

Thornborough & Thornton W.I report February 2015

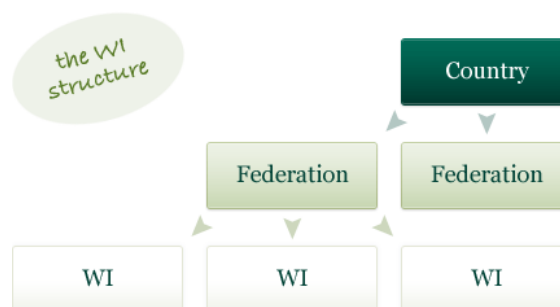
For the last ten decades, 'The monstrous regiment of women' has been pretty successful in changing the world, it seems. At last month's meeting, Thelma Sackman from the NFWI told us all about how Resolutions work within the organization. Here are some past credits:



- The WI first campaigned on jury service in 1921, urging women to 'accept their full responsibilities as citizens in whatever way they may be called upon to serve their country' and later urging the government to open up jury service to all.
- In 1922, the WI campaigned throughout the 1930s and 1940s to increase the number of women police, lobbying the home office and winning the support of the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- Members were among the first to debate the dangers of smoking when the WI passed a resolution to ban smoking in public places in 1964.
- In 1975 the WI started informing members about the importance of breast examination and lobbying the government to set up screening clinics. A national screening programme was eventually introduced in 1988.
- In 1986 the NFWI was one of the first organisations to talk about AIDS and used its unrivalled network of local organisations to educate the public and get people talking about the issue.
- The SOS for Honey Bees campaign was launched after a resolution calling for increased funding for research into honey bee health was passed in 2009.

There was a campaign somewhere about the need for stronger knicker elastic, but that may have been one of Madge Carey's jokes; for the most part, campaigns address subjects like organ donation or FGM or the decline of Town Centres or whatever topic is of concern to families at any one time in a year.

The beauty of all the campaigns is that they begin at the grass roots. Resolutions are devised and debated within W.I. groups such as ours in Thornborough, then with the help of a Federation Adviser they are submitted to a Council Meeting and then directly to the NFWI where they are acted upon and campaign plans are put in place. All this 'jam and knitting' stuff which is sometimes thrown at the W.I. is rather an insult when you think how politically powerful these campaigns have proved to be in the past and are still the cornerstone of the whole federation. Watch this space to find out what will be the Resolution for 2015!



A slightly less world-changing resolution of ours was to have our Christmas lunch in late January in the Methodist Chapel. An easy task for the monstrous regiment is to set up, cook and deliver a delicious lunch - and so it was. It's always good to share a meal together and not surprisingly, there was no shortage of chat either. The things that women do well!!!!

Cath Sayer