

ACM 2025

The ACM invitations are out! Plus new this year, **each delegate gets a free ticket and an extra free ticket** they can give to a WI member to accompany them.

Annual Council Meeting, Leicester Grammar School, Great
Glen, Leicester LE8 9FL

Saturday 29th March 2025

10.30 am – 3.30pm Tickets: £16 each

Our speakers for the Annual Council Meeting 2025 are:



Dr Annie Gray

Food historian, broadcaster and author of 'The Greedy Queen: Eating with Victoria' and 'Food for Thought'.



Vicky Macqueen

Former England international and the Head of Women's Rugby at Leicester Tigers. Founder and CEO of Didi Rugby

We will have splendid competitions, stalls, Committee information and the raffle. Lots of opportunities to buy some WI branded items and for officers to pick up their new yearbook. Any questions on the ACM do contact fedsec@lrfwi.org or call 0116 2661342 option 2.

<p>Federation Chairman Glenice Wignall glenicewignall@lrfwi.org</p>	<p>Federation Treasurer Mary Hobbs maryhobbs@lrfwi.org</p>	<p>Federation Secretary Sandra Woodward fedsec@lrfwi.org</p>	<p>Finance finance@lrfwi.org</p>	<p>Admin Assistant Lois McKinder wihouse@lrfwi.org</p>
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Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes

incorporated in England and Wales as a Company limited by Guarantee No. 02769771 Charity Reg No. 1016 766

WI House, 135 Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5LQ

Tel: 0116 2661342 Email: wihouse@lrfwi.org

Opening hours: Mon-Thurs 9.30am—1.30pm

www.leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk or scan QR code

Find us on Facebook: Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of WIs



From the Board



It has been a very busy month. I am pleased to welcome Clare Farquhar, new Chair of Arts and Crafts Committee. Clare is looking forward to sharing crafty knowledge with the Federation. All ideas are welcome so please do email clarefarquhar@lrfwi.org



Many thanks to Eileen Williams who is stepping down from the role of Arts & Crafts Chair.

I give many thanks to the following officers, Chair of Leisure Committee, Maxilyn Geary, Secretary, Alma Wright and Vice Chair, Margaret Osborne who are stepping down after many years of service. Thanks to you for all your hard work and we welcome Sharon Stone, Janet Harrison into the chair and vice chair roles respectively. A list of all officer roles will be in the next edition.



Glenice Wignall, Chairman



Gail Wooliscroft Vice-Chairman, was recently asked to take on the role of safeguarding officer for the Federation and has been doing some online training and is now in a position to offer help and support when necessary to WIs within the Federation.

I am assured by the NFWI that we will have very few cases needing intervention, possibly only 2 or 3 per year nationally.

If you are approached by anyone within your WI requesting help regarding safeguarding. If they are in imminent danger, call the Police or Ambulance Service immediately. They may want a listening ear, so someone within your WI could sit quietly with the person and just listen, and believe what they are saying. If you feel that they need to be referred to an agency dealing with safeguarding, you can find lists of agencies, both Council run and charitable on the internet.

There is a form that you can complete on our website, and there is now a specific email address to report these issues, it is: safeguardingofficer@lrfwi.org this email address will be monitored weekly.

From the House

Our Finance Officer, Anila Patel has now left us after 7 years service and we wish her all the best for her future.

Until the end of March 2025, we have decided to cover the office with 2 staff, myself, Sandra Woodward, Federation Secretary and Lois McKinder, Office Administrator. Lois is now covering Finance and Administration with a few extra hours. We are both supporting each other in the roles and will aim to provide good office cover. There is a lot to learn so do bear with us. We will review this position in March and be able to look at the best value for money and service for our Members.

Any questions and queries do come to us, we are here 9.30-1.30 Monday-Thursday and if we don't know the answer we can always find out!

Sandra Woodward and Lois McKinder

Membership Committee

The LRFWI Membership Committee is responsible for supporting WIs. Do get in touch if you need help.

