



With grateful thanks to Meryl for organising the 90th Anniversary celebration. To Hazel and team for providing authentically dressed 1929 stewards for AGM at Cheltenham Racecourse. Thanks to all TG members who supported both events.

Margaret Woodward Press email
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Celebrating 90 years of
Townswomen's Guild and 25 years
of Gloucestershire Federation

*Afternoon Tea at Hatherley
Manor on
Tuesday 14th May 2019
In the Mulberry Suite .*

*Celebrating 25 years of Gloucestershire Federation and
90 years of Townswomen's Guild.*

Menu

welcome glass of fruit punch.

Afternoon tea comprising

A selection of finger sandwiches
Homemade Cakes
Fruit scones and plain scones
Hatherley jam and clotted cream
Freshly brewed tea or coffee.

Programme

1.30pm arrival and punch served
2.00pm Speaker Heather Jacks winner
of the Great British Sewing Bee
competition 2014
3.00pm. Afternoon tea served.

achievement. She was encouraged by civilized debate and free speech and we must question headlines. Always read the last paragraph and question statistics, ask questions.,we should not rest on our laurels, still look forward. HRH was pleased by our exciting plans to raise our profile.

Sara Travers has worked with the Black Country Museum to help put on a display of a suffragist. She has worked with Helen Marshall an artist who creates large images of famous people from community photographs.

The main speaker was Victoria Milligan who having suffered a tragic accident when her husband and daughter were killed in a speed boat accident on holiday in Cornwall. Victoria also lost a leg. Her description of how she has coped with all of this was incredible. Victoria told the story as it was and was not claiming that surviving was easy, she took the future in small steps thinking mainly of her 3 surviving children.

Lunch time 12.30 but not for us as we were to meet The Princess Royal in the Meet and Greet suite.

Hazel, Margaret Rogers, Margaret Woodward, Pam, Kim, Annette, Rosemary Penny and I were group 3 we were trained to stand in a horseshoe by Edward Gillespie Lord Lieutenant of Gloucester. Also, we had conversations with the High Sheriff of Gloucester and his wife. Roger Whyborn Mayor of Cheltenham. Princess Anne joined our group shaking hands with us all and saying that she wished she had been able to get to the Jazz festival but not made it yet. Also, that she had driven a train on the Heritage Line at Toddington which she considered to be a great achievement.

Not much time for lunch or to catch up with friends.

The afternoon session focussed on finance .

Instead of another debate we were updated on previous mandates.

Membership trophy won by Woodley evening who had collected 15 new members

Scarf competition won by Worsley guild. Runner up design made into a tea towel.

HQ is making a time capsule 2019 to be opened in 2019 . New Chairman will be Penny Ryan, Jenny Thorne and Jenny Rideout both retiring. Marilyn Lawson is the new Treasurer.

Dates for 2020 International Women's Day **Friday 6th March** in Portsmouth Queens Hotel.

Next year's AGM will be on **Wednesday 17th June 2020** in Scarborough Spa

Report of AGM at Cheltenham Racecourse 12th June 2019

This AGM was a very special event for Gloucestershire, a once in a life-time opportunity. Members from the Federation provided a team of 9 stewards under the guidance of Hazel Tudgay produced a united front in their dress portraying TG members of 1929. This being our 90th Anniversary the membership was invited to dress in outfits of the 1920's and the response was magnificent. Our team performed an excellent job and I personally am very proud of us all. The total number attending from our Federation was 65 which again is an amazing achievement.

As I was the Banner Carrier and in Pole position No1 being only No2 to Princess Anne as Margaret Woodward pointed out. It is a proud moment to have the honour of carrying our banner and the cheers that went up when I entered the stage was very heart warming.

Special guests were The Princess Royal, Gloucestershire Lord Lieutenant Edward Gillespie, The High Sheriff of Gloucester and Roger Whyborn Cheltenham Mayor. National Anthem was sung. A loyal message was sent to the Queen and a reply received.

Two new guilds have been formed Callow and Coventry University. Janice Collins Vice-Chairman read the Mandate.

Mandate: TG calls on HM Government to require medical staff, police and other relevant agencies to inform the DVLA if an individual's health is reducing their ability to drive safely.

Proposed by Val Burgess 2nd by Sheila Alan. Nick Lloyd from ROSPA gave a for and against the proposal.

