



Huddersfield Association Celebrates its 88th Birthday

The Huddersfield Association's 88th Birthday Lunch was held in February and 19 members and six guests attended. The Huddersfield Association's 2010/11 postgraduate academic award was presented by the President to Belinda Bluff from the University of Huddersfield for her on-going research into the low educational achievement of children who have lived in care. A national postgraduate award was presented to Hannah Russ of Bradford University by Beth Massey, the Northern Region Alternate, for Hannah's research into *Paeleolithic Fishing Patterns in Europe*. Both prize winners gave short and interesting outlines of their respective research to the meeting.

After a delicious buffet lunch provided by the members, Eileen Twigg entertained the meeting with an account of a visit to the European Parliament in Brussels, which she had made with Betty Hill and Margo Weston, independently of the larger BFWG group visiting at the same time. They had a private tour of the building and met with our region's MEP for an hour over coffee and were able to raise a number of questions with her of particular interest to women. They also managed a day tour to Bruges and a seemingly endless number of visits to very nice restaurants!

All in all a very successful occasion.

Barbara Sherwood, President, Huddersfield

INSIDE

- International visitors.....Page 1
- LA Celebrations.....Pages 1&2
- IFUW Action.....Page 4
- AGM Programme.....Page 5
- Executive Report.....Pages 5-6
- Brussels Seminar.....Page 6
- Regional Metings.....Pages 3&7

Perfecting the Art of Friendship

On Wednesday 24 March, the North London & South Herts. Association was delighted to be able to entertain Galina Kislik, President of the Moscow Federation.

Galina was taking a week's holiday and this was her first visit to England. She had expressed a wish if possible to meet up with any BFWG members in the London area, where she was staying, who might be free. We were quite surprised that she accepted our suggestion to attend our regular committee meeting, preceded by lunch, and to make her own way to the venue by Underground where she was met by car at a prearranged time. She had already taken a tour to Windsor, Bath and Stonehenge the previous day and intended spending the rest of her time in London visiting museums and art galleries.



L to R: Galina Kislik, Heather Hawkes, Sheila Youngs
Photo courtesy of Sheila Youngs

We learned from their website in advance of her visit that the Moscow Federation of Women with University Education, which forms part of the larger Russian Federation, was formed in 2000 and currently consists of 24 members, half of whom have PhDs or other academic or administrative qualifications, mainly connected with the Moscow State University and similar institutions. We very much enjoyed exchanging ideas with Galina who is keen for a group of BFWG members to come to Moscow.

Sheila Youngs, North London & South Herts



Elizabeth Gautschi, President of the University Women's Club of Vancouver
Photo courtesy of Gerhard von Rosen
www.GaiaPix.com

Heather Hawkes met Elizabeth Gautschi, President of the University Women's Club of Vancouver, for lunch at the British Library during her visit to England for a family 100th birthday party.

Elizabeth is shown at the entrance to their beautiful clubhouse 'Hycroft' on the occasion of the building's centenary, for which celebration an English Tea and Fashion Show were organised - hence the very elegant attire!

The Club was founded in 1907 and has about 400 members in Vancouver itself, quite apart from smaller associations around the province. The age range is 29 to 99 and numerous committees provide scope for an energetic membership. Elizabeth has come to the end of her 2-year term as President.

I have to say I found our meeting particularly congenial as I have relatives in British Columbia and through visiting them over the years have learned something of the territory.

Heather Hawkes, President, North London & South Herts

British Federation of Women Graduates
THE VOICE OF WOMEN GRADUATES
Founded 1907

Patron: The Baroness Greenfield, CBE

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)

Next Issue: Autumn 2011

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

by 19 August 2011

Despatched by: 23 September 2011

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

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

BFWG News is the official journal of the British Federation of Women Graduates
Reg. No: 278795 England
a Company limited by guarantee.
Scholarship Registered Charity No: 273043
The BFWG Charitable Foundation is BFWG's wholly owned subsidiary.

© BFWG and contributors

Editorial

As Easter draws to a close it's hard to believe that this is the final editorial of the year for BFWG News. With the limited timescale between the Spring and Summer editions I was *slightly* concerned that there would not be enough articles to fill this copy but members have, once again, supplied numerous articles on their activities.

In this edition members report on anniversary celebrations of their Local Associations, support for female students and international friendship with BFWG members welcoming visitors from overseas through the IFUW network.

Post the March Executive meeting, three of our four regions held their AGMs; of course, all meetings included a good lunch, a social aspect to the day and a chance for both members of Local Associations and Independents to meet up and renew friendships. The Eastern Region's date and contact for their Autumn meeting is listed on the Bulletin Board, page 8.