Mandy Cutler, Membership Committee Chair.

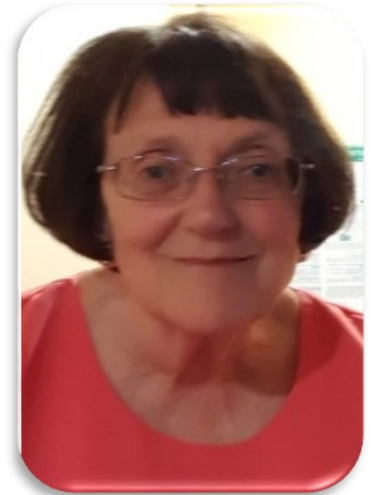
WI Secretaries: after your Annual Meeting, please remember to complete your Annual Report Form and return it to WI House before **Thursday 28th November 2024** with a signed copy of the 2023-2024 Annual Financial Statement.

Updated officers' names and contact details will be shared in our yearbook.

Retirement of WI Adviser, Anne Fullagar

Many of you will know Anne, who has worked as a WI Adviser for the LRFWI for nearly 20 years! Anne completed her adviser training in 2005/6 and has also served on the Board of Trustees for 2 years.

In that time, she has supported many WIs, and she will be very much missed by the Membership Committee, who value her wisdom and experience. We wish her a happy 'retirement'.



New Group Co-ordinator: WI Adviser, Joy Hoult, will be taking on this role, so if you need any help, you can contact Joy at: joyhoult10wia@gmail.com

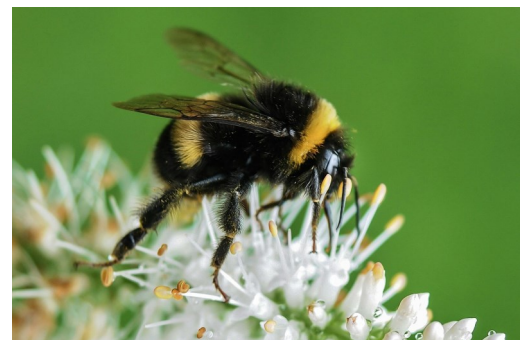
WI Adviser Allocations: We will be assigning WIs previously supported by Anne Fullagar to another WI Adviser – and notifying relevant Secretaries. In the meantime, please feel free to contact any WI Adviser; contact details are in the Yearbook.

Public Affairs Committee

"Where are all the bees?" Extract from blog from the Bee Farmer Oct 2023

Many people have been seeing or rather not seeing many flying insects (Bumblebees, Butterflies, wasps etc) in their gardens or on their travels this year. The issue goes back to the wet autumn in 2023. All the "missing insects" have a life cycle that requires the queen or fertile adult to feed up over the autumn so that they can hibernate over the winter and still have sufficient energy to establish a new colony in the spring of the following year. Autumn 2023 was wet for a prolonged period. The winter was not that cold. It was unseasonably warm in January.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service reported "*The month [January 2024] was 1.66°C warmer than an estimate of the January average for 1850-1900*". I saw many flying insects in January. It is my view that the hibernating insects responded to the warm weather and emerged from hibernation and began their lifecycle. Unfortunately for them the winter continued warm (not cold) and wet well into May. I think they committed to nest building but they did not have the resources to weather the extended period of poor conditions. I think they perished as they were unequal to the task. Mother nature is no fool, so some insects made it through resulting in a much reduced quantity of insects. The lack of insects has a consequence for all life forms that depend on them for food.



Leisure Committee



Well done to Hollycroft who beat Ashby Spa 4-2 at The Queen's Head in Heather in the final darts match.

It was an enjoyable evening for all concerned with lots of near misses at those pesky doubles but especially for Margaret Davies from Hollycroft who celebrated her birthday by getting a spectacular double 17 in the final leg to win the match.

