

2026 RESOLUTIONS



Below are the titles of each resolution put forward for consideration in 2026. More information has been emailed to your WIs and can be found in your WI Life Magazine (issue 152 November & December 2025 pages 20-25).

Further resources, including PowerPoint presentations and quizzes are available on My WI, Public affairs and campaigns,

News and Actions: follow this link: [My WI | Resolution Shortlist 2025-26 – Make your selection](#)

1. Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health and social inclusion
2. Action on women’s homelessness
3. Nearer to nature
4. Love your vulva—self checking is your best defence against vulval cancer
5. Every child needs a friend

Every member has the opportunity to cast their individual selection on the resolution they support the most. WIs are encouraged to hold meetings to provide members with the opportunity to discuss and learn more about each resolution. However, if this is not possible members can research the issues themselves and make their selection.

If you have not already done so, the deadline for WIs to send their members’ selections to the Federation is 6th February 2026. Please check arrangements with your WI Secretary.

The final resolutions/s selected will be voted on at the NFWI Annual Meeting by delegates.

<p>Federation Chairman Glenice Wignall glenicewignall@lrfwi.org</p>	<p>Federation Treasurer Mary Hobbs maryhobbs@lrfwi.org</p>	<p>Federation Secretary Tina Lee fedsec@lrfwi.org</p>	<p>Office Manager/ Accounts Lois McKinder wihouse@lrfwi.org</p>	<p>Finance finance@lrfwi.org</p>
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Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of Women’s Institutes
incorporated in England and Wales as a Company limited by Guarantee No. 02769771 Charity Reg No. 1016 766

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Tel: 0116 2661342 Email: wihouse@lrfwi.org

Opening hours: Mon-Thurs 9.30am—1.30pm

www.leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk or scan QR code

Find us on Facebook: Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of WIs



From the Board



Dear Members

Happy New Year to you all and I hope that yours will be a good one with lots of opportunities to enjoy the company of your fellow WI members both in your own Institute and at Federation events.

For the Board of Trustees a new year brings new beginnings and we are focussing on organising some great events over the next twelve months. Please do support them as the monies raised will help us maintain WI House or renew some of its outdated contents.

WI House and its gardens belong to the Federation which includes you as a member, and is open to be used by all members.

Whilst writing this I am looking forward to our Annual Holiday to Alvaston, Cheshire, and spending time with our fellow WI Members. So sit back, relax, put the kettle on and find a comfy chair and see what everyone has been doing.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and successful 2026.

Glenice Wignall

From the House

NFWI Annual Meeting Watch Party 2026

The NFWI Annual Meeting for 2026 will be entirely virtual again. Delegates representing the LRFWIs will be invited to come along to the live screening and watch along with other WI Members. The LRFWI Watch Party is being held again at the Goodwood Bowls Club, in Leicester, on **Thursday 4th June 2026**. More details will be published about this in due course, however please make a note in your diaries.



As a reminder, members can still make donations to our chosen charity, The Baldwin Trust —as follows:

1. Send cheques to - **The Baldwin Trust, c/o Mrs H Coombe (Secretary), 2 Cottesmore Close, Syston, Leicestershire LE7 2DJ**. Please write **WI Charity of the Year 2025** on the reverse so we can count WI donations.
2. Via **BACS**: Account name: **The Baldwin Trust** Sort Code: **30-90-89** Account Number: **37391360**
3. Via the website - www.baldwintrust.co.uk
4. Posting a cheque to **The Baldwin Trust** and we will send them through to the charity every quarter.

Thank you

Membership Committee

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.

Officers' Training for Presidents and Secretaries—Saturday 18th April 2026

Advisers are running two separate training sessions – one for Presidents and one for Secretaries – on **Saturday 18th April**, **11.00am – 1.00pm at WI House**.

We will be discussing key aspects of the role. And it will be an opportunity to share ideas and concerns with others doing the same job.

Please contact your WI Secretary or email wihouse@lrfwi.org with a booking form and pay by BACS by **27th March 2026**. Participating WIs will be charged £5 with a maximum of 2 members attending.

Free WI Meeting Ideas Pack

As you embark on a new WI calendar year, you may be looking for fresh ideas for members' monthly meetings.

