

Eastbourne Holiday 2024



Visits to Hastings & Rye
and Brighton too



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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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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

Thank you so much for an amazing holiday in Eastbourne. I really enjoyed myself and the lovely company as always. The days were bright and the trips to Brighton, Hastings and Rye were wonderful. You'll see all the kind thank you messages later. A special thanks goes to Maxilyn Geary for organising it. Glenice Wignall, Chairman



Nine WIs were represented at the first 'Have your Say' event at Barkby Village Hall. This is the first of seven events. Officers or their representatives from WIs were invited to attend to share their views. If you have not had an invite yet it will be coming soon. It was very successful evening, members came with lots of questions and comments, covering a wide range of topics. Notes have been made which we will collate and our responses will then be shared with the WIs. Thank you to all those who attended.

Gail Wooliscroft, Vice Chairman



From the House

Thank you for all WIs who have kindly gifted seeds and bulbs for the WI House garden. I can see the buds of those planted in autumn already and hearing the birds chatter is a joy.

Please do apply for a bursary if you have something extra you want to do and do not have funds in the bank. Contact the office or look on our website for the application.

Things are progressing nicely for the ACM—we are excited that there are tickets offered on the door at £15—and to non-members too. This is a great opportunity to bring a neighbour, friend or family member to show them the WI and what a great group of women it can be. Or just to let your chauffeur enjoy the talks and spend some money!

There are lots of questions coming about the NFWI Annual Meeting in London—we do have a delegate briefing in April and an itinerary will be sent out at this time to observers also.

Booking events—Always worth a reminder!

If you want to go on any event you can book through your WI and they will be invoiced OR you can book as an individual by completing a booking form and paying by BACS. Any queries do call.

Membership Committee

SHARED OFFICER ROLES

We understand that many WIs struggle to find willing volunteers to take on the officer positions within their WIs, this can at worst find a WI unable to continue and having to suspend. It is worth considering sharing the Officer roles to make them less work for one person to take on if it will lead to more volunteers to come forward. Every WI differs and you need to look at how this could work for your WI, what suits one may not work for another. The Secretary's role could be split into one dealing with correspondence and one doing minutes. The president could be more than one person or the vice presidents taking a turn to lead a meeting. The Treasurer could have an assistant to help perhaps responsible for outings and special events other than regular expenses. It really comes down to working together as a team to keep your WI going.

Jobs that Committee members do can be done by Members without the commitment of attending Committee meetings. There is one point to bear in mind as written in the WI Handbook; a WI may combine the roles of Treasurer and Secretary or Treasurer and Vice President if the Federation Board of Trustees agrees, no other roles should be combined.

If your WI is finding it difficult to get Officers please get in touch with the Adviser Team who may be able to give you more help.

Arts and Crafts Committee

Which Craft? had their meeting at WI house on the 3rd Thursday in July. Ladies arrived with their different projects.

Meetings will be on the 3rd Thursday of the month at WI House 10am—12 noon. The next one is March 21st. If you enjoy crafting and would like a morning crafting and sharing ideas and advice come and join us.

Individual Craft Competitions for the ACM

SCHEDULE: A piece of wearable jewellery inspired by water.

In any medium Competitors may only enter one item and must be competitor's own work.

Exhibits to be brought to the venue on **SATURDAY, 16 March 2024** between 8.45-9.30am. No entries will be accepted after this time. Exhibits may not be removed until the end of the meeting. The Federation will not be responsible for any exhibits left after the meeting. The judges will be appointed by the Federation. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. Whilst every care will be taken with exhibits, the Federation cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to exhibits during judging and display. Fee payable is £1.00 on the day.

The winner of this competition will receive a gift voucher.

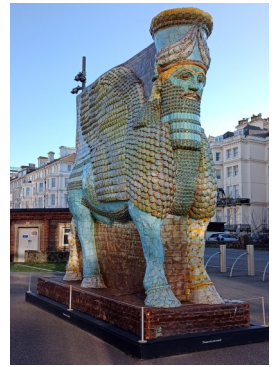
Plus—do join us on our Arts & Crafts Committee—you would be very welcome to be part of this wonderful Committee to share new ways of crafting, making, art and bring something new to the table. Committee meetings are bi-monthly and expenses can be claimed. Do contact WI House if you would like to attend the next one as an observer.



