

Hay on WI Connections 23

Review of the Year 2021-2022

Dear Friends,

It has been my pleasure and privilege to be elected your President for this year. We began the year by asking all members what they would like to see on the programme. Your committee worked hard to make sure that we arranged all of your requests and more. We have been very lucky to have such an energetic and hard working group of people who have always aimed to make sure our meetings and outings are inclusive and enjoyable for all.

Enjoy this Annual Report and be amazed at how much we have done and the fun and laughs we have had along the way!

Yours in Friendship

Trish

Annual Report 2021-2022

Introduction

This, the eleventh Annual Report of Hay on WI, covers the period October 2021 to the end of October 2022.

Membership

Our membership is now 15 full members, a reduction of 10 from 2021.



“

**My mission in life is not
merely to survive but to
thrive and to do so with
some passion, some
compassion, some humor,
and some style.**

Maya Angelou

Meetings

We have held a programme of monthly meetings mainly on the second Wednesday of the month. Our Book Club and weekly short walk and chat group has continued.

Activities

During the year we have continued our involvement with the local community:

- Providing entertainment/support for Alice in Wonderland with Hay Theatre
- Making cards and writing messages of friendship to residents of Cartref Home.
- Supporting and donating food items to the Brecon Food Bank
- Donating Christmas gift bags for the Food Bank in Hereford
- Supporting a pop-up shop for Dial-A-Ride

- Members also take a regular and active part in local community projects - Hay Day Cafe, Dial a Ride, Luncheon Club, the Community Garden, the Hay Community Theatre group, Tourist Information together with supporting local groups - Hay History Group, Cusop History Group, Dementia Matters in Powys, U3A, Hay Castle Trust, the Warren Club, Hay Walkers, Hay Library, Cartref, Hay2Timbuktu, Friends of St Mary's Cusop, the Riverside Conservation Group, Citizen Science and Cusop Village Hall.
- We have continued our relationship with the Powys Brecknock Federation
- We worked on entries for the PBF Show
- We have produced six Connections newsletters to keep in touch with members and focus on specific WI campaigns during the year.
- We continue with our own WI Website

We have organised a full and varied **programme** based on suggestions from our members with a mixture of face to face, Zoom and outdoor meetings:

• **October.** Our speaker at Cusop Village Hall was Liz Tucker, a local Nutritionist who has worked in scientific research, food standards and labelling as well as in the media. Her talk entitled "Healthy Diet, Healthy Planet" introduced us to the fundamentals of nutrition and covered such things as the difference between dense and empty calories; why sugar, caffeine and alcohol give us highs, followed by lows; the importance of at least 7 portions of fruit and veg a day; and the importance of water.

• **November.** Cherry Keylock visited us to tell us about the Christmas Gift Bag Appeal for the Food Bank and we all took away a bag to fill and decorate. We then welcomed our speaker Andy Fryers, Director of Sustainability at Hay Festival who gave an interesting talk on his work ensuring that Hay Festival is as environmentally responsible as possible. He explained the areas that he can influence directly and indirectly, including infrastructure, purchasing, transport, speakers and wider community involvement.

• **December.** A small group of WI Creatives met on 6th Dec at Sue Hodgetts' house for a productive and constructive afternoon when feathers, ribbons, bows and elastic were turned into exotic headbands for our 1920s themed evening.



The 1920s theme for our Christmas meeting was chosen because our WI Book Group were reading *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scot Fitzgerald. We wore our headbands and enjoyed a 1920s slide show, Christmas music and a taste test of Christmas snacks and mince pies from Aldi, Tesco and M&S and voted on our favourites.

• **January.** Due to another outbreak of a new variant of Covid-19, our meeting on 12th January was back on Zoom. Martin Wibberley, a local historian, gave us a fascinating talk entitled 'A Local Gem - the lost farmhouse of Dygeddi Valley, Llanigon'. Martin came across the ruins of Penyrwlad Serth Farm (Head of the Slope) over 12 years ago while out walking the hills around Llanigon. His research enabled him to tell the story of the families who lived and farmed there, within the wider context of the transformation of the economy and landscape in the South Wales valleys and beyond.