On the WI Learning Hub, you can find a free selection of ready-to-use meeting ideas - whether you're filling a last-minute gap or planning ahead and looking for something fresh to add to your programme. There are craft activities, recipes, wellbeing discussions, games, and member-led talk suggestions. Each idea is designed to be adaptable, cost-effective, and accessible to groups of all sizes.

Type WI Learning Hub into your search engine and then select WI Roles Area, followed by Committee Role Area. Then click onto WI Meeting Ideas Pack. Or simply click on this link:

<https://learninghub.thewi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/MMWI-Meeting-Pack-Free.pdf>

Finance and House Management Committee

Subscriptions 2026-27

The National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) Board of Trustees has set the membership subscription for the 2026/27 membership year at **£54.00**.

The distribution of the 2026-27 subscription will be:

Total Subscription	WI Share	Federation Share	NFWI Share
£54.00	£27.10	£12.55	£14.35

Payments will be due from members in **April 2026**.

Flexibility Policy

WIs can apply the flexibility policy to their 2026/27 subscription. This means they can charge the full amount of the WI portion, reduce their portion, or waive the WI portion of the subscription entirely.

Multi Membership (formerly Dual)

Multi members will pay the WI portion only to their second WI. If the WI is not utilising the flexibility policy, this will be £27.10. There is no pro-rata rate for multiple membership, and the set fee will remain payable at any time during the year.

Leisure Committee



The Leisure Committee organise events and outings for the Federation. Anything from darts matches to visits to lovely gardens. Here's some events we've got planned for 2026.

We've got a few favourites and some new things for you.

- **February 10th and 18th, plus an extra date added 3rd March** —Tour around The Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

Exact dates to be confirmed. Be sure to look out for the posters and dates to book:

- **April** —Treasure Hunt, Market Bosworth.
- **May**—Rifle Shooting
- **June** - Evening visit to the Leicester University Botanical Gardens.
- **July** —Guided walk, Ashby de la Zouch
- **August** - Charity Shop Challenge, Melton Mowbray
- **September** - Visit to Leicester Cathedral
- **October** —Ghost Walk, Leicester
- **November** —Christmas Market, Stratford Upon Avon

Hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Leisure Committee:

- ◇ Sharon Stone—Chair
- ◇ Janet Harrison—Vice Chair
- ◇ Penny Weston-Webb
- ◇ Alma Wright
- ◇ Susan Woollard
- ◇ Margaret Osborne

Arts and Crafts Committee

The Annual Meeting isn't far away and the committee will be there to inspire. Come along and say hello.



Following last year, Clare has been out and about around the county doing classes at meetings Christmas Cards, Decoupage Boxes, Felt flowers and more. We have confirmed the date of our next **Dabble Day 18th April** at the Mary Forryan Centre, Hinckley. If you have any other ideas for crafty events do let us know, we're always ready to help.

Don't forget that submissions for the Art Trophy are due for submission at WI House by 8th February.

We are also running an individual competition. Create a card inspired by The British Hedgerow. So get out your favourite medium and get crafting for submission on the day!

“Go With The Flow” Quiz 2025

One of my not so popular quizzes I gather from comments I've received - sorry about that. Out of the 79 entries received, only 4 were all correct and the first one of these drawn out at random came from Janet at Kirby Muxloe WI who has now received her £25 prize. Well done Janet and for coming out of the draw - the second Kirby Muxloe winner in a row, must be something in the water in that part of the county!!

Despite the low entry - and the groans - Waterways quiz still made a very acceptable £147 for County Funds, so thank you loyal quizzers for your continued support. My latest quiz: “*Ball's in Your Court! 2026*” is currently available with a closing date of 30th January 2026.

Most common errors were Clue 41, wrong spelling of AQUEDUCT - too many put an A in the middle instead (no such word as aquAduct in the dictionary - look it up). And a large number of you couldn't get Clue 48 (one of my usual 'sounds like' type clues) where I was simply looking for the word 'SOURCE' (i.e. as in SAUCE). Other fairly common errors were Clue 11 MEANDER. The vast majority of those entries failing to score 50/50 scored 48 or 49 out of 50, so I can only assume my clues were the problem with this quiz since most of you got most of the answers correct.

