

# **Treasurers Handbook 2024/2025**

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Charity Reg. No. 1010437 Company Reg. No. 2658417

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**All payments and receipts for WI activities must be recorded in the WI Accounts**

**NB: all links to My WI – you must log in to access these documents.**

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## GUIDELINES FOR WI TREASURER'S

The Treasurer's job is interesting and challenging. Here are some simple rules. Check that you have the tools of the trade from the Bank and from Federation Office.

### BEFORE THE COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Check Notes for Treasurers to see what needs paying this month.
2. Prepare cheques for signature or set up online payments with payment date after the committee meeting. (On cheques for HCFWI please write the WI computer account number on the back of the cheque). email WI House finance@hampshirewi.org.uk if paying online or via Bank Transfer.
3. Check Bank Statement with your accounts and prepare figures for the Committee.
4. Consider finances and future, check against your budget.
5. Prepare recommendations to make to the Committee.

**Preparation will ensure that things don't get forgotten.**

### AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING

**For all accounts:** Have forms from the Bank to change signatories: Have at least three signatories, any two of whom may sign each cheque.

An Assistant Treasurer can be appointed. Her duties may include collecting money for Federation Newsletter, Diaries: Outings: etc.

### AT THE COMMITTEE MEETING

1. WI money is there to be used for the benefit of PRESENT members, so make your recommendations and be prepared to explain.
2. Money spent on good speakers and demonstrators is vital to attracting and keeping members.
3. Give Financial Statement to the Committee
4. Ask for all expense claims to be given to you in writing.
5. Ensure all payments are approved, minuted and have two signatures.
6. Take the latest bank statement to the meeting and ask the President to sign that she has seen the statement and confirms the figure at bank.
7. Give information on any payments that aren't regular entries e.g. hall rents, to the committee.
8. Liaise with Secretary and Committee Members regarding HCFWI monthly statement. **Ask if there is anything in the monthly posting for the Treasurer.**
9. If keeping accounts on computer, email/give back up to another officer and save on one drive

### BEFORE THE MONTHLY MEETING

1. Do the bank reconciliation and note the balance at the bank
2. Prepare the cheque for the speaker, expense claims, hall and other bills
3. Have sufficient floats. Draw sufficient petty cash as necessary.
4. Prepare a brief report every 3 or 4 months so that members know how the finances stand in relation to the budget.

### AT THE MONTHLY MEETING

Remember to take:

Financial Statement and Bank Statement

Cheque book

Receipt books

Petty cash and petty cash notebook

Money bag/s or tin/s

Notebook

New Member (MCS) forms <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/data/assets/pdf/0008/299087/WI-Member-Registration-Form.pdf> and gift aid forms

1. Arrive in good time ready to receive any payments due.
2. Give receipts for all monies received.
3. Give a brief clear statement of the finances – usually quarterly.
4. Encourage members to ask questions on money matters.
5. **ALL** monies received must be banked, **NEVER** pay out cash received in payment (Charity Law).
6. Put **ALL** recommendations to members for approval.
7. Member's payments may be by:  
Cheque: **with a note on the back of what is being paid for**

Cash: keep a supply of small envelopes, members can then write their name, what they are paying for and the amount on the envelope and put cash inside. Issue a receipt.

Electronic banking: give members the WI bank, account name, sort code and account number, ask them to add their name and what paying eg. Subs, SCM, AM, Cal/Diary as reference

**Give MCS registration and Gift Aid Forms to all new members**  
<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/mcs-reps> (scroll to bottom for members detail form) Pay fees and expenses due to the speaker – by cheque.

Collect money from trading stall, raffle, refreshments, sub committees and give receipts. None of this money should be used to pay outgoings.

A petty cash book should be kept for all cash payments.

## AT THE END OF THE YEAR

1. Complete petty cash entries and make the petty cash up to the agreed amount before closing the books.
2. Close the accounts **no later than 6 weeks before the annual meeting** to give yourself and the independent examiner time to complete the accounts.
3. The Financial Statement should be filled in by the Treasurer if accounts are not on the spreadsheet and it should balance. If it doesn't, ask for help. It should not be submitted to the examiner until it does balance. Remember: Interest is income and should be shown on your financial statement - either under miscellaneous or any other income.
4. The examiner needs all bank statements, receipts and account books which have been in use during the year.
5. *Ensure the President sees the original bank statement and accounts before she signs both copies of the Financial Statement.* Copies should be available for committee members to see at the committee meeting prior to the annual meeting, and all WI members at the annual meeting.
6. After approval by the WI one **signed copy** of the **Official Financial Statement** must be sent to WI House.
7. Start new spreadsheet for new financial year.

## THE BUDGET

The budget is an intelligent guess of the income and expenditure for the coming year.

Use the recently completed financial statement as a guideline. Consider current inflation and include any special events you are planning. The balance at the end will help your committee plan any fund raising that will be needed during the year.

## THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

All WI Accounts must be examined by a competent person who is NOT a member of that WI nor a relative of any member of the WI Committee. When presenting the Financial Statement for the year to the WI,

the Treasurer proposes the name of the examiner (or use of the HCFWI IFE Scheme) for the coming year. A seconder is sought, and the appointment approved by the WI.

