**Women of Warwick WI meeting**

**Wednesday 4th November 2015**

**5.30pm**

**Seminar Room, University House**

***Annual General Meeting***

*Committee members present:*

Julie Taylor (President), Maxine Thacker (Vice-President), Jane Hutton (Treasurer), Sharon McGladrigan (Secretary), Emma Sephton (Assistant Secretary), Elizabeth Coyle (both Events)

Julie welcomed everyone, both new and old members together with Ruth McCartney, our WI advisor for advice/guidance/support throughout our AGM.

All members in attendance were given a ballot paper to vote for next year’s Committee members.

* Julie then made this month’s announcements:
* Desiree continues to work hard to support the Syrian refugees. Ran a stall last Saturday in Coventry market – very enjoyable. £126 raised. Collection of more pallets sent to Lesbos today. Desiree going to Greece over Christmas break to help out there. Do something to support Desiree (provide items for refugees for her to take) and all agreed that she should do a session to tell us all about it when she comes back.
* New events have been posted website, including a night at the Oscars on 4th March and Secrets of Scotland Yard, closing 17 December.
* WI Countries Quiz available run by WFWI to raise funds for WI.
* WFWI have sent out a questionnaire as part of research into physical activity of members of Warwickshire WIs
* Annual Federation meeting for Warwickshire scheduled for Monday 21 March. Please let Julie know if you are interested in attending and representing us (Soozi Pinkney volunteered to go).
* Annual NFWI AGM 2016 being held at Brighton conference centre – WOW WI not down to go this year (1 person on behalf of 4 WIs for 2016).
* “Warwickshire” weekend being held at Denman – see website
* Julie arranging for adverts in various University newsletters to promote future sessions.
* Next sessions:
* December meeting being held on Wednesday 2nd December in the Seminar room, University House. Speaker from Herbert Art gallery about Victorian Christmas - awaiting confirmation.
* January – hoping to hold a chocolate session.
* February – Kenilworth Chiropractors

Looking to get speakers re fundraising at Warwick - alzheimer’s, cancer and premature babies. Further suggestions - Warwick in Africa; singing by choir man from previous University network day community campaign on food waste and donating to local charity. Maxine to look into latter, including researching local shelters at Christmas. Events planned til Feb need more.

* Julie then introduced official AGM part of session:

*Secretary’s Annual Report*

Sharon gave a presentation showing where we have come from, what we have done and what we hope to do. Members have increased to 26, which is good for new group.

*Treasurer’s Annual Report*

Jane shared with the group the difficulties we had in setting up a charitable bank account.

Thanked the University for supporting us by being able to use their space for meetings – it definitely helps keeps our funds healthy. Have also been fortunate in not having to pay for many speakers so far. Next year we will have to pay larger % of subscriptions to NFWI & WFWI (50%) so will be less coming in for our group, but can claim gift aid to help.

Accounts not yet been independently verified. Will ask independent financial advisor at WFWI. All members confirmed happy to use the same person next year too.

*President’s Annual Report*

Julie thanked the Secretary and Treasurer for their presentations and also the Committee members for their hard work over the past 12 months, including Desiree for stepping in. She then updated us on some other things that have happened through the year, including Sandra (Hill) went to Buckingham Palace garden party and that it was an exciting year to start the group with it being WI 100th anniversary. We now need to work on what we can do for our second year - keep our current members, try to increase membership and encourage member involvement. Share the message with colleagues and local friends. Julie is encouraging members of the retired staff association to join. Julie reminded us that she started this to have fun! More trips out and visits to the pub, have another good year.

Julie asked members to agree the passing of the annual report - agreed. This was seconded.

Ruth McCartney made a short speech on how pleased she was to have attended our AGM as she had heard so much about our group.

*AGM, next steps*

All committee members approved.

*(Note: can add committee members during the year, if required)*

Ngam, Lesley and Desiree not present but not interested in being President.

*Note for next year:* Technically should be in writing from all members wishing to stand as committee members as to whether they are interested in standing as President or not. President for a year can be ongoing unless byelaw to say otherwise.

Voted for President by members. Presidents voted have to say if willing to stand. Julie voted in as President again - obviously a good year!

New Committee member positions to be agreed at next Committee meeting.

*Notes agreed to be accurate account of meeting*

Signed: Date:

Name/Position: *Julie Taylor, President*