

## From the Board of Trustees...



### Member of the Board and Chairman of the Federation Fund Raising Committee

My time on the Board only amounts to about seven years so I am certainly one of the newer Trustees. However, I joined the WI in 1984 and in all I have been in four Federations, including Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Norfolk (where I trained in 2002 to be a WI Adviser). I moved to Earl Shilton in 2012 and when I joined the WI found everyone most friendly and welcoming. I was very pleased to be able to join the Board in Leicester as I had previous experience as a Board Member.

I was interested in fund raising and the Fund Raising team has worked well to bring various events to the members. Over the last few years many of you will have attended one or more of these events, most recently Autumn Lunch and Race Night, and we hope to bring you a variety of further events next year.

During October and November every WI will be holding their Annual Meeting. Some WIs are finding it very difficult to encourage members to join their committees. However, if you enjoy your meetings and other events you hold together, with the support and friendship you get from each other do ensure you have enough members to run the committee. Although we live in very difficult times, I believe the WI has so much to offer to make our lives more fulfilled. I know many of our members have limited time but if you can don't hesitate to assist your committee as I am sure you will find it most enjoyable.

Good luck with your WIs in 2022/23.

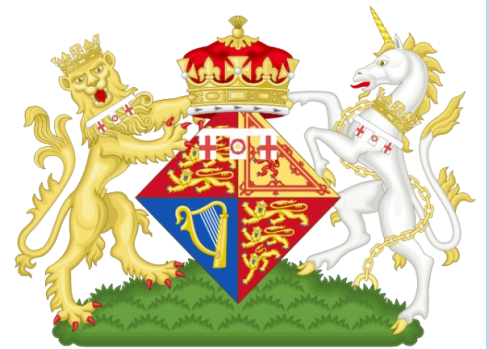
Rita Caves

## Remembering Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



We were truly saddened by the news of the passing of Her Majesty the Queen. She was a loyal and dedicated member of the WI for 80 years, and never failed to show her support for us throughout her time as Queen. We thank her for her dedication, service and fellowship.

Our members have shared their thoughts and memories on pages 2 & 3.



**Federation Chairman**  
Glenice Wignall  
glenicewignall@lrfwi.org

**Federation Treasurer**  
Linda Martin  
lindamartin@lrfwi.org

**Federation Secretary**  
Sarah Freeman  
fedsec@lrfwi.org

**Accounts Assistant**  
Anila Patel  
finance@lrfwi.org



**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](http://www.leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk) or scan QR code

Find us on Facebook: Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of WIs



## Remembering Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Our beloved Queen her Majesty has passed away leaving her beloved nation's. There is a place on our hearts that will always be there for her.

The word Majesty has been said so many times since she left us I have thought very deeply about what Majesty really means. Here are some of the words that have been spoken about our Queen.

Sovereign, impressive behaviour, stateliness, dignity, gracefulness, fairness, quality of character, radiance, grandeur and crowning glory.

As a family we were so fortunate to be really close to see the Queen and Prince Phillip in the park outside Buckingham Palace when celebrating her Golden Anniversary. A memory forever in our hearts.

Since she passed our thoughts and prayers have been with this amazing lady, also her wonderful family.

Rest in peace your Majesty

Christine (Harby WI) and Brendan.



### Memories of meeting the Queen from Loddington WI

Joyce Bailey and myself decided to visit the 1984 Life and Leisure WI exhibition at Olympia. At the start only a few visitors were allowed admittance. We were the last two to be let in. We wondered why. The Queen arrived and Joyce and I found ourselves standing a yard away from Her Majesty. We were impressed with the personality that radiated from her. To her dying day Joyce would reminisce about that day.

Tricia Marston

An exciting day, "Maybe I'll get to see the Queen!"

It was the summer of 2007 and I had been invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

I was allowed to bring my partner as he would push the wheelchair. We set off after checking that we had everything needed, plenty of time. At South Mimms Services we stopped to get changed. John emerged from the 'gents' in a grey linen suit, I came out of the disabled toilets with a cotton djellaba covering my off-white outfit. We attracted some puzzled looks!

In central London and nearly at our destination we approached a roundabout, a vehicle had broken down on it, no-one could pass, we had to wait for the van to be towed away. "Oh .....! I hope we're not late".

We managed to find a park on the Mall and had to enter Buckingham Palace by a side garden entrance because of the wheelchair (most people went through the house). Fumbling with all the security documents - yes, we were late! The police patiently guided us in. We had missed the Royals appearing on the terrace and joined the row of people waiting for the Queen and Prince Phillip to walk down and greet people. A statuesque character, 'craggy' and tanned with twinkling blue eyes, was laughing and joking as he strode down the line, it was Prince Phillip! The Queen was walking down the next row, and I still hadn't seen her!