<b>WI Treasurer's End-of-year Work Checklist</b>	<b>Completed</b>	
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Planning</b> Outstanding Accounts paid (including committee expenses and transfer of subs portion to Federation) Date of Annual Meeting known (when Accounts presented to members) Obtain Bank Statement		
<b>Accounting Records</b> Reconcile/Check bank statements to Accounts and when correctly balanced ink in and rule page off if using book. Balance petty cash, analyze expenditure and transfer figures to Accounts. Cross total and balance Accounts. Ask President to sign confirming balance of cash-in-hand.		
<b>Financial Statement</b> Confirm year end date. If using the accounts book Enter figures from Accounts Book on to Financial Statement under relevant headings and total to check for accuracy. (Do NOT include transfers of monies between accounts Present to President and ask her to sign at foot.		
<b>Reporting</b> Arrange for accounts to go to independent examiner with all relevant paperwork* (see next page) Copy Financial Statement or type a summary thereof and take photocopies for <b>all</b> members – it is their money and important they see the results) <b>Present to committee members and then to members at Annual Meeting</b>		
<b>Completion</b> Complete online (or return to Charity Commission) the Database update form and finance information. Complete and return Annual Report Form after new committee known together with copy of Financial Statement. File away in a safe place the Accounts Book and WI Copy of Financial Statement. Pay Independent Examiner. Claim Gift Aid		
<b>New Year - Start new spreadsheet.</b>		

### **IFE (Independent Financial Examiner)**

#### **List of documents to be submitted for examination at year end.**

COMPLETED Financial Statement for this financial year.

Financial Statement for last financial year

Budget for this financial year (as authority for payments)

Current cheque book – or minutes if using online banking.

Current paying in book

For the current year: ALL receipts

ALL receipt books.

- All cheque book stubs.
- All paying-in book stubs
- Petty cash book

ALL bank statements **including the last page of the previous financial year**. All other account statements.

Accounts books (or print out of all pages used if using spreadsheet, including statement that backup copies are made regularly and are passed to another member of the WI committee)

The bank reconciliation for the end of the current year

Gift Aid claim form and list of members claimed for

Your rough listing shows how the columns from the accounts book are split and putting the totals on the financial statement.

All other supporting paperwork

The balance in the petty cash book should be checked by another WI Officer against cash held and they should sign the petty cash book confirming the amount.

If the annual report has been prepared (on the back of the Annual WI Report Form) this should be attached to the accounts.

A copy of WI Constitution if Independent Examiner not WI trained.

**NOTES FOR TREASURER'S**

Full Membership Subscription payable by all re-joining members for 2024/25 is £48.00 made up as shown in the table below: Subscriptions are payable on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April.

The Dual Membership Subscription for 2024/25 is £23.60 payable to their second WI at any time during the year.

Pro-rata subscription for new members in their first year 2024				
Date of Joining	Total Subscription Due	WI Share	Federation Share	NFWI Share
1 Apr – 30 Jun '24	£48.00	£23.60	£11.30	£13.10
1 Jul – 30 Sept '24	£36.00	£17.70	£8.48	£9.82
1 Oct – 31 Dec '24	£24.00	£11.80	£5.65	£6.55
1 Jan – 31 Mar '25	£12.00	£5.90	£2.83	£3.27

These amounts are set by the National Federation of WIs (NFWI) every year.

**Dual Members MUST** produce the receipt for their Full Membership Fee from the main WI before being accepted as a dual member.

**Note: \*\* Membership fees for the Federation (HCFWI) and NFWI should be sent to the County Federation, together with the Pooling of Fares. HCFWI will send the NFWI portion on.**

Pro-rata payment forms can be downloaded from [www.hampshirewi.org.uk](http://www.hampshirewi.org.uk)

**Subscription Flexibility Guidance for WIs:**

INFWI Pro Rata Subscription Eligibility Rate:

Information available on HCFWI Website <https://hampshirewi.org.uk/pro-rata-subscription-rate-eligibility/>

## **METHODS OF PAYMENT TO HCFWI**

Either: By cheque, made payable to 'HCFWI', WI account number on back of cheque, sent to: -

WI House, 22 – 24 Station Hill, Southampton Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9XB

Please remember that WI Cheques **MUST BEAR TWO SIGNATURES**.

Or: Direct into HCFWI bank account.

The Federation's bank details are:

LLOYDS BANK

SORT CODE 30-99-71

ACCOUNT NUMBER 02399673

PLEASE give your **WI Account Number** and **WI Name** as Reference.

After making a payment, please email the finance office at [finance@hampshirewi.org.uk](mailto:finance@hampshirewi.org.uk) to let us know what the payment is for. For example: the WI Statement or Membership Subscriptions.

Please advise individual members ordering items that they can pay by debit or with credit card, phone WI House 023 8061 6712

### **Payments to be made on behalf of your WI:**

Due 30 June 2024 – with Membership Fee Form sent out in April 2024.

**Membership Fees** – Full subscription – payable by all renewing members or members joining from another WI whatever month they pay.

Total due is obtained from the number of paid-up members on your books on:

30 June 2023

Pro-rata fees – as shown on the previous page - payable by **NEW** members joining during the year – **who have never belonged to a WI before**

- **due 30 Sept '24 Subscription payments received between 1 July to 30 Sept**
- **due 31 Dec '24 Subscription payments received between 1 Oct to 31 Dec**
- **due 31 Mar '25 Subscription payments received between 1 Jan to 31 Mar**

Pro-rata payment forms can be downloaded from [www.hampshirewi.org.uk](http://www.hampshirewi.org.uk)

### **A GUIDE TO BANK RECONCILIATION**

Note: Think of your accounts book as a list of payments into and withdrawals out of the bank. Everything that goes in or out should be shown. Similarly, anything on the bank statement should appear in the accounts.

#### **If using the NFWI Spreadsheet:**

Items required: Bank statement.