Internationally, reports are included on the Brussels seminar on *Promoting Women and Entrepreneurship in a European Context* and the IFUW Programme for Action for this triennium; the cross-cutting theme is *Education for the Realisation of Rights of Girls and Women*. As you plan your next year's programme, and beyond, consider including at least one meeting on the IFUW theme in your programme.

Finally, BFWG members will certainly still be very active this summer. Over the next few months members will participate in our Postgraduate Research Presentation Day, the Higher Education Colloquium at Senate House, the UWE conference in Antalya, Turkey, our AGM at Dartington Hall and a visit to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. If you are unable to attend then look for updates on the BFWG website and the next instalment in the Autumn News.

Su Allen, Acting Editor

Norfolk and Norwich Association's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The Norfolk and Norwich Association celebrated its sixtieth anniversary on 25 March with a lunch at Norwich City College Catering Department. The meal was cooked and served by students of the College. The lunch was very well attended and it was delightful to have four of the Founder Members present, two of whom still regularly attend meetings.

We were fortunate in having National President, Marianne Haslegrave, as our main Speaker. Marianne commented on the success of the Association as shown by its increasing membership and she also reminisced about her first visit to the Association some years ago when, apparently, we gave her a hard time!

The Association President then spoke about the history of the early days of the Norfolk and Norwich, starting with some interesting comparisons between 1951 and the present day. She emphasised how we had always tried to fulfil the main aims of the Federation, particularly with regard to the education of girls. All present then drank a toast to the continuing success of the Norfolk and Norwich Association.

Joan Wheatley, Norfolk and Norwich



Four Founder members of Norfolk & Norwich Association
L-R: Ruth Gamble, Dr Mollie Richards, Leslie Swindells
and Lynette Rust
Photo courtesy of Joan Wheatley

Reports for the AGM & Candidate Profiles

will be available for download from the secure area of the BFWG website

If you require a paper copy, please contact Anna Frost at afrost@bfgw.org.uk or contact the office by 20 June 2011

President's Notes

After three years of wondering what I am going to write about in each issue of News, I find this my final notes remarkably easy.

Looking at BFWG in 2011, our membership is beginning to increase and in addition to our usual range of programme activities, we have had two innovations - a very successful meeting at the European Parliament as well as the Colloquium on Female Leadership in Higher Education.

At the AGM we will vote on a 'slimmed-down' version of our Articles of Association and we are now operating with a very small administration, but one that befits a small but effective organisation - the BFWG of today. We can communicate through News, the website and by email, and get together for local, and regional, as well as national level meetings. And there is much more....

I see our greatest achievement during the past three years as

bringing down a deficit of over £28,000 in 2007 to possibly a 'break even' in 2010.

None of these could have been achieved without the support of the Management Team, the Executive Committee, the Chairman and members of the Finance Committee and so many others including you the members.

I know that many of you won't be able to be with us for the AGM, so I want to say 'thank you' so much for your support over the past three years.

As of 4 July (Independence Day in the other country I know very well), I look forward to working on other priorities and spending more time doing things like wandering along the beach and going to the gym. After all, having taken pounds off our deficit, I can now work on taking some more pounds (lbs) off me!

Marianne Haslegrave, President



Southern Region AGM

Canterbury Local Association hosted the AGM of the Southern Region of BFWG on 9 April. In the morning we were addressed by Siri Sirkia-Weaver from the Canterbury Domestic Abuse Forum. Her first chilling challenge was that of the 40 or so attendees at least some - probably four or five - would at some time have experienced domestic abuse, which includes not just physical violence but also emotional, verbal and economic conflicts. Domestic violence is the biggest killer worldwide of women aged 16 to 30, with pregnancy being a particularly dangerous time. One in three women experience violence in the home at some time during their lives. 750 thousand children are also involved each year and one of the local initiatives is a programme on teenage relationships to help form better scenarios in the next generation. Siri welcomed the Government's commitment of £28 million and the recent statement from the Home Secretary, Theresa May, concerning initiatives to end violence to women and girls.

