

Dumfriesshire Federation SWI meeting 1st May 2021

Dumfriesshire Federation SWI held a meeting using Zoom on Saturday 1st of May 2021. Helen Braid, president, made her opening remarks about the date and welcomed institute delegates and members to the May meeting. 40 participants logged on and after apologies and the role call, 22 institutes being represented, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved and will be signed later.

The matters arising from the minutes was the Garden Scotland 21st birthday card competition. The federation competition had been judged with Marion Nolan, Hollywood SWI, 1st place; Elizabeth Walters, Canonbie SWI, 2nd and Jacqueline Hoggan, Wamphray SWI in 3rd. Marion's winning entry has been forwarded to headquarters for the National competition. There were no Dumfriesshire winners in the Limerick competition, the winning ones can be found in the magazine. Dumfriesshire ladies were successful in the photograph competition with Eunice Laidlaw from Tynron SWI gaining a first and a second place and Elizabeth Walters from Canonbie SWI securing a very highly commended. Well done to all the ladies who took part in these competitions.

The National SWI AGM will be held on the 27th of May 2021 on Zoom. Entries for the scarf competition being run by HQ is to be sent directly to them by the end of May.

The correspondence had been e-mailed out before the meeting. Helen remarked about the sad passing of Dunscore SWI member Bunty Walker who was a very keen member of SWI and will be missed. Helen also commented on the retiral of Raymond Pratt, CEO of SWI who has intimated his retiral in December 2021.

The Federation Centenary was next on the agenda. The logo competition was won by Sally Burn, Georgetown SWI. Sally's winning design will feature on the front cover of the Centenary cookbook. Recipes are still needed from a small number of institutes. The Federation Centenary Show is in hand but there was no new information at present.

Dumfriesshire has hosted several successful social events using the Zoom platform both at group and Federation level. The next event coming up Tuesday 4th May, will be a talk by Linda Retson, a former chairperson of SWI about A Year as National Chairperson.

Elizabeth Walters gave an update on the financial situation. Most of the levies had been received but a few Institutes still have these to submit. Liz asked if all balancing statements could have a clear end of year date on them even if it differs from that of the Federation. All bank statements and receipts should be submitted as usual even though there has been little activity during this past year.

The Education report from Nora Muirhead cleared up the misunderstanding about the Centenary map and the cookbook. The map will have the institute drawing and a border, inked in blue pen. The sentences about each institute will be added to the cookbook and will not be part of the map. 9 institutes still need to be contacted so that they can be included in this project. Nora also congratulated the Dumfriesshire team who won the National Variations on a Theme which was held recently.

Helen Braid read out a list of suggestions for a handcraft class on behalf of Helen Anderson the Handcraft convenor. Linda McMinn, Homeskills convenor had no news to report.

Some of the group reports included various zoom meetings, which had taken place, while others were still trying to set up zoom meetings or had nothing new to report. This was the same in the Sports reports, due to the covid situation, with nothing to report. The golf group however have organised a Dumfries Qualifier tournament at Powfoot Golf Club on the 31st of May 2021. There will

be refreshments after this competition. It is not known as this time where and when the National golf final will take place, but the ladies are looking forward to the qualifying event.

In any other business Helen Braid thanked Susan Drummond for her 6 years as Press Secretary and warmly welcome Nora Muirhead, who will take on this role after today's meeting.

The answer to various questions about levies for next session and the best time to close and institute were answered by Executive members.

Helen then handed over to Mima Telfer one of the four ladies who represented Dumfriesshire in the National Variations on a Theme Competition in which they had come first. Mima began by outlining briefly what was expected in this competition. The theme for this year was Journeys and the competition is judged as an audio piece, like a radio podcast, rather than a performance. Mima introduced her three fellow teammates: Ann Roberts, Sally Burn and Doreen Graham. Each lady had gone off to do some research and find poems or write about their own experiences of a journey. Several zoom meetings were held until a final programme was agreed. Each of the team members talked briefly how they had come up with their ideas with Sally writing new material and Mima writing the links between each item. After a few practices and sorting out recording problems they were ready for HQ to record their piece. Mima then played Dumfriesshire's 15-minute Variation on a Theme entry which demonstrated a wide diversity of journeys. The audience greatly enjoyed watching and listening to this piece.

Helen Braid thanked Mima and her team and congratulated them once again on their success.

Mima Telfer gave the vote of thanks to Helen for conducting the Federation meeting.

The date of the next meeting is Saturday 2nd of October 2021.