• **February.** Back in Cusop Village Hall our February topic was Hay on WI's 10th Anniversary, led by Trish, when we looked back at highlights through a variety of objects from each year.



These ranged from a dress modelled by Trish in the fashion Show of 2014, a Tutu worn in our infamous winning photograph, our highly

commended scrapbook from the Centenary year in 2015 and some of the wonderful craft items made for the Shows and for Craft Club. We discussed some of the many speakers and trips that we have had over the years and also enjoyed looking at a slide show of photos from across the 10 years which brought back lots of memories.

• **March.** On 9th March Cherry Keylock gave a demonstration and workshop on the topic of spring floral arrangements. Cherry produced some inspiring displays using 'found' materials, simple containers and a selection of spring flowers and greenery. She gave members the confidence to produce their own displays using some of her simple, effective ideas.

Our Quiz team of Trish, Molly and Sue Ho came a close 2nd to Three Cocks WI at the first round of the County quiz on the 25th March.

We did well in the PBFWI Show coming 6th overall with a well-earned 3rd place for Trish in the floral arrangement. Our entry in the Rosebowl Competition for Oceans in Crisis had great feedback for staging and interpretation.

• **April.**

Local author Catherine Barr visited in April. With a background and passion for the natural world from working for Greenpeace protecting Sea turtles, working



for the Natural History Museum, to writing and editing and visiting schools, she talked about how she started writing books. As well as Sea turtles, Catherine is passionate about Pangolins which are endangered and the most trafficked animals in the world. Members then had the opportunity to purchase some of the lovely books that Catherine had brought with her.

• **May.** In May we visited Trish's lovely garden in Buttercup Meadow where we were challenged to seven rounds of a garden themed quiz. This involved the Forks and Trowels teams in identifying and finding plants from pictures; working out distances to local sources of plants; recognising paintings of gardens; spotting seeds and other varied horticultural questions. Team Trowels was a poor starter but gained momentum in the latter rounds, losing by only 3 points to the fading Team Forks. We also enjoyed a visit to the RSC and went to Hay Castle to see Julius Caesar.

• **June.** We had a wonderful visit to a hidden gem, said by Carol Klein to be one of the best gardens in Wales. We explored the fabulous 18 acre Llanover Garden, near Abergavenny, on Tuesday June 14th. It is rarely open to the public but opened



specially for the WI by owner Elizabeth who gave us a brief history of the Garden and Family and a guided tour around the garden, followed by tea, coffee and delicious cake.

• **July.** Our Garden Party in July was held at George House in Hay. After a wonderful bring and share buffet supper, Trish addressed the group, recalling the start-up of Hay on WI and acknowledging those involved in making it successful. We raised a toast to our 10th Anniversary. She also thanked the committee for their hard work and then presented a beautiful rose to each of them. A special thank you was extended to Shirley for hosting the Garden Party in such a wonderful setting.

• **August.** We joined Hay Theatre's 'Alice in *Outdoor Wonderland*' performance at Cusop Church on August 17th and enjoyed a magical evening, with two of our members in the cast.

• **September.** Our meeting in September was a visit to Hay Distillery to enjoy Gin Tasting. Firstly, however, we discussed the future of Hay on WI and Trish explained that we faced a number of challenges. Members were invited to come forward and join the Committee and to consider putting themselves forward for President as well as recruiting more members. Trish explained that if no one volunteers we will have to notify the County Office that we cannot form a Committee according to the Constitution and proceed to take action. Then Natalie our host gave us our first sample – the Wild Knapp Gin. We raised a toast to the recently departed Queen, Elizabeth R who had been a member of Sandringham WI. We learnt how Natalie and Jonny started experimenting in 2018 with making London Dry Gin using botanical ingredients and their own spring water on the Knapp near Bredwardine. Started in a shed, they now have 4 stills with each batch being a maximum 25 bottles. Amazingly everything is done by hand and by Natalie – even down to sticking on the labels and putting the wax seal on the Dr Beaky's distinctive black bottle, which was the second gin that we sampled. Their Gins only contain the desirable middle alcohol Hearts and have won a number of awards.