Photo shows (left to right): Jean Hughes, Eve Cantrill, Joy Clark, Margaret Davies, Lissa Stewart, Alice Gibbons, Sue Tyson, Amy Shepherd.

Hello everyone my name is Sharon Stone and I'm a member of the Earl Shilton Evening WI group. I am looking forward to taking on the role of chairman of the Leisure Committee along with Janet Harrison as Vice Chairman, Penny Weston as Secretary and our amazing committee members Claire, Alma and Margaret.



Arts and Crafts Committee

We are busy getting ready for the

AUTUMN DABBLE DAY

Saturday 23rd November 2024

**SOUTH CROXTON VILLAGE HALL SCHOOL LANE
LE7 3RT**

Cost: £20 to include all materials

10am – 3pm

Crafts on offer will be:-

Stitched star cards

Festive Treat box

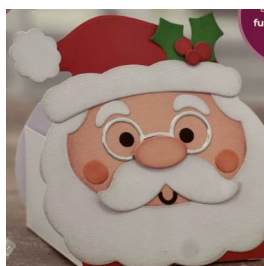
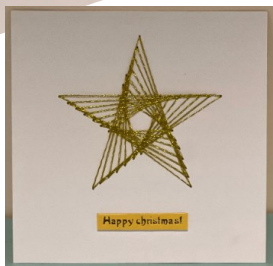
Felt Reindeer decoration

Paper flowers

Decorated box

Knitted characters

This is an open event so come along with a friend



What's On?

24th Oct	Speaker Showcase	Mary Forryan Centre, Hinckley LE10 1LW	£5
30th Oct	Canine Partners Visit	Osgathorpe	£8
5th and 6th Nov	PAT Testing	WI House	£2.50
12th Nov	Christmas Wreath Making	Kirby Muxloe	£12
23rd Nov	Dabble Day	South Croxton	£20
5th Dec	Celebration of Carols	St Lukes Church, Thurnby LE79PN	£8
7th Dec	Stratford Xmas market	Coaches from Oakham, Burbage and WI House	£20

Please note WI House will be closed from 19th Dec 2024 to 6th January 2025

Quiz



As ever, thanks to everyone for supporting the 'Stuff of Life' quiz. There were 83 entries received out of which 32 were all correct. The lucky winner pulled from the draw was Tracey of Broughton Astley WI who won the £25 prize - many congratulations to her!

If you sent an SAE or gave an email address with your entry, your marked paper or the answers have already been sent back to you, but for those who didn't, drop me an email via WI House (address on front page) and I'll make sure you get them.

This quiz made a magnificent £240 for County Funds, so thank you for your support, especially those wonderful members who sell extra copies to their fellow members, friends and families. If you aren't already on it but you'd like to join my Quiz

Subscribers' List, just send me an email, again via WI House, and I'll tell you how it works.

A new quiz called "Best Days of Our Lives" is already circulating now but closing date is 15th November, so make sure you get hold of a copy asap if you'd like one. However, if you don't make that quiz, towards the end of November I shall be launching my final quiz for this year which will take you right through the festive season and New Year and will have a closing date of end-January. Happy Quizzing! **Sue Lobb**

Open Evening Grants

5 WIs have claimed their £50 to support their open evenings.

This offer is still available until the end of 2024 so please contact us if you are planning an open evening. Just email fedsec@lrfwi.org with the date of when your open evening will be and some photos of when it has happened. Thorpe Acre WI (right) got 6 new **members!**



Monthly Draw

Congratulations to our Monthly Draw winners!

1st Prize £25— Ros King, Wing
2nd Prize £15— Margaret Davies, Hollycroft
3rd Prize £10— Monica Norton, Botcheston



Thank you to all of the members who have supported the Federation by buying a Monthly Draw ticket!

