

## Centenary Great Bowden 1923-2023

It's celebration time for Great Bowden WI which was founded in 1923. The celebrations were held at Kelmars Hall where 43 members and the County Chairman, Glenice Wignall, were treated to a guided walk through the beautiful gardens in glorious sunshine followed by a marvellous cream tea in the Ballroom of the Hall.




Martin Bolter the pianist played throughout the tea to add to the atmosphere. A special anniversary cake was made by member Karen Burnell which was decorated by committee members Liz Brett and Sharon Webb. The cake was cut by Jean Clarke who is a long serving member of the WI. Members were certainly dressed for the occasion wearing pretty summer dresses and many wore hats as well. Susan Woollard, the President, thanked all concerned. It was a wonderful afternoon to commemorate one hundred years of Great Bowden WI.





To raise funds, Great Bowden held several events, one was a Coffee Morning. The event was held at Great Bowden Village Hall open to the public as well as members. There was a tombola and cake stall and crafts for sale. The WI choir sang songs from the 1920s to 2000s. Those who came were served with coffee and delicious cakes made by the WI. £350.00 was raised.



<p><b>Federation Chairman</b> Glenice Wignall glenicewignall@lrfwi.org</p>	<p><b>Federation Treasurer</b> Linda Martin lindamartin@lrfwi.org</p>	<p><b>Federation Secretary</b> Sandra Woodward fedsec@lrfwi.org</p>	<p><b>Accounts Assistant</b> Anila Patel finance@lrfwi.org</p>	<p><b>Admin Assistant</b> 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](http://www.leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk) or scan QR code  
 Find us on Facebook: Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of WIs

## Groby WI Garden Party

43 Groby members and 2 visitors enjoyed an evening out at the ex-servicemen's club just across the road from where the meeting usually takes place. Almost all members attended so it was a good turn-out.

The excellent function room at the club was decorated by the committee with balloon garlands, 70th birthday banners and pride of place was given to the beautiful cake made by the club chef.

We arrived and had a drink to toast our WI and sang happy birthday. Kate, the Chairperson gave a short speech of welcome and thanks before we enjoyed our Dinner which was a choice of starter and main course, followed by tea or coffee and a slice of the excellent cake. Jerusalem was sung, as usual.

After our meal, the speaker for the evening was Keith Hanson RVM, a former Beefeater. From the vast array of his 'Tales of the Tower' repertoire, the Committee chose his talk about the 'Ghosts of the Tower' which was very ghoulish indeed and very lively.

It was a most enjoyable evening, good food, good entertainment and a chance to spend time with friends.



## Hathern WI Garden Party

Hathern WIs annual garden party was held in June at the village pub. They had 30 members who enjoyed the gorgeous weather, afternoon tea and of course scones and cream all whilst listening to George and Caroline (who own the pub) singing songs ranging from Beatles, Cliff Richard and Elvis.



## Kegworth WI 101st Birthday Garden Party

To celebrate their 101st birthday Kegworth WI held a garden party on June 21st. The venue, a member's garden which backed onto the River Soar, was beautiful and the weather was perfect. Lots of fun was had including a best hat competition! Of course there was plenty of cake.



## WI Bursaries

Please do apply for a County Bursary of £100 which can be used for an educational workshop or class resulting in the acquisition of new skills or knowledge. Usual monthly meetings and leisure activities cannot be included. We would be very grateful if you could send an article of a few lines and an accompanying photograph about how the bursary is spent to WI House by email for County News.

## Using WI House

Any event can use WI House as the venue—please do for free! There is capacity for 30-40 members, 4 rooms, 2 kitchens and garden and no hire fees will be charged. There is plentiful free parking, especially at the weekends when we can offer the whole car park as space. Please take the option to come and see if the venue may suit. Someone will be present when any events are happening. We will try and provide tables, projectors and screens and whatever else you may need. If you want to link an event to the local area there is Belgrave Hall and gardens 10 minute walk away. Travel times from county towns are Market Harborough 40mins, Melton 30mins, Oadby 20mins, Blaby 20mins, Hinckley 35 mins, Loughborough 20mins



**Contact 0116 2661342 to book your WI event!**

## Which Craft? - Arts & Crafts Committee

Which Craft? had their meeting at WI house on the 3rd Thursday in June. Ladies arrived with their different projects. Lorraine showed her books recording the development of projects. Ladies were completing applique pictures. Some were knitting.