Here are the answers:

1. DUCT; 2. ROWING; 3. FLOOD PLAIN; 4. REEDS; 5. LANDING STAGE; 6. NAVIGABLE; 7. DRAINAGE; 8. BARGE; 9. NARROWBOAT; 10. STREAM; 11. MEANDER; 12. EDEN; 13. PARRETT; 14. TEES; 15. GRAND UNION; 16. MONTGOMERY CANAL; 17. CLYDE; 18. HARDCASTLE TUNNEL; 19. BRIDGEWATER CANAL; 20. CHECHIRE RING; 21. MERSEY; 22. LOCK; 23. CALEDONIAN CANAL; 24. KAYAK; 25. WEIRS; 26. WATERFALL; 27. TOWPATH; 28. AVON; 29. SALMON LADDER; 30. TEST; 31. BASIN; 32. MILLSTREAM; 33. CUT; 34. PADDLEBOARD; 35. BRIDGE; 36. BEND; 37. MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL; 38. FOXTON LOCKS; 39. SEVERN; 40. JUNCTION; 41. AQUEDUCT; 42. DERWENT; 43. SOAR or BURN (*either acceptable*); 44. GREAT OUSE; 45. ANDERTON BOAT LIFT; 46. CREEKS; 47. SWALE; 48. SOURCE; 49. TWEED; 50. FORTH.

If you're not on my Quiz Subscribers' List but would like to be, just send me an email headed up: “*Quiz Subscribers*” and I'll tell you how it works. Additionally, if you don't already have a copy then again, send me an email and I'll get one back to you by return or alternatively, if you are down at WI House, you can pick one up in Reception and put a £1 in the jar.

If you sent an SAE or gave an email address with your entry, your paper or the answers have been returned to you. Do remember that even if you don't complete your quiz sheet, it's always worth sending it in to me with an email address or an SAE because that way I will always respond with the answers after the closing date. You should send it in anyway with a £1 coin attached if you are on my Subscribers' list of course. Unless you have already paid a member who has sold you a copy at your WI. Another point to remember, please - do fill in the space which asks: " Source of your copy:.....".

I hope you all had a wonderful festive season and a happy and healthy start to 2026.

Sue Lobb

Events—What's On?

2026:

Wednesday 18th February— A Guided Tour of Bell Foundry, Loughborough—£16

Tuesday 10th March—Faith Visit, Greek Orthodox Church, Leicester—£10

Thursday 12th March—A Musical Cream Tea, Kirby Muxloe—£12

Tuesday 17th March—Mental First Aid Champion Training Course, Hinckley—free of charge

Saturday 28th March—Annual Meeting, Leicester Grammar School LE8 9FL

Saturday 18th April—Officers' Training, WI House, Leicester

Thursday 23rd April—Speakers Showcase, Leicester —£2.50

Saturday 25th April—Spring Lunch, Devonshire Place, Leicester —£34

Sunday 9th May—Physical First Aid Course, Uppingham—free of charge

Thursday 14th May—Physical First Aid Course, East Goscote—free of charge

Wednesday 27th May—National Holocaust Centre & Museum—£30

Annual Meeting Competitions & closing dates 2026:

A reminder of the closing date for the 2026 ACM Competitions. All completed entry slips must be received at WI House by **Friday 13th March 2026** for:

Individual Adult Cookery competition (honey cake)

Individual Adult Cookery competition (preserve)

Children's Cookery competition ("honey cookies")

Munro Cup (group or individual WI flower competition)

José Smart Award (individual flower competition)

A reminder of the other closing dates for the ACM Competitions:

Darts Competition 2026—booking to be received at WI House by 31st January 2026

Federation Art Trophy 2026—paintings to be received at WI House no later than 5th February 2026

Edith Buckley Poetry Competition 2026—entries to be received at WI House by 19th February 2026

Margaret Johnston Trophy Competition—entries to be received at WI House by 28th February 2026

Secretaries/Treasurers—Don't leave your booking until the closing date.

You can add to the booking by phone at a later date if further members want to attend.

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, please contact your Secretary or Treasurer

Monthly Draw

Congratulations to our Monthly Draw winners!

