

Have Your Say Meetings



The 6th 'Have Your Say' event was held at WI House, the officers from various WIs were represented. They enjoyed meeting others that held similar roles to their own.

While talking to each other it seems obvious that everyone has the same problems such as recruiting officers and committee members and encouraging new members. There was a lot of positive feedback about support from the office.



Our last session was held on the 13th May at Walton Village Hall. For those who weren't able to make it to one of the 7 Have Your Say sessions we will send a survey to make sure you get to have your say!

A report with action points will be published soon collating thoughts and comments from participants at all the 'Have Your Say' events.



Thanks to the officers who have attended, helped and hosted. Thanks for your contributions and your willingness to work together with the Federation to support WIs.

Gail Wooliscroft, Vice Chairman and Event Lead
on Have Your Say Events 2024

Federation Chairman

Glenice Wignall
glenicewignall@lrfwi.org

Federation Treasurer

Mary Hobbs
maryhobbs@lrfwi.org

Federation Secretary

Sandra Woodward
fedsec@lrfwi.org

Accounts Assistant

Anila Patel
finance@lrfwi.org

Admin Assistant

Lois McKinder
wihouse@lrfwi.org

Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes

incorporated in England and Wales as a Company limited by Guarantee No. 02769771 Charity Reg No. 1016 766

WI House, 135 Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5LQ

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



I am pleased to announce that the wonderful speakers we had at our ACM, Canine Partners, will be our charity of the year in 2024. Of course it is very much the decision of each WI whether they donate to Canine Partners, ACWW or whichever charity they see fit as long as it is aligned with the WI guidelines. If you do want to support Canine Partners there are lots of ways to donate including the usual 'little brown envelope' that will come in the mailing. Do see page 5 for more information.

Please see the last County News on our website for the detailed explanation on why we are no longer supporting ACWW.



Just a bit from the Treasurer, Mary Hobbs.

'Being new to the role as Federation Treasurer I'd like to start by thanking Linda Martin for all she has done for the Federation over the years and all the help she has given me with handing over the role. If any Treasurer is unsure of anything to do with finance within the WI please get in touch with the Finance office or email me direct maryhobbs@lrfwi.org. Thank you for all your good wishes in taking on this role. I hope we can provide a clear breakdown of how your subs are spent and we will continue to strive for the best value for money in every transaction we make and consider every penny'.

From the House

Just in this last month WI House has been busier than ever!

We held

- 1 WhichCraft session
- 1 Finance & House Management Committee Meeting
- 1 Leisure Committee Meeting
- 1 Public Affairs Committee Meeting
- 1 Membership Committee Meeting
- 1 Art & Crafts Committee Meeting
- 1 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 2 sessions of work on Sharepoint and GDPR
- 2 sessions of staff support and Treasurer bank reconciliation
- 4 WIs attended to collect items to borrow for their events
- Treasurers Training
- NFWI Annual Meeting Delegate Briefing
- Resolutions Briefing

1 Have Your Say Meeting for those WIs closer to the city..

And you can always pop in to look through the archive of Yearbooks (from 1919) and County News (from 1978) with a cup of tea—anytime between 9.30-1.30 Mon-Thurs. Just let us know you're coming!



Leisure Committee

With regret the Leisure Committee has cancelled another event due to lack of interest. That is the third event cancelled in 2024. BBC Gardeners World, Hathern Band and a Pétanque evening. I know some people have said that it's a long way to come to WI House for a coach trip and why can't we have more pick ups. More pick up points can be tricky as it costs more and where would we have them as you can't please everyone. At WI House we do have parking and it's on a frequent bus route.

If we think an event is going to be popular we have coaches from Oakham and Burbage however if we can't fill the places again it adds to the cost.



The leisure committee are open to your ideas, let us know what you would like us to organise and any ideas you have. We will then do our best to accommodate.

We meet the second Wednesday of the month at WI House, members are always welcome to come along and observe a meeting with a view to joining us. Contact any of the committee for more information.