Meetings will be on the 3rd Thursday of the month at WI House 10am—12 noon. The next one is 20th July. If you enjoy crafting and would like a morning crafting and sharing ideas and advice come and join us.



## Leisure Committee

It was a bit bizarre discussing mince pies and Christmas lights at a committee meeting during a heatwave but it illustrates perfectly the need for long term planning. We are mindful that boarding coaches at WI house can be difficult so for the Kew Christmas Lights trip we have arranged coaches from Oakham and Burbage to help our members. Whilst it may initially sound expensive, when you take into account the hassle of getting yourself there, by train, tube, bus/taxi, car + parking, it is very good value. Plus you get a group discount and delivered to the door stress free. Although many stately homes also do Christmas light shows, Kew is the definite master of the art.

*My sincere apologies to the ladies who were looking forward to the croquet tasters on 4th July. I postponed it after the club had contacted me regarding the weather forecast. As it transpired, the predicted rain didn't come! I was even contemplating going there to do a rain dance to save my embarrassment - I shall never rely on BBC Weather again! To be fair it is very patchy these days. I hope by the time you read this, we have managed to hold the event again and also managed not to get wet!*

With very long term planning in mind, please save the date for a concert by Hathern Band on 13th April 2024 at Birstall Methodist church rooms. Hathern are an extremely popular band so it has taken a very long time to finally book them. You are guaranteed a good time!



## What's On?

3rd Thursday	Which Craft? at 10 –12	WI House	FREE
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Beading workshop	WI House	£25
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Officer Training—Secretaries and Presidents	WI House	£3
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Mary, Mary how does our garden grow?	WI House	£2.50
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Developing Embroidery	WI House	£20
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Autumn Lunch	Devonshire Place	£30
Thu 26th Oct	Speakers Showcase	Goodwood Bowls Club	£5
Wed 1st Nov	Science Question Time	WI House	£8
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Billa Barra Anniversary Walk	Billa Barra	TBC
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Christmas at Kew	Coaches Burbage, Oakham, WI	£43
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Christmas Dabble Day	Park House, Glenfield	£20
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> & Thur 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Walk	City Centre	£7

2024 ACM art competition 'Celebration'

## Board of Trustees—Chairman's Column



It has been a wonderful few months with many welcome invitations to attend summer events and it has been great to see the birthdays, local places of interest and gardens being used and looking so beautiful for your celebrations.

As a Board we are aware of how the cost of living crisis has impacted members and families and therefore would be encouraging any WIs who can to hold events at WI House for free to help reduce paying heavy venue fees.

Some WIs were requesting electronic copies of County news, flyers and memos. This was due to all of their WI members having email so information was passed on in this way. This was a good opportunity to check with all WIs if they were happy to still receive paper mailing. Thanks for letting us know which you prefer. As always do feel free to contact WI House with any queries or help you may need.

*Glenice Wignall, Chairman*

## Membership Committee

### Planning your programme

An interesting programme can attract new Members to your WI and keep the interest of current Members so it is important that thought goes into it. Some WIs plan the whole year and print a copy for everyone, and some prefer to organise a few months at a time. It doesn't really matter which you do as long as it suits your membership and their various interests. All WIs should have at least 11 meetings a year and they can include a variety of talks, activities and possible outings to suit. Funds may be limited for smaller WIs but you can ask speakers if they will reduce fees for small groups or join with another local WI and have a joint meeting to share costs. You could make use of Members skills to do fun nights and many ideas can be done for little cost, such as, a taste and try of favourite puddings, a board games night, comparison of different brands of popular food items, beetle drive or general chat about favourite holidays, schooldays or places you have visited. Then there are walks in your local area, picnic in the park, garden parties or similar, you can always finish with a cup of tea and cake of course. Ask your Members for ideas and try to include as many ideas as possible, they may even volunteer to help book the speakers. Finally have a quiz or similar in reserve in case your speaker has to cancel at short notice. Enjoy your meetings and if you want more help ask any of the Advisers. Contact details in the Handbook.

