



On 4th June members of the Board and Link Delegates attended the live streaming of the NFWI's Annual Meeting 2025 at Goodwood Bowls Club, Leicester.

The meeting was chaired by Jeryl Stone from Warwickshire. This year there were two meetings—the Companies Act Meeting which was to ratify (or not) the new Constitutions and then the Annual Meeting, where we had the opportunity to hear more about this year's proposed resolution—**Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers**, and this was voted in favour. The campaign calls on WI members to work together to increase public confidence and training in the delivery of CPR and to work with local organisations to

help improve access to defibrillators in their communities.

There are over 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests a year in the UK, and less than one in ten people survive. Women have a lower chance of surviving than men. Early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation can more than double the chances of survival. We call on WI members to work together to increase public confidence and training in the delivery of CPR and to work with local organisations to help improve access to defibrillators in their communities to give every person the best chance of surviving a cardiac arrest.

The speakers were fantastic, Emma Bridgewater, celebrated businesswoman and pottery-maker, and who has been named in the King's 2025 Birthday Honours list. Along with Angel Strawbridge, the founder of The Vintage Patisserie, however she is probably best known for appearing in the documented Channel 4 series 'Escape to the Chateau', rebuilding and renovating their family home Chateau de la Motte Husson.

There is more information on the background, why cardiac arrest is a feminine issue and how you can get involved via MyWI, Current Campaigns tab.

The date of the next online National Federation Annual Meeting was announced for 2026, and will be held on **Thursday 4th June** next year and we have already secured Goodwood Bowls Club so that we can live stream this meeting if WI members wish to be part of the watch party.

<b>Federation Chairman</b> Glenice Wignall glenicewignall@lrfwi.org	<b>Federation Treasurer</b> Mary Hobbs maryhobbs@lrfwi.org	<b>Federation Secretary</b> Tina Lee fedsec@lrfwi.org	<b>Office Manager/ Accounts</b> Lois McKinder wihouse@lrfwi.org	<b>Finance</b> finance@lrfwi.org
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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  
**WI House, 135 Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5LQ**  
**Tel: 0116 2661342 Email: [wihouse@lrfwi.org](mailto:wihouse@lrfwi.org)**  
**Opening hours: Mon-Wed 9.30am—2.30pm**  
[www.leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk](http://www.leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk) or scan QR code  
Find us on Facebook: Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of WIs




## From the Board

### The Annual Council Meeting - Driving Improvement

The Annual Council Meeting (ACM) is one of the most important events in our Federation's calendar and a specific requirement of our governance structure. It brings together WI members from across the region to reflect on our achievements, share financial updates, and look ahead to the future.

As hosting this event costs around £7000, we want to make sure it continues to meet its goals and provides a valuable and enjoyable experience for everyone who attends. Our most significant costs are around £3000 for the venue and a similar amount for our Speakers.

To help us continue to improve the event in 2026 and beyond, if you wish to give any feedback, we'd be grateful if you could answer the three short questions below:

1. On a scale of 0 to 10, how likely are you to attend next year's ACM? (0 = extremely unlikely, 10 = extremely likely)
2. What are the main reasons for the score you gave?
3. Is there anything we could improve to make you more likely to attend in the future?

If you wish to respond, please send any replies by email to [wihouse@lrfwi.org](mailto:wihouse@lrfwi.org) by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025. **If you also want to be entered into the prize draw, please give your name, WI and contact telephone/email so that your details can be entered to win a free ticket for the 2026 ACM as a thank you for responding.**

## From the House



### WI House Opening Hours

WI House will be keeping the revised hours of being open from **Mondays to Wednesdays 9.30am-2.30pm**. This will help to keep costs down and provide a later time to come in. Please note we will be closed on Thursdays and Fridays. As always you can contact the Board Officers if there is anything urgent.

## County News

There was an error in June's County News. We have combined July's and August's County News editions into one (this one), and so the next County News will be the September issue and will be circulated mid August. You will therefore not receive any County News in the month of July. We apologise for this error!

## WI 2026 Diary



We will not be bulk buying WI diaries this year but ask that WIs completed the pre-order form which was included in last month's mailing of County News. Orders to be received at WI House before **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025**. The diary is green (and completely recyclable except for the ribbon!).

There are 2 options:

Option 1 – COLLECT from WI House (£8 per diary)

Option 2 – POST (£8 per diary with postage cost invoiced to WI)

The WI week to view pocket diary has a 100% recyclable cover and it contains useful WI information as well as detailed calendars, metric conversions, clothing sizes and wedding anniversaries, plus additional pages for telephone numbers and memoranda.

Size: approx 15cm (h) x 8cm (l)

## Membership Committee

### Spring Group Meetings: Reminder for Group Secretaries and Treasurers

We hope you enjoyed your Group meetings, meeting up with fellow WI members and listening to a special speaker. If you have not already done so, can you please ensure that you send in the Annual Accounts and Annual Meeting Reports to the Federation Secretary (email below).

Over 50 WIs have benefitted from the Open Meeting Grant. It has been a successful initiative with WIs gaining members, increased visibility in their communities and enjoying a different event.