Event Flyers

Speaker Showcase



Thursday 24th October

£5

Mary Forryan Centre,
Hinckley, LE10 1LW

£5pp

Canine Partners Visit



Wed 30th Oct

£8

10.30am

Osgathorpe

PAT Testing for WIs



5th,6th November

WI House

10.30am—2pm

£2.50 per item

Christmas Wreath Demonstration

Thurs 21st November

1.30pm

£12 with tea and mince
pies



Kirby Muxloe

Autumn Dabble Day

Saturday 23rd November 2024

SOUTH CROXTON VILLAGE
HALL SCHOOL LANE LE7
3RT



Cost: £20 to include all
materials

10am – 3pm

Celebration of Carols

Thursday 5th December
2024

10:30am for 11am(prompt)
– 12:30pm



£8 to include refreshments

St Lukes Church

Thurnby

If you want to book as an individual, use the booking form on our website
under Federation Downloads

—email the form to wihouse@lrfwi.org or call 0116 2661342

If you want to book with your WI, contact your Secretary or Treasurer

Around the Counties

New Barkby

Our speaker for August was Martin Grant. He gave a power-point presentation of the work carried out by "REMAP", a charity which provides aids and equipment for clients who require help with their physical needs. The charity was formed 60 years ago and there are plenty of volunteers to help design and invent any device for a particular person, according to their needs, in liaison with health professionals.

Mr Barry Watson of Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire, visited us for our September meeting. "The Agony and Ecstasy of a Canal Hotel Boater". He and his wife could accommodate twelve guests on one boat, plus a second (butty) boat. There were plenty of rules for guests to observe as they cruised along the waterways and rivers of Britain, admiring the scenery and enduring the many locks and tunnels (particularly the Harecastle Tunnel – approximately 4 miles in length). All very interesting for the holidaymakers.



Sheepy

We had a great evening trying out line dancing and country dancing. Many of us found we lacked coordination! Bonnie provided excellent instructions and encouragement and inspired some members to join a class to learn more!



Our harvest raffle was very successful, with some very interesting prizes!



Sheepy WI took part in the village scarecrow competition.

Oaks in Charnwood

In July 14 of our members enjoyed an outing to Stratford-upon-Avon, taking a boat trip in the afternoon the weather being glorious.

In August we welcomed Suzuki Felstead who came to talk to us about being a Professional Gatecrasher, this turned out to be a very amazing talk with members asking questions along the way, what an amazing afternoon, all our members went home in good humor.



Woodhouse Eaves

In September a large audience of Women's Institute members and visitors met for an evening of fun and friendship. The main draw this month was the intriguing talk being given by our very own Woodhouse Eaves WI secretary Yung Tsang whose 'day job' is making and repairing unisex robes for ordained Buddhist monks and nuns. Yung describes her robe making as "meaningful and rewarding". She clearly pays great attention to every robe detail and takes pleasure in her work and contacts with grateful clients.

Yung moved from Hong Kong to Ulverscroft in 2021 and started her Buddhist Robe making business, The Priory Robes, 3 years ago after annually attending week-long robe-making workshops for 4 years at the Madhyamaka Kadampa Meditation Centre in York. Yung was first inspired to study robe making having met a monk who couldn't find a tailor to repair or make robes.

She now has a business supplying personally tailored robes to ordained Buddhist monks and nuns worldwide. It takes Yung around 50 hours work to create a full set of robes and she is kept very busy.

We were very grateful that Buddhist nun, Gen Kelsang Dema, once a Social Worker and now a Teacher at the Tara International Kadampa Retreat Centre, joined us for the evening and was kind enough to demonstrate how the robes are worn and talk about wearing her robes in different situations.

We ended our meeting in a novel way with a short meditation led by Gen Kelsang Dema using our breathing to improve our wellbeing followed by our usual vote of thanks.



