

## Chairman's Column



I would like to introduce myself as the Federation Chairman. My name is Glenice Wignall and my WI is Humberstone. I joined the WI thirty odd years ago with Humberstone Heights as it was called then and then joined Humberstone as a dual member a few years later. I have been the Treasurer at Humberstone for a few years now. I am Group Secretary for High Leicestershire, so I do know the advantages and disadvantages of being on a WI Committee.

I joined the Board of Trustees in 2004 as Assistant Treasurer, then moved to being County Treasurer for 5 years, going on to be Denman Ambassador and Vice Chairman for a few years. So again, I know quite a bit about the workings of the Federation. I hope that I can persuade you come and join me. We work hard, but we have lots of fun and laughter, and that is what WI is all about.

The Vice Chairmen who join me are Gail Wooliscroft and Heather Roythorne-Finch and the Treasurer is Linda Martin.

Please support the events we are putting on for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year. Your WI Secretary will have all the information and booking forms (tickets still available see page 4 for details).

I look forward to meeting you all in the near future.

## Annual Council Meeting 19 March 2022

The Annual Council Meeting at Leicester Grammar School on Saturday 19th March 2022 was attended by approx. 500 members and opened with Jerusalem in a hall bathed in sunshine. Full report on pages 2 & 3!



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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



## Annual Council Meeting 19 March 2022

In her Chairman's address, Janet said how wonderful it was to be back meeting face to face again and spoke about how we can rebuild following the pandemic. 'To infinity and beyond!' Linda Martin, Federation Treasurer gave the Treasurer's Report and thanked everybody who contributed to the fundraising efforts of the Federation notably Sue Lobb's quiz.



Our first speaker was Susan McEniff from Charity Link. Charity link draw on funds available to buy essential items such as beds and food for those most in need believing everyone should have a decent standard of living despite difficulties they may face such as chronic illness, domestic violence and disability. Their casework team assess all requests for help and match them to charity funds that can assist, drawing on what is thought to be around £3 billion available. Susan informed us that 31,000 children in Leicester live in poverty and there are now more food banks in the UK than branches of McDonalds. Susan explained how people can support Charity link by becoming Community Ambassadors for the charity, becoming a 'Friend of Charity Link' or joining events such as the 3 Leicestershire Peaks Challenge. Have a look at their website <https://charity-link.org/>

Dickie Arbiter was our second morning speaker. Dickie spoke about the relationship between the palace and the press over the years. He gave a personal insight into working with the royal family recounting an early morning phone call from Diana, Princess of Wales when news of the Andrew Morton book broke. He did not shy away from recent royal controversy giving us his thoughts on the recent Prince Andrew story and Harry and Meghan's move to America. He looked forward to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations this year and hoped that the Queen would be well enough to take an active part.



Members browsed the stalls and committee displays, chatted to our speakers and many enjoyed the sunshine outside over lunch time.

Sue Kirk presented the ACWW Pennies for Friendship collection of £2040.04 so far with further updates to be provided through County News. There is still time to send a donation to WI House!



The Membership Bell was not awarded this year due to the difficulties caused by the pandemic but honourable mentions were given to Hathern WI, Stathern WI and Woodhouse Eaves WI for the largest increases in membership.

Federation Art Trophy 2022 was awarded to Kathy Mitchell, Ashby Spa WI. (Pictured left)

Margaret Johnston Trophy 2022 was awarded to Marion Lawrie, Whissendine WI collected on her behalf by Jo Ann Millington.

Edith Buckley Poetry Cup 2022 was awarded to Sue Wainwright, Thorpe Acre WI collected on her behalf by Sue Young.



Long Alley Skittles 2022 Winner trophy was awarded to Gilmorton WI. (Pictured left)

Long Alley Skittles 2022 Runners Up trophy was awarded to Narborough & Littlethorpe WI. (Pictured right)



Various milestone WI birthdays were mentioned with 100th Anniversary certificates for Bitteswell, Glenfield, Kegworth, Newton Harcourt and North Kilworth.

The County Bursary was awarded to Shearsby & Arnesby WI.

## Annual Council Meeting 19 March 2022

Individual Craft Competition – Crown & Jewels that took place on the day was won by Lynne Lewis, Kirby Muxloe WI who was presented with a prize. Her winning entry is pictured on the right.



