

## Chairman's Column



As we go into March (yes already) there are lots of events and happenings to look forward to. Firstly, our own Annual Meeting, I am so looking forward to seeing lots of you at the Grammar School. We know numbers are down this year but I am sure those of you who have chosen to go will have a great day and enjoy meeting up with friends old and new. I am sure as confidence builds we will be back to usual numbers next year and this year we will be able to get round the stalls more easily so make sure you bring a bag with you to put your purchases in.

International Women's day is on the 8th of March with the theme of Break the Bias, something we can all take note of and look for ways in which we can raise awareness of women and their position in society. It is easy to think that we cannot make a difference to injustice and bias, but challenging inequality when we see it should be the way forward. Women should want to be judged on their merits and not just because of their gender as they are well able to hold their own in society given the opportunity.

I hope you took note of page 19 in the February edition of WI Life about the WI Recruitment award, a WI has the chance to win £200 if you manage to increase your membership by the highest percentage. There are some ideas on the page if you need any and there are different categories for the size of your membership. So why not see how many new members you can get. Have fun trying.

Take care all. Janet

## Torquay Holiday



We were delighted that the Federation holiday could take place this year. Over 100 members, friends and family enjoyed a trip to Torquay and the surrounding area 7—11 February. Photo album and feature on pages 2 & 3.

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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**

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**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



## Torquay Holiday

I really enjoyed my first ever stay in Devon on the federation Torquay holiday. Spring arrives earlier down there and it was uplifting to see almond blossom, blackthorn and daffodils already out, as well as some lambs in the fields. On Tuesday we were taken to Exeter where we had a peaceful stroll along the river, followed by a coffee on the quay and still had time to visit the fascinating Prince Albert museum. Some ladies enjoyed a guided tour whilst others hit the shops. Wednesday saw us first in Totnes, an attractive place with lots of quirky shops, then on to Paignton where we had a leisurely walk along the beach. We were enchanted with a small flock of pretty birds which we were reliably informed were turnstones. Thursday was free time so we caught the local bus to Brixham – another fascinating place where we explored both sides of the harbour. We even saw Sammy the seal who hangs around waiting for the fishermen to throw the fish heads overboard. I think it must be short for Samantha if the seal is that clever! Back to explore Torquay on a double decker in the front seats of course. The hotel was enormous and some ladies made full use of the beauty salon and swimming pools. Food was good with several choices for the evening meal. There was varied entertainment every evening with a free drinks package included. One of our lucky ladies won twice on the bingo. (Not giving her name in case she gets begging letters!) A table of our ladies won a bottle of fizz for the best arm-waving, then won the quiz on a subsequent evening and another bottle of fizz. The luckiest lady of all though was Janet from Scraptoft who was chosen to be the magician's assistant. She was brilliant - Debbie McGee eat your heart out! The next morning I heard someone talking about how funny that lady was last night. They won't forget the Leicester lasses in a hurry. Our drivers were marvellous – setting us down in the most convenient drop off places at every stop. How they negotiate those tight bends is incredible – real professionalism. Huge thanks must go to Glenice and Maxilyn for all their hard work and good humour in providing us with such an unforgettable trip at such a bargain price.

Margaret Osborne, Hollycroft WI

Set off from WI House with stops at Evesham Leisure Centre and Taunton Deane Services before arriving at the Derwent Hotel in Torquay. Enjoyed a drink before bedtime.



Day 2. Trip to Exeter with 16 enjoying a guided walking tour from the Cathedral to the Quay. Lunch in George's Meeting House before we got the coach back to our hotel in Torquay.



*'Many thanks for arranging the WI holiday and for looking after everyone. Pat and I had a great time. The lovely weather was a bonus. Lucky us! Looking forward to 2023!'*



## Torquay Holiday

Evening entertainment and a little drink after our dinner.



Day 3. Trip to Totnes sunshine and coffee before getting coach to Paignton.



Paignton next. Some enjoyed lunch in 'The Talk of the Town' and a lovely walk around the harbour.



Day 4. Some visited Brixham, taking a gentle walk around the harbour we saw some seals. Others had afternoon tea in the hotel. Our last evening meal.



