


Summer Afternoon Tea with Strawberries and Mitch Bridgewater



Fundraising Committee held a Summer Afternoon Tea with Mitch Bridgewater from The Great British Sewing Bee which was very well attended. 73 in total and a lovely atmosphere. Mitch explained how life had changed after the Sewing Bee and showed examples of his work. Fantastic company too of course!



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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
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www.leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk or scan QR code
 Find us on Facebook: Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of WIs

From the Board

Linda Martin, Federation Treasurer was given a fond farewell after 7 years—wishing all the best for her new start in Wales and I am sure she'll sign up for the WI in Wales! Thank you for all that you have done.



You Said, We Did!

After the Have Your Say sessions immediate action has been taken on

- Promotion packs printed and posted to reduce WI costs
- Black and white and no image version of County News for WIs to print at lower cost and read aloud
- Clarified booking and finance information
- Committee member training offered

A full report on our action plan will be available through your Secretary and on the website soon.

From the House

As you'll have already noticed this edition of County News is a combined August & September issue. This is because some WIs have a holiday month and so we have a bumper edition for you! If you prefer to listen to County News, then it's easy to select the READ ALOUD facility on your computer.

County News is sent to you in PDF format (portable document format). If you want to listen to it, just open the document and look for the icon shown on the right here. **It will be on the top bar.** Click on it and you will see that it will start reading the document automatically; you can pause, rewind and fast forward.



Please note there are FREE Promotion Packs available from WI House including;

- Copies of WI Life
- WI Posters A4 & A5
- QR Code for new Members to scan to take them straight to the new member enquiry website
- WI Postcards
- New member leaflets

Just contact WI House and we'll post them to you.

Membership Committee

Regret that Groups in Leicestershire & Rutland have disbanded was expressed at some “Have Your Say” meetings with representatives of the County Federation. Where once there were 23 Groups there are now only 11. They are Avon, Bardon Hill, Borderland, Bosworth Field, Cromwell, Forest, Fosseyway, High Cross, Northern Lights, Robin a Tiptoe and Welland Valley. Most of the Groups remaining are in West Leicestershire.

The first WIs formed in 1915, County Federations were set up to organise the WIs in their areas from 1917 and the National Federation became an independent organisation setting policy in 1917. By the early 1920s Groups were around – informal meetings of institutes set up for mutual help. They were never given a constitution – unlike the other 3 tiers of the organisation- and were not present in all counties.

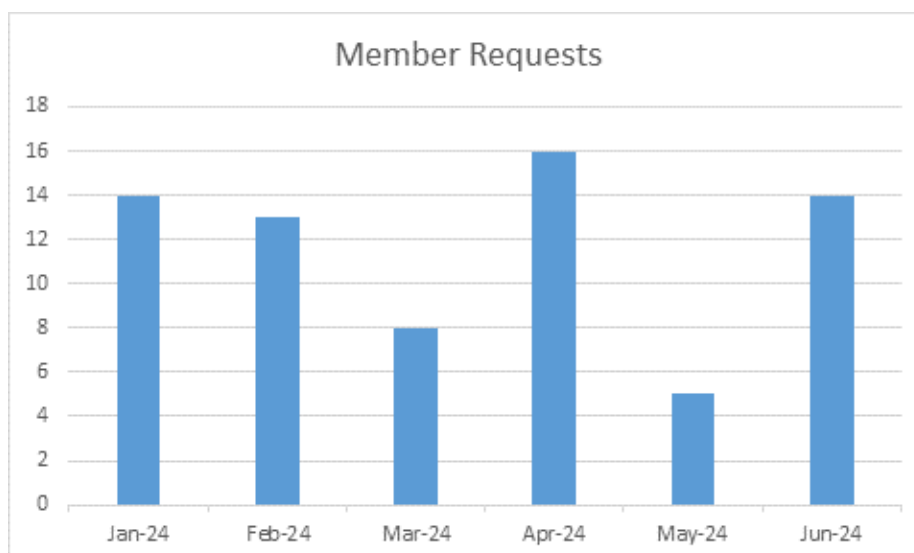
Each Group should have a Group Secretary and Treasurer, and it is thanks to their voluntary work that Groups have survived. Members aren't coming forward to take on the Group roles and Presidents and Secretaries of the WIs don't have the time to organise group activities as well. Consequently, the Groups themselves have decided to disband and have divided their funds between their WIs. There are other problems Groups faced. In particular, the pandemic had a big impact on Groups with members reluctant to travel that bit further to a Group meeting, especially on a dark night. Groups have tried to overcome this issue by holding events in the daytime or when the evenings are lighter.

If your Group has disbanded and your WI still wants to be part of a Group there is a nearby Group who might welcome you. The President or Secretary should contact the Groups Co-ordinator, Anne Fullagar (see yearbook for contact details) in the first instance. If you want to start up a Group, then see if you can find a couple more interested WIs close to you and someone who is prepared to be Group Secretary before contacting the Groups Co-ordinator.