After lunch the AGM took place in the afternoon. The retiring Regional Representative, Robin Ketteringham, gave a report of the Executive Meeting she had attended at BFWG HQ in March, and Jenny Morley, BFWG Vice President, attending to represent the Management Team, contributed some updates. Jean Cockling (Reading) will take over as Regional Representative in September. Susan Miles (Independent) is the Alternate. Christine Miles reported on the African schoolgirl who the region help to support. The Region has 119 members in three LAs plus 25 Independent members. Sheila Stevens, the Regional website administrator, reported that the hits had dropped from 300 per month to only 65. The Treasurer sent her report and the finances are in good shape so no capitation needs to be taken for the forthcoming year. After a short discussion it was decided to send £200 towards the 2012 Centennial Scholarship fund. Christel Moor ran a Raffle in aid of this fund which raised over £90. Ann Temple, Canterbury LA President and her team were thanked for an interesting and enjoyable day.

Jenny Morley, Independent

The Members of the Executive have approved the nominations of **Gillian Ramsay and Susan Miles** as new Trustees of the Scholarship Fund. To be confirmed by members at the 2011 AGM.

In Memoriam

BFWG remember our members who we have been informed have passed away since the last AGM.

Barbara Harris	Canterbury
Margaret Jones	Huddersfield
Jean Murray	Assoc Member Worcs
Dr Jean Murray Naylor	Liverpool
Margaret Ross	Canterbury
Linda Shine	Sutton Coldfield
Joyce Sugden	Huddersfield
Millicent Wilmot	Canterbury

Canterbury & District's Annual Prize Winner



*Joanna Birkitt receiving her prize from Ann Temple, President of Canterbury and District Association
Photo courtesy of Barbara Jackson*

Every year, Canterbury and District Association gives a prize of £100 to a student at Keynes College, University of Kent, chosen for excellent work. This year, the Master, Dr Anthony Ward, arranged a lunch-time buffet for us to present the cheque to the winner, a young woman called Joanna Birkett who is a third-year Clinical Psychology student. The presentation was made by Ann Temple, President of the Canterbury Association.

Barbara Jackson, Canterbury & District



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@bfgw.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@bfgw.org.uk

Romania Friendship Visit

The Romanian Federation has invited BFWG members to participate in a 'Friendship Tour' on 9-12 September 2011. The visit is based in the historic town of Sibiu in Transylvania. Various tours and talks are arranged, including a walking tour of Sibiu with a visit to the Brukenthal museum, and trips to the castle at Cetatea Cisnadioara and a visit to the medieval town of Sighisoara. More details are listed on the calendar of the BFWG website.

If you intend to participate then could you please indicate your interest asap by contacting Sheila Youngs, CER at sheilayoungs@bfgw.org.uk. We may be able to investigate the possibility of a group booking at a hotel in Sibiu.

Sheila Youngs, CER

Bina Roy Partners in Development

The process for awarding Bina Roy funds has changed. In the past we could pay some or all of the other NFA's fees to IFUW on their behalf, in exchange for them spending an equivalent sum on a local project. This was designed to help developing countries for whom currency exchange to Swiss francs was especially difficult. While this fostered some close links, it was no longer felt to be the best way to choose the projects most deserving support, and funds are now accumulated in Geneva so NFAs can bid for help for any project they wish to undertake. Awards of between 1,000 and 2,000 Swiss francs are to be given in June for the year 2011/12. Recent projects have included promotion of Mbororo Women's sexual and reproductive rights in Cameroon and promoting adult women's literacy skills in Nepal (perhaps they can extend that to numeracy!)

