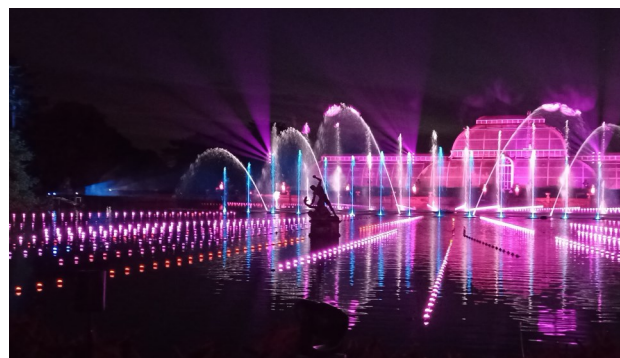


Kew Gardens

What an amazing display, the work that went in to that display must have taken months. Everyone on our coach (from WI house) had a fantastic day out. From the start of the journey our driver was helpful and explained everything in a very humorous way. We were dropped off outside the gate and had a short time to allow us to get a coffee before our entry into Kew. None of our party of 6 from Glenfield WI had been to Kew before and we were amazed at what we saw. Jaw dropping I would say to almost all of the musical animated displays and we all ended our day by saying that we would love to come again next year. All in all a very enjoyable trip was had by everyone. Thank you once again. Kind regards Diane Clarke, on behalf of Glenfield WI.



A massive thank you to those who organised the recent trip to Kew Gardens. Our coach driver, Elton, was excellent and we had a smooth journey both ways, arriving in time for a quick walk around Kew and to get a warming drink, while meeting and chatting to other WI members from Billesdon and Groby. The evening walk through Kew Gardens did not disappoint, what a fantastic setting for a beautiful, magical, colourful light show, set to music, highly recommended. This was the first WI trip for most of us, we will be definitely be looking for more but what a hard act to follow. Leicester Ladies



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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

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



Happy New Year! Hoping you all had a peaceful Christmas. 2024 brings another year of welcome growth and change for the Federation.

Lots of members have expressed how they have missed the Food and Flowers Committee. We would like to resurrect Food & Flowers events but we need interested members. We have a wonderful opportunity of hosting our first afternoon tea for a National Trust coach party on Tues 16th April so this is a chance to test how we can bring our best to give our guests a fabulous tea and recommend us for future events. We will be looking for members to make and supply cakes and sandwiches and serve afternoon tea to our guests on the day.

Food & Flowers were not only excellent fundraisers, they made the WI visible in communities and this then increases membership and fosters good relationships. If you would like to be part of the National Trust event please contact Sandra, Federation Secretary on 0116 2661342 option 2 or fedsec@lrfwi.org Mon-Thurs between 9-1 for more information.

By now you will have received the information about both our Annual Council Meeting on Sat 16th March and the National Annual Meeting at Royal Albert Hall London 5th June and your delegate. Both of these events really connect you to the network of WIs across Leicestershire & Rutland and across England and Wales which is so inspiring.

From the House

History of competitions—thought this would be interesting to know the people behind the competitions!

The José Smart Award

José Smart was a founder member of the old Wigston Afternoon WI. She was an outstanding craftswoman who could turn her hand to many different skills. José was well loved by her fellow members and friends and is still greatly missed by those who knew her. Before Wigston Afternoon WI closed, a craft competition was established in José's name open to those who were new to crafts. This then became known as "The José Smart Award" when it was adopted by the Federation and is now held annually as a simple flower arranging competition. The Award itself is a handsome, engraved cut glass flower vase which the winner holds for 12 months.

Edith Buckley Poetry Competition

Edith Buckley was a much loved Founder Member of Blackfordby WI. Edith was also the treasurer for the Ivanhoe Group of WIs during the 1990s. Edith's niece decided that a poetry competition would be a good way to honour Edith's life.

Membership Committee

Annual Meeting information is with your WI now and this can lead to confusion, if you are not sure what you should be doing please ask. This is the NFWI meeting held in London this year that WIs are grouped together for, if you are top of the list your WI can send a delegate to the meeting or they can attend online.