*'I have recently returned from the Federation holiday to Torquay and wanted to pass my thanks on to Maxilyn and Glenice for all of their hard work in making it such an enjoyable trip. This was the first federation holiday that I had been on, but I will definitely consider going again.'*

## 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.

### Federation Quiz 2022—a date for your diary!



After an enforced break of two years, the Membership Committee are looking forward to running this event on Friday 1st July 2022.

It is always a fun evening and raises funds for the County Federation, for the benefit of all members.

We are in the process of finalising venues with volunteer host WIs and will keep you updated.

### New WI Recruitment Award Scheme



The WI recruitment award scheme which has been live in Wales for a number of years is coming to England and the Islands.

The scheme will go live in April 2022, the beginning of the new subscription year, and will run until March 2023.

WIs will be split into categories by size and the WI which has increased its membership by the highest percentage increase will win £200.00 for the benefit of all its members.

Once launched this will be a yearly recruitment award scheme for all WIs. However, for one year only, federations will also have the chance to win £200.00.

#### What do WIs need to do?

Apart from focusing on recruiting members and keeping their MCS up to date, WIs do not need to do anything at this stage and will automatically be entered into the scheme by their federation.

Look out for further information in the **February issue of WI Life**.

### Officers' Training for Presidents and Secretaries 2022



#### Open to new officers and those wanting a refresher.

WI Advisers are looking into the possibility of organising some training in June 2022 – ideally, face-to-face at WI House and on a Saturday. A separate session for Presidents and a separate session for Secretaries, on the same date.

There would be a small charge for these sessions, which would be informal and offer the opportunity to:

- ◇ clarify key aspects of your role
- ◇ share ideas and concerns with others doing the same job.

Once we have an idea of levels of interest, we can firm up the details.

Could you let our Federation Secretary know, **by Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March**, if you would like to attend, **please indicate which role - Secretary or President – and your WI**.

Sarah's contact details are:

Email: [fedsec@lrfwi.org](mailto:fedsec@lrfwi.org) or Phone: 0116 2661342.

## JINGLE ALL THE WAY QUIZ - RESULT

First of all, a big thank you to you all for taking part in this quiz which has raised an excellent £217 for Federation funds thanks to your efforts in both buying, and in many cases, selling on extra copies to your family, friends and fellow members. I do hope you all enjoyed taking part.

In total, I received 84 entries which were marked by my dear friend Sally from Chester. However, out of these only five were all correct and the winner drawn at random was Marguerite from Wigston Magna WI. Congratulations to her who I am sure by now has treated herself to something nice with her prize.

By far the most common error was the answer for Clue 4: Long for (4). The answer required was 'PINE' but many of you had put 'WISH'. Clue 33. Mr Nureyev (8) caused a few wrong answers. I know that his name was spelt 'RudolF' but that has only 7 letters; this being a Christmas Quiz I was looking, of course, for dear old 'RudolPH' as the answer. Most got this answer correct. Clue 21: Frozen precipitation (8) yielded a few individual SNOWFLAKE answers, which has 9 letters of course. Correct answer was SNOWFALL. The correct answers are below so that you can check all the answers for yourself:

1.CRACKERS, 2.WRAPPING, 3.ADVENT, 4.PINE, 5.MISTLETOE, 6.STABLE, 7.SLEIGH BELLS, 8.DANCER, 9.CRANBERRY SAUCE, 10.HO-HO-HO, 11.MANGER, 12.POINSETTIA, 13.GREETINGS, 14.CINDERELLA, 15.GOOSE, 16.TINSEL, 17.PRANCER, 18.PRESENT, 19.NOEL, 20.PUSS IN BOOTS, 21.SNOWFALL, 22.GOODWILL, 23.STAR, 24.SWEATER, 25.DASHER, 26.MYRRH, 27.WASSAIL, 28.DECORATIONS, 29.THREE WISE MEN, 30.MINCEMEAT, 31.CHIMNEY, 32.SHEPHERDS, 33.RUDOLPH, 34.WREATH, 35.VIXEN, 36.NUTS, 37.RESOLUTIONS, 38.NORTH POLE, 39.FRANKINCENSE, 40.LAPLAND, 41.MELCHIOR, 42.PANTOMIME, 43.COMET, 44.NUTCRACKERS, 45.NATIVITY

I am about to embark on my next quiz which I shall be launching at the ACM on 19th March, and hopefully emailing out to subscribers during the week prior to the meeting. Look forward to seeing you there.