Even if your Group has disbanded some of your WIs may have continued with Group activities on an informal basis. You may invite a neighbouring WI to a special meeting or social if you have the room. Or invite other WIs to help make up the numbers for an outing. The officers – President, Secretary and Treasurer - of neighbouring WIs might get together. This is especially helpful for new officers. Do let us know if this is happening.

Anne Fullagar, Groups Co-ordinator

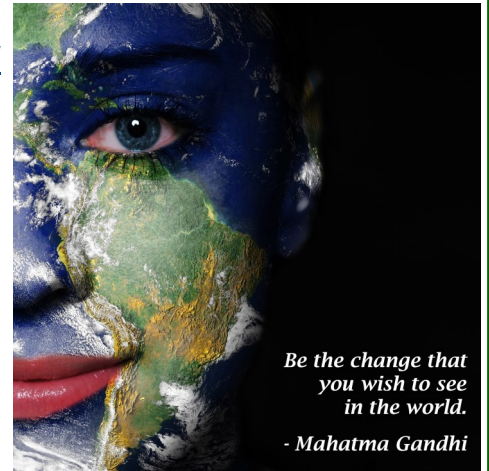
New Member Requests Jan-June 2024



Public Affairs Committee

All WIs can submit a Resolution to NFWI to be considered as the national campaign for the year. The completed form available at mywi.thewi.org.uk/resolutions must reach the Public Affairs Department at the NFWI by **8 September 2024 and include**

- What is the problem addressed by your resolution?
- Who is affected and how are they affected?
- Does it fit with the WI's charitable objects, our history and value statements?
- If the resolution is successful, what do you hope a campaign will achieve?



The Learning Hub opened its virtual doors in January 2024, WI members have been enjoying access to a new and exciting variety of courses; with a selection of live and pre-recorded for members to watch at their leisure, to downloadable projects and tempting, printable recipes (along with shopping lists to help make life a little easier!), the Hub has been capturing the learning curiosity of members (and non-members) across the country. There are lots of courses for free—the system may ask for £5 but when you reach the checkout is free.

Treasurers Update - Reduced Rate Pro Rata

You should have now received the pro rate for the Subs for the rest of the year. The first quarter from April to June is full fees plus Pooling of Fares (P of F) and Insurance at £1 per member. You may reduce the WI share if decided by your committee. If you do reduce your subs, you must reduce the pro rata too.

EXAMPLE If you reduced by £2 the WI share will be £21.60 instead £23.60 which is the maximum, you need to reduce Q2 by the same percentage, £1.50, so WI share £16.20 instead of £17.70.

If you reduced by £6 the WI share becomes £17.60 instead of £23.60 you will need to reduce Q2 by the same percentage. P of F are not paid for new member joining at Q2.

NFWI and Federation share cannot be reduced. All members must pay £1 insurance. Members rejoining late who were members last year must pay as if they had joined in April at the start of the year.

Dual members pay a set fee for the year with no pro rates. If the WI share was reduced that is what they pay. ie. £23.60 down £21.60. So dual members are treated the same as full members. There is no Pooling of Fares or insurance for dual members. The same percentages will apply to Q3 and Q4 later in the year.

Parish Councils give grants so if you are looking for funding it might be worth asking. Also if your WI has a lot of taxpayers, it may be worth looking at claiming gift aid on the WI share of the subs.

If you want any further advice, please email maryhobbs@lrfwi.org 07713 641093

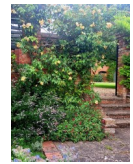
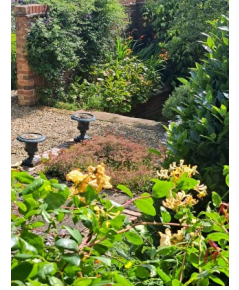
Federation Treasurer

Mary Hobbs

Leisure Committee

It was a lovely day at the White House Gardens, Ingarsby. Pam and Richard Smith who have spent the last twenty five years creating the most fabulous gardens, made the WI very welcome. None of the photos come close to doing the gardens justice. Simply stunning are the words that come to mind. Tea and cakes were great as well.

Everyone enjoyed it and thanked the committee for organising the event and said it was excellent value for money.



Arts and Crafts Committee



4 members enjoyed 2 days of Stumpwork embroidery— what a beautiful result!



Twelve ladies from various WI's had a fun relaxing day learning new crochet skills from committee members. Those attending ranged from beginners to more experienced crocheters needing help with specific skills. Items were on show for ideas of what to crochet. The achievements of the day were excellent, items made included coasters, granny squares, worry worms, flowers and butterflies.

All were keen for another workshop so look out for this in the future.



Coming up on **5th October** at WI house 10am—3pm we have a Prick and Stitch workshop where you can make cards using thread and straight stitches. £25 to include all materials. Please bring a packed lunch

November 23rd is the date for the next Dabble day where you will be able to try your hand at a variety of crafts. This is being held at South Croxton Village Hall. 10am—3pm. £20 to include all materials. Tea/coffee provided. Please bring a packed lunch



What's On?