Finance & House Management Committee

Thank you notices received for the Eastbourne Holiday

I'm just writing to say thank you very much for organising the Eastbourne holiday. Paula and I enjoyed it very much, actually we thought it was the best one so far. On our free day we went to see the Turner exhibition at the Towner Gallery. You could see the winner and the 3 runners up. Each exhibit was enormous and had its own gallery. Jesse Darling was the winner but we would have chosen Barbara Walker's entry about the Windrush scandal. I attached pictures of the sculpture outside the gallery which is entirely made from date syrup cans and was once on the 4th plinth in Trafalgar Square.



Dot Barnard

The trip was excellent, with an excellent hotel, with good food and fun company. I enjoyed both trips, particularly as I'd not been to any other venues—all the ladies that I was with also enjoyed it all. Well done on the organisation and your good spirits throughout.

Angela Fielding

Just wanted to say how much we enjoyed our WI holiday and appreciate the great effort you put into organising it—look forward to knowing where you are taking us in 2025!

Chris and Andy Gerrard

I want to thank you for all your hard work in organising our WI holiday to Eastbourne. It was the first time I have been on one and I thoroughly enjoyed it. The hotel, food, coach travel and company were all great.

Sarah Blount-Smith

Do join us next year if you haven't been before!



Leisure Committee

Darts and Skittles

Congratulations to the group winners in the 2023 skittles competition.

In the semi finals, Ashby Castle will play Narborough & Littlethorpe.

New Barkby, Loddington and Waltham on the Wolds will have a three way match.

The final will be between the winners of these two matches.

There were some very impressive total scores from the teams. Cossington did very well and won the same number of matches as New Barkby in their group but had 6 fewer skittles down overall. Thank you to all the teams for making it such a successful competition.

Thank you also to all WIs who have entered the 2024 darts competition. Details will be emailed to the contacts as soon as possible.

Public Affairs Committee

Climate Change Ambassador Jenny Berry

Martin Lewis sends out a monthly mail to subscribers, MSE, with advice on saving money.

There was recently an article '27 quick ways to go green and save' listing ideas of how to do just that. For example recycling on the High Street. Some are stores giving vouchers or freebies for returning used clothes, textiles, packaging, beauty product containers and plastic carrier bags.

There is advice on how to recycle mobile phones ecologically, reusing plastics, tips on reducing food waste and stopping junk mail. There's very much more including where to refill water bottles for free and where to buy discounted coffee when you take a reusable cup.



"THIS OLD HOUSE" Quiz 2023/4

As always, thanks to everyone who supported this quiz, which raised a magnificent £226 for LRFWI funds. There were 85 entries received altogether, and of these, 26 were all correct: The lucky winner drawn at random was Sue Young of Thorpe Acre WI, who won £25 - congratulations Sue, I hope you enjoyed your well-deserved prize!

If you sent an SAE you will have received your entry sheets back by now, or by email if you preferred. For those who did neither, here are the answers:

1. IGLOO, 2. THEATRE, 3. CINEMA, 4. CATHEDRAL, 5. BARN,
6. CABIN, 7. LODGE, 8. SHED, 9. SKYSCRAPER, 10. CASTLE,
11. FLAT, 12. GLASSHOUSE, 13. STATION, 14. SEMI-DETACHED,
15. VICARAGE, 16. LIGHTHOUSE, 17. MORTAR, 18. SCAFFOLDING, 19. PRISON, 20. ARCH, 21. MILL, 22. COTTAGE, 23. STAIRCASE,
24. GABLE, 25. HOUSE, 26. CHIMNEY, 27. ROOF, 28. CASEMENT,
29. EAVES, 30. STOREHOUSE, 31. MONASTERY, 32. BAY, 33. HALL, 34. MANSE, 35. SITTING ROOM, 36. BRICKS, 37. PALACE,
38. BUNGALOW, 39. TEMPLE, 40. STADIUM, 41. GATE, 42. PORCH,
43. CORNICE, 44. HOSPITAL, 45. PAVILION, 46. APARTMENT,
47. VILLA, 48. DOOR, 49. HOTEL, 50. STABLE.

By the way, on my Quiz Subscribers' list, there are now 120 members who have the quiz emailed to them, and quite a few of these kind people sell copies to members, family and friends at their own WIs. If you would like to become a subscriber just for your own copy or, even better sell copies to your fellow members, then please let me know by sending an email to me via WI House email address and I will tell you how it works.