Can we remind you to send in any photos and a brief write up for County News so that we can celebrate and share with other members.

Email: [fedsec@lrfwi.org](mailto:fedsec@lrfwi.org)

Many thanks.

## Finance & House Management Committee



**TREASURERS** —All Treasurer Accounts that were held with Lloyds bank that changed at the end of last year to Community Accounts should now have been changed back to Treasurer Accounts. We did ask for details of the accounts, which were then forward on to NFWI. It was announced last week at the NFWI online Annual Meeting that all Lloyds Treasurer accounts should not incur charges going forward. However, any charges in March/April will not be refunded. Any new accounts opened with Lloyds will need to give a L&RFWI charity number, as all L&RFWI come under our umbrella.

## Leisure Committee



On behalf of the Leisure Committee we would like to say thank you to the Ladies who came and enjoyed the Open Garden at the Manor House in Cossington, although the weather was a little chilly, the rain held off.

Several brave Ladies did the Founders Bridge Challenge by walking on a log over the stream. And to finish a lovely cream tea and cakes which were thoroughly enjoyed by all on the garden terrace.



## Arts & Crafts Committee

Clare Farquhar had a lovely evening at Sheepy WI making felt roses. Clare had a warm welcome and great fun ensued. As promised everyone went away with a flower. If anyone would like a craft class do get in touch—[clarefarquhar@lrfwi.org](mailto:clarefarquhar@lrfwi.org)



### Hardanger Embroidery Workshop

**Saturday 27th September**

WI House 10am– 3pm—£25 per

Person

(see flyer for more information)



## Events

### ***Federation Quiz Evening —Friday 4th July—7pm for 7.30pm—£7 per person (Teams of four)***

- Bagworth Community Centre, LE67 1BH
- Rearsby Village Hall, LE7 3DH
- Stoney Stanton Village Hall, LE9 4LQ—fully booked
- Wing Village Hall, LE15 8SA

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

Light refreshments included. Bring your own drinks if you wish.

### ***Cossington Open Gardens—Wednesday 6th August—2pm—£14 price includes homemade cream tea***

The garden of over 2 acres is resplendent with rhododendrons and spring flowering shrubs and bulbs in May. It features mature specimen trees from around the world, some of which were laid out for Lord Kitchener's father in the late 19th century. A host of surprises will delight your senses!

### ***Petanque Taster & Fun Competition, Leicester Petanque Club —Tuesday 2nd September—7pm £7.50***

Following two successful Taster Evenings we are holding a Fun Competition Evening. Institutes are invited to bring teams of three to play. Previous experience not necessary as Pétanque coaches. Includes jacket potato – either cheese or tuna mayo.

### ***Outdoor Bowls Taster, Springfield Road, Sileby —Friday 12th September—1.30pm for 2pm start—£10 (cream tea included)***

Enjoy a fun roll-up taster session for approximately one hour, followed by a cream tea where you can catch up and chat. Bar open for drinks.

***Guided Thomas Cook Walks in Leicester —28th, 29th, 30th October & 1st November—10.30am—£12—***drink and cake at Methodist Café, Bishop Street included.

### **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](mailto:wihouse@lrfwi.org) or call 0116 2661342

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

## Have Your Say Meetings update

Last year we ran 7 'Have Your Say' meetings. Board Members met up with the Officers of your WI's, to find out what was going well, or not so well, within WI's and between WI's and the Federation.

Following the success of these meetings I am looking into continuing this initiative by inviting all WI Members to meet Board Members at informal gatherings in your areas. I would like your help in arranging this by asking you to tell me where your local garden centres (or similar free venues) with cafes, are. **Please send the names and addresses of garden centres or any other suitable venues to WI house.** They would need to be willing for us to meet there, for just an hour or so. I will then be able to contact them and arrange for tables to be made available to us.

I will let you know via County News when I am in a position to move this forward and we have dates and venues available.

In the meanwhile your Officers will be receiving phone calls from Board Members, just to check if there's anything we can do to help WI's in the 2 counties, so if you have any comments, complaints or compliments, please pass them on to your Presidents and Secretaries, who will then be able to share them with the Board Member who calls them.

Best wishes,

Gail Wooliscroft  
Vice-Chairman

Email—[WIHouse@lrfwi.org](mailto:WIHouse@lrfwi.org)

## Quick and Easy Recipe

Hope you enjoy this dessert, it's very quick and easy to make.

You can use a mixture of berries. Enjoy!

### 3 Ingredient Berry Clafoutis

50g Plain Flour

500g Fresh Chilled Custard

250g Mixed Berries



Preheat oven to 180° / 160° fan.

In a large bowl, whisk the flour, custard and 50 ml of cold water until smooth and combined.

Pour into a shallow 1.5L ovenproof dish and sprinkle over the berries.

Bake for 35 minutes or until slightly risen and golden.

Serve immediately.

## Monthly Draw

**Our monthly draw winners will be informed  
by letter and announced on our Facebook**

**page**

**1st Prize £25**

**2nd Prize £15**

**3rd Prize £10**



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



## Jerusalem Jammers



We're delighted to be returning to our original spiritual home at St Bart's church hall in Kirby Muxloe now that the floor has been repaired.