• **October.** *Special Objects* was the subject for our October meeting at Cusop Village Hall.



Members explained the significance of their chosen objects and we learned some fascinating personal, local and national history. All were the starting point for the sharing of vivid, precious memories.

Trish explained that we had only one new volunteer for membership of the Committee, but no one had offered to take up an officer role. It was agreed by a vote that we would start proceedings to action closure.

Walk and Chat Group.

We have been meeting nearly every week on Thursday afternoons throughout the year. Our walk on the 16th December included Mulled wine and mini mince pies that came second in the taste test at our December Meeting. As well as lots of local walks around Hay and Cusop we paid a visit to our local reserve Cwm Byddog up on Clyro Pitch in May to admire the bluebells. We also went to Mousecastle, Glasbury, Moccas and Talgarth.



Book Club. We discussed a wide variety of books from 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald, 'Sophia' by Anita Armand* to 'The Frequency of Us' by Keith Stuart. Our February book was 'The Heart's Invisible Furies' by John Boyne* and it scored an outstanding 10 out of 10 by all our readers. We also read 'A Town Called Solace' by Mary Lawson*, 'The Island of Missing Trees' Elif Shafak*, 'The Fell' by Sarah Moss, and 'Still Life' by Sarah Winman* which scored 9.5 out of 10.

We voted on 'a good book' and 'would I recommend it' and all led to a lot of discussion and a variety of likes and dislikes. (* Our top choices)

The Campaigns Group was merged into the WI Committee to co-ordinate the content of our Connections news and campaign action.

- In November 2021, **Connections 18, REVIEW OF THE YEAR**, covered our new President Trish's welcome, a poem on our year's activities, a review of 2020-21 and an update on our finances.
- In **Connections 19, SEASON'S GREETINGS**, we featured the Not In My Name Campaign to end violence against women and highlighted the WI's ovarian cancer campaign to help to spread awareness of the key signs to look out for. To lift our spirits, there were Solstice snippets, Christmas jokes and a photo of our winter walk.
- In January 2022, **Connections 20 featured NEW YEAR, NEW RESOLUTIONS**, with more information on the shortlisted resolutions to help members choose which one to vote for. We also had a message from Cartref saying how much our Postcards of Kindness messages had meant to residents.
- In **Connections 21, March 2022**, we highlighted the plight of the Ukrainian people. To tie in with International Women's Day we celebrated the achievements and impact of women with some inspirational quotes. Caroline told us about '39 Ways to Save the Planet' by Tom Heap. A very informative book, looking in some detail at varied ideas and inventions that could contribute to reducing carbon emissions.
- In **Connections 22, May 22 GREEN MINDS**, gave us inspiration from Nature as part of Mental Health Week. We heard about the visit to Cwm Byddog Nature Reserve and the importance of mindfulness through walking in nature. We emphasised having conversations about the importance of recognising and treating mental illness to create a ripple effect. Research has shown that getting a daily dose of Vitamin "G" improves our sense of personal wellbeing. We should aim to bring green into our daily lives as much as possible for maximum benefits.



Conclusion

We have had a productive year, adapting to Covid restrictions, again enjoying a diverse programme of meetings, many led by members, and a variety of activities at our additional groups both physical and on-line. There have been many varied opportunities to support the local community and a continuation of working on campaigns that matter to fellow members.

Unfortunately, the drop in member numbers and the lack of anyone coming forward to take on the President and officer roles has led to the start of proceedings to close the group on December 21st.

Sue Hodgetts (Hon Secretary) Nov 2022

Events

Wed 9th Nov 7.30pm – Cusop Village Hall. Annual Meeting/Special Resolution Meeting. Followed by Eco Christmas Crafts. There will be a glass of Prosecco and nibbles available.