Tue 10th Sept	Pétanque	Hinckley Rd Leicester	£7.50
Fri 27th Sept	Race Night	Scraptoft	£10
Sat 5th Oct	Prick & Stitch	WI House	£25
8th, 9th, 10th and 12th Oct	Public Art Walk	Leicester City	£7
19th Oct	Autumn Lunch	Devonshire Place	£32
24th Oct	Speaker Showcase	Mary Forryan Centre, Hinckley LE10 1LW	£5
30th Oct	Canine Partners Visit	Osgathorpe	£8
5th and 6th Nov	PAT Testing	WI House	£2.50
12th Nov	Christmas Wreath Making	Kirby Muxloe	£12
23rd Nov	Dabble Day	South Croxton	£20
5th Dec	Celebration of Carols	St Lukes Church, Thurnby LE79PN	£8

Federation Quiz

Once again the quiz evening was very successful, fun and friendly night with Oakham WI achieving a hat-trick by being overall champions for the third year running. Who will be able to depose them next year? Start swotting now ladies! We are looking for WIs to help us by hosting a venue. If you are able, please talk to the Membership Committee for more details. It is always on the first Friday in July so please get in touch.

We would like to thank this years host WIs, Oakham, New Barkby, Oaks in Charnwood and Broughton Astley for all their help with setting up, selling raffle tickets and making cakes, we do appreciate your assistance. Hope next year is as much fun.



Winners Oaks in Charnwood—Coleorton Wanderers (Left)

Winners in Oakham—Oakham Ospreys Liz Sime, Gillian Hester, Margaret Hall, Sherida Evans (Right)



Winners Broughton Astley -Burbage Roses on the tie break question, retaining their title from last year. Sherryll Eady, Sue Crockett, Stella Moore, Carol Wightman scored 82 (Left

Syston winners with 81 points were Birstall Babes (Right).



Monthly Draw

Congratulations to our Monthly Draw winners! In June and July

1st Prize £25— Linda Fenn, Ketton

2nd Prize £15— Margaret Wrathall, Broughton Astley

3rd Prize £10—Kate Gamble, Groby

1st Prize £25— Hilary Jackson , Nailstone

2nd Prize £15— Shirley Sanderson, Nailstone

3rd Prize £10—Michele Hetherington, Quorn

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



Event Flyers

Ladies Race Night

Sat 27th Sept



£10 pp including a light supper. Bring drinks & a glass.

7.30-10pm

Pétanque Fun

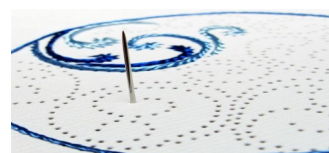


Tues 10th Sept

7pm—Western Park, LE3 6HX

£7.50

Prick & Stitch



Sat 5th Oct

includes all materials & tea/coffee

10-3 WI House

£25—to include all materials

Public Art walk

8th, 9th, 10th and 12th Oct



Leicester City

£7 per person (teams of 4)

Autumn LUNCH

Saturday 19th October



11.30am bar open, 12.30pm
lunch £32PP

Speaker Showcase



Thursday 24th October

Mary Forryan Centre,
Hinckley, LE10 1LW

£5pp

Canine Partners Visit



Wed 30th Oct £8 10.30am

Osgathorpe

PAT Testing for WI's

5th,6th November



WI House 10.20am—2pm

£2.50 per item

Christmas Wreath Demonstration



Thurs 21st November 1.30pm

£12

Kirby Muxloe

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

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

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

New Board of Trustee Members

We are happy to welcome Terri Eydman and Mandy Cutler onto our Board of Trustees.

Terri is President at Ashby Spa and is Vice Chair of Finance & House Management Committee. Terri plays golf and is involved with the Heartwood Community group that manages community woodlands.

Mandy is on the Committee at Hinckley Canalside and organises trips and events, updates the website and is responsible for the Programme Card and Members' Handbook. Mandy is also on the Membership Committee as a WI Adviser.



Terri Eydman



Mandy Cutler

Around the Counties

Hathern

Members and friends went to the Canine Partners National training establishment at Osgathorpe on a beautiful sunny afternoon in June. On our arrival we enjoyed delicious tea and cake followed by a talk explaining the mission of the charity with inspirational speakers explaining what having a canine partner meant to them. We then got to see one of the dogs in action showing the training that they had received. This was followed by a tour of the facility including the residential area where new dog owners were introduced to and bonded with their canine partners.

If your WI wants to arrange a visit, you will be warmly welcomed by staff, volunteers and dogs.



Whissendine

We were delighted to welcome Mike Burton to our May meeting to speak to us about Rockingham Castle. Mike is not only the husband of one of our members but also a tour guide at the castle and gave a very informative speech about its history.

There has been some sort of fortification there for 1,000 years as from the top of the hill you can see five counties and as it sits along a key north south divide road it was a perfect military setting. William the Conqueror built a Norman Castle using the traditional motte and bailey method, using the castle as a military garrison. In the late medieval ages it was turned into a fun home for the Royals where various kings used to come for the hunting in Rockingham forest. Eventually King James sold the castle to Lewis Watson for £350 and it has remained in the same family ever since.

