

Chairman's Column



Happy New Year to you all, as we look forward to what we face this year. As WI Members and women we can be adaptable, multi task, supportive, creative and lots of other things too. We need all of these skills within our lives and our WI lives to have fun and successful groups. It can still be difficult to plan your programme too far ahead when we don't know what is happening but many speakers can attend at short notice or online if your Members are able to access that. You can also make use of your Members talents and interests to do inhouse meetings if you have to. We have got to find ways of keeping going if at all possible, and of course the WI Advisers are also there to help you with ideas.

This year is a very special one for our Queen and I am sure there will be lots of WIs busy with all sorts of events and cake making to help with local celebrations, what's a party without a lovely WI cake? Take some time to plan some celebrations with your family and friends as we could all do with an amazing party to help forget about everything that has gone on, even if only for a short while.

The County Committees are looking at what can safely be arranged, and we will do what we can, if there is something you want to have a go at or learn more about please send any ideas in to the office and we will try our best to arrange it. There are so many ideas online or you can "borrow" from other Federations or organisations so share them with us all.

We have the Annual Meeting in person (fingers crossed) to look forward to so don't forget to get your ticket orders in and we can all meet up again. Best wishes Janet

Annual Council Meeting

**Leicester Grammar School,
Great Glen, Leicester LE8 9FL
Saturday, 19 March 2022**

10.30 am – 3.30pm Tickets: £14 each

We still have tickets available following WI allocations. If you wish to order a ticket, please contact your WI Secretary who can make a booking or add to any existing booking until Thurs 17 February 2022. We are also looking for stewards to help on the day—you will get to see the speakers and can claim a half price ticket! Contact fedsec@lrfwi.org if you are interested. Please see flyer for further details.

Our speakers will be:



Susan McEniff

Director of Marketing & Fundraising,
Leicester Charity Link



Dickie Arbiter

HM The Queen's former press secretary.



Dr Annie Gray

Food historian, author and broadcaster.

Speakers subject to change at short notice. This event may be photographed, we will presume permission unless we are otherwise informed.

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janetkirk@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

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Opening hours: Mon-Thurs 9.30am—1.30pm

www.leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk or scan QR code

Find us on Facebook: Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of WIs



Membership

The LRFWI Membership Committee is responsible for assisting WIs with any help they require. I hope you find the following items useful. Mandy Cutler, Membership Committee Chair.

Denman Update



There has been much interest amongst LRFWI members about the proceeds of any sale of the Denman Estate – these will be restricted for the use of the Denman Trust for educational activities for WI members.

A consultation of members is now underway by a survey. This survey will collect information about members' learning preferences to enable the Denman Trust to create an inclusive and accessible educational model that fits with the needs of all WI members and continues to evolve in the future.

So, please join in the survey – it's optional of course, but takes under 10 minutes to complete.

All you need to do is click on the following link:

<http://denman.org.uk/survey>

The closing date is Sunday 12th December 2021 at midnight.

Sue Lobb's Quiz

ANIMALS GALORE QUIZ

This proved to be a very popular quiz and yet again my thanks go to all of you who bought a copy and entered. Animals Galore Quiz 2021 raised an excellent £189 for Federation Funds, so well done everyone who took part. Altogether, 89 entries were received out of which 26 were all correct. The lucky winner drawn at random from these was Linda Martin of Thurnby and Bushby WI, who received her £25 prize in good time for Christmas. Well done, Linda - hope you treated yourself to something nice, in addition to a well-earned coffee for your hubby who, I understand, contributed the odd answer!

Commiserations to those of you who also got all 45 answers correct but weren't lucky in the draw - better luck next time. To the remaining 64 who didn't manage to work out all clues correctly, take comfort from the fact that most of you achieved something between 42 and 44 correct. Common mistakes were:

Clue 12 - lots of MEERKATS spelt with a 'C' rather than a 'K'

Clue 21 - quite a few PRAWNS rather than SHARK; I hadn't capitalised the 'r' on 'right' so wasn't indicating you should use it, and in any case a prawn is a crustacean not a fish!

