

## Women's Forum Northern Ireland - Report 2020.

As we look towards Christmas and the New Year (and a vaccine) who could ever have imagined what 2020 had in store for us? A year like no other due to all the unforeseen problems posed by the Coronavirus pandemic - meetings cancelled and events postponed!

The guest speaker at our February meeting prior to the AGM was Ms Kellie Turtle. Kellie has been a feminist activist for several years; co-founder of Belfast Feminist Network and lobbyist for WRDA (Women's Resource and Development Agency).

At the AGM I was elected Chairman of Women's Forum NI. I had already been planning my programme for the incoming year never thinking that those events would not be happening.

The Biennial luncheon planned for Saturday 25 April, needless to say, was cancelled. Normally at this luncheon the winners of the Iris Colvin Lifetime Achievement Awards would be announced and presented with their certificates but in light of 'lockdown' when it was not possible to have a formal presentation, I had the pleasure of contacting the category winners and calling in person with each one to present her with the certificate. The category winners are Mrs Arlene Kee - Community/Public life category; Miss Rosemary Rainey OBE - Education category; Dame Mary Uprichard - Health category and Mrs Eileen Kerr - Voluntary Service category. The overall award went to Miss Rosemary Rainey OBE. Photographs of the winners were published in the November issue Ulster Tatler.

Unfortunately all other events planned for the year had to be cancelled.

However, the work of Women's Forum NI continues and hopefully it will not be too much longer until life gets back to normal or as near normal as possible when meetings and events can recommence.

Until then, every good wish extended to all. Take care. Stay safe.

Carolyn Forster