We are indebted to St Andrew's in LFE for hosting us with the added bonus of cake when our practice Saturdays coincided with their coffee mornings!

Our thanks go to them for such a warm welcome in our hour of need. We usually meet on the last Saturday in the month and are always looking for new musicians and dancers.

Find us on page 65 of the Yearbook, Google us or find us on Facebook for further information.

## Around the Counties

### Swinford

Our May meeting fell on VE Day, an opportunity not to be missed! The committee set to decorating the village hall with bunting and flags. Music of the era was collated to provide ambience, accompaniment to newspaper wrapped pass the parcel complete with forfeits, a singalong and a very memorable performance of 'The Lambeth Walk'.

Members brought some poignant items for the conversation table. A letter from the front written on May 5th 1945 and a seemingly ordinary velvet box rescued from the debris of a bombed out home in London were treasures beyond price.

The buffet table groaned with contributions on the theme of nostalgic dishes from childhood or traditional family recipes. The backdrop to the feast was part of the poppy installation which members had contributed to in November.

A WW2 raffle with mystery prizes wrapped in brown paper and tied with string raised a few smiles. Traditional games of Shove Ha'penny, Table Skittles and Marble Run prompted reminiscences of pre internet entertainment!

A wonderful evening of reflection, good food, laughter and song sent members home with a great sense of what it means to belong to the WI.



### Whissendine

We had two active meetings in March and April starting with a visit from Melton WI and their indoor curling sets. The 'stones' were on wheels and were pushed down the hall by sticks towards the targets.

Unfortunately this is when we discovered that the village hall floor isn't flat and a lot of stones ended up under the stage or near the doors but it was a very entertaining evening!



April saw us on our feet again and having a go at Tai Chi being demonstrated by Sue Hix who told us that it was originally a Martial Art.

She showed us moves that would have been made to block an attacker although now all the moves are slow and have an almost mesmeric quality to them.

She did, however, make us all jump when she flicked open a large red fan which made a loud bang! She demonstrated some moves with it which were fascinating to watch as was her series of moves at the end of the demonstration.

## Around the Counties

### Huncote

We came perilously close to suspension in 2023 but have kept a healthy membership of 30. We are indebted to Clare and Rachel who volunteered to become Secretary and Treasurer in addition to working full time. Sam has continued as our President. A large part of our success is also due to our excellent programme planning duo, aka Chris and Sue. We recently enjoyed:- Richard Warren's fascinating history of the rise and fall of Thomas Cook.

Analiza Jones' wonderful slides of the Philippines, showing how a variety of palms were grown, treated then woven into a wide array of goods. She brought along a selection of beautifully hand-crafted bags and purses.

Dalziel Ellis, *'I'm a poet but not as you know it'* was a very lively entertainer, with poems, limericks and song. Many comical, some poignant.

In May, Rachel Greaves, with *'Ruffle the Rail Dog'* had us fascinated and entertained in equal measure. Her energetic, innovative skills were a wonder to behold.

The photo shows Rachel with two versions of Ruffle, plus the train.



### Sweptstone, Newton and Snareston

In April we held our Spring pudding evening which was a challenge for anyone who was watching their figure! All the puddings were delicious and full of temptation. We made the event an open night to try to encourage new members, 4 ladies came along who all seemed to enjoy the puddings and the company of the members.

The March meeting was given by local first responders who showed us how to use the defibrillator and demonstrated how to do CPR, they also explained that first responders are all volunteers.

Luckily nobody need the skills of the first responders at the meeting.

### Witherley

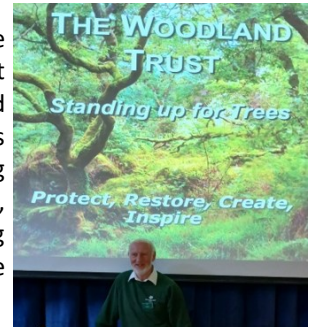
The Bosworth Field Group Meeting at the end of April was a great success with 70 WI members attending and enjoying the evening. The speaker, William French, gave an interesting and amusing talk about his time as a butler to royalty. The refreshments were excellent. The National Federation Secretary, Jeryl Stone, was the speaker at the Devonshire House Spring Lunch in early May. Several of our members attended and had a very pleasant time. This month was our Resolutions Meeting and the resolution to vote on was Bystanders can be Lifesavers.

Lynne Laine gave an excellent presentation outlining the key issues and a good discussion about the issues followed. The vote was followed by a short talk from Annette Tracey, a breast care nurse at George Eliot Hospital. She gave an account of her fundraising walk in Morocco in aid of the Breast Care Unit. She raised £10,000 and the money will be spent on furniture and updating equipment.

### Woodhouse Eaves

We enjoyed a talk by Ian Retson on the work of the Woodland Trust and the National Forest.

Established over 50 years ago, the Woodland Trust is the UK's largest woodland conservation charity and has around 500,000 members. Its work includes protecting existing woodland, restoring old woodland, creating new woodland and inspiring all generations to understand the value of trees and woods.