Around the Counties

Hinckley Hollycroft



Mention the pantomime at Concordia theatre in Hinckley and John Hill's name will crop up immediately. Hollycroft were privileged to hear his account of how his love of panto came about, together with intriguing anecdotes about his legendary costumes. His prowess for creating astonishing Panto Dame costumes is well known far beyond Hinckley and are much in demand by other theatrical companies. John is an engaging Speaker who gives his audience a fascinating insight

into the whole world of pantomime – we highly recommend him if you can catch him! Oh yes we do!

Hollycroft Hellcats are really enjoying their Walking Netball sessions on Tuesday afternoons at Green Towers and would welcome any other WI members who would like to join in the fun. Or just come along and watch a session to see why some of them have their vests on inside out!



Anstey

Our speaker was Martin Grant from an organization called Remap, of whom few of us had heard, even though one of our members has a husband on the panel. Started 60 years ago by some redundant ICI employees, they provide bespoke solutions to problems faced by the disabled. There are now panels in every county except Lincolnshire. Each case comes before the panel, and one of them undertakes to visit the client, then design and make the device at home. There is no charge, so they fundraise to finance materials.

Martin presented some excellent photos and videos of some devices, and showed us some of the smaller ones too. His delivery was humorous and clear, and the audience were allowed to chip in. The ingenuity was amazing. Some devices were very simple, such as a piece of cycle inner tube to hold a brush on a finger, or

two clothes pegs glued together enabling washing to be hung on the line with just one hand, others were more complicated, modifying snips for a keen gardener who had lost his grip took two redesigns to solve. The photograph shows a device for pumping a drink to a straw for someone whose lung problems make sucking difficult. It uses a fish tank pump.

The most popular pictures with the audience were those involving children, whose smiles were a treat to behold, and probably make it all worthwhile for these selfless volunteers.



Swannington

At our September meeting we enjoyed a visit from 'Baroness Bolsover, the Afternoon Tea lady', who certainly looked the part and explained with humour exactly how afternoon tea should be taken and enlightened members regarding the dos - and especially the don'ts of Victorian tea etiquette.

Members arrived as requested with a cup, saucer, teaspoon and napkin in order to follow the Baroness's example to the correct approach in the traditions of afternoon tea taking.

In order to fully enter into the experience members were also encouraged to wear hats for the evening; which of course in Victorian times would have been worn for afternoon teas. Amongst the lessons learnt was the correct way to lay your napkin on your lap and how to then how to pick it up and give it a gentle shake before gently dabbing your lips after sipping tea. The Baroness emphasised that one must definitely sip and never slurp your tea; one should never vigorously stir the tea in a cup.

The perennial question of which is poured first into the cup, tea or milk was answered – tea, so allowing guests to then add milk according to their taste. The evening was rounded off with Baroness Bolsover joining us for tea and cake; with members, for one evening at least trying to follow her example!



Hinckley Canalside

At our September meeting, we were joined by Bill Haley BEM who delivered a fascinating presentation of 'Life on Board Britannia'. Bill served in the Royal Navy for 27 years; 7½ of those spent on the Royal Yacht Britannia which Bill explained was an absolutely fantastic experience.

The Royal Yacht Britannia had three stated aims: to take the then Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip to as many new world countries as possible; to be a hospital in the event of a war and to have a focus on trade, i.e. to sell the UK abroad. The ship was commissioned on 11th November 1954, steaming well over ½ million sea miles in 43 years. Clocks stop at 3.01pm in the afternoon; this was the last time the Queen stepped off the Yacht.

Bill recollected how he always had an impression on board of the Queen smiling all of the time and, when she got to her room, removing her shoes and being able to relax. No photographers were present on the ship. Bill also commented that he never knew who was standing behind him in a queue as the Queen queued like everyone else.

The Royal Yacht Britannia was called a yacht instead of a ship, so it did not have to be registered as a NATO war ship and have a large number painted on the side.



Around the Counties

Glenfield Park

Our talk last month was so interesting. Helen Wilber of Animal Aid gave us a talk and Power Point Presentation about the charity and it was very evident how passionate she was about the work they do.