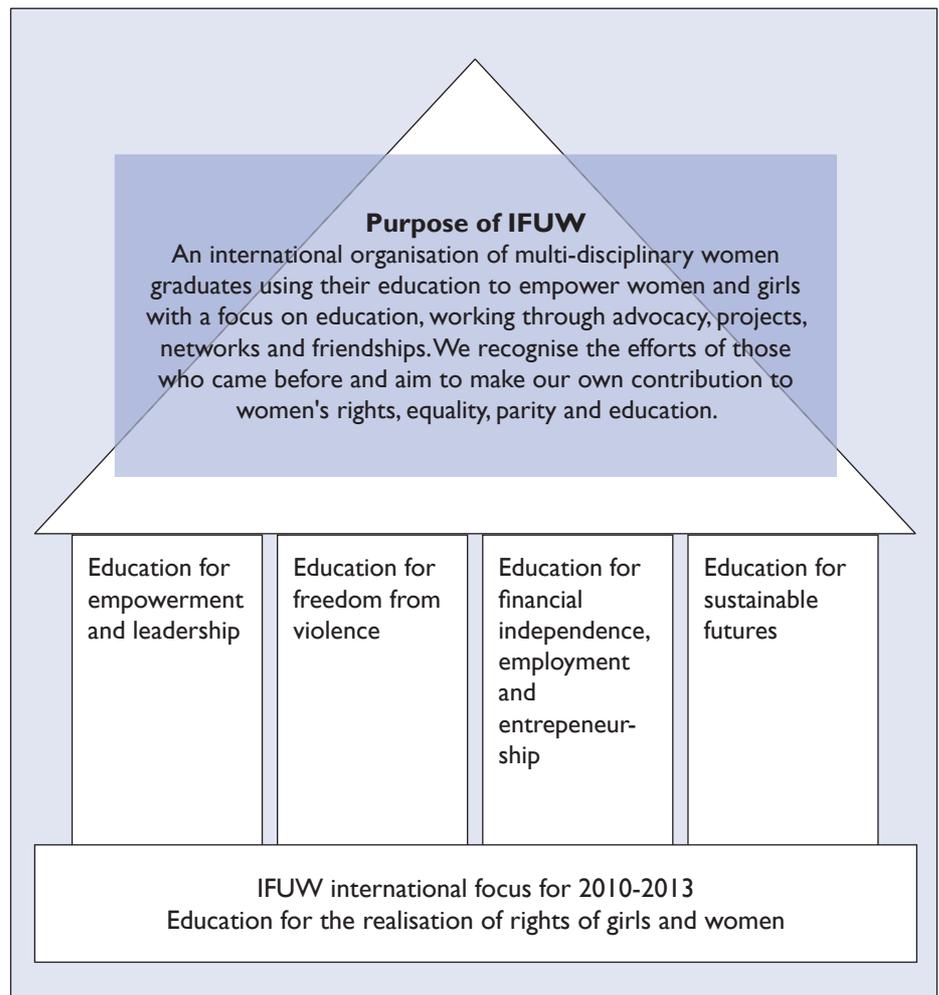
Margaret Middlemass, CIR

IFUW's Programme for Action

The first major IFUW initiative directly resulting from discussions in Mexico was the launch in February 2011 of the new Programme for Action – *The power of education in effecting change* - via the four themes: *Education for Empowerment and Leadership, Education for Freedom from Violence, Education for Financial Independence, Employment and Entrepreneurship and Education for Sustainable Futures*. A copy of the outline from IFUW's resources is on our BFWG website. Please use it to ensure that your Local Association (LA) builds this (not all of it, but something from it) into your programme over the next two years.

IFUW's comments are 'Managing change that leads to sustainable futures calls for adaptability, innovation, and the capacity to develop effective solutions. Fair and just economic and social development, gender equity, and cultural and religious diversity must form part of any such solutions. IFUW believes that education, both formal and informal, underpins effective change.

The themes of the pillars have been chosen through extensive consultation with the membership. They represent suggested areas in which IFUW's national federations and associations (NFAs) can work to further their own aims, while contributing to those of IFUW. We recognise that NFAs have different situations, needs and interests and should select actions relevant to them. The four pillars define the ongoing Programme for Action to be undertaken by NFAs. This programme is meant to inspire all members with possibilities for collaborative work to further the purposes of our organisation'.



A special cross-cutting theme has been chosen as a focus for work at the international level for the next three years: *Education for the Realisation of Rights of Girls and Women*.

Margaret Middlemass, CIR

101st BFWG AGM & Conference Programme Dartington Hall, near Totnes, Devon 1-3 July 2011

Friday 1 July

- 14.00 Register and collect room keys from Reception onwards Welcome Centre (ref i on Map)
- 16.00-16.30 Tea in the Great Hall (ref 22 on Map)
- 18.00 Optional pre-dinner drinks in the White Hart Bar (ref 21)
- 19.00 Hot Buffet Dinner in the Great Hall (ref 22)
- 20.30 Caucus Meeting on Revised Articles final version and discussion on forthcoming revision of By-laws: Members of the Executive, Representative from each LA and Independents' Representatives to attend. Observers Welcome. Upper Gatehouse Meeting Room (above Reception)

Saturday 2 July

- 07.30 Breakfast in White Hart Dining Room
- 09.00 Business Session 1 in Upper Gatehouse (UG) (see Agenda in Spring News - please bring)
- 10.30 Coffee in the Great Hall (GH)
- 11.00 Conference Session: Keynote Address by Dr Christine Allison, Project Development Manager of the Devon School for Social Entrepreneurs (UG)
- 13.00 Cold Fork Buffet Lunch (GH)
- 14.00 Business Session 2 (UG)
- 15.30 Tea (GH)
- 16.00-17.00 Workshop sessions: Resolution Action (UG), National Theme 2011-2013 (Griffith room), Revival (Ship Studio) (locations TBC)
- 19.00 President's Reception in the Private Garden (behind Great Hall) if fine
- 19.30 Conference Dinner in the Great Hall