## Notices

Introducing Lois McKinder who is our new office administrator working 9-2 Mon and Weds.

Lois is based in Loughborough and has a little boy aged 4 and enjoys going for walks with her son and her new little French Bulldog.



**Congratulations to our Monthly Draw winners!**

**1st Prize £25— Judy Wheatley, Narborough & Littlethorpe**

**2nd Prize £15— Betty Giddens, Burton Lazars**

**3rd Prize £10— Val Blowfield, QE**

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

**Winner**

## Public Affairs Committee

On Sat 23rd September 10-2 is Mary, Mary how does our garden grow? Is about getting your hands dirty in the soil and planting bulbs in the WI House garden and in tubs. The second event on Wed 1st November is Science Question Time and we are pleased to welcome back Dr Moya Burns and the topic Citizen Science and Nature Connectivity. But what is Citizen Science? Around the world ordinary people of all ages engage in citizen science—participating in projects in which volunteers and scientists work together to answer real-world questions. Much of this work is conducted close to home, sometimes in our own backyards or even in our living rooms and kitchens, with guidance from professional scientists and using established science protocols and tools. Regardless of the location and process, citizen science brings everyone into the important work of learning more about and protecting our planet.

## Fundraising Committee



We are pleased to invite Kath Ryan to their infamous Autumn Lunch this year on Saturday 14th October at Devonshire Place.

Kath Ryan is a retired nurse living in Birmingham. Her Charity, Cakes4Casualties, provides cakes and morale to our sick and injured troops. Her acts of kindness have resulted in her being a guest at receptions at 10 Downing Street, the Palace and the Invictus Games.

Her talk will reveal her many experiences. We are pleased to welcome her on her first visit to the Leicestershire & Rutland WIs. Along with a delicious menu with choices including Pan Fried Salmon Supreme served with Hollandaise Sauce or Brie, Potato & Courgette Crumble. For dessert, Caramel Apple Cobbler served with Crème Anglaise or Tartelette of Trinitario Chocolate accompanied by Cherry compote. Plus a train station 10 minutes away and a fabulous atmosphere - start Autumn with style and in good company!

## Finance & House Management Committee

Booking process update

We are more confident in booking events without paper tickets and instead sending email confirmations. Sometimes if a secretary has booked the event they may have the confirmation but not have passed it onto the individual for whatever reason. If all WIs, whether booking through their secretary or booking individually, can use the NEW booking form which asks for an individual phone/email then we can confirm more easily and keep in contact if there are any changes on the event.

Arts and Crafts Committee  
**BEADING WORKSHOP**  
**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**WI House**  
 10am - 3pm  
 £25



This workshop is for beginners, so no previous experience is required.  
 You will be taught basic instructions for making beaded jewellery.  
 Materials cost a maximum of £15 extra.

Membership Committee Training Event  
**OFFICER'S FORUM**  
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**WI House**  
 11am-1pm



**£3 to include tea/coffee**

Two separate groups - one for Presidents, another for Secretaries- will each be led by a WI Adviser, who will answer all your questions and share best practice with others doing the same job.

Organised by PA Committee  
**Mary, Mary.....How does our Garden Grow??**  
**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

**WI House**  
 2-4pm  
 £2.50



Join us for tea and cake and help us enhance our Federation House garden by planting bulbs. Donations of bulbs from WIs and members welcome. Bring your own dibbers!

Art & Crafts Committee fundraising event  
**Developing Embroidery Skills**  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**WI House**  
 10am-3pm  
 £25



Learn embroidery stitches to make a hanging sampler. Beginners or improvers welcome.

Please bring your glasses or a magnifier if you usually need them.

