £6

BFWG Office

Reply by post to the Office or to afrost@bfwg.org.uk
by 5 January 2011

Name

Address

Postcode Tel:

Email

LA/Indep/ Corp

Date