Our afternoon speaker was Dr Annie Gray. Annie spoke about Victory in the Kitchen, the life of Churchill's cook Georgina Landemare. Annie gave us an insight into the 1920's working kitchen and life in country houses at that time. In 1933, Georgina first went to work for Churchill describing how he lived above his means and made the most of rationing when war broke out. Churchill described in his memoirs saving the life of Georgina as bombs fell close to Downing Street and Annie amused us with Georgina's version of events. The importance of Georgina to Churchill was most apparent as he approached her after giving the speech on the balcony on V.E. Day saying 'I couldn't have done it without you.' Annie delighted us with some of the recipes Georgina had cooked. We learnt about her close relationship to Clementine Churchill right up until her death which was only months before Georgina's.



Glenice Wignall thanked Janet for chairing the meeting and presented her with a gift from the Board of Trustees for all her work as Chairman.

Janet thanked everyone who had made the day a great success and the members, Federation Treasurers and Board members past and present who have supported her during her time as Chairman.

Janet announced the new officers on the Board of Trustees:

Chairman—Glenice Wignall

Vice Chairman – Gail Wooliscroft (pictured right with Glenice)

Vice Chairman – Heather Roythorne-Finch

Treasurer – Linda Martin

The winning raffle tickets were announced, and the meeting closed with the National Anthem.



## 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—Friday 1st July 7.30pm



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

Are you up for a challenge? Will your general knowledge help you to reign supreme? Then gather together members, friends and family and enter a team at one of the four venues in this year's Federation Quiz.

Our thanks to the following WIs for agreeing to host the event this year:

**Ashby Castle WI @ The Ashby School, LE65 1DT**

**Burton Lazars WI @ Burton Lazars Village Hall, LE14 2UR**

**Ullesthorpe WI @ Ullesthorpe Memorial Hall, LE17 5DH**

**Wigston Magna WI @ Little Hill Primary School, LE18 2GZ**

Tickets are £5 per person – teams of four. Each team must have 2 WI members, the event is open to non-members, male and female.

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

We hope you will join us!

Mandy Cutler on behalf of the Membership Committee.

## 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.



Fundraising Committee



### 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 Haddow 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.

Leisure Activities Committee



### Belvoir Castle & Guided Garden Tour

Saturday 14 May 2022

Coach 9.30am from WI House

Meet at Castle entrance at 11.15am for tours

Coach departs Belvoir 4pm

Cost: £16 including coach travel

Enjoy a self guided tour of Belvoir Castle and a guided tour of the gardens with the Head Gardener. There will also be time to enjoy the Engine Yard shopping village.

If you would like tickets for this event, please contact your WI secretary. A completed booking form is essential to secure tickets. Contact WI House if coach travel is not needed.



Fundraising Committee



### 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 Haddow 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.

Leisure Activities Committee



### Belgrave St Peters Churchyard Guided Tour & Cream Tea

Wednesday 29 June 2022

Meet at 12.30pm at WI House

1pm at Belgrave Hall Stable Court Yard (limited parking)

Cost: £6.50 including cream tea

Enjoy a talk with a tour guide from the Belgrave Heritage Trust followed by a cream tea at WI House or in the garden at WI House (weather permitting).

If you would like tickets for this event, please contact your WI secretary. A completed booking form is essential to secure tickets.

Closing date: Monday 13 June 2022

Membership Committee



### Federation Quiz

Friday 1 July 2022

7.30pm

£5 per person—teams of four

The Host WIs are:

Ashby Castle WI @ The Ashby School, LE65 1DT  
Burton Lazars WI @ Burton Lazars Village Hall, LE14 2UR  
Ullesthorpe WI @ Ullesthorpe Memorial Hall, LE17 5DH  
Wigston Magna WI @ Little Hill Primary School, LE18 2GZ

If you would like tickets for this event, please contact your WI secretary. Completed booking form is essential to secure tickets. We urge you to book early to ensure you get your first-choice venue. Each team must have 2 WI members, the event is open to non-members, male & female.

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)

Congratulations to  
**Sue Wainwright,**  
**Thorpe Acre WI**  
 who has won the Edith Buckley  
 Poetry Competition 2022.

Sue's winning entry was in the last edition of County News but there was a word missing. Please enjoy Sue's entry as it was intended below.

**Celebrating Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee in 2022**

She descended the steps of the aircraft  
 Our young Queen, demure, dressed in black;  
 A sad time for all in our country,  
 Her future unknown. Let's look back.

