

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

UK SECTION



99th Year

ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014



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OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATED FOR 2014-2015 – TO BE ENDORSED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 29TH MARCH 2014

PRESIDENT	
VICE-PRESIDENT(S)	
SECRETARY	Anne Scott
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Sheila Triggs
TREASURER	Debbie Payne
WILPF INTERNATIONAL BOARD (IB) MEMBER	Lorraine Mirham
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	Jennifer Korty, Helen Kay (Co-convenor International History Working Group, Katrina Grass, Natasha Posner, Patricia Boadu-Darko
VICE PRESIDENT - INTERNATIONAL WILPF	Martha Jean Baker



1. SECTION REPORT

This year yet again has been a very changeable one for the UK WILPF Executive. We started with a very positive AGM and Maie El-Hag becoming President, followed in the afternoon by members of Voices of African Women (VoAW) Campaign giving their personal stories of why they are in the UK and what it is like in their home countries, ably facilitated by Marie-Claire Faray.

Maie resigned as UK WILPF President shortly after the AGM due to work commitments, followed later on by Executive and VoAW member Marie Lyse Numuhoza, change of job and location and at the end of the year, by Marie-Claire, due to circumstances out with her control. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work both with the Executive and for VoAW.

Executive meetings are held five times a year. Details of the meetings for 2014 - 2015 will be posted on the website and sent out in a Peace and Freedom Update after the AGM. Executive meetings are open to all members. We currently do not have an Executive member to represent the interests of those members not in branches and if you feel you would like to consider this role in future, please come to an Executive meeting to find out how they work.

As you will be able to see from the Highlights from the Year on page 5 we have had a busy and eventful year. The branch reports are reflecting yet again a variety of activities and co-operative working with other groups with similar aims to WILPF members bringing to those campaigns the women's perspective.

Behind the scenes we have had an enthusiastic Communications Team working with the guidance of Chantelle Cummings; Lizzie Robertson improving our Facebook page and website and writing a policy document on the use of Social Media; Kady Billington working with the e-news and assisting with Executive mailing. Lizzie has obtained full time employment and has re-located and Kady has returned to study. We thank them both, they taught us so much and wish them well with their chosen paths. The last e-news Kady sent out brought Keely Khoury into contact with WILPF. She has since become a member and has taken over posting items onto and maintaining the website. Please regularly check both the UK WILPF and international websites for updates and follow us on social media.

Another person who has worked very hard in the background is Patricia Pleasance who undertook the role of Acting Treasurer between the resignation of Soraya Shalak and Debbie Payne completing her studies and taking on the Treasurer's post. Thank you Patricia.

This year we look forward to the forthcoming WILPF Centenary and all the celebrations that will involve. This year also brings the start of the Commemoration of the Centenary of World War 1. The history group members have been involved in the production of a pamphlet 'Opposing World War 1: Courage and Conscience' downloadable from the UK WILPF website <http://www.ukwilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Opposing-World-War-One-21.pdf> or from your Branch representative or from the office. You may find this a useful resource for the coming months and years.



Often said is what can I do from home for WILPF? You might be interested in the Wool Against Weapons Campaign which WILPF has joined. Maybe you can recruit a few friends to form a WILPF branch together. These are actions that we can take from home. Another is, as part of the Centenary work, on the International Website under 'Women's Power to Stop War' - the Anniversary Pledge, please sign the pledge and ask your friends to do the same <http://www.womenstopwar.org/take-the-pledge/>.

Ninety nine years of women opposing war sadly has not yet brought about peace. As I write, women have been excluded from the peace negotiations in Syria and the war in Afghanistan which was supposed to achieve better things for women has not. Please keep writing to your MPs to remind them of the UK's responsibilities under UNSCR Resolution 1325.

As we approach our centenary year, we look forward to as many ways as possible for promoting the work of and raising the profile of UK WILPF.

Anne Scott, UK WILPF Secretary

2. INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEMBER REPORT: LOOKING AHEAD

2013 was an eventful year for WILPF and to that end my role as IB member mirrored that both in terms of responsibilities on the Board and supporting the Section to contribute to international campaigns and meetings whilst ensuring our sisters in WILPF across the world are aware of our work here in the UK.

The thrust this year has been toward our anniversary and I'm delighted to say that members of the Section have been engaged with the various working groups to prepare for the Conference in The Hague, 2015. My part has been to work with the Political Working Group (PWG) to bring the views together of women from all our Sections to address important questions for WILPF, not least what our political direction will be for the coming decades. Our member, Cynthia Cockburn, has drafted a Manifesto to draw together the imperatives for the future and in addition to her wide consultation for that, I am supporting further discussion through the PWG, liaising with Sections. In so many ways the world has changed since 1915, alas our core aim to rid the world of war is still central. The context we work in today does mean, though, an appraisal of our internal and outward facing dialogue. Debate has been invigorating. Strengthening the UN to ensure that the root causes of conflict are tackled at the highest levels remains a priority for many of us. However we must also redouble our effort to learn from and work with the alternative global women's movements in a world where the effects of economic and environmental injustice and those of racism and xenophobia are causing immense harm.

I continue to work to my pledge to assist the Section to think and act internationally and together with the Anniversary work. I have supported women to connect with key international officers and staff, not least to further communications, fundraising work and participation in UN meetings. I arranged for a Leicester member to go the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva to hear the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Sri Lanka. She was able to



spend time with our Secretary General, staff and interns and share her own expertise. I also helped connect an Eritrean member here with WILPF's PeaceWomen project which resulted in a US WILPF activist who works with the group Women for Change in Eritrea, due to participate in the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) 58 as part of the 60 strong WILPF delegation. Several women from the UK Section will attend the upcoming meeting of WILPF European Sections which will focus around a conference in Berlin with the Heinrich Böll Foundation which will explore human trafficking, refugees, right-wing populism – challenges for an emancipative gender policy in Europe. WILPF speakers will present.

International achievements continue with WILPF influencing the UPR process, for example that of Colombia when Ireland and Portugal endorsed WILPF's recommendations. Through our PeaceWomen and Reaching Critical Will projects we have influenced work around the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. WILPF, with partner organisations, ran a successful campaign to make the Arms Trade Treaty 'binding'. It was signed in April and was the first ever treaty that recognizes the link between gender-based violence and the international arms trade. Drawing on the expertise of Madeleine Rees (WILPF Sec Gen) from her time working in Bosnia and Herzegovina, WILPF have been at the forefront of driving the agenda for Syrian women to participate in the peace talks, bringing 20 Syrian women to Geneva in January. Sadly at the time of writing, women were not present at the Geneva peace talks. Our continued work on the WPS agenda in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is helping to develop strong advocacy in UN fora.

