


Pétanque Fun Competition Night





Forty ladies from several WIs across the Federation came to the Pétanque evening organised by the Leisure Committee.

We were put into teams of 3 and each team played up to 3 games. The scores were collected in and each player in the winning team won a bottle of wine. Guess which team won overall and it wasn't a fix. Congratulations go to the Leisure Committee Team. The game was followed by jacket potatoes for supper.

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 Find us on Facebook: Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of WIs

Petanque Fun Competition Night



More photos from the lovely evening of fun at the Pétanque Club.

Darts Final

Congratulations to Barsby who won the 2023 darts final held at the Stamford Arms in Groby on 9th October against Witherley. Both teams scored highly, including two bulls from Witherley, and got down to doubles very quickly. The first leg was won by Barsby and the second by Witherley who fought valiantly but, on the day Barsby were the masters of the double and won by 4 legs to 1. An enjoyable evening to end this year's competition.



Barsby Winners



Witherley Runners Up



Direct Mailing of Annual Council Meeting Flyer

We are pleased to announce we completed our first direct mailing to members on 3rd October with much success and positive feedback. This was with the agreement of a huge majority of WIs and aims to keep members up to date with events that may interest and be information useful to them. The option of opting out of receiving the email is always available and of course, if you didn't receive an email directly from the Federation please do let us know. Do check spam/junk boxes too.

The first email announced the Annual Council Meeting date Sat 16th March 2024 and speakers, Polly Toynbee and Henrietta Chubb JP High Sheriff of Leicestershire.

We are also pleased to say the charity speaker is Warning Zone. They are dedicated to teaching life-skills and safeguarding children. We look forward to seeing you!



WI Bursaries

Please do apply for a County Bursary of £100 which can be used for an educational workshop or class resulting in the acquisition of new skills or knowledge. Usual monthly meetings and leisure activities cannot be included. We would be very grateful if you could send an article of a few lines and an accompanying photograph about how the bursary is spent to WI House by email for County News.

Archiving

WI records are important evidence of the decisions taken by your WI, they can also be of significance in documenting local history. For these reasons WIs are advised to save the following:

To be kept permanently	Signed rules	Committee annual reports
	Minute books	WI programmes
	Record books	Annual Financial Statements
	Registration certificates such as charity registration (if applicable)	
	Employer liability insurance (if applicable)	
	Scrapbooks	
	Correspondence with income tax authorities	
	Treasured correspondence e.g.: invitation to Royal Garden Party	
15 years after expiry	Leases	
5–10 years as applicable	Correspondence with your federation or the NFWI about rulings, or other fundamental matters affecting the running of your WI	
7 years	Financial records	
3 years after expiry	Insurance policies	
1 year after completion	Arrangements for WI programme, special events, etc.	
Destroy as you go or at end of year	General correspondence Documents that come from the NFWI or your federation should not be kept as part of your WI's archives.	

Which Craft? - Arts & Crafts Committee

Which Craft? Meetings will be on the 3rd Thursday of the month at WI House 10am—12 noon. The next one is 16th November. If you enjoy crafting and would like a morning crafting and sharing ideas and advice come and join us.



Bea Poulter

On Friday 29th September 2023, we said goodbye to Bea Poulter, Mrs WI. She passed away peacefully, after a short illness, on Saturday 9th September. Many of you reading this will have known Bea, she may have helped you with your crafting.

Bea joined the Kegworth WI in 1958 where she quickly made a name for herself by participating in a number of dramatic performances; country dancing, winning many a trophy; and a variety of crafting skills. Skills that Bea willingly shared with WI members far and wide. She did this in a number of ways from being on the Arts and Crafts Committee; tutoring at Denman College; running her own wool shop; having two books about machine knitting published; a number of crafting events; and 'knit and natter' in the library. In August 1983 Bea won a scholarship to go to Montana, USA to further develop her knowledge of craftwork and forge new friendships.

Bea was Kegworth WI's Treasurer in 1970-71 and 1978. She was President 1979 -1981 and 1990. She was also Secretary 1986-87. Apart from her crafting Bea went on many a holiday with the WI including France and The Netherlands. Bea, along with Mavis Smith, wrote many a tricky cryptic quiz for Kegworth WI Quiz



nights where fun was had by all.

Her accomplishments are numerous and we do not have the space here to cover them all except to say in 1984 Bea met Queen Elizabeth. The lasting impression we are left with is of a compassionate, funny, intelligent, kind woman who helped wherever she could.