Membership Committee

During the last month training has been held for WI officers. The Federation Treasurer has helped Treasurers and the WI Advisers have helped Presidents and Secretaries. These events are about sharing with others what works well in your WI as well as picking up hints and tips that can help your WI run more smoothly. We are here to help you, not tell you where you are going wrong.

The constitution must be our guide and Charity Commission rules followed but apart from that flexibility often works well. We all want you to enjoy your roles and to encourage others to share the workload so that you don't find it overwhelming. If you were not able to attend and ever want any advice e-mail any of the Advisers or give us a quick phone call and we will help you.

Our Quiz is fast approaching so please get your entries in as soon as possible, it is always a fun night and we thank the WIs that are helping us with refreshments and selling raffle tickets and all the other little jobs on the night. We would not be able to run it without your assistance. Hope to see you at Broughton Astley, Oaks in Charnwood, Oakham or Syston.



Arts and Crafts Committee

We are looking forward to our upcoming events, Lino cutting, Stumpwork and our Crochet Open Day. Unfortunately this year we have had to cancel two events, the Spring Dabble day and Dry Felting due to lack of participants. We have stopped Whichcraft for a while for similar reasons. As you can imagine we do not do this lightly as quite a lot of work goes into organising events, finding teachers and venues.

We try to put on a variety of events and respond to suggestions from members. If you have any suggestions for events or ideas that may increase participation please get in touch either by contacting Beverly Blackburn, a member of the Arts and Crafts Committee by email

beverlyblackburn@lrfwi.org

or wihouse@lrfwi.org



What's On?

Sat 15 June	Lino Cut Workshop	WI House	£30
Mon 10 & 17 June	Barracca Garden Visit	Earl Shilton	£10 FULL
Thu 20th June	Speakers Showcase	Wing Village Hall	£5
Wed 26 June	White House Gardens and Tea	Ingarsby	£11 FULL
Sat 29 June & July 6th	Stumpwork- embroidery style (both sessions)	WI House	£30
Fri 5th July	Federation Quiz	Various venues	£6 pp (teams of 4)
Thurs 11 July	Sewing Bee speaker and strawberry tea	Humberstone	£12
Sat 20th July	Crochet Open Day	WI House	£5
Wed 24th July	Croquet Taster	Leicester Croquet Club	£12
Tue 10 Sept	Pétanque	Hinckley Rd Leicester	£7.50
Fri 27 Sept	Race Night	Scraptoft	£10

Canine Partners—our charity for the year

We are pleased to announce that Canine Partners are the LRFWI charity of the year for 2024.

There are multiple ways for members to make donations

1. Send cheques to - Canine Partners, Ashby Road, Osgathorpe, Leicestershire, LE12 9SR. Please write WI COTY 2024/WI Charity of the Year 2024 on the reverse so we can count WI donations.

2. Via BACS

Account name: Canine Partners for Independence

Sort Code: 30-93-97

Account Number: 01738564

Reference : WI COTY 2024

3. Via the website - caninepartners.org.uk/donate/

4. Adding a cheque to Canine Partners in the envelope sent with the paper mailing and we will send them through to the charity every quarter.



Monthly Draw

Congratulations to our Monthly Draw winners!

1st Prize £25— Sandra Pinchess, Narborough & Littlethorpe

2nd Prize £15— Helen McGarrigle, Greetham

3rd Prize £10—Elizabeth Jarvis, Groby

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



Lino Cut Workshop

Sat 15th June



10am-3pm WI House
£30—to include all materials
Please bring a lunch

Speakers Showcase

Thur 20th June



6.30 for 7pm prompt
£5 per person
Wing Village Hall,
LE15 8SA

Stumpwork

Sat 29th June and Sat
6th July



£40 for both days
10am – 3pm
WI House

Sewing Bee and Strawberry Tea

Thurs 11th July



1.30pm
Laburnham Hall,
Humberstone
£12

Federation Quiz

Fri 5th July 7.30pm



Broughton Astley Village
Hall , Oaks In Charnwood
Storer Hall, Oakham All
Saints Church Hall and
Syston Community Centre
£6 per person (teams of 4)