1ss. On bank statement listed under 'withdrawals' mark off all the cheques which appear, at the same time mark these off in the spreadsheet by putting a 'y' in the bank reconciliation column, **making**

- sure amounts agree.** Are there any amounts listed on statement, which have not been marked? If so, check them. If not, proceed to 2 then 3.
- 2ss. For bank payments e.g., direct debits or bank charges, they need to be entered in the spreadsheet in this case under payments.
- 3ss. On bank statement, any 'deposits or receipts' tick off credits paid in, at the same time marking spreadsheet with 'y' in the bank reconciliation column, **making sure amounts agree.** Are there any amounts listed which have not been marked on the statement? If not proceed to 4. If there are e.g., bank interest into the current account or electronic payments by members these should be entered in spreadsheet under receipts.
- 4ss. All amounts entered on bank statement should now have been marked off. These are cleared payments and receipts. Note the statement date.
- 5ss. Check whether any receipts are not cleared – if so, write the total on the bank statement and add it to the bank statement total. The amount should total the figures in the 'receipts paid into bank but not cleared' box on the year-to-date page of the spreadsheet.
- 6ss. Check whether any cheques are not cleared –if so, write the cheque Number and amount on the bank statement, total them (the amount should total the figures in the 'cheques written but not cleared' box on the year-to-date page of the spreadsheet). Deduct this figure from the total after step 5 above. The figure you end up with should equal the figure in cell J3 on the year-to-date totals and on the top of the receipts and payments pages cell T1 in both cases. If the figures do not match, then check to see where the error is.

### **If using the NFWI Accounts book**

Items required: Account book and bank statement.

- 1ab. On bank statement listed under 'withdrawals' mark off all the cheques which appear, at the same time mark these off in the accounts book, making sure amounts agree. Are there any amounts listed on statement, which have not been marked? If so check them. If not, proceed to 2 then 3.
- 2ab. For bank payments e.g. Direct debits or bank charges, they need to be entered in the accounts book in this case under payments.
- 3ab. On bank statement, any 'deposits or receipts' tick off credits paid in, at the same time marking the accounts book, making sure amounts agree. Are there any amounts listed which have not been marked on the statement? If not proceed to 4. If there are e.g., bank interest into the current account this should be entered in account book under receipts.
- 4ab. All amounts entered on bank statement should now have been marked off. These are cleared payments and receipts. Note the statement date.
- 5ab. Check whether any receipts are not cleared – if so, write the total on the bank statement and add it to the bank statement total.
- 6ab. Check whether any cheques are not cleared –if so, write the cheque number and amount on the bank statement, total them. (e.g., Chq no 16 £5.00, chq no 17 £22.50, total £27.50). These are unrepresented cheques. Deduct this figure from the total after step 5 above. The figure remaining is the balance left or '**reconciled bank balance**'.
- 7ab. On accounts book, draw a small line below last entry on column 16 on both sides - payments and receipts - on the statement date. Check whether all figures above this line have been marked off.
- 8ab. In your account book, the receipts to date including the brought forward figure at the year end, less the payments in the year to date, should be the balance left on your bank statement after the



adjustment (at 5ab and 6ab above. If not have you included the additional entries (see 2 and 3 above).

If the figures do not match, then check to see where the error is.

Notes:

- i. If you do this exercise every time you receive a bank statement, not only will you know exactly how much your WI has in the bank at any given moment, but should there be a query it is easier to sort out. Year-end figures will balance, and you will be able to relax, confident in the knowledge that you are able to answer queries on the accounts.
- ii. Bank statements are easier to check if they are sent to you monthly or quarterly. A request to the Bank to change the frequency if you wish is soon dealt with.

## HANDOVER CHECKLIST

Items to be passed on from outgoing to incoming WI Treasurer:

Treasurers Handbook

Financial Statements (annual)                      Budget forms

WI account book -  
or computer print outs/back up disks.

Cheque book    Paying-in book

Petty cash book    Savings cards

Folder with bank statements                      Money bags

Subscription receipt book

General receipt books

Up to date list of members names, addresses, telephone numbers

Correspondence folder containing:

- a. advice on payments from Federation and National
- b. Note of charity registration number
- c. Note of Gift Aid HMRC registration number – **ensure this is on your WIs MCS record**
- d. Federation statements for events, tickets etc.

Spare programmes

Spare membership booklets if any

New member details forms

Blank Gift Aid forms

Members completed Gift Aid forms (must be retained permanently)

Gift Aid Schedule

Copies of pages re. Treasurers see the <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/wi-finances/gift-aid>

Folder or container for receipts handed in by other officers, or members having acquired items on behalf of WI (for the Independent Examiner)

Charity Commission forms completed and returned (in conjunction with Secretary) or a printout of your online submission (if applicable).

## KEEPING OF RECORDS: TIMING

Use the following as a guideline.

Table 1

The following table lists documents which should be recorded at the Records Office

<b>Records to be archived at the Records Office</b>	<b>How long to be kept</b>
Signed Constitution and Rules	Permanently
Committee Meeting Books* (to include any decisions or byelaws)	Permanently
Meeting Record Books *	Permanently
Final WI programmes	Permanently
Scrapbooks/Photo Albums	Permanently
Treasured correspondence e.g., invitation to Royal Garden Party	Permanently
Annual Reports produced by Secretary	Permanently
Financial Statement	Permanently
Registration Certificates e.g. Charity Commission (if applicable)	Permanently
Legal Documents about your property if it is owned by your WI	Permanently

- Loose leaf copies of these records in appropriate storage are acceptable (not required to be in ring binders when you send to HRO, envelopes/paper folders are fine).