Charles Dickens once stayed there and was so enamoured that he dedicated David Copperfield to Richard and Lavinia Watson.

On a personal note, I have visited several times, the most memorable being during the run up to Christmas where the castle and grounds are filled with lights, decorated Christmas trees and sparkle. It is a truly magical experience!

Mike is a very entertaining speaker, full of knowledge, and also has

other topics on which he can speak. I look forward to listening to him again.

The speaker for our June meeting was Andy Hunting telling us how to take a better photograph with our phones. As he said, this is probably the only time you are encouraged to play with your phones during a talk! He talked us through various things we could do and encouraged us to 'Ooh' loudly if it was a tip we had not heard of before, there were definitely a few oohs during the evening. He was a very enthusiastic and knowledgeable speaker and covered both iPhones and Android phones, I feel I know my phone a lot better now.

At the start of our Feast Week in July we held our second dog show at the Sports Club with two extra categories this year. The categories included waggiest tail, best paw shaker, best young handler, best rescue (hankies were out for that one) and several more. We were sponsored by Tails and Whiskers of Oakham who supplied all the prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category and also a special prize for Best in Show which was won by Diesel. We were honoured to have the prizes presented by Sir Laurence Howard after the judge, army vet Andy Rose had made his decisions. With a raffle, tea and cakes and lots of lovely doggies it was another successful show!

Around the Counties

Groby



Our June committee meeting met in the late afternoon at the Stamford Arms, Groby. We had a full house attendance and following a very productive meeting, we enjoyed an early evening meal together.

Illston on the Hill

Our recent farm walk at Rectory Farm, located alongside the picturesque Eyebrook Reservoir, had to be relocated to the barn due to inclement weather. However, this did not dampen our spirits as we were treated to an enlightening power-point presentation about the farm's operations.

Rectory Farm, now in its seventh generation and known as "Philip Johnson and Daughters" (the daughters being Fay and Abigail) is a model of efficiency and sustainability. Primarily an arable farm, they also maintain a flock of sheep. They produce oilseed rape, barley but a significant portion of their crop is wheat which is sold to Weetabix. They pride themselves on sourcing grain locally within a 57 mile radius of their plant.



Wildlife conservation is a key priority for the Johnson family. Their expertise is often sought for custom seed mixes, such as the special feed for tree sparrow requested by Rutland Water, which has successfully attracted these birds.

Our visit concluded with tea and cakes generously provided by mum Sue. Despite their busy schedules, the Johnson family continues to foster a strong connection with the community.

We held our annual garden party at Caroline's home this year. Caroline had recently transformed her garden into a beautiful oasis and we were all eager to see the amazing results. However, the rain decided to make a grand appearance and poured down all day.

We quickly adapted and turned what was supposed to be an outdoor celebration into a cosy and delightful house party. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming. Each member contributed to a feast of homemade delights, filling the dining table with an array of scrumptious dishes.

The room was filled with laughter and lively conversation. Old friends caught up on each other's news and the sense of camaraderie and community was palpable, reminding us all why we cherish our WI Group gatherings.

Later in the evening the rain finally decided to take a break. Seizing the opportunity, we ventured outside for a quick tour of the garden. The transformation was amazing and the rain had given the garden a fresh, glistening look with vibrant flowers and lush greenery. Despite the weather's initial attempts to dampen our spirits, the evening turned out to be a wonderful success. The unexpected house party, combined with the eventual garden tour made for a memorable and enjoyable evening for everyone.

New Barkby

President, Shirley Franklin, welcomed members and visitors to New Barkby's June meeting. Members had enjoyed a fish and chip supper at last month's meeting and Shirley thanked Louisa Chapman for organising and collecting all the food.

The speaker for the evening was Mr Michael Elliott, a volunteer guide for Stoneywell Cottage, belonging to the late Ernest Gimson, a member of the Arts and Crafts Movement and now part of the National Trust, all shown with power point presentation. The vote of thanks given by Jan Oliver.

Bitteswell



In June we were treated to an interesting and informative talk by author Margaret Dickenson who has written over 50 books, set between the 1900s and 1960s. She explained the amount of research undertaken, even before she begins to write each of her romantic novels, to ensure the accuracy of historical facts. Margaret already has several ideas for future books.

July speaker was Ian Pettit, hobby photographer. Ian has taken many photographs on his travels and he took us all over the world with beautiful photographs, explaining how he tries to get good composition for each one. A pleasant talk followed by a lovely cream tea.

Kirby Muxloe

We don't usually have a meeting in July but we thought it would be a lovely idea to have a Strawberry Cream Tea and celebrate the Paris Olympics with members taking part in our own version of the games.

It was held outside in a member's lovely garden and we were very fortunate with the weather. Forty members attended and they sat at tables denoted by a country name.