Sunday 3 July

- 07.30 Breakfast in the White Hart Dining Room
- 09.00 AGM of BFWG Charitable Foundation (FfWG) (UG)
AGM of the BFWG Scholarship Fund
Report from the BFWG Sybil Campbell Collection Trust
Feedback from Workshop sessions and discussion
- 11.00 Coffee (GH)
- 11.30 Business Session 3: End of Conference
- 13.00 Cold fork buffet lunch in the Great Hall

AGM of Trustees of the Scholarship Fund

Sunday 3 July 2011

Agenda

1. Welcome by Chairman of Trustees
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of meeting held on Sunday 11 July 2010
4. Report of the Scholarship Fund Finance Committee
5. Approval of accounts
6. Reappointment of auditors
7. Report of the work of the Trust 2010-2011
8. Centenary Award 2012
9. Confirmation and appointment of new trustees
10. AOB
11. Date of next meeting

Report of the Executive to the AGM

This year has been a time of consolidation and innovation. Members of the Management Team have worked hard undertaking various tasks associated with the functioning of an organisation such as BFWG with support particularly from other members of the Executive and help from individual members in so many ways.

Members of the Management Team have again had their own portfolios: Programme and News – Su Allen; Membership – Jasmit Kaur Phull; Finance, Website oversight and Public Relations – Jenny Morley; Administration and Colloquium – Anna Frost; and Working Group on Articles of Association and CER Liaison – Marianne Haslegrave. At least one member of the Management Team has participated in each programme and regional activity. Minutes of the Management Team and Executive Committee are posted on the secure area of the website, to enhance transparency and accountability.

Thanks to the efforts of our two Constitutional Advisers and other members of the small Working Group established for the purpose, the Articles of Association have been revised. They have been reviewed by the Executive Committee, following an additional meeting of voting members in January at which the first draft was discussed. The AGM will have before it for adoption both the amendments to the existing Articles and the proposed Articles. The next task is to complete the Bylaws to accompany the Articles.

Once again the Finance Committee, under the chairmanship of Barbara Jackson, has ensured that our expenditures have been contained and has worked with our financial adviser to maintain the income on our investments. Because of our prudent financial management, we have again been able to maintain the capitation fee at the same level. The Federation has been given a gift of £30,000 from the Kathleen and Margery Elliott Trust, which has been wound up and its assets distributed, in addition to one additional bequest of £1,000.

The Westminster Seminar, the subject for which was *Towards a Better Future* was held in the House of Lords in October. It was sponsored by Baroness Sandip Verma of Leicester, currently a Government Whip and Spokesperson for the Cabinet Office, International Development and Equalities and Women's Issues, and addressed by Baronesses Helen Newlove, Vivien Stern, Haleh Afshar and Margaret Sharp.

The International Relations Day was held in Birmingham in November, at which members discussed resolutions passed and information gleaned at the International Federation of University Women Triennial Conference (IFUW) in Mexico City in August 2010. An additional International Relations meeting to meet the IFUW President was organised in January 2011 at the BFWG Office. In addition to the current IFUW President, Marianne Haslegrave, two previous IFUW and BFWG Presidents, Griselda Kenyon and Elizabeth Poskitt, were also present, together with nine international members of IFUW.

In December a meeting with other small member organisations of the Women's National Commission (WNC), which was closed at the end of December, was planned but had to be cancelled because of bad weather. It was hoped (but not possible) to re-schedule this meeting in May 2011. Meanwhile, BFWG responded to the Women's Engagement Consultation sent out by the Government Equalities Office (GEO) that has been given responsibility for making women's voices heard by the Government.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

Thirty-four members of BFWG participated in a visit to Brussels, arranged by the CER Sheila Youngs. The visit included briefings at the British Council Office, the British Representation to the EU, which is also the British Embassy, and a tour of the Parliament Building. A Seminar on the theme of *Women Entrepreneurs and the EU* was held in the Parliament Building, sponsored and chaired by the London MEP, Marina Yannakoudakis. Speakers at the Seminar included Deborah Leary OBE, a former international Women's Entrepreneur of the Year and Sally Goodsell, the CEO of Finance South East.