Table 2

The following records are not required to be kept permanently so do not need to be sent to the Records Office:

<b>Ongoing record keeping</b>	<b>How long to be kept for</b>
Leases (if applicable)	15 years
Financial Records (Annual Statements to be archived)	7 years
Gift Aid Schedule/HMRC spreadsheet	7 years
Members completed Gift Aid Authorisation Form	7 years
Correspondence with HMRC	7 years
Significant correspondence with Federation or National on behalf of your WI	7 years
Insurance Policies (if applicable)	3 years
General Correspondence	Destroy on a 6 monthly basis or at periods agreed by each WI
Correspondence with Hampshire Records Office (contains your WI reference number)	Kept for the duration of your WI

## STATEMENTS

Your WI has a unique WI account number, which is printed on the statement.

E.g. Fantastic Women WI might be FA14.

Statements show charges for events applied for or items ordered by both WIs and members. Charges still owing from previous months are accumulated and shown as one amount. Other charges for this calendar month are shown individually. Any amounts received after the month end are not shown, so remember this when you pay.

Members can apply for tickets to events.

directly – and pay HCFWI when applying.

directly – and not pay HCFWI when applying, so HCFWI will invoice their WI – the member must advise the WI what she has ordered.

via their WI – HCFWI will invoice the WI.

Statements are only generated if there is a non-zero balance on the account. Statements are sent in the monthly posting to the WI Secretary, who should pass it on to you. The posting goes out generally at the end of the third week of the month. Alternatively, you can request that the statement is sent directly to you earlier in the month **by email**.

### Methods of Payment:

See page 8/9

Please send any cheque with 'Remittance Advice' section of statement to WI House or email details after bank transfer.

Please contact the Finance Office if you have any queries about your statement. Email: [finance@hampshirewi.org.uk](mailto:finance@hampshirewi.org.uk)

Phone: 023 8061 6712

## BUDGETING

1. Use the budget form issued with the financial statements annually.
2. When the financial statement is complete use the figures as a guide, to prepare the budget for the following year, allowing for inflation.
3. Ask the programme planners for the list of speakers, their fees and expenses for the following year.
4. Include updated subscription figures (letter to WIs from NFWI annually or <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/wi-finances>)
5. Include any special plans your WI has made for the next year.
6. Present the budget to the WI for approval at the annual meeting. This gives you approval for all normal expenditure without asking members at every meeting. This will give you a good guide to the expenditure and income of the WI in the next year.

7. If funds at the year-end on your budget look low, you will have the full year to plan and carry out fundraising to improve the situation.

## HCFWI Treasurers

### Tips and Guidelines

1. Each month provide tubs or envelopes marked 'raffle' 'teas', 'Stall' 'Misc'. Keep a separate note of floats provided. (If you give the same float each month, use a sticky label on top of the lid of each tub - or put a note which is kept in the tub all the time). The float must be removed before monies are counted. It can then be replaced and will be ready for use at the next meeting. A notebook is useful for writing notes including what is in the miscellaneous tub.
2. Count money quietly at home - never at the meeting. Receipts for cash collected should be written immediately. You can use the Assistant Treasurer to check cash received.
3. At April and May Meetings have the subscription receipts partially made out with only the members name to be filled in at the meeting. A large piece of card stating '**Subs required £???.00 made payable to .....** WI' is useful. Some WIs hand out an envelope in March on which they have put: Member's name, the amount of the next year's subscription and who to make the cheques out to. Member's hand this to the Treasurer in the New Year with the fee inside.

It may be useful to transfer the portion of membership fees which will later be sent to the Federation to a high interest bearing (eg. COIF) accounts for the few months between members paying their sub., and you receiving the request for it from HCFWI - this earns the WI some interest. (These transfers must not be included in income and expenditure totals at the year-end).

4. Keep a separate diary or list of what must be done in diary format on a large piece of board or clipboard. This saves time working out when hall payment, membership fees etc., are due to be paid and will ensure you have sufficient in the current a/c to meet payments. Also, you know if you have surplus funds, they can be deposited in higher interest a/c or COIF a/c. **COIF** (Charities Official Investment Fund), Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET Tel: 0800 022 3505 [www.ccla.co.uk](http://www.ccla.co.uk)

Remind members the month before money is due for orders, tickets etc. Follow up by stating the exact amount required, on a piece of card have payments due this month for £..... in respect of ....., payable to ..... WI'. The member who distributes can then take the orders and receive payment from members. The treasurer hands over one receipt for the total with a list of those paid. This also works for Diaries, Calendars and outings and means the Treasurer is not overloaded.

6. **Use the forms on the back of Hampshire WI News or sent by the Federation** - they are to assist you. Each year a 'WI Treasurers Handbook' is emailed or sent in the posting. It includes a page listing the regular payments you should make, the payee and where the cheque should be sent. Do refer to it and the Treasurers pages of the WI Handbook which is available on the HCFWI website.
7. **Payments: remember all payments require two signatures or authorisers**

**a. Cheques:** remember each cheque requires two signatures. **Never sign or ask anyone else to sign**

**a blank cheque.** The cheque to HCFWI should have your WIs computer account number on the back. This is always the first two letters of your WI followed by a number eg. AB01 could be Abbots WI or WI02 Winchester WI.

**b. Bank Transfer: Pay to: HCFWI Sort code: 30-99-71 Account no. 02399673 email [finance@hampshirewi.org.uk](mailto:finance@hampshirewi.org.uk) saying date and amount paid and which branch paid in at and what for.** Online payments must be authorized in the minutes before payment.