Bea Poulter: a life well lived.



What's On?

Thu 26th Oct	Speakers Showcase	Goodwood Bowls Club	£5
Wed 1st Nov	Science Question Time	WI House	£8
Tue 7 th Nov	Billa Barra Anniversary Walk	Billa Barra	£6
Wed 15 th Nov	Christmas at Kew	SOLD OUT	£43
Sat 25 th Nov	Christmas Dabble Day	Park House, Glenfield	£20
Tue 5 th , Wed 6th & Thur 7 th Dec	Christmas Walk	City Centre - SOLD OUT	£7

Please note WI House is closed between 20th December 2023 and 2nd January 2024

Let us know what events you would like to come to in 2024!

Email fedsec@lrfwi.org or call 0116 2661342



Board of Trustees—Chairman's Column



I am very excited for the Federation to have successfully emailed WI members directly last month. We are continually striving to support WIs and hear members views. We look forward to beginning a roadshow around the county in 2024 to meet more members and better understand how we can serve you.

I am pleased to have been asked to attend West Midlands Federation Annual Council meeting in Birmingham this month. Whilst it was a little tight on timing with the trains we had a lovely day.

This month we have been so pleased to have observers planned to attend our committee and Board meetings. I know that it may be difficult to extend your commitments beyond your WI however we are flexible in online meetings and would really encourage your involvement to make WI the best it can be.

Glenice Wignall, Chairman

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee held another successful Officers' training forum at WI House when Presidents and Secretaries had the chance to refresh their knowledge of what the roles entail and learn what works and what doesn't when chatting with others. An exchange of ideas and best practice always helps and experienced or new to a position everyone felt they had some new ideas they could take back to their own WIs. The Advisers running the sessions enjoy meeting officers and we also learn more about you and your WIs. Look out for the next session which will be held sometime in the spring next year if you missed out this time.

Please don't forget if you feel you have any problems or need any help all the Advisers are listed in the handbook and are ready to give help and advice when necessary.

As a Committee we were sorry to say goodbye to Pauline Holbrook who has resigned from the Membership Committee. Pauline has been an Adviser for many years and will be greatly missed.

Any WIs who usually contact Pauline please contact another Adviser while we reallocate you, but I'm sure Pauline will still be around for a long time and still be unofficially giving advice. Happy retirement Pauline and thank you for all you have done.

Notices

Treasurers—there is a new accounts package available to download from the NFWI website.

You can find it at on mywi website

Look for tab 'Running your WI'

WI finances

WI Account Book and Financial Statement

Or go to this link

mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/wi-finances/wi-accounts-and-financial-statement

Congratulations to our Monthly Draw winners!

1st Prize £25— Elizabeth Austin, Shearsby & Arnesby

2nd Prize £15— Sue Mottram, Stoke Golding

3rd Prize £10—Stella Kind, Newbold Verdon



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

Public Affairs Committee

On Wed 1st November is Science Question Time—Dr Moya Burns , Citizen Science and Nature Connectivity. But what is Citizen Science? Around the world ordinary people of all ages engage in citizen science—participating in projects in which volunteers and scientists work together to answer real-world questions. Much of this work is conducted close to home, sometimes in our own backyards or even in our living rooms and kitchens, with guidance from professional scientists and using established science protocols and tools. Regardless of the location and process, citizen science brings everyone into the important work of learning more about and protecting our planet. Come along and enjoy this fascinating talk!

Fundraising Committee

A Seasonal Serendipity—Thursday 16th November 2023—doors open at 1pm for 1.30pm start. Book via secretary or by email or phone as an individual.



Well-known WI Trustee Sue Lobb is our ‘Federation Wino’, (it’s not as bad as it sounds, Sue used to write a regular wine column for County News) who will give you all you need to know on wines, red, white and pink plus those with a fizz! Gail Wooliscroft will delight us with her expertise on seasonal dishes and entertainment ideas. With an afternoon tea in the beautiful St Bartholomew’s Church Hall, Main Street, Kirby Muxloe, Leics LE9 2AJ and free parking—what is not to like?

Finance & House Management Committee

Process for end of year for treasurers including link with an Independent Financial Evaluator.

April—memo sent to all WIs to request an Independent Financial Evaluator (IFE) if needed.