We watched on TV as they crowned her,  
 Surrounded by pomp and display,  
 Her life dedicated to duty,  
 An ethic she upholds today.

With Prince Philip, just two steps behind her,  
 She's travelled the world over time;  
 As well as serving our country  
 As Monarch and leader sublime.

Prime Ministers meet her on Tuesdays,  
 World leaders have oft paid a call,  
 Respected by all who have met her,  
 They're surprised, because she's so small!

As decades pass by she continues  
 To read her 'red box' every day:  
 Advising her Ministers gladly,  
 Watching closely with wise words to say.

Her family's sometimes proved awkward-  
 Their lives more diverse than her own;  
 Such worries she calmly keeps hidden,  
 Her faith never letting her down.

She loves to go to the races,  
 Her knowledge of horses is vast,  
 With headscarf and jodhpurs we'd see her  
 In Windsor Great Park in the past.

How many bouquets she's been offered,  
 How many hands shaken-who knows?  
 But her radiant smile never falters,  
 Accepting both curtsies and bows.

For seventy years we have watched her,  
 As Monarch, as mother, as friend.  
 M'am, as fellow W.I. members  
 Our congrats and thanks we all send.

In this month's mailing we have sent out Gift Aid forms to all WIs. We are asking members who are taxpayers to complete the form and send it back to WI House so that the Federation can claim Gift Aid on the Federation portion of the annual subscription. An editable version will be sent by email so it can be amended to reflect the amount your WI charge for their portion of the subscription if necessary.

Completing the form will not cost you anything, but can be worth £2.50 for each form, for the Federation. Any money raised this way would help to meet our overheads, which are likely to increase this year, and enable us to provide more support for WIs and members in the future.

You can complete the form even if your WI does not claim Gift Aid, as long as you are a taxpayer. If your WI does claim Gift Aid, and the forms completed by members are the new version which includes a reference to the Federation and NFWI, we would be happy to receive copies of those forms from your treasurer.

*giftaid it*

**Blister Pack Recycling**

**MEDICINE PACKET RECYCLING**

A blistering good idea!!

You may have read in the March edition of WI Life that Greenford WI, Middlesex Federation, recycle medicine packets (pill blister packs). Well, Broughton Astley WI has been doing this since last September! The company Terracycle organises this and will accept any medicine blister pack from any manufacturer. Our members bring their empty packs to each monthly meeting and this usually amounts to a large carrier bag full each month! These are then taken to the Superdrug store in Haymarket, Leicester, which is our nearest drop off point. Terracycle then processes the packets to separate the plastic from the backing, so that the plastic content can be recycled.

If you are interested in this scheme, go to [www.terracycle.com](http://www.terracycle.com), choose Medicine Packet Recycling and you will be able to check on your nearest participating Superdrug drop off point!

Fran Marsland, Broughton Astley WI



## Federation Art trophy



### Federation Art Trophy 'Fairground'

The winner of the Federation Art Trophy is

## Kathy Mitchell, Ashby Spa WI

The winning entry was displayed at our Annual Council Meeting.

The judges commented:

This is really joyful work, not only due to the subject matter but also because of the choice of colours and medium used.

The loose style of painting and composition, cleverly, adds to the feeling of motion captured in the work.

The animals look like they might, at any moment, come to life and this feeling embraces the child in us all.

## End Plastic Soup Campaign Update

In a few months time WI members will be voting on whether to accept the latest resolution addressing the issue of: Women and Girls with ASD and ADHD Under-identified, Under-diagnosed and Under-supported.

It can be encouraging to reflect on the weight that the WI can bring to Parliamentary legislation.

Following our End Plastic Soup resolution, Alberto Costa, MP for South Leicestershire, formed an All-Party Parliamentary Group, working very closely with WI, to look into microplastic pollution.

The first report was published in September 2021 listing various recommendations to tackle the problem, one being the fitting of microfibre filters into all new washing machines. Subsequently Alberto Costa tabled a Microplastics Bill which has its second reading in early May.

The foreword of the first report from the APPG includes, 'I want to thank the National Federation of Women's Institutes for first alerting me to their excellent campaign 'End Plastic Soup' in 2017. It was through their campaign that they brought to the attention of MPs the problem with plastic microfibres'.

(Alberto Costa, Chairman)

The WI has made, and still can make, a significant difference to people's lives.

If a member has an issue they would like to be considered for debate please send your proposal to the PA Committee at WI House.



