

Jasmit Phull JP - President of British Federation of Women Graduates

I started my role as the President of British Federation of Women Graduates in July 2020 for a term of three years.

We look back at 2020 in amazement at the challenges we have all faced last year. The new year 2021 has certainly brought new ray of hope as increased members of the public get vaccinated.

We entered the world of technology through our zoom meetings and have continued to make a difference in the lives of women through education.

As I always believed in effective communication, zoom has been a boon. I have regular meetings with the Presidents of Local Associations and with the Regional Representatives and the Alternates, including many others. We were able to have more Management Team meetings as travelling is no more a problem.

One of the highlights since I took up office is the launch of Younger Members Group. This certainly gives a chance for all our younger members under and in their forties to have their own meetings and discuss the needs of our younger generation. Natalie Wright, the Co-ordinator of YMG has several bright ideas to take this group forward. BFWG can now attract more younger members to join.

BFWG is one hundred and fourteen years old and our members come from different backgrounds and have a lot to contribute. On our BFWG logo we can read the words in Latin meaning "Perfecting the art of friendship" - we certainly work together through friendship and enjoy what we do. It was my honour to announce fourteen winners of fifty-year membership certificates in 2020. We are so proud of them and thank them for their contributions to our organisation. At our Christmas meeting, each long-standing member mentioned the importance of long-standing friendship they gained through their membership with BFWG. Each member is working hard and contributing to BFWG in their own special way, and I am truly grateful to them.

Monthly President's letter and News Bulletin goes out to all our members. Members work in unity and selflessly and I am delighted that I can reach out to all members through zoom. We have received positive feedback from our members how much they are enjoying being part of the organisation. National Speaker meetings are held regularly with excellent speakers and they are all well-attended. I was invited to speak to the members of Winchester Local Association of Women Graduates on "My Arranged Marriage". Other BFWG members attended too. (it has always been a great experience to talk on this subject as many people in UK are not familiar that arranged marriage is totally different to forced marriage).

I attend Scholarship meeting, finance meetings, and represent BFWG at FfWG (Funds for Women Graduates). I also attend the Younger Members Group meetings where several new ideas get discussed. Shortly, we will have a new updated BFWG Website, and I am delighted that I have played a tiny role in it too.

We had a Virtual AGM last year and it may be the same this year.

The recent experience to celebrate International Women's Day zoom event organised by Townswomen's Guild for the Six-O has been a great experience and it certainly brings to my mind that we can achieve a lot through unity to make a difference in the lives of women and girls.

I am proud of our Management Team and leadership who continue to give their best to our organisation.

There is a lot going on behind the scenes and I am truly humbled to be elected as the President of BFWG for a term of three years.