June/July Federation allocates each WI to an IFE. There are currently 4 IFEs and 2 are WI members (so they can’t evaluate do their own WIs). Federation tells WIs the name of IFE and contact details .

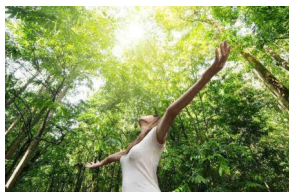
August Treasurers to contact their IFEs to arrange to take their books after their year end. Which may be August, September or October. They may be left at WI house by prior arrangement for the IFE to collect. Treasurers are responsible for ensuring that they take all paperwork, i.e. cheque books, pay-in books and bank statements. Plus, any relevant paperwork. And 2 copies of the signed Financial Statement, signed by Treasurer and President. Treasurers may claim expenses for travel.

After Audit The IFE arranges for the Treasurer to collect all paperwork and signs both copies of the Financial Statement. One is retained by the Treasurer for WI records the other is sent to WI House for retention. Treasurers to pay IFE a fee of £20 and up to a further £20 if they have to do extra work to get books to balance.

Organised by PA Committee

Science Question Time

Citizen Science and Nature Connectivity
A Talk by Dr Moya Burns



Wednesday 1st November

7.30pm-9:30pm

At WI House £8 per person

Organised by F&HM Committee

PAT Testing for WIs

Bring all electrical items for testing
to keep your WI safe



Weds 1st Nov and Thurs 2nd Nov
10am-2.30pm £2.50 per item

At WI House
Just drop in!

How do I get tickets? No paper tickets will be sent, an email is your confirmation. Please forward the email to anyone else named on your booking form.

Please ensure all contact details are supplied on the booking form in case of any emergencies.

Need to pay? - wait for your booking confirmation then either

- Pay by BACS with event name as reference
- Payments by Cheque (Secretaries/Treasurers only) can be sent to WI House made payable to LRFWI with event name on the back.
- Wait for invoice to your WI

Need to cancel?

Contact wihouse@lrfwi.org or call 0116 2661342

Organised by Fundraising Committee

A Seasonal Serendipity

St Bartholomew's Church Hall, Main Street, Kirby Muxloe, Leics LE9 2AJ
Thursday 16th November 2023



Doors open at 1pm for 1.30pm start
£12 (to include afternoon tea)

Organised by Arts & Crafts Committee

Christmas Dabble Day

Saturday 25th November 2023



10am-3pm

Park House, Stamford St,
Glenfield LE3 8DL
£20

Organised by Arts & Crafts Committee

Which Craft?

Craft Social Mornings



3rd Thursday of the Month
10am till 12noon
WI House
Free

Around the Counties

Birstall & Wanlip

Birstall & Wanlip WI invited Julie Tinley to their October meeting. Julie created some wonderful flower arrangements for Halloween, Harvest and Autumn, she explained the meaning behind several flowers and what the colours stood for. The arrangements were raffled off at the end of the evening.



Great Bowden



After our Centenary celebrations we held a Summer Lunch in August at the home of Secretary Tina Merchant. A beautiful day saw members come together for a buffet lunch provided by our

committee. There was a great selection of food followed by delicious desserts to enjoy in the sun

The August meeting took the form of a social evening with a quiz all about naming well known films. This was followed by supper and a chat.



In September members were interested to learn about the Art Deco Buildings of London with a talk by Colin Cohen. There are many examples usually built in the 1920s and 1930s. The style included rich colours, geometric shapes such as chevrons. The furniture and fittings and indeed fashions were of the era and they, as the buildings themselves, were glamorous and distinctive. Many still remain such as Broadcasting House, The Michelin Building now housing a famous French restaurant, The Daily Express Building which is very opulent, The Oxo Building built in 1928 and Battersea Power Station which has recently been converted to shops, flats and entertainment venues all in the Art Deco style.

Ullesthorpe

We continued with our plans to find places nearby to visit and found a gem. At Donnington le Heath we discovered the "1620's House." It was a 40 minute drive to see a rare example of a family home built 700 years ago and modernised in 1618 with new windows, a roof and a fireplace.

The guided tours around the house and garden were excellent. Our two guides were very informative.

The garden has been recreated in 17th century style with flower beds, small herb garden, a maze and an orchard. We were told about the medicinal properties of the herbs and how they were used in cooking too.

The prize exhibit in the house is the four-poster bed where Richard III was supposed to have slept on his way to Bosworth Field. We learned about old sayings and customs and the many ghost stories associated with the house.