In May BFWG organised a Colloquium at Senate House, London University, on *Female Leadership in Higher Education: Overcoming barriers – real or imagined?* chaired by Professor Joy Carter, Vice Chancellor of the University of Winchester and Professor Muriel Robinson, Principal of Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln. Speakers included Professor Mary Evans, of the Gender Institute, London School of Economics &

Political Science, Professor Teresa Rees, of the School of Social Sciences, University of Cardiff and Nicola Dandridge, Chief Executive, Universities UK. Senior academics, including one Chancellor and six Vice Chancellors accepted invitations to participate. A Research Presentations Day for women studying for PhD/DPhil to present their research was also held at the BFWG Office in May.

The MT and the Executive continue to be aware of the importance of recruitment and retention of members and are pleased that our numbers show a small increase. We now have a new badge and are developing a new leaflet on BFWG. We also have an interactive website and BFWG News as means of communication. Emphasis on promoting membership, together with a strong programme, increasing visibility of the organisation and containing of expenses will lead to an even brighter future for BFWG.

Marianne Haslegrave, on behalf of the Executive Committee

Seminar: Women Entrepreneurs and the EU February 2011 European Parliament, Brussels

The chair and sponsor of our Seminar, **Marina Yannakoudakis**, a conservative MEP for London, sits on committees including Women's Rights and Gender Equality and is also a member of the delegation working with non-EU European countries. In her weekly meetings with her constituents she discusses their issues, some of which may lead to her writing a question to the Commission or proposals for new legislation. To tie in with Marina's expertise the seminar focused on *Promoting Women and Entrepreneurship in a European Context*.

Our first speaker was **Deborah Leary**, OBE, one of 2010's top women entrepreneurs. She said the London School of Economics forecast an explosion of women entrepreneurs in the next few years, but doubted that systems supporting them are fit for purpose.

She believed budding women entrepreneurs thinking of creating their own work environments should realise that it is not a simple lifestyle choice. One needs to think about the implications of commitment, and the effects of running a business on one's daily life. 'The person you are today is not the same person you will be at the end of the journey!' A woman wishing to become an entrepreneur must be passionate but also pragmatic. Skills needed included: self-belief; financial intelligence; a financial framework; mentoring and new internet and social media techniques.

Deborah concluded by denying the myth that women are not interested in making money. Women like doing 'good business': it's the **way** you do business, not just **what** you do. **A business must be professionally sustainable, international, and be involved with training, linking with professional associations.**

Sally Goodsell, followed with some interesting statistics:

- 49% of the world's wealth is in the hands of women, rising to 56% by 2020
- 96% of male-owned companies are backed by venture capitalists

Having sold her first business, a ladies sports equipment firm, she set up Finance South East. Soon she realised very few women entrepreneurs applied for venture capital and saw the absence of a network of support was a major stumbling block. So the more proactive **Funding Enterprising Women** was set up,

a female 'Dragons' Den'. Her company got women together to compare their problems and helped them set up business plans. By providing practical support, help with confidence building, and peer support of likeminded people she trebled the number of female-run businesses after just one year.

Working in partnership with other EU countries, she has found great similarity of women's experiences and would like to see a streamlined approach across the European banking system.

The key to the challenges (not difficulties!) facing women in business are education and awareness, Sally believes, concluding with the plea for a European fund to support women entrepreneurs in order to give every woman an equal chance across Europe.

The final speaker, **Emma Hollands**, had founded a bake-your-own-cake shop in London just six months ago, and now has two shops in London with a franchise system being set up. She gave us her personal story, including: the consideration for her business idea, the challenges of being dyslexic and dealing with the banking system; her friends helped with developing her business plan and also some funding. Right from the beginning her shop was a success, income topping £1,200 per week. Emma projected enthusiasm and professionalism. She, now in her forties, personified the forties-to-sixties group of women who are going to be a powerhouse in the future economically.

In the subsequent discussion it was said that business and international studies should start to be taught earlier but entrepreneurship cannot be 'taught', not all intellectual property needed patenting and women-owned businesses are a better bet for banks as they can be strong performers and less likely to fail.

Is there a good time to start a business? Not really, came the response, but a woman has to prioritise what she wants in terms of family and business - and what she is prepared to give up for the business. Entrepreneurship was clearly the message for the future!

Marianne concluded by thanking Marina for enabling us to understand and make full use of the European Parliament.

Reporters: Diane Ayerst, Hilde Betts, Rory Haigh, Margaret Livens, Doreen Newham & Sue Ouvry

Other articles on the visit to Brussels can be found on the BFWG website.