The perfectly presented tea was accompanied by dainty sandwiches, highly decorated and scrumptious cakes, even strawberries and cream. There was a private tent for the Royals to enjoy their afternoon tea - chairs were positioned outside for the public to view, a bizarre invasion of privacy.

We were strolling around the beautiful grounds and gardens when an Equerry approached us and suggested that we join with other disabled people waiting in a line by the side of Buckingham Palace. Sated, the Royals would walk past as they returned to the house.

The Queen and Prince Phillip came close, the remainder of the Royal family walked at a slight distance, I managed to speak to Princess Anne and Prince Andrew.

The Queen stood by my side, all I can remember is her saying "Hello" and thanking me for coming. I didn't want to stare but I was awestruck by her appearance. Small in stature, she was attired in her usual brightly coloured outfit, but appeared like a fragile china doll (we all know that she was not). Immaculate porcelain skin adorned with expertly applied make-up mesmerised me and was in stark contrast with the Prince (who was conversing with John). Both with sparkling blue eyes, awesome smiles and a sense of humour, they made the perfect partnership - now together again.

No photographs were allowed in the house or the grounds - but here is one of us at the railings outside Buckingham Palace.

Kate Mosely





## Remembering Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Loughborough Ladies Platinum Jubilee party was held on 2nd June 2022, it was a great success with bunting and food in keeping the 1953 theme, some of our ladies really looked the part in their 1950s outfits. We all had a knitted crown with jewels on made by one of our members, Margaret.

It was a special evening for my sister Lauren and I, as the special guest of the evening was our Auntie Gwen. I remember the Coronation day vaguely as I was only 3 at the time, but I had a dress and hat made out of crepe paper for the day. I didn't realise at the time that our beloved Aunt was very much involved in the occasion thereby forging herself into the robe's history.

Gwen attended the Royal School of Needlework 70 years ago at the age of 18 and was one of the 12 embroiderers who worked on the beautiful Robe of State for the Coronation.

The robe was made of purple silk velvet and embroidered with wheat ears and olive branches in gold thread. Gwen brought along some of the materials used including gold thread, and a piece of the purple velvet and some very fine needles (threading them must have been a nightmare).

Gwen also brought a collection of papers and magazines written at the time.

In open discussion with our members Gwen was able to answer questions about her experience at the Royal School of Needlework and her memories of working on the coronation robe. Her involvement was celebrated at our WI Jubilee party, as we enjoyed a lovely "indoor" street party. Gwen was accompanied by her daughter Dawn who helped us persuade Gwen to come and share her memories and memorabilia with us on this special occasion.

The evening was a significant and memorable one for Dawn, Lauren and I and a trip down memory lane for Gwen.



Jacqueline Percival.



Thank you for serving our Country so well.  
Such a remarkable lady, you will be sorely missed.  
Our deepest sympathy to the Royal Family.  
Robert and Grace Terry (W.I. Member and husband).



Pictured right: Floral tributes in Green Park



"Her Majesty the Queen was the ultimate inspiring woman. Loyal, courageous, generous of spirit and a true leader of our times. She has been the monarch that has defined our living memories and shaped our experiences. Her life has touched each of us and of people all around the world. Outside of her Royal duties she was a long-serving and passionate WI member, absolutely epitomizing our values and ethos as an organisation. Hers was a life of service and we remain incredibly proud to have called her one of our own.

We have many fond memories which we will treasure and on behalf of our members across England, Wales and the islands we give our thanks for the life of Her Majesty the Queen and our condolences to her family at this sad time."

Ann Jones, NFWI Chair

## Membership

The LRFWI Membership Committee is responsible for assisting WIs with any help they require. I hope you find the following items useful. Mandy Cutler, Membership Committee Chair.

### Cost of living hub



Sadly, the cost of living in the UK is rising at its fastest levels for 40 years.

In these difficult times the NFWI wanted to set out what the WI will be doing to campaign for emergency and longer-term action on the cost-of-living crisis, and signpost sources of help and support.

You can find information on the current package of government support available and sources of support to include, for example, Money Saving Expert, the Trussell Trust and Cooking on a Bootstrap recipes by going to My WI, selecting Public

affairs and campaigns > News and actions > Cost of living hub.

Or simply click on the following link: <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/public-affairs-and-campaigns/news-and-actions/cost-of-living-hub>

### Updated fundraising guidelines

#### FUNDRAISING



The NFWI have reviewed their fundraising policy to give WIs and federations more freedom in the selection of charities they choose to support. The Ukrainian crisis has highlighted the need for more flexibility to support international fundraising.

