


NFWI Annual Meeting Cardiff 2023





We had a wonderful time in Cardiff for the NFWI Annual Meeting 2023 see page 2 for more



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 incorporated in England and Wales as a Company limited by Guarantee No. 02769771 Charity Reg No. 1016 766
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22 of us including the 15 delegates, some observers and officers boarded a coach at WI House and set off on our journey to Cardiff. Arriving at our very comfortable hotel at 2.30pm. The afternoon and evening were our own to explore or just relax.

St David's Hall was the venue and it felt very strange and exciting to be in a building with so many other women after the last few years. I'm sure everyone felt the same as there was a buzz in the air and bright colours all around. By 10.30 we were seated ready to begin the meeting, which began as always with Jerusalem. Appointment of returning officers and tellers were made, standing orders adopted.

The Chair gave her address, saying there were nationally over 180,000 members of the WI. The numbers had been same for a while but she was convinced that over the next few years the numbers would rapidly increase especially as there were now Virtual WI's and supporter memberships.

The morning's speaker was Ebony Rainford-Brent, who described her childhood in Lambeth through to playing cricket for England and is now a TV and radio presenter. Her story was amazing as her first sport was football but at 10 she had the opportunity to attend a cricket coaching day and fell in love with it.

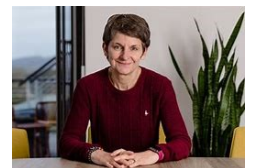


Next was the Resolution Debate. The proposer and seconder putting forward their motion. Their case seemed to very much focus on the poor state of the river Wye. An expert then presented a case to support the motion, which unfortunately was very emotive, rather than always being factual. Though he did include the fact that last year despite the increase of sewerage being pumped into rivers there had been far fewer prosecutions than in previous years. The expert presenting the alternative view spoke far more objectively. Water, he said, certainly needs cleaning, however focusing on bathing areas diverted money from more effective policies and that UK water is too cold and therefore dangerous to swim in for long. He maintained our focus should have been on wildlife rather than people as wildlife doesn't demand virtually sterile water. There were some very good points made by members, river swimming was elitist not inclusive to everyone, as the vast majority of the population would not be able to access it, through poverty or distance. WI's in farming communities were annoyed that it placed extra pressure on farmers. I seriously considered whether, where I had been given the authority to change the yes votes to no, but decided not to as the mood in the room was strongly in favour of a yes. I feel that in many ways the outcome of these debates is always a forgone conclusion before the meeting even starts.

A delegate raised this and said she felt that there should be a way of voting after delegates had presented both sides to their WIs after and not before the AGM. The chair said this was something they would look into. The result of voting was 4007 yes votes and 742 nos. It was therefore carried by 84%.

We then broke for lunch. The first part of the afternoon was given to the presenting of awards for competitions and individual WIs who had gained the highest number of new members. Several Institutes more than doubled their membership and now have over 100 members.

The final speaker was Laura McAllister who is the first woman to be appointed onto the executive body of UEFA. She is also a Professor of Public Policy in Cardiff.



We ended the afternoon with singing Jerusalem, Land of our Fathers in Welsh and the National Anthem. We found our coach and were back at WI House at 8.30pm.

I had an extremely enjoyable 36 hours and also to encourage you to go as a delegate if you get the chance.

Lynda Blackwell, Houghton on the Hill

Which Craft? - Arts & Crafts Committee

Which Craft? had their meeting at WI house on the 3rd Thursday in May. Ladies arrived with their different projects. Lorraine showed her books recording the development of projects. Ladies were completing applique pictures. Some were knitting.

Meetings will be on the 3rd Thursday of the month at WI House 10am—12 noon. The next one is 15th June and then 20th July. If you enjoy crafting and would like a morning crafting and sharing ideas and advice come and join us.



Spring Lunch—Fundraising Committee

The Spring lunch at Devonshire Place, Leicester was a really splendid affair. A lovely lunch was followed by a flower arranging demonstration by Lynne Sharpe, a NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies) Area Demonstrator. Her designs depicted floral celebrations of royal events, in particular the recent Coronation of King Charles III, his garden at Highgrove and a Royal picnic. The arrangements were raffled off at the end of the afternoon. My fellow Kegworth WI member and I thoroughly enjoyed the whole event, shared a table with some very friendly ladies from other WIs and were both lucky enough to win one of Lynne's designs. Fortunately for us they were quite small, being part of a larger display, as we had travelled by train!