I'll be launching my next quiz at the ACM on 16th March. As usual, my Head of Sales, Hilary, will be looking after selling copies in the foyer at Leicester Grammar School on the day, so do go along to see her - she'd love to see you and, of course, sell you a copy (or two or three...) of the new Quiz!

Once again, sincere thanks to all of you who take part in these quizzes, either by just buying a copy and entering or by going the extra mile and selling copies on to your fellow members, family and friends. I do the fun bit in creating the quizzes - the hard work is down to all of you and I promise you it is so very much appreciated both by me and by the Federation. Couldn't do it without you.

Sue Lobb

What's On?

3rd Thursday	Which Craft? at 10 –12	WI House	FREE
Sat 16 March	ACM, Leicester Grammar School	10.30am-3.30pm	£15
Sat 6 April	Dabble Day	Swinford Village Hall	£20
Sat 13 April	Hathern Band	Birstall Methodist Church	£10
Wed 17 April	Resolutions Briefing	WI House	FREE
Tue 23 Apr	Petanque	Western Park	£7.50
Thurs 25 April	Treasurer Training	WI House	£3
Thurs 25 April	Speakers Showcase	Bowls Club Evington	£5
Sat 11 May	Spring Lunch	Leicester	£32
Sun 12 & 15 May	Treasure Hunt	Leicester	£5-7
Tue 21 May	Temple Visit	Leicester	£8 FULL
Mon 10 & 17 June	Barracca Garden Visit	Earl Shilton	£10

TIME TO CELEBRATE! 105 years and a Village Hall Clock

At our Woodhouse Eaves AGM, members were able to thank our amazing committee for another successful year of the Woodhouse Eaves WI, our 105th. Following the business of the evening, Rose Foley and Sian Mollart performed an amusing sketch – speculating how a very famous family might settle in our much-loved village (no names revealed here).



With time to catch up and chat with friends, members were treated to a delicious cheese and wine supper, hosted by the outgoing committee. An extra special bonus was the cutting of a beautiful clock cake, especially created to mark the arrival of the Village Hall clock, now brightly on display above the main entrance. We had spent many hours during the year raising funds for the clock which is

in memory and appreciation of the life of Queen Elizabeth II, herself a life-long member of the Women's Institute. Previous President, Sue Young, was the driving force, planning, raising funds and organising the purchase of the clock, with the added support of the Parish Council. We hope that the imposing memorial will be enjoyed by residents and visitors to the village for many years to come.



Monthly Draw

Congratulations to our Monthly Draw winners!

- 1st Prize £25— Sheila Meredith, Shearsby & Arnesby**
- 2nd Prize £15— Christine Beaumont, Botcheston**
- 3rd Prize £10—Jean Eastell, Ullesthorpe**

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



Event Flyers

Dabble Day

Saturday 6th April

10-3pm



SWINFORD VILLAGE HALL,
LE17 6AZ

Cost: £20 to include all materials

Hathern Band

Saturday 13th April

7.15pm-9.30pm



Birstall Methodist Church, LE4 4JS

£10 per person

friends and family welcome

Treasurer Training

Thursday 25th April

10am – 12.30pm

WI House

£3 to include tea/coffee

Only 1 place per WI

and

Speakers Showcase

7pm-9pm

Goodwood Bowls Club, Evington

£5

Spring Lunch

Sat 11th May



Devonshire Place, Leicester
Speaker from Tutbury Castle

£32

Treasure Hunt

Sun 12th May & Weds 15th May



10–12noon

Town Hall/Jubilee Square,
Leicester

£5-7 each to include
refreshments

Petanque

Tuesday 23rd May 7pm



Leicester Petanque Club,
Western Park

£7.50 each to include jacket
potato

Use the booking form on our website under Federation Downloads

Website here

if you want to book as an individual—email the form to wihousefwi.org or call 0116 2661342

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

Barrow Upon Soar

Barrow Upon Soar WI's 2023 Project was to Collect & Recycle Bras. We chose Against Breast Cancer to send them to as they Recycle Bras & the money raised goes to research & raise awareness of Breast Cancer and also send suitable or new bras donated to third world countries where women suffer the embarrassment at not being able to own a bra but with the Charity's help they can afford to buy one. Most charity bags and shops won't accept Bras & they just end up in landfill. We were overwhelmed with the amount of bras that started to come in & not just from our own members but their friends, family (as far away as Manchester!), ladies in our village & other local WI groups. In total we collected 56kg, that's 778 Bras!