So, the revised policy enables members to make their own decisions about the charities they support, in line with the WI's charitable objects, including support for national and international charities. There is no longer the requirement of local ringfencing of the monies that are raised.

WIs and federations need to ensure any charities they support financially have compatible charitable objects with those of the WI. The objects can be found in the WI constitution on pages 1 and 2 and in the new guidelines document on pages 1 and 2.

The new guidelines will be cascaded to WI Secretaries and are currently available on My WI on the Home page or click this link: <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/nfwi-news/articles/update-to-the-fundraising-guidelines>

## Federation Events

### Annual Council Meeting 2023

Leicester Grammar School, Great Glen, Leicester  
LE8 9FL

Saturday, 18 March 2023

10.30 am – 3.30pm

Tickets: £15 each (£7.50 for stewards)

Doors open at 9.30am to shop at the stalls, view competitions and Committee displays. Please bring a packed lunch. Drinks are available for sale and you may wish to bring your own reusable cup.

Parking is limited, so please car share, use public transport or be dropped off. See flyer for details.

Our speakers for the Annual Council Meeting 2023 are:



#### Ruth Goodman

Social & domestic historian & TV presenter



#### Eric Knowles

Antiques expert, writer & TV presenter

All events may be photographed, we will presume permission unless we are otherwise informed. **Speakers subject to change at short notice.** See our website for latest event availability <https://leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk/event-calendars/federation-events#Federation Events>



## Fundraising Autumn Lunch

On Sunday, 18th September four members of the Kirby Muxloe WI joined with many other Leics and Rutland WIs for the Autumn lunch at Devonshire Place in Leicester. It was a good venue, very efficiently organised.

We began with a minute's silence for HM the Queen.

After grace, we were served a delicious two course lunch.

The speaker for the afternoon was Nick Hamilton of Barnsdale Gardens. Before his father, Geoff, died, Nick was responsible for the plant nursery at Barnsdale. After Geoff's sudden death in 1996 whilst taking part in a charity bike ride, Nick took over the garden. The TV gardens had never before been open to the public but are now only closed on 24th and 25th December. Nick received much "advice" from Health and Safety officers but has only had a few visitors falling into the water gardens!

The gardens have won many awards for garden excellence. One of the first areas Nick developed was a memorial garden with a bronze bust of Geoff.

The TV gardens though have been substantially kept as they were when seen on Gardeners World. The garden is managed organically. Nick's advice about black spot on roses was to look at the flowers and ignore the leaves!

Nick's talk was funny, interesting and informative. He had brought a wall of plants for sale into the hall and there was a rush to buy them at the end of his talk.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon and we are all looking forward to the next lunch.

Sue Black, Kirby Muxloe WI



Just wanted to say a BIG thank you for a wonderful Fundraising Lunch at Devonshire Place.

We all enjoyed it so much and it was so lovely to be all together again. Nick Hamilton was a brilliant speaker and including Geoff in his talk was so moving yet amusing as he started me all those years ago on my gardening passion.

Thanks again from all of us.

Monica Norton, Botcheston WI



## Around the Counties

### Ashby Castle

What a wonderful afternoon we enjoyed when celebrating our 10th year. Mary our President, welcomed members and guests to the Heritage Centre where we gathered for afternoon tea. Glenice, our County Chairman, very kindly came along, and we had guests from our neighbouring WIs, Ashby Spa, Coleorton and Ravenstone.

A Moment in Thyme from Ashby supplied all the lovely food, and we had a choice of Prosecco, soft drinks or tea and coffee if preferred. Mary proposed a toast to Ashby Castle WI and with help from Glenice cut our birthday cake. How nice it was to sit and relax with friends and fellow members.





### Sheepy

Jill Mouncer and colleagues from the Leicester branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society demonstrated some historic dances and led Sheepy WI in some basic set dances!



Scottish dancing has a lot of ballet included as a result of the relationship Scotland had with France, when they weren't as friendly with England!

The team demonstrated a dance called the Reel of the 51st Division. It was choreographed during WWII by Scottish officers in prison in Germany. The Divisional Commander agreed to adopt the dance and instructions were sent home where it became a popular dance.



### Leire

At our recent meeting, Laraine Tucker introduced us to the art of Tai Chi. She explained that there are 5 different forms as well as many styles of Tai Chi and demonstrated the more gentler Yang style. Laraine went through a range of movements which for some of us felt contrary to our usual bodily movements, proving how tense we can often become. We were taught to relax our muscles and feel our body weight through our legs and feet. Laraine finished with a demonstration of movements using a sword. Members enjoyed participating and most felt more relaxed afterwards.