There was also a welcome lunch between tours.



Seagrave



This month we had a go at botanical printing with artist Anna Michalska. We all created our own individual prints on bags. The rooms was full of noise and

concentration as we all got lost in the process of hammering the different flowers and foliage to create the prints.

Swepstone, Newton and Snareston

Our September meeting was an informative and light hearted talk about toilets.

Speaker David Bell gave us insights on the "privvies of Leicestershire" the talk was humorous, sometimes shocking and in some cases reminding us of the good old days of the outside lav! We learned about differing privvies and how these were shared, not only in the singular but multiple toilets inside one privvie!

Going to the loo will never be the same.

Around the Counties

Sheepy

Tonight we all learnt to salsa. From the youngest to the oldest everyone had a go!

Joy was very patient and got everyone following basic steps by the end of the evening.



Coleorton

In August we enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Queen's Head in Belton. During August some of us also had a day out on the steam railway at Wirksworth. Again the weather was in our favour and we had some excellent fish and chips.

September welcomed back a speaker we have enjoyed before, this time not talking about the Opening Ceremony of the 2012 Olympics but being a Team Driver at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. As ever the anecdotes were fascinating and gave a flavour of life behind the scenes at such a prestigious sporting event. I was particularly interested in the exchange of team pin badges and that the Scottish Team chose to make their pin badges out of wood, making them particularly sought after.

Waltham on the Wolds

We had a wonderful day out at Floral Media near Newark. It is run by a husband and wife team, Paula is a florist/horticulturist and NADFAS demonstrator. Our day started with coffee and biscuits, followed by Steven giving us a potted history as to how their business developed. We were unlucky with the weather due to torrential rain, but they rearranged the timetable and we did manage to see around the garden and also the fields where they grow the cut flowers. This is their main business to supply florist shops. Paula did a demonstration on how to do a tied bunch and it was raffled in aid of a cancer charity. Steve prepared and served a delicious lunch with generous servings. All in all, despite the rain, we thoroughly enjoyed our day out, and would like to return at a different time of year.



Great Bowden

It's Harvest time again and Great Bowden celebrated in style. The event was organised courtesy of the committee and with a very seasonal feel. The tables were set out to reflect the colours of Autumn with leaves of red, gold and brown. There were cones and table posies which included the ripened wheat. Members were served a delicious meal of chicken casserole and apple crumble followed by a variety of fresh fruit. All this was prepared by "Mother Cooker".

The WI choir were there with a selection of songs to make you feel happy and get the feet tapping. The choir was led by Pam Abbott and accompanied by Gordon Birch.

A special birthday cake was presented to Margaret Baker who will be 90 at the end of the month.

As usual a good time was had by all.



Swannington

We held our Annual Meeting in October, at which with sadness and gratitude they thanked Jenny Read for her ten year tenure as President. Jenny, (who originally took on the role for a year), has decided that now is the time for her and her husband to move south to be nearer family and she will be greatly missed. However she leaves our WI, with its many activities, in the very capable hands of our new President Viv Evans and we look forward to a new chapter in the life of our WI with Viv. The photograph of the official badge handover ceremony shows Jenny on the left and Viv on the right.

After the usual business of the meeting, members thoroughly enjoyed a music quiz, provided by member Janet, which certainly brought back many memories! The quiz provided great entertainment and much hilarity, with the occasional singing along whilst the answers were given the result was a close 'fight' with only one point in the final tally. A very enjoyable evening was finished off with a feast of delicious homemade cakes provided by the Committee.



Around the Counties

Kegworth



On Saturday September 9th, We held a fundraiser coffee morning at St Andrew's Church.

The cakes were home baked; the raffle was extremely popular with over fifteen prizes; and the teas and coffees served with winning smiles.



This event raised the profile of the WI in the village plus £200 to boost our funds for educational purposes.

Leicester Ladies

Leicester Ladies have enjoyed a relaxing summer. In August, those who were not away, met for a bit of a social and made a felt daisy badge.



Newbold Verdon

Mike Lister was our speaker in September and he delivered a presentation entitled 'All About Playing Cards'. He told us that the game originally started in China in the 9thC, but with very different cards to the ones we are used to.