December 2025

1st Prize £25—Trish Clements, Ketton WI

2nd Prize £15—Jean Eastell, Ullesthorpe WI

3rd Prize £10—A Miksza—Shearsby & Arnesby WI

January 2026

1st Prize £25—Linda Lawson—Thorpe Acre WI

2nd Prize £15—Lorna Williams—QE WI

3rd Prize £10—Sandra Smart—Astill Lodge WI

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



Jerusalem Jammers



We used to dance outside on Children In Need night but for several years now have held our annual tea dance in Countesthorpe Village Hall. We were thrilled to make over £450 this year. The Pudsey collection grows every year but as the pictures show, the Maypole does not! Our supporters made an impressive plait and we are extremely grateful for their loyal support which enables us to keep our long-standing links with Children In Need. For bookings or enquiries about joining us as dancers or musicians, please find our details in the Yearbook on page 65.



Around the Counties

Avon Group



This year we held our Annual Carol Service at St Andrews Church in North Kilworth.

North Kilworth W.I. were excellent hosts for the evening who planned a lovely service and refreshments for us all, thank you.

Beth Rogers, who is a member of NK, officiated and Sheila did a sterling job as organist.

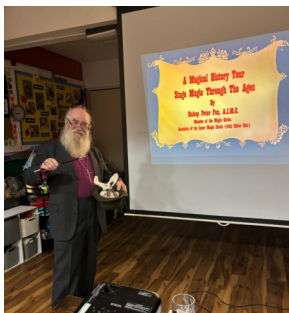
Pictured are Theddingworth Ladies Choir who sang beautifully too A collection was held for LOROS.

Thringstone

Thringstone WI welcomed Bishop Peter Fox, he is the only Bishop ever to enter into The Magic Circle.

We experienced a journey on the Magic History Tour. From Ancient Egypt to the present day, still tricks we see now on shows. We enjoyed many tricks and some played on a few surprised members, which we all wondered what will happen next and to who. We saw photographs of the Bishop, at the age of seven at an event watching a magician. This began his future to enter the world of magic.

An evening we thoroughly enjoyed being entertained by Bishop Peter Fox, the history and magic an evening we will never forget.



Loughborough Ladies



At our November meeting, the Loughborough Ladies got into the festive spirit by painting ceramic baubles and making Christmas cards. Some lovely baubles and cards were produced with the assistance of

friendly chat and delicious cake.

In December It was Christmas party time for the Loughborough Ladies. Proceedings were kicked off by the wonderful "Sing it Happy" choir who serenaded us with a medley of songs to get us in the festive spirit. We then partook of a tasty buffet including a lovely selection of cakes. Everyone left with a gift from the Santa sack having had a thoroughly enjoyable evening!



Bosworth Field Group



The Walking Netball Group, organised by Roz Rathbone from Holycroft WI pictured above at their last meeting. Unfortunately because of a lack in numbers we are taking a break.

The group is a lovely combination of enthusiastic members, such as shame we are unable to continue. However "watch this space" as they say, we may be back.

Woodhouse Eaves

It was a dark and stormy night when Woodhouse Eaves WI held its December meeting, but inside the Village Hall there was warmth, light and cheerful chatter. The hall was full of members, guests and visitors, along with the Shanty Folk who provided lively entertainment. The Shanty Folk performed a selection of songs, with plenty of clapping, singing along and even dancing, especially during *Sloop John B*. The evening was made extra special by the many guests who attended and the volunteers who helped with clearing up.



Coleorton

At our November meeting the speaker was Jan Pettit who gave a very interesting talk entitled "*View through the lens*". He also had many examples of his photography on show for members to look at and purchase. Afterwards the AGM was held. The long running president, Erica Smith decided to hang up her WI mantle after 15 years and a new president, Liz de Looze was elected and accepted the role via a video link to the Derbyshire Peak District where she was on holiday! Who is to say that the WI are not on the edge of white hot technology?

In December was our Christmas party and as part of the business before our fuddle there was a presentation to our retiring president Erica Smith by our new president Liz de Looze. Erica has had two stints at president totalling 15 years and she was given a cut glass vase and a bouquet of flowers to show our appreciation for all her work over the years. Afterwards the members enjoyed a delicious fuddle. Thankfully there was enough trifle - a personal favourite! We were entertained with Christmas songs and carols and were encouraged to sing along. After the competition was judged (a homemade bauble) prizes were given for competition points for the year and the Christmas raffle was drawn.



Broughton Astley



Our November AGM was given a bright start when Sharon from "Everlasting Orchids" visited with her daughter Amy to display and talk about the beautiful silk orchid arrangements she makes.