In September, Leire village enjoyed it's annual flower and produce show in which there were 3 classes specifically for entry by Leire WI members. These were a flower arrangement in red, white and blue, a cheesecake and an item of handicraft. There was a surprising number of entries considering the season's weather and cost increases and the judge was very impressed with the flower arrangements. June Goodwin won the Goodacre Trophy for the WI classes and other members did well overall in the baking sections and flower arranging with some winning trophies.



### Countesthorpe

In our September meeting our member Juliette Barker kindly brought in her recently awarded MBE medal for us to see. Juliette was awarded this earlier in the year for outstanding public service and it probably would be one of the last awards given by our late Queen. Our congratulations to Juliette from all your friends at the WI.



On 18th September the ladies from the Countesthorpe group joined in the Countesthorpe Boot Route by holding a cake stall and raffle.



All the cakes and prizes were donated by our members and the event was well attended. We sold out of cakes and made £183.00 on the day. Thank you to everyone who donated.

### Bitteswell

"Tea at Sandringham WI" was our contribution to the flower festival at St Mary's Church, Bitteswell. Planned before the incredibly sad news of the Queen's passing, the festival became a beautiful tribute to The Queen and many visitors attended for quiet contemplation and reflection.



At our September meeting Rosie O'Hanlon gave a very informative talk about wills and powers of attorney and the many difficulties that can occur if they are not in place. She stressed the importance of having wills reviewed at least every five years to consider any changes in legal requirements or earlier if personal circumstances dictate. Rosie also clearly explained the differences of Health and Welfare POA and Financial affairs POA. Four visitors joined us.



### Kilby

For our September meeting we welcomed Gail Wooliscroft, a fellow WI member from Hathern, for a demonstration of desserts. Describing herself as an enthusiastic amateur Gail proceeded to create three 'decadent desserts' in the space of 45 minutes!

A Waffle Berry Pudding was first with a timely reminder to buy the waffles from the bread counter and not the frozen potato based variety! With eggs, creme fraiche (always full fat) and chocolate it soon became apparent that these would indeed be decadent desserts! This was put in the oven so the other two offerings, a Lemon and Lime Crunch pie and a Charlotte Russe were produced in an atmosphere of an increasingly mouth watering smell!

During her demonstrations Gail shared some helpful tips. Did we know for example that round lemons are sweeter than the torpedo shaped ones (they are the better ones for your gin and tonic!), and did we know there were boy and girl peppers? Apparently the lumps on the bottom of the peppers are different, three for a boy and four for a girl - the girls are always sweeter!

As the smell from the oven increased and we saw more double cream whipped and added to two more desserts, the time finally arrived for us to taste these treats! As copies of the recipes were quickly snapped up it is fair to say the decadent desserts were a resounding success and delicious! Our October meeting features a talk on Christmas True Victorian Style at the Fleckney Band Hall. If you would like to join us you will be very welcome.

### Glenfield Park

The jinx strikes again. A great title for a film but not so great for Glenfield Park WI as yet another speaker cancelled. However, all's well that ends well as the saying goes. The speaker informed us in plenty of time that she would not be able to come as her husband was very ill, so we were able to find another speaker at short notice.

The cavalry came in the form of Jonathon Walker who gave a talk on "the 36 signs of ageing." Mind you a few of us wondered if we could add to his list. It was an interesting, illuminating and occasionally amusing talk. We were relieved to discover that we are not losing our minds if we can't remember things. Apparently, we have so much information stored in our brains that it takes a while to recall facts. How many of us have had a eureka moment sometime after the event or have said "well, just don't call me in the middle of the night" or have forgotten why we have gone upstairs. Perhaps it might be better to live in a bungalow. Another sign is not keeping up with current techy terminology and adding an inappropriate acronym to a text. One well-known politician added LOL to a message of condolence and we all know that LOL means laugh out loud (don't we?!) and not lots of love. Another, very embarrassingly, sent a message to totally the wrong person. Some good news was that older drivers are much safer than their younger counterparts so pay less for insurance and who knew that a nap is really good for us. So don't feel guilty when you fall asleep after lunch or while watching the TV. Never mind that you don't see the end of the programme. We learnt a lot.