Delegates' expenses are covered by the pooling of fares each WI contribute to annually when your subs are paid to the Federation and NFWI. Your coach, overnight accommodation and a contribution towards your evening meal and packed lunch is included. Your responsibility is to contact your link WIs to find out how they voted on the resolution and to report back to them after the event. It is always a great day and an excellent opportunity to make new WI friends.

If your WI is unable to find anyone able to go or attend online it needs to be passed on to the next WI on the list. Please don't bury it under all your paperwork and forget as the Federation needs the information by the end of January. A Delegates' meeting is held before the event to give you more information, you can also attend as an observer if you want. Contact the office for more details.

Bursary Funding Event



Countesthorpe WI applied for bursary funding to invite residents. They held a craft day on 25th November in Countesthorpe Village hall everybody had a wonderful time. They made beautiful Christmas cards, tags, Christmas bags, decorated baubles and Christmas trees to hang in our Xmas trees. Plus we had a lady who showed us how to

make sugar crafting snowmen 🍷. Free coffee and mince pies were enjoyed.

Countesthorpe WI said 'Thank you to the Federation that allowed us to host this event, it was very successful and we definitely will be doing it again in 2024'.



Leisure Committee

On Wednesday it was cold and sunny for the Christmas crackers walk, unfortunately on Tuesday and Thursday the weather wasn't so kind and umbrella's were needed. Steve our guide did his best to keep us under cover as much as possible. Bishop Street Methodist Church coffee shop where we had coffee and mince pies was very welcoming. Steve told us lots of myths, facts and jokes making the walk interesting and hopefully enjoyable for everyone.



Leisure Committee

CHRISTMAS CRACKER WALK AROUND LEICESTER LED BY STEVE BLUE BADGE TOURIST GUIDE

There were approximately 100 of us from various WI's across Leicestershire that walked over the 3 days. We all met at Bishop Street Methodist Church for a coffee and mince pie before we started our walks. The weather varied lots over the the 3 days and unfortunately some people had to cancel. This is a short version of the walks for those people.

Points of interest were: TOWN HALL SQUARE – Nativity scene and Santas grotto

Short talk on the actual date of the birth of Jesus 25th December. There is some controversy about this date. It was a custom of the pagans to celebrate on the same 25th December the birthday of the Sun, at which they kindled lights in the token of festivity. In these solemnities and revelries, the Christians also took part. Accordingly when the doctors of the church perceived that the Christians had a leaning to this festival, they took counsel and resolved that the true nativity should be solemnised on that day.

The invention of Santa Clause: Dutch settlers in the USA took stories of St Nicholas, 'Sinterklass as he'd come to be known in parts of Northern Europe, with them and Kris Kringle and St Nicholas/Sinterklass became Santa Clause.

TURKEY CAFÉ

The history of the turkey bird originates in Mexico, exported to Europe via Spain and then introduced in Britain in 1541.

AREA OF THE NOW NATWEST BANK GALLOWTREE GATE

Explanation about the old postage system and how it arrived by stagecoach and the introduction of the penny post system which in that time enabled people to send Xmas cards very cheaply. Postmen used to wear red uniforms.

CLOCK TOWER

History of the Xmas Tree and how they were introduced. Talked about some of the old shops including Lewis's and how it was designed to represent a cruise ship. There were also two Woolworths, big and little.

HIGHCROSS SHOPPING CENTRE

History about the inventor of the Christmas card, Henry Cole and then on to see the biggest reindeer near John Lewis and brief talk on how Rudolph was invented by Robert Lacey in 1939. Walked up to the old grammar school building in the Highcross centre to learn about the inventor of the Christmas cracker, Tom Smith.

HIGH CROSS MONUMENT

On a plaque here there is the only picture of the Leicester Town Waites forerunners of the police force as we know it today. They were also musicians in their own right who patrolled and entertained in the streets of Leicester.

GUILDHALL

Brief history about the banning of Christmas in the 16th century. Nothing mentioned in the bible about Christmas.