Crochet Open Day

Sat 20th July



10-3
WI House
£5—to include all
materials

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

Jerusalem Jammers

For over 40 years the Jammers have held their monthly practice in their spiritual home, Kirby Muxloe Church Hall. Owing to the closure of the hall for repair we managed to find a temporary practice venue thanks to Mrs Desford (aka Pat Crane!) From July practices (usually the last Saturday in the month from 10.00-12.00) will be at St Andrew's Hall, Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East, LE3 3PF.

Everyone is welcome to come along to see what we do – particularly potential dancers or musicians. Google us or search for us on Facebook for further details. For bookings please contact our Super Secretary Sue on 01455 458107.



Around the Counties

An article for Around the Counties—some tips/suggestions.

- Give an overview of the talk or activity, including speakers name, rather than a detailed account of the whole talk.
- Include some funny or interesting facts/comments. What did your members think?
- Include your members in the photographs you send, not just the speaker.
- Unfortunately we cannot include your next meeting details due to publication dates.
- Finally remember to include the name of your WI!



Wymondham

Last month we had the most interesting talk by Joe Davis from Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust all about the Rutland Sea Dragon and how he discovered it along with Paul Trevor, during a routine draining of one of the lagoons. Incredibly a digger managed to miss it by inches! Joe just happened to look down and first noticed he what looked like clay pipes but a bit more investigation revealed the start of a vertebrae.

The Sea Dragon or Ichthyosaur to give it its proper name, is the biggest and most complete skeleton found to date in the UK. The ichthyosaur is approximately 180 million years old and is about 10 metres in length. Covid and extreme weather and then nesting birds put the excavation on hold, however finally in August 2021 the huge skeleton was finally revealed and carefully excavated. This is currently in storage until funding is found to have it cleaned properly.

At the end of the talk Joe rolled out a large life-size print of the skeleton. It was truly incredible to stand next to it and get the full scale of just how big this creature was. Hopefully when fully cleaned the Sea Dragon will return to Rutland Water so we will be able to see it in its full glory, and back to the place it was found.

So far this year we have had some incredible talks, with many more to come.



Ashby Spa

For our April meeting, we invited our local WI members to our big speaker event. We welcomed members from Ashby Castle, Coleorton, Breedon and Appleby Magna WIs to listen to Lesley Smith as Elizabeth 1st. This glittering presentation transported us back to the time of Drake, Raleigh and Shakespeare on England's voyage into the Renaissance. Our members made ginger (Elizabeth's favourite) cakes and biscuits which we all enjoyed.

Our March meeting was a lesson on Tai Chi by Heather Lomas, which got us up and moving out of our seats! At the beginning of March 29 of our ladies made the 1600 cheese and tomato cobs for the Ashby 20 running race and we raised £900 for local charities. Thank you so much ladies and to Theresa our treasurer who coordinated the cob making.



Around the Counties

Ullesthorpe

Analiza Jones was the speaker at our March meeting. She talked about the process of making fine woven bags from tropical plants harvested in the Philippines. She explained the very labour-intensive work process which goes into making the beautiful bags. It is a vital much needed industry. She had slides of the work involved showing whole communities helping to make the bags.

The bags were for sale at the end of the meeting much to the delight of the members.

Laraine Tucker treated us to a talk and demonstration. Tai Chi is a gentle exercise and moving meditation to help mental and physical health. Laraine gave an amazing demonstration and was so calm that she was completely unaware of her audience.



We were invited to join in the exercises and afterwards members said they enjoyed the experience. It was very relaxing way to exercise.