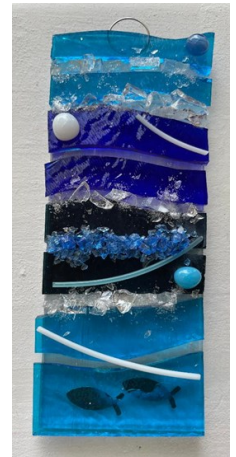
### Broughton Astley

Vanessa Thompson-Lowe of Ginger Cat Glass was our guest speaker, who told us all about the art of glass fusing. Only hand-made glass is suitable for fusing and is therefore very expensive, with the main producers in the U.S.A. and New Mexico. A piece of plain clear glass is used as a base



then shapes required to make the design are cut from coloured glass – transparent, opal, etched, plain, patterned and ridged, and dichroic (sprayed with metals) – and put in place using pva glue. None of the glass is wasted; small cut offs are crushed to produce different grades of 'frit' for

decoration and beads and narrow rods used for stems etc. are also produced. Once the design is complete it has to be fired in a kiln at high temperatures for around 24 hours, sometimes several firings are required. Vanessa is also able to mould the piece into wave shapes, and arcs for tea-light holders. What started as a hobby soon had Vanessa hooked so she took courses on the techniques, then experience has led her to produce a wide variety of beautiful and unique pieces, many of which she brought along to show us. While describing this process Vanessa started making a sun catcher, which she completed and fired back in her workshop (photo right). It was a fascinating evening, which was enjoyed by all.



Our member, Jan Jones, was soon to celebrate a very special birthday so we presented her with a colourful bouquet and sang happy birthday!



### Gilmorton



Leicester General Hospital give all newborn babies a hat. At the end of July they were running short and asked for donations. Gilmorton ladies picked up their knitting needles and produced 26 hats finished off with labels which tell the new Mums where the hats were made. There are more hats being completed and we'd love to hear from someone if they have received a hat.

### Anstey

We had a busy month in September. Our stall at the Anstey gala was busy. Pouring rain during the set up in the morning did not bode well, but it cleared up before the gala opened to the public, and the fear proved ungrounded. A good amount of money was raised.



A week later came our SOS Fashion Show, which was better attended than initial ticket sales suggested. We had a good age range among the models, from members' grandchildren to members themselves. It proved an enjoyable social

occasion, with the refreshments including home made cakes much appreciated, and to our surprise raised more funds than the gala itself.



### Stoke Golding

The Undoing of Polly Button with Stephen Moore

Stephen had done an enormous amount of research about the horrendous murder of Mary Green, known locally as Polly Button, in Nuneaton in 1832. Mary's life spiralled downhill when she was seduced by the son of a local landowner as a very young woman, got pregnant, but was then deserted by the man.

She went on to have 5 children by different men, so was struggling to earn enough money to support her family, she was affected by the dramatic slump in the silk ribbon making market. Nuneaton was a very poor offshoot of the Silk Ribbon weaving in Coventry. Coventry tried to keep up with the progress of the silk ribbon weaving business by moving on to better machines making more ribbons at a time, and also the new Jacquard looms coming in from France which made fancy ribbons many more at a time.

Nuneaton had not progressed to the new looms, and still used the old fashioned single ribbon looms which could not compete, so the trade disappeared. Nuneaton was in a terrible state, with a high proportion of its population on poor relief.

Mary was struggling trying to provide for the children. She had claimed support through the courts for maintenance from the men, who had fathered her children, but although the courts had granted her maintenance, it was not paid regularly. Her last child was fathered by John Danks and she was 8 months pregnant with a second child, by Danks. She had once again gone to court to get John Danks to pay maintenance, and they had realised that he had not been paying the maintenance for the first child and now owed a lot of back maintenance. He arranged to meet Mary (Polly Button) in a local barn to discuss the situation, and he murdered her by cutting her throat. Amazingly, she tried to get home to her children and made her way out of the barn and onto the road, before she died.

John Danks was tried for her murder, found guilty and hanged, but the judge ordered that his body be dissected as well as an additional punishment.

### Wigston Magna

A very interesting evening was spent listening to Barbara Talbot representing the Anthony Nolan Cord Blood Programme. We didn't realise that Leicester is one of only five centres where this can take place, how the charity is trying to widen understanding of it and is aiming to develop the process further across the country.

Barbara used to be one of the nurses who extracted the blood and talked to us about her work and the need to develop the centres so that more people can be helped. It was good to hear about her experiences first hand and to have the chance to ask questions. We all feel far better informed and were amazed at the science involved.

### Barrow Upon Soar

Laraine Tucker, a Tai Chi instructor for over 21 years, joined us to explain and demonstrate some of the techniques of Tai Chi and the benefits it can have on your health. None of our members present had ever practised it, so we were eager to know more.

It is an ancient Chinese discipline of meditative, slow, gentle, movements, practised as a system of exercises which is believed to be well over 1000 years old. There are many types & styles. Some of our members who have been to the Far East have witnessed Tai Chi being demonstrated in public areas as a daily exercise routine. Laraine became aware of Tai Chi when she lived in Taiwan.

Demonstrating some of the movements which are very slow

and flow from one to another, Laraine said your body should be relaxed, with loose arm movements, tummy NOT held in, with your feet slightly apart but firm on the ground. The benefits are good posture, good balance, no stress on your joints & muscles and helps reduce anxiety & depression.