Margaret Mellors & Linda Hopper, Kegworth WI



What's On?

3rd Thursday	Which Craft? at 10 –12	WI House	FREE
Tue 4 th July	Croquet Taster	Leic Croquet Club	£11
Fri 7 th July	Quiz Night	4 venues!	£5 each
Tue 11 th and 25 th July	Pétanque Taster	Leic Petanque Club	FREE
Sat 9 th Sept	Beading workshop	WI House	£25
Sat 16 th Sept	Officer Training—Secretaries and Presidents	WI House	£3
Sat 23 rd Sept	Mary, Mary how does your garden grow?	WI House	£2.50
Sat 7 th Oct	Developing Embroidery	WI House	£20
Sat 14 th Oct	Autumn Lunch	Devonshire Place	£30
Thu 26th Oct	Speakers Showcase	Goodwood Bowls Club	£5
Wed 1st Nov	Science Question Time	WI House	TBC
Tue 7 th Nov	Billa Barra Anniversary Walk	Billa Barra	TBC
Wed 15 th Nov	Christmas at Kew	Coaches Burbage, Oakham, WI	£43
Sat 25 th Nov	Christmas Dabble Day	Park House, Glenfield	£20
Tue 5 th & Thur 7 th Dec	Christmas Walk	City Centre	£7

Board of Trustees—Chairman's Big Coronation Lunch

Chairman Glenice Wignall and Chairman of Leisure Committee Maxilyn Geary represented the Board of Trustees at the Chairman's Big Coronation Lunch on Saturday. Chairman of Leicestershire County Council Dr Kevin Feltham hosted the occasion, with the Leicestershire Lord Lieutenant Mike Kapur in attendance. There was a lovely buffet lunch with cake and goody boxes for leftovers. It was held at Beaumanor Hall for voluntary groups and organisations.



Membership Committee

Hi from your Membership Committee, we are starting to get out and visit WIs now and it's lovely to be back meeting you all.

Remember we don't want any special treatment or for you to change how you do things, just be yourselves that's what makes all WIs special how varied they all are.

We have arranged some Training for Presidents and Secretaries, or potential ones, on 16th September so hope some of you will come along. A chance to learn a bit as well as exchange ideas and information with others. We are inviting you to bring a packed lunch and stay for a chat about anything WI afterward if you wish.

Hope the Members who attended the Annual Meeting in Cardiff have shared their experience with you and the Resolution vote so that your WI feels involved. It was an interesting day as always, with inspiring speakers. Perhaps you will get the chance to be a Delegate or Observer next year it's always a great day shared with so many other Members from across the Country.

Notices

Do you have a few hours a week and can help at WI House? In the garden, office or at events—please do contact us!

Thank you for the donation to ACWW totalling near £4000!

New—you can book events as individual by BACS or continue to book through your

WI secretary. Both options need a booking form so please use the form at lrfwi.org/federation downloads email your booking to wihouse@lrfwi.org

Congratulations to our Monthly Draw winners for May!

**1st Prize £25— Ann Baker , Appleby Magna
2nd Prize £15— Ann Betteridge, Narborough & Littlethorpe
3rd Prize £10—Pat Monk , Great Bowden**

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



Climate Action News—Public Affairs Committee

We now use eco-friendly cleaning products at WI House however what more can we do?

We are

- exploring the items we use—including our waste!
- Bird feeders and baths, bug hotel for WI House gardens
- Bee and butterfly friendly seeds planted in big green week
- Collecting recycling and reducing paper use where possible
- Offering options for hybrid meetings to reduce omissions by car travel
- Offering options to decline paper copies sent in mailing if this suits members ...watch this space



Petanque—Leisure Committee

Following a successful taster evening in May we have organised a further two evenings on Tuesdays 11th and 25th July at Leicester Pétanque Club, Western Park, Hinckley Road, Leicester. LE3 6HX. It will commence at 7.00pm. There is plenty of parking. The evening is free. Jacket potatoes (Cheese or Tuna Mayo) are available afterwards at a cost of £5.00 but must be ordered three days before the event.

This event is for those who have never played and for experienced players. You must wear trainers or similar and not sandals.