SILVER STREET

To learn more about the famous Royal Opera House featuring many well known artists including Morecombe and Wise in their very early days.

PAWN BROKERS SHOP NEAR LEICESTER MARKET

Information about St Nicholas who was the patron saint of children, sailors, merchants, thieves and pawnbrokers . He was of Greek descent and was born during the third century in the village of Patara.

OLD FISHMARKET

Used to be a very busy place where people would come to buy their poultry and vegetables for Christmas

BACK TO TOWN HALL SQUARE

History of Christmas Carols

The walk and the history were portrayed exceptionally well by Steve who also sneaked in a few Xmas jokes on the way (we never did get to hear the rude one!)

'Why did Santa tell Mrs Clause to carry an umbrella? Looks like rain dear'

Why did Rudolph get a bad school report card? Because he went down in history'.

It's fair to say that everyone had a lovely time.

Leisure Committee



Arts and Crafts Committee

Christmas Dabble Day

30 ladies participated in the day at Park House, Glenfield. Crafts available were Zen doodling, sewing a Christmas pocket, bobbin tree ornaments, parchment boxes, origami boxes and a Christmas knitting table.

Also thanks to our fantastic tea ladies that kept us supplied with hot drinks and did the washing up!



Please pass on my thanks to the ladies who led the Christmas Dabble Day at Glenfield last Saturday - The best yet (my third) with some lovely ideas for Christmas I shall certainly be using, great tutors, very busy refreshment helpers and good company, as there always is at WI events and a very pleasant venue. I went home with a smile on my face having had a relaxing, busy, enjoyable day. Thank you to all concerned,
Kind regards,
Lynn Mellor. Markfield/ Groby joint member.



Public Affairs Committee

Belgrave Neighbourhood Cooperative Housing Association (BNCHA) is at the exciting embryonic stage of planning a community garden, very close to WI House on the Loughborough Road. The Wildlife Trust has been working alongside a small group of volunteers to enable this wonderful plan to take flight and to become a very special place for the community to enjoy. The group has inspiring ideas and would love to realise them in the coming months and new year.

If you would like to help in any way, volunteering or providing materials etc, please contact rupal@belgravecoop.org.uk
And if you would like help to plan a community garden in your area the Wildlife Trust can give advice.

Attention Rutland WIs!

Are you concerned about climate change and its impact on our planet?
Do you want to help reduce your carbon footprint?
Do you love nature and trees?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you might be interested in joining our new group - **Rutland Climate Change Network**.

Rutland Climate Change Network is a group of volunteers who work together to combat climate change and its effects in Rutland. We are part of the Woodland Trust's Big Climate Fightback campaign, which aims to plant 50 million trees across the UK by 2025.

We are always looking for new members who can help us with our projects, such as raising awareness, and fundraising. No experience or skills are required, just passion and commitment.

We provide all the tools and materials you need, as well as training and support from our knowledgeable and friendly team.

We also have social events throughout the year, such as walks, talks, presentations, and workshops.

Joining **Rutland Climate Change Network** is a great way to make a positive difference, learn new things, and meet like-minded people. If you are interested in joining us or want to find out more, please contact Bill Stillman.

bill@rutlandpr.co.uk

Tel: 07342 945690

Fundraising Committee



Seasonal Serendipity was a lovely event on 16th November, the festive season had come early to the Village Hall at Kirby Muxloe. First of all Gail Wooliscroft did a cookery demonstration of three Christmas dishes in 45 minutes, Turkey & Cranberry Ring (see page 12 for recipe), Mincemeat Strudel Tart and 'No Wait' Christmas pudding which she made look so easy. Then Sue Lobb gave an interesting talk on the three wines she had chosen and these were entered into the raffle.

Although Christmas was still over a month away, this event certainly helped to put us in good spirits.

The venue needed to be changed at the last minute so Kirby Muxloe Village Hall came to the rescue. Thank you to Kirby Muxloe WI who helped with refreshments.

What's On?

