

**Hertfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes Annual Council Meeting held at The Verso Vineyard, Knoll Park, St. Albans, AL1 5UG on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 10.30 am**

Honoured guests, fellow members – good morning to you all and a warm welcome to the Hertfordshire Federation's Annual Council meeting. I hope you enjoy your day.

My name is Jill Profit, I am a member of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Federation.

It is good to see so many members present today. Esme Young, one part of BBC2's "Great British Sewing Bee" judging duo, is our keynote afternoon speaker, resulting in an increase in attendance this year. As a direct result of Esme's visit today, Challenge from the Chair was launched, to make a pennant depicting Hertfordshire's individual Institutes, proudly on display today. We had a very good response from our Institutes, thank you and thank you to Anne Styles for stitching them together.

In the foyer today, we have lots for you to spend your money on - the raffle, a separate raffle for a quilt, Pam Wright is selling her new Quiz, a delightful selection of stalls for you to peruse and buy, tea and coffee and delicious cakes provided by Bricket Wood WI. Thank you, ladies.

I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank Hertsmere Borough Council for sponsorship of today's meeting.

We are pleased to welcome guests from Cambridge, Essex, Middlesex and Oxfordshire Federations; Vivienne Hodgson, former Chair; Pat Murray, former Holding Trustee; Archivist and WI Adviser and Joyce Gray, former WI Adviser.

I would also like to warmly welcome our speaker for this morning the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Annie Brewster Justice of the Peace.

Jackie Hulse, President of Codicote WI, winner of the National Recruitment Award in 2023 and 2024, will be speaking about their Institute's success in recruiting new members.

Please may I have approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual Council meeting held in October 2023 by a show of blue agendas from the delegates.

May I ask for approval of the Standing Orders.

I will now hand over to Caroline Ellis, our Federation Treasurer, for the Presentation of the accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Thank you, Caroline.