There are both global and local challenges to overcome. Climate change is affecting all aspects of our environment, development of roads, railways and housing leads to habitat loss and trees are threatened by an ever-increasing number of pests and diseases. Ian described several projects in which the Woodland Trust is meeting these challenges.

Finally, Ian described the importance of the trees of Bradgate Park, many of which are 400 years old and some as old as 800 years. A mature English Oak tree can support up to 2,300 species and absorb 150kg of CO<sub>2</sub> every year. It is also not susceptible to the pests and diseases affecting other native trees.

For more information on the work of the Woodland Trust and how to become a member, visit [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk).

### Groby

We donate loose change at every meeting known as 'Pennies for Friendship', and until recently this went to The WI National Charity. Rules have now changed and we can donate to a charity/group of our choice and we decided that Groby Scouts was a worthy cause. Pete Dodge attended our meeting to accept a cheque on behalf of Groby Scouts and gave a brief talk about scouting in Groby explaining about the various groups: the Squirrels, then Beavers, followed by Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Network. The money will go towards replacing aged indoor hockey equipment but money is needed for renovating the toilet block, hopefully next year. The scouts are also collecting empty 4 pint plastic milk containers (washed and with the lids on) to build an igloo at John Lees Wood, the photos that Pete showed us looked amazing!

The winner of the suggested resolution for next year's National Campaign is 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers'. St John's Ambulance support this resolution, stating that of 30,000 cardiac events, only 10% will survive. Women have less chance of survival as the general public would be unhappy to remove clothing to do CPR or to use a defibrillator. Choking events are also common with only 30% of people knowing what to do. Quick training can make a huge difference and give people the confidence needed to potentially save someone's life. Many of us will not know where our nearest defibrillator is situated but the website: [www.defibrillatorfinder.uk](http://www.defibrillatorfinder.uk) will give you this information.

## Around the Counties

### Springbrook and Scraftoft

At our May meeting Springbrook and Scraftoft enjoyed learning about Anthony Nolan Cord collection. Barbara Talbot was an engaging and enthusiastic speaker who had worked as a nurse collecting the cord blood needed for stem cell treatments before retiring. We all learned a great deal about this amazing organisation and we also learned about Superman too! Janet, one of our members wasn't too impressed with the mock placenta that Barbara brought along though!



Oh, didn't we have a lovely time the day we went to Uppingham! We were invited as special guests of the town mayor David Ainslie. Our previous attempt

to visit Uppingham didn't happen as the bus didn't turn up. So, the town clerk arranged another visit especially for us. We were picked up in Scraftoft and all were given goody bags on arrival in Uppingham. The mayor took some of us on the town's heritage trail whilst others couldn't wait to investigate the Friday market. Afterwards, some went on the hopper to a local garden centre, whilst others looked around the various shops. We all enjoyed our lunches at the different places available and soon it was time to board the minibus for home as we were all 'shopped out!'. Thank you to Uppingham for a grand day out and we will definitely be back soon.

### Botcheston

Well May is over and we have survived our first Baking session – huge thank you to all our bakers for the Desford 1940s weekend, many of you may have sampled the delights in the Churchill Tearooms. We had a wonderful 2 days, the weather was kind and everyone had a fantastic time, it is amazing who you bump into!

After the memorial service on the Sunday we had the pleasure and honour of providing refreshments for the dignitaries, the special tables set up can be seen below. There were many tired legs after the event, but the unanimous feeling that it was very worthwhile to be part of such a fantastic event.

At our meeting in May we were very well entertained by Mr Geoffrey Harris – Toastmaster. Geoffrey regaled us with anecdotes of his career (3<sup>rd</sup>) – his first being a Teacher and then a Clown, that's an interesting career path. Part of the job of the Toastmaster is to announce guests at events and when a guest has letters after their name, the Toastmaster has to know what all the letters stand for to announce them in full! The competition was won by Sue Lapworth with a wedding invitation from 1938.



### Wing

We held an open meeting funded by a Federation grant and successfully attracted two new members. Our speaker was David Wood, Chairman and Chief Executive of the Rutland Agricultural Society. After his retirement from the Melton Building Society in 2014 he was invited to join the RAS committee in spite of "knowing nothing about farming".

David outlined the history of the RAS and gave an insight into all the work involved in running Rutland Show, one of the most popular events in the County, with many stalls and attractions as well as the traditional livestock competitions.

David described his involvement as "great fun" in spite of the many complications and problems which go with the role.

To round off the evening he showed short films of the Show and a dog agility competition.

### Cossington

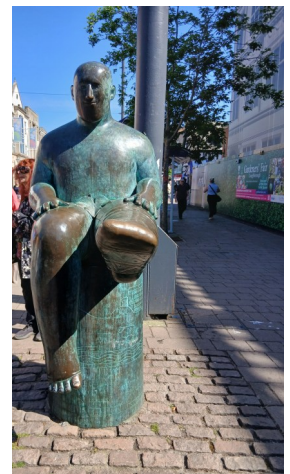
In April, 16 of our members spent an enjoyable morning wandering round the Bluebell Wood near Loughborough. The bluebells were spectacular and we came across art classes drawing and painting. We were really lucky with the weather with the sun shining.