<u>3rd Thursday of the month</u>			
Thurs 18th Jan	Which Craft? at 10 –12	WI House	FREE
Sat 24th Feb	Which Craft? at 10 –12	WI House	FREE
Sat 16th March	Competitions Open day	WI House	FREE
Wed 27th March 7pm	ACM	Leic Grammar School	£15
Sat 13th April at 7.15pm	Science Question Time	WI House	£8
Thu 17th Apr 1pm and 7pm	Hathern Band	Birstall Methodist Church	£10
Tues 21st May 10am	Resolutions Meeting	WI House	£5
Wed 5th June	Temple Visit	Leicester	£8
Monday June 10 th at 7pm and	NFWI Annual Meeting	London	varies
Monday June 17 th at 2pm	Barracca Garden Visit	Earl Shilton	£10
	Barracca Garden Visit	Earl Shilton	£10

2024 ACM art competition 'Celebration'

“FLUTTERBIES & OTHER BUGS” Quiz

Another extremely popular quiz with 107 entries returned. Out of these, 42 were all correct and the first one of these drawn out at random came from Hilary of Kirby Muxloe WI who has received her £25 prize - well done Hilary!

If you sent an SAE or gave an email address with your entry, your paper or the answers have been returned to you. Do remember that even if you don't complete your quiz sheet, it's always worth sending it in to me with an email address or an SAE because that way I will always respond with the answers after the closing date. You should send it in anyway with a £1 coin attached if you are on my Subscribers' list of course.

Here are the answers:

1. GRASSHOPPER; 2. LOUSE; 3. HORNET; 4. LARGE SKIPPER; 5. CATERPILLAR; 6. TIGER MOTH; 7. DADDY LONG LEGS; 8. WASP; 9. CRICKET; 10. GRAYLING; 11. THORAX; 12. ANTENNAE; 13. COMMON BLUE; 14. PEACOCK; 15. WINGS; 16. SMALL COPPER; 17. COMMA; 18. MAYFLY; 19. COMMON BRIMSTONE; 20. SPIDER; 21. SWALLOWTAIL; 22. EARWIG; 23. RED ADMIRAL; 24. APHID; 25. GATEKEEPER; 26. LARVA; 27. CABBAGE WHITE; 28. DRAGONFLY; 29. PROBOSCIS; 30. ANT; 31. PAINTED LADY; 32. LADYBIRD; 33. LOCUST; 34. FLEA; 35. MASON BEE; 36. ADONIS BLUE; 37. MEADOW BROWN; 38. FRITILLARY; 39. DAMSELFLY; 40. MONARCH

Flutterbies quiz made a superb £227 for County Funds, so thank you loyal quizzers for your support. My latest quiz: "This Old House" is currently available with a closing date of 26th January 2024. If you'd like to go on to my Subscribers' list, just send me an email via WI House, headed up: "Quiz Subscribers", and I'll tell you how it works. Additionally, if you don't already have a copy then again, send me an email and I'll get one back to you by return or alternatively, if you are down at WI House, you can pick one up in Reception and put a £1 in the jar.

Best wishes for much health and happiness in 2024 to Happy Quizzers everywhere!

Monthly Draw

Congratulations to our Monthly Draw winners!

1st Prize £25— Evelyn Cantrill, Hinckley Hollycroft
2nd Prize £15— Betty Giddens, Burton Lazars
3rd Prize £10— Shirley Sanderson, Nailstone



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

Event Flyers

DARTS Competition

Entry fee is £7.00 per team. Team of four *Maximum 1 team per WI
Please return to WI House by 5th February 2024.

Please make cheques payable to Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of WIs or 'L&R FWI'. BACs payments are also accepted with reference 'DartsComp'.

Matches to be played March-August. All information is emailed to the Team Contact.

*Can be selected from a pool of players. No need for same team members for every match.

