

November 2024

Dear WI Secretary

LFWI Annual Council Meeting, Saturday 29th March 2025, Lowther Pavilion Theatre, Lytham

Delegate tickets have now been allocated to those WIs who have reserved their space. If you are not providing a delegate for the meeting, please email your apologies, as these are recorded at the meeting. A preliminary agenda and information flyer are included with this mailing.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - All observer tickets will be uploaded to the website and be available to purchase from our online store on Tuesday 7th January for £10 per ticket. Tickets can be purchased individually, in groups, or by the WI Secretary, **but the Board asks that WIs don't exceed a limit of 8 tickets per WI (excluding delegate tickets)**. It is advisable to liaise with your members before January, as you may need to conduct an internal ballot. Both delegate and observer tickets will be sent out at the same time, in mid-February. If you need any assistance with the online booking system, please give me a call and I'll be happy to help.

At the time of writing, we have two places available for our 'Makers Market' which will be held in the room adjacent to the auditorium. This proved very popular last year, so if you would like a stall, please contact me at the LFWI Office.

Long service certificates can be presented at the ACM for members celebrating milestones in that year. Certificates are awarded for 40, 50, 60 etc., years. If you have members wishing to receive a certificate, please let me know details preferably by email by Monday 3rd February. Certificate receipt doesn't guarantee a ticket, so members will still need to book their ticket online.

Joy Morgan Bursary - Full details on this new bursary are included with this mailing, along with an application form.

Bursary for members with a Fulwood postcode - A proportion of the Josephine Wilcox Bursary was bequeathed for use by members with a Fulwood postcode and is to be used for educational courses and workshops. If members would like to apply to benefit from this bursary, please ask them to send in their details, including their address to LFWI Offices, preferably by email and the responses will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees. Interested parties should respond by Monday 3rd February.

Educational Bursaries – LFWI will once again award five bursaries for 2025 each worth £200 for WIs to use for education and training. These will be drawn and announced at our ACM on the 29th of March. To avoid non-take-up, we are asking WIs to opt into this draw by registering their interest on the website, similar to booking a free event. You can opt into the Bursary draw on the website from 2nd December. The closing date to opt in will be Monday 3rd March.

NFWI Annual Meeting 2025 4th June Virtual - If you wish to book your observer tickets for the above, the ticket registrations are being handled by Eventbrite. For 2025 observer tickets are available on a donation basis, with the recommended donation for individual tickets set at £5,

and the recommended donation for group tickets set at £20. Please use the link below to order your observer tickets. You will need to copy and paste this link into your browser. NFWI asks that this link isn't publicised on social media etc., as it's a private member-only event.

Link not publicly disclosed.

NFWI is encouraging Watch Parties for this meeting, and attached is a guidance document that will help you plan a Watch Party within your WI, or along with other local WIs.

Speaker Auditions - We will be holding speaker auditions at the office on Friday 21st of February. These will be available to book on the website from Monday 2nd December. We ask that you limit places to no more than two.

MCS - In December, I will send another Yearbook Report to all WI Officers. This will include contact details for Secretaries, Presidents, and Treasurers of all WIs. This report is generated from the MCS system, so your MCS records must be up to date. I would be grateful if you could check this in the next couple of weeks to ensure accurate information is issued. These reports will be sent out twice a year and can be used to contact other WI Officers in your cluster groups etc.

Red Rose Residential Trip to Higham Hall 4 – 6th July. - There are some places available on this residential trip which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who went in May of this year. Further information and application forms are available on the website.

WI Insurance - The insurance certificate for the forthcoming year is included with this mailing. Once again there is no cost to WIs for insurance this year.

A reminder that most monthly mailing documents are now uploaded onto the website under the monthly mailing tab for your information. They will be available soon after the mailing is issued, and I hope you find this helpful.

Finally, the WI Office will be closed from 3 pm on Monday 23rd December and will re-open at 10 am on Thursday 2nd January.

200+ Club – November Draw

Sent to WIs and not publicly disclosed.

Best Wishes

Diane Jenkins

Federation Secretary

Enclosures

ACM Flyer and Preliminary Agenda

LFWI Budget for 2024/25

Flyer – Silver Swans Ballet Taster

Flyer – International Women’s Day

Joy Morgan Bursary

Standfast Trophy Application

Association of Show and Competition Judges

Insurance Certificate

NFWI Watch Party Guidance