The range of colours and styles available was extensive.

For a change we did a "taste test" of flapjacks or brownies for refreshments and finished with a quiz.



Our poppy displays in the village were very much admired again this year, especially with the addition of more nets of knitted poppies around the memorial garden hedge and a postbox topper complete with a knitted soldier and others by the entrance gates.

We started the Christmas season with a group Carol Concert with friends from Bitteswell, Leire and Ullesthorpe WIs and were all glad to have braved a very wet evening to enjoy the event.

At our party evening Dave Andrews brought along a "Christmas Cracker" full of seasonal readings, poems, stories, anecdotes with a few jokes along the way to get us into the spirit and we all enjoyed a delicious buffet with prosecco, raffles, Cheryl's surprise gift dip in aid of our local Air Ambulance and Secret Santa exchange. A pre-Christmas meal at Lutterworth Golf Club was again very much enjoyed by all who were able to attend. Our entry into St. Mary's Church Christmas tree festival this year was on the theme "Save our Woodlands" and our craft group had made a wonderful display of decorations – leaves, birds, acorns, toadstools – even squirrels – to name just a few!



Illston on the Hill

The AGM of Illston on the Hill WI took place in November. The President confirmed all current committee members were happy to continue their roles for the coming year. A warm welcome was extended to Anne Robinson who volunteered to join the committee, with her experience organising the Young Farmers committees etc. she will be a real asset.

Once the official business was concluded, members enjoyed a lovely meal with wonderful Bake-Off standard desserts. The dining table was beautifully decorated creating a warm and welcoming feeling. All members received a "favour" hand made by Hazel Cave – chocolate in a beautiful sleigh. So lovely.

Overall it was a memorable and enjoyable evening that reflected the spirit of our group. We look forward to another year of friendship, learning and community.

In December all our members enjoyed a thoroughly delightful last meeting of the year. We were treated to a fantastic papercraft workshop led by our very talented member, Hazel Cave. Hazel had clearly put in a great deal of time and effort preparing an impressive range of projects for us to make. They included Christmas crackers, designer parcel wrapping, charming tree decorations and several other creative items, ensuring there was something for everyone to enjoy.

The evening flew by as we busied ourselves cutting, folding, gluing and assembling our creations, with some truly lovely results taking shape. Looking around the various work tables it was a pleasure to see everyone completely absorbed in their tasks, sharing ideas, helping one another and admiring each other's work along the way.

We did manage to take a short break to enjoy a well-earned cuppa along with some deliciously festive refreshments kindly provided which were very much appreciated by all.

As the meeting drew to a close Hazel presented the prizes to the winners of the year's competitions, first prize went to our President, Pat. This provided a fitting and celebratory end to such an enjoyable evening.

What a lovely way to finish the year – excellent company, plenty of creativity and a truly entertaining and memorable evening.

Cossington

We had our annual Christmas Party as our December meeting. A fun night with quizzes, usual banter who put their arm up and answered first. We finished with pass the parcel with a difference, we had 3 parcels going round in different directions, chaos. To give our committee a break our members supplied the food and it was quite a spread. Mulled wine was provided and of course Christmas crackers. 10 of our members went out for a Christmas lunch at Daisies. So much excellent food they couldn't eat everything so they all ended up taking a doggie box home.



Hinckley Canalside



At our November meeting, our speaker was Christine Farmer, who gave us an interesting talk on the history of masks and had brought along masks she had collected from many places over the years. We learned

that the use of masks goes back many hundreds of years and they were used for religious rituals, celebrations, and carnivals - as well as protection against disease, as in the plague years in the 17th century, when the famous beak mask was worn.

Masks are still used today for cultural and ceremonial events, and entertainment performances - and of course for health and safety protection.



At our December meeting, we had a lovely Christmas buffet and the entertainment was provided by Carl and Kenny Sinclair, a father and son duo. Carl played piano and sang and his father played guitar. They played some Christmas songs that we joined in with and songs from the 60s and 70s, that we all knew. They were very good and we really enjoyed it.

Nailstone

For October's meeting our very own Kathy gave us a fascinating talk and slide show about her trip to Mongolia.

In November, as well as the business of our AGM, we were entertained by Jo Golby with tales of Christmas in Victorian times. We learned about trees, toys, traditions and tasty food.