The morning was followed by lunch at the Toby Carvery.



Cossington WI members also spent a morning enjoying a morning walk round Loughborough with our tour guide Steve. So interesting having things pointed out we had never noticed. Especially the statue with the history of Loughborough round its base and the history of the water fountain. Also the area round the Church. Steve was excellent as he always is.

Members finished their morning having a lovely lunch in Loughborough.



## Quorn



What a glorious day for the “VE Day Picnic in the Park” Quorn WI once again had their stall doing what the WI does best: home made cakes and scones, jams and pickles and a tombola. Our ladies had worked hard in the preceding days to produce a spectacular spread in keeping with the 1940's

theme of the day. It was good to see many old friends and chat to new ones, and also to take time to wander round and visit the other stalls and the displays in the Church. There was a lovely nostalgic atmosphere to the day with so much being contributed by village organisations. It was worth the aching backs, sore feet and occasional bruise. Special thanks should go to the organisers and to the combined cadet forces whose members acted as runners and provided muscle power for erecting and packing up our gazebo.

Five ladies from Quorn also joined a number of others for this year’s faith visit to Leicester Gurdwara—the Sikh centre in Leicester, which proved to be a fascinating and enjoyable experience.

On arrival we complied with their custom of removing shoes and covering heads as a mark of respect, and were then shown upstairs where daily prayers were being chanted by Punjab, Mr Manjit Singh Panesar, who invited us for quiet contemplation. Mr Panesar and two fellow elders explained that Sikhism is a very recent religion dating back only some 500 years and described some of the main beliefs of Sikhism—one God, the steel bracelet, the turban, baptism and the symbolism of the sword.

We were also shown the holy book of Sikhism and our ladies were most impressed by the beautifully embroidered covering done by the ladies of the community.

Returning to the main floor singing had taken over from prayers, so we could glimpse the musical instruments in use.

Continuing down, we were shown the practical side of Sikhism and were invited to partake of the midday meal. Anyone, no matter what their status, ethnicity or lifestyle is made welcome. All food is vegetarian: curry, rice, samosa, poppadum, even chips and baked beans were on the menu.

Everyone enjoyed their day and the message we would send out is—if you get the chance to visit a Gurdawara you will be made most welcome. And we recommend the spicy tea!



## Anstey

After discussing the resolution at our May meeting, we moved to our annual trophy competitions, which attracted a good range of entries. Jan Darby was judged to have produced the best traditional Victoria sponge (WI recipe.) The judges thoroughly enjoyed their tasting task, and members were able to enjoy a slice of the entries when it was time for refreshments. Sue Crook won both the craft and flower arranging trophies. Her Maypole model was superb. This is a very talented lady.

Pat Edhouse devised and presided over an entertaining and educational quiz on the theme of famous ladies. The result was very close; just one point in it.

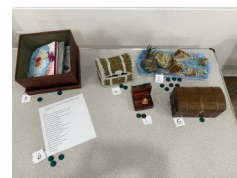


There was a good turnout of members at the June meeting of Anstey WI to hear Stephanie and Trevor Mee, self-confessed game show junkies, and they were in for a treat. It is an exaggeration to say “You name a game show and one of them has appeared on it,” but that is almost the case.

Stephanie first appeared on “Bob’s Full House” in the mid-eighties. Her train ticket was provided, she stayed in a Knightsbridge hotel, and was given dinner, and had lunch in the BBC canteen. Things are very different now when shows are recorded in batches, and hospitality sparse. Stephanie also gave us the lowdown on the presenters, some of whom were sympathetic and friendly, others more distant, and Anne Robinson every bit as mean as she seemed on “The Weakest Link.” The pair showed us their Pointless trophy, which is smaller than it appears on screen.

Their entertaining talk was followed by a fun quiz, with contrasting scores for the ad hoc teams.

The competition, for a treasure chest in any medium, was won by Sue Crook, with no less than three members tying as runners up. The other photo shows the entries.



## Wakerley & Barrowden

In June Bunny Guinness gave a talk on “Garden Transformations” with reference to her own Cambridgeshire Garden and other gardens she has designed. She explained how she created perspective in a plot and shielded or removed unsightly aspects with landscaping and the judicious use of trees and shrubs. Afterwards Bunny fielded questions ranging from what to do about box blight and ermine moth infestations to how to nurture new roses and why some seeds germinate more slowly than others from the same packet.

## Around the Counties

### Illston on the Hill

We discussed the Resolution at our latest meeting "Bystanders can be Lifesavers".

Following the serious matters we then enjoyed home made entertainment. This was organised by our very own Sue Welch. Charades!! Well, who would have thought it could be so difficult – how would you describe Jurassic Park? Although she did actually give us some relatively easy titles. I

It was all a matter of teamwork, one person identified something, then another some other clue and in the end we mostly got there. Some found it very difficult to keep quiet when the other team were guessing and gave away several clues! There was great hilarity and lot of moans and groans, but this event was a huge success and worked very well instead of our usual organised talks. Home grown talent really is the best.