Do contact me direct if you want further information about how to get involved in WILPF internationally or make contact with WILPF elsewhere in the world. There is so much to learn about WILPF's work. I strongly recommend frequent visits to the international website www.wilpfinternational.org or to follow us using social media. You can also take part in webinars addressing a range of WILPF themes over the coming months.

We will shortly be calling for members to consider coming forward as UK Alternate IB member to support the work of the Board. *Lorraine Mirham, UK IB Member*

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

FEBRUARY 2013

Castanetting for Peace: during the International Board meeting in Madrid amongst those castanetting from the UK are Martha Jean Baker International Vice President (London Branch), Holly Ahom (London Branch), Anne Scott, substitute for International Board member.





1 Billion Rising: Leicester branch member saying why she is joining women all over the world to rise up against violence against women.

APRIL 2013



Easter at Aldermaston: "Stop Fooling with Nuclear Weapons" – Joyce Edmond-Smith (SPA) with local members Molly Beirne and Jenny Engledow (Secret ary Brighton Branch)

Easter at Aldermaston: Among those who braved the bitter cold were WILPF members, Dahabo, Riad and Monica from the Voices of Somali Women Movement.



Anti-Trident (UK Nuclear) Weapons Demonstration Glasgow, Scotland Branch



Blockading Faslane: *The home of UK nuclear weapons*



WILPF Birthday celebrations in London, Alex Murrell London Branch Representative cutting the cake

JUNE 2013



Aldermaston Action: *Orpington and London WILPF and Women in Black members greet bomb factory workers at the gates of Aldermaston*



JULY 2013

Brixton Windmill Festival: Promoting awareness of WILPF to many South Londoners



Orpington garden party: Speaker (right) Lydia Meryll who gave us a thought provoking talk on "The Environmental Crisis: Food, Water and Conflict" and branch chair (left) Pat Pleasance

AUGUST 2013

Hiroshima Ceremony in Brighton:
Some of the people gathered at the Hiroshima ceremony in Queens Park, Brighton, 6th August 2013. Gail Judd, (chair of local WILPF), second from the right and standing next to her Jenny Engledow, (secretary local WILPF)



SEPTEMBER 2013



Syria Demo American Consulate Edinburgh:
*against the proposed bombing of Syria,
Scottish WILPF members and friends*

OCTOBER 2013

Autumn Seminar: *Martha Jean Baker with speakers Eleanor Jordan and Andree Murphy at the Autumn Seminar UNSCR 1325 Global Ambitions and local reflections from (Northern) Ireland.*



NOVEMBER 2013



VOAW Training for Trainers Day:
training against gender based violence November 30th, during the 16 days of Action against Gender Violence



DECEMBER 2013

*Fundraising for the Scottish Branch
Chrystal Macmillan fund (for the
Centenary Congress and Conference),
Scottish Branch members and friends.*



***Visit to Netherlands Section:** members of
Netherlands WILPF welcoming Anne and Helen
with cake and coffee*

JANUARY 2014

*Worthing member Joy Hurcombe
giving a talk in Trafalgar Square in Jan
2014 at the close **Guantanamo Bay**
demonstration*





4. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At the end of 2013 we have four organisations affiliated to UK WILPF: the Network of Oxford Women (NOW), Sudanese Mothers for Peace (SMfP), Voice of Somali Women Movement (VoSWM), and SOAS WILPF Student Society. There are branches in Edinburgh, Sheffield, Leicester, London, Orpington and Brighton. Outreach work which is continuing in other parts of the country has not yet developed into further groups or branches.

The individual, including joint, membership of WILPF in the UK at the end of December 2013 had fallen compared to last year, to a total of 227. Sadly we have lost some very long-standing WILPF activist members this year, including Mary Alys, Mary Pimm, Jean Kaye, Katie Brodwin and Eliane Chorley. Eighteen new women have joined WILPF in 2013 and some others have returned to membership. Mary Pimm left UK WILPF a bequest of £5,000, in addition to a further bequest to International WILPF.

We encourage members to pay their subscriptions by Standing Order and now more than half our membership, pay their subscriptions through their banks in this way. This reduces the work of reminding members to renew and is particularly important as the Membership Secretary is now maintaining the database and all communications with members without regular support from the office.

Recruiting new members and the renewal of members' subscriptions, reflects the activities undertaken by the Section, including regular and public meetings, street stalls, and garden parties organised by branches as well as national seminars. In addition WILPF stalls have been taken at major events like the CND Annual Conference, UNISON Women's Conference and the Feminism in London Conference. We look forward to reaching out to more women in 2014 and rely on our members to alert us to opportunities that may arise in their area.

Sheila Triggs, Membership Secretary

5. 2015 HISTORY PROJECT REPORT

Since we launched our Section History Project at the Autumn Seminar in December 2012 much progress has been made thanks to a lot of hard work by members across the UK.

The Questionnaire for the WILPF Centenary Reminiscences, devised by Valerie Mainstone, has been used in several Branches as a starting point for getting members to talk and write. In addition to these reminiscences in London and Brighton members have been interviewing and recording other members or no longer active members. Thanks to Alex Murrell for all her work on this. Others have been writing about members who have sadly died before they could give us their own accounts. This is all such valuable work so congratulations are due all round. If you haven't started yet please be inspired by this and start your own record. See the Autumn 2013 Peace and Freedom Update for ideas.



Martha Jean Baker is searching for stories from women whose mothers were members of WILPF and she is writing about her own mother who was in the USA Section.

Pamphlet "Opposing Word War One: Courage and Conscience", published by FOR, Pax Christi, PPU, Quaker Peace and Social Witness and WILPF has been printed and is ready to be used by Branches and members to stimulate an alternative narrative to the WW1 Centenary Commemorations. Helen Kay and Katrina Gass contributed articles to this pamphlet.

Archival research as many will know the WILPF Archive is deposited at the LSE Archive. Staff at the LSE Archive obtained a grant for a project called "Swords into Ploughshares" and a major part of this project was to catalogue and rationalise the WILPF papers. Carys Lewis was appointed and has now completed her task. So now all the material transferred from The Women's Library is now catalogued, 14 years after the deposit was made.

Helen Kay and Katrina Gass continue their time consuming task of going through the archive to enhance our collective understanding of the amazing achievements of our foremothers. This material is being and will be used to inform many different projects that are being undertaken as part of the centenary celebrations. These projects include Helen Kay's article in the Chatham House Newsletter; the film project being developed with Charlotte Bill that Sheila Triggs has been very busy with for several months; the Exhibitions that we are planning to create, with funding from the Maypole Trust that will be used initially at the Peace Museum in Bradford and then across the UK. Rosalie Huzzard has been busy liaising with the Peace Museum.