Annual Council Meeting

Saturday 16th March
10.30 am – 3.30pm



Leicester Grammar School,
Great Glen
£15 each (£7.50 for stewards)

Hathern Band

Saturday 13th April
7.15pm-9.30pm



Birstall Methodist Church, LE4 4JS
£10 per person—friends
and family welcome

Around the Counties

Blackfordby

Blackfordby and our local Village have got together to create our Christmas Bobble Hat Tree. Our members and local community have been making the hats since March, when we decided to create the tree. Our local Village Hall has kindly allowed us to put up the tree for our community to see it. The hats will be donated to P3 which is a local homeless charity with many different services across the UK.



Hinckley Canalside

At this month's meeting we had our Annual Meeting and Becky from Step into Fitness gave a demonstration of her different dance routines in her classes. Many of our members enthusiastically joined in. They were all keen to learn some new dance steps and routines and said how much they enjoyed this.

At the meeting our new president, Ann Bowles, was elected and Mandy Cutler, our former president of eight years, was presented with flowers and garden vouchers showing our appreciation for all her hard work and dedication.



Loughborough Ladies

We used our November meeting to create beautiful pots of foliage and knitted poppies mounted on stakes which will form part of a display around the Carillon Tower in Loughborough for Remembrance Sunday. The poppies had been mainly knitted by one of our ladies, Margaret Beresford (aka the Knitting Ninja) and her daughter. Pat and Nicola, the organisers of the display showed us what was required and brought the pots and foliage. They were delighted with the finished pots which were to be sold after the Remembrance day service to raise monies for the poppy appeal.



Sheepy

Our November meeting found us all being a bit crafty! Janet asked for ideas for outings, and also for volunteers to organise an outing or two!

Carolyn Boulter talked us through making a Christmas tree decoration. It was surprisingly tricky for some, with threads getting tangled and needing reassurance that we were doing it right. At the end of the evening we each had a new trinket for our trees this year!

The raffle had a Christmas theme with the table being decorated accordingly. The winner of the shiny bottle of prosecco got very excited!



Around the Counties

Anstey

We held our Annual general meeting in November. There have been several changes to the officers. Sylvia Cole thanked the committee for their work over the past year. The cup for the monthly competitions was won by Sheryl Bramley, who was unable to attend, so she will receive the trophy in December. Second was Jan Darby and third Sylvia Cole.

We have an interesting programme lined up for next year, when meetings move to the church rooms. For the first four months they will take place on the second Tuesday of the month, reverting in May to our usual 2nd Wednesday. After the formal meeting, teams competed in a picture quiz, to identify film stars and politicians from photographs taken when they were young or much older. This was quite a brainteaser and was much fun.

Afterwards, Elizabeth Robinson was presented with flowers for her recent Diamond Wedding, with flowers and a certificate also going to Annie Spanswick. Some were also taken to Carole Lord.



Glenfield Park

Healthy Feet was the subject of our latest talk. Now this might not sound the most exciting subject for a talk but Jane Harwood Scott gave us a most interesting, informative and amusing talk with lots of opportunity to ask questions and generally take an active part. She began with the most common complaints, corns and calluses. Did you know that a corn is like an ice-cream. A layer on top tapering downwards. So next time your corn is hurting, think of the ice-cream and perhaps it might stop hurting or then again it might not!! Jane was originally a beautician, doing manicures and pedicures but felt she wanted something more challenging and trained as a foot technician and now thoroughly enjoys her new profession. She explained about athlete's foot, ingrowing toenails and cracked heels which can lead to infections. She often treats people with diabetes and has at times been able to suggest that they see the doctor to discover whether they are diabetic. Unsurprisingly she agreed that leather shoes are the best for feet. Apparently you do not need to be referred to a foot clinic. Just make an appointment. Her final words of advice were, moisturise your feet and change your socks or tights every day. An illuminating talk which we all enjoyed.

Our first attempt for an outing to the National Memorial Arboretum fell victim to a storm but at the second attempt we were successful and are so pleased that we went. It's an extremely moving experience and was made even more poignant to see the names of people you knew. The centrepiece is very, very impressive with the 2 full size statues depicting the effects of war and the list of service personnel who have died since the end of the second world war. The whole arboretum has been extremely well thought out and is definitely worth a visit but be prepared to be moved by the scale of the place. We managed to find the WI memorial built to remember the fallen. As it was near Armistice Day there were thousands of poppies which made the visit even more memorable.



