

Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting

Saturday, 29 March 2025

Leicester Grammar School, Great Glen, Leicester, LE8 9FL

1	GW welcomed members to the meeting. The meeting opened with Jerusalem. Present: Members and guests of the Federation.
2	The Chairman, Glenice Wignall (GW) welcomed members and introduced herself, Mary Hobbs (MH) Federation Treasurer and Sandra Woodward, Federation Secretary.
3	GW introduced the Board of Trustees and committee Chairmen and welcomed our speakers, guests from neighbouring federations and former Chairmen. Apologies were received. GW thanked Sandra Acton, North Kilworth WI for the floral arrangements and Hinckley Canalside WI for arranging the raffle. GW asked for volunteers for the flowers and raffle next year to contact WI House.
4	GW asked the delegates to vote using their pink forms for the Standing Orders of the Federation, proposed by Ravenstone & Snibston WI, seconded by Botcheston WI; agreed and signed by GW.
5	The minutes of the ACM 2024 were agreed with no amendments, proposed by Markfield WI, seconded by Stoke Golding WI; signed by GW as a true record.
6	No matters arising from the minutes and requested and matters to be sent to the house.
7	GW gave her Chairman's address. GW welcomed everyone and noted the exciting day planned with stalls, Committee boards, competitions and more. GW noted she has been in the role of Chairman for 3 years and thanked the trustees and committees for their support. GW noted relevant events through the year.
8	GW proposed the adoption of the Annual Report for 2023-24 with no amendments, seconded by Houghton on the Hill WI. Agreed and carried.
9	<p>MH gave the Treasurer's Report referring to the Federation Accounts to 31 August 2024 copies of which are available from WI House and to download from our website.</p> <p>MH gave thanks to Linda Martin for the last seven years as Federation Treasurer. Year to August 2024 income from all sources less expenditure was £16,137 of which £7,492 came from investments. NFWI raised subs however members have reduced but income has stayed the same. MH gave thanks to Gail Wooliscroft on the Have your Say meetings around the County last year and to the of an open evening grant of £50 to any WI to organize an open evening to attract new members</p> <p>MH proposed the adoption of the balanced sheet to 31 August 2024 seconded by Stoke Golding WI, agreed and carried.</p> <p>MH requested that members support our fundraising efforts by taking part in the monthly draw, NFWI raffle and buying bulbs from the recently distributed bulb catalogue. MH also urged members to complete a gift aid form today because even if your WI doesn't claim gift aid the Federation are able to claim for the proportion paid to them.</p> <p>MH also updated that there are now only 2 WI staff members at WI House.</p>
10	MH asked the delegates to vote for the appointment of Johnson, Murkett & Hurst as independent

	examiners for the year 2024-2025, proposed by MH, seconded by Leicester Ladies WI, agreed and carried.
11	<p>GW thanked MH for all the work she has put in.</p> <p>GW introduced our charity speaker, Richard Jeyes, Baldwin Trust</p> <p>Richard began with a video showing the boats and how to book online. Story started in 1983 when the Trust was founded based on Burt and Joan Halsey visiting a hospital ward and realising that patients were very confined to the indoors and started a canal boat trip charity for those with challenges including carers, special educational needs, refugees to provide a tranquil experience in nature and not being rushed. In 2010 the charity received the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. A new boat was built and is very accessible and has an audio-visual information. The Trust has 90 volunteers sailing from Apr-Oct either a 4 hour or 7-hour trip, 7 days per week and needs 6 volunteers a day to run. The trust offers a subsidised trip scheme. All skippers and crew are trained and Baldwin Bears is the mascot.</p> <p>Sue Kirk thanked Richard Jeyes and encouraged WIs to book and see our green and pleasant land.</p>
12	<p>GW introduced the morning speaker, Vicky Macqueen.</p> <p>Vicky is proud to be the 119th 'red rose' of women to play rugby for England. She started back in the days when Twickenham didn't have women's changing rooms. Vicky was the director of women's rugby at Leicester Tigers starting the women's team. Vicky is also founder and CEO of didi rugby – as it says it is for youngsters so no heavy tackles. Vicky is proud mum of 2 boys. Vicky gained the British Empire Medal and proudly showed the women's England shirt. Vicky gave an inspirational talk about her vision, ambition, resilience and how she overcame a life changing event.</p> <p>Terri Eydman gave Vicky thanks for being inspirational and will be taking her advice of writing down your goals.</p> <p>GW announced a break for lunch encouraging members to browse the stalls.</p>
	LUNCH
	GW welcomed members back to the afternoon meeting.
13	Sue Kirk presented the Canine Partners collection of £1751.77 so far with further updates to be provided through County News.
14	<p>The following trophies and certificates were awarded by GW and Sarah Freeman, presented by Dr Annie Gray</p> <p>Membership Bell – Great Bowden</p> <p>Edith Buckley Poetry Cup 2025 Winner Beverly Ashby, Loughborough Ladies WI, 2nd Sue Wainwright, Thorpe Acre WI 3rd Sylvia Cole, Anstey WI</p> <p>Long Alley Skittles Trophy 2025 Winner trophy was awarded to Winner Kirby Muxloe WI , Runners Up, Barsby WI</p> <p>Darts Trophy 2025 Winner trophy was awarded to Winners Hinckley Hollicroft WI, Runners Up, Ashby Spa WI</p> <p>Jose Smart Award 2025 – 1st Sandra Meakin, Waltham on the Wolds WI, 2nd Lyn Hastings, Seagrave WI, 3rd Val Mooreland, Ashby Spa WI</p> <p>Brenda Barnett Trophy 2025 – 1st Peatling Magna WI, 2nd Ashby Spa WI, 3rd Forest Group, 4th</p>