Take care one and all, and many thanks again.

Sue Lobb

## NFWI Events

### Lady Denman Cup Competition 2022



The Power of Community  
Celebrating the Queen's  
Jubilee, supported by  
The Big Jubilee Lunch

Using no more than 500 words, submit a piece of writing, either comical, serious, fact or fiction, which reflects the powerful impact when a community comes together.

£5 per entry. Critiques are optional and must be selected and paid for as an additional fee.

Deadline—**Friday 29 July 2022.**

All forms relating to the competition can be downloaded from My WI.

Please send your entry directly to the Activities Team at the NFWI and not to WI House.

1st prize, book tokens to the value of £75;

2nd prize book tokens to the value of £50 and

3rd prize book tokens to the value of £30.

The winner will be presented with the Lady Denman Cup at the Annual Meeting 2023.



### Huxley Cup Competition 2022 (Supported by RSPB)

WIs are invited to design a small community space for wellbeing and wildlife. The wildlife aspect of the entry should focus specifically on the theme of:

#### Our Fabulous Flying Friends

*Think about birds, bees, butterflies, moths, and bats!*

This competition is open to all WI members; entries must be submitted on behalf of the WI and not as an individual.

WIs must submit their finished design directly to the NFWI for judging. Deadline for entries is **19 August 2022**. Each entry must be accompanied by a WI Entry Form (forms can be found on My WI).

Cost of entering is £5 per WI (will be invoiced)

Judging will take place during September 2022 and a representative from the winning WI will be presented with the Huxley Cup at the Annual Meeting, June 2023.

The winning WI will work with the RSPB to allow their design to be published by the RSPB with acknowledgement/credit to the WI winners.

## Federation Events

Finance & House Management Committee event



### Photograph Competition



#### Leicestershire & Rutland Scenes and Events.

Bid to make County News with your photo!

£2.00 per entry

(No more than 3 entries per member).

Photos to be submitted by **Thursday 28 July 2022** for judging. The winning entry will receive a prize.

We need only digital photos sent by email or memory stick of high resolution (min. 1MB). Landscape layout.

Entry form, rules and details on flyer.

Art & Crafts Committee Event



### Easter Dabble Day

Saturday 9th April 2022



Glooston Village Hall

Andrews Lane, Glooston LE16 7SQ

10am – 3pm Tickets: £10

Crafts for you to try include painted cards, knitted items, crochet and boxes.

Basic sewing kit/glasses for close/fine work may be needed. There will be a small charge for some items.

Tea/coffee will be provided. The latest Covid 19 measures will be in place.

Please wear a mask or visor if you are able.

If you would like tickets for this event, please contact your WI secretary.

Public Affairs and Intl Committee

### Resolutions Briefing Meetings

Tuesday 26th April 2022 at 7pm

Beedles Lake Golf Course

Wednesday 27th April 2022 at 2pm

Salvation Army Conference Centre

Cost £5 per WI for 2 members, payable from WI funds. Extra tickets available at £2.50 per person.

We hope to have specialist speakers at both meetings so that your representatives can be well briefed. Please send up to two members to one of these meetings. They will then be able to take the information back to your members for discussion and voting at your May meeting.

If you would like to make a booking, please contact your WI secretary.

Finance & House Management Committee

### Speakers' Showcase Evening

Thursday 28 April 2022

Goodwood Bowls Club, 8A Crofters Drive,  
Leicester, LE5 2FH

6.30pm for 7pm (prompt) - 9.30pm

Tickets £5 including tea/coffee and biscuits

We will be inviting new speakers to give us a taste of their talk/demonstration and give you the opportunity to provide feedback. Bring along other members of your WI who you feel would enjoy seeing a new range of speakers.

If you would like tickets for this event, please contact your WI Secretary.



### Platinum Jubilee Tea Party

Saturday 7 May 2022

Broughton Astley Village Hall, Station Rd, LE9 6PT

Doors Open 1.30pm Ticket price £20

Join us for a delicious tea with entertainment by the Taxi Driver Poet, James Hadow and singer Debbie Lacey, singing songs from the 7 decades of the Queen's reign.