Clue 27 - too many misspelt 'WILDEBEEST' - my clue was pushing you to an anagram of 'edible stew' which doesn't contain the letter 'A', thus 'wildebeAst' answers were wrong.

Do remember if you are on my Quiz Subscribers' List, then you accepted a commitment to always send me a £1 coin for your copy, irrespective of whether or not you complete the quiz or send it in. Also, please avoid using padded or bubble wrap envelopes when sending in your entries and £1 coins. It is commendable to recycle envelopes of course, but if you must use thicker ones, please don't just assume through size alone that it's ok to stick just a 2nd class stamp on it. I've had a few over the past couple of quizzes where I've had to pay excess postage to the Post Office simply because the senders haven't checked the postage rate prior to posting.

By the way, if you are not on the Quiz Subscribers' List but would like to be, just email WI House and ask them to pass your request on to me.

Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy and above all Safe 2022

Sue Lobb

Pause for Thought

It is easy to blame politicians, big business and billionaire space tourists for not taking climate change seriously. We have all been made aware of the fact that our ancestors started the industrial revolution here in the eighteenth century which began the build up of harmful greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. It is not surprising therefore that countries which have only recently started emitting more CO2 as they develop their economies should look to us for leadership in the battle to save the planet.

However, none of us are blameless. As citizens we take for granted the benefits and opportunities open to us in a developed industrialised country, often without thinking about their impacts on the planet. And saving the planet is at stake. As individuals in a densely populated country we can't go back to being hunter gatherers, but we can cut back our consumption. There is a lot to think about:

Food

what we eat, how much we waste, how far it has come

Travel

could we use public transport more, not fly or travel on cruise ships

Energy

Consume less, don't use outdoor heaters, wear warm clothes in doors in the winter, insulate the home, avoid using air conditioners by judicious use of shading

Clothes

Buy fewer new clothes, wash them less often

Consumer durables

Change things when they stop working not because they don't fit a new colour scheme for instance.

Repair, Reuse, Recycle

There's lots to think about. We mustn't leave it all to politicians, big business and billionaires.

Jane Harris



Easy Fundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online you could be raising free donations for the Federation with easyfundraising?



All you need to do is:
go to [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
Search for our cause

'Leicestershire and Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes'

Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.

After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to us at no extra cost to you!

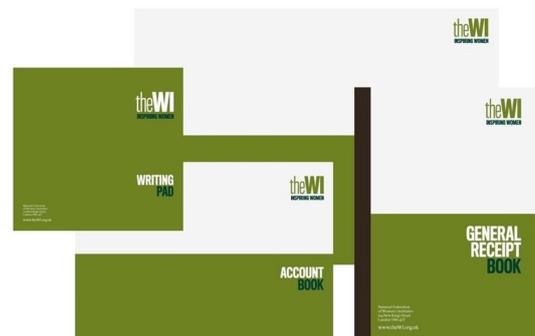
Thank you for your support.

WI Stationery

The WI stationery is now available for WIs to buy on the WI online shop. Prices include postage and packaging. This will be the most cost effective way of ordering stationery in future but card payment is required.

Visit the online shop at <https://shop.thewi.org.uk/>

We will continue to stock a very limited supply of stationery at WI House but please bear in mind that we purchase at the same rates so if you require items posting additional postage and packaging charges will apply. Items can still be collected but please call ahead to be sure we have the item you require in stock.



Leisure Activities Committee

Margaret Johnston Trophy Competition 2022 Memorable Day Out



In no more than 500 words. Your entry should be typed, if possible, on A4 paper.

Entry fee: £4

Closing date: 10 January 2022

The winning entry will be published in County News & displayed at the Annual Council Meeting in March 2022.

Please see the flyer for the application form.

Art & Crafts Committee



Federation Art Trophy 2022 'Fairground'

Entrants should submit a painting in any two dimensional drawing or painting medium. The actual artwork shall not exceed A3 (42.0 x 29.7 cm) in size – the mount and/or frame is not included in these measurements. The picture MUST have fittings suitable for hanging.