We held 4 games in total; Knit the longest scarf in 2hrs, Croquet, Hoopla and Spin the Plate. Three games were played and the scores went on the board, we then broke for the Cream Tea which included a refreshing pear trifle, it was all delicious. The last game of Spin the Plate, proved to be the most challenging.

When the scores were added up there was a tie break between Australia and USA with the USA being declared the winning team. Gold, silver and bronze medals were presented by our very own Olympian member with big cheers for the winning teams.

It was a really fun afternoon with everyone entering into the spirit of the games and everyone able to take part in some way.



Around the Counties

Ullesthorpe

In June we visited Thornby Hall in Northamptonshire. It is a beautiful historic building set in 17 acres of land.

It is also home to the Nagarjuna Kadampa Buddhist Centre.

We were welcomed in the World Peace Cafe by Pet and then had a full day of activities. These included the story of Buddhism and a short period of meditation. After a very enjoyable light lunch we had a history tour of the buildings and a garden visit.

Members enjoyed the calm peaceful environment, and several are returning for further visits and meditation.

The grounds, walks and lake as well as the World Peace cafe are open to the public all year.



In July we welcomed Gail Wooliscroft, form Leicester and Rutland WI Federation for a cookery demonstration of decadent desserts. Members then had a tasting session. Gale, aided by her granddaughter Jessie made 3 desserts in 45 minutes. The favourite seemed to be Lemon & lime crunch.



Woodhouse Eaves

We were fascinated at our meeting when we received a presentation given by Ruth Austen on 'Herbal medicine for the 20th century'. Ruth, a senior consulting medical herbalist with 20 years of experience practices at Hydes Herbal clinic which has been located on London Road Leicester for over 100 years.



Ruth explained that the practice uses over 250 herbs as there are many different varieties of common herbs like lavender or dandelion. Although herbal medicine is a complementary or an alternative to conventional medicine Ruth stated that 80% of the world use herbal medicine. The main principle of herbal medicine is the maintenance of health, improvements of health, and supporting the body's natural processes.

A medical herbalist can diagnose, make up the medicine, prescribe and dispense them. They aim not only to treat the symptoms but establish the root cause of the condition. During a 45-minute consultation they will ask a range of questions around health, wellbeing, diet, lifestyle, and energy levels. Often a client may visit after several courses of antibiotics. Ruth is obviously successful in her field so it's certainly worth considering it.

Sheepy



What a fabulous evening in June with Karen and her demonstration on making sourdough. She demonstrated the process of making sourdough from making your starter to producing a loaf.

Karen makes bread with inclusions such as cinnamon and garlic both inhibit the growth of the dough, add honey to the cinnamon bread and roast the garlic before using.

Everyone was fascinated by the process, and enjoyed trying some of Karen's bread at the end of the evening.

In July we had a lovely evening for our annual picnic. Laughing John entertained us and got us laughing.



Stoke Golding

Another busy couple of months at our growing W.I. Welcoming new members and visitors.



Our **May** meeting was a very tasty and interesting talk, everything cheese related with Ian Rogers.

Did you know that 'Stinking Bishop' cheese derives its name from the cider in which it is marinated!

We sampled 21 cheeses from Yarg to Sparkenhoe, our local Leicester cheese from Upton.

June had us in fits of laughter listening to the personal story of Chris Knight who helped his aunty clear out her home after 45 years. She was of the generation of 'make do and mend', everything had a purpose and many things had to be saved. She had stored 2,400 paper bags, 900 plastic bags, 53 packs of new playing cards, newspapers, 22 sets of dominoes, 17 glass fruit sets, 48 boxes of dolly pegs and not just 'fork handles' but 484 boxes of candles to list but a few of her collections!

Being a traditionalist, salmon sandwiches were always served for visitors on Sunday teatimes but her top tip was to buy pink salmon and add cochineal for the perfect afternoon tea! She had 27 cans of salmon in her pantry!!!

Looking at the many artefacts which he had brought evoked memories from our own homes over the years.

A great snapshot of social history!

We enjoyed a pleasant and fun day out to Elford Walled Garden followed by a lovely lunch at The Old Crown at Wiggington.

It's a very quirky and different community garden in the lovely village of Elford, near Tamworth.



The roses were in full bloom and we only had a couple of showers!

Around the Counties

Anstey

In June we ran a cake and craft stall at the Anstey British Legions D Day event . It was popular and raised useful funds for the WI and surely for the Legion as well.

At the monthly meeting, author Margaret Dickinson, whose books many of our members have read, was the speaker. She spoke mostly about the research that goes into her work. This is important since readers are quick to point out anachronisms or geographic anomalies. The novels are often inspired by real events, often local to Lincolnshire where she grew up and lived until recently, but she seldom includes real people. She stressed how helpful people have been in facilitating her research. The biggest laugh occurred when she told of how a man at one of her book signings presented her with flowers as a thank you for the hours of peace and quiet he enjoyed while his wife read her books. She and her husband generously donated two books to the raffle.