If anyone has their own boules please bring them. Leicester Pétanque Club do have some that can be borrowed on the night. Please book through WI House with the choice of jacket potato if staying to eat before 6th July.

Further details from Penny Weston-Webb – 07754892842 or pennywestonwebb2022@gmail.com

Pauline Wells

Pauline Wells passed away on the 24th of April 2023 after a long illness. She was an enthusiastic member of Burton Overy WI and took part in many of the County events as well as our own institute programmes. Even in the last few months of her life, she took pleasure in reading the County News. Pauline was a very good secretary for thirteen years and was on our committee for more than twenty years.



Pauline served on the WI County Finance and Health management committee in 1999 - 2000 using her knowledge of nursing to good advantage.

She was Sister in charge of the Children's cancer unit until her retirement and was one of the original fund raisers for the Rainbows Hospice, a cause that remained close to her heart all her life.

The Scout organisation was another of her abiding passions, (many people will remember as Akela and also Tawny Owl.) She was actively involved with the Scouts movement for over fifty years.

Pauline and her husband Bob also enjoyed country dancing and were part of the Burton Overy Dancers and also the Rutland Folk Dance Club. She led a full and happy life. We will miss her.

Margaret Pollard, President of Burton Overy WI

“LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION” QUIZ 2023

Another very popular quiz with 105 entries returned. Out of these, 33 were all correct and the first one of these drawn out at random came from Jill of Groby WI. Well done, Jill, I hope you enjoy your £25 prize.

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 always send it in anyway with a £1 coin attached if you are on my Subscribers' list of course.

This quiz made a magnificent £400 for County Funds, so thank you loyal quizzers for your support. My latest quiz: "Private Eyes, 'Tecs & Gumshoes" is currently available with a closing date of 25th August 2023. If you'd like to go on to my Subscribers' list, just email me 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. 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 a lovely summer to Happy Quizzers everywhere!

Sue Lobb

Thanks to Lauren Saunders—Office Administrator

Lauren Saunders was our office administrator for the last few years and we said our farewells on the 22nd May as she resigned to continue her work in the finance office of a local school. Lauren was a great resource at WI House and, whilst only working 3 hours per week made a great impact. We will miss her humour and hard work and hope that her travels continue to be exciting!

We are interviewing for a new role for 10 hours over 2 days to enable us to provide further office cover and support to the many events we have scheduled this year whilst supporting WIs and groups.



Come on by—Observe a Committee meeting

We're always asking.... however seeing is believing! Committees are open to observers and your input is always welcome.

No specific skills are needed for committees. They meet monthly and can be either face to face or virtual or both!

Anyone who would like to find out more with no pressure—honestly! Do contact the Chairman below.

Board of Trustees & PA	Glenice Wignall	glenice.wignall@lrfwi.org	0116 3325337
Arts & Crafts	Eileen Williams	Eileen.williams@lrfwi.org	0116 2478929
Finance & House	Linda Martin	linda.martin@lrfwi.org	0116 2712875
Fundraising	Rita Caves	rita.caves@lrfwi.org	01455 698603
Leisure	Maxilyn Geary	maxilyn.geary@lrfwi.org	0116 2671438
Membership	Janet Kirk	janet.kirk@lrfwi.org	0116 2692694

Around the Counties—Celebrating the Coronation

Broughton Astley

We celebrated the coronation of King Charles with a delicious buffet, prosecco and St Clements mocktail and coronation cakes. The King made a brief appearance, much to our delight.

We played several games of Beetle Drive, tackled two challenging “royal” quizzes and attempted to “stick the jewel on the crown” whilst blindfolded, at which Bev came the nearest. Prizes were dispensed to all. Our members had pulled out all the stops to make some amazing coronation crowns and Margaret’s was chosen as the most splendid.



Swannington

Our creative crafters have worked their magic again with a stunning postbox topper in readiness for the Coronation of King Charles III.

The knitted and crocheted topper features St Edward’s Crown on a cushion decorated with Union Jacks, the new Charles III insignia, bunting and of course trees and bees depicting the King’s passion for the environment and his love of bee keeping.

WI members gathered for the unveiling of the postbox topper on the main road through the village and close to the bee garden also worked by Swannington WI.