Jenny Berry, Climate Change Ambassador

## Around the Counties

### Jerusalem Jammers

The Jammers are 40 this year and still going strong!

We were delighted to finally get our first proper dance out of the season at Ravenstone. Thankyou ladies for your enthusiasm!

We are always on the look out for new dancers or musicians. Why not come along to one of our practices to see what we are about? Usually the last Saturday in the month at St Barts Church Hall, Main Street, Kirby Muxloe, LE9 2AN from 10 am -12.00 noon.

More details on our website [www.jerusalemjammers.org](http://www.jerusalemjammers.org) or seek us out and like us on Facebook. For bookings and to chat with a real, live person, call super Sue, our secretary, on 01455 458107.



### Cossington

Cossington members invited David Allen to speak at their March meeting. For 25 years David worked as a locum solicitor. In his talk we learned that the law in the 1980s was very different to what it is now. Then there were no computers, mobile phones and smoking cigarettes in the office was common. Legal documents had to be sewn in a particular way with a six inch needle and then most solicitors were men. Women broke through the glass ceiling 3 years ago and now 50% of solicitors are women. The days of the independent family solicitor are long gone due to the astronomical cost of insurance and with the law becoming more complicated most specialise in one particular aspect. In April, Cossington return to meeting face to face as pre-pandemic. We are grateful to Zoom, another thing that didn't exist in the 1980s. Modern technology has kept Cossington WI active throughout lockdowns and Covid.

### Quorn Evening

QE WI have a few individual groups that meet regularly, one of which is the craft group. We meet on the last Monday of each month and our aim is to try different things, share our crafting skills and to have fun. We hire a small room in the village and all contribute to the cost of that although we have had some meetings at individual members houses too if that suits the craft better.

We are a relatively large WI (40+ members) and have sometimes found it challenging to find speakers who demonstrate crafts that we are all able to participate in, so a smaller group who are interested in crafting is an ideal solution for us.

It has also proven to be a useful "fall back" when we have found ourselves without a speaker at short notice, the craft group has stepped in and done a session with the wider group.

We have some talented members in the group with various skills as well as many who have never done any crafting before and it's really nice to have that mix.

During Covid we had many sessions via zoom which worked better for some things than others but we're meeting face to face once again now which is great.

As a group we've been able to share our individual skills and have sometimes persuaded friends and family who have crafting skills to come along and work with the group.

To date our sessions have included: art sessions in various mediums, making clay mushrooms, calligraphy, quilling, needle-felting, crochet, macramé, counted cross-stitch, making wire button bracelets, fabric Christmas baubles, glass fusion and, most recently, we did a chocolate workshop where we decorated our own Easter eggs. We all really enjoyed the session and we were very proud of our efforts, as you can see in the photograph.



Last year we made organza poppy brooches and asked for donations for these among family and friends and we donated £100 to the Royal British Legion as part of their annual appeal.

The craft group are a lovely group of ladies who all very much enjoy getting together to try new crafts over a cuppa once a month and we're always on the look out for new ideas for our group so if anyone has any ideas or skills they'd be willing to share, please let me know.

Wendy Gamble

e-mail: [wendybgamble@gmail.com](mailto:wendybgamble@gmail.com)

### High Cross Group

During February and March High Cross Group held a Skittles Match; two heats, three teams in each, followed by the final which was won by Elmesthorpe WI. They were fun filled evenings and not taken too seriously which was just as well as the ladies scores were very varied! In the photo are the two finalists, Stoney Stanton and Elmesthorpe. You can see from the photo what a great time we had.



### Broughton Astley

Laraine Tucker was our guest speaker to demonstrate the art of Tai Chi and it was a very interesting experience. There are several different Tai Chi styles and the one Laraine showed us was very relaxed with smooth, controlled movements and didn't display any of its martial arts background. Laraine commented that in Asia you will see many people taking this regular gentle, daily exercise in the open air, which is so good for health and posture and which we should all be doing! We then joined in to follow a short routine, which was accompanied by some gentle relaxing music. To complete her demonstration Laraine performed a routine using a ceremonial sword, which was very impressive.

Broughton Astley were pleased to have arranged the raffle at our Federation Annual Council meeting this year, put back from 2020, with an attractive range of prizes including two hampers and a selection of confectionery, toiletries and china mugs with contents, all of which was very well organised by Ann Gibson, Julia Surfleet, Chris Rowe and Margaret Wrathall.