8. Reconcile your books to the bank statement as received, ask for monthly bank statements (or print out). If the bank statement and accounts book balance, you **KNOW** your bookkeeping is correct. This will help you at the year end. If you cannot reconcile the books with the bank statement you can investigate, secure in the knowledge that any error is in the few entries since you last did the bank reconciliation. You will find this means no unpleasant surprises and **you** are in control and confident. It also means the year end will go smoothly and you will hand over balanced books to be examined. Members should be asked to approve an Independent Examiner for the current year. WI trained Independent Examiners are available on request to WI House. If other than a WI trained Examiner is used a copy of the Constitution should be handed to the Examiner to ensure the accounts comply.
9. a. The bank statements should be available monthly for committee and the President should initial and date it.  
b. The bank statement should be available for members to inspect at the Annual Meeting. The President **must** see the bank statement, accounts book and bank reconciliation before she signs the financial statement. Encourage members to look at and ask questions on the accounts. It is their WIs money and their right. They will also appreciate what a good job you are doing on their behalf.
10. Ensure you know the year end date. This cannot be changed without consulting members. Close the books no later than 6 weeks before the annual meeting. Prior to closing the books ask for all expense claims so they can be met. ALL money belonging to the WI must appear on the financial statement and a copy provided for every member. An Annual Report should be completed and ideally sent to WI House with the annual financial statement.
11. All financial papers including Bank Statements, account books, receipts and financial records including Minute Books should be retained for 7 years. The latter must be retained indefinitely see page 14.
12. All money received must be banked gross with none held back for petty cash. Petty cash cheques should be drawn as required.
13. Many of the treasurer's duties can be shared with an assistant treasurer

If you have a problem, please share it with your committee. **If you are unable to resolve it ask your WI Adviser** who will be happy to help. **WI money is the responsibility of all. Enjoy your time as Treasurer, you are doing a worthwhile job.**

**Extract from The WI Handbook** and other notes relating to the duties of The Treasurer (<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/wi-finances> scroll to bottom of home page). If you do not have internet access, ask WI House to send a hard copy.

**It is the committee which is responsible for the financial well-being of the WI. The Treasurer presents recommendations from the Committee to the members at the WI meeting. It is the members who take the decisions.**

The Treasurer is appointed by the committee, at the first meeting after the Annual Meeting, to look after the financial affairs of the WI. Try to have a good handover from the previous Treasurer. Take everything home and look at it all. **If you have queries ask** - the previous Treasurer, fellow committee members and your WI Adviser.

## The responsibilities of the Treasurer

As Treasurer you have responsibility for the proper and efficient handling of your WI's money. Within this your responsibilities are to:

- Advice on financial planning.

Sound finance starts with the budget. A budget is a statement of probable income and expenditure, in round figures, for the year ahead. It is a framework which should be realistic, based on the previous year's actual figures, and known plans, with expenditure over-estimated, rather than under-estimated.

The Treasurer draws up the budget and presents it, first to the committee and then to the members, for approval. The budget must be monitored and, if necessary, revised. A budget form is issued by WI House annually.

Keep the accounts up to date and prepare a statement at the year-end for examination by an independent examiner. Your Federation can provide an examiner if your WI wishes to be included in the scheme.

**Make sure the bank statement is seen by the committee and signed by the President.**

### Specific duties

- Be aware of the WI Constitution and Rules information available on MyWI.
- Open a banking account in the name of the WI. This could include a Post Office Giro Account, or a Building Society Current Account. (The committee appoints not less than three members – usually the President, Treasurer and one other, to sign cheques on behalf of the WI. Two signatures are required on each cheque).
- Obtain a mandate from the bank if there is a change in the signatories.
- Collect the annual subscriptions. Pay **all monies** into the bank.
- Ensure that obligatory payments are paid promptly. These are:
  - a) membership fees to federation and NFWI
  - b) pooling of fares for NFWI Annual Meetings
  - c) delegates expenses
- Pay all bills.
- Seek authorisation for and write cheques or set up payments online - **Never ask anyone to sign a blank cheque.**
- Issue receipts
- Ensure that all money collected is paid into the bank promptly. Money required to pay out (Petty Cash) should be drawn from the bank.
- Check current account balance. Should this be excessive, open a deposit account which pays interest.
- Present the independently examined accounts to the committee and then to the members at the Annual Meeting, accompanied by the Bank Statements.
- Ensure the Committee completes a Charity data base form annually.
- Encourage claims for and pay all expenses incurred by members when working for WI.
- Encourage and help with relevant fund-raising activity - Not too much and not too little.
- Know what helpful stationery is available - and use it.

## REMEMBER

The Treasurer - **PROVIDES** - information.

The Committee - **GUIDES** - the WI members

The WI members - **DECIDE** - what will be done.

**Do enjoy your job.**

## THE CONSTITUTION FOR WIs: published 2021 RELATING TO FINANCE

Items relating to the Subscription, Delegates, Meetings expenses, Finance, Federation Membership, Pooling of Fares etc., are available on the <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/wi-finances>. The constitution can be found under Essential information.

### Assistant Treasurer

The Assistant Treasurer should have specific tasks delegated to her – such as collecting the annual subscriptions, and/or keeping the attendance register.

## USE OF WI FUNDS

Clarification: WI funds belong to the Charity and not the members!

Some WIs have large reserves or do a lot of fundraising. They want to know what these funds can be used for – provided it is put to the members and a majority agree they can be used: -

- To provide Educational Bursary
- To provide tutor on various subjects for members to improve their knowledge of crafts, cookery, art etc.
- To pay for Federation News for all members.
- To provide free modest refreshments for all members at monthly meetings (ie tea, coffee and biscuits and slice of cake – these are incidental to the meeting).
- To provide additional copies of programme cards to give away (good promotion).
- Pay for help with washing up or clearing chairs at monthly meeting.
- A **modest** lunch or supper (ie. fish and chips or ploughman's) can be provided at an occasional meeting (eg. Resolutions, Annual etc) **provided it is incidental to the meeting.** (ie. it would not be advertised in programme etc, and the point of the meeting is business). If gift aid is claimed **everyone** attending should be treated equally – no charge for visitors.
- Donations to:
  - Federation
  - NFWI
  - ACWW
  - Improving or supporting local Village Hall for benefit of community
  - Providing facilities at **local** hospital so members avoid long journeys.