In December, we hosted the Bosworth Field Group Carol Service at All Saints Church. We welcomed Sheepy, Hinckley Hollycroft, Gopsall Villages, Witherley & Stoke Golding for carols and readings followed by refreshments.

In a change to the norm, we opted not to have a restaurant Christmas meal, instead 18 of us gathered at a member's home and sat down to a delicious meal cooked by the committee and treats brought by members. With crackers, a Secret Santa and a quiz, a fun time was had by all.

Around the Counties

Glenfield Park



In November we enjoyed an inspiring talk given by Alison Emery entitled 'Walking the Camino Way'. This is one of the 8 pilgrimage routes leading to the Compostela del Santiago or St James Cathedral. What prompted Alison to undertake this pilgrimage? The origins began earlier when unfortunately her husband developed a rare form of cancer and died at the age of 59. Their plan for retirement had been to explore Northern Spain so Alison decided to honour his memory by walking the Camino Way and making the pilgrimage to Santiago. She was joined by 8 friends from the running club and in April 2019 they set off from Sarria completing 15 miles on the first day. Accommodation was basic, sometimes sleeping in dormitories but they were spurred on by the kindness of the volunteers along the way and the stunning scenery. At each stop they had their pilgrimage passports stamped and on their arrival they attended a special and emotional mass in the cathedral, celebrating their amazing achievement. What a fascinating talk and how amazing to actually walk 100 miles in a week.

In December at our Annual Meeting we realised what a busy and eventful year we'd had. Not only did we have some interesting and excellent speakers at our monthly meetings, we had also been on quite a lot of excursions, our annual boat trip, Foxton Locks, afternoon teas, Staunton Harold to name a few. The Annual meeting was enjoyable with a lot of laughter. Who knew a raffle could be so hilarious. We completed the evening with a delicious buffet supper and a chance to admire the crafts made by members during the year. Boring! Not our Annual Meeting. We also held a Dabble Day when we made 4 Christmas decorations, with varying degrees of success but everyone was pleased with their efforts plus we again enjoyed a lunch provided by members. The decorations were then displayed at the Annual meeting.



Groby

Our November meeting took the form of our AGM and a fish and chip supper. The fish and chip supper was absolutely brilliant! Over forty portions of piping hot fish and chips were promptly delivered and we had a wonderful feast. George (from the chip shop) even delivered a tub of sweets for our dessert,.

The December meeting was our Christmas party at Groby Club. The tables were beautifully decorated and provided us with a superb meal. We had been left some money by the family of a past president, Pat Sturges, who sadly died last year, and also money raised by the sale of beautiful watercolour paintings done by Enid Watson, who also passed away and the family kindly wanted the WI to have the proceeds from the sale. The money was used to plant a rose in the rose garden at Stamford Park and a commemorative plaque for all WI members who are sadly no longer with us. The remainder of the money provided a glass of Bucks Fizz/orange juice at the start of our Christmas meal.

Glenfield



November saw us returning to our normal meeting day after last month's delay owing to ongoing work at the Church Centre. Ian Petitt was our speaker, and he gave us a very enjoyable tour of The British Isles



through his beautiful photographic slides. We admired photos of the countryside during the different seasons. Photos taken at various times of the day, with views of London at sunrise and coastal scenes at sunset. Well known places like The White Cliffs of Dover to lesser-known spots on The Isle of Skye. There were photos of cute red squirrels, a majestic stag on moorland and grey seals on a rather chilly looking Norfolk beach. In fact, there was something to interest everyone, with many members recognising places and saying, 'oh yes, I've been there!' After the slide show was over, we were able to look at the display of prints that Ian had brought with him and quite a few members were tempted into parting with their money. So, a big thank you to Ian for a thoroughly delightful afternoon.

At our December meeting the very talented florist, Lucy Wiles, demonstrated the art of Christmas themed flower arrangements. It was a great opportunity to collect a few seasonal decorating ideas for our homes! Our January meeting will be a Birthday Celebration for our WI which formed in Glenfield in 1922. The afternoon will be a social event with Birthday Cake!