The quality of our work and presentation is going to be enhanced with the assistance of Keely Khoury, a freelance journalist, who has recently made contact and volunteered to help with WILPF communications work.

The major purpose of the research is to provide material for our UK WILPF website so we can have a wider circulation of knowledge about WILPF's history. This material will also be the backbone of our contribution to all the online international celebrations and the Exhibition at The Hague in April 2015. The <http://www.womenstopwar.org/> site will be the place to see this information. The Atlas will be going live soon and will be filling up with information about Sections across the world.

International History Working Group this has been established and there are regular "meetings". Helen Kay is co-co-ordinator of the Group with Mari Holmboe Ruge from Norway. The Group includes Emma from the Geneva office and women from USA, Japan, Norway Spain and Germany and links are being developed with members in other Sections.

Helen Kay and Anne Scott went to The Hague in December to meet with Netherlands WILPFers and to visit the Congress and conference locations.

A series of regular Webinars hosted by WILPF Academic Network will be featuring every two months in the lead-up to April 2015. These Webinars are open for everybody, no prior knowledge or experience necessary! They feature any issue concerning peace and security



from a gender perspective. UK Academic links, the forthcoming Seminar, will be the first stage of what we hope will be a continuing flow of papers, presented and written, that will give us more in depth understanding of some of the very significant British women who have been active in WILPF throughout the century. Helen and Katrina are continually building links and are creating a network of women who want to contribute to the Centenary Celebrations.

Katrina Gass

6. VISIT TO WILPF NETHERLANDS

Planning for:

1. The Congress of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom:
WILPF Members only: 22 - 25 April 2015: The Peace Palace, The Hague.
2. The International Conference on Women, Peace and Security: Organised by WILPF:
Open to all: 27 – 29 April 2015: The World Forum, The Hague

Helen Kay, Co-coordinator of WILPF History Working Group and Anne Scott, Secretary of UKWILPF travelled from Edinburgh to spend time with the women of the Netherlands WILPF section in Amsterdam and The Hague from 10-13 December 2013. The Dutch women gave a very warm welcome and also arranged several visits:

- The Atria, the feminist library in Amsterdam
- Peace Palace, The Hague
- World Forum, The Hague
- Humanity Museum, The Hague.

A meeting was held at The Atria in Amsterdam when Dutch and British women exchanged news of planning for events in 2015. Everyone expressed concern that planning takes a long time and some plans fail because of lack of funding, lack of member support, or lack of interest by museum curators and librarians. The discussion highlighted the feeling of being 'left out of the loop', but brought agreement that we all have learned to keep talking to each other and improve our communications. It was agreed that more discussion was necessary so that we learned more about each section's planned activities.

The British women congratulated the Dutch women on gaining Government approval for the erection of a monument to Aletta Jacobs at the Peace Palace. The Dutch section is working with a T.V company to make a film about 1915 Congress. They are working with several historians including Peter van den Dungen who is preparing a 'Peace Trail' through The Hague.

In The Hague Helen and Anne very much enjoyed the tour of the Peace Palace which is a beautiful building dedicated to the rule of international law. The room for the meeting of WILPF Congress in 2015 is a beautiful light-filled space which will inspire speakers and members. Prior to entering the Peace Palace Anne and Helen had accompanied Netherlands WILPF members to lay flowers at the International Peace flame for Nelson Mandela.



A visit was also made to the World Forum where the international Conference will be held: it is a large building with a theatre capable of holding 3000 people. It made us realise that WILPF organisers will be expecting world class speakers to participate. [The World Forum has good hotel accommodation on the same site and is in walking distance from the Peace Palace].

Several suggestions came from discussions

- Current and former Secretaries General be asked to write up the history of their time in office;
- Interns (where WILPF has contact details) be asked to write up their impressions of working with WILPF
- Make a list of previous interns who now have important jobs and send them special invitation to Conference/Congress
- If Sections cannot attend the Congress, can they send a PowerPoint presentation about the history of their Section or about current work? Or, can they join in some sessions by Skype/GoToMeeting?

Conclusions

The Hague is a beautiful city with many organisations which are based there, dedicated to mediation and negotiation for the resolution of international disputes. The Dutch people that we met were all friendly, helpful and hospitable. Netherlands WILPF women are eager to be involved in the planning for all the international events but anxious for reassurance of the support of WILPF women from all WILPF sections.

It is a wonderful venue for the Centenary Congress and International Conference but there is a lot of work and fundraising to be done to make it an effective gathering.

Helen and Anne wish to thank Netherlands WILPF members for their hospitality and for the time they had taken to organise such an informative visit.

Helen Kay

7. VOICES OF AFRICAN WOMEN CAMPAIGN

The 2013 activities of the VoAW campaign started with the return of Marie-Claire Faray as campaign co-ordinator, Holly Ahom providing support as an office intern for this campaign, and thirteen different African countries represented among our members.

Several VoAW who have been travelling in their home countries have returned and renewed their WILPF membership. Khadidja Fadoul, from Chad, attended the CSW through WILPF to report on her recent experiences in Chad.

Mama Khadiga Hussein travelled to Sudan where the Sudanese Mothers for Peace (affiliated to UK WILPF) started the collection of signatures for their peace appeal. UK WILPF attracted two small grants totalling £1,750 for this work for which presidential approval had to be



sought. By the end of the year the signatures totalled two million and Mama Khadiga is working towards organising a Peace Conference in Khartoum

The network of six Somali women's organisations: Voices of Somali Women Movement (VOSWM) which was established in 2012 thanks to VoAW support, affiliated to UK WILPF this year. Three members joined the WILPF contingent at Aldermaston on April 1st to say to the authorities: "*Stop Fooling with Nuclear Weapons*".

VoAW accepted the Executive invitation to run the seminar at the WILPF AGM in March and made presentations covering the VoAW work since 2008, which were very well received by those present

A letter was sent from WILPF to the Foreign Secretary on behalf of the Somali women asking that they participate in the May Conference on Somalia hosted by the Prime Minister. As a result two women were invited to attend a FCO meeting and Dahabo Ahmed spoke up about security for women in Somalia

VoAW has tried to outreach to more Diaspora communities and Marie-Claire Faray led a training day on understanding Violence Against Women (VAW) for Sudanese women. During the 16 Days of Action Against Violence Against Women the VoAW Campaign held a successful "*Train the Trainers*" Day on VAW. This was made possible by a mini-grant from International WILPF, and attracted some new contacts.

Marie-Claire Faray trained women from five Diaspora African Communities in the UK, about how to recognise different forms of Violence Against Women in their communities and in conflict zones. Women were also trained about how to understand that attitudes of inequality have no base in biology and trained on understanding existing regional and international legal frameworks on humans/women rights; they were provided with copies of the international instruments which protect women's rights.