Hinckley Canalside

Semi-finalist on BGT, John Parnell, aka The Hoop Guy, offered an entertaining talk about his audition for the show: a long day with continuous interviews, including one with Stephen Mulhern, and finally appearing on the stage at 6.00pm! John wanted to appear on the show not only to fulfil an ambition but to also raise awareness of the health benefits of hula-hooping. John offers school workshops across the country.

John is multi- talented and learnt a range of skills at various ages, including juggling at 41, stilts and unicycle at 42, balloon modelling at 45. He didn't learn to hula-hoop until 53.

After sharing some useful tips on the art of hula-hooping, John invited members to have a go themselves and we were introduced to the song John had recorded called 'Hoop Guy'. It was a fun filled evening!



Sheepy

We enjoyed a very entertaining evening listening to Mitch Bridgewater, a former contestant of the Sewing Bee.

He told us how he got into sewing, how his wife filled in his application without him knowing. Mitch described the process of how the show worked, and showed us a few items from the show along with other items he has made since. Mitch has gone on to making sewing his career.



Whissendine

At our meeting in March I gave a talk on a subject close to my heart, Blue Light Babies. This is a Facebook group started by a lady called Jo Owen in 2015. As a serving paramedic on a front-line ambulance she realised that there was a need for baby blankets and hats to be used when babies arrive unexpectedly. She asked on her Facebook page if there was anybody willing to knit some of these and she was swamped with offers so Blue Light Babies was 'born'. Now many ambulances are equipped with at least one baby pack and if you watch the Ambulance series on BBC1 you will have seen one of these being used when a lady gave birth in a McDonalds having not known she was pregnant!



Soon other groups were approaching Jo asking for items that in her words could be 'knitted by the knitwits, crocheted by the hookers or sewn by the sew and sews'. I am proud to be a member of this group, I am a knitwit, and the list of things we make is ever growing; trauma teds for A&E depts and police, Twiddlemuffs for dementia sufferers, Dillybobs for premature babies (look like octopuses),

flowers and leaves for a continuing project and so much more.

They were also contacted by the Give a Duck foundation who give Chemo Ducks to children diagnosed with cancer, they wondered if it was possible to have some knitted outfits for them. Now these are special ducks who arrive with a Hickman Line or similar and a blood pressure cuff. When a child is about to undergo a procedure the duck has it done first to lessen the fear and so the child knows exactly what is going to happen. They are then allowed to choose an outfit for their duck. I love making these outfits and I printed off some patterns for the ladies to take if they wanted to have a go. I also had some outfits on display as well as a borrowed Chemo Duck and some Twiddlemuffs. Although it wasn't a long talk I was heartened to have so many ladies come up afterwards to have a look, ask questions and take away some of the printed patterns.



Wigston Magna

Our April speaker was Jayne Edwards from the Leicestershire Litter Wombles.

The Wombles are volunteers, often retired, and are always looking for people to get involved. Jayne's presentation showed the huge assortment of rubbish found by the Wombles, hundreds and hundreds of bags filled, with enormous care taken as glass, syringes and other dangerous litter is often found. Sturdy boots and gloves are worn at all times and climbing in and out of ditches is all part of the job. Jayne visits schools to educate the children about the Wombles, but there is a part of her presentation that she can't show them - the "over 18s" box!! I'll leave that to your imagination.

Around the Counties

Great Bowden

At our meeting we were treated to a demonstration and talk by Lorraine Tucker. Tai Chi is an internal martial art, practised today mainly for health reasons. It is a gentle exercise and moving meditation with benefits to mental and physical health. In the far east it is practiced mainly in the early morning by young and old and is often followed by tea and cake. The early start is due to many of the participants then having to go to work. Tai Chi is beneficial to sufferers of joint problems, arthritis and also breathing issues. It is also a way of massaging the internal organs.

After the demonstration members were invited to try some of the exercises. Everyone has a different experience of Tai Chi but all who took part said it was a very relaxing experience.