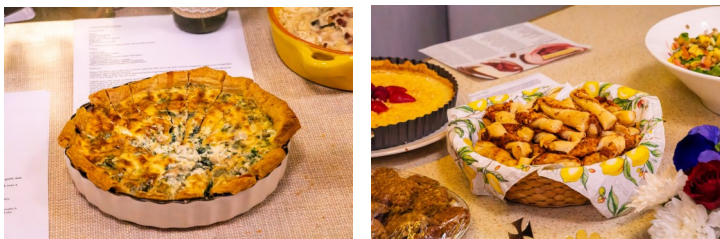
Kibworth and Smeeton

Members had fun creating a yarn bombing display to celebrate the Coronation of Charles III. It was installed at the community library in the centre of Kibworth, where villagers were able to sit in the garden and enjoy the display while having tea and cakes from the library. Needless to say, they weren’t offered anything from His Majesty’s table, as they were all knitted!



Leire

We celebrated the King's Coronation with a taster and recipe evening when members brought along a dish with copies of the recipe. We had a variety of savoury and sweet dishes from starters to desserts which were delicious.



This was followed by a competition quiz devised by June titled "Nicknames of British Kings and Queens" and we finished the evening off with a Coronation inspired group photo.

We are looking forward to our annual Plant, Cake and Produce Show as well as a trip to the Leicester Botanic gardens in the near future.



Waltham on the Wolds

We had arranged to celebrate the Coronation by having a special tea. Quite on the spur of the moment we invited the male voice choir who were practising in the main hall.

The Belvoir Wassailers kindly came into our smaller hall and sung a beautiful song in harmony to us. They perform concerts throughout the year for charities, supported by their own sponsors.

The choir was originally formed from the Belvoir Castle Estate workforce. It made our evening very special and in keeping with the Coronation celebrations.



Around the Counties—Celebrating the Coronation

Loughborough Ladies



The hall is bedecked in red, white and blue,
Lots of the ladies sport this patriotic hue
There's hustle and bustle as the room is made ready,
Tables and chairs have been set out already
Whilst butties, cakes and scones with jam and cream
Are decanted onto cake stands by Pauline

and her team

The ladies first vote on the worthy resolution

To save our waterways from sewage and pollution

After notices and thank yous and important dates

We finally get to fill our plates

For this is the Loughborough Ladies' celebration

Of King Charles III's right royal coronation

We're having afternoon tea, I know it's gone seven

But cake at anytime is absolute heaven

Our Victoria sponges would win a WI prize

No soggy bottoms and a perfect rise,

We eat our fill until we are done

And now it's time for party game fun

We throw rubber ears at a picture of the king

Oh my goodness, I hope it doesn't bring



A charge of treason, but I'm sure he won't mind
There's pin the jewel on the crown whilst totally blind
Then instead of pass the parcel, we pass the king's head
It's a little bit scary, it has to be said

Prizes are given and the raffle is drawn

It's time to go home, we're beginning to yawn

And in a flash, all is cleared away

What a perfect party, hip hip hooray!



Coleorton

May saw our celebrations for the Coronation of the King.

We had a personal insight from one of our members who is related to the composer Karl Jenkins, one of the 12 asked to create new pieces for the Coronation. He is a fascinating multi-instrumentalist and composer who worked not only in the classical genre but also jazz and progressive rock. We listened to some of his most famous work, The Armed Man.

We then had a visitor to raise our glasses to, not quite so three dimensional as our royal guest last year and rather quiet but never the less most welcome and en route to several other engagements in the locality. Definitely photogenic though and very happy to pose for accompanied pictures.



A wonderful afternoon was had, afternoon tea with sandwiches and cakes provided by members, and the weather was kind mostly. A lot of chatter and laughter

Ullesthorpe



May was a month to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The ladies of Ullesthorpe did it in style. There was a splendid sparkling afternoon tea provided by the members, a royal quiz and a very amusing sketch performed by the President, Vice President and Secretary. Apologies to The Two Ronnies but we adapted the script to fit in with WI life! "I look down on her" was the title and the positioning and sizing was

perfect.

Later in the month we enjoyed a trip and guided tour of Stanford Hall.

This is an amazing place, so close to us, with a very interesting story and wonderful historical paintings and contents. Well worth a visit a hidden gem



Around the Counties

Whissendine

At our meeting in April the speaker was Philippa Massey talking about Stamford in the 1850s. Her talk included events that were happening worldwide which had an impact on the people of Stamford, in particular, the Crimean War in which men from Stamford took part. The vote of thanks was given by Sally Wragg.