Do bring along any memorabilia you may have to add to our Jubilee souvenirs exhibition.

Please contact your WI secretary for tickets stating any dietary requirements. Many events are often oversubscribed, book early to avoid disappointment.



### Platinum Jubilee Lunch

Saturday 21 May 2022

Beedles Lake Golf Club

11.30am for 12.30pm lunch

Tickets £30

Join us for a delicious lunch with entertainment by the Taxi Driver Poet, James Hadow and singer Debbie Lacey, singing songs from the 7 decades of the Queen's reign.

If you would like tickets for this event, please contact your WI Secretary stating menu choice—see flyer for details.

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](https://leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk/event-calendars/federation-events#Federation%20Events)

## Special Mention

### Toni Boudraa, Glenhills WI

Glenhills WI would like to give special recognition to our new Treasurer, Toni Boudraa, who has gone that 'extra mile' in taking over this position at a very critical time for us & enabling our WI to continue after experiencing many difficult problems. As we all know banks are becoming extremely difficult to access with many bank closures in the county along with security issues & identity procedures with so much paperwork also to finalise. We at Glenhills applaud you Toni for your time effort & patience....all these challenges you have managed to overcome & simplify on our behalf!!! Our finances will be managed smoothly & professionally in your most capable hands.....for this Toni we would like to say a very big THANK YOU.

## IFE Training

### Would you like to become an Independent Financial Examiner?

We need more IFE's to help with end of year accounts. Training can be given to individuals or groups. You do not have to be a member of the WI - husbands and friends are welcome to apply!  
A fee of £20.00 is paid as expenses for each set of books examined. We need more help to keep the scheme running in our federation.  
If you are interested please contact Mary Hobbs, Independent Financial Examiner Trainer  
Email: maryhobbs@lrfwi.org

## The Queen's Green Canopy

**Become Involved!** The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people throughout the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". Everyone is encouraged to participate. The idea is to motivate and inspire individuals and communities - villages, cities, counties - schools, societies, businesses and corporates to plant a tree or trees in the planting season prior to March 2022 or after October 2022, through to the end of the Jubilee year. Planting trees improves the air quality, slows down climate change, provides habitats for wildlife, enhances the environment and improves our health and well-being. It benefits us and future generations. The oldest Yew trees in Great Britain are between 2,500 and 3,000 years old. Our ancient Oak trees have been growing for 500 to 1,500 years. Planting a tree is planting for posterity. Trees are available from The Woodland Trust as well as nurseries. Schools and communities may qualify for free saplings. Be mindful that once planted the tree might need some aftercare. A digital record of the project and of tree planting is on: <https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/> so add your Jubilee tree to The Queen's Green Canopy map. Her Majesty and The Prince of Wales, the Patron, planted the first Jubilee tree in the grounds of Windsor Castle in March 2021 to mark the launch of the QGC.



**Jacqueline Jolleys, Osgathorpe Women's Institute**

## Margaret Johnston Competition Winner 'A Memorable Day Out'

### Congratulations to Marion Lawrie, Whissendine WI.

Put your tail in and don't wriggle or we will both be off the bike before we start. A summers day, beautiful Essex countryside, a dog in the basket and my electric bike to take me to an intriguing church. Well, it looks intriguing, seen on the ordinance survey map. I love maps they offer all sorts of possibilities. The one beckoning today is a short 5 mile cycle from Helions Bumpstead (don't you just love English village names?) and is surrounded by a moat. Whoever heard of a church with a moat?

Of we go. Oh bliss, the freedom and independence on quiet lanes, sun dappling down, air cool as wine . Here's the church now, ooh and yes there is a rather neglected notice in the lane saying it had been built on the site of a Norman castle. No castle now but the stone church looks interesting., only one car in the large open car park . Sasha, keen to be out of her basket, rushes off to the side of the church. Better follow. The church is set, isolated, on high ground, no village nearby. Now, I wonder if the church is open.

Sasha playfully skitters up to an elderly gentleman sitting on a seat overlooking the well-tended church yard.

