 From Central Secretary, Leonie Henderson

 secretary@wivesfellowship.org.uk

**WOMEN in FELLOWSHIP**

**SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2019**

Please forward on to your members.

Dear All

Two events since my last Newsletter. First there was the AGM in April held at Benn Hall in Rugby attended by a goodly number of you. One of the delights of this job is meeting you along with putting faces to names that I usually only see on an email. It is really nice to be able to say ‘hello’ to you in person.

 Then, on a gloriously sunny day last month the Founders’ Meeting was held in Bury St Edmunds. Thank you Bury for making it such a happy and interesting day beginning with the service in the beautiful St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Lunch was delicious followed by a fascinating talk by Lady Carla Carlisle.

 Following the AGM the Executive committee discussed the results of the discussion groups held in the afternoon and, as you know from Sarah’s ‘Follow Up Letter’ *(see WF website/Members’ Area/Newsletter & Contacts/AGM Follow-up Newsletter 2019)*, the Regional Forums will now be held as part of the 2020 AGM with the 2nd October 2019 Forum date **being cancelled**.

 Carolyn and Sally between them have ensured delivery of the Summer Grapevine direct to our doormats and what a lovely thought I had that we had all received it at the same time and could even be reading it simultaneously. I expect there will be some teething troubles but I have no doubt they will be easily be remedied.

 Now to business and please note the following dates for your diary all of which can be found on the website. The website is very easy to find - [www.wivesfellowship.org.uk](http://www.wivesfellowship.org.uk) – and to access the Members’ Area the password is 192016.

 *4-10 September 2019 Pilgrimage - In the Footsteps of the Northern Saints, Durham*

 *18 October 2019 St Christopher’s Annual Open Day for WF*

 *29-30 October 2019 Autumn Conference, Guildford*

 *24-26 March 2020              Retreat, Holthorpe Hall*

 *1 April 2020 AGM, Benn Hall, Rugby*

 *21 May 2020                    Founders' Meeting, Epsom –* ***provisional date***

 *16-23 September 2020 Oberammagau 2020*

 *7-8 October 2020            Autumn Conference, Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick –*

 ***provisional date***

**AGM**

The next AGM will take place at Benn Hall, Rugby on 1st April 2020.

**AUTUMN CONFERENCE, GUILDFORD 29-30 October 2019**

**CONGRATULATIONS -**if you have already completed your application for **Autumn Conference (29/30th October).**

If you want to come, and have not yet downloaded the application form from the website, please could you do it **ASAP.**

The cut off date is **FRIDAY 5TH JULY** andGuildford Wives would love to hear from you. To date they have heard for representatives from nearly half the branches and are wondering what the other half plan to do.

This promises to be an excellent day to look forward to and all applications, together with cheques, should be sent personally and **not**through your branch. The theme for the Conference is ‘Celebrating Women’ with the service on the first day being at Holy Trinity Church, High Street, Guildford.  The second day will be held at St Catherine’s School, Bramley, just south of Guildford.  The speakers will be The Right Rev’d Christopher Herbert, Dame Fiona Reynolds and Linda Smith.  Full details can be found on the website in the Members’ Area under Applications for Events.    Guildford Wives hope to accommodate as many as possible but they need to know numbers soonest!

I look forward to seeing you there.

**APPLICATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE**

Later in the year we will be seeking successors for the following jobs on the Executive committee:

**Chairman** (Please contact Sarah O’Boyle for further information)

 chairman@wivesfellowship.org.uk

**Treasurer** (Please contact Alison Osborne for further information)

 treasurer@wivesfellowship.org.uk

**Scattered Group Secretary** (Please contact Madeleine Tattersall for further information)

scatteredsec@wivesfellowship.org.uk

**Minutes & Literature Secretary** (Please contact Jane Colman for further information)

 literaturesec@wivesfellowship.org.uk

The Job Descriptions for all of the above can be found in the Members’ Area under Resources/Executive Role Specifications.

**CENTRAL TREASURER - Alison Osborne**

Just a brief reminder to Branch Treasurers that if they have not already done so that Branch bank accounts should be changed to "Women in Fellowship *XXX Branch".* Some banks have a ‘Change of Name’ form but for others a letter may suffice. In either case please remember that Women in Fellowship is not incorporated and therefore the change of name does not require any filings at Companies House. If supporting documents are requested a copy of the new Constitution (available on the WF website) should be sufficient.