At each WI meeting we have a competition table where members bring in something to do with that month's theme and people vote for their favourites by putting coins next to the ones they prefer, the money going to charity.

Last year the theme was wedding anniversaries, this year it is the letters of the word 'Whissendine'. This fits perfectly as we have eleven meetings a year (none in August) and produces a challenge with the repetition of letters. The items are left anonymously and a record of how many coins are left is kept and the overall winner gets a prize at the end of the year. April was the first 'S' and the winner was Jean Parkes with her entry for 'sewing', she brought in an amazing Etui which is a fabric covered box that explodes when you take the lid off to reveal a lovely collection of sewing essentials. Nobody was impressed with my offering which was a bone china pin dish inscribed with 'Shottlegate WI, 100 years'. This was where I lived when I was young and for anyone interested Shottlegate is but a spit of houses on the way to Belper, why it had a WI I do not know!

Barkby and Beeby

Are your houseplants drooping, do you talk to them?

Susie Lickman gave Barkby and Beeby WI hints on how to enjoy your houseplants.

Look after their well-being but don't kill them with kindness. Nurture them back to health, match them to your environment, have the satisfaction of seeing them thrive but best of all enjoy your endeavours & be stress free.

Great Bowden

We had our resolution meeting in May. Although members agreed with the resolution, they did not feel they were given enough detail, so voted for the delegate to vote on their behalf at the AGM when more information would be available

To follow we were invited to have a go at country dancing which was led by member Sharon Web. Lots took to the floor and a hilarious time was had by all. Many mistakes were made but that added to the fun. It was agreed that the dancing was good for mental and physical health. Even if we were a little breathless by the end!



Swepestone, Newton and Snarestone

This month we have been busy, we started the month with a tea coffee and cake stall at the parish council coronation celebration which was enjoyed by all of the local residents. We then had our monthly meeting which was a craft night where we all brought a jam jar and foliage from our gardens, flowers were provided to arrange into a small table decoration. This was great fun as some of us had no idea what we should be doing so we all helped each other. By the end of the evening we ended up with some very good table decorations and we were all proud of our achievements.



Avon Group

The Avon Group Rose Bowl Quiz this year was held on the 16th May with Swinford W.I as our hosts. We had 10 teams in attendance.

The Quiz was made up of 6 rounds of 10 questions and a marathon round of 20 Dingbats to try and solve.

The rounds were on the subjects of :
Coronation, The W.I., Capital cities beginning with the letter B, Nuts, Leicester, Biscuits

Once all the scores had been settled we all enjoyed a Ploughman's Supper, followed by some delicious cake made by members of Swinford W.I. The overall winners for this year were a team from Gilmorton called the Scrambled Eggheads so they have taken the Rose Bowl home for the coming year.

My grateful thanks go to all members involved in helping to put the event on, ensure its smooth running and of course the tidying up afterwards.

Sheepy

Bob and Dell gave us food for thought at our May meeting.

Bob started by reading out some items with costs from a ledger from his grandad's shop in Wales in 1930s.

When they cleared his house and shop they kept interesting items and now use them to provide an interesting evening for different groups.



Following Bob's introduction, 20 different items were passed around the room for teams to discuss potential uses and decide what they thought it could be.

Some were fairly easy to

work out others had us completely flummoxed! Two teams drew both getting 15/20.

This was a lovely evening which gave us the opportunity to chat as we tried to decide the functions of these objects.



Around the Counties

Illston on the Hill

Our meeting included the annual resolutions. There was a lively discussion on this subject and of course we were all in favour of huge improvements to both rivers and seas. However it was generally felt that the water companies must take a massive amount of responsibility for polluting our waters and ultimately the decisions (and fines) must be instigated by the Government. But obviously whatever pressure can be brought to bear by the WI is more than welcome.

We were then entertained by our own Shirley Sturgess who talked about a trip she arranged to Italy - for what she thought was about 20 people, final number 52. There were dramas and antics every day. Some of the party got lost, some fell ill, the drivers went off for lunch one day unbeknown to them that two ladies were scrabbling on the coach floor looking for a ring – it was a very warm day, and just like pets, ladies should not be left in a hot vehicle! They were rescued! Shirley really does have away of putting over a story and we laughed until we cried, she is an absolute natural and amazingly takes everything in her stride, whereas many of us would be in panic mode from day one! Still trying to become her agent for a best seller!!