To pay for an educational trip in place of the monthly meeting (eg visit to gardens, museum) – the expenses of this **must** come from WI funds.

## Presentations to retiring Officers/expression of gratitude for exceptional contribution to the WI.

WIs can give small gifts to outgoing Officers or those who have done something exceptional for their WI. The Charity Commission's guidance puts the limit up to £25 per gift. Please note that money/gift vouchers cannot be given in lieu of gift.



**WI funds cannot be used for expensive presentations.**

## **Outings and Parties**

Outings and restaurant bookings (which do not replace the monthly meeting) must be paid for in advance by the members who go– **deposits cannot be “borrowed” from WI funds** as the events are social and not covered within our Constitution. Income for these must always cover or exceed expenditure.

WI parties and outings **should** go through WI accounts. However, the money must be collected from members **before booking and paying deposits** for halls, coaches etc.

Provided the money has been collected in advance they do not present a problem. The public should never be asked to pay for an outing for WI members through any fund-raising activities.

If an educational visit is arranged on a normal monthly meeting day, any associated expenses (e.g., travel) **must** be paid out of WI funds and entered in the account book as an expense of the meeting. (This does not apply to meals/food purchased on an educational visit.)

## **Miscellaneous Briefing – issued by NFWI February 2009**

**This paper clarifies several issues raised by WI members, WI Advisers or federation and NFWI trustees recently.**

### **Payments of subscriptions from WI funds**

Women join the WI by paying a subscription as stated in the constitution. The part of the Subscription due to HCFWI and NFWI cannot be paid by WIs from their funds.

### **Honorary membership**

There is only one category of WI membership which is open to all women who pay the annual required subscription through their WI. There is no honorary membership category.

Women can also become NFWI Associates by paying the required Associate subscription to the NFWI. The NFWI passes a part of the Associate subscription to federations who keep in touch with Associates by sending them their newsletter and invitations to federation activities. Associates can attend WIs where they are required to pay a visitor's fee as appropriate.

### **Refund of subscriptions**

Subscriptions are not refundable and if a member moves home during a year, or joins another WI, she can join the new WI as a dual member, thus only paying the WI part of the subscription twice, not the federation and national parts.

### **Payment of subscription on the anniversary of joining rather than from the beginning of the year**

Subscriptions cover the period April - March each year, **new members to the WI Movement**, pay a subscription depending on the quarter they join:

### **Refreshments at WI meetings**

The NFWI has recently clarified with the Charity Commission that refreshments at WI meetings can include a glass of wine payable from WI funds. The advice given by the Charity Commission is that the emphasis must be on the word's reasonable refreshments – for example, vintage wine or

champagne and lavish dinners would not be considered reasonable.

### **Bursaries**

WIs are encouraged to provide bursaries for their members. Although WIs cannot fund individuals who request financial support as this lacks the element of public benefit which is essential to charity, they can allocate funds for bursaries for subjects within WI objects and open the application to their membership.

### **WI Anniversaries/important events**

WIs can use their funds to celebrate anniversaries and other WI events and to publicise themselves and their activities.

## Fundraising

WIs cannot fundraise for national charities, but they can fundraise for a wide range of local causes, for example local hospice, hospital, school, bus shelter, playground, community hall, etc. These are examples of local projects that fall within WI objects by improving conditions of rural life or advancing education.

Whilst WIs are not allowed to contribute to international appeals, for example to help refugees or victims of disasters, they can contribute to international projects that target women and their local communities, for example training of women, projects encouraging rural crafts, women producing food, developing women in their interest in issues associated with rural life and women wanting to take part in the improvement and development of their conditions.

If members wish to contribute to projects outside WI objects or international appeals, they can do so as individuals, not from WI funds.

<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/wi-finances>

## Registration/De-registration

WIs with an income of £5000 or more per annum must be registered with the Charity Commission. This refers purely to an annual income of £5000 or more (as financial statement not including 'acting as agent' income) that should be considered when registering.

It is important to stress that even if a WI chooses to de-register, it will still have to comply with charity legislation and the WI governing document, the constitution and the trustees will continue having to fulfil their trusteeship duties. However, the Charity Commission will not require any further forms to be filled in once a WI has de-registered.

## Raffle Prizes

Legislation now allows WIs to have a bottle of alcohol as a raffle prize even if the hall does not have a Licence, provided it is incidental to the event and it is in a sealed bottle, the tickets are sold on the day it is drawn and there must be no cash prizes.

## The Annual Meeting

**Extract from Rule 31** Notice of the meeting giving the date, place and hour of the meeting **must** be included in the Annual Programme of meetings given to each member. Please refer to Annual Meetings <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/guide-to-running-meetings/wi-annual-meetings> the constitution can be found at <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/essential-information/the-wi-constitution>

The Officers have extra specific duties at the Annual Meeting. The President and Secretary should work closely together to ensure all arrangements are in hand. The President and Treasurer need to meet to look at the examined Financial Statement, together with the bank statements. The President is required to sign the Financial Statement along with the examiner and Treasurer. The President should encourage all members to accept nomination for committee **ideally at least one month prior to the Annual** meeting so that a ballot can be held.

Nominations may also be accepted from the floor on the day.