"Beautiful church this, is it open?"

"Ah...no but I can show you around if you like, I'm the church warden, I have the key"

What luck. He is a mine of information. The tower fell down in the 1800's, during rebuilding Saxon graves were found. One of the vicars, John Bode composed the hymn "Oh Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end". Being popular with Americans, a number visit the church each year.

Now, look up, what do you see? Some small pieces of coloured glass high in the plain windows. Well, roundheads came and shot out all the beautiful windows .....I am beginning to hear the shots, shouts and horses hooves. Afterwards villagers collected fragments which were later put into the windows. But, when the roundheads left, the witches came and scrawled witch marks on the stones in the church, look, here they are, strange shapes. Now, do you believe in witches? (what do I say?). Well, he says taking a step backward from the pillar, I know there are still witches in the local villages..... have I stepped into a Midsomer Murder?

I make my way out of the church with Sasha happily skipping around.

Oh and by the way, have you visited the Roman Tumuli at Bartlow? (Roman Tumuli? Witches? Is this man barking?). I thought only ancient Brits went in for Tumuli. But, no, he was right. A 50 foot tall Tumulus is completely hidden behind Bartlow Church - another great day out in the making.

Pack Sasha in her basket and freewheel down the lane. Oh dear, why are we bumping? Flat tyre.....perhaps I should believe in witches!

## Public Affairs

There is a wide range of items that can be recycled at your kerbside in Leicestershire.

Six of the seven districts in Leicestershire comingle their recycling and collect the same items at the kerbside. North West Leicestershire District Council have a slightly different collection system and more details can be found on their website

[www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/recycling\\_containers](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/recycling_containers)

To **test your recycling knowledge**, we have included a short quiz below.

- 1 Can you recycle aerosol cans?
- 2 Can you recycle aluminium foil or foil trays?
- 3 Can you recycle toothpaste tubes?
- 4 What are the top three contaminants in Leicestershire's recycling?
- 5 Should you leave the lid on or off your milk bottles/water bottles?
- 6 Can you recycle shampoo bottles?
- 7 Should your recycling be loose or bagged in the bin?
- 8 Should you flatten your cardboard boxes?
- 9 Can you recycle jam pot lids?
- 10 Should the plastic film, such as on a quiche or cake box, be removed for recycling?



Putting in the right items and presenting them correctly really makes a difference to the quality of the recycling. Emptying, rinsing, and draining all bottles, jars and containers really helps. If in any doubt, check with your district or borough council.

For further information on what you can and can't recycle as well as what happens to your kerbside recycling, visit [www.lesswaste.org.uk/recycle/](http://www.lesswaste.org.uk/recycle/). Or email: [wasteprevention@leics.gov.uk](mailto:wasteprevention@leics.gov.uk) if you have any queries.

Materials can also be recycled at the recycling and household waste sites. For further information on specific items please visit [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/waste-and-recycling/how-do-i-dispose-of](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/waste-and-recycling/how-do-i-dispose-of)

Interested in a range of free talks focusing on waste prevention, recycling and composting? To find out more and to express interest please visit [www.lesswaste.org.uk/community-engagement/talks/talks-to-community-groups/](http://www.lesswaste.org.uk/community-engagement/talks/talks-to-community-groups/), email [wasteprevention@leics.gov.uk](mailto:wasteprevention@leics.gov.uk) or call 0116 305 7005.

### Quiz Answers

1. Yes. Must be empty
2. Yes. Must be clean. Scrunch clean foil into a ball.
3. No. Still contains toothpaste.
4. Nappies, textiles and food.
5. On. This helps to retain its shape for sorting. However you can squash them if your recycling bin is getting full.
6. Yes. Make sure they're empty. Many items in the bathroom can be recycled.
7. Loose as this helps the sorting process.
8. Flatten as this helps the sorting process.
9. Yes. Please keep them attached to the jam jar. If you live in North West Leicestershire you will need to separate them into the glass and metals boxes.
10. Yes please.

Jenny Berry, Climate Change Ambassador

## Art & Crafts

Art and Crafts are looking forward to receiving entries for the individual craft competition 'Crowns and Jewels' at the Annual Council Meeting on Saturday 19 March. See flyer for details.