We had two Christmas Trees at our Church Festival in December - One displayed, in a tasteful way (& with the permission of our Vicar) some of the Bras we had collected & information about why we were collecting them. The other tree which was a used set of up cycled steps housed our 'Book Art Angels' that we had made at our October meeting. We then used these for table decorations at our Christmas party before the ladies took them home.



For our January meeting one of our Committee produced us a 'Quiz of 2023' - it was surprising what we had forgotten about what had happened last year! Our monthly competition, a 'Caption Competition' had us writing a suitable caption to



go with a funny photograph taken of two of our members when we made sausages with our local butcher!

Swannington

Resolutions were debated at Swannington WI's February meeting, with a member of the committee presenting each resolution, after which the members voted and their choice will be sent to Federation. Members then had a very interesting and informative talk on personal and home security by PC James Martindale, a local Dedicated Neighbourhood Officer; his talk provided some very helpful advice, ranging from keeping your purse safe when out shopping, to home security and especially the importance of keeping house doors locked at all times. James also stressed the value of ensuring that to avoid theft, any items of value are not left on display in your car.

Finally James 'took into custody' all the trauma teddies that four members of our craft club had knitted. These teddies, which will be shared with fire and ambulance services, are very helpful in any emergency incident to provide to any children affected by the situation.



Loughborough Ladies

At our February meeting, the Loughborough Ladies enjoyed pancakes followed by musical entertainment from Amber, the granddaughter of one of our members. Amber's professional name is Rainbow Frog Biscuits (you can see her videos on You Tube) and she has a fabulous voice. She is certainly a star of the future. We tackled quizzes on all things related to Pancakes and Pancake Day and even had a go at a bit of pancake tossing.



Around the Counties

Whissendine

For the third year running, the January meeting was quiz night, 'Rosie and Caroline's House of Games'. This is based on the BBC show Richard Osman's House of Games (BBC2 6pm daily) which I am addicted to! We had nine rounds of questions, with a screen and pictures and it was all very professional. If you haven't seen the TV show they are not normal quiz questions, it's all a bit quirky. The first round was Rhyme Time, two questions and the answers rhyme with each other.

There was a round on guess the date things happened, the team I was in was called 'The Try Hards' and I think we only got one right which was the year that Torvill and Dean danced to Bolero (1984).

After that, somebody from each team had to stand up to be the spokesperson, there were three questions, one of which was name a musical which is on the list of the twenty longest running musicals in the West End. We wrote down as many as we could think of and then each team had to give an answer, if it was correct you remained standing, if it was wrong you had to sit down so the last person standing won the point for their team. We did ok with this but didn't win.

There was another round with six sheets of paper with different parts of the world on and we had to put a circle on where we thought the place was to answer the question eg What state is Juneau the capital of? We couldn't remember that one until we heard the answer, Alaska, of course!

After cups of tea and biscuits the winners were announced, as I am the publicity officer I had been asked if, at the end of the evening, I could take a picture of the winners. 'Yes sure', I said, then jokingly added 'That'll be a selfie then!' Well, guess what, we won! I was flabbergasted! Apparently it was down to the fact that we were the only team to get the correct number of how many presents were received in **total** for the twelve days of Christmas, the answer is 364, thanks must go to Margaret, a retired maths teacher.

It was a lovely evening with lots of laughter and thanks must also go to Rosie and Caroline for their time spent researching and compiling all the questions, well done everyone!



Birstall & Wanlip

At their February meeting BIRSTALL & WANLIP WI had twenty three ladies enjoying an evenings entertainment arranged by the committee.



They had a Beetle drive and quiz. However the business came first followed by a discussion on the Resolutions and a vote.



Countesthorpe

The Countesthorpe group had a very busy run up to Christmas starting with our speaker in November Tom Philips. Tom does chocolate work and his demonstration had a lovely Christmasy feel to get us in the mood for the upcoming festive season.



Ann Hibberd was the lucky winner of the raffle that evening which was a snowman creation made by Tom. Later in November we held a craft morning where our ladies could come along with a friend and try their hand at various activities including sugar work, card making, bubble decorating, bag and tag making. Everyone had a super morning and had lots of fun.

Our December Speaker was Wendy Nye who give us a very interesting insight to the origins of our Christmas traditions. For our first meeting of the year we invited as our speaker Alison Briggs.

Alison gave us an amazing insight about the work carried out by Mercy Ships and the hundreds of wonderful volunteers who give several months at a time to travel with the Mercy ship providing free medical assistance to those not fortunate enough to have the means to provide for themselves.