### Glenfield



We were joined by Daniel Fretter, who was representing a group of six Glenfield Scouts who hope to travel to Nepal during the October half term break around 40 Scouts and Leaders from across Leicestershire. They had made an excellent video presentation for us, explaining in their own words, what the trip involved and how they have been earning money through various activities to raise the £18,600 needed to

pay for the trip. Whilst in Nepal they will go on trekking expeditions in The Himalayas and will also be involved with the project 'The Classroom in the Clouds'. This builds high quality earthquake resistant classrooms and supports a pathway to further education for girls, breaking down barriers and creating supportive, gender friendly school communities. It also provides teacher training and encourages the employment of female teachers.



At our next meeting, Jo Golby, gave her talk on The Price of Vanity, along with a display table full of strange potions, creams and other odd items of interest, she talked about the cosmetic fads and fashions of past times. Face creams often contained lead or mercury which, despite being poisonous, produced the required pale appearance that was so popular especially in Elizabethan times. Smallpox was rife during this

time and many ladies used these creams to cover the facial scars left by the disease. A red dye called cochineal could be made by crushing dried insects of the same name, this would then be used to colour hair or as a facial enhancement such as rouge. These concoctions and the many others that Jo told us about caused us all to appreciate how fortunate we are that the cosmetics available these days are safe and pleasant to use. Dental care was mentioned, with the worrying info in medieval times that the well off with toothache might visit a barber/surgeon but the poor went to the local blacksmith! Jo also included items of fashionable wear such as corsets which could reduce a lady's waist to a mere 20 inches/ 50cms and shoes that sadly weren't designed to fit the right and left foot until the early 1800s. Aching feet must have been the norm prior to this time! It was an excellent trip into the history of cosmetic and fashion enhancements.

### New Barkby

After business matters, the "Resolution – that Bystanders can be Lifesavers" was presented by committee member, Dawn Haynes, who had attended a recent briefing meeting.

The competition trophy for last year's entries was presented to Valerie Cobb.

At social time, members enjoyed some bring-and-share refreshments, including a cake, made and decorated, with reference to V.E. Day, by committee member, Joy Goulden.



### Loughborough Ladies

We celebrated VE Day with a fabulous indoor street party. The Hall was festooned with red, white and blue bunting and the tables were covered in union jacks.



We began with a toast to those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom and then the party began. The copious buffet contained traditional foods including corned beef sandwiches, jelly and tinned fruit and the WI VE Day cake which was delicious.



With music from the 40s playing in the background, we passed the parcel and guessed mystery objects from the era which had been wrapped in newspaper. The tombola comprised bottles, including Camp Coffee and ketchup as well as wine, beer and soft drinks with crisps and traditional sweets. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and most left with doggy bags of leftover food.

### Glenfield Park

In the first part of the meeting we discussed this year's resolution. "Bystanders can be Lifesavers" the intention being to encourage the public to learn CPR so that they would feel competent to intervene if they saw someone having a cardiac arrest. We had an interesting discussion about the resolution. As a useful piece of information 2 of the committee explained where the defibrillators were in Glenfield. Just so you know, one is at the doctor's surgery, one at Park House and one at Tesco Express. To introduce a lighter note into the discussion we did wonder if the paramedic would have to deal with 2 people as some of us elderly women would find it hard to get up after giving CPR.

The second part of the meeting was a light-hearted quiz where there was much banter and good natured teasing. We had various categories of which an interesting one was famous people with the first name of John or James, This made us really think. Can you think of an American President in the late seventies. That's right Jimmy Carter. We concluded the evening with tea and coffee and a delicious cake made by one of our members, Not your common or garden biscuits. Thank you Sharon for the treat.

## Around the Counties

### Welland Valley

This year it was the turn of the Market Harborough WI to organise and host the Welland Valley WI Group Spring Meeting, an annual event bringing together members from – Hallaton, Great Bowden, Little Bowden, Glooston and Medbourne. It was also lovely to welcome some visitors from Ashley WI. We gathered to catch up, network and have some fun over cake (a LOT of cake!) and prosecco handed out by the catering volunteers from the Market Harborough WI. We were also joined by Susan Woollard, Vice Chair of the Leicestershire & Rutland Federation who gave an update of upcoming events.

The group was treated to a fabulous Fashion Show organised by Jackie Allen from Jackie's Mobile Boutique. Jackie guided us through this year's fashion styles, which were presented by fashion models recruited from our members. There were lots of tips about style combination and colour co-ordination as well as a full rack of items to choose from. After the fashion show there was then the opportunity to have a browse at all of the clothes and restock our summer wardrobes.

It was a fun evening and lovely to see so many of the area's WI members. A huge thank you to all the ladies that gave their time to making this event happen – from baking cakes to setting up to preparing the presentation to walking down the catwalk!

### North Kilworth

A very enjoyable evening was spent having a guided bird walk at Stanford Reservoir, which lies close to South Kilworth on the County boundary between Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. The reservoir is owned by STWA and the site extends to 140 acres.