Fund Raising Committee Event  
**AUTUMN LUNCH**

Devonshire Place

78 London Road, Leicester LE2 0RA

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

11.30am bar  
 open,  
 12.30pm  
 lunch

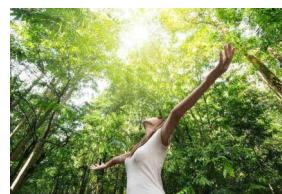


**£30 (for two course lunch)**

Guest speaker—Kath Ryan (see article Fundraising Committee) Family and friends welcome

Organised by PA Committee  
**Science Question Time**

Citizen Science and Nature Connectivity  
 A Talk by Dr Moya Burns



**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

**7.30pm-9:30pm**

**At WI House £8 per person**

## Flexible officer roles

The Charity Commission requires named individuals in officer roles... however there is wriggle room! There can be a team to support each role.

**President** – responsible for the overall running of her WI.  
**Vice President or Vice Presidents** (up to three) – supports the President and shares some of her responsibilities. Running/ chairing the meeting is easy to rotate.

**Secretary** – ensures Committee business is carried out. The secretary's role can be lightened by an assistant secretary or having minutes secretary and/or speakers secretary. All roles can be just for one year.

**Treasurer** – oversees her WIs accounts and gives financial advice to the Committee. Support from the Federation Treasurer or Vice Treasurer is available along with the Independent Financial Examiner at accounts time.

Some WI members take turns every 3 months to lead on a role and by doing this it helps everyone understand what is involved and be more involved.

This will not suit every WI if there is any worries about officer roles do contact us. WI Advisers are also available for a discussion or you can share ideas and challenges if your WI is in a group too.



Image courtesy of marketing-staffing.com

## Around the Counties

### Wymondham

For our June meeting we had a trip out to visit The Old Vicarage Garden in Burley the home of Sandra and Jonathan Blaza. After a very gloomy week the sun finally made an appearance, although that wind was still a bit nippy.

We were able to walk around the gardens at our leisure and we all soon had garden envy. The white wisteria was just spectacular and was a firm favourite with everyone. The garden was split into several different areas, the terraces, walled garden, gardens and borders and a wild garden.

Once we had finished walking around we were treated to home made cake, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. Some of us even bought some plants.



### Ullesthorpe



Tussie Mussies was the title of our June meeting. Barbara Orridge, the speaker explained the meaning. A Tussie Mussie was a small bouquet of flowers that was carried in a small cone. Suitors brought the flowers to young Victorian ladies. Flowers chosen symbolised subtle sentiments felt by the suitor.

Ivy meant fidelity, Rose -love, Lilies -purity, Hydrangea -devotion and Sage wisdom.

A nosegay is very similar, this was carried close to the nose to ward off the stench in the streets at that time. Queen Victoria was fond of carrying either of them wherever she went.

We all successfully made a Tussie Mussie following Barbara's instructions.

Later that month members enjoyed an evening of Pétanque at Wycliffe Bowls club. We were joined by ladies from Broughton Astley and Lutterworth &



District Twinning Association.

The evening ended with a fish and chip supper.



### Sheepy

Our June meeting saw us making our own pillow spray and room freshener! Karina (ably assisted by her mom Vicky) treated us to an interesting evening, a mixture of information about aromatherapy and its history mixed with practical tasks meant the evening flew by.

We were tested on our sense of smell with a quiz where we had to identify 6 different essential oils. It has to be said the first two were very familiar lavender and orange, after that it got much harder and very few of us identified more than those! This gave rise to much discussion and Vicky needed to employ the gavel to get attention back to Karina on more than one occasion.

We made pillow sprays by adding equal amounts of water and alcohol to a spray bottle, then introducing essential oils. The room by the end of the evening definitely had an abundance of different aromas mixing together!



We also made a hanging room freshener by pouring wax into a mould, decorating it with petals, seed heads etc, then when set adding essential oils.



