



WMWI Monthly Newsletter

February 2007

Meeting at St Margaret's Institute Polstead Road
The Second Tuesday of every Month

Tel: Jane Finnerty on 01865 553304 for further details

President Anne Wiles Secretary Julie Goodall Tel 427787

Walton Manor WI

From this month's Editor

Are you all still keeping to your New Year resolutions?

Mine is never to volunteer to create newsletters, however much I think I have the time! Time was all planned out ... an evening set apart ... even managed to think of some things to include along with the general newsy bits ... then I found that I would have to go to Edinburgh for a few days and so that was the end of that! (Mind you I never keep any other resolution so can't really promise to never again bore you all with my nonsense!)

Edinburgh was lovely, not even cold, (which was good as I left my coat in my car at Luton airport!) and I managed to help another resolution along by walking up a hill, larger than I thought at the start, in order to go to my meeting. I arrived a little pink cheeked and puffed, but the lovely receptionist didn't even comment.

Anyway...read and perhaps enjoy....

Valentine's Day 14th February



Remember to tell your loved ones how much they mean to you!

Dates for Your Diary... See Julie (427787) and your News and Views for more details unless otherwise stated.

13th Feb WMWI monthly meeting
Speaker: Dr. Anne Borrowdale
Topic: Writing and Getting Published

13th Feb Table Tennis tournament
Shipton-under-Wychwood

27th Feb Cyrano,
Birmingham Royal Ballet.
£17.50,
contact Ro for details.
ro_jericho@yahoo.com

3rd - 10th March Fairtrade fortnight

23rd March Easter showcase
Exeter Hall, Kidlington

We need to have at least 3 people to work as a group on our entry for this one.

Heritage Health meetings throughout February and March, Exeter Hall, Kidlington

22nd 23rd May A day out in Kew with a walk to Richmond.

Shortlisted WI Resolutions For 2007...Start thinking about them now!

Closure of Community Hospitals

"This resolution urges H.M Government to stop the closure of Community Hospitals, which provide essential services to local people."

Carer's Allowance

"The WI calls upon HM Government to extend the payment of carers allowance to people receiving state pension as well as people of working age."

Our opinions and views will be sought later in the year.



**From Carol,
When I was in Delhi in late November, I took the money from our WI Fair Trade evening to Mobile Crèches and here is a photo of me handing it over to Mridula Bajaj, the Mobile Crèches' Director.**

The Controversial New *WI Life* magazine!

Well not exactly new and not even all that controversial, but the upping of our yearly subs to include the magazine has caused some branches to decide to cut all ties with the WI! Members should by now have received their first magazine and hopefully devoured it.

Hope you all saw the letter about filthy handbags and have started cleaning yours regularly. Especially all you mothers who apparently have dirtier handbags than single women. (There was no mention of how single mothers get on....but there we go!)

P37 has some lovely *Choclicious* recipes and I for one am looking forward to sampling some from those of you who test out the recipes for our next meeting. As the calories for each dish are not given I believe we should assume they are calorie free! For those who are excellent cooks don't forget to enter the nationwide competition to become 'the best-ever Women's Institute cook'. That would be an accolade indeed.



All in all an excellent read with lots of information about who's who and what's what.

If you haven't received your copy yet then see Sue Field and pay your subs ASAP in order to make sure you receive the next exciting copy due out in April.



Attitudes to climate change

If you have a moment can you help Oxfordshire Climate Exchange <http://www.climatex.org> by completing their *Attitudes to climate change survey* – it only takes a few moments and is anonymous if you wish

Please pass on to others you know are interested in this issue too.

Was it really almost two months ago?

A brilliant Christmas meeting was held on the evening of December 12th. A sparkling glittering Christmas tree set the tone for the festive buffet. Some of our WI members are marvellous cooks and with the standards upheld in true WI style with a few contributions from Marks', a wonderfully high standard was reached. So with typical WI co-operation, the best table in Oxford is maintained. The cooks cooked of their very best - and their best is wonderful! Much munching and mingling.



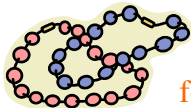
A very happy sociable occasion to round off our last year at the WI. However, this being Walton Manor, we had our curry evening to come on Dec 18th 'for a right laugh' at Yvonne's gorgeous home.

Susan Wright

I have to second Susan's views here. Certainly both the WI meeting and the Curry night were great fun and examples of good home cooking. Not good for the waistline but it was all in good cause and well worth all the calories!

January's meeting

Many thanks to Amanda for an enjoyable jewellery making workshop and sale in January. Lots of members tried their hand at making lovely pieces of jewellery. Do send me any pictures of you wearing your new pieces for inclusion in our entry for WI of the year!



A cheque was presented to representatives from the Jane Ashley Unit at the Churchill hospital for £200. This was the donation agreed with the profit made from our Barn Dance back in September.



**Please take time to read and consider the following.
All responses to Jane ASAP please.**

GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS FOR THE POST OFFICE NETWORK

The consultation paper was published on 14th December 2006. It relates to the provision of PO services over the next five years and describes the restructuring and modernisation which the Government says is needed for the network to be put on a more stable footing, while providing on-going support for the 'social network' up to current levels.

There will be new 'access criteria':-

- Nationally, 99% of people to be within 3 miles and 90% within 1 mile of a PO;
- In deprived urban areas, 99% of people to be within 1 mile; in other urban areas 95% to be within 1 mile;
- In **rural** areas, 95% to be within 3 miles;
- In **remote rural** areas, 95% to be within 6 miles of a PO.

In applying these criteria, account will be taken of local conditions that may have an important impact – rivers, mountains, valleys, motorways, sea crossings.

These criteria are designed to recognise the POs' important social role and to ensure that people have access to cash and benefits especially in remote areas.

- Some kind of account to follow on from the PO account card will continue after 2010; customers will be eligible 'on the same basis as they are now' (we take this to mean it will be available to people who do not have a bank account).
- There will be up to 2,500 closures with sub-postmasters receiving compensation should they leave the network; this will be implemented over 18 months from summer 2007.
- About 500 new outreach locations will provide access to services for small remote communities, via mobile POs; or POs hosted in village halls, community centres, pubs; home services; or PO services being provided by a retailer *alongside* their main business (eg pub, petrol station)
- There will be new financial services such as savings and insurance, plus expanding links with businesses such as mail order or internet retailers.
- There will also be a rapid roll-out of 4,000 new free-to-use ATM machines.
- For the longer term (after 2011) the Government proposes to investigate the role of Local Authorities in influencing how PO services will best be delivered in future.

QUESTIONS:-

Does the strategy address all the key issues? If not are there others?

Do you have any comments on the national access criteria, especially those relating to deprived rural areas?

Any suggestions as to how services might be better delivered through the PO network?

Any comments on suitability of outreach services for small and remote communities?

Any comments on 'the practicality of community ownership of parts of the PO network, which might involve the transfer of assets to community organisations and/or the establishment of local mutual or co-operative organisations to own and run local services?'

Deadline for comments

- ❖ **Department of Trade and Industry deadline 8th March**
- ❖ **Comments to Linda Watson for compilation no later than 1st March**