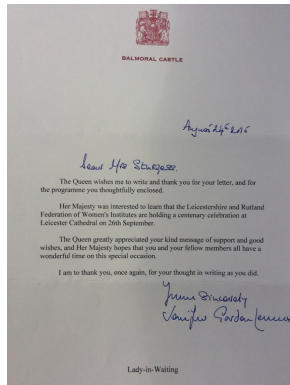
We did our best to copy Laraine's movements. Difficulties were, trying to stay relaxed, doing the movements slowly and gracefully and not knocking the person standing next to you but we were not bad for a first attempt.





### Illston on the Hill

We decided to continue with our meeting on 8th September, as it would have been difficult contacting everyone including our speaker. Also we felt the Queen would say, "just get on and do it". It proved to be a good decision as it gave us all the opportunity to share our thoughts and experiences of the Queen. Attached is a letter to Rhena Sturgess (long serving member), this was in acknowledgement to a programme of "what the president wore through the ages" held a few years ago. The Cathedral was full and it was a very memorable day so ably organised by Rhena and her sister Shirley.



We began with a minute of silence in respect of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The loss of such a wonderful woman deeply affected our members, particularly as it seemed so sudden. She herself being a keen member of Sandringham WI part of the Norfolk Federation, attending as often as possible despite the work pressures on her life. A kind, inspirational, steadfast, warm, fun loving and thoroughly lovely lady will be so sadly missed. We will never forget her "tea party" with Paddington Bear.



35 Years of Growing Old was the subject of our guest speaker Jonathan Walker. What were we in for? One of the first signs being modern technology. Yes, I am sure a lot of you will know where we are coming from! One example being a lady sending a photo to her daughter on her mobile phone. Mum: "herewith a photo, isn't it good?" Daughter, "mum, you must take your finger off the lens". Mum: "I will send it again". Daughter, "you can't send the same photo again". Mum, "here it is again". Daughter (who still had a blank screen) "yes mum it is lovely".

When we were young we would go out with a friend for coffee – just the one choice – now we have multiple choice and don't know what half of them are!

Jonathan's talk was very amusing, but also contained statistics outlining how we can keep our brain active and operational. It was also amazing the number of motor car accidents by people up to 25 compared with the over 70s. Always choose to be driven by an older person, the odds the youngsters will be involved in an accident is much greater.

Just one final observation was of a young person sharing an observation that over 70s are more likely to adhere to the speed limit because they have more time to get to their destination!!!!

A really enjoyable and thought provoking evening ending with some superb refreshments.

### Clarendon Park

Our Jubilee Party was a lovely event. Music from all the Queen's decades, dancing, a royal quiz, lots of laughter, lunch and cake. We celebrated in style. Our postponed day trip due to the heatwave began with a two minutes silence for our gracious Queen.



Off we went around our attractive county taking her with us in spirit. Morning coffee at Wymondham Mill

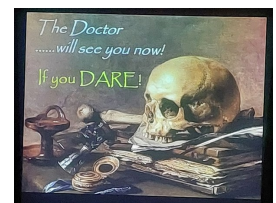
near Melton Mowbray, lunch and shopping at Gates Nursery and afternoon tea at Buttercup Tearooms. The sun shone, what more could you ask for?



### Breedon on the Hill

Tax, care and Toyboys. A more serious talk given by the Cop with regards to wills, power of attorneys and some of our decisions around these. Whilst eye opening and informative, we were still able to enjoy the tongue in cheek jokes that came with it - and were able to take away the information with a more informed mind! No toyboys were brought to the meeting sadly - but it appears they could be bad for you!!  
September: A history of medicine by Dom Whiston  
A thoroughly enjoyable and slightly gruesome talk about the history of medicine stemming back to at least 6 thousand years ago. Dom gave us a whistle-stop tour of the origins of some of our current medicines - and some remedies that were previously in place (that we are very glad we don't use now). Did you know - If you had eye problems, you would have been advised to lick the eyes of a frog? I think we will stick with Specsavers!

With props, eerie lighting and a clear passion for the history, Dom made this a fantastic evening and we would highly recommend it. He also does other talks, which we will hopefully get to hear sometime in the future.



Alongside the gruesome history of medicine, our WI held a coffee evening to raise money for Macmillan. Online alone, we have raised £226 and we have yet to count the money donations received into our donation tins. Our committee worked hard in our kitchens and made the most beautiful cakes for the evening. Many thanks to those who arranged the evening and participated - we have raised a fantastic amount in memory of one of our members, Karen.