These women will now be ready to train others in their communities to recognize, denounce and resist violence against women. They are aware of the role that WILPF plays in advocating for women's rights at the international level.

Marie-Claire Faray was invited by the Department of International Relations at University of Sussex to provide a presentation about Armed Conflicts and Challenges Around Gender-Based Violence in DRC; during a briefing sessions at the FCO for building the institutional capacity of the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI), a global campaign launched by the UK Foreign Secretary, William Hague, and UNHCR Special Envoy for the UN Refugee Agency, Angelina Jolie. This presentation will serve to broaden awareness amongst FCO and key HMG partners.

Currently the WILPF SOAS student group is working with the Somali women (VOSWM) to plan a showing of "*Through the Fire*" a film that highlights the humanitarian and peace work of leading Somali women



8. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

UK SECTION

WOMENS INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013 MAIN ACCOUNT

2012	INCOME	2013
£		£
4,215.00	Membership Subscriptions	4,143.00
2,996.91	Donations	5,952.18
1,910.50	Grants	3,362.48
408.38	Meetings and Seminars	250.00
669.50	Sales T-shirts	386.00
578.00	Sales of other items (books, leaflets, badges etc.)	433.40
	Refund on diaries	24.00
5.61	Current Account Interest: Main Account	5.19
10.84	Deposit Account Interest: Triodos	18.71
10,794.74	Totals	14,574.96
	EXPENDITURE	
351.99	Donations and Affiliations	297.00
880.65	UK Travel	365.86
1,597.84	UK Meetings and Seminars	682.00
1,248.60	Postage, Stationery and Printing	654.01
1,105.87	Campaigns (not previously separately analysed)	904.92
198.08	Website, internet and phone	339.67
309.75	International Travel - Conference	483.97
4,190.94	Geneva Payments - Section Fees	4,026.21
403.80	Purchases of T-shirts	298.80
490.94	Purchases of other items (books, pens, badges etc.)	103.50
	Mothers for Peace (Maypole Grant)	750.00
	Mothers for Peace (Garden Court Grant)	1,000.00
75.00	Stalls at events	75.00
500.00	Return of grant	
20.00	Subs returned/unpaid cheques and bank charges	
11,373.46	Totals	9,980.94
(578.72)	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE /(EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME)	4,594.02



9. OFFICE ACCOUNTS

UK SECTION
WOMENS INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013
OFFICE ACCOUNT

	2012 INCOME	2013
	£	£
	525.00 Individual donations	1,064.00
	876.00 Standing Order/ Regular donations	1,626.00
	360.00 Payment from WILPF Trust	60.00
	1.90 Interest	0.18
	1,762.90 Totals	2,750.18
	EXPENDITURE	
	3,309.00 Licence fee, i.e. 'Rent'	3,352.00
	120.00 Computer, repairs and supplies	
	216.91 Phone	226.89
	445.30 Insurance	445.30
	269.00 Volunteer Expenses	469.00
	30.03 Electrical check	
	4,390.24 Totals	4,493.19
	(2,627.34) (EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME)	(1,743.01)

10. BALANCE SHEET

UK SECTION
WOMENS INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2013

	2012	2013
	£	£
	ASSETS	
	CURRENT ACCOUNTS	
	4,084.12 Co-operative Bank Main Account	
	445.30 Add uncleared credit	
	4,529.42	5,104.73



870.69 <u>(445.30)</u>	Co-operative Bank Office Account Less uncleared debit	<u>1,682.38</u>
425.39		
	RESERVE ACCOUNT	
6,324.64	Triodos Bank (last statement)	7,343.35
11,279.45	Totals	14,130.46
	REPRESENTED BY:	
14,485.51	Surplus b/fwd 1 January	11,279.45
(578.72)	Main Account Excess of Income/ (excess of expenditure)	4,594.02
(2,627.34)	Office Account (excess of expenditure)	(1,743.01)
11,279.45		14,130.46

Main Account Includes:

VoAW Grant	227.39	Remaining
Social Media Training Grant	676.26	None Spent
Bequest set aside for history project (£1,000 total £243 spent on printing)	757.00	Remaining
Not allocated for specific work	3,444.08	
Total	5,104.73	

11. SOAS REPORT

Picking up from last year, the WILPF Society at SOAS re-formed for the 2013-2014 academic session. The group's first event was joining the Reclaim the Night march in October, together with other women's interest groups from SOAS and the University of London. In the days leading up to the march, the group got together to make our own placards and posters, which we toted around proudly on the day itself. Spirits were high, and it was a tremendously positive experience for everyone involved.

The group is currently preparing to host the London screening of the documentary 'Through the Fire' on March 12th, in collaboration with Dr. Sarah Winfield from the University of Cambridge, the African Studies and Development departments at SOAS, and the Voices of African Women (VoAW) campaign run of UK WILPF. It was through VoAW that the proposal for the event was first put forth, with the help of Dahabo Ahmed. 'Through the Fire' follows three outstanding women, Dr. Hawa Abdi, Edna Adan Ismail, and Ilwad Elman, charting their tireless efforts to develop and build their conflict-stricken communities in Somalia and Somaliland through various humanitarian projects. The screening will be followed by a dialogue with Edna Adan Ismail, who will be joining us for the night.

Sophie Claire Chew Hui Lin



12. BRIGHTON AND HOVE BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT

During 2013 we have continued to have regular monthly meetings, had stalls to inform women about WILPF and have taken part in public events. We had a stall at the International Women's Day event in Brighton and the opening speaker was a local WILPF member, Baroness Joyce Gould who was warmly received. There were hundreds of women there and many showed an interest in our stall and lots of chatting went on between the stall minders and women of all ages.

At Easter some members from our branch attended the gathering at Aldermaston and held banners in the cold weather, sadly we were unable to go around the base to the women's gate as there was not enough time but we heard some speeches urging us to keep writing again and again to our MP's about the waste of money and dangers of nuclear weapons. We met up with some old Greenham Common friends and decorated the fence with purple, white and green wool.

Some WILPF members were involved in the opposition of the so called 'march for England', where several thousand people filling the streets and showing the 150 or so English Defence League what we thought of their racist ideology. It was a very noisy demonstration with some ugly, raw anger. Perhaps it would be more effective if we stood silently with our backs to them, then their shouting would appear absurd but I fear with all that male excitement whipped up it would not happen.

Our summer party in July was a shared event with the Sussex Peace Alliance and was held at the Friends Meeting house. The young woman Maya Ann Evans, who gave the talk had been to Afghanistan and had much to say about what she found there and painted a picture life there for women and children.