Around the Counties

Groby

The first 'thanks' go to the WI members who decorated the WI Christmas tree for the festival at the church. Sadly we didn't win this year but, as usual, the church looked resplendent with entries from so many groups in the village.

Our WI Christmas meeting took the form of a party at Groby Ex Servicemen's Club. I must applaud the staff at the Club on the way the room and tables were decorated and the chef for the excellent three course meal that was provided. All WI members were given a pot of Tete a Tete Daffodil bulbs which, when flowering, will hopefully welcome longer days and better weather.

The entertainment after our meal was a potted pantomime from the book 'Revolting Rhymes' by Roald Dahl performed by members of the committee.

My 'thespians' did an amazing job and I think it was thoroughly enjoyed by our members. Watch this space - we're hoping to tour later this year!!



Glenfield

Our meeting this month was a Birthday celebration for our WI which was founded in 1922.



We all enjoyed a slice of Birthday Cake which had been specially baked and decorated by two of our members. It was most enjoyable with a nice cup of tea.

Another member very ably talked us through the four short listed resolutions received from the Federation. We had time to discuss and consider which resolution to personally choose before completing voting slips which will be counted and

the results sent to WI House.

Finally, as this was a Birthday Party, we enjoyed a photo recognition game, naming well known TV personalities past and present. Slightly more difficult than was first thought!

Next month's meeting will be at St Peter's Church Rooms on Wednesday 14th February at 2pm. The speaker is Sam Dobson who will be telling us about Sir Malcolm Sargent, The Early Years. It should be an interesting talk, so do come along and join us. A warm welcome is guaranteed.

Quorn

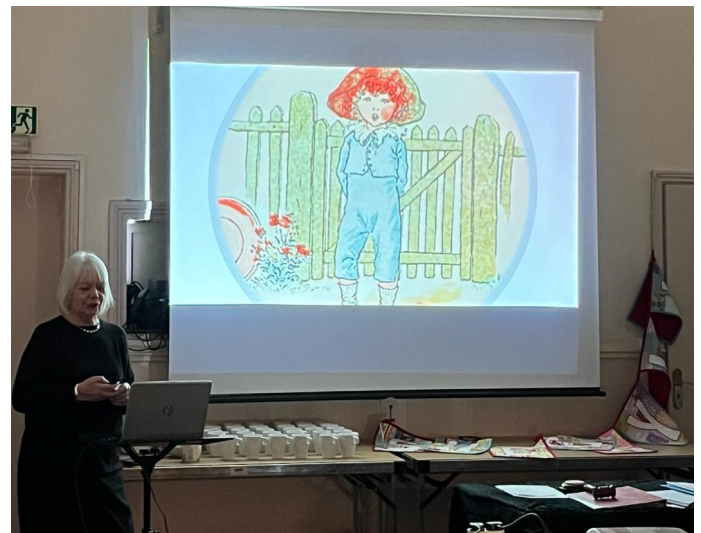
We all received some special treats at our December Christmas Party.

As well as several bulging handmade Christmas Stockings for our raffle prizes, every member received a special treat from the Christmas Tree, a handmade bauble containing chocolates.



Graham Tuckley was on hand to provide the music for a sing along (and some dreadfully corny jokes) and the accompaniment for a rowdy game of Pass the Parcel. The afternoon ended with the traditional tea and cakes, sending us off in a festive mood.

Sheepy



For our first meeting of 2024 we were treated to a journey through nursery rhymes and their meaning. It was interesting to learn that the songs and rhymes that have been sung to young children for many years are not always what they seem! Many were the only way for people to make comments on the politics and people of the time without getting trouble!

Sandy Leong gave us the real meaning of some of the most familiar nursery rhymes that we all know.

So it turns out that Humpty (Dumpty) wasn't an egg but a large cannon in Colchester that was blown up by the Parliamentarians, the Kings men failed to repair it.

The Grand old Duke of York was poking fun at Richard Plantagenet who made some dodgy decisions during the War of the Roses. He actually marched his men out from Wakefield castle and down the hill to meet the approaching army. This decision ended in his army being defeated!

Hey Diddle Diddle is thought to be about Elizabeth 1st. Her taster was nick named the 'spoon' by her majesty. Her server was called 'diah' and they ran away and got married without the Queen's permission. They spent a short time in the tower for this action!