Groby

Our November meeting started with a craft session making sheep keyrings, led by Carolyn Boulter. Carolyn has visited Groby WI previously when we have made fabric Christmas trees, brooches and owls. I even wore the brooch I made last year to this meeting!



Carolyn came prepared with 'sheep kits' which even included a threaded needle! Unfortunately, most of us needed more thread and had difficulty threading the needle. Why do the eyes of needles seem to get smaller, or is it our varifocals that make it more difficult!

We did have a lot of fun and worked diligently to produce our sheep (as pictured above), some of which will be part of our entry to the Christmas Tree Festival in December at St Philip and St James Church.



Glenfield

What better way to spend a dreary afternoon than to listen to someone who really knows about chocolate. Jan gave us a very interesting albeit brief history of the cocoa plant and the processes involved in chocolate making. She said that the main consumers of chocolate are the Swiss and French, so we English need to eat more to catch up.

In 1870 Mr Nestle was experimenting with chocolate and invented milk chocolate by adding dried milk, there had only been dark chocolate before. 30 years later he developed white chocolate which was much sweeter and had much more sugar than other varieties. Different chocolates temper at different temperatures and there must be a minimum of 22% cocoa solids by law for the product to be called chocolate.



Members enjoyed tasting the delicious samples of chocolate passed around and Jan made a snowman display to use as a raffle prize at our December meeting.

Around the Counties

Kirby Muxloe

Tuesday was not only our AGM but also our 96th Birthday. We said a thank you to Louise our outgoing President who has done an excellent job for the past five years and then we welcomed our new President Sue Black.

We also said a very big thank you to Mary Oughton who has served the KMWI for the past 45years+ in many guises, from President, Secretary and committee member. She has been a much valued member and a great inspiration to us all.

Thanks also to Joy Hoult (WI Adviser) who attended our meeting to guide us through the election process, but apparently we were fine and Joy was very impressed with how organized we were.



After the official business was done members enjoyed social time catching up with friends. We celebrated with a glass of wine and a slice of delicious cake made by Helen .



On Thursday 4 members of our WI attended the Serendipity Afternoon Tea Event put on by the Fundraising Committee of Leicestershire and Rutland Federation. It which included a Cookery Demonstration by Gail Wooliscroft who showed 3 recipes in 45mins an absolute whizz in the kitchen.

There was Turkey and Cranberry Ring , excellent for using up left over turkey, Microwaved Christmas Pudding great if you are short on time and finally Mincemeat Strudel Tart. All were delicious and easy to prepare. Gail gave easy to follow methods and a few tips along the way.

This was followed by Sue Lobb who talked us through 3 wines which would go nicely with these dishes, again an excellent speaker with a wide breadth of knowledge. Then it was time for tea and cakes and a lovely cup of tea interspersed with the exchange of ideas from other WIs. It was a lovely relaxing afternoon.

Hinckley Hollycroft

We were pleased to welcome John back for another fun packed evening. He kept us entertained with his amusing patter and expertise in making wonderful varied shapes with balloons. He assured us that we would all be able to make a dog and the picture proves it! He's at the back with his reindeer. He even made a flying mouse which caused great amusement. We thoroughly recommend him as a speaker and look forward to a fourth visit from him with his table top magic.

Ilston on the Hill

We held our AGM in November. This proved to be a very lively meeting. All the various statements were read, digested and approved. The current officers and committee were re-elected. In order to try and encourage some new blood on to the committee we are introducing "friends in the WI". One or two members will be invited to attend a couple of committee meetings during the year to familiarise themselves with the procedures of the WI and give them an insight into what the various tasks entail. We are hoping this will whet appetites and lead to some new and inspirational ideas.

The AGM was followed by our annual supper which was lovely; members provided main course and lot of yummy puddings – all very healthy I am sure!! The table was decorated with greenery, lights and candles and each place was adorned by a beautiful silver star tag made by Hazel. We spent the remainder of the evening chatting and catching up with one another over a glass or two of wine - a really lovely social event.