This was followed by our Hiroshima ceremony in a local park and it attracted about 40-45 people. The speakers were, Sir Richard Jolly long-term peace and human rights activist, the mayoress Denise Cobb, Leon Moore chair of the UNA locally and a poem was written and read by local WILPF member Connie Fraser. There were a couple of young boys who had run up to see what was going on and some very interesting exchanges took place between them and the speakers as they responded to the children's questions. We also gained a new member.

In September on the International Day of Peace we had a stall alongside the United Nations Association on the seafront by the town's Peace Memorial. We were well received and as often happens had some good conversations with people in the windy sunshine.

We held a New Year fund-raising lunch with our Baroness Joyce Gould once again giving a very interesting talk that prompted many questions which was about women in Northern Ireland and 1325. It was well attended and the daughter of Kate Brodbin, our member who died recently came along to be part of the day's proceedings.



In January this year Worthing member Joy Hurcombe spoke at a demonstration in Trafalgar Square about Shaker Aamer, held in Guantanamo prison for 12 years. Joy has been very active in the campaign and attends many vigils and gives talks to interested groups. She spoke well and the audience of 150 or so were appreciative.

As individuals we have written letters to our MP's on various issues and joined in with the Amnesty International letter campaigns and written to prisoners of conscience.

Our history project is under way and some women have worked on their own histories after chatting in groups to get into the right frame of mind. Others have been interviewed so that their history can be recorded for them. There is still much to do and the preparations for 2015 will be important to get focused on in the coming months.

The re-making in cloth of Picassos Guernica painting has progressed well and drawn a lot of interest when we have had public sewing sessions in various venues in Brighton, Manchester and even India. This project has some WILPF members and people from other peace groups, refugee support groups and lecturers from the University of Brighton and Amnesty International etc. It is a response to the rise of racism in Europe and will be displayed in several galleries around the country over the coming months and years.

Jenny Engledow

13. LEICESTER BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT

Leicester members have been focussed on the Women, Peace and Security agenda during 2013.

1325 PROJECT

In September we moved our meetings to the *1325 Project* in the City centre, which was co-founded by three Leicester WILPF members who wanted to see WILPF's programme in action in a local setting but with strong global objectives. The project is driven by the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

The Branch uses the Project centre and the space to develop its work around 1325. Our members contribute to building the Project by using the Centre and bringing women to it. One example is member Clare Walker, who through her consultancy uses one of the rooms as a drop in for women experiencing domestic violence. WILPF literature, books about women's rights and issues and information about future workshops are available and aimed to encourage women to use the space, get involved in the issues and participate.

The Branch has planned a day of free activities and workshops for International Women's Day theme, 'Inspiring Change', to bring women together and to express their concerns about state of Britain. There will be a range of activities to encourage women to drop in, including a drumming workshop, demo of the Emotional Freedom Technique and a Top Swap. Local councillors are invited and we will use the event to talk to them about the absence of effective services in the City that could address women and men's experiences of conflict. The Branch has discussed the relevance of UNSCR 1325 in terms of protecting women but



also of the need to hear and learn from Asylum Seekers and Refugees to avoid the double jeopardy of arriving in Britain from a conflict zone, usually brutalised by war to then be further injured by racism, poverty and inexperienced service-providers who are unable to protect them. These are all root causes of further conflict which must be made known.

Leicester WILPF has discussed and made alliances with women who want to support the *1325 Project* to explore ways of protecting and promoting women and creating space for meaningful participation. We think there are a number of spheres in UK society where greater participation of women can directly influence the way forward on issues such as gender based violence in the home, women and girls' political and social inclusion, human security and safety issues, bullying in the workplace and in schools, health care provision and priorities, choices around public expenditure that disproportionately affect certain groups and any area of public life that perpetuates a status quo that prevents the full and active participation of women.

We are also pleased that the WILPF Trust is now based at the Centre, further promoting WILPF's work. Women volunteering with the associated *'Zinthyia Trust'* are gaining valuable skills through dealing with the administration of the WILPF Trust whilst finding out about WILPF here and around the world.

Other news – we participated in the One Billion Rising global event in February 2013 where members met in a café and got customers involved in holding up WILPF messages about why we were rising.

Sadly, this was the last event that Mary Alys was able to participate in before her death in May. Our Branch will miss her kindness, focus, resolve and immense capability. She encourages us.

Lorraine Mirham

14. LONDON BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT

London WILPF spoke to Royal Holloway University on the 27th of February 2013 about trafficking, in UK, the role of UN and what to do about trafficking. In April 2013 we held a birthday party for WILPF at Housman's Book shop. During the summer London WILPF conducted interviews with Deirdre Leask, Adele Phemister and Margaret Turner for the 2015 Centenary Reminiscences Project.

In August we had a lively garden party Jane Grant spoke about First World War, Catherine Plugyers spoke about drones and Rose Marie Adams spoke about UK WILPF in the 1970s which will be a report about Hephezibah Menuhin when she was President of UK WILPF.

In September members attended a demonstration about drones at the Arms Fair. London WILPF members spoke to Putney UNA on the 21 of January about drones. London WILPF plan to take part in drones kite flying event on the 22 and 23 of March. Aside from taking on



the history of WILPF and 1st world war conscientious objectors, No Drones is the main area that London WILPF is concentrating on.

We spent 2012 and part of 2013 campaigning and informing people on trafficking and made a valuable link with Chinese centre in Soho. The group has lost dedicated members to having children, ill-health, moving out of London and concentrating on other organisations.

The recent London WILPF meetings have been about interviewing the lives of London WILPF members, Diane Brace, Martha Jean Baker, and Jane Grant, and Richenda Barbour. Jane Grant and Natasha Posner have also contributed to the stories of the World War 1 and the hidden history related to this war. London WILPF plans to have a birthday celebration on the 27 of April 2014 at Housman's bookshop in Kings Cross.

Alexandra Murell, London Branch Representative

15. ORPINGTON BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT

Meetings

Orpington Branch continues to meet in the afternoon on the fourth Tuesday of most months. The average attendance in 2013 was 11 members and friends.

As well as a number of discussion meetings, we invited speakers on a variety of topics covering both national and international events, as well as news of WILPF. Holly Ahom WILPF intern who had been to the International Board Meeting of WILPF in Madrid, updated us on what had been discussed and her own impressions of it. Frances Hook and Dave Mott told us about the effects of the Health and Social Care Bill on the NHS, and WILPF member, Kandiah Pathmaseni who had visited Sri Lanka WILPF this summer, gave us a much greater understanding of current events in her talk on Sri Lanka: Then and Now.