**Great Bowden**

We were brought into the time of glamour with a most interesting talk by Jenny Williams regarding her collection of powder



compacts. These were considered a necessity for ladies in the early part of the twentieth century as they contained loose face powder, and later compacted powder, to be carried by ladies to "powder their noses" at the required time. There were major companies who either manufactured or sold them as essential beauty items. These included Du Barry, Stratton, Elizabeth Arden, Estee Lauder and Christian Dior. Jenny had researched powder compacts and found women who had worked for Du Barry at their factory in Hove in its heyday who informed her that it was a happy place to work with everyone behaving like a family. As compacts became more popular, they were made in many shapes and sizes, and their mechanics differed to prevent the loose powder escaping into the handbag. There was also a device for cleaning the mirror. Materials used became grander with compacts being made of gold, silver, brass and even snakeskin. Jenny's collection was extensive and we were shown many examples of the craftsmanship that was used. The 1960s brought mass production and compacts began to be made of plastic bringing the era of beautiful powder compacts to an end, but Jenny's collection shows how glamorous the compacts of the 1920s and 1930s were as a cosmetic fashion accessory.



Our annual Summer lunch was held at the home of our Secretary, Tina Merchant. The day before, with the help of members and their husbands three gazebos we erected as seating areas. This year they were used as protection from the sun as the weather was glorious and very hot. Those



who attended were treated to a wonderful spread consisting of selection of cold meats, quiches salads and other savoury items.

This was followed by delicious sweets of various types. Our meal was accompanied by wine or soft drinks. All this was organised by the committee. The winner of the tallest Sunflower competition was Sharon Webb whose sunflower grew to the height of 6ft 10ins. Her prize was a voucher for the Wistow Garden Centre.

All those who took part in the competition were given a bar of chocolate for entering. It was a wonderful opportunity for members to relax in the sun enjoy a drink and wonderful food.



**Ullesthorpe**

We have had a busy few months with excellent speakers and visits to various places.

The July and August meetings followed a similar theme. There was an interesting talk in July on Bradgate Park with Carol Marsden. Then in August we heard about Stoneywell and the Gimsom family with Mark Temple. Both places worth a visit and both close to home. Surprisingly some members had never been.



A visit we all enjoyed recently was to the Welland Valley Vineyard near Marston Trussell. The owner David Bates told us all about the history of English wines, how the vineyard started as a hobby and has become very successful. The visit concluded with a walk around the vines and tasting three different wines.

A completely different trip was to the new Petanque Court at Wycliffe Bowls club. Here we were taught how to play, learnt the rules, and enjoyed several games. The evening finished with a fish and chip supper. This was an excellent evening with Wycliffe Bowls Club and expert coaches from Leicester Petanque group. We hope to make this an annual event.



Finally at the September meeting Vanessa Thompson-Lowe gave us a demonstration of her handmade glass creations and how to learn and make our own designs. She is a local glass designer and artist. She runs The Ginger Cat Glass workshops. After her amazing talk we have organised a workshop for members.

**Thorpe Acre**

On Wednesday 7th September 18 members attended a performance of the musical Calendar Girls at Loughborough Town Hall.

The two ladies in the photo are Chairman Sue Wainwright (left) and Gill Atkinson (right).





**Glenhills**

Our meeting in September was engulfed in wonderful aromas when we welcomed Liz Seal Aromatherapist who explained all about oils their properties & their health giving benefits. With the aid of slides Liz explained to us & demonstrated the use of oils in a very relaxed & easy to understand way. We all thoroughly enjoyed the aromas & being able to try these gorgeous oils & creams.

We were also humbled to pay our respects to our late Queen Elizabeth by laying flowers in her memory to a fellow WI member.



**New Barkby**

President, Shirley Franklin welcomed members to our September meeting. After 'Jerusalem' was sung, there was a one-minute silence in memory of Janet Hutton, a former president of the institute and, at one time, a staff member at WI House.

Speaker for the evening – Angela Dewes on 'From Fleece to Finish'. As a sheep farmer with different breeds, she then transforms the fleeces into the various types of wool fibres, before spinning and making scarves, hats and gloves. Sometimes she dyes the wool or else sells whole fleeces to other wool manufacturers. After the talk with powerpoint presentation, Angela held a question and answer time, and gave a demonstration of spindle and spinning with a spinning wheel. Competition for a hand-made knitted item – a very colourful knitted snake. Winner – Jan Oliver. Vote of thanks – Alma Wright.

**Glenfield**

We had no idea what goes on behind the scenes at Bradgate Park to protect the wildlife until Sue Graham came to talk to us. Sue worked in the Park for fourteen years and she is now heavily involved as a volunteer leading guided walks and talks to promote the Park which now covers 830 acres including Cropston Reservoir.