The competition was for a poem liked or written by the member. The choice was difficult, but the winner was two humorous ditties written by Sheila Price's late husband.

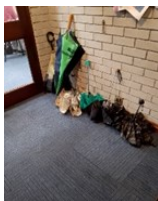
We enjoyed our annual garden party in July. The weather had not been promising beforehand, but the day dawned fine, allowing us to enjoy June Roe's lovely garden once again.

Many members contributed to a delicious afternoon tea, which was relished by all. We thank all of them, as well as Anne Spanswick for preparing celebratory Pimms. She was also presented with flowers for hosting most of the committee meetings. Presentations were made to June and her daughter Sue Berridge, June for hosting the party and Sue for facilitating it.

After much enjoyable chat, and perusal of one of the scrapbooks brought along by Sheila Price, so that we longer standing members could wallow in nostalgia, and newer ladies learn about part of our history, everyone seemed to agree that we had had a wonderful afternoon.



Hinckley Hollycroft



A row of broomsticks in the entrance hall at the July meeting proved that Hollycroft WI ladies don't let the rain stop them! Members welcomed Anne Bufton-McCoy to hear of her varied experiences as Headteacher in an inner-city school.

Anne's hugely evident compassionate nature and talent as a raconteur had members captivated.

With humour and pathos in equal measure she explained how she managed to skirt round the bureaucracy of red tape, provide practical parental support and convince an OFSTED official that she was undeniably making progress. She donates her modest fee to a Dalmatian rescue charity. Anne is a highly recommended speaker.

Humberstone Heights and Belgrave



Baroness Bolsover at Humberstone Heights and Belgrave WI beside the Old Evington WI's embroidered Home and Country plaque that now hangs in Evington Village Hall having been found recently and put back in its place.

Glenfield Park

We might not have a meeting in June but that doesn't mean we weren't busy. Apart from our usual craft and chat meetings we also had two delightful visits. First we visited the Secret Garden..It



is hidden away in Glenfield Hospital and it really is a hidden gem. It's in the walled garden of the old house and is divided into rooms. Well worth a visit. There is a café, which of course we visited.



Our next visit was at Libertean in Newbold Verdon where we indulged in Afternoon tea and was absolutely delicious. We were made very welcome and enjoyed our surroundings in a lovely renovated old building.

At our July meeting Sara Shaw talked about The Warning Zone . A charity situated on Frog Island and for year six pupils before they go to Secondary School. It is divided into areas and rooms and each area deals with a certain topic. The subjects covered are fire safety, water safety, drugs and alcohol, knife crime and the dangers associated with the internet and cyber crime. The project was set up by the High Sheriff of Leicestershire and the Crime Commissioners and is run by volunteers many of whom are firemen and policemen which shows how important they think it is. It was a fascinating and extremely interesting talk and as a bonus we, as adults, learnt how to avoid some of the dangers.

Nailstone



Fourteen of our members were involved in Ashby Show in either group sections or individually. And we had 15 entries in the children's categories from assorted members' grandchildren, who came away with 5 rosettes. Not our most successful year in the group competitions, but we had a winner in the Photography, a second place for a crocheted bag and a third place in flower arranging .

We celebrated our 60th Anniversary with a bit of a do. Former members, ladies from other local groups and Glenice Wignall joined us for a buffet and entertainment. Our guest of honour was Barbara Payne, co-founder and our first President. She was joined by our current President and 3 former Presidents to cut the celebration cake.



Great Bowden

At our meeting in June we were treated to a very interesting talk on pasta making by Barbara Everest. Barbara demonstrated making pasta the traditional way. She used 300gms of pasta flour and three large eggs. Mixed together until it formed a ball. This was then rested. The pasta mix could be rolled into thin lengths with a rolling pin or, with a pasta machine. If you then wanted to dry it Barbara simply hung the pasta strips over a clothes drier until dry, Fresh pasta will cook in boiling water in about two minutes and dried in about ten.



We were then told that different types of herbs and produce from the garden could be added to the pasta with the eggs to add colour but not taste. Barbara brought many neatly bagged pastas in lots of different colours for sale. A very interesting and informative talk.

A fund-raising coffee morning was held in June. For their admission charge everyone who came were served coffee, tea and soft drinks with gorgeous homemade cakes on tables laid with gingham cloths and wildflower decorations. There was tombola, a cake stall and a special raffle with a special hat. The winner was Pat Miller who was made to wear the hat!!

The event was enjoyed by all who came.



Thringstone

We were fundraising at an event; members shared running the stall and also contributed the prizes.

Our next speaker was David Bell a talk on Ladies of Leicestershire, Lady Jane Grey, Alice Hawkins a suffragette, Clare Hollingsworth O.B.E. , the first female journalist to report the start of World War II . We listened to many more brave ladies. Their examples can teach us the Importance of being willing to stand up to the rights and wrongs in society.

We are proud to be members of the Ladies of Leicestershire & Rutland WIs who are still carrying the flag and standing up.