Delicious refreshments were provided. During coffee time the wonderful Coronation events were discussed, as the Eurovision – are we suddenly becoming a happier nation, what a wonderful couple of weeks to raise the spirits of all.

Leire

At our recent meetings we welcomed back Carolyn Boulter who brought a display of her craft creations and provided members with sewing kits to make Owl paperweights. These looked very effective with an array of fabric colours and patterns. We have had a few new members join and this was an ideal session to get to know each other.



Glenfield

Sue Black from Kirby Muxloe WI joined us for this meeting. She is our delegate and will be representing our local area in Cardiff for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Sue gave us a lot of information as to the background to this resolution instigating a lively discussion.

Voting was undertaken and the resolution passed by the majority with a few members abstaining. We also voted to allow Sue to use her voting discretion at the Annual Meeting where she would be able to listen to the views of other delegates before the final vote.

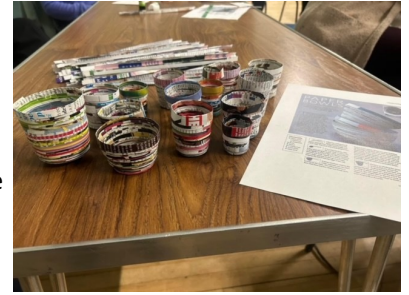
The social hour was spent identifying photographs of places around Leicester and the county and enjoying a welcome cup of tea with cake.

Our next meeting will be a canal trip from Loughborough which everyone is looking forward to. Our meeting in July is open to everyone at Park House on Wednesday July 12th at 2pm. The speaker is Eileen Smith - Travel Eyes. Why not come along and join us?

Sileby

We spent the first part of our last meeting discussing and voting on the WI resolutions and then afterwards we got crafty!

We made bowls using paper strips, a craft that was featured in a previous WI Life magazine. We think they turned out quite well!



Hinckley Canalside



We had a very interesting talk and demonstration from Maggie Cooper, a traditional willow weaver and basket maker. She is a Yeoman Member of the Worshipful Company of Basket

Makers and began learning the craft in the 1960's in the arts and crafts circuit in Birmingham. She brought with her beehives, eel traps, salmon traps and crayfish traps - all made from willow or cane from their local habitat.

Maggie gave us an insight into the different sort of baskets that had been made and developed according to their local need and purpose. It was such a fascinating talk not only on the skill of Maggie's basket weaving but also the history that went with it. She has travelled to Australia, Austria, Denmark, Sweden and Ireland to learn new skills in weaving. She moved from Birmingham to Castle Donington and has since discovered that Castle Donington was a basket weaving village. She was invited to give her input at The Leicester Museum when archaeologists found some giant eel traps embedded in a riverbank in Leicestershire and helped produce replicas of these.

She brought twine in for us to have a go at making twine bracelets, some were more successful than others, but we all had fun having a go.

Springbrook and Scraftoft

We had a very successful 'Handbags & Gladrags' sale in May. A sale of preloved posh frocks, women's clothes, shoes, handbags and jewellery. Along with coffee and cakes, it made for a very enjoyable Saturday morning. We were supported by members in our High Leicestershire group as well as local women who love to shop and love a bargain (who doesn't?). We sold the evening dresses at £5 and everything else at a £1, and lots of things still had the labels on so they really were bargains. Although we raised £200, fundraising wasn't the main objective: clearing out our wardrobes, encouraging us all to recycle, and promoting the WI in our area were more important. We saw lots of new faces, gave out invitations to our WI meetings and had time to chat to friends old and new. Anything not sold was donated to a charity shop. All in all, a really worthwhile event that other WIs might like to try.



Around the Counties

Barrow Upon Soar

We celebrated our 74th birthday by inviting the Baroness of Bolsover (Linda Jane Homes, actress) to educate us on the art of afternoon tea during Victorian times.

The Baroness was an elegant figure dressed in a blue and pink fitted brocade dress, with a peplum waist and shoulder of mutton sleeves. A flower pot hat adorned with feathers, matching fan and handbag, finished off her outfit.



Duchess Anna of Bedford was credited with inventing afternoon tea in 1840. Feeling peckish between lunch and dinner she thought this was a good idea for filling in the gap.