Reaching Europe in the 14th/15th century via the Middle East, the cards had different suits in the different countries. These had no numbers on the cards, which made it difficult when playing. When printed they were mainly in red and black. They were brought to the UK in 1725, but it was not until they reached the USA in 1860 that they began to resemble those we would recognise. The Americans rounded the corners of the cards, made the court cards double ended, added numbers to each card and made the "knave" into a "jack". They also included the Joker in each pack. The UK introduced duty on each pack of cards sold in the 1700s and this wasn't abolished until 1960. The Worshipful Company was formed from the Trade Guild and each Master designed their own cards. These could be any subject and the trade guild still exists today. Mike had many examples of the various types of cards for us to see, some were replicas of very old cards. Altogether a very enjoyable talk.



Anstey

We ran a stall at the Anstey Gala. It was harder work than usual as it was held on the hottest day of the year. Footfall was down a little due to the cancellation of the dog show, but still it was successful in terms of fundraising, and camaraderie among the stalwarts manning the stall. The name the dog contest attracted many entrants, and the couple who won "Poppy" were delighted.

Blue Badge tourist guide Caroline Roberts visited the September meeting and gave a talk entitled "The Weaker Sex." Naturally she maintained that women are nothing of the kind, and unsurprisingly she and her audience were in complete accord. She encouraged audience participation as she told of well-known Leicester and Leicestershire women, such as suffragettes Alice Hawkins and Elizabeth Frisby. The latter dug up Birstall Golf course as part of her campaign, and much later became the first female Lord Mayor of Leicester. Sue Townsend, author of the Adrian Mole books had the Phoenix Theatre renamed in her honour. Other famous women achieved fame and success but later fell from grace.

It was a most interesting and amusing evening, and we all learned something.



A cheque was presented to Marian Driver as the representative of St Mary's Church. The funds had been raised towards the refurbishment of the church rooms at the Anstey Gala 2022.

The competition, "Leicester Memorabilia" was won by Gill Bryce with an old painting of High Cross. Sheila Timms was runner up, and Liz Hegggs came third.



Glenfield



We all enjoyed a delicious cream tea at this month's meeting. It was a welcome opportunity to relax and chat with new and old friends and maybe make a definitive decision on whether one spreads jam or clotted cream first on the scone!

During the summer, one of our members attended a week's course in Milanese Lace at The Lace Guild's Summer School in Gloucestershire. She thoroughly enjoyed it

and brought the piece of lace, which she is still working on, for us to see. We were all very impressed at how beautifully dainty the pattern was.

Future arrangements for The Lunch Club, Craft Group and Walking Group were also confirmed and members were able to sign up for the forthcoming day out at Boundary Mills.

Pre-loved books and jigsaw puzzles were on sale and a number of ladies were seen stocking up, possibly with the thought of keeping busy as the darker evenings draw in!

Around the Counties

Groby

We were brilliantly entertained at our September meeting by The After Eight Quartet singing acapella. The group consisted of Peter and Iris Sayer, Christine Hall and Richard Bennetts.

Interspersed with the singing, Peter told some amusing jokes. The evening started with Java Jive which was number one in the 1940s sung then by The Ink Spots. This was followed by their version of the 1962 hit by the Mamas and Papas, California Dreaming. The Quartet performed a nifty dance routine to Why Do Fools Fall In Love and Peter explained that it had been originally recorded in USA in 1956 by Frankie Lymon, and that Frankie had three wives (non of whom he divorced and was therefore a bigamist) who fought for the royalties of this song! We then had a rendering of Teddy Bears Picnic followed by The Lion Sleeps tonight with impressive animal noises and dance moves. The penultimate song was Come Go With Me, released in 1956 by The Del-Vikings, but Peter relayed the tale of John Lennon performing this song with the Quarrymen in 1957 at a church fete. The fete was also attended by Paul McCartney and the rest is history as they say!

The After Eight Quartet have previously performed their final rendition with Newtown Linford Choral Society and it was based on The Magic Flute by Mozart and was a fitting end to what had been a thoroughly enjoyable evening.



Woodhouse Eaves

The author, Margaret Dickinson, came to talk to us. She told us she has been writing since the age of 14 and always knew she wanted to be a writer.

Her books are normally set from the early 1900s to the 1960s. One agent advised her to start writing regional sagas so that they are recognisable to people who know the areas and it becomes more relatable. As she has lived in Lincolnshire for many years examples are 'Plough the Furrow' inspired by Church Farm Museum and Gibraltar Point and 'The Miller's Daughter' is based on Burgh le Marsh windmill. Her agent advised her of three things:- to use a strong woman as the central character, set it in a recognisable location and give it a satisfactory ending.