**Leire**



Our speaker for our recent meeting was the lovely Alison Amery from the Leicester Ladies WI who took us on a pictorial personal journey that she had completed in 2019 when she walked 110 kilometres from Sarria to Santiago which is part of the Camino French Way culminating at the Santiago Compostela in Spain. It is here that the remains of the apostle James, who

was the first apostle to be martyred, are laid to rest. There are seven routes in total and Alison explained that people complete this popular pilgrimage for many reasons including spiritual, reflection, self-discovery as well as exercise and for a physical challenge. In the Middle Ages people completed the walk as a penance for their sins.

Alison was doing the walk for the AMMF charity and in memory of her late husband as this was something he had wanted to do. She was accompanied by a group of ladies from her running club who wanted to support her and this made for an interesting presentation as she related stories of their backgrounds and personalities and the triumphs and traumas along the way. They met many people who had their



own story to tell. Every pilgrim has a passport type document stamped at intervals at the shops, cafes and resting places on route and, on

completion, they receive a beautiful framed certificate of their achievement. Following the talk, Alison provided a rather unique quiz which tested our memories somewhat and our president, Margaret was the winner. It was lovely to meet another WI member and Alison was thanked for this entertaining and personal presentation.



We were delighted to celebrate our 50th Anniversary on 21st March, an occasion which was made extra special as current committee member, June Goodwin who was the founder of our WI shared some of her memories.



We were privileged to be joined by past members and guests from other local WIs as well as the newly appointed Leicestershire and Rutland Federation Chairman, Glenice Wignall. This was Glenice's first social engagement in her new role.

Members laid on an amazing spread of food and a celebratory cake. There was a slide show and picture boards to view from the past 50 years and a competition was held with 25 pictures of notable events from 1972 – 2022 whereby guests had to identify the years. Chris Pope was the winner with 15 correct answers.

At the end of the evening, members were presented with an engraved mirror in a presentation box as a keepsake. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate and reminisce and here's to the next 50 years!



**Leicester Ladies**

We hosted the Cromwell Groups Pancake Supper.

A great evening was enjoyed by all with quizzes, photoshop props, a tasty supper and local comedian Ben Ennis providing entertainment.

Congratulations to Wigston Magna who won the trophy for the pancake race.

We continue to Zoom our meetings to ensure those at home can be with us.



**Caldecott**

Two teams of four ladies from Caldecott recently enjoyed a skittles evening at The Fox Inn at Wilbarston. Janet Griggs became the holder of the Edyth Fisher cup. The hosts at Wilbarston provided enjoyable refreshments and the evening ended at 9.30.



### Botcheston

Saturday 19 March saw a group of 12 members arrive at the Grammar School in lovely sunshine for the Annual Council Meeting.

On Monday 21 March during our Craft and Coffee morning, to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee, we planted a tree at the Village Hall as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. The tree was a Liquid Amber ably planted by President Monica (thanks Andy for digging the hole!).



March saw one of our oldest members – Trish – reach her 90th birthday and President Monica presented Trish with a bouquet of flowers from all her friends at WI. The speaker at our March meeting was a trip down memory lane for many members with Hilary Ayling entertaining us with her Joyce Grenfell monologues, anecdotes and general chat about the life of Joyce – did you know that Joyce was of American parentage, she appears so quintessentially English.

Our next meeting is Thursday 28 April at which the subject of our speaker will be a Decadent Desserts – a subject close to many of our hearts and the competition is a recipe for your favourite decadent dessert.

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.

We look forward to welcoming you.

### Hollycroft

A select group enjoyed a leisurely stroll around Market Bosworth on their first walk of the season. An exceptionally sunny day with plenty of Spring flowers to admire, along with the unusual trees in the park arboretum. A pause to chat to the gentleman maintaining the weather station was very informative, followed by hunt the creature carved into a felled tree and finally Jasper's for a welcome coffee.



### Sheepy

Our March meeting was an interesting talk from Bee farmer David Mcdowell. David told us about the life cycle of the bee, plus lots of other bee information.

There are 250 species of bee in the UK made up of 1 honey bee species, 24 Bumble bee species and 225 solitary bee species. The group of insects bees belong to is called Apis mellifera or honey collector.

When you see a bumble bee in our area is likely to be either a white tail or buff tail bee. This time of year they are looking for a place to live and lay eggs. The honey bee has only one queen all of the other bee species have multiple queens.