# Around the Counties

## Glenfield



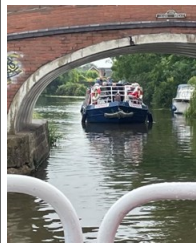
Our outing did not start well. A torrential downpour of rain with no sign of letting up is not good when you are going on a canal boat trip. We settled in our seats, tea and coffee was offered and very soon the rain started to ease. Even the sun began to peep

out from behind the clouds .

Liz, one of the volunteers on the boat, told us a little of the history of the trust which began in 1976. Peter Le Marchant, a war journalist, died very young leaving a legacy to his sister Claire who founded the trust in his memory. There was much opposition by The Maritime Society who questioned the idea of providing boat trips for disabled people, as this was not then the accepted practice. Thankfully, times have changed considerably since then. Originally, all the staff and crew were women, which brought a huge cheer from the audience. The first boat, Symphony, was built mainly by apprentices under supervision. In 2012, another boat Sonata, the first of its kind for disabled people, was commissioned and was a huge success. The trust has connections with Princess Caroline of Monaco who has extended her High Patronage to them. They also work very closely with The Prince's Trust and other organisations which benefit the well-being of young people. In 2020, The Lottery Commission Award Fund gave them enough money to finance the boats for approximately four years.



We had lunch on the boat and tea and coffee was again served by the lovely volunteers. Along the canal we saw many interesting things. A family of swans with five cygnets, a heron, lots of wild flowers and beautiful gardens, together with many friendly people who gave us a wave.



Despite the bad start we all had a really, good day and there is talk of another boat trip next year!

## Swepestone, Newton and Snarestone

It was with great sadness that we started the month with the sudden death of our secretary Sue Richmond. She has been a member of our WI for the past 8 years and secretary for 6 years: our thoughts go out to her family and friends at this sad time.

Our speaker this month was Carolyn Baylter who spoke on patchwork for pleasure and where we all made small brooches which everyone enjoyed even if the outcome was not a perfect circle and slightly misshapen. Carolyn came well prepared and even had the needles threaded ready for us.



## Hathern



Some of Hathern WI members all ready to serve our legendary cream teas and cakes. So many people look forward to our cream teas afternoon which is held annually at the end of May. It is part of a week of activities held around the village and is always popular. It is our biggest fundraiser of the year.

## Hinckley Canalside

### Murder Mystery Night – Murder Most Foul



We had a very different WI meeting from normal this month. We had our very own talented WI members act out a murder mystery night. The acting skills were superb and they should all be very proud of themselves. Cathy was on the organ again, doing a great job with the sound effects! We had such a fun evening trying to work out the clues as to who did the terrible deed of killing poor Amos! All the characters, costumes and accents were fantastic. It was a very entertaining evening with prizes for the winning team (who got the most clues and the correct two suspects) and a prize for the team who gave the most comical answer!

We had lovely coronation cup-cakes made by our very talented WI member Karen Morgan, which were delicious. We accompanied this with a glass of prosecco, raising a glass to the forthcoming coronation of our King Charles III. Many ladies had dressed in red, white and blue for the occasion. Our craft clubs had made a fantastic job of making red, white and blue bunting from pom-poms and had decorated them around the room brilliantly. Gill kindly did the raffle and a great time was had by all.



## Oakham



Last year we enjoyed a talk from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission entitled "Gardening the Globe – learn more about the Horticulture of the CWGC" The talk was interesting and sparked our interest in the work of the CWGC. As a result we

arranged a visit to the CWGC cemetery at Cottesmore. Cottesmore, due to its location close to a WW2 RAF base has 89 war graves with servicemen coming from the UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, all of which are looked after by CWGC. The guide told us about the different graves, the cross of sacrifice and the stories of some of the servicemen.

For other WIs looking for an interesting speaker we would recommend the CWGC who offer a number of different talks. See <https://www.cwgc.org/our-work/outreach/speakers->



## Anstey

Bill Haley appeared at our meeting, but no Comets in sight. No, it was not the rock and roll star from the 1950s, but a proud member of the Association of Royal Yachtsmen, as his sweatshirt proclaimed. Bill served twenty-seven years in the Royal Navy, of which seven and a half were on the Royal Yacht Britannia, the subject of his talk.