Entry fee: £4

Closing date: Thursday 27 January 2022

Your painting should be at WI House no later than Thursday 10 February 2022 for judging. The paintings will be displayed at the ACM on Saturday, 19 March 2022.



The Edith Buckley Poetry Competition 2022

“Celebrating Queen Elizabeth’s
Platinum Jubilee in 2022”

Our competition this year is to use any poetic form to celebrate aspects of Queen Elizabeth’s life and work over the last 70 years. Entries must be typed on A4 paper, no more than 250 words.

Entry fee: £4

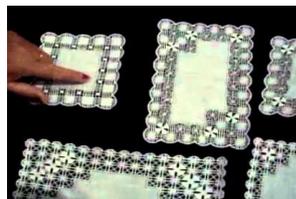
Closing date: Thursday 10 February 2022.

The winner will be presented with the Edith Buckley Trophy Cup at the Annual Council Meeting on Saturday, 19 March 2022. The winning entry will be displayed at the ACM.

Please see the flyer for the application form.

Art & Crafts Committee

Hardanger Embroidery Workshop



Saturday 29 January
10am-3pm, WI House
£20

Norwegian white on white embroidery workshop suitable for beginners and those with some knowledge.

Kits provided at a small extra cost but please bring a small pair of very sharp scissors & a magnifying glass if you usually need one.

A packed lunch is required. Tea and coffee will be provided. Please contact your WI secretary to book tickets.

Leisure Activities Committee

Petanque Evening



Friday 25 February 2022

St Margarets Bowls Club,
Birstall, LE4 4DE

Arrive after 6.30pm for 7pm start

Tickets £5 to include ham or cheese cob

We will have a fun taster session with tuition on hand.

Beginners welcome!

Bar open for alcoholic drinks, tea, coffee and crisps.

Please contact your WI secretary to book tickets and specify which cob you would prefer.

Leisure Activities Committee

Treasure Hunt Around Oakham



Wednesday 30 March 2022

Starting at 1.30pm

Oakham Town Centre Car Park (Burley Road)

Tickets £6.50 to include refreshments.

Follow the clues to the end of the trail where you will definitely find tea and cake!

Closing date: 28th February 2022

If you would like tickets for this event, please contact your WI Secretary and also provide a mobile telephone number for at least one of your team members.

Platinum Jubilee Garden Party



We would love all of our WIs to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by holding a garden party during June 2022. It would be great if you could let us know your plans and share photos with us for a special feature in County News. We look forward to hearing what you have planned!

NFWI Annual Meeting, Liverpool 11 June 2022



We are planning for the NFWI Annual Meeting 2022 in Liverpool. As in previous years, WIs will be linked together and delegate information has been sent to WI Secretaries.

Delegates are able to attend either in person or virtually. If attending in person, this event is an overnight trip. A coach will depart WI House on Friday, 10 June 2020 at approx. 10.00am taking delegates to the Hampton by Hilton Hotel. After breakfast on Saturday, 11 June, delegates will be taken by coach to the M&S Bank Arena for the meeting. The coach will leave Liverpool for WI House directly after the meeting at approx. 5.00pm.

Coach travel, bed and breakfast and expenses towards meals for the delegate is provided.

If attending virtually, delegates are expected to attend the full meeting and will be provided with voting links for resolution voting during the meeting so must be digitally active and have access to the internet on the day of the meeting. There will no option to vote on agenda items after the meeting.

Delegates must complete and return their booking form by **Monday 14 February 2022**.

Observers. We have been allocated a number of 'in person' observer tickets. The cost of 'in person' observer tickets is £22 each.

If accommodation is required, we have reserved additional rooms at the Hampton by Hilton Hotel.

Shared rooms are £40 per person, doubles for single use are £80 per person (limited availability), including breakfast. A seat on the Federation coach is £20.

If you would like an 'in person' observer ticket, please email fedsec@lrfwi.org with your contact details. Please also advise if you wish to travel by Federation coach and require overnight accommodation or if you are making your own arrangements. The closing date for applications is **Monday 14 February 2022**.

