

Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting

Saturday, 28 March 2026

Leicester Grammar School, Great Glen, Leicester, LE8 9FL

1	GW welcomed members to the meeting. The meeting opened with Jerusalem. Present: Members and guests of the Federation.
2	The Chairman, Glenice Wignall (GW) welcomed members and introduced herself, Mary Hobbs (MH) Federation Treasurer and Lois Mckinder, Acting Federation Secretary.
3	GW introduced the Board of Trustees and committee Chairmen and welcomed our speakers, guests from neighbouring federations and former Chairmen. Apologies were received. GW thanked Kirby Muxloe WI for the floral arrangements and Wigston Magna WI for arranging the raffle. GW asked for volunteers for the flowers and raffle next year to contact WI House.
4	GW asked the delegates to vote using their pink forms for the Standing Orders of the Federation, proposed by Botcheston WI, seconded by Ravenstone and Snibston WI; agreed and signed by GW.
5	The minutes of the ACM 2025 were agreed with no amendments, proposed by Markfield WI, seconded by Countesthorpe WI; signed by GW as a true record.
6	No matters arising from the minutes and requested and matters to be sent to the house.
7	GW gave her Chairman's address. GW welcomed everyone and noted the exciting day planned with stalls, Committee boards, competitions and more. GW noted she has been in the role of Chairman for 5 years and thanked the trustees and committees for their support. GW noted relevant events through the year.
8	GW proposed the adoption of the Annual Report for 2024-25 with no amendments, seconded by Houghton on the Hill WI. Agreed and carried.
9	MH gave the Treasurer's Report referring to the Federation Accounts to 31 August 2025 copies of which are available from WI House and to download from our website. Members were advised if they have any queries to contact WI House MH proposed the adoption of the balanced sheet to 31 August 2025 seconded by Scalford WI, agreed and carried. MH requested that members support our fundraising efforts by taking part in the monthly draw, NFWI raffle and buying bulbs from the recently distributed bulb catalogue. MH also urged members to complete a gift aid form today because even if your WI doesn't claim gift aid the Federation are able to claim for the proportion paid to them. MH also updated that there are now only 2 WI staff members at WI House.
10	MH asked the delegates to vote for the appointment of Johnson, Murkett & Hurst as independent examiners for the year 2025-2026, proposed by MH, seconded by Wing WI, agreed and carried.
11	GW thanked MH for all the work she has put in. GW introduced our charity speaker, Dr Doug Skehan, Heartwize Doug spoke about the importance of knowing CPR and educating others on the matter. He had a special guest tell us his personal story who Doug had medically worked on to save his life. Judith Follows thanked Dr Doug Skehan and encouraged WIs to book Heartwize for their local WI
12	GW introduced the morning speaker, Lord Left Lieutenant – Mike Kapur Lord Left Lieutenant spoke about his life and journey to being appointed.

	Sue Lobb gave Mike thanks for being inspirational GW announced a break for lunch encouraging members to browse the stalls.
	LUNCH
	GW welcomed members back to the afternoon meeting.
13	GW presented the Baldwin Trust collection of £370.80 so far with further updates to be provided through County News.
14	The following trophies and certificates were awarded by GW and Sarah Freeman, presented by Adam Henson Membership Bell – Wakerley and Barrowden WI Edith Buckley Poetry Cup 2026 Winner Sue Wainwright WI, 2nd Rhena Sturgess Illston on the Hill WI WI 3rd Beverly Ashby, Loughborough Ladies WI Long Alley Skittles Trophy 2026 - Still playing Darts Trophy 2026 Winner trophy was awarded to Winners Ashby Spa WI WI, Runners Up, Mountsorrel WI Jose Smart Award 2026 – 1st Val Mooreland Ashby Spa WI, 2nd Julia Godfrey, 3rd Ann Duffin Margaret Johnston Trophy 2026 was awarded to Joana Dandolo Great Glen WI Individual Craft Competition – 1st place Val Mooreland, Ashby Spa WI 2nd place, Sheila Jones, Ullesthorpe WI 3rd place, Ruth Bass, Hathern WI Adult Cookery Competition – Honey Cake 1st Lyn Hastings, Seagrave WI 2nd Theresa Cusak 3rd Sue Rayner Adult Cookery Competition – Perserve 1st Hilary Jackson 2nd Julia Godfrey 3rd Jane Faulks, Waltham on the Wolds WI Child Cookery Competition – 7 years and under 1st Elsa Horoe Highly commended Amelia Horoe 8-15 years 1st Lydia Reese Birthdays noted but not presented: 25 – Melton Afternoon WI 30 Earl Shilton Evening WI 30 – Thringstone WI

	60 – Humberstone Heights and Belgrave WI 60- Huncote WI 60 – Springbrook and Scraptoft WI 60 - Witherley WI 75 - Countesthorpe WI 80 – Gilmorton WI 80 – Medbourne Cum Holt 80 – Sapcote WI 80 - Hathern WI 80 – Stoney Stanton WI 100th Anniversary certificates presented to Ullesthorpe WI, Whissendine WI and Wing WI 105 - Cossington WI 105 - Illston on the Hill WI
15	The draw for the County Bursary took place. The Bursary was awarded to Kirby Muxloe WI. Raffle prizes to be collected from raffle table.
16	GW introduced our afternoon speaker, Adam Henson Adam gave a very informative and humorous talk on his and his family's life. Adam answered QA from members in audience
	Gail Wooliscroft thanked GW for chairing the meeting and for all her work as Chairman. GW thanked all the Federation Committees, venue, photographer, WI House staff, stall holders, judges and to volunteers for providing the guest refreshments. GW thanked the members GW gave sum up of the day and thanks again.
17	Meeting closed with the National Anthem.