She explained the history of the charity. It was set up by Dorothea Farndon in 1956 and began when she accepted a stray dog and it rather snowballed from there, until her garden was overrun and she needed somewhere to house all the strays. They moved to their present premises in Huncote in 1970. My goodness what premises they are. 5 star luxury hotel for cats and dogs but with lots of love and care. The list of facilities is very impressive. An adventure playground for dogs and a chill room for cats plus paddling pools to name just a few. Each animal is given a health check on arrival with treatment by a vet if necessary.

We were surprised to hear that of the 300 to 400 animals brought in a minority are abandoned animals. Most have been given up reluctantly by their owners, However comfortable the facilities are, the ultimate aim is to rehouse them as nothing beats a loving home. On a final note the charity also runs a community support scheme which helps owners to cope in their homes. Such a worthwhile charity which relies on donations to keep going. We all enjoyed the talk very much and would definitely recommend it.

In other news we have really been enjoying our craft afternoons where we work on a variety of different crafts, including knitting and crochet some of which is for charity, beadwork, patchwork, Dorset buttons and many more, We are always willing to try different crafts. Needless to say being the WI there are always refreshments on hand and plenty of banter. Notice I didn't say gossip.



Shearsby and Arnesby

We very bravely ventured onto the Market Harborough to Foxton branch of the Grand Union Canal on a Day Boat. We picked a very very wet day and by the end our three helmswomen were absolutely soaked. The passengers inside were dry and spotted a lovely Heron on the bank who seemed quite used to the passing boats.

It was a great day out and lunch from Weltons Deli proved delicious.



Great Bowden

Enjoy your House Plants was the talk by Susie Lickman at our WI September meeting. Susie left a stressful career to open a plant shop several years ago. Susie told us about various plants all of which come from warmer climes and need to be kept frost free. Positioning in the correct light is very important. Heat and humidity are not too much of an issue but overwatering is. Susie waters her plants about every three weeks. If a plant becomes too watery its roots and soil turn mushy and the plant will eventually die. Susie says to always keep your house plants dry. She talks to her plants and wipes their leaves regularly, no need to mist, and then in turn they give her great joy.



In August we were invited to the garden of the secretary where we were treated to the annual summer lunch. The committee not only organised the event but provided the delicious food in the form of a buffet consisting of everything you could want followed by the most wonderful desserts. Anne Wilson, our President organised a competition of the tallest Sunflower to be grown by the members from seeds which Anne provided.

This was won by Gwyneth Hayes whose sunflower was 10ft tall. She received a gardening voucher and all the others who took part received a bar of Chocolate,



Illston on the Hill

We invited John to speak and demonstrate the hula hooping – a talent he famously showcased on Britain's Got Talent! Hula hooping has an intriguing history; it dates back to the 14th century when people would use woven branches to create hoops for play and exercise. Today, we've come a long way enjoying modern hoops made from lightweight plastic or bamboo that cater to various skill levels and styles.

The craze we see today originated in the USA. During a period of overproduction, manufacturers found themselves with an excess of hoops and decided to introduce them to the UK. What began as a commercial opportunity quickly transformed into a fun and engaging pastime for people of all ages, promoting both fitness and enjoyment.

When I first approached the hoop, I assumed using a small one would be easier, but I was pleasantly surprised to discover that larger hoops are actually much easier to manage. Many participants took up the challenge and we had an overwhelming response to try our hand at hula hooping. While the experience proved to be more difficult than we anticipated, the laughter and encouragement made it all worthwhile.

Around the Counties

Barrow Upon Soar

In June, Alison Emery, a new speaker to the WI Circuit came to talk to us about Walking the 'Camino de Santiago'. We learned a little about the actual walk in Spain from Alison with the help of some slides which was interesting but the majority of our ladies felt she told us more about the lives of the other friends in her group and the accommodation they stopped at each night.