### Upcoming events to book

Easter Dabble Day at Glooston on Saturday 9th April

Hardanger Embroidery at WI House on Saturday 2nd July



**Watch out for** details of a wire work workshop and an improvers Goldwork Techniques workshop later in the year!

### Broughton Astley

Ian Retson of The Woodland Trust visited Broughton Astley WI and gave a very interesting and informative talk on the state of British woodlands. The first part of his colourful presentation described how Great Britain is the least wooded land in Europe and how the pressures of climate change and biodiversity loss, population pressures (road, rail, and house building) and pests and diseases have caused this alarming decline. We now all understand how essential it is to replace these lost woodlands in order to increase storage of carbon to protect our planet. He went on to describe the many landscape projects that The Woodland Trust and other similar organisations are carrying out, supported by the public and government grants, in many parts of Great Britain and what we, as individuals and local communities, can do to help. He urged us all to plant a tree wherever we could and to change some of our lawns into wild flower areas, which will support and encourage bee and insect populations, which are also a very necessary part of our lives.

### Sheepy



Our January meeting saw us being instructed in the etiquette of afternoon tea by Baroness Bolsover.

She gave us many useful tips on the etiquette of the afternoon tea.

Members learnt how to handle their napkins hold their tea cups (no pinky finger sticking out), how

to stir their tea and when it was acceptable to lift your cup without its saucer!

Members entered into the spirit of the evening, bringing napkins, cups, saucers and spoons to enable them to try out the instructions. Many came in their hats too!



### New Barkby

President, Mrs Shirley Franklin welcomed members to New Barkby's February meeting and wished everyone a happy new year. Due to health restrictions on the Covid variants there was no meeting in January. Speaker for the evening was Rachel Greaves, assisted by her husband Alan. Rachel is a local author and illustrator and told us about the series of stories she has written about her Airedale terrier 'Ruffles' and his adventures. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Jean Brutnall.

### Blackfordby



Our first meeting of 2022 saw us welcome five new ladies. Our speaker was Dave The Bee Farmer. He gave us an interesting talk on the many bees around and explaining how a hive works. Our competition was to bring something relating to bees.



Blackfordby WI have once again taken part in Show the Love 2022.

WI members and friends turned Blackfordby green once again by taking part in the Climate Coalition's "Show the Love" campaign.

Our green hearts have been put up by the War memorial so they can be seen as you go through the village.



### Great Bowden

Great Bowden WI welcomed Bruce White to their February Meeting who spoke about Wildlife in the Welland Valley. Bruce, who is a member of the Leicestershire and Rutland Wild Life Group, gave an interesting talk with slides. He had taken photographs of most of the flora and fauna in the area. The talk began with flowers and the many varieties which could be seen in the fields locally. Then followed a wide range of Insects including pictures of moths, butterflies and beetles. There are also many types of fungi to be seen. Some edible and some definitely not. Members watched slides of amphibians and small mammals. Then, of course, the many species of birds that can be found in our gardens and surrounding countryside. There was such a wide range from wrens, robins, thrushes and blackbirds to crows, magpies, buzzards and red kites. Bruce even played some of their song. It was interesting to learn how many species of each category there were in the UK and how many could be found in the Welland Valley area.

Great Bowden has resumed craft sessions on a Monday and will participate in the darts and skittles league when it commences. In June there are plans to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which will, no doubt, be a good fun event.

### Botcheston

A little late but HAPPY NEW YEAR from Botcheston WI – we hope that you and yours had a welcome break and enjoyed the festivities as best you could.

With the very quick onset of the Omicron variant, with heavy heart it was decided not to have our Christmas meeting so no news on that event!

As mentioned in the last report from Botcheston WI, our Christmas collection was for the charity Baby Basics – this is the donation that was made and thanks go to Linda Grimshaw and the Loving Hands Charity for the efforts in co-ordinating this donation.



**The Forest Group of WIs** held their annual Carol Service on Tuesday 7 December at St Martins Church at Desford which was very well attended by members from Botcheston, Glenfield, Kirby Muxloe and Newbold Verdon and also coincided with the Desford Christmas Tree Festival which made the evening very festive indeed. There was a collection at the service which amounted to £200.00, this was donated to the EMICS Volunteer Emergency Doctors.