Mon 14th Nov – PBFWI Not In My Name walk from Brecon Bowling Club. Arrive from 10.30am, to leave at 11.00am. Followed by tea and cake.

Tues 15th Nov 1.30pm – Cusop Village Hall. Craft Club, 5 Stick Weaving with Sandra Soames. Materials supplied.

Sat 19th Nov at Llanfaes Church Hall. PBFWI Craft Exhibition 1-4pm £3 inclues refreshments.

Mon 21st Nov 2pm – Llangoed Hall. Book Club Edna O'Brien 'The Country Girls' followed by Afternoon Tea and tour.

Thu 1st Dec 2.30pm – Peterchurch Village Hall. Dorstone WI Christmas Party

Fri 9th Dec, Guildhall Brecon. PBFWI Coffee morning

Fri 16th Dec 7pm – The Castlefields Christmas Meal, music and free drink.


Christmas Walk and Chat tba.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR TO 30th SEPTEMBER 2022

There has been quite a significant change to our financial position during the course of the year up to September 2022. The bank balance at the end of the year is £505.01 compared to £722.70 at the end of the previous financial year. We therefore start the next financial year with a deficit of £217.69 as regards payments over receipts. Year 2018 - 2019 saw a deficit of 99p, Year 2019 - 2020 saw a deficit of £22.36 and Year 2020-2021 saw a surplus of £110.18. Obviously, these figures reflected the fact that there was less expenditure for face-to-face meetings during COVID and we had 20+ members each year.

This year we had 15 members rejoin in April 2022 and the portion of the subscriptions retained by Hay on WI was £227.00. The current balance would not be increased until next year's subscription in April 2023. The Financial Statement will be distributed to members and proposed for adoption at the Hay on WI AGM on 9 November 2022. If you have any queries, please contact our Treasurer Sue Hagan.

Note: enter figures manually for last year and in any other cells that are not filled automatically if applicable to your WI

WI name	Hay on WI		
Charity number (if registered)	229184		
Federation	Powys Brecknock		

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
For the period from **01/10/21** to **30/09/22**

Section A Receipts and Payments

A1 Receipts	Total £	Last year £	A2 Payments	Total £	Last year £
Receipts at meetings	-		Meeting expenses	454.69	258.61
Subscriptions (WI share)	324.00	437.28	Committee Members' expenses	-	
Gift Aid	-		Pooling of fares / expenses	52.50	
Publications	-		Publications	7.00	48.02
Activities & events	48.00		Activities & events	48.00	
WI fundraising	-		WI fundraising	-	
Interest received	-		Insurance	37.50	38.47
Paid into current account	-				
Paid into deposit account	-				
Grants and donations	10.00	10.00	Donations made	-	
Other income	-		Other payments	-	
WI-owned hall - total receipts			WI-owned hall - total payments		
Total Receipts	382.00	447.28	Total Payments	599.69	337.10

A3 Restricted funds included in total receipts		A4 Restricted funds included in total payments	
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Total Receipts less Total Payments (Surplus/Deficit for the year)	-	217.69
A5 Total cash funds brought forward from last year (equals last year's total at B1)		722.70
A6 Total cash funds carried forward at this year end		505.01

A7 Total restricted funds at year end included in total cash funds above

The main purposes of the Women's Institute organisation are:

(a) to advance the education of women and girls for the public benefit in all areas including (without limitation): (i) local, national and international issues of political and social importance; (ii) music, drama and other cultural subjects; and (iii) all branches of agriculture, crafts, home economics, science, health and social welfare;

(b) to promote sustainable development for the public benefit by: (i) educating people in the preservation, conservation and protection of the environment and the prudent use of natural resources; and (ii) promoting sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration;

(c) to advance health for the public benefit; and

(d) to advance citizenship for the public benefit by the promotion of civic responsibility and volunteering.