Our guide Chris, who lives and breathes all that is birds and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the bird life at the reservoir, was able to identify a very large number of different types of birds and bird song during our walk, including Kingfishers, various Warblers and Hobbys (a rare falcon). We were all given a sheet setting out 54 species which we might see and which proved competitive! Unfortunately, we did not get sight of the male Osprey who had paid a visit to the site earlier in the day.

Over the years 252 different species of birds have been identified and Stanford is recognised as an extremely important location for migratory birds. Ringing is carried out at the site and 10-14,000 birds are ringed annually, with many birds recorded as having returned to Stanford for several years. It was so interesting to hear of the immense distances flown by the birds year after year.

All in all a lovely, interesting evening.

Ps There is a free app called Merlin which identifies bird song!



### Clarendon Park

April 1st started our new WI year in style with a cheery visit from Dalziel Ellis, entitled 'I'm a Poet and I Don't Know It'.

Sporting her special April Fool's jumper Dalziel entertained us with her individual humour, music and poetry which took us on an emotional roller coaster.

Certainly a meeting with a difference as president Sheila read out the amazing WI Limericks written for our regular monthly 'Pennies for Friendship' competition for which the annual trophy was awarded to Marlene for accumulating most points over the previous year.

On May 9th we assembled at the Taste restaurant in Leicester College to celebrate our Annual Birthday lunch after first holding our Resolution Meeting. The food and service were impeccable and the eagerness of the students made for a delightful lunchtime.

#### A Limerick.....

I went to the WI  
Jam, Jerusalem, cake and pie.  
I met lots of pals who  
I now call my 'gals'  
I'm in charge and I don't know why!

Some people might say we are old,  
But that's not the story we've told.  
We've seen and we've done it  
And feel that we've won it,  
The right to be heard and be bold.

The WI way we embrace  
With a great big smile on our face,  
We're happy and jolly  
And not off our trolley,  
In fact, we're really quite ace!



### Oakham

We had a very enjoyable visit to Le Blanc Foundry in Saxby. On 21st April 2024 a bronze statue of Queen Elizabeth was unveiled in Oakham and is the first permanent memorial statue to the late Queen in the UK. In May 2024 it was visited by the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh. The sculptor was Hywel Pratley who some of you may have seen on the BBC programme Amazing Portraits and the bronze was cast at Le Blanc Foundry.

We were lucky enough to be shown round the foundry by Hywel who explained the processes of bronze casting and told us about creating the Queen statue. He made the whole afternoon interesting and enjoyable.

After our tour, we enjoyed tea and cake before walking around the beautiful sculpture gardens. We all agreed that it was a wonderful way to spend an afternoon.



## Around the Counties

### Kirby Muxloe

What a brilliant night high attendance, new members and a guest too. This was topped off by the speaker Jed Jaggard talking about "The Real Dad's Army", now you might think this was going to be a recap of the TV series "Dad's Army" well nothing could have been further from the truth.

Jed took us back to the 13th century where it all began with the "local defence volunteers" to what in the 1st and 2nd world war were called the "Home Guard" .

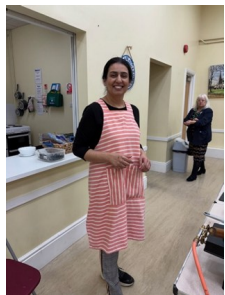
We were treated to this time in our history in an informative, respectful and sometimes very humorous way. Jed gave us the history of how the Home Guard evolved and the important role they played. Who knew that during the 2nd World war to help disguise their weaponry the Home guard wore sombrero hats or went around on roller skates. They also defended the land with tin plates (pretend landmines) which were among the many ideas that were tried to help defend the country from invaders.

Jed brought along quite a few artefacts which were passed around, the raffles were extremely heavy and cumbersome and the sticky bomb was a bit of a surprise, very dangerous for the user as well as the enemy.

He referenced the military connections of all the actors in "Dad's Army" some of which had first hand knowledge others a bit more distanced .

### Stoke Golding

At our April meeting we enjoyed a return visit from Shamaila



Saleem from Infusion Cookery. She gave us a very aromatic and interesting demonstration making spicy Indian kebabs. Amazingly, not the shape or type of kebabs that we were anticipating!! Who knew that these were really spiced chicken patties!! We enjoyed sampling them, served with naan breads. They were indeed delicious. Several members took the recipe home to try on their next BBQs!

For our May meeting we welcomed Rachel Drury, a local nurse, who gave us a very informative and hands on session, learning and practising CPR and understanding how to use a defibrillator with more confidence. This practical session really opened up questions about resuscitation and how 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' in different scenarios.

Our June meeting was a very creative and practical session under the expert guidance of Amanda Goddard from 'Glass Alchemy'. We had the opportunity to make a pendant or keyring with glass. She demonstrated a variety of different techniques in the craft of glass fusion, then she let us loose with a range of glass shards, tweezers and our own imagination! We will all be very excited to see our wonderful efforts after firing!! Members were thrilled to experience and enjoy a new craft.

We ended the month with a wonderful lunch at North Warwickshire College, being served by the future generation of the hospitality and beverage students who catered and looked after us so professionally. This is fast becoming a very popular outing!