Great Bowden



On a dark and damp day in December 15 members of the Great Bowden WI boarded the Community Bus for a trip to Beckworth Emporium. On arrival we were advised to book a lunch time which we duly did. Then we set out to explore the amazing array of goods on offer,

anything from food, homewares, garden plants and equipment for both outdoor and indoor use, as well as a clothes section. After an early and relaxed lunch in an airy greenhouse-style restaurant we set out to explore the Christmas section, full of very enticing merchandise. Leaving that behind we made our way to the check-out to pay for goods we had been tempted to purchase. The driver of the Community Bus then picked us up and we arrived safely in Great Bowden around 3:00p.m The day was enjoyed by all.

Gilmorton

Our December guest speaker was the local singer Sally Barker who entertained us with songs that had a special meaning to her. It was a lovely evening helped along by mulled wine and mince pies.

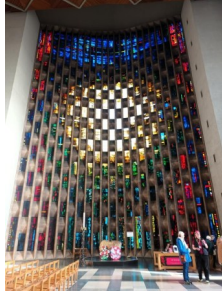
We also had a wreath making session which was very enjoyable as we were instructed by an excellent teacher.

Our skittles team also did very well in the last match of the year. We look forward to a busy 2006 and our 80th anniversary.

Oakham



Eighteen members travelled by coach to Coventry. Our first stop was St Mary's Guildhall, one of the finest surviving medieval



guildhalls in the country; whilst it was damaged in the Blitz which destroyed the nearby cathedral, its kitchen has been in continuous use since 1340. Mistress Mary gave us a tour, explaining the history and showing us the tapestry which was made for the guildhall in 1505-15 and has hung in place ever since. After the fascinating tour we enjoyed an excellent lunch in the undercroft, a lovely venue.

After lunch we had a tour of the two cathedrals. We started in the old cathedral, the medieval St Michael's, which was destroyed during a concentrated German air raid on 14th November 1940. The ruins were intentionally preserved as a symbol of peace and reconciliation, and the new cathedral was built alongside them.

We then moved into the stunning new cathedral built in 1962, designed by Sir Basil Spence. The interior is notable for its huge tapestry of Christ, designed by Graham Sutherland, and the Baptistry window designed by John Piper (made by Patrick Reyntiens), of abstract design that occupies the full height of the bowed baptistry. Throughout the cathedral there were many wonderful works of art, many donated from abroad, with the theme of reconciliation. We all enjoyed an interesting and thought-provoking day.

Whissendine

In October we had a craft evening led by Jane Tustin of Blue Flamingo Crafts. She showed us how to make fabric flowers and pumpkins, the flowers were made by tying strips of fabric round a curtain ring and then Jane glued a piece of hessian to the middle. The pumpkins were sewn from orange fabric with clever stitching to make the proper shape. It was a fun evening and there was lots of laughing going on! There were some beautiful coloured fabrics and it was particularly poignant as the fabrics we were using came from our dear friend and ex president Jo-Anne who sadly passed away a couple of years ago.

For our November meeting George came to do chair yoga with us. She started by telling us about the history of yoga and then put us through a series of exercises which were surprisingly energising. There was a lot of stretching and twisting and for those who go to her regular Monday classes it was interesting to see a different way of doing familiar exercises. George is an excellent teacher and it was a really lovely evening.



New Barkby



New Barkby's President, Shirley Franklin, welcomed speaker Mr Steven Bruce, now semi-retired from his career as an auctioneer and valuer, agent and consultant to our October meeting. This was a return visit, this time he spoke about "The Hoarder Next

Door". There was a display of items he had brought with him, which he gave valuations on. Afterwards some were passed around the members, however sometimes some had to be identified as to their use!

Coins, stamps, china, jewellery and watches – so many valuations to be made, but not all on this occasion. Members were given advice on how to present items for auction and how to prevent pitfalls on whether to part with an item or whether, after all, to not let it go.

The competition for "something you have kept for a long time" winner – Louisa Chapman with her teddy bear.

Present, Shirley Franklin, welcomed New Barkby members to the Institute's November meeting. This was an ordinary meeting. "Jerusalem" was sung and business matters ensued. However, this was a special occasion as the Institute now celebrates its centenary, still thriving, and cards of congratulations were received from former members, plus there was a display of memorabilia and photographs to mark this milestone event.

A delicious cake was made by committee member, Joy Goulden, and members enjoyed the social time before the meeting became the "Annual Meeting".