Britannia was commissioned in 1953. The Queen's aims for her were to transport her and the Duke of Edinburgh to as many Commonwealth countries as possible, to serve as a hospital ship in conflicts, and to sell the UK. Bill was indignant that constant calls to decommission her ignored the fact that the value of the trade generated on board was ten times the cost of running her.

Although Bill told us many facts, and showed pictures, it was anecdotes that were most entertaining.

One time Bill was bringing the Queen and the late Duke of Edinburgh back to the ship in a boat of unusual design that was hard to drive. Prince Philip asked to have a go. Instead of handing over to Bill to bring her alongside, he continued at full pelt and the boat finished at 40 degrees to the ladder, with Queen Elizabeth and her lady in waiting lying in the bottom.

He also told us that he had served in the Falklands War. The Britannia was at first to go as a hospital ship, but it was decided that it would be too enticing a target for the Argentines. This was a sensible decision, but it probably gave ammunition to those who wanted to get rid of the Royal Yacht.

The competition at this meeting was an item of Royal memorabilia. It attracted a variety of entries, from porcelain to newspaper souvenir editions, to an invitation to a garden party. The winner was Sue Crooks.

## Barkby and Beeby

Cllr Andrew Brown JP outlined his life as a farmer & his year as High Sheriff of Rutland to Barkby & Beeby WI. He explained the origins of representing the monarch through this role from circa 1440. The checked table brought about the term 'exchequer' & the clearing of the verges became the 'verger'.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century uniform is the same as 'Black Rod' and the arms of the sheriff were the two swords mentioned at the recent Coronation.



## Market Harborough

Our event was held at 'The Village' in Market Harborough. This is a community interest group and helps to promote a sustainable lifestyle with businesses such as Refill Revolution together with various community initiatives, such as the community café and garden and Harborough fixers.



Beth Lambert, Co founder of the Village, gave us a really interesting overview into their various projects including the Community fridge. This allows people to bring in any unused fruit and vegetables together with any unopened fresh produce which would otherwise go to waste. The Community fridge also has close links with local supermarkets and any unsold bakery items are also bought to the fridge. This provides valuable support to many people across the town and importantly ensures food is not wasted. Since its inception the Community fridge has saved 2 tonnes of food from going to waste (the equivalent of 2 polar bears!!) which is a fantastic achievement.



Bruce Durham from Harborough Woodland shared some of the projects they are involved in. Bruce advised us that Market Harborough is one of the lowest areas for woodland cover with only 3-4% which is one of the reasons for the frequent flooding within the town and shared with us some of the flood management projects they are involved in. He informed us that the group had been instrumental in organising the planting of 34,000 trees over the last 3 years - all of which had been provided for free! In addition they have set up the Green Schools group which facilitates the sharing of ideas between teachers to ensure children are well informed. Interestingly this initiative has been recognised by royalty and Kim Durham received a Royal Coronation award and was invited to Buckingham Palace for a garden party.

We then had Tim Claydon from Harborough Climate Action group speak to us on how to reduce our carbon footprint. Tim advised us that in the UK the average person is responsible for producing approx 13 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year with the main areas being from transport and food and drink. Tim shared ways we could reduce this including using local suppliers and services wherever possible to minimise the transportation of goods, using LED light bulbs, making sure your homes are well insulated and planting trees and shrubs. Lots more ideas can be found on the website

[www.sustainableharboroughcommunity.co.uk/hca](http://www.sustainableharboroughcommunity.co.uk/hca)



A really informative evening with lots of questions to our speakers, some food for thought and several of our members deciding to volunteer at the Village Community garden. It embraced the WI objective to "conserve and protect the environment and the prudent use of natural resources". The community café

was open and we had the chance to purchase refreshments including some very delicious cakes and also to have a peruse at the many shops. We can highly recommend a visit there!