## The Treasurer

An important item is the appointment of the independent examiner. It is recommended that the independent examiner is appointed by the Federation. The committee, not the Treasurer, nominate either 'A WI Independent Financial Examiner' or put forward a name – someone with experience who is not a member of that WI nor related to a member of the committee.

The Financial Statement is presented by the Treasurer. Copies of the statement should be available to members, so that they may follow her explanations. She should encourage questions and have all

the relevant papers to hand. The Bank statement should be on display for all members to see. At the conclusion of her presentation, she should say 'I propose the adoption of the Financial Statement'. The President will then ask for a seconder and, when the statement has been seconded, questions will be invited. The President should encourage interest in the WI's finances by asking for comments as well as questions. A vote is then taken on the adoption of the statement. The budget may appear on the Annual Meeting agenda, but some treasurers feel a separate presentation at the first meeting of the new WI year is preferable.

## Gift Aid

The Inland Revenue has agreed the WI Subscription can be treated as a donation and tax reclaimed under Gift Aid. **All WIs can claim – whether they are registered charities or not.**

It is the responsibility of the Trustees of the WI to maximize income for the WI. The Charity Commissioners have stated that Trustees should claim gift aid where appropriate. Guidance as to how to go about claiming: online or

1. Write to: Charity Title Section, 1R Charities, St. John's House Unit 380C, Merton Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L69 9BB 0300 123 1073.

asking for your WI to be considered for tax relief under the Gift Aid System. Also asking for information on the scheme and guidance for issuing certificates for completion by donors.

2. You need a gift aid declaration form for each member eligible for the scheme to sign (example attached). **These forms must be kept permanently.**

Please remember that for a member to sign the scheme she must be a taxpayer in her own right. The Inland Revenue will send you guidelines and you can go back four years (one claim form for each year). If the WI Treasurer does not want to do this perhaps another member would like to take it on, however, the Treasurer must sign the forms.

Please ask your MCS rep to record your WIs Gift Aid/HMRC registration number on the WI record on MCS.

here is a link to the Gift Aid guidance on My WI <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/wi-finances/gift-aid/WI-Gift-Aid-Guidance-2023.pdf>

We are advised that as Trustees WI Committees should take steps to claim Gift Aid on subscriptions. **Remember from 2018 you may only claim gift aid on the WI portion of the subscription.**

To ensure the Gift Aid rules are not violated we advise that Visitors should be able to attend their first WI meeting free of any charge for attendance. For any subsequent meetings (the number is usually limited by the WI anyway) they should be asked to make a reasonable donation. These sums should be entered as donations. Visitors may be asked to pay for refreshments in the same way as WI members.

If claiming for more than one year, use one form per year (copy the blank form)



**Gift Aid Declaration.....**

**Boost your subscription by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you pay.**

Your membership subscription is split between your WI, your local Federation and the NFWI. The NFWI writes to your WI each year stating the portion that goes to each party and you can also view this on the WI website. Each share of your subscription qualifies as a donation for Gift Aid which is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.

Please complete this form and give it to your WI. A copy will be forwarded to your Federation and the NFWI. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

**PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS**

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £48 and any donation I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:

Name of WI: .....£23.60

or subsidised amount if WI has decided to do that .....

Federation name: Hampshire.....£11.30

The National Federation of Women’s Institutes (NFWI) .....£13.10

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

**My Details**

Title \_\_\_\_\_

First Name or initial(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Full Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the WI if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address, or
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Gift Aid continued:

Notes to Donor:

**Insurance**

Information including the policy number on the insurance policies held by HCFWI and covering all WIs can be obtained from the Federation Office.

Occasionally when making bookings you may be asked for information on insurance, particularly Public Liability Insurance.

### **Vouchers**

If your WI uses vouchers, a sheet outlining how to deal with these in the accounts is available from WI House.

## PETTY CASH

A simple way to run petty cash - use the Imprest System [the float and the maximum amount you can pay from petty cash should be agreed by the committee, the figures used here are for illustrative purposes only).

1. Agree with the WI committee a sum which will be your petty cash float, say £25.00.
2. Agree a sum up to which expenses and sundry payments will be made from petty cash, say £10.00.
3. Have a separate small book for recording all petty cash payments.
4. Clear your existing petty cash, pay any monies into the bank, rule off the petty cash book, make any necessary entries in the account book, so that you start off with a completely 'clean slate'.
5. Write a cheque for cash for £25.00. Enter this in your spreadsheet or account book, in the petty cash column. Enter this into the petty cash book as 'Cash received from Bank'. Keep the money in a separate container.
6. NEVER pay money received into the petty cash. The only money paid INTO Petty Cash is the money you write a special petty cash cheque for.
7. Over the months make any expense and small payments of less than say £10 from your petty cash. This money can also be used to provide a float for the raffle, teas, a stall etc., but these 'floats' are a loan from petty cash and must be returned to the petty cash before you count your 'takings' at the end of each meeting.
8. As you make payments to members from petty cash ask them to sign a receipt or sign against the entry in the petty cash book to say they have received the money. They should also produce receipts for the items for which you are paying them.
9. When the amount in the petty cash is reduced to say £8.00 or so, total up the exact figure you have spent from petty cash. Write a cheque for this amount, enter it in the spreadsheet/accounts book, analyse across the relevant columns, do not enter in the petty cash column Write the amount in the petty cash book and total it, you should now have £25.00 (in our example) in the petty cash book and in the container (see sample below).
10. Before you close your books at the end of the financial year, always make up the petty cash to the sum agreed (in our example £25.00).
11. At the year end, on the financial statement you will bring forward £25.00 petty cash. This system works very well, we recommend it to you. Here is an example to help you.  
Cheque to Petty Cash                      £25.00  
Write in account book 'To petty cash', in petty cash book, 'cash received from bank'.