If you would like to attend virtually (£5 for virtual attendance) tickets are available via My WI.



Walking Netball

Cossington WI, with the help of England Netball, were running Walking Netball prior to lockdown and we would like to let members know we are up and running with Walking Netball Sessions again. These sessions are open to all WI members and we are actively trying to get more WI members to join us.

The sessions are held every Monday evening in the Sports Hall at Wreake Valley Academy.

Time: 6pm -7pm.

Cost: £4 per session.

The evening is for all abilities and ages and the emphasis is on FUN. We are a friendly bunch and we would like to actively encourage you to join us!

If any member would like to join us please feel free to just turn up or if not sure and have a question just drop us an email.

Penny Weston Webb Cossington WI Secretary

pennyweston-webb@talktalk.net

Marilyn Caygill - Cossington WI

marilyncaygill@aol.com



Federation Facebook

Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of WIs has a Facebook page. You can find us by searching for Leicestershire and Rutland Federation of WIs.



Search Facebook

Alternatively, follow the link on our website homepage.

<https://leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk/>

You will find the latest event information and can keep up to date with WI activities across the counties. Like our page to see daily updates on your newsfeed and recommend our page to friends and family!

If you would like to put something on our page send us a facebook message or email wihouse@lrfwi.org

Federation Web Editor

We are looking for a volunteer to support our Federation Secretary to maintain and develop our website.

The role should take an average of around an hour per week but is flexible depending on how involved you would like to get!

The work can all be done from home on a PC or laptop, which can be provided if necessary.

Training & regular support will be provided.

You will need to have good IT skills, attention to detail and be happy working individually and as part the Federation office team.

Contact Sarah Freeman, Federation Secretary, if you are interested or would like to know more.

Around the Counties

Botcheston

At our AGM in October the Committee had a shuffle round and we had to vote in a new President and Treasurer – the 2 Elaines deciding to stand down after quite a few years service to Botcheston WI. The new president is Monica Norton and the Treasurer is myself – Sheila Flatt. We thank the 2 Elaines for their many years service and wish them the best to enjoy WI Life without the stress.

Last night (Thursday 25 November) we had Mike Lister give us a talk on Playing Cards – this was very interesting and enlightening. We discovered that playing cards originated in China in the 9th Century and were more like a bookmark in shape, they travelled across the continents, eventually landing in Europe in the 15th Century. The names of the suits and the court cards have evolved over the years, finally appearing in the recognisable form that we know today in the 18th Century. Duty was abolished on playing cards as recently as 1960. The Earl of Sandwich did not want to be taken away from his game of cards so requested his butler to 'put some meat between 2 slices of toast', resulting in the birth of the Sandwich!

The Desford Christmas Tree Festival will have taken place by the time you read this – thanks go to the Craft and Coffee Monday Group who have put so much effort into our tree. The theme of this years festival is a Christmas song and we have decorated in the them of The Little Drummer Boy. Special thanks go to Linda, Monica and Margaret for doing a sterling job in putting up the tree.

Our last meeting of the year is nearly upon us – which will be a bring and share supper evening with traditional parlour games, one week earlier than normal –Thursday 16 December.

This Christmas we are making a collection of both product and money for the local branch of the Baby Basics charity. At our Monday craft meetings we make a small donation at each meeting and it was decided that monies held from this group would be put towards Baby Basics. Baby Basics, started in Sheffield in 2009 and now with 50+ groups across the UK, is a volunteer-led charity aiming to support new mums and families who are struggling to cope with a new baby – both financial and practical – with families referred in via the professional teams (midwives, social workers etc)

If anyone would like more information on Botcheston WI (or WI in general) please contact our secretary on 01455 821228 or come along to one of our meetings when you will receive a warm welcome, coffee and cake.

From Botcheston WI I would like to wish all the readers a Very Happy Christmas and hope that the New Year brings us all good health. We look forward to welcoming you.



Jerusalem Jammers

Jerusalem Jammers raised a fantastic £690 for Children In Need at their tea dance in Countesthorpe Village Hall.