Our December meeting is a Christmas workshop with Holly. (What an appropriate name).



Huncote

We have enjoyed a busy year with many excellent speakers arranged by our programme planners.

We particularly enjoyed: Royal Yacht Britannia by Bill Haley; Women's Olympic Story by Ken Kelly and Quiz Show Junkies by Stephanie and Trevor Mee. Recently, Ian Rogerson educated us about delicious cheeses, bringing along samples for us to taste and purchase. Who knew that charcoal cheese tasted so good? He interspersed his talk with amusing anecdotes and jokes.

On the flip side of all the fun we have had in 2023, we must admit that the future of our WI has been in serious jeopardy. Although we have maintained a healthy membership, we came very close to being suspended in November. It was the usual dilemma of being unable to replace retiring officers. Fortunately, two members have now stepped forward to share the role of secretary. We wish them well and trust that members will give ongoing support where needed.

Our meetings' experience was enhanced a year ago by the purchase of a sound system, funded partly by a generous bursary from the Federation.

We look forward to a successful year ahead and send our greetings to one and all.



Broughton Astley



Our November speakers were Nikki Coles-Cross and her colleague Lindsey, lottery fundraising manager, who gave an inspirational presentation on the work of LOROS. Leicestershire and Rutland Organisation for the Relief Of Suffering provides care and services for adult patients with life limiting conditions, as well as caring for and supporting their families and carers.

They care for over 3,000 patients every year in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland in Outpatients and Inpatients with clinical nurse specialists, palliative care in the home and night service, Day Therapy for patients and their families and carers, Social and Spiritual support, complementary therapies and counselling. LOROS needs over £8 million a year to function and two thirds of this is earned by fundraising events, their lottery, shops and two cafes, as well as legacies. They could not carry on without the dedication of over 1,300 wonderful volunteers.



Groups of members helped to plant our Remembrance poppies around our village and received many messages of appreciation. They make a big impact at

the time of year when we wish to remember all those who were lost during times of conflict.

Members saved their Christmas cards and again upcycled them into gift tags, which we place in various locations around our village for residents to help themselves and these always seem to be well received.



Thurnby and Bushby

At our October meeting we welcomed Alex the Marketing and Fundraising Assistant from Charity Link.

Charity Link provides support for individuals and families in financial hardship or crisis in Leicester, Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire.

We presented her with a cheque for £358.40 raised from our Strawberry Tea held in July. For every £10 donated the charity can raise £50 from charitable trusts so this means that our donation will provide over £1,700 of essential items for people in need.



Burbage

This year we have had a full diary; in January 2023 we held a Desert Island Discs meeting with members choosing their special piece of music and mocktails were served by the committee. Over the last twelve months we have had a variety of speakers ranging from Hula Hooping, where members were invited to 'have a go', a talk about the National Trust property Stoneywell, The Cutting Garden, which is situated in Burbage and in October we all made Owl paper weights. We have an established Coffee Group who meet on a monthly basis at one of the cafes in Hinckley, and a Lunch Group who meet every three months to sample the fare of local pubs and restaurants. We had three outings first visiting Donington le Heath, it was a lovely warm sunny day, we had a tour of the house and gardens led by enthusiastic volunteers, followed by an enjoyable lunch. In September a group of us visited the National Trust property Charlecote Manor and at the end of October members visited Canine Partners to see the work that is involved in training assistance dogs. In April the annual Cancer Research Coffee Morning was held which raised a brilliant £690.



Harby

Our November AGM is always well attended because our predecessors had the foresight to include sustenance in the form of jelly and pork pie, (well, we are near to Melton Mowbray). After the business of the evening, we sat at tables adorned with flowers whilst the committee provided table service. The icing on the cake was that they also did the washing up. The proceedings bestowed a festive touch to what was our last meeting of the year as we have December off for good behaviour.

From our archives a poem for AGM night:-

The new committee is now read,

We hope no tears will be shed.