Bees are hungry at the start of the year as food sources are limited, as agricultural crops hedgerows and garden plants develop they have access to a better range of food, this then drops off again in the autumn. We can help by thinking about the plants we have in our gardens, we can also help by leaving parts of our gardens uncultivated to provide bee habitats.

Honey produced in the spring is full of glucose and honey produced in the summer is high in fructose.

### Market Harborough

Have you heard of Omotenashi?

Omotenashi is the Japanese art of guest centric hospitality and an integral part of Japanese culture. It aims to create a memorable experience through flawless preparation and by looking after guests with infinite care and attention.

Members of the Market Harborough WI certainly got treated to a wonderful example of Omotenashi at their monthly meeting last night.

Yuko Dixon (Omotenashidining.com) joined us for a talk about Japanese culture and a demonstration of her cookery craft. By skillfully



weaving information about Japan and the ingredients she uses into her cookery demonstration Yuko taught us about the aim to use seasonal ingredients, how school children in Japan learn about a balanced diet from an early age and how to use soy sauce as a condiment - not a sauce.

There was also a raft of useful cookery information about ingredients like sushi rice, shredded dried fish and homemade Teriyaki sauce while Yuko cooked Japanese Curry (We didn't see that one coming!) and made sushi rolls. The final highlight of the evening: Members were invited to sample all that delicious food. It was super tasty and a great experience.



### Sileby

We made Easter Cards for our March meeting. One of our members, Debbie, showed us all how to make lovely Easter cards with a pop out flower design in the middle. We enjoyed making them and think they turned out well!



### Illston on the Hill

We welcomed Holly Norvill at our last meeting – in an attempt to try and get us creative! We made beautiful coasters/plaques. Holly had brought all the gear with her, including flowers and leaves and bits of shrubs.

We had to roll out some clay and select what picture we wanted to make, then we depressed the bits on to the clay (including some berries which came out beautifully). We then put a mould over our creation and poured on plaster of Paris. Leave to dry, then remove the outside mould and clay. Seal off the disc and then paint. What could be easier? Hope you are all still with me!!!

You would be surprised how much of an issue some of us made!! However, it was very therapeutic and at odd moments left the whole room in a lovely comfortable silence – although I must admit, not for long! The photograph shows a model awaiting painting and two complete (we were a bit short of paint so they do look a bit similar – although we can't knock it as the paints were supplied by one of our grandchildren.



The whole evening was great fun. Holly had a sales table with some of her wonderful paintings and bird baths (made from large leaves). She is so talented and really had a great deal of patience with us – thank you Holly.

Our meeting ended with fabulous cake and tea – wouldn't be WI without it.

Next month Angela from Kibworth Garden Centre is coming to host "Gardeners Question Time". Should be interesting, especially as a lot of us can't remember the names of the plants!

### Anstey

At our May meeting we were transported back to their childhoods by Rachel Greaves, author and illustrator of the stories of Ruffle the Rail dog. Rachel was an English and Drama teacher and a keeper of Airedales. Hovis used to sit looking out of the garden, and Rachel decided to paint him thus. So was born the idea for the books, and the railway aspect was inspired by the Great Central Railway, for which both of Rachel's adult children worked. They brought home tales of things that had happened there.



Rachel decided to self-publish, and to trademark the name and logo. Our hero was originally called Rusty, but a German company already held that name, so Rusty became Ruffle. Thus the fun began. Rachel has now sold 12,500 of her little books, and her creativity has known no bounds. Invited to school assemblies, she looked for ways to bring her tales to life. She bought a glove puppet Ruffle, who is very realistic, and began making other characters herself, starting with Eric the station master, ingeniously created from household objects such as wooden spoons. He was followed by a WW1 soldier. When Rachel brought him out at the meeting, his arm fell off; a rather belated additional injury! She has a beautiful train made by a carpenter, and fitted out by Rachel herself. It rejoices in the name "The Flying Terrier"



When she began visiting care homes, someone reminisced about a dog on wheels. Rachel promptly acquired such a dog, adapting him into an Airedale. This gave rise to the quote of the evening: "I am so proud of that bottom."

All in all, our inner child was thoroughly revived and nurtured, and we had great fun.

The competition again attracted a record number of entries (17) and the winner was Pauline Annis.

Anstey WI propose to support and raise funds for the campaign to keep St Mary's Church Rooms. This is a valuable asset to the village, so if you get the chance, do come along to support our efforts.