Quorn Afternoon WI

Margaret Johnston Trophy 2025 was awarded to Dorothy Tomlinson , Peatling Magna WI

Individual Craft Competition – Lynne Lewis, Kirby Muxloe WI

Adult Cookery Competition – Vegetable Cake

1st Sue Rayner, Waltham on the Wolds WI

2nd Lyn Hastings, Seagrave WI

3rd Judith Marshall, Peatling Magna WI

Adult Cookery Competition – Chutney

1st Clare Robertson-Smith, Ullesthorpe WI

2nd Lyn Hastings, Seagrave WI

3rd Jane Faulkner, Waltham on the Wolds WI

Child Cookery Competition – 7 years and under

1st Freddy Ward

Highly commended

Amelia Horoe

8-15 years

1st Alfie Ward

Birthdays noted but not presented:

45 – Ravenstone & Snibston WI

50 Melton Mowbray WI

60 – Coleorton WI

70 – Ketton WI

80- Glenfield Park WI

80 - Peatling MagnaWI

80 - Ratby WI

85 - Burbage WI

90 – Thurnby & Bushby WI

90 - Newbold Verdon WI

100th Anniversary certificates presented to New Barkby WI and Waltham on the Wolds WI

105 - Cossington WI

	105 - Illston on the Hill WI
15	The draw for the County Bursary took place. The Bursary was awarded to Gopsall Villages WI. Raffle prizes to be collected from raffle table.
16	<p>GW introduced our afternoon speaker, Dr Annie Gray. Annie is a broadcaster (Radio 4 Kitchen Cabinet regular), consultant for museums and heritage all combining history and food. Annie explained the recipes which shaped her life. She grew up in rural Norfolk in a family that didn't cook. Dad worked for Nestle and was educated in Paris and realised the importance of education and discovered food along the way. At University she made pasta in her room and frequently was accused of setting the fire alarm off. Annie did a Master's in history and did performance work for past Pleasures costumed historical events. In the performance it opened questions to debate about food and class, history and options available to those in service, women and not privileged.</p> <p>Annie works with royal palaces, National Trust and TV advising on food including Downton, Call the Midwife and many other TV favourites.</p> <p>Annie gave the recipe for baked apple and marmalade filling, wrapped in a floured cloth which sounded delicious.</p> <p>Annie appeared on the Sweet Makers and Victorian bakers alongside Lucy Worsley and has now moved into writing books including 'The Greedy Queen', 'Victory in the Kitchen', 'History of Betty's & Taylors' and 'At Christmas We Feast'. Latest book is the 'History of the British High St'. Q&A session and Gail Wooliscroft thanked Dr Annie Gray.</p>
	<p>Gail Wooliscroft thanked GW for chairing the meeting and for all her work as Chairman.</p> <p>GW thanked all the Federation Committees, venue, photographer, WI House staff, stall holders, judges and to volunteers for providing the guest refreshments. GW thanked the members</p> <p>GW gave sum up of the day and thanks again.</p>
17	Meeting closed with the National Anthem.