### Stoke Golding (continued)

One of our long serving members has been awarded first place in a very special award from the Bead-Makers Guild.

Margaret Spence has been practising her bead-making skills for many years but it has only just come to light, recently, just how skillful she is!!



Together with a couple of friends, she entered The Beadworkers Guild Annual Group Challenge and won first prize!!!

This is their winning entry, celebrating Mardi Gras, all made out of beads!! The hours of work, their creativity and patience is amazing!

### Wigston Magna



At our June meeting we had a flower arranging demonstration by Kerry Evans. She made 3 arrangements and explained the "rules" of design and the technical elements regarding the oasis, wiring of the flowers and how to make them last longer etc.

The arrangements were beautiful and were raffled off at the end of the meeting. Members really enjoyed the demonstration and we've no excuses for not having a go at home now.

### Newbold Verdon

At our open meeting in June, Ruth Lowe came to talk about the fashion designer Mary Quant. Mary was born in 1930, although she changed her birth year to 1934 when courting her husband, because he was in fact a couple of years younger than her. Her parents were teachers, and she attended 11 different schools. She won a scholarship to Goldsmiths in London to study fashion from 1950 to 1953. She married Alexander Plunket Green in 1957 and this marriage lasted until her husband's death. Together with their friend Archie McNair, Plunket Greene and Quant opened Bazaar in 1955, a fashion boutique on King's Road, Chelsea. She initially bought in fashion for the shop, but later decided to create her own garments. These were finally manufactured under the Ginger brand. She had a Vidal Sassoon hairstyle cut in a bob. As well as her clothes, she created make up for Goya, made boots and macs from plastic, and created coloured and patterned stockings, tights, and underwear. She revolutionised fashion in the 1960s and is known for creating the Mini Skirt and Hot Pants. She died in 2023 at age 93 years. Ruth brought with her several items of original Mary Quant clothes, boots, makeup, books, stockings and underwear.

# Around the Counties

## Barrow Upon Soar

Our Birthday Party was 'Seventy 60's' as we are 76 years old. We decorated our Function Room accordingly, had a 60's playlist & Our lovely ladies all turned up in 60's themed outfits!



Our Monthly Competition was: 'Guess which member the Baby Photo was of' and we also played our WI's version of 'Desert Island Discs' where a Panel of eight ladies had been asked before hand to choose their favourite track/ piece of music which was played to the Audience along with their favourite book and a luxury item they would take if they were stranded on a desert island. The Audience had to decide which member had chosen which items.



Our delicious three tier Birthday Cake was made by our president Sue & vice president Clair. One of our Youngest members, Naomi Jones was asked to cut the cake this year so she could get some practice for her upcoming wedding in the Summer!

The following week two of our members, organised a very interesting walk around our village entitled 'Inns & Jitties of Barrow'. We wandered through the many Jitties of the village, some unknown to Barrow newcomers and we looked at sites where the pubs of Barrow used to be along with some additional interesting information provided by the WI ladies who have lived in our village for over 60 years!

## Coleorton

At our May meeting resolutions were voted on and one of the members gave the background to the resolution "bystanders can be lifesavers" with the aim that there is an increase in public confidence in CPR and there is more access to defibrillators nationally. This was voted on unanimously by the members.

Then followed a talk by Michelle Chambers from the House of Cocoa based in the new market in Coalville. Michelle is very passionate about chocolate and has fun with the flavours of chocolate and she showed creativity in all the combinations she has devised which were passed among the members to try. It was a delicious talk!

The competition for a heart shaped object was judged and the raffle drawn then refreshments provided by members and tea and coffee were enjoyed.



## Hinckley Hollycroft

As our meeting night was VE Day, after the Resolutions business, we celebrated by having fish 'n' chips at wartime prices!

Members dressed in war-time garb or red, white and blue and finished off with delicious cakes baked by Steph and Wendy N from the WI Life Victory cake recipe.



## Broughton Astley



Hollie (of "Dance with Hollie") popped in to our May meeting to tell us about the adult ballet, tap and seated dance classes she runs in our locality, emphasizing the physical and mental benefits gained from such exercises, which improve flexibility of movement, muscle strength and balance, so important as we all get a little older. And good for socialising too!

There were two very imaginative entries by Ruth (a baked garden) and Cheryl (a painted plate) to our competition of "A garden on a plate" and they were awarded Joint Firsts.



We had put a small display of red poppies around the board in our memorial garden and red, white and blue bunting along the railings by our stream to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day.

We are also putting on an **SOS Charity Fashion Show on Friday 27th June 7 pm at Broughton Astley Village Hall**. Doors will open at 6.30 pm. Tickets available in advance from Fran on 01455 282118 or Bev on 01455 282587.

Tickets cost **£6 per person** to include a glass of prosecco or orange juice. Raffle tickets £1 each: tea/coffee/cake available at a small additional charge. **Cash only please**. Clothes and accessories can be paid for by cash or bank/credit card.

News to **WI House** by email: [fedsec@lrfwi.org](mailto: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.

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