We had a particular interest in NHS matters because following our local Healthcare Trust being declared bankrupt there was an active campaign against the closure of Lewisham A & E department, which made the national news and involved the Minister in a court case. Stella Hermiston attended and reported back on The People's Commission of Enquiry. The A & E department is not to be closed.

Orpington members like many others are concerned about the effects of government cuts, and Zsuzsi Yardley, who was attending the People's Assembly against Austerity (a trade union sponsored event) reported to members about this movement.

Public Events

Our annual Garden Party was held at the home of Elsa Bell, and our speaker was WILPF activist Lydia Meryll, who gave us a thought provoking talk on "The Environmental Crisis: Food, Water and Conflict". This attracted several local Friends of the Earth and gave rise to a stimulating discussion



We had a stall in the High Street in Orpington jointly with CND about nuclear weapons, and interested a number of passers-by in signing a petition.

Sheila was also invited to participate as a speaker at the Peace One Day event in Bromley where we ran a WILPF stall

Fundraising

A very enjoyable fund-raising meal was hosted by Pam Hobson and this raised £200 towards our contribution for the WILPF centenary celebrations. Sheila Triggs also hosted fund raising sales of books and CDs for this fund.

National Actions

Orpington members went to Aldermaston Nuclear Bomb Factory for the CND Stop Fooling with Nuclear Weapons event on a very cold April 1st and again on June 28th when five members joined Women in Black activists in an effective vigil opposite the gates of the base.



Two Orpington members ran a successful WILPF stall at the Feminism in London Conference (photo left) where we highlighted the significance of the White Peace Poppies

Sad News of Members

We are sorry to report that several members who have been long standing supporters of Orpington Branch have died. We have lost Christine Novi, Mary Pimm and Eliane Chorley. We are very grateful to Mary for the legacies she left to UK WILPF and to International WILPF.

Pat Pleasance

16. SCOTTISH BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT

We continue to meet at the Engender Office 1A, Haddington Place, Edinburgh on the second Monday of each month at 5.30pm and continue to be very busy.

Our February meeting's main topic was working with the Scottish Parliament. Anne Scott gave a report of being interviewed by the UN Rapporteur on the Rights to peaceful assembly and association at the end of January.

During February as part of Scottish Scrap Trident Coalition jointly with the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre (EPJC) we wrote a letter to all Scottish MSPs inviting them to the Scrap Trident weekend of Action with some very positive responses resulting from this.

All Scottish female MSPs and MPs were sent a letter just from the Branch inviting them to



join in with the weekend of Scrap Trident action and explaining why it is important for women to do so. As a result of these letters Helen Kay and Anne after the weekend of action were invited to a meeting with Jean Urquhart MSP who resigned the SNP whip due to their policy on NATO. At the end of February again jointly with EPJC we organised a public meeting, Susan Clarkson, speaking on Voices for Creative Nonviolence and her recent trip with the UK Peace Delegation to Afghanistan.

In March Megan Bastick was on the panel of speakers at 'Shame and the Military in the Middle East and North Africa. Megan has also been invited to join the board of Engender to help build a better working relationship between the two organisations. At our March branch meeting we made a banner. On March 26th we attended a press conference and photo call at the Scottish Parliament for Scrap Trident Demonstration in April.

In April members attended the Scrap Trident Demonstration in Glasgow and the blockade at Faslane on April 24th, Anne and Helen met with Jean Urquhart MSP (Independent). The meeting was mutually beneficial as Jean taught us a lot about improving our Scottish Parliament lobbying skills and she said she learnt a lot about WILPF and subscribed to the Reaching Critical Will Newsletter.

At our May branch meeting we discussed the raising of money for the 'Chrystal McMillan Fund'. Helen is one of the women who committed herself to raise £1,000 towards WILPF's Congress in 2015. Funds were also raised towards the I.B meeting in Madrid and the 'White Poppy Campaign'. The White Poppy campaign is what we have called our campaign to challenge the increased militarism in the build-up to the commemoration of WW1.

In June we held our AGM where we decided in the future that the Branch is going to operate with a Secretary Anne Scott and a Treasurer Eileen Cook with Anne signing letters to MPs and MSPs as Convenor. Also, in June a Women and Warfare conference was held in Edinburgh University. Helen Kay gave a very well received paper 'The Women who tried to stop WW1' on Chrystal MacMillan and the founding of WILPF. WILPF member Megan Bastick with her work hat on, Gender and Security Fellow with the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces participated in the very distinguished panel discussion at the Scottish Parliament which closed the conference. Megan spoke on UNSCR1325 and incorporated WILPF and WILPF policy into her speech. The end of June saw the formation of An Alternative Panel to Commemorate WW1: Scotland with WILPF being invited to the inaugural meeting. In the period 2014 to 2018 the Branch has agreed to actively participate in the work of the panel and events organised by them.

Our August Branch meeting focussed on the NAP questionnaire and discussion of drones. Lydia Meryll WILPF member and CND council member asked us to write a leaflet for CND AGM saying why Scottish women oppose Trident copies of the leaflet will be available at the WILPF AGM in March. Members attended the Hiroshima Day vigil as organised by Edinburgh CND. The council gave us a slot in the official Fringe performer's area next door to the National Gallery. A very busy area with tourists and local Fringe goers we attracted a lot of interest.



We had no September meeting instead on Monday 9th September along with people from other organisations attended a demonstration against military action in Syria outside the American Consulate in Edinburgh. One nice thing that happened was that other women joined us to have their photographs taken with a women's banner. A letter condemning the proposed American intervention in Syria was handed in on behalf of WILPF.

Our October meeting was brief where we discussed fund raising for the 'Chrystal Macmillan Fund' – prior to us attending the Edinburgh CND 'Alternatives to Trident Event' as part of the Edinburgh World Justice Festival (EWJF)

On Thursday 17th October we hosted our own event as part of EWJF , 'Women of the Diaspora' , two women spoke of their journey to Scotland and their lives and problems here as refugees from areas of conflict. One woman spoke on behalf of Muslim women whose husbands were refugees from areas of conflict had been detained but not charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. We were all so stunned by the stories. This is the first time the branch has organised an event in the EWJF and we were pleased with the feedback and will be doing an event in 2014 EWJF.

Branch members contributed to the Peace and Justice Centre Newsletters, October, Anne on the White Poppy campaign, November, Helen 'Chrystal Macmillan and the formation of WILPF.'

November 2nd Helen Kay gave a lecture on Chrystal Macmillan and the formation of WILPF as part of the 'Dangerous Women' event organised by the Alternative Committee to Commemorate WW1 Committee Scotland. Lesley Orr spoke about Helen Crawford (another early WILPF member) and the Women's Peace Crusade during WW1 and Catriona Burness, Mary Barbour: anti-war protests and the rent strikes. This event was well attended on a cold wet miserable day with public transport difficulties. We are repeating 'Dangerous Women' in Edinburgh, April 26th 2014.