Northern Regional Meeting

A breezy but dry March day saw 36 members of the Northern region meet at the Moravian Settlement in Ockbrook on the outskirts of Derby. The business meeting and lunch took place in the Lecture Hall, a listed building which had been used as an Auxiliary Hospital by the Red Cross in the Great War.

Discussion was lively and Gillian and Beth provided feedback from the region and the national executive. Monica updated members on the progress of the Tanzanian schoolgirls a number of the region's local associations support; currently we have one student still completing her studies and will look at supporting another but fees have increased significantly. Evelyn gave an enthusiastic report from the former North-West Region on their travel bursary and research presentation day, challenging other associations to consider running a similar event.

After lunch, members were given a guided tour of The Settlement, a gated community comprising a number of rows of red brick Georgian buildings with a pedimented chapel whose foundation stone is dated 1751. During the tour we learnt some of the history of the first Moravian settlers, about individual buildings and the 'village within a village'. We finished in the church with the Rev. Kathryn Woolford explaining the history of the church and how ministers used to be 'called' to their next post.

A very interesting afternoon, if only the sun would have lasted another day. We look forward to Manchester next year.

Su Allen, Nottingham

Perfecting the Art of Friendship – Sharing Programmes

Calling all Local Associations and Regional Reps

Please bring your calendar for 2011-2012 to the AGM so that the information can be shared with other members and also be included on the national calendar.

Hand the information to Su Allen, or send an electronic copy to suallen@bfgw.org.uk

Mercia and Wales Regional Meeting



*L to R: Wilma Frew, Liz Rickard, Valerie Briggs (the artist), Nina Hamilton and Nest Overend
Photo courtesy of Nesta Farrow*

The meeting was held at the Bishop Allenby Hall in Worcester. Members attended from Swansea, Sutton Coldfield and Worcester Associations and we were delighted to welcome many Independent members including Vice President, Anna Frost. Very appropriately, for a bright spring morning, we had a most interesting talk and demonstration on the painting of wild life. Local artist, Valerie Briggs, brought several of her paintings and albums of work for us to study and attractive cards to buy. She then proceeded to paint an otter at the same time keeping up a fascinating account of her techniques, equipment and tips learnt over many years to achieve the very life-like end results. We learnt of the different colours used and how skilfully she built up layers and the direction of the hairs by delicate brush strokes to get the feel of the depth of the fur. One really could believe at the end that the otter had just left the water!

After a delicious lunch there was a short business meeting, when we were privileged to get up to date information from Anna and Nest Overend on the current state of matters. The afternoon ended with a welcome cup of tea and home-made brownies. Our thanks go to the Worcester team for a most enjoyable day.

Next year's meeting will be held provisionally in March and arranged by the Swansea Association.

Nesta Farrow, Regional Rep, Mercia and Wales Region

55th Session of the Commission for the Status of Women (CSW), New York : A Personal View

CSW this year was less hectic than expected; however, entrance to many meetings was restricted. The new head of UN Women, Michelle Bachelet, was very evident, giving a well received speech at the opening meeting. She said that CSW helped her understand Member States' priorities; and that United National Women (UNW) should focus on co-operation between the sexes, violence, women in peace and security, the economic empowerment of women, and that gender equity must be a national priority.

Bachelet also chaired a discussion on maternal mortality with the new chair of UNFPA, and other officials including representatives from WHO and UNDP. She managed it very well, each spoke for a short time, and the others commented, then the speaker replied. This led to a much livelier discussion when the speakers had relaxed and governments also input.

There was an entertaining panel on Sustainable Development which said that women were more likely to be green, recycle, save etc but governments were not targeting women. There was an entertaining speech on the Solar Electric Light Fund in Africa which included claims that energy was not in the development

goals but universal access to energy was essential for development. Attractive slides illustrated solar powered schools, pumps, health clinics with electric medical record systems. (At this point my neighbour muttered to me that Haiti had a thriving solar panel theft industry!)

IFUW organised two panels for NGOs; one in conjunction with UNESCO on education with prestigious speakers from UNESCO, UNFPA and the Ambassador from Bangladesh and a second one on projects encouraging girls into science and technology run in conjunction with Governments in France and the UK.

Despite the restrictions, the meetings I attended were interesting. However I had the feeling that this year, things were not moving forward very much and the lack of access to informal meetings and the difficulties of getting information from very busy delegates hampered understanding for NGOs on the process, prevented much contribution from NGOs and left it unclear whether this meeting was going to further the cause of women or merely stop it as best we could from going backwards.

Griselda Kenyon, Canterbury and District

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

Research Presentations Day

Saturday 21 May 2011

10.30 for 11.00-15.30 (approx)

BFWG Office

Come along to support and encourage young women academics as they present their research in 'friendly' competition.