Glenfield



Our July meeting was a special occasion, as we had booked a river cruise with lunch on the River Trent. Our group met at Park House to travel by coach to Colwick, near Nottingham, where we embarked on the boat that would take us on our cruise. The crew welcomed us aboard and we soon settled ourselves in the cabin.

Lunch was served and we all enjoyed a very tasty meal whilst watching the passing scenery. It was interesting to see familiar places like Nottingham Forest Football Ground, from the river and how busy the riverbank was with people walking and taking advantage of one of our few dry days so far this summer. Sadly, all too quickly it was time for us to meet the coach that would return us to Glenfield. We had been lucky with the weather and everyone agreed that it had been a most enjoyable day out.



Burbage

Recently members visited Barraca Garden in Earl Shilton home of Mr and Mrs Osborne . We were welcomed by Mr Osborne who gave us an informal talk of the area. Their home stands on 2 acres of beautiful gardens of flowers, trees and vegetables. He said he did all the mowing but his wife did all the gardening and was totally responsible for the beauty of it all. After enjoying the lovely shrubs, trees and flowers the heavens opened and we were all invited in for afternoon tea and delicious cakes. After the storm we continued with the vegetable area with numerous vegetables, broad beans being a favourite.

Leire

At a recent meeting, Susie Lickman who has a plant shop in Market Harborough talked to us on how to enjoy our houseplants. Houseplants have become fashionable again particularly where there is a lack of garden and with the knowledge of how plants can clean the air in our homes. Susie gave lots of tips and advice on placing plants in suitable light and how to care for them. Often, we overwater and plants can adapt better to less water than an excess. Generally, watering monthly should suffice and placing the pot in a bowl of water for 30 minutes enables the roots to access the water. Susie also had a lovely array of indoor plants which could be purchased.

Following on from the plant theme, we held our popular annual plant, cake and produce sale and some members are busy planning our village Open Gardens event.

We attended a Glass Painting Workshop at the Craft Den in Lutterworth led by Kate Woodroffe. We had a go at painting tumblers and wine glasses with our own creative designs which we sketched out on paper first. A steady hand was needed and it was a fun evening with some interesting and colourful creations of flowers, birds, fish and stained glass effect patterns. It was also a good opportunity to invite friends.



Around the Counties

Wigston Magna

Our speaker last month was Roxanne Dinsdale - snake charmer and fire eater. Roxanne's talk was really entertaining. She rescued a very poorly snake which is now 39 years old! Said snake caused a fair amount of mayhem, on one occasion escaping into the neighbour's house, as well as biting Roxanne causing a trip to A&E.

Further hospital visits (burnt lip and arm) were due to the fire eating which Roxanne took up (and loved), after a surprise lesson organised by her father!

A very brave and talented woman who has had an interesting life to say the least.

Ratby

At our June meeting we were pleased to have Pamela Lenthall BED (HONS) SVA CMA to talk to the ladies about Crystal Healing. It was a really interesting talk taking us through how chakras work and how crystals can affect different parts of the body.

We all got to pick a Crystal and learnt how to ground our self's then we all got to have a go at pendulum work.

After tea and biscuits we all felt very relaxed and chatted about our different experiences whilst handling the different crystals.



Ashby Spa

In May we participated in the Ashby outdoor gallery to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the National Gallery and some of our members painted a painting based on Monet's waterlilies which was displayed in Ashby. Our garden gang ladies decorated our WI garden for the D Day celebrations.



In April we had raised £1200 by making the cobs for the Ashby 20 road race. This month we presented cheques for £300 each to Bright Hope House, The Haven and Ashby Food Bank.

Our president Terri, alongside Rosemary (Ashby Castle WI president) attended a showcase as part of a Volunteer Village event as part of the Emergency Services Open Day at Ashby Bath Grounds.



Our president Terri and one of our committee members attended the Annual Meeting for the WI at the Albert Hall and had a great time.



Springbrook and Scraftoft

Pimms on the Patio was the title of our extra meeting in June. We moved to our new 'home' this year at the Scraftoft hub and wanted to enjoy the patio but it wasn't quite warm enough to sit out. However, our Pimms (ably mixed by our President Pauline) certainly warmed us up! Our speaker, Geoffrey Harris had to cancel in January due to the floods so we invited him back to this meeting to tell us all about 'The London no-one tells you about'. Geoffrey also works as a toastmaster, so you can imagine what an excellent speaker he was. A wonderful talk enjoyed by all, and no, we're not going to tell you what he told us - you'll have to book him yourself to find out!



Cossington

Following on from our stall at Cossington Open Gardens event, our members have had a choice of some excellent activities recently. A canal trip from Loughborough to Nomanton -on -Soar for lunch in a pub was very successful. We had glorious weather and an interesting commentary on the industrial area. Some members had parents who had worked in the Mills.



We have also been for breakfast at The Hobby Horse near Syston. You could enjoy the delicious buffet or items such as Eggs Benedict or a bacon butty. It was great to have time to chat.

Our meeting in July was a smashing success bashing flowers to create a colourful bag, as directed by our own members Michelle and Corinne. Red flowers seemed to produce the most startling designs.



