**Report on NCFWI Annual General Meeting held on the 29th October 2019 at Spinney Theatre, Northampton.**

After the usual Health and Safety notices the meeting commenced with a rousing rendition of Jerusalem by all of those attending.

The Chairman, Anne Seckington, then welcomed everyone especially invited delegates and our speaker, Lady Floella Benjamin. An additional welcome was offered to the newest WI in the County, Evenley WI.

There were no matters arising from the Annual Reports and Standing Orders and so these were accepted and carried. The Minutes of the 2018 AGM were also proposed by Harpole WI and carried.

Treasurer’s report. The accounts had been circulated to all WIs and no questions have been asked. Due to the anticipated events to celebrate the centenary of the County WI the funds are down but not as much as had been forecast. Admin costs have increased but this is mainly due to two new pcs. The travel options have been popular with some being oversubscribed. There has been a decision to cancel events if there is not enough support. There has been a lot of hard work by everyone including the staff, for which many thanks. New IFEs are always needed if members would like to volunteer. Thank you to all treasurers and members for paying on time.

There was a move to adopt the accounts, seconded by Great Doddington WI. Carried.

Rosie Duddy proposed that CVS continue as auditors. Carried.

Chairman’s Address. The Chairman outlined all of the successful events which had occurred during this her first year. She also outlined some of the events to come – Craft Fair, Easter box, trips to Kingston on Thames and a walk around the Wren Churches in London. Details to be found in the monthly magazine.

The early ticket allocation has worked well with tickets sent out a month before the events. If any members would like to help any of the groups then please contact Jackie in the office who will arrange this.

Three WIs have reached their centenaries – Chipping Warden, Ravensthorpe and Great Billing. Along with a new WI – Evenley. Congratulations to all.

Thanks were offered to all who have welcomed Anne during the year and members were reminded of the Craft Fair on the 30 November at Wellingborough and the Christmas Coffee morning at WI house on the 6th December. Thanks were also offered to all of the staff in the office, to Margaret for her support and to all members.

The Challenge Trophy for the Sensory Garden was won by Cranford WI.

The Pauline Duff Trophy by Jean Herrick, Sywell & Overstone WI

Thanks were offered by ACWW, Jean Bates, for support. Women Walk the world events to raise money to take place on 29 April 2020. See website for details.

The Challenge Trophy for 2020 is to devise a Board game incorporating any WI project.

The Pauline Duff competition is to make a Dundee cake.

There was a short presentation from Climate Ambassadors asking WIs to have conversations about climate change and talk to people about this. Template letters are available if people wish to write to ask for change.

Christine Farmer gave an amusing talk about fairies pointing out that there is a safe haven at Denman College. Use it or lose it! Some courses are 20% off at the moment.

Various draws for bursaries and prizes were made and this was followed by a break for refreshments.

After the interval Baroness Floella Benjamin was introduced. Many of us remembered her from Play School and she brought Humpty with her! She gave a very interesting talk outlining her life in Trinidad prior to becoming part of the Windrush generation, feeling the cold when she eventually reached England. She campaigned for 20 years for a Minister for Children and achieved this in 2003. She also campaigned for seat belts on school buses. Part of her crusading for children was based on her experience of being left with foster parents when her mother left three of her children in Trinidad until she could bring them to England. She had some memories of cruelty which have lived with her. Her mantra was ‘Childhood matters.’

Ann Rodwell thanked Baroness Benjamin, the raffle was drawn and the Chairman thanked by Margaret Foster for all her work during the past year. The meeting ended with the singing of the National Anthem.

***Wendy Dunkley***

***Hackleton and District WI***