All welcome including friends at this exhilarating event.

Postgraduate students: no charge.

Others: £10 on the door.

A sandwich lunch and refreshments are provided.

To book, use booking form in Spring News or email office@bfgw.org.uk by Wednesday 18 May 2011

Eastern Regional Meeting

Saturday 24 September 2011

Red Lion (opposite Hatfield Railway Station)

88 Great North Road, Hatfield, Hertfordshire

For further details contact Heather Hawkes

Tel no. 01707 659938

email: office@bfgw.org.uk.

Westminster Seminar

Thursday 27 October 2011

14.00 – 16.00

Sponsored by Baroness Stern, CBE
Committee Room 4A, House of Lords
Seminar Cost £12

Afternoon tea in the Chomondeley Room

16.00 – 17.00

Cost £20

Booking details in Autumn 2011 News

Contact for event: Gill Clerici

Email: geclerici10@yahoo.com

Sybil Campbell Collection

Annual Lecture

Thursday 27 October 2011

18.00 for 18.30 lecture

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

Octavia Hill & Opportunities for Women, Gillian Darley

For further details and booking information see

Autumn News or the website

Bring & Buy and Raffle at AGM in Dartington Hall

Don't forget to bring your gifts and raffle prizes to the AGM

The Bring & Buy profits will go towards the 2012 Centennial Scholarship

Monies from the Raffle will be donated to IFUW's Japan Appeal

An Open Event for all members,
primarily to allow

independent members to meet

Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Saturday 20 August 2011

Meet 11.00

West Bretton, Wakefield, WF4 4LG

Free admission, £4 parking which goes towards YSP

YSP is an international centre for modern and contemporary art, with displays by some of the world's finest artists with fascinating exhibitions throughout four stunning galleries.

Further information about the BFWG visit from Anne Taylor at annetaylor.notton@tiscali.co.uk or for information on the Park contact info@ysp.co.uk.

To view a film of the Park visit:

www.ysp.co.uk/page/visit-ysp/es

The day will be directed by Anne. There are information notes in the Galleries. A new acquisition to the park this April is an extraordinary body of new and recent work by renowned Spanish artist Jaume Plensa. Encouraging tactile and sensory exploration, this vibrant exhibition includes a 50-metre curtain of poetry made of suspended steel letters, large illuminated sculptures in the landscape, and engraved gongs that visitors can strike to fill the gallery with sound.

If you wish to participate please indicate your intention by completing the booking form in Summer News or by email to office@bfgw.org.uk.

Female Leadership

in Higher Education:

Overcoming barriers – real or imagined

Colloquium - 11 May 2011, London

A brief summary of the day will be on the website by the end of May

A full report and photos will appear in Autumn 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.

BFWG AGM Update



British Federation of Women Graduates
4 Mandeville 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

And Summer Booking Form 2011

AGM After Dinner Speaker

We are pleased that Professor Mary Watkins, Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Plymouth will be our guest, proposing the toast to the Federation, at our Conference Dinner in Dartington.

Prof Mary Watkins was appointed Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of Plymouth in 2008 and Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor in 2010 following a career in the NHS and a series of appointments in nurse education and research in the London area. She holds a PhD from King's College, University of London (1994).

Her main research interests are in the mental health domain, including evaluating effectiveness of services for users and carers and nurse education. She was the Inaugural Editor of the Journal of Clinical Nursing 2001-2004. She is currently a Non-Executive Director of the South West Ambulance NHS Trust and is a member of the BUPA Foundation Board.

She is married with two children, both currently at university which helps her understand parental interest in universities.



Jenny Morley, AGM Co-ordinator

Sheila Stevens BSc (Hons) DipEd PhD **Candidate for Trustee of Sybil Campbell Collection Trust**

Member: Winchester LA

Academic and other qualifications:

- BSc (Hons) Durham University
- DipEd Reading University
- PhD Open University

Relevant experience:

- Software Engineer and Technical Author
- Sometime President, Programme Secretary and Treasurer of the Winchester Association.
- Currently Website Coordinator for the BFWG and Sybil Campbell Collection Trust websites and
- Treasurer of the Sybil Campbell Collection Trust



Saturday 20 August 2011

Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Meet at 11.00

Please indicate your intention to attend by returning this form to the Office or by email to office@bfwg.org.uk by Saturday 13 August 2011

Entry is free to the Park but there is a charge for car park

Name LA/Indep/ Corp

Address Postcode

Tel: Email Date