 Also, the name has now been changed on the Central bank accounts and any payments should now be made to Women in Fellowship.

 Any queries please email me and I will try and help!

**Grapevine Editor -** Carolyn Mills

At the time of writing I can report that the Summer edition of Grapevine is being printed and readied for delivery. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed with wonderful reports, photographs and general content. This will be our 200th edition, which is quite an achievement of which we should be rightly proud.

 As you know, we are trialling direct delivery of Grapevine and your copy should have dropped through your letterbox during the first half of June. Please let me know if there are problems and we will follow up as necessary. There is more information about this on page 4 of the Summer Grapevine, but in the case of non-receipt please email me at editor@wivesfellowship.org.uk

 However, I look forward at a later date to be able to report that the Direct Mailing trial has been a huge success!

 Your comments or suggestions regarding Grapevine are always very welcome; it is your magazine so your input will always be appreciated. Thank you in advance to all those who will be contributing to the Winter 2019 edition and please note the copy date for Branch Reports is 30th September 2019.

**Literature Secretary - Jane Colman**

All available literature is itemised in the Grapevine magazine alongside illustrations of our popular notelets. All these items can be ordered at any time of the year directly through literaturesec@wivesfellowship.org.uk. They are also on sale at all our National Events where I look forward to meeting you.

**ST CHRISTOPHER’S CHARITY REP - Frances Good**

ST CHRISTOPHER’S: NEXT ANNUAL VISIT

The next Women in Fellowship visit to St Christopher’s Hospice in Sydenham will take place on Friday 18 October 2019. Note that this visit is later in the year than previously to fit in with the St Christopher’s timetabling of the Multi-professional Week which is attended by the Bursary students.

 We have made a few small changes to the arrangements to make it easier for WF members to attend.

* This year we plan to start at 11am which we hope will enable more participants to benefit from Cheap Day Return tickets
* WF members who live far away can use accommodation on the St Christopher’s list – this can be much less expensive than hotels. Please contact me if you would like a copy of this list.
* The closing date for applications is now 13 September.

 Whether you have visited before or if this would be your first visit, I hope you will appreciate the opportunity to see the hospice and the work we supported. Most people who come on the visit, find the day to be inspirational. Do come. Details and an application form are on the website.

**SCATTERED SECRETARY’S REPORT - Madeleine Tattersall**

With several National events recently, the AGM, the Retreat at Launde Abbey, and Founders’ Meeting at Bury St. Edmunds two weeks ago, I have caught up with several of the Scattered Branch members and always welcome meeting members who are new to me. We had excellent weather, a warm welcome and a beautiful setting for Founders’ Meeting from our hosts in Bury St. Edmunds. We started with a service at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral at which we all sung lustily. We crossed the Georgian main square of Bury to the Athenaeum for an excellent lunch and entertaining speaker, Lady Carla Carlisle.

 I am happy to report that just last week, thanks to the inspiration and generosity of one South Trent branch member, a number Scattereds from the Midlands met at Plumtree village church of St. Mary for a Communion Service, followed by a welcome cup of coffee and an opportunity to meet some of the locals and their Vicar. This was followed by a short journey to the home of Julia Pirie who treated us to a delicious sit down Summer lunch with seven Scattereds and the Chair and Secretary of South Trent. Possibly for the first time, the Scattereds enjoyed being part of a branch as we enjoyed finding the meeting points and interests of each other over a long, lazy lunch. I owe much to Julia and also Andrew who gave so generously of their time and energy and whose house and garden was such a marvellous setting for our event.

 We are well on the way to organising a similar event for the Scattered Branch members in the North of England in the Autumn. Two “leading lights” in Thirsk are already approaching their local Vicar to request a service, and a booking is being made to take, I hope, twelve Scattered ladies to a local Italian hostelry for another Scattered Branch lunch. I should say that I am hardly involved with the organisation of this event. It is being arranged by some energetic WF members from the North of England. In an ideal world we hope to include guests from York, Kendal, Cumbria, Burley, Bedale and hopefully, Edinburgh!

 The South had better watch out. These mini Fellowship days are the *Events To Be At!*

I wish you all a lazy, happy and warm?! summer.

Yours in Fellowship

*Leonie Henderson*

Central Secretary