

The Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland



Annual General Meeting

Europa Hotel, Belfast



Thursday 27th March 2025

11:00am – 4:15pm

Morning Session

11:00am – 12:30pm

Welcome Lady Anthony Hamilton (Federation President)

Announcements and Apologies Brenda Richardson (Federation Chair)

Flowers Kells & Connor WI

Areas

Abercorn	Lower Bann
Ards Peninsula	Moyallen
Clogher Valley	Quoile
Erne	Ranfurly
Gosford	Riada
Inver	Roe Valley
Iveagh	Rowallane
Knockagh	Scrabo
Lagan	Slemish
Lisnagarvey	Sperrin
Londonderry	

Minutes – As no amendments have been received, the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2024 will now be signed by the Federation President.

Sub-Committee Reports *Circulated today & available on the WINI website*

Treasurer's Report Sheelagh McRandal (Federation Treasurer)

Seconding the Financial Report Christine Rankin (Ards Area Executive Member)

Federation Report Brenda Richardson (Federation Chair)

Resolutions

Drumbeg WI proposes that all electric and hybrid vehicles (where not using a combustion engine) are fitted with an AVAS (Acoustic Vehicle Alert System) which emits a sound up to an increased speed of 25mph/40kmh, from current UK/EU legislation of 12.4mph/20KLM. Such AVAS should also have no deactivation switch for the driver. This is to enable pedestrians who may be visually/hearing impaired, have impaired mobility, are in charge of babies/children/domestic pets, to become aware of oncoming vehicles in a proportionate way as vehicles with engines, and improve road and pedestrian safety.

Purposed by Lorie King, Drumbeg WI

Seconded by Marie Darrah, Ballydownfine WI

Richhill WI deplores the increasing usage of self-service checkouts in the retail sector. This removes another face-to-face contact which is becoming increasingly rare in today's world. Meeting a friendly face at a till may be the only personal contact for many people and especially those who are lonely, vulnerable or have mental health issues.

Purposed by Rosemary Verner, Richhill WI

Seconded by Hazel McKee, Mountnorris WI

Lunch 12:45pm – 2:00pm

Afternoon Session

2:15pm – 4:15pm

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Greetings from invited guests

Jeryl Stone	Chair – National Federation of Women’s Institutes
Mary D’Arcy	National President – Irish Countrywomen’s Association
Mary Burney	National President – Scottish Women's Institutes
Kay Simpson	Northern Ireland Chair – Townswomen’s Guild
Diana Thompson	Chairman – The Women’s Forum Northern Ireland
John Henning OBE	President – RUAS
Lucy Mitchell	Commercial & Membership Director – Ulster Farmers’ Union
Richard Beattie	Vice-President – Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster
Councillor Micky Murray	The Lord Mayor of Belfast
Apologies	Beryl Hales Townswomen’s Guild – National Chair

Guest Speaker Rebecca Edwards BEM, Olympic Champion Rower



Rebecca recently retired after a twelve-year career, which included two Olympic Games (Tokyo 2021 & Paris 2024), being awarded the British Empire Medal in 2023 for Services to Rowing, Gold at World Rowing Cup III and a fourth-place finish at the World Rowing Championships!

The inspiring athlete from Aughnacloy, County Tyrone will share stories from her life, discussing her outstanding rowing career and her passion for encouraging other women and girls to achieve their goals.

Presentations of Awards

Lady Anthony Hamilton (Federation President)

Rosemary McAllister (Federation Vice-Chair)

HEMOCRAFT:	
Greenisland Cup (Institute gaining the greatest number of grade A awards in proportion to the number of members during the year)	Spa WI
Clanabogan Cup (Team knitting)	Moneyrea WI (Libby Bennett, Lynn Campbell & Joan Somerville)
Brookeborough Trophy (Novice team entry of 3 different crafts)	Crossgar WI (Margaret Eynon, Patricia Mulholland & Lorna Stevenson)
Doreen Dawson Cup (Team entry of 3 different crafts)	Ballymoney WI (Joanne Campbell, Anke McCrellis & Heather McConaghie)
Emily Bossence Tray (Gold Award holders)	Tanya Everett, Ballymoney WI
Thelma Goldring Trophy (Best individual item)	Tanya Everett, Ballymoney WI
Etta Stewart Cup (Best entry of craftwork exclusive of cup winning entries)	Florence Gregg, Ballymoney WI
Dromore Scroll (New guild member with highest number of A+)	Audrey Gibson, Ballymoney WI
Seapark Salver (Best entry by a newly enrolled member)	Libby Bennett, Moneyrea WI
Burnside Trophy (Irish crochet, tatting or knitted lace)	Dawn Flemming, Desertcreat WI
Eileen McCoubrey Cup (Traditional white embroidery)	Dawn Robinson, Maghaberry WI
Coey II Challenge Cup (Embroidery on linen, canvas or similar fabric)	Georgina Henry, Macosquin WI
Isobel Lusk Cup (Knitting)	Margaret Montgomery, Ballycarry WI
Emily Blair Trophy (For restricted ability)	Jane Laverick, Newtownbreda WI
Gold Spinning Wheel Award:	Sharon Moon, Kilrea WI
	Florence Gregg, Ballymoney WI
	Ann McMaster, Broughshane WI

INTERNATIONAL:	
Mary Boyd Trophy (Mary Boyd Competition 2024 – ‘Create a foldable shopping bag with an international theme’ – 1st Place)	Lynsay Johnston, Maghaberry WI
Margaret McMillan Bowl – (Mary Boyd Competition 2024 – 2nd Place)	Elsie Miskimmin, Ballysallagh WI
MAGAZINE AND LEISURE:	
Mourne Cup (Best poem written by a WI member published in the <i>Ulster Countrywoman</i> magazine during the previous calendar year)	Daphne Wylie, Pomeroy WI
Quoile Trophy (Best overall <i>Ulster Countrywoman</i> magazine cover photograph published during the previous calendar year)	Maura Ellis, Kells & Connor WI
Phyllis Gailey Trophy (Literary Competition 2025 – ‘ <i>Out With The Old And In With The New’...</i> – 1st Place)	Jennifer Gardiner, Kilrea WI
Carryduff Cup (Scrapbook Competition – <i>Novice</i> class – 1st Place)	Ballyblack WI
Waringstown Cup (Scrapbook Competition – <i>Open</i> class – 1st Place)	Spa WI
Crystal Cup (Scrapbook Competition – <i>Front Cover</i> class – 1st Place)	Spa WI
Crystal Cup (Scrapbook Competition – <i>Single Page</i> class – 1st Place)	Portaferry WI

Vote of Thanks

Olga O’Neill, Kells & Connor WI

Seconded by

Avril Kidd, Broughshane WI

Closing Remarks

Lady Anthony Hamilton (Federation President)

A Countrywoman’s Song