Last month's speaker, Linda Reed, from the Paint Pottle, brought back the egg cups we painted. These were now fired and glazed. Everyone who had painted one was very pleased with the outcome and all were proud of their achievements.

Breedon on the Hill

We celebrated our 20th year with a Mad Hatter's tea party in March! Everyone entered into the spirit of the occasion wearing fancy hats and sharing home-made cakes. We decorated the room with pink flamingos and white rabbits! We even had biscuits that looked like playing cards and heart shaped scones in keeping with the Mad Hatter theme.

Breedon is also celebrating the membership bell for the most increased membership! Everyone had a very relaxed and enjoyable evening.



Ratby



In April we enjoyed a 1940s evening looking back at the first ever meeting held by the WI in Ratby on the 21st of November 1945. There was a talk on the importance of knitting during the war and how it was used to send coded messages back home to Blighty from ladies who were dropped behind enemy lines who were just innocently knitting to help the war effort.

The activity for the evening was making a pair of knitted slippers from an original 1940s pattern, then enjoying an afternoon tea to round the evening off.



Gilmorton

We were entertained by Jo Golby at our April meeting. She gave us a very entertaining talk entitled Between the stairs- The life of a ladies maid in the late 1800s.

She told us about her career bringing history alive at many local historic houses, modelling for a wax work for use at Warwick Castle and stories about Lady Daisy from Warwick.

Some members enjoyed a circular walk starting in Smeeton Westerby followed by coffee. The weather was kind but the paths were muddy



Hinckley Hollycroft



Hollycroft Hellcats are really enjoying their Walking Netball sessions. Players have all improved their shooting skills and, as play can sometimes be fast and furious, reminders are often needed that it is called *Walking* Netball for a reason! Having fun with plenty of laughs along the way is a novel way of

keeping fit with WI friends.

Come along at 2.00 pm to watch or join in on Tuesday afternoons for an hour at Green Towers sports hall, Richmond Road Hinckley LE10 0DZ.

Glenfield

This month's meeting was rather different to our usual gathering, as we held a fund-raising event to which members from other local WIs were invited. St Peter's Church Room was quite full with ladies who welcomed the chance to meet up with those from different Institutes for an afternoon of entertainment, chat and of course, tea and cake!

Our speaker was Graham Sutherland who gave an interesting talk on wicked women, fact and fiction. Attitudes towards such women vary of course as time passes. Consider the Suffragettes who were thought, at the time, to be very wicked in their stance for equality. Now they are considered to be trail blazing heroines! There followed our social time with refreshments during which the raffle was drawn and prizes collected. The 2nd hand book and jigsaw table was also a popular attraction. As the afternoon drew to a close, there seemed to be general agreement that the event had been most enjoyable and a complete change to the usual meetings.



Around the Counties

Illston on the Hill

Roy Mitchell's recent presentation at our meeting offered a captivating journey into the historical and architectural wonders of Stoneywell Cottage. A quintessential representation of Arts and Crafts ideal. Nestled within the idyllic countryside and owned by the National Trust, Stoneywell Cottage has endured a rich tapestry of events, from its humble beginnings in 1898 to its current status as a cherished heritage site

Beyond its architectural splendour, Stoneywell Cottage boasts enchanting gardens that have evolved over the years. In 1953 Donald and Ann Gimson undertook a remarkable endeavour to develop the gardens, transforming them into a botanical haven adorned with 156 varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas.

Roy's Illuminating talk provided a captivating glimpse into a bygone era, where craftsmanship, nature and cultural heritage converged. Stoneywell Cottage stands as a testament to the enduring allure of the Arts and Crafts movement, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in its timeless charm and beauty.

Quorn Evening

Members of our walking group enjoying their April walk at Beacon Hill, Loughborough and were joined by their furry friends.

The group walks around four to five miles and are looking forward to drier conditions underfoot so they can resume their walks through the fields from Quorn Village Centre. However, Beacon Hill is a fantastic alternative with a café offering great coffee and cakes.