We wish them all the best of luck,

And hope they enjoy the washing up.

By M. Whittaker



Around the Counties

Great Bowden

In November it was our AGM. After the yearly reports were duly proposed and seconded our President of the last four years, Susan Woollard, stepped down in favour of the Vice President, Anne Wilson. There was no opposition and Anne took office after a show of hands. A gift was given to Susan and many thanks for all her hard work as President.



This was followed by member, Sharon Webb with a demonstration on how to make a silk painted birthday card.

Members were given a kit which consisted of the silk picture, the backing and envelope together with suitable paints in the primary colours which could be mixed on a palette.

The finished cards were colourful and looked very professional. The general consensus was that Great Bowden WI members were very skilful when it comes to silk painting.



Charnwood Wigs

We celebrated festivities and the end of the calendar year with our members gathering socially in the function room of The Pharmacie Arms in Syston. An incredible buffet went down very well, with a few drinks aiding teams to concentrate upon the traditional festive quiz – this was alongside a “guess the Christmas song/carol” from the Christmas card illustration element. An amazing raffle was drawn with an array of fabulous festive hampers and yuletide items. All agreed it was an excellent afternoon – with festive jumpers & crackers galore!



Ashby Castle

At our November meeting, we had inhouse crafts. Rosemary showed us how to create some delightful little Christmas Tree decorations. Gill gave us all the paper and pens we needed and instructions on how to do Calligraphy!

All the members had a very convivial afternoon.



Birstall and Wanlip

It was our AGM in November and we had to vote in a new President and Committee. Afterwards ladies spent time chatting while turning their hands to make some lovely Christmas cards.



Armistice Day

Several members of Ashby Castle WI paid tribute at The Memorial Service at the War Memorial in Ashby de la Zouch.

Cynthia laid the Wreath on behalf of Ashby Castle WI and also read out a very moving poem which had been written by a pupil from Ashby School.



News to **WI House** by email: fedsec@lrfwi.org or post to arrive by the **FIRST** of the 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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turkey & cranberry ring

6 tablespoons mayonnaise
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
225 g skinless, boneless cooked turkey
1 stick celery
3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh parsley
85 g sweetened dried cranberries
85 g Gruyère cheese
2 packets (240 g each) chilled fresh ready-to-bake dough for six croissants
1 egg white
20 g walnuts, chopped

Unroll croissant dough; separate into 12 triangles. Arrange dough triangles in a circle on Medium Round Stone with Handles with wide ends of triangles overlapping in centre and pointed ends towards the outside (there should be about 1.3-cm diameter opening in centre of baking stone). Using Baker's Roller®, gently press edges of triangles where they meet together to seal.

Spoon turkey mixture evenly onto widest end of dough triangles. Bring points of triangles up over filling and tuck under wide ends of dough at centre of ring (filling should not be completely covered).

Lightly beat egg white in 250-ml Prep Bowl using Stainless Whisk. Brush egg white over dough; sprinkle chopped walnuts over top. Bake 25–30 minutes or until cooked and deep golden brown. Slice with Pizza Cutter; serve using Mini-Serving Spatula.

Preheat oven to 190°C/fan 170°C/Gas 5. Using Adjustable Measuring Spoons, measure mayonnaise, mustard and black pepper into Classic Batter Bowl. Chop turkey on Cutting Board using Food Chopper. Thinly slice celery using Utility Knife and finely chop parsley. Add turkey, celery, parsley and cranberries to batter bowl. Grate cheese into bowl using Rotary Grater; mix well using Small Mix 'N Scaper®.

Serves 16 as an appetizer

chef's corner

This recipe serves 8 as a main course. If desired, cooked chicken can be substituted for the turkey. Chopped, ready-to-eat dried apricots or pears can be substituted for the cranberries, if desired.

The above recipe has been reproduced with permission

Accounts and Financial Statement

Please note there is an updated accounts and financial statement available.

Please see MyWI online or look at the Federation Website
<https://leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk/federation-downloads>

Advertising Rates

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Minimum charge £3.00
Charity rate £5.00 per column inch
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