Broughton Astley

At our AGM we were delighted to recruit one new Committee member to take the place of Sheila Phillips, who has resigned after many years of service. Thank you Sheila for all you have done to help make our WI run smoothly. All other committee members were asked to remain in office. Instead of our usual refreshments we held a “can you taste the difference?” session, comparing premier and budget varieties of mince pies, jaffa cakes, savoury biscuits and pringles. This went down well with both versions of pringles being equally liked, while the budget versions of the other items scored the highest. Interesting! After this we had time for two rounds of bingo with chocolate prizes for a line and a full house – our concentration was broken when we discovered that the bingo set had numbers up to 75, whereas our cards went up to 99. This caused much amusement, but we boldly carried on disregarding numbers 76 onwards!

Our members had saved last year’s Christmas cards and this year’s birthday cards, which we upcycled into gift tags, packed them into upcycled (of course) cellophane and sited boxes of them in various outlets in our village for residents to help themselves. Each pack bore a label with some basic information about our WI, which we hope will encourage more members.

We are very fortunate to have enrolled two new members over the past two months and have also welcomed several visitors.



We have been recycling used postage stamps for the RNIB and empty pill blister packs, which can be delivered to Superdrug in Leicester Haymarket, and which are then recycled by the company Terracycle.

We are looking forward to our pre-Christmas lunch and to visiting the Stratford Christmas market as a good start to the Christmas season.

Woodhouse Eaves

Earlier in the year The National Federation encouraged us to support the first-ever NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers’ Day on 5th July 2021 to thank health and care workers for being there for us when we needed them most. They suggested members organised afternoon events within their communities to mark this day.

So during the week of 3rd July to 11th July a number of members acted as hostesses for either a coffee morning or afternoon tea. We could only have six people at these events, due to Covid restrictions, which was limiting but because it was such small numbers everyone was more relaxed and had fun.

We contacted the Sister in charge of Swithland Ward at our local hospital in Loughborough to tell her about the initiative to raise money and where the money would be most beneficially spent. Initially the staff said they would like planters and plants for their courtyard garden. However, for various reasons they changed their minds and asked us if they could have a large fridge/freezer and a kettle. Recently we went to Loughborough Hospital to donate a large fridge/freezer, a bright red kettle and the remaining money was put towards an M&S voucher. They were delighted with what they received from the £464 raised and were very grateful.



Stoke Golding

Our meeting this month started with the AGM, our treasurer Mary went through the financial statement for the year, and we had reports from our secretary Sue and President Jean, flowers and gifts were handed to the officers who worked so hard this very different year.

We then made little individual Christmas trees, led by our speaker Caroline Boulter, she had prepared individual packs with what we would need to make the tree, and we all successfully produced a lovely little trees.



We are looking forward to getting back to some normality with a skittles evening, group Carol service and our Christmas Lunch.

Our next meeting is on 21st December, when we will have festive fun and games, a bring and share supper and a secret santa pass the parcel.

If you would like to join us, we would love to see you. We meet at 7.30 at the village hall.

Sheepy

Sheepy WI enjoyed an evening of wreath making following a demonstration by our own Georgina. Everyone was very industrious and the time flew by. We had an impressive array of wreaths at the end of the evening!



Cossington

Cossington's November Zoom speaker was Keith Forster, a volunteer from the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. The arboretum, a year-round national centre of remembrance is set in 150 acres and has over 400 memorials set amongst 25,000 trees. Keith gave an introduction to the arboretum and then went on to show pictures of some of the memorials and the stories behind them. Members were surprised to learn there was a Women's Institute: WI Wall on site and look forward to seeing it when they go for a 'Festive Christmas Lunch' to the arboretum in December..... As advertised in WI Life.

In addition to the monthly meeting



Janette, Sabina and Margaret planted English daffodils and bluebell bulbs around the WI bench which was put in place to celebrate the centenary of Cossington WI in 2020.

And

Jayne completed a 50k challenge raising £345 for Leicester Hospital Charities.