Our darts team is also well supported by members.

Bosworth Field Group



On June 19th, 16 members enjoyed a visit to Loughborough Bell Foundry. We were talked through the various processes and the history surrounding the Foundry.

Pictured is one of the "HOPE" bells shortly to be installed by Charnwood Borough Council into Queens Park, Loughborough. The bells will be a lasting memorial to residents who died in the Covid 19 outbreak, including public servants who put themselves at risk during the Pandemic.



Around the Counties

Barrow Upon Soar

We celebrated our 75th Birthday at our May meeting with a 1940's Themed party. It was lovely to see all the ladies either dressed in 1940's outfits or their favourite Party Wear.



A most enjoyable Afternoon Tea was provided by the landlord of our Function Room & our special guest was WI Advisor, Alma Wright. We were then entertained by Suzanne Buckeridge and her team. We were invited to sing along to tunes from the 1940s, well known songs from the Proms, wave our Union Jack flags and laugh at the Tommy Cooper-Esque jokes told by the compare. A delightful three tier Birthday Cake, made by several committee members was cut by Pam Brown as this year she is also celebrating her 75th birthday.



As part of our 75th Celebrations this year members of our group have produced a Birthday Banner and Post Box Topper for our Village High Street.

Swepestone, Newton and Snarestone

April we had Susan and her husband who gave us a talk on Recycling with a difference. All the ladies were surprised by what you can make out of everyday rubbish; the evening was enjoyed by all.

May was a contrast with Dave Andrews who spoke to us about the life of Richard III. He explained how he was involved in finding the bones of the king in a car park in Leicester. His research from the standpoint of working at Radio Leicester was extensive so made the evening fascinating.

June saw us entertained by Rachel Graves and her husband. They brought along a surprise visitor, Ruffle the dog. Rachel talked to us about how she started to write stories on Ruffle and his many adventures. Together with her models and puppets she clearly showed how she can engross children and adults in her stories.

Broughton Astley

Our guest speaker, Sue Drage, queen of upcycling, showed us how she "Recycles with a Difference". She can make something new and useful out of almost anything that would normally be put in the recycling bin. From plastic carrier bags cut into strips and used to knit bags and cushions, (rain resistant), to pieces from plastic bottles made into bags and containers, even with fitted lids, and strips of colourful paper folded into several thickness ready to be woven into place mats and even clutch bags. And those are just a few examples of her ingenious ideas. Sue also demonstrated "Eco Bricks" - plastic water bottles filled with scraps of plastic, paper and fabric - which can be fixed together to make furniture and cabins, especially useful in countries where materials are less available or affordable. Similarly, crisp bags can be joined up to make Eco blankets and sleeping bags. It was a very inspiring evening!

Our members put a small display of poppies in our Memorial Garden to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

Several members enjoyed the outing to the beautiful Barracca Gardens in Earl Shilton. The sudden downpour didn't spoil our enjoyment and the delicious cakes and refreshments were much appreciated.



Our summer meeting planned as a garden party on a July afternoon had to be changed to our village hall, due to the weather. This did not prevent us all from having a wonderfully sociable time with games of Consequences and quizzes, several raffles and lots of chat and laughter. The committee provided a delicious supper of sandwiches, cakes, strawberries and cream accompanied by Pimms and St Clements mocktail.



A group had enjoyed our monthly coffee and chat morning, and another group visited the 1620s House at Donnington Le Heath, where they experienced a guided tour of this fascinating mediaeval house and garden (and a very generous lunch!) Volunteers have replanted the garden into how it was in those times with roses and a variety of herbs and medicinal plants. Our members reported that it was a very interesting day.

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

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

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

Articles may be edited.

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Can you volunteer?

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

We are looking for volunteers to help run our 2 hr dementia support groups. Clients come with their carers/family to enjoy games, crafts, simple quizzes, and reminiscence sessions. The groups we currently run are Mondays weekly 10-12pm in Loughborough, Mondays fortnightly 2-4pm in Anstey, Tuesdays weekly 10.30-12.30pm in Smisby (Ashby) and Thursdays weekly 10-12pm in Leicester Forest East.

We are really in need of volunteers in Loughborough and LFE but always happy to take new volunteers in any of our groups. Volunteers can give as little as one session a month, or more if they want to.

Volunteers help make drinks, chat to clients, and facilitate activities we have planned for the various sessions. We also ask volunteers to come before the group to help set up and stay to pack down.

All RVS volunteers have to go through an application process and do an enhanced DBS check which is all done in-house. We also ask them to do 2 short training topics on understanding dementia and safeguarding.

Contact Helen Gale, Activities Group Coordinator

Leicestershire Dementia Support Services

Mobile: 07815 462007

If you would like to volunteer to help with County News then do contact

Just a couple of hours a week and some experience of formatting images or documents would help.

Thank you!



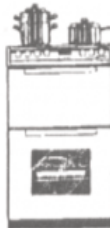
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