January	Mrs A refreshments	2.10
	Mrs B raffle	4.00
February	Mrs A refreshments	1.70
	Mrs B raffle	4.20
	Mrs C Secretary Expenses	3.70
	Mrs D Delegate travel expenses Resolution	
	Selection Meeting petrol	3.30
	Total	19.00

Bal. in petty cash	6.00
Cash from Bank	19.00 -
write cheque for this amount.	
Balance in Petty Cash	25.00 -

and you start all over again.

### Acting as Agent

A WI is acting as agent where a member makes a payment to the WI that she intends to be passed on to the federation or the NFWI. The WI Committee has no discretion over the use of the funds when acting as agent.

When the WI acts as agent the funds are not included within the WIs total receipts and payments in the financial statement.

The receipts and payments do go through the WI's bank account and are still recorded in the WI account book under the appropriate headings. The totals are transferred to the 'Notes' section (Section C) of the Financial Statement.

There are three types of receipt/ payment that this applies to:

1. The share of the membership subscription that is to be passed on to the federation and the NFWI (i.e. the federation and NFWI shares).
2. Payment for bookings by individual members on federation events where members book and pay as individuals and the WI is doing nothing more than acting as a conduit to pass on information from the federation and members' payments to the federation.
3. Payments for the NFWI or federation raffle tickets that are collected and passed to the raffle operator.

Please note that a WI is not acting as agent in the following situations:

- The WI organises an event or a group visit for members and charges members a fee. In this case the WI Committee is exercising discretion in organising the event and the booking is made in the name of the WI. (Include under activities & events). If you are not sure then you should assume the WI is not acting as agent.
- The WI is paying for members to attend a federation event from WI funds. (Include under activities & events).
- The WI orders and purchases diaries, calendars and other items from the federation and sells to members, where there is a single order in the name of the WI. (Include under publications.)



- The WI raises funds and donates them to Federation – County or National (Include under WI fundraising.)

## GROUP MEMORANDUM

- A Group is an informal association of WIs providing a friendly link between WIs and a means of giving and receiving information and views to and from the National and County Federation via the WI Adviser.
- A Cluster consists of a regional collection of Groups.
- All Groups will be part of a Cluster of Groups.
- A Group should elect/appoint a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer either by election or rotation.
- Names and contact details of Officers should reach the Federation office by the beginning of July each year.
- Members of the Group Committee will decide how long each member **should** serve before the post is offered for re-election/appointment; it is recommended that each Officer serve for a minimum of two years. For Groups not in the rota system, nomination papers will be circulated annually in November.
- The Group will decide how many meetings to hold each year, but a minimum of two meetings are suggested, at which the WI Adviser has the opportunity to meet/discuss issues with members.
- The Group will decide whether any meetings are held virtually due to circumstances or choice. Consideration must be given for those members who are unable to join a virtual meeting, to ensure they are not discriminated against.
- The Group will decide whether to hold meetings of WI representatives with the Groups Officers and WI Advisers (currently called committee meetings); how many and how often.
- **All dates need to be booked in liaison with the WI Adviser** and should not be on the normal meeting day of a WI in the Group or a WI Adviser committee meeting day.
- Health and Safety rules will be the same as any WI Meeting.
- Competitions: if required, HCFWI will give advice on schedules as appropriate (a 2–3-month lead time would be helpful).

<i><b>Rights</b></i>	<i><b>Responsibilities</b></i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To access all Group events – subject to availability</li> <li>• To be able to participate in Federation competitions:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Darts</li> <li>- Skittles</li> <li>- Quiz</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Have a voice in where the Group is going and what activities are organised.</li> <li>• Can mix with other WIs in the area, in fellowship and fun.</li> <li>• Opt out of the Group if unable to meet the responsibilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pay a levy/fee (rate to be agreed annually)<sup>1</sup>, paid from each WI's funds)</li> <li>• Support events and take advantage of the opportunities offered.</li> <li>• Be prepared to share leading roles at some point</li> </ul>

## Group Committee Meetings

**Chair**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**1 or 2 representatives from each WI, who can speak and agree decisions on behalf of their WI and who will report for their WI and who will report back to their committee following each meeting.**

This group of ladies constitute the committee of the Group. The Group committee will decide how they manage the organisation of Group meetings which could include.

- The Group committee making all decisions and arrangements for future Group meetings.
- Each member WI, in turn, taking full responsibility for a Group meeting including deciding dates, venue, activity and taking full responsibility for the organisation and funding of the meeting.
- It is essential that information is passed back fully and accurately so that proper discussions and decisions can be made. Participation of Group events should be encouraged in the WIs as success breeds success. WIs who struggle to participate because of difficulty in access, timing etc should share this information so that there is an opportunity for others to help.

### **Finance**

☺ Group finances should be run observing the same rules as WI finances.

☺ Two signatures are required for all cheques and financial transactions and (all three Officers should be signatories).

☺ Bank mandates should be changed on election of new Officers.

☺ Statement of accounts must be sent annually to WI House, the WI Adviser and all the WIs in the Group.

☺ Do not pre-sign cheques.

☺ WI Adviser travel expenses are to be paid by the Group.

☺ In order that Group finances are kept on a stable basis, a levy/quota of an agreed amount may be charged to each WI to the Group.

☺ If a WI moves to another Group the following procedure **is** to be used:

At the end of the financial year the accounts will be drawn up for the year. The balance is divided by the number of WIs in the Group. The moving WI will take their proportion of the funds to their new Group.

☺ Entry to Group meetings should be at a reasonable cost to members; a fee may be charged which should include refreshments.

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