Our next evening meeting will be on Thursday 24 February when the subject of our guest speaker will be **CONFESSIONS OF A GAME SHOW JUNKIE**.

If anyone would like more information on Botcheston WI (or WI in general) please contact our secretary on 01455 821228 or come along to one of our meetings when you will receive a warm welcome, coffee and cake.

### Cossington



Cossington members were delighted to welcome Chris Foote-Wood as speaker at their January zoom meeting.

Chris's talk centered around popular comedian Victoria Wood whom he had

been lucky to have as his youngest sister. In his talk titled "Life with Victoria Wood" we were shown family photographs and learned much about her life and career from childhood to her death at the age of 62. We were told that Victoria inherited her talent from her father, who was one of the first script writers for Coronation Street; her determination was inherited from her mother and love of theatre from her Grandmother. She joined Rochdale Youth Theatre where she discovered she could write and perform. She had setbacks in her early career but was determined to succeed in her unusual brand of entertainment.

Chris ended his talk by saying how proud he was of his talented sister being the only single performer to have performed for 15 consecutive nights at the Royal Albert Hall.

### Springbrook and Scraftoft

Springbrook and Scraftoft WI decided to welcome in the New Year with a cheese and wine tasting. We are fortunate that our president, Pauline Pearce, is a National Guild of Wine and Beer judge and conducted a guided wine tasting of four commercial wines and cheeses to accompany them. First, we had to look at the colour of the wine in our ISO tasting glasses, then after swishing the wine around we had to have a good 'nose' of the aroma. Finally came the tasting and the different taste areas of the tongue. Pauline told us how she became a judge over 35 years ago and the different problems that she encounters in her life as a wine judge. A very informative and enjoyable time had by all which certainly warmed up a cold January evening!



### Wing

Our members are welcoming a return to something approaching normal life and are enjoying meetings again. In November our President organised a tasting test so that we could try Christmas food items from different shops, large and small. Much enjoyed by all as we carefully considered our verdicts, which meant of course returning to try that particular cheese or mince pie again just to make sure. We were also delighted to welcome 3 new members.

We had a very special beginning to Christmas festivities as the owner of the Old Hall, one of the oldest houses in the centre of the village, welcomed us for our December meeting, a talk on the history of Christmas Carols by David Hill, a resident of Wing who is an internationally known musician and conductor. David played the grand piano to illustrate the development of carols over the centuries. It was indeed an echo of "A Christmas Carol" as the house was decorated in full traditional style worthy of any Christmas Card.

January saw 15 members enjoy the first meal in a restaurant together for 18 months. Empty plates all round showed how good the food was at the Admiral Hornblower hotel in Oakham, and the group appreciated having a room to ourselves with a blazing fire.



Like everyone else all our members are keeping fingers crossed that this year we will be able to run a full programme of events including taking part in celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee. Could be quite a year for everyone.

### Anstey

Anstey WI welcomed one of their own members as their speaker in January. Sylvia Cole spent four years in the Falkland Islands as director of education, and gave us a fascinating talk about the islands and her time there.



It was intriguing to hear about everyday life in such a remote area, where shops were not always recognisable as such, and you often had to wait for supplies coming on boats that were subject to the vagaries of the wind. It was a surprise to learn that although there is snow in winter it is not freezing cold. The only planes available for the 8000-mile journey to the Falklands are RAF ones, and there is only one partially made-up road, so all vehicles are 4-wheel drive. The islands are self-financing, and indeed quite wealthy thanks mainly to the sale of squid fishing licences, and, of late, cruise tourism. This is in spite of a population of only 3,200.

As for education, there are primary schools, but in more remote places they are taught at home with occasional two-week visits from a teacher.

At the secondary stage children have to board in Port Stanley, and at sixteen if they wish to continue in education they have to come to England. Falkland islanders need to be resilient and resourceful.



Sylvia's talk was illustrated by slides taken and shown by her husband John. They were excellent, and left the audience wanting to see more. In fact, seldom has a talk provoked so many questions. Most of us had known little about the Falklands apart from the "war" of 1982 (The islanders acknowledge it as only an invasion rather than a war). We were so interested we were thirsty for more. Luckily Sylvia is willing to oblige.