# Around the Counties

## Illston on the Hill

We welcomed Angela from Barn, SpunYarn & Farm, a Crafters Journey. Some time ago Angela was asked by her husband "what would you like for your birthday". After serious thought she said a sheep and a spinning wheel. Her wish was granted, although he gave her 18 sheep, so possibly more than she bargained for!! This started her journey into wool.

Obviously this started with shearing (she didn't bring in a demo model!) fascinating how, when wool is twisted from the fleece it doesn't break, but splits immediately if not twisted. Once the wool has been spun it is then dyed and then made into garments. Angela now has some 75 sheep, all different breeds and from the samples she brought it is easy to see how the wool varies from type to type. All the sheep have names, but I fancy Colin is her favourite because he got a lot of mentions!

It was an interesting fact that when washing wool, the more it is moved about and pummeled the more likely it is to shrink. Just leave it in water and then dry in the normal way. Angela brought samples of knitted items plus lots of samples of the various types of wool. She has moved from the kitchen into a custom renovated barn on their farm and gives lessons in spinning, dyeing, etc and the workshops are proving very popular.

Our meeting ended with luscious refreshments.

## Glenfield Park

Felicity Austin talked to us about the History of the Music Hall.



With the word sheets handed round we were able to have a great time joining in with Felicity with the songs and many of the choruses. She had hats, shawls and pinafores to give a further flavour of the times as she painted a picture of the music hall in its heyday

We had a most enjoyable time hearing stories about its stars.

So many of the recitations and the songs were full of innuendo and a bit saucy. Marie Lloyd was one of the finest female music hall performers with her famous song 'There was I waiting at the Church' One that we didn't know was 'She's Never had Her Ticket Punched Before'!!

With stories full of humour interspersed with a song or two for us to join in with we were only sorry when it came to an end.



## Broughton Astley



Steph and Trevor Mee were our guest speakers to tell us about their experiences as "Quiz Show Junkies"! Steph had first started applying to be on television quizzes in the 1980s, the first being "Bob's Full House" when she won a hamper and two prizes. She said how well all the contestants are looked after when chosen to be on a quiz show – being picked up in a limo, having nice hotel accommodation and meals. Steph went on to go on many other shows from then on and was often 'head hunted' to join a panel! A real Quiz Show Junkie! In 2008 she appeared on The Weakest Link, which she said was not the best experience. Then she met Trevor and they went on Pointless as a couple getting to the Head to Head on the first occasion, and second time round winning with a pointless answer. They both proudly displayed their Pointless trophies! And now they are waiting to hear if they will be chosen to appear on the "One Percent Club".



A group of members from Broughton Astley, Bitteswell and Ullesthorpe WIs went for a flower arranging morning at Saffron's Flower Farm making a bowl arrangement or a hand-tied posy, which was a lovely experience enjoyed by all. A dozen or so members met for coffee and chat at Sutton in Elms Church cafe,

where we enjoyed delicious home made cakes in their relaxed and friendly environment.



Our tombola and plant stalls at the Broughton Astley carnival were well attended. The tombola sold out very quickly and the wide selection of home grown plants were much appreciated and almost all went to good homes.



## Cossington



We started our meeting voting on the Resolutions. We continued by celebrating King Charles III Coronation and some of our members displaying items from previous Coronations.

2 of our members had crocheted the Coronation blankets and explained the significance of the various panels.



We had a general quiz but with one sheet a Royal theme. Plus a box of random items and we had to guess their purposes which caused great hilarity.



# Advertisements

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Office 01536605365

Percorra North Northamptonshire  
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Kettering NN16 8RS

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

## Equalities

### What is equality?

Equality is the state of being equal, especially in status, rights and opportunity. Practically, this means ensuring all women have an equal opportunity to join the WI and participate as a member.

### What is diversity?

Diversity is understanding that each woman is unique and recognising our individual differences. For the WI, this means celebrating the diversity of our members, recognising differences and embracing these differences to inspire, educate, campaign and fundraise.

### What is inclusion?

Inclusion is a basic right and its objective should be to embrace everyone regardless of individual differences.

For the WI, this means creating a welcoming and friendly environment where every member is included.

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