### New Barkby

At extremely short notice, Mr Steven Bruce from Warwickshire gave a talk on antiques and valuations. He brought along a selection of small items and members were invited, if possible, to bring along an item of interest, which Mr Bruce discussed. There was also a question and answer session; this made for a very fascinating insight into the world of antiques and collectable items.

### Glenfield



Our speaker this month was Rachel Greaves. She arrived with several boxes and containers and their contents were gradually revealed during her talk. Rachel told us about her journey from creating a casual story to a series of children's books, all inspired by her love of Airedale terriers and steam railways.

We all had to close our eyes while she opened the box to reveal her

first puppet called Ruffles, a very lifelike and adorable puppy that captivated his audience with "his" mannerisms together with a miniature railway carriage for him to travel in. Ruffles and the other puppets were all hand made by everyday items found around the home but brought to life in a very realistic way by Rachel and her husband.

Her books contain hidden messages which help to teach children different skills such as first aid, safety at railway stations, being kind and many more. Rachel also gives talks in school assemblies around Leicester and we secretly think that she enjoys them just as much as the children do. Rachel was a very interesting and amusing speaker.

Our next speaker is Richard Adams, a wildlife photographer at 2pm on Tuesday 19th April 2022 at The Annexe.

### Ashby Castle

Matthew Warburton entertained our Members with a very interesting story of his journey from college to becoming an aluminium artist. Photographs of his work were available for Members to peruse along with a wonderful display of his work, all of which could be purchased. Beautiful flowers, butterflies and bees were among the items, earrings made from all types of drinks cans were very unusual as well as helping the environment by recycling.

### Shearsby and Arnesby

It was our 89th birthday in March. President Ann Mawby and longest serving member Stella Elliott cut the cake that member Ann Miksza baked.

We had a toast to the Institute by Stella and sang Jerusalem.

Our speaker was Roxanne who gave a hilarious and interesting account of her life as a dancer, belly dancer and fire eater.



### Quorn

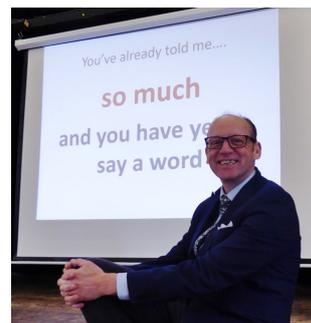


We were pleased to welcome back Jo Golby who entertained us with many interesting stories about her time as a Tour Guide at Warwick Castle. Meeting well known people like Terry Wogan, Noel Edmonds and in the company of the Queen and the Queen Mother at times when Royal visits were made. Who knew what the Queen carries in her handbag or that she takes her own lavatory seat with her on Royal visits.

A visitor from Tussauds cheekily remarked on Jo's "Victorian figure" and promptly asked her to model for Daisy Warwick. The waxwork is now on view in the library at Warwick Castle but not with her head. No doubt a likeness of Daisy was taken from the portraits.

Jo has a varied repertoire of talks and keeps everyone wanting more.

What does this body language tell you? Vince Jupp gave a telling insight into body language and the messages it conveys. From a handshake to how we stand. Are we attracted to or submissive? Who has the upper hand?



With slides to show the various ways we communicate with others, our group was amused and entertained by Vince's easy manner and interactive approach.

The talk raised many questions and gave food for thought as we mingled with a welcome cup of tea and biscuits.

Rev'd Canon Alan Haydock was in sparkling form with his witty anecdotes about Life as a Country Vicar. He made a return visit to Quorn WI after four years and kept the members chuckling with amusement.

Rev'd Haydock gives all his fees to charitable causes and over his thirty year career has donated over £95,000 from his speaking and after dinner speeches and is still going strong. He became Canon of Southwell Minster in 1986 and has spent the whole of his ministry in various areas around Nottinghamshire and has some quite saucy tales to tell.



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28<sup>TH</sup>/29<sup>TH</sup> May 2022**

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**Further details**  
pennyweston-webb@talktalk.net  
07754 892842

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## Monthly Draw Winners!

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

**1st Prize £25**  
No. 43  
Fran Marsland, Broughton Astley WI

**2nd Prize £15**  
No. 65  
Lissa Stewart, Hollycroft WI

**3rd Prize £10**  
No. 70  
Evelyn Cantrill, Hollycroft WI

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



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