Around the Counties

Broughton Astley



Our guest speaker this month was John Parnell, aka "Hoop Guy" to demonstrate the benefits of hula hooping. John took up hula hooping after being made redundant in 2008 from a computer based job, wanting something completely different. He soon got hooked on hooping and made it to the semi-finals of Britain's Got Talent" in 2017 demonstrating with a 6 foot hoop!

He explained that it is important to have the right size hoop to suit your waist size and in fact the larger the hoop the easier it is to control. You must take up the correct stance and push your tummy forward then back – no hip gyrations required! John says that hooping is a risk free, aerobic exercise that strengthens the core muscles and reduces back pain. He is also a talented stilt walker and skilled in many circus style acts – juggling, making balloon animals, mono-cycle riding and more. He runs classes in Nuneaton and goes to schools and clubs to demonstrate these skills.

After an amazing routine with a variety of hoops of different sizes and to his own "Hoop Guy" song, many members got up to have a go. Everyone was successful and several were really expert, (as Lynn demonstrates.) Some are even thinking of taking it up! It was a fun evening enjoyed by all.



Glenfield Park

Well who would believe it, we had an enjoyable Annual Meeting. I know they are supposed to be boring but there was a lot of chat and reminiscing about the previous year. From some of the excellent speakers to the interesting trips and activities we had. However on a more serious note we accomplished all the necessary business. Pam is continuing as president, Val Moore as treasurer and fortunately the excellent committee have agreed to continue as well. Mind you perhaps there was the incentive of



food to spur everyone on. One of our activities was a Christmas dabble day when we tried 2 new crafts. We made a felt Christmas tree and a pod which is a container for a small gift. A very enjoyable and fun day with a very pleasing outcome. Perhaps surprise, surprise there was also food involved. Perhaps we are like Napoleon's army and thrive on food.

We began the New Year with a members' social evening where we had the opportunity to indulge in a couple of games, curling or quoits or some table games like 3d snakes and ladders which might be okay for children but seems impossible for us without causing a lot of hilarity while some members took the opportunity to catch up with other members news. Dare I add we finished the evening with cake!!!! A good introduction to the new year. Let's hope it continues.



Anstey

At the January meeting of Anstey WI the speaker was our own member Sylvia Cole, telling about the Falkland Islands, where she spent four years as Director of Education. In this capacity she opened a new primary school in the presence of the governor and Prince Andrew.



It was fascinating. How adventurous were they, going 8,000 miles from home? The lived in a lovely bungalow with an attractive garden while they were there.



This was the second instalment of her talk. As requested, this time she focused more on wildlife, including seals, sea lions and pilot whales, whose skulls litter the shore, as well as penguins. Husband John showed slides of the animals, and other things, including Ellen McArthur's boat off the shore.

The competition was a for penguin in any medium. Winner was Jan Darby with her first ever attempt at quilling (very impressive) with Jan Chandler in second place, and Sheryl Bramley third. Sadly, by the time the photograph was taken, Sheryl had already gone home.



News to **WI House** by email 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.

County News will be emailed, posted on Wednesday of the third full week of the month.

Advertisements

Monica (Wing WI) Member

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Notices

The 2024 Yearbook will be available at the Annual Council meeting with new speakers list. We have uploaded this to the website so this is available to see now.

We will now be sending the County News to all members via direct mailing. Apologies for those with Gmail who have not received it as yet. We have had an IT fix and hopefully this edition will be with everyone (fingers crossed)!

ACM

Annual Council Meeting

Saturday 16th March
10.30am – 3.30pm

Leicester Grammar School,
Great Glen

£15 each on the door (open to non-members also)



Please note the Open Day to view competition entries has been cancelled—all entries can be viewed at the ACM

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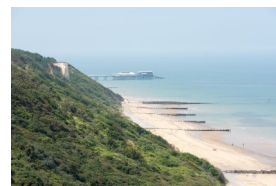


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Contact Jane (WI member) on
07810015821 for further details

Advertising Rates

WI Announcements 5p pw
For sale/wanted (WI only)
5p per word text only. £5 per column inch with graphics.

Minimum charge £3.00
Charity rate £5.00 per column inch
Commercial rate (including WI members business advertising)
£9.00 per column inch

Discounts available for regular advertisers. Please pay on receipt of invoice only.

We do not accept any responsibility for any adverts published in County News.

Please send material for County News to **WI House** by email: fedsec@lrfwi.org or post to arrive by the **FIRST** of the preceding month at the latest.