Kirby Muxloe



Kirby Muxloe WI held their AGM at the November meeting whereby Louise was voted in for another year as President and almost all of the committee re-elected. Many thanks were given to retiring long serving committee members Janet Gregory and Maggie McDowell. Louise, on behalf of the members thanked them both and gave them each a lovely bunch of flowers.

It was also our 94th Birthday and we celebrated with a drink and a slice of cake baked by Helen, a member's daughter, it not only tasted delicious but looked beautiful with the Orchid decoration fooling many members into thinking it was real but it was sugar paste.



This was followed by a quiz of 50 questions about films, sayings, songs etc. in numerical order with the questions having all the vowels missing. It was an excellent quiz, thanks to Ann for providing it.

Since resuming in August, we have been delighted to welcome four new members and look forward to getting to know them over the coming year.

We played our first Skittles Match against Glenfield WI and won, hooray, it was a very friendly and enjoyable evening so much so we arranged to play a friendly game the following week, that was a draw but a lovely social event.

At the September meeting we had a talk by Caroline Roberts (Blue Badge Guide) "There's more to Leicester than just Cheese" which members found extremely interesting. Caroline as always was an excellent speaker and entertainer and comes highly recommended.

In October our speaker was Jo Golby "Ghosts in Grandeur", another excellent and entertaining speaker who comes highly recommended. Jo came prepared in full costume with lots of artefacts to view and ask questions about.

It has been an excellent start to our year after the lock down and thanks must go to our Programme Secretary Sue Black, whose perseverance has been invaluable.

Anstey



At the annual meeting of Anstey WI, members were amazed to be reminded of just how much had been done over the past year, especially during the time when

meetings were possible only digitally or outdoors. Readers of earlier reports in this publication will be aware of Zoom meetings with speakers and demonstrations, garden parties of various sizes, and goodie bag deliveries at Christmas and Easter. More recently we had had two full meetings in person with excellent speakers, which were a joy. On display were photographs of the past year, as well as group pictures past and present.

The annual meeting usually is greeted with rather less enthusiasm, but this year several members commented on social media on that they had really enjoyed it. This was in part the result of the bring and buy which followed. This was prompted by the amount of stock left from our stall at the Anstey gala, but members produced much more, and it raised £43. There was also the opportunity for members to socialise for much of the time, which was greatly appreciated.



Melton Afternoon

Melton afternoon group were treated to a wonderful prelude to Christmas as we listened to a live musical performance from the very talented Melstrum Ukelele band. They played various instruments and we were all foot tapping and singing along as we knew all the words! The band said how much they enjoyed playing to a live audience— their first time I nearly two years. A truly great afternoon.





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Postage Reminder

During recent months our local sorting office has been very busy so we have sometimes not received post daily at WI House but it has come in fewer batches throughout the week. It has, however, meant that a few envelopes with incorrect postage have slipped through and avoided an underpayment charge!

Please remember:

Letters are up to A5 size with a maximum weight of 100g and thickness of 5mm. A normal stamp can be used.

Large Letters A5 size up to slightly larger than A4 and can weigh up to 750g with a thickness of 2.5cm. A Large letter stamp is needed.

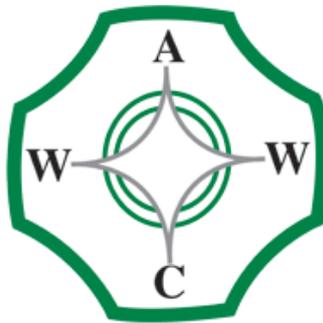
A4 envelopes will always need a large letter stamp.

ACWW

All WIs have received their ACWW envelope.

Please don't forget to send your donations to Federation in the New Year.

Cheques should be made payable to ACWW.



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Monthly Draw Winners!

Congratulations to our Monthly Draw winners for November!

1st Prize £25

No. 35
Val Garner, QE WI

2nd Prize £15

No. 58
June Liggins, Narborough & Littlethorpe WI

3rd Prize £10

No. 62
Judy Wheatley, Narborough & Littlethorpe WI



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

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

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