Our November Branch meeting had two stages; firstly we attended the 'White Poppy' Remembrance Vigil at the Peace Pole, followed by our branch meeting. Helen was asked to write an article for 'World Today', the journal of Chatham House. This article was published in December. 'World Today' is circulated to 8,000 organisations. This will be very good publicity for WILPF.

Our December meeting was a fundraiser at an Indian Restaurant. A good time was had by all and we raised £320 towards our Chrystal Macmillan fund. At the January meeting Helen gave a report back on her and Anne's visit to the Netherlands. Thanks were formally noted for the hospitality and organisation shown by WILPF Netherlands. We briefly discussed the Manifesto and had an extra meeting totally devoted to discussing the manifesto on Wednesday January 29th.

Anne Scott, Scottish Branch Secretary



17. SHEFFIELD BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT

This report covers how we organise, key aspects of last year's work and our planning for 2014.

Our current membership is fourteen women; six of us form the 'core group' who do the basic planning and rotate admin tasks. We have managed to work well with just three elected posts for several years: secretary, treasurer and the branch representative to the Section. Our staple event is still the regular, speaker-led monthly meeting and we aim to get a spread of topics from local to international. Thus we had lively presentations on the story of the WILPF activist Phoebe Cusden and the history of witches in European communities. Plus a series of topics on the theme of *'working locally; aiming globally'*, which included reports on women's situation in Venezuela and on development work in Nepal – a nation with an active WILPF presence. We also introduced a discussion on WILPF's policy on nuclear weapons and the current emphasis on 'the unacceptable risks and humanitarian consequences' they pose. Finally, we were delighted to welcome the Section secretary, Anne Scott to talk about her experiences of the WILPF International Board meeting in Spain.

In the interests of both outreach and fundraising we have also continued with the yearly summer garden party and with organising stalls of our literature and merchandise at regular Sheffield events, like the annual summer Green Fair and the pre-Christmas Peace and Craft Fair. Such events take a lot of preparation and we keep them under constant review, given our limited resources.

At the same time, we have been developing newer approaches. For instance, we are keen on finding new, more informal means of engagement, such as communal meals, which we have held this year both at a member's house and a local restaurant. We are also striving to take more advantage of the opportunities living in a big city affords of both working in partnership with other organisations and of being represented as WILPF delegates on various local bodies.

Thus our representatives worked on the hugely successful local One Billion Rising occasion in February whilst also maintaining contact with the other event organisers through our regular participation in both the council-run Equality Network and the activist group, Sheffield Women's Network. This partnership-working also led to our representation at International Women's Day events – including having our secretary interviewed on community radio. We also have close links with the National Assembly of Women and advertise each other's meetings. But our biggest effort in joint working this year was with the Soroptimists who invited us to help plan and run a major anti-trafficking exhibition that was held over a week in a shopping mall last October.

Our work as effective and well organised 'partners' and delegates undoubtedly wins local respect for WILPF. But, so far, it has not brought us new members! This year we have gained one new member – but she was a replacement for one who left the area. So our membership remains static. Including the current membership, we have a total mailing list of thirty-six,



mainly signed up at our stalls, plus two members we hand-post to. Obviously, the core group keeps the membership situation under review. We are aware that the majority of the emailing list are women who are already campaigners or participants in other organisations – as we are ourselves. So there is always a difficulty around the importance, time and resources given to WILPF itself.

But in the coming year, leading up to our anniversary we aim to follow the Section's lead on recruitment. For instance, we have had a Facebook page for several years, but with further social media training from the Section, intend to use this much more creatively in our outreach work. Our other current plans, already well under way, include working with local peace activists and the Society of Friends to produce an event based on diaries, poetry and drama for Conscientious Objectors' Day in May. So let's just say we remain small – but buoyant!

Rosalind Brunt, Section representative, Sheffield branch

18. WILPF TRUST REPORT

The WILPF Trust has moved to new premises – 1325 Project, 12 Bishop Street, Leicester LE1 6AF. Trust business will be overseen by Lorraine Mirham, working closely with a trainee administrator, as part of a women's development programme. The Trust welcomes Lorraine, Malcolm Katz and Monika Beutel as new trustees. Sharon Smee, our HongKong based trustee, who has managed Trust finances for the last few years, has recently had a baby and despite warning the Trust she would be less active, is still contributing some of her valuable time, knowledge and wisdom.

Gift Aid and the Give As You Live (donations through internet shopping) scheme provide the Trust with a steady trickle of money. The Trust will send WILPF members information in the coming months about Gift Aid for 40% taxpayers. Trustees agreed to sign up to the online fundraising tool, JustGiving, to make donating and other fundraising methods as easy as possible, in the run up to WILPF's big Birthday.

Through WILPF members' generosity, the Mary Alys Memorial Fund has now raised enough money to help with travel costs for Congress/Birthday/conferences for women from financially struggling WILPF sections. If members would like to donate to the Mary Alys Memorial Fund, please send a cheque to the Trust at the above address, with a note saying it is Gift Aided (if the donor has already signed a Gift Aid agreement form – if not, the Trust will send one out, if the donor is eligible for Gift Aid).

The Trust has agreed to join CHARITY FLOWERS, a Jersey-based business supplying flowers for all occasions at reasonable prices, which donates 15% of any purchase to a charity of your choice. CHARITY FLOWERS is an offshoot of AgeUK and uses only local or fairly-traded flowers. We are just waiting to sign contracts with them and hope WILPF members will use CHARITY FLOWERS for any special occasion. We will distribute contact details and more information, when the WILPF Trust has been accepted as a qualifying charity. Look out for the CHARITY FLOWERS logo!



Following a request from the WILPF 2013 AGM, the Trust is completing a document about Legacies. This will be circulated when it is ready.

Many thanks from the Trust to WILPF members for your donations, your Gift Aid forms, your contributions from internet shopping through GIVE AS YOU LIVE. Please contact the Trust with any comments or questions, either at the above address, or at trust@wilpf.org.uk

Deirdre Leask, Trust Secretary

19. OBITUARIES

CHRISTINE NOVI – ORPINGTON BRANCH

Christine Novi was a long standing supporter of Orpington Branch, and was very knowledgeable about international affairs, particularly through her husband whom she met while working for the United Nations. Her file of newspaper cuttings on many such topics could be a mine of information. She was Secretary of the Branch for many years, until she had to give up for health reasons.