### Swepstone, Newton and Snarestone

We met together for our January meeting at Staunton Harold for an afternoon winter walk. The weather was good, there was lots of chatter and laughter as we walked together along the path beside the woods and beautiful countryside. Then after the walk into the cafe for well deserved coffee and cake.



### Greetham

Greetham WI started the New Year with the first of what promises to be a very interesting and enjoyable year of speakers. Members met (following all government guidelines) on Monday 10th January at 7.30pm in the community centre.



We kicked off with a demonstration from one of our members and village residents, Janet Thomas, on the Art of Paper Cutting. Many of us had not heard of this craft before and were not sure what to expect but we were all blown away by the many fabulous, beautiful

and intricate items of work shown to us. The pieces of art work ranged from pictures, lanterns, Christmas decorations and greeting cards. Janet then demonstrated the art of paper cutting to us and had kindly bought along equipment for members to try their hand at this amazing craft. Some members were so taken with this new craft they purchased some tools and intend to continue to practice it.

### Hollycroft

Members of Hollycroft WI were given a fascinating insight into the Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland Air Ambulance service when Vicky Evans spoke at their January meeting. She explained how, as soon as a call is raised, the pilot starts up and the crew boards whilst the rest of the information is being communicated. Members were amused to hear that, despite the state-of-the-art equipment and life-saving technology, timings to an incident are calculated on a huge map with a magnet on a piece of string.

The astronomical running costs are all sourced from fundraising and donations but, as the service receives no government financial support, this gives them the autonomy to pursue their own research. During the pandemic the number of traffic incidents decreased but those involving DIY increased. Sadly, the service is experiencing a growing number of knife crime incidents. She stressed the importance of speed in dealing with casualties which is where the helicopters come into their own.

Vicky also gave details of the Children's Air Ambulance service which transfers critically ill children from local hospitals to specialist centres. These helicopters have a parent seat so that the children can be accompanied. The service returns to bring the child and parent home after treatment, thereby negating the added stress to the parent of organising transport. One crew gave up their own Christmas to bring a terminally ill child home for Christmas day to fulfil his dying wish.

She urged members to support their local service by telling their friends and family about the importance of donations via wills and legacies and the Air Ambulance lottery.

### Ashby Castle

Our first meeting for 2022 was held in February and we had 48 members plus 3 visitors. Our speaker was a very pleasant young lady, Lucy Derry representing St. Giles Hospice. Lucy gave an in depth talk about the care, not only for their patients but also care and support for their families. Although some of the stories were very moving the information about the levels of care provided was very interesting. Our members all agreed that the staff at St Giles Hospice were dedicated to ensuring the end of life care given to their patients was second to none. During question time Lucy was asked where the name St. Giles originated. Lucy was not sure how that came about but one of our members told us the story of St Giles who was the most popular Saint around 650 to 710. St Giles was also known as Giles the Hermit. He founded a monastery in France which became a popular stopping off point for pilgrims. So a very interesting afternoon for the members of Ashby Castle WI rounded off of course by tea and delicious cake.



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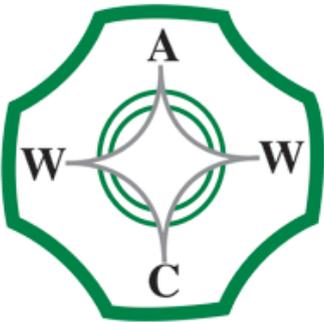
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### ACWW

All WIs have received their ACWW envelope.

Please don't forget to send your donations to WI House by the end of March 2022.

Cheques should be made payable to ACWW.



### Kirby Muxloe WI

will be holding their Spring Fair



**Saturday 7th May 2022**

10 – 12pm

St Bartholomew's Church Hall  
Main Street, Kirby Muxloe

A variety of stalls including  
Crafted Items, Plants, Cakes,  
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### Monthly Draw Winners!

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

**1st Prize £25**

No. 44  
Genesta Cope, Hollycroft WI

**2nd Prize £15**

No. 52  
Janice Patient, Cottesmore WI

**3rd Prize £10**

No. 4  
Claire Harris, Huncote WI



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

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