Bradgate Park, the childhood home of Lady Jane Grey is maintained by eight Rangers and numerous volunteers. The geology of the site suggests that it's been in use since the Ice Age. It's a site of 'Special Scientific Interest' which hopefully ensures that it's safe from any development in the future.

Sue's talk left us wanting to revisit Bradgate Park with 'New Eyes'. Rangers and volunteers ensure the security of wildlife including the many deer as well as the wild flowers, fungi, reptiles, birds, bats and insects that can be found there. They also maintain the dry stone walls that form the boundary of Bradgate Park.

Her talk and glorious photographs left us wanting more and hopefully Sue will return to carry on where she had to finish at our meeting as regretfully time ran out.

**Botcheston**

After a very busy couple of months July, after the Desford Heritage Weekend, has been relatively quiet. The Desford Heritage Weekend was a great success. Our refreshments were served in the Village Hall on Lindridge Lane where the 'Desford Museum' was located. Although Saturday was showery, which helped the refreshment stall as people took shelter from the downpours, Sunday was a much brighter day and we had a fabulous weekend and by the time we put the shutters up on the kitchen we had sold all cakes and sandwiches!

At our July meeting we welcomed Phil Jesson from the charity Unseen which is working to end Modern Slavery – although sounding a heavy subject to listen to Phil did manage to convey the seriousness of the subject without being too heavy. We all came away with tips on how to spot signs that someone maybe a victim of modern slavery and also how in our daily lives to find more ethical products/ services to use.

There is a web site where you can answer a questionnaire about your daily life that will then calculate approximately how many slaves you have! Go to [www.slaveryfootprint.org](http://www.slaveryfootprint.org) and take the survey – get your friends to do it and compare your outcomes. A publication that you can access either as a hard copy or a digital copy is Ethical Consumer an annual subscription is less than you would spend on a meal out.

We have had many speakers over the last couple of years that I have heard and this subject continued to be discussed after Phil had left the building!

We have been going here and there through late August and September.

On the August Bank Holiday weekend it was the Desford Scarecrow Festival and we provided refreshments on the Sunday. It was a warm day and the kitchen was kept busy with a good trade in teas, coffees, cakes and sandwiches - - I think word must have got round after the Heritage Weekend of where the best refreshments were!!

On Sunday 18 September a group of our ladies went to the Autumn Lunch at Devonshire Place in Leicester, where the speaker was Nick Hamilton (son of Geoff Hamilton, from Barnsdale Garden Centre). A most enjoyable lunch and informative speaker. See photos on page 5.

A group of members attended a First Aid evening where we were given instructions on how and when to perform CPR – whether they be babies or adults. We were also informed on how to use a Defibrillator – they are very easy to use and the machine talks you through every stage, so if you are ever in a situation where there could be a requirement, please do not be afraid to use it. The evening was rounded off with instruction on how to deal with a choking situation. We all came away with a little more knowledge and confidence that could be put to use if the need arose.

Our September meeting saw us being entertained by a speaker with the title 'Helping Hedgehogs', you could not have had a speaker who was more passionate about her subject – Dianne was very entertaining and gave many tips on how to attract hedgehogs into your garden, and once they are there how to keep them.

The next September event will have taken place by the time this is delivered through your letter box – it is a Forest Group of WIs meeting at Glenfield and the subject of the speaker is 'The Weaker Sex' – I'll leave you to make your own mind up on that one!

Our meeting in October will our AGM when we will have, after the business side, a quiz and bring and share supper.



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### Sue Lobb's Quiz

#### PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022 QUIZ

This really hit the spot, proving to be a very popular quiz with 92 entries returned. Out of these, just 25 were completely correct and the first one of these drawn out came from Nicola Fay of Tilton who has received the special prize of £70 – well done Nicola, enjoy your prize!

If you sent an SAE or gave an email address with your entry, your marked paper or the answers have been returned to you. For those who didn't, you can either go to the Leicestershire/Rutland website to find the answers, or send me an SAE so that I can post your marked entry back to you.

This quiz made a magnificent £265 for County Funds, so thank you all of you for your support. I shall be publishing a new quiz for the festive/new year season, so watch out for that. If you'd like to go on to my quiz subscribers' list to make sure you always get the latest quiz as soon as I publish, just contact me via WI House email, headed up: "Quiz Subscribers" and I'll tell you how it works.

Sue Lobb

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### Monthly Draw Winners!

#### Congratulations to our Monthly Draw winners for September!

**1st Prize £25**

No. 22

Judy Wheatley, Narborough & Littlethorpe WI

**2nd Prize £15**

No. 127

Hildred Freeman, Newbold Verdon WI

**3rd Prize £10**

No. 19

Beverly Sharp, Broughton Astley WI



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

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