He felt that the current position is confusing for both the public and professionals, resulting in people driving with a notifiable medical condition. Against the mandate He felt trust which is an essential part of Doctor-patient relationship and confidentiality is central to this. Patients would not visit GP. Evidence could be counterproductive, another burden on Doctors.

Many members joined the debate with personal stories some quite horrific. A vote was taken, and a large majority were for the Mandate and it was carried.

Awards were presented by The Princess Royal

The TG award was given to Karen Moore Sedgley Guild. The ABC award was given to Prue Chadderton from Lincoln Minster Guild for her work over 16 years with Lincolns Women's Aid.

It was noted that Totnes Guild still functioning after 89 years (amazing)

The Princess Royal was asked to give a few words. Her retort was that after 90 years you would have to expect more than a few words. She was hugely impressed with our efforts to dress for the occasion. Thanks, were made to the chair and trustees who ensure that we function and are relevant in today's environment, Because of our dedication challenges show



Checking members for table seating
Margaret , Hazel and Meryl

Chris Hyett on Past Present and Future

Gloucestershire Federation was founded on 11th July 1994 after the dissolution of The Three Counties Federation. Since that time, we have had Zoe Bridges, Muriel Eades, Beryl Thomas, Joyce Gorvett and me Chris Hyett as Chairman for the past 14 years.

Unfortunately we have lost many guilds during this time due mainly to lack of members to actually run the guilds. In every case it has been a sad day but only reached after a tremendous effort on every ones part to save the guild.

We have also lost some of the Federation committee Zoe Bridges, Muriel Eades and Jean Henderson who have all passed away.

We are now running with only 6 guilds but what a splendid group you are we only have 3 less members attending today than we did when we celebrated our 80th Anniversary at Cheltenham Racecourse, in 2009.

As a Federation we have run inter guild Skittles, Quiz, Arts & Crafts competitions. Distribute our own newsletter. We have celebrated 70th, 75th and 80th Anniversary of TG with wonderful shared luncheons. Made visits to the CBSO in Birmingham. Celebrated the Queens Diamond Jubilee, Held a Pamper, Chinese, Australia, Japan and Gloucestershire Days.

Run our own Carol Services, attended National Carol Services. Joined in with other Federations, Regional round of the Quiz in Cheltenham, West Country Conference, 'Wish you were Here' in Birmingham and special services in Bath and Bristol. We always send members to the AGM and the Chairman's at Home.

Made I don't know how many blankets for Hamlin Fistula, Raised funds for the Carers charity.

We present awards for 'Outstanding Achievement outside Guild' and 'Outstanding commitment to Townswomens Guild.'

I am sure we can all look back and remember the things we have achieved in the name of TG and the wonderful friends that we have made.

What makes a good Guild, one with a lively willing membership, and activities, these are vital for survival.



Chris Hyett Banner Carrier



The Gloucestershire Delegates





Gloucestershire Stewards meet Princess Anne



It is in the intimate small groups that we really get to know our fellow members. Times change and what we might have considered a pleasure 10 or 20 years ago seems a bit passé today, eg remember the Macrame craze. We must move with the times and embrace new activities **this is the way forward**. Information Technology is in our everyday lives and we should all help each other to take full advantage of this. Look to your own members, find out their special skills and get them to show others how to achieve similar results. Our activities are non-profit making and open to all make sure you exploit this unique situation. If every one of us tried to bring a friend to Guild and get them to join all of our problems would be over.

We can look forward to the AGM this year as it is being held at The Racecourse a once in lifetime opportunity for our members to attend. Let's help to make it an AGM to remember. The theme is celebrating 90 years of TG with a 1920's theme. Hazel is gathering the steward's together who will make a united front and present as if they were attending the first every guild meeting. The rest of us can all help with either dressing up or even a nod to the 1920's with a string of beads, I look forward to seeing you there.

The excitement, pleasure and good friends I have made over the past 25 years have been immeasurable.

Today has been an amazing event almost 1/2 of our total membership in attendance, it requires a lot of work to achieve this success and I am grateful to Meryl who has put an enormous effort into ensuring the success of this day. (Applause) I am also grateful that we have a committee willing and able to rise to such a challenge.

Thank you to the staff at The Hatherley Manor Hotel for their special attention today.
Thank you to Connie Nunn our representative from HQ and Heather Jacks our Speaker for attending.