Also In June we had a Fundraising Stall for our own WI funds at our Village's 'Party in the Park' event. Despite the heavy rain we managed to sell all of our Homemade Cakes.

Members decorated and filled 140 recycled jars with all sorts of Goodies for our **Jambola**, which all ages enjoy & is always a good fundraiser.



We visited Derrys Nursery in Cossington for our July meeting. 'Big Al' the owner since the Seventies told us about the history of the Nursery, the plants they sell now and about their Chelsea Flower show entry a few years ago which now forms part of the Rainbows Hospice in Loughborough. He then answered a few of the ladies questions about their own gardens. After this we could peruse the garden centre, purchase plants if we wished to and enjoyed some light refreshments. We were all safely home by 8.30pm to watch England beat the Netherlands in the Semi finals of the Euros! Sam Durrani, who is a TV and film stunt man was our guest speaker in September. At a young age, he honed his sports skills in gymnastics, competitive swimming and kick-boxing. He left school with only sports GCSEs.

His dream was to become a stunt man but needing money to pursue this, he became a kick-boxing instructor. He then signed for Equity, the British Stunt Register and an agency, doing a demo reel showing his talents. The downside to his career is the unpredictability of it. We were concerned about the danger he must encounter. He explained he takes out extra insurance, wears protective pads on his knees, shoulders and back, and he always has a supply of painkillers in his kit. Luckily, he has not been injured too much and he is an expert on knowing how to fall safely.

Glenfield

This month saw us welcoming WI members from other Institutes for the Forest Group AGM. We made a lively crowd, enjoying the opportunity to meet up and exchange gossip and info relating to the running of our individual WIs. Rita Caves from WI House joined us and we all enjoyed the talk given by Richard Warren on Leicester street names. He gave us so many facts about Leicester that even those born and bred in the area were learning something new. Who knew for example, that places with a name that includes the word gate actually relate to the Viking invasion when parts of England came under the influence of Danelaw. Gate is a Norse word meaning street, so Applegate, Belgrave Gate, Sanvey Gate etc do not refer to gates in the city walls but are just another way of saying the name of a street.



Ullesthorpe

Our meeting in August was billed as a Surprise Social afternoon and it certainly was. Members were treated to Mocktails and savoury snacks made by the committee. We had an excellent numbers quiz and there was so much chatting we ran out of time for the beetle drive.

Unfortunately, our September Speaker could not come, but one of our members came to the rescue and gave a wonderful presentation at very short notice. Dot Barnard gave us a fascinating look at The Bloomsbury group. Our eyes were opened to the fun and decadence during the lives of many writers, intellectuals and artists of the early 20th century. Their members included Vanessa Bell, Virginia Woolf, E M Forster and Roger Fry to name a few. Their works and ideas have certainly changed modern attitudes to feminism and sexuality.



Wigston



In September our members had afternoon cake and coffee at Casa Nostra in Wigston. A really good turnout and everyone enjoyed their cake and a good natter.

Our speaker this month was Laraine Tucker who gave a Tai Chi demonstration.

Most members were able to join in with some simple moves and learnt

a lot about relaxing the mind and body through movement and breathing. Laraine then gave a demonstration with a sword which was very impressive.



Burbage



In September four members of our committee visited the Cutting Garden in Burbage and had a tour of the flowers that are grown there.

Following this they were able to cut flowers and then after a demonstration by Sian

Westmancoat they put together a hand tied bunch of flowers. Sian grows English flowers for wedding bouquets and she is now planning the planting of bulbs and seeds ready for next year when she will have flowers ready for Mothering Sunday. The picture below shows Pat Wood, Sue Crockett, Stella Moore and Anita Tidman with the results of their labours.