ELAINE CHORLEY – ORPINGTON BRANCH

Eliane Chorley had given much time to running a local branch of the United Nations Association, but had always been a keen supporter of WILPF. In her later years she was able to concentrate more on WILPF issues but unfortunately poor health prevented her from continuing with this, and she rarely came to meetings, although she still kept in touch with branch members and appreciated receiving our Branch minutes.

MARY PIMM (20 JUNE 1924 – 23 JUNE 2013) – ORPINGTON BRANCH

Mary Pimm was a gentle, generous and concerned person who did whatever she could to help individuals and to work for a better world. As a social worker she was greatly valued for her love and kindness to children in care for whom she was responsible. When she died they remembered her with love after fifty years. As a WILPF activist she was concerned about debt issues and supported national and international work to promote economic justice. She was the daughter of WILPF International Vice President Nelly Weiss, who eventually settled in Orpington and was a strong supporter of WILPF Orpington Branch. Mary continued in this tradition and maintained her involvement as long as she was able. She has left generous legacies both to WILPF International and to UK WILPF, and these have been accepted with gratitude.

JEAN KAYE (1926-2013) – BRIGHTON BRANCH

Jean had been an active member of many peace and human rights organisations in her time before her quiet death last September. At Greenham Common she had been involved with the hot food run to keep women fed in the cold dark winter months, arriving with wonderful food, especially veggie sausage pie. She became a very regular driver to chase the convoys,



she gave an ever willing lift to women dragging their belongings to the station and she looked after women in times of distress.

Jean was often in the base doing actions to annoy the military there and spent many hours doing night watch whilst drinking coffee and talking the night away with analysing world events and human behaviour. When Aldermaston camp was started and continues to this day, Jean was there giving it her all. It is hard to convey the level of her commitment to whichever cause was at the front of her mind at any time, she was completely reliable, and gave all she could of time and spirit unconditionally to all.

When WILPF had the 2 day residential AGM in Oxford, Jean had been a wonderful host and helped the whole event to run smoothly, which was I'm sure a lot of work and she had been on the WILPF executive in the 1990's.

Jean became a strong supporter of the people in Campsfield Immigration Detention Centre where asylum seekers are imprisoned and once again she gave every ounce of her energy to this unjust and shameful place. An amazing woman of great spirit and quiet gentleness who worked for others to the end of her life.

MARY ALYS (11 FEBRUARY 1953 – 18 MAY 2013) – LEICESTER BRANCH

Mary Alys was a long serving UK WILPF member formerly in the Worthing Branch, founder of our Leicester Branch, ex International Board member, International Personnel Committee convenor and was a Co-Vice President of the Section in 2011. She was exceptionally loyal to WILPF and we miss her both here and internationally.

Mary, a proud feminist, began her involvement with WILPF at the age of 28 because in her own words,

"...WILPF was everything I believed in all tied together... I could see by being in WILPF we could have our views heard at the highest tables."

She had been asked to join WILPF by the brilliant late member Sybil Cookson.

Those who knew Mary will say that she was a very humble and softly spoken woman who was also very determined, competent and not afraid to stand up and speak out on key issues or volunteer to take on tasks to get things done. Her vision of fairness and equality for all was also demonstrated in her work for the Trades Union Congress (TUC), building on her lifetime's work as an innovative adult educator.





Through the 1980s, Mary's activism was concerned with issues including disarmament, women's rights, natural resource conflict, militarism, anti-racism, economic justice to name a few. She worked tirelessly behind the scenes to support the Section to seek growth, particularly through the 1990s and into the 2000s when it was clear that we needed to change with the times. She was a huge champion of young and working women's participation in WILPF and the need to value their contribution in whatever form that takes.

In her early WILPF days, Mary was actively involved in many campaigns including the WILPF STAR campaign to Stop The Arms Race, protests to draw attention to various issues including Hiroshima Day where her and sisters in the Worthing branch narrowly averted arrest by singing! She was also involved in fundraising activities to send WILPF member Hazel Rennie to the embassies around Europe, and supporting women at Greenham Common by attending when possible and sending supplies – including two pairs of bolt cutters bought from funds raised at a very conservative Mayor's fundraising event!

Later on, in the mid- late 1990's, she took on the role of International Board member for our Section and was relentless in her efforts to help us step up to a greater and more aligned international focus for the Section. Following the UN World Conference on Racism in 2001 she worked with the Section to explore how we operated and to challenge us on how we could be more accessible and become a more inclusive WILPF for all women. Mary was at the heart of the development of a code of conduct for the Section to further this aim. She worked with African women to further strengthen an agreed pan-African approach for WILPF's work further developed at the 2004 Congress in Sweden.

Her concern to support new members led her to create the 'Connect' programme in the mid-1990s. It was ground-breaking at the time and has been further developed by Diane Brace, who shared her vision to connect new members in the Section and beyond. The concept has been taken up in Sections elsewhere in the world.

I am so proud to say that I met Mary at my first WILPF meeting in December 1984, aged 19 when she made a point of getting to know me and my interests. She has done this with numerous new members over the years in order to welcome, nurture and make them feel valued. I have been continually inspired by her in our WILPF work together and will always be so.

There is so much more we could say about Mary Alys and her contribution but Mary used some of her last breaths to record her time in WILPF for us. Those memories and oral herstory are available to listen to and she certainly hoped it will be used in our Centenary history project.

Donations in Mary's memory have been collected by the WILPF Trust to support women from less well-off Sections to travel to participate in international meetings and we encourage more.

Lorraine Mirham

Mary was very fond of this image, donated to WILPF by Picasso





20. WILPF AGM AND SEMINAR 29 MARCH 2014

**Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
UK AGM and Seminar**

29 March 2014

To be held at
Amnesty Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London
EC2A 3EA

- 11 am to 1 pm WILPF Business (Members only)
- 1 pm –2 pm Lunch Cost £5 /£3
- 1.30 pm – 2 pm Confirmation of registration for seminar
- 2pm -4 pm Seminar, open to all Cost £5 / £3, pay on the day

Please let the WILPF office know if you want lunch and wish to attend the seminar by emailing office@ukwilpf.org.uk or phoning 020 7250 1968

'Those Dangerous Peacettes: Then and Now' 2 pm – 4 pm

Dr June Hannam, Prof of History University of West of England, Bristol.

You may have heard Professor Hannam on BBC Women's Hour talking about Isabella Ford.

'Isabella Ford and peace campaigning in the First World War: a socialist and feminist perspective'

Dr Marie Sandell Lecturer in Modern International History New College of Humanities London

'International Travel and WILPF's Expansion in the Interwar Period'
Katrina Gass, Anne Scott, Helen Kay

What do we need to know about the Centenary at The Hague in 2015?



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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