Secretary, Angela and President, Shirley, gave their reports of the year's past events. There was an election for President. Dawn Haynes was duly elected and Shirley will become Vice President. There will be no change for New Barkby's committee.

The highlight of the evening was the mysterious appearance of a wreath, with a female figure resting on it, knitted by the "Syston Knitting Banksy" – this will be displayed, possibly at future meetings.



Around the Counties

Witherley

Nina welcomed members to the meeting, which was well attended.

Members have taken part in several events during the past month. They enjoyed an excellent Murder Mystery Play at the Red Lion Hotel, Atherstone, which raised £572 for the St Giles Hospice. Preparations have already begun on next year's production. The Autumn Lunch at the Green Room, Hinckley, was delicious and the entertainer was very good. At the Skittles Competition, held in Stoke Golding Club, members faced stiff competition but had a great evening.

Members are getting very excited about the Christmas feel of forthcoming events, including, a Winter Concert with the Arden Ensemble at St Peter's Church, Mancetter, Group Carol Service at Nailstone Church and Christmas Lunch at the Green Room, Hinckley.

The outstanding issue of the missing Group Show trophies was raised by Sheila B at the Group Committee Meeting held in October. There is still no resolution to this matter and the trophies remain unaccounted for.

This month, we were fortunate enough to have one of our members, Elisabeth Allman, show us how to make a Christmas box. Armed with pencil, ruler, glue, scissors and card, members set about creating their own box. A fun time was had by all and everyone went home with their own special Christmas box. Nina thanked Elisabeth for a very enjoyable evening.

Hollycroft



We were thrilled to celebrate the 90th birthday of our oldest member, Norma, at our November meeting. She lives life to the full and is an inspiration to us all with her modern outlook on life.

Our speaker was Karen from Fodder & Chisit, Hinckley's Quirky Deli, talking about Pie and Cheese. The deli was opened in August 2023 and featured on the BBC last Christmas as they had produced 4000 pies in 3 days. As well as the shop in Hinckley they attend many Summer events and Farmers' Markets throughout the year. The pies are baked off-site but they top and gelatine every pie in the shop with their own varied toppings. If you think you know where pork pie originated, think again and book Karen to find out! The shop stocks a huge range of cheeses from local suppliers to the continent. Karen brought substantial samples of pork pies and cheese which were soon demolished, even the brown cheese that tasted much better than it looked.

Anstey



Anstey WI's December meeting took the form of a Christmas party, which proved to be very enjoyable. It began with the announcement of two successes. Our skittles team



had won their latest match, and our entry into the Christmas tree festival at St Mary's Church in the village was a runner up.

Secretary Janine Darby had prepared some very enjoyable activities. We began by identifying the pictures of disguised celebrities she had pasted on to plates. Jill Taras proved particularly good at this.

Our resident elf distributed Secret Santa parcels which were then passed to and fro in a hilarious left right game, eliciting a lot of laughter. At the end of the game the parcel in front of us was the one we took home. After that we ate the sumptuous, delicious supper contributed by all members. During this time we struggled with a sheet of fiendish Christmas dingbats.

All too soon it was time to go home, but everyone agreed they had had a great time.



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

Deadline date for items to be submitted for the March edition is 1st February 2026.

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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Glenfield Market returns to St Peter's Church, Glenfield from 23rd January, 9 – 11am, after a well earned Christmas break.

We will be selling our usual delicious cakes and preserves, hand made crafts and locally grown produce and plants as well as serving refreshments including bacon rolls and soup.

We will be at the ACM on 28th March so don't forget to visit us to stock up with home made jams, chutneys and cakes!

This is a special year for us as we are marking 50 years of Country Markets in Glenfield. We are planning special mornings to celebrate this amazing anniversary to which everyone is invited. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information.

We would also like to invite you to our Craft Fair on Saturday 9th May held at Groby Village Hall where you will find all our usual items for sale plus some local crafters for more variety. We're there 10am – 4pm. Refreshments are served all day.

Leicestershire and Rutland Country Markets are an excellent way to sell your baking, preserves, crafts and garden produce. You might have a group of friends who would like to sell their excess produce. We can help you to start a market in your area.

You don't have to be a WI member to be part of Country Markets, just over 16 years of age.

Come along and talk to us at the ACM, or on a Friday at Glenfield, or email Susan at glenfieldmarket@gmail.com.



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