Around the Counties

Broughton Astley



We were taken back to “The Wombles of Wimbledon Common” when Jayne Edwards from South Leicestershire Litter Wombles was our guest speaker to tell us about their activities tidying up our environment from the scourge of litter. The organisation started in 2019 and, joining with the East Midlands Alliance,

now has around 4,500 volunteers in South Leicestershire, who have collected over 178,000 bags of rubbish to date. The quantity and variety of rubbish dumped is quite astonishing and some items cannot be described here!

Litter is not only unsightly in our beautiful countryside but can be a death trap to wildlife. “Wombles in Litter Education” started visiting schools and young people’s groups in 2020 with presentations to teach children to dispose of litter responsibly and raise awareness of the implications. Presentations are also given to adult groups by another division and we can thoroughly recommend them. It was upsetting to learn that a rubber trainer sole takes 50-100 years to decompose and a glass bottle up to 1,000 years, quite an eye-opener. Everyone agreed that it was a very interesting evening and despite the seriousness of the subject there were a lot of amusing moments.



Many volunteers have been helping with an extra poppy display, which is being made for the Remembrance period in our village.

Birstall and Wanlip



We had a very informative walk today around Castle Hill. Joanna Richart told us about foraging and Robin about birds and butterflies.

Unfortunately as the weather was overcast we didn't see many of either. Coffee and cake afterwards was well received.



Kimcote and Walton



At the September meeting members were given a talk and demonstration by experienced dance teacher, Ginnette Brookes of GB Dance, about the Royal Academy of Dance Siver Swans ballet classes. Ginnette explained the

benefits of becoming involved in dance for the over 55s, including improving muscle tone, balance, posture, coordination and cognitive skills.

Ginnette took us gently through some simple ballet steps and movements, which we all enjoyed practising. Clearly, this is also a great way to socialise and have fun. Ginnette’s enthusiasm for ballet is infectious; she runs dance classes in Leicestershire and one of her most senior clients is over 90!

Beth Rogers, the group delegate from North Kilworth WI, then gave us an uplifting account of her experiences at the London Annual Meeting. All in all, a lovely way to spend the evening. Thank you to Secretary, Jo Taylor for organising.

Gilmorton

Our October speaker cancelled due to illness so we were lucky to secure Martin from border control pest control to entertain us. They are a local company who specialise in control of pests using falcons. They use the birds as deterrents to clear warehouses, hospitals, airports and stadiums. He was accompanied by Ted, a 22 year old Harris Hawk. Ted flew to Martins hand to feed and on a couple of occasions he was naughty and landed on a WI member. It was a very interesting and humorous evening and we are grateful to Martin for filling in with less than 24 hours notice.



We have had a pickle ball court installed in the

village and 12 members enjoyed a taster session. We have enjoyed our monthly walks and tending our allotment. All in all it has been a busy summer with lots to look forward to over the winter months.



News to **WI House** by email: fedsec@lrfwi.org or post to arrive by the **FIRST** of the preceding month

Make sure to include the name of your WI with your article

Please try to keep Around the Counties articles to 120 words and 2 photos so we can include as many as possible and save paper, ink and postage costs.

Articles may be edited.

County News will be emailed, posted on Wednesday of the third full week of the month.

Advertisements

Monica (Wing WI) Member

Contracted by the Rutland council to provide Home based care



Do you need help with:

- Domestic cleaning
- Personal Care
- Medication and meals
- Disability support
- Hospital to home discharge
- Live in carer
- Respite care and holiday support
- Help with pets



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Accessibility

PLEASE NOTE; we try to meet all of our members needs. Please advise if large print, audio and other versions of County News or any of the Federation's publications are needed.

We hope to be able to provide an image-free, black and white version of County News for Secretaries to print as needed as this was said to be helpful in the past for printing at low cost.

Advertising Rates

Charity rate £5.00
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Please note we have made our advertising prices simpler!

Months	1	3	6	12 = 10% off
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Please send material for County News to **WI House** by email: fedsec@lrfwi.org or post to arrive by the **FIRST of the preceding month at the latest.**

Any WI announcements can be made in County News.