



PRESS RELEASE

LADIES IN THE HOUSE!

The Right Hon. Ann Widdecombe MP and Baroness Rennie Fritchie will give an insight into life in the two contrasting Houses of Parliament when a thousand women from across Gloucestershire gather at Cheltenham Town Hall on Wednesday 19th March.

Also speaking at the WI's Annual Council Meeting will be Chief Constable Tim Brain, reflecting on the co-ordination of the rapid response teams during the floods of last summer, and Nick Vincent, Chairman of the Three Counties Agricultural Society, looking ahead to this year's agricultural show in June.

Gill Thomas, WI County Chairman, will be handing over a cheque to the Gloucestershire Flood Relief Fund representing the royalties received from the book, "*The Gloucestershire Floods 2007*". The book, recording the experiences of Gloucestershire WI members during the flooding last July, was published by Sutton in October, and has sold far more copies than expected.

Gill Thomas says: "This is going to be a great day. We have more members than ever before coming to the Town Hall and some inspirational speakers, and I am looking forward to revealing the fantastic figure we've raised to help flood victims."

Notes for editors:

The meeting starts at 10.30am and finishes at 3.30pm on Wednesday 19th March. There will be a lunch break from 12.30pm until 1.50pm.

Baroness Fritchie and Nick Vincent will be speaking during the morning session. The Chief Constable and Ann Widdecombe will speak in the afternoon.

The cheque will be handed to a representative of the Gloucestershire Flood Relief Fund at the beginning of the afternoon session.

Ann Widdecombe and Baroness Fritchie are both happy to be interviewed whilst at the meeting.

You are welcome to send a reporter/photographer to cover any aspect of the meeting. Please contact me beforehand in order that I can arrange times for interviews and photocalls etc.

**Contact details: Sue Wilson, WI Press Officer for Gloucestershire.
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Ends 15/03/08