New Barkby

President, Shirley Franklin, welcomed New Barkby members and visitors to the institute's April meeting.

After the report of the Annual Council Meeting was read out, the speaker for the event was Philippa Guy on "Colour Me Beautiful". Philippa works as a career, image and life coach, so provided members with ideas of colours to match skin, hair and eye tones, with swatches of material to place against one's face. Some members were happy to volunteer to have a colour match.

At the end of the evening there was an opportunity to purchase or swap plants which had been brought in by members.

Broughton Astley



Michelle Lewis from the charity "Tools with a Mission (TWAM)" was our guest speaker in March. She explained how their organisation collects unwanted and donated tools of many varieties, knitting and sewing machines, and working IT equipment, which is then refurbished by their team of volunteers, including "Men and Women in Sheds". These tools are then packed in containers and sent out to communities in Africa where men and women receive training in various skills and are given appropriate tools to set up a business. This means that they can then make a living to support their families, many of them going on to train others so that they too can benefit.

This is another wonderful way to recycle unwanted items, which we all are keen to do. If you think you may be able to donate, their website is www.twam.uk and donations will be collected by local volunteers.

Wing

We welcomed Jeanette Warner as our speaker to our April Meeting. Her subject was the work that Rutland4Rutland does in the county. Most of the members knew of the charity but really had little idea about what it actually does. It raises a lot of money for the Citizens' Advice Bureau which is then able to pay for 2 well qualified advisors. The advisors are there to help residents who are having a difficult time covering day-to-day living expenses. The advisors are conversant with all the benefits people may be entitled to, and help by completing the forms. For one family they were able to get help in the region of £450 a week. In another case an elderly man was feeling very lonely since the death of his wife, they found a group he could be interested in and this has become a highlight of his week.

All the money raised relies on the tireless efforts of loyal volunteers, over 100 of them. The major fundraisers are; A Good as New Sale (raised £47,00 this year), a Bottle Tombola at the County Show, A Golf Day and an Open Garden. Many of our members showed interest in becoming volunteers.

We would certainly recommend Jeanette to visit your WI.

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.

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

Advertisements

Monica (Wing WI) Member

Contracted by the Rutland Council to provide Home based care

Do you need help with:

- Domestic cleaning
- Personal Care
- Medication and meals
- Disability support
- Hospital to home discharge
- Live in carer
- Respite care and holiday support
- Help with pets

PERCURRA
Excellence through care



For a CQC registered,
safe and trusted carer
Call Monica 07716183474
Office 01536605365

Percorra North Northamptonshire
2 Tresham Street
Kettering NN16 8RS



ACWW—Pennies for Friendship

Thank you to everyone for their contributions to ACWW over the years. The final amount sent was £2376.93



Accessibility

PLEASE NOTE; we try to meet all of our members needs. Please advise if large print, audio and other versions of County News or any of the Federation's publications are needed.

We hope to be able to provide an image-free, black and white version of County News for Secretaries to print as needed as this was said to be helpful in the past for printing at low cost.

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.

GIVE YOUR OVEN THE SHOWROOM
LOOK WITH

Oven Magic
THE OVEN CLEANING SPECIALIST

- Removes Grease and Fat
- Destroys Burnt On Carbon Deposits
- Caustic Free Products
- Fully Trained Operatives
- Hobs, Extractors, Microwaves



★ Phone For A Free Quote

Tel: 0116 239 0579



MARTIN TIBBLES

**PAINTING & DECORATING
SERVICES**

For all your home and
Exterior re-decoration
requirements by a
qualified tradesman.

Covid Vaccinated

Contact Martin on
0116 2910489 or 07855 412 945

Free estimates and advice given.

Excellent references



Creating big smiles
all round

01858 540 317
01572 898 147
0116 298 4744
homeinstead.co.uk/mh



Each Home Instead® franchise office
is independently owned and operated.