Thanking the Baroness, we finished the evening with birthday cake and Prosecco.

Cossington

In April ladies showed their floristry skills by arranging flower bouquets in a jar. Once wrapped in tissue paper and cellophane even those with limited skill were proud of their achievements.

In addition to the monthly meeting members spent an enjoyable afternoon with the Soar Valley Archery club. Everybody had great success and by the end of the afternoon were on target bursting balloons.

Also, in anticipation of entering the proposed federation Petanque competition, a practice session was arranged giving those interested the opportunity to learn the game.



Anstey

We held another successful fashion show, raising valuable funds for the institute, and proving very enjoyable for those who attended. The picture shows the models at the end of the show.



At the May meeting we discussed and unanimously agreed to support the national resolution on improving the quality of our inland waters. Followed by a quiz on UK rivers, which provoked some hilarity among the teams. The range of scores was wide. The winners were Sheryl Bramley, Amanda Thompson, Sue Crook and Maureen Cook.

It was a good night for Sheryl, as in the annual contests, she won the cookery cup, and shared the flower arranging cup with Sue Crook and Liz Higgs. Jan Darby received the craft trophy for a coronation inspired decorated orb. While the others were polystyrene, Jan used an orange, cloves, and ribbon. Ingenuity rewarded!



Markfield

Following a visit from the Workhouse Storytellers we organised a visit to Southwell Workhouse.



There was a lot to see and do and our members Ruth and Jeannie decided to emulate the Storytellers by raiding the dressing up box.

The meeting hall still has what they believe to be the original organ and our member Mary was invited to play it (it must have been obvious she could hardly keep her hands off it). The organ had a beautiful sound and could be heard throughout the building even the attics.



The NT has worked hard to restore the building and contents to give an authentic feel to the place; it included an infirmary, kitchen gardens, extensive cellars to keep food fresh and had a system of rainwater collection which provided a supply of good clean water. The Workhouse was built in 1824 and changed over the years, in later years it provided temporary accommodation for homeless families before being closed in the 1980s.

On 8th May we held an afternoon tea celebration of the King's Coronation and also to celebrate two of our members with 90th birthdays this year, Mary Pepper and Pat Bailey.

The birthday girls were presented with bouquets and toasted with fizz (as was the King) and following their cutting of the cake (made by Fran's daughter and tasting as good as it looked) everyone had a piece to take home.



As last year the afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by all and looks set to be an annual fixture to look forward to.

Birstall and Wanlip

We celebrated our 105th birthday in a manner fit for a King.



Ladies played a friendly skittles match which was followed by jacket potatoes for supper. The competition, a coronation headpiece was judged by a member of staff from the Royal Oak.

Elaine the cup winner, who said she isn't crafty, made her headpiece out of cupcake cases and straws.

Everyone had a really enjoyable evening and suggested we did it again.



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News to WI
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or post to arrive
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Equalities in Pride month

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action List for WIs

Ensure all members are welcome by using inclusive language and appointing a WI Welcoming Team.

Ensure inclusion is always on the WI Committee/Federation Board of Trustees agenda and that Trustees are open to discussions about the ways in which the WI can ensure it removes any hidden barriers to women joining or participating in its activities.

WI Presidents and Federation Chairpersons should at all times demonstrate welcoming, friendly and inclusive behaviour and language to all members, role-modelling the standard for how members should interact with one another.

Ensure it is understood that the WI is non-sectarian meaning that we are not connected or affiliated with any particular religion or political group.

Ensure where possible all meeting and event venues are accessible for members as necessary.

Ensure demonstrators, speakers and guests at meetings and events reflect and support this policy.

Ensure all sub-groups and sub-committees are open and accessible to all members.

Avoid making assumptions about members' abilities or backgrounds.

Ensure all publicity and imagery represents the diversity of membership.

Foster a culture where members can ask for changes and see those changes being made.

Actively celebrate diversity and inclusion.

Demonstrate a willingness to challenge and address discrimination.

Please try to keep
Around the Counties
articles to 120 words and
2 photos so we can
include as many as we
can and save paper, ink
and postage costs also

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Castle as Nell Gwynn

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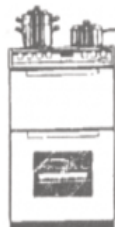
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