She has written three trilogies. Fleethaven covers three generations of women from Esther in 1910 set on a farm in Lincolnshire, Kate set in 1926 and Ella in 1950s. In this last book she covers the disastrous floods of 1953, when Margaret used her own memories of the floods whilst living in Chapel St Leonards. Her trilogies also have to be readable as standalone stories. Her stories are wide ranging, including many World War II and pre-World War II stories. She has written about a Suffragette girl, female Sheffield tram drivers (clippies), Bletchley Park and the Flying Ambulance Corps.

Margaret is very disciplined in her writing. The early morning is her favourite time to write and the process is quite organic. She writes a book every year and sets them in familiar locations which have included the Wolds and Fens in Lincolnshire as well as Nottinghamshire and Sheffield, which is not only a favourite place from her teenage years, but her ancestors were in the cutlery trade. She completed her talk with a couple of funny stories, one of which was when at a book promotion, a gentleman came along with a bunch of yellow roses, which he gave to Margaret, saying "These are for all the hours of peace and quiet you have given me over the years, when my wife is reading your books."



Hinckley Canalside

On our first meeting back from the summer break we had the lovely Phillipa Guy do a talk and demonstration on Colour Me Beautiful. She was able to talk us through this Autumn's colours and trends. She explained how Colour Me Beautiful works, looking at a person's skin tone, hair, eye colour, body shape and personality. It was a very interesting talk giving us plenty of ideas on how to be more stylish and how best to make the most of our features. She demonstrated on two of our members with different colour scarves and swatches in different shades. Colour Me Beautiful use six different colour types, personality types, tones, and styles. There are six colours with 42 shades. Phillipa also demonstrated make up, lipstick and the use of accessories to enhance an outfit and make it more stylish. It was an enjoyable evening leaving the ladies with lots of hints and tips on fashion and style.



Whissendine

At our September meeting, it was Keith Hansom talking about the Tower of London. Mr Hansom had spent twenty years living and working at the Tower as a Yeoman of the Guard or Beefeater as they are more commonly known. He started by giving us a brief history of the Tower which was built by William the Conqueror and originally was just the central part known as the White Tower. Extra buildings were added over the years until you see the Tower as it is now. Before the Tower was a prison for humans it housed animals that were given to the Crown by visiting foreign royalty, this was known as the Royal Menagerie. The first animals often didn't live long as the British climate was not appropriate and nobody really knew how to look after them. The animals that did survive were eventually moved to the grounds of Regent's Park that later became London Zoo.

The competition for the month was the letter D and this was won by Margaret Glenn with her Duke of Edinburgh badges.

Illston on the Hill

Mike Bull from the Little Theatre gave a presentation at our last meeting: "The Little Theatre Past and Present".

What a very interesting talk it was too. A former Reckabite Chapel – greatly altered and extended over the years. There have been some very ambitious productions. On average each production involves some 75 people including actors, directors, back stage staff, front of house staff, wardrobe, scenery and many more. This is something I certainly did not appreciate when sitting watching from the auditorium. The building suffered a devastating fire in the mid 1950s (caused by vandals) and much of the building was destroyed.

The theatre boasts several patrons, the most famous being the late Lord Richard Attenborough and Sir Anthony Hopkins. During Covid, like so many other organisations, their income became almost nil. Therefore funds are always required. There is a large costume hire department (ready for your next fancy dress party) and run a Youth Group as well as holding Acting Workshops. And of course give talks!

It is also the home of local amateur operative companies and hosts the One Act Festive and the Leicester Comedy Festival each February. Seating 350 people and welcoming over 30,000 visitors each year. It is predominantly voluntarily run.

There are lots of areas – other than acting – where people can help and they will always be made welcome. The annual pantomime is held around Christmas each year ----- oh yes it is!!!!

Hinckley Hollycroft

Several Hollycroft ladies manned the charity stall on Hinckley market raising a magnificent £165. Our membership dropped significantly after the pandemic so this was a very welcome boost to our funds.

We welcomed Yuko Dixon who gave us a taste – literally – of Japanese food. Three volunteers were shown how to make a sushi roll under her expert guidance and members encouraged to try the results. Yuko told us about Japanese culture and emphasized how important seasonality was to their diet.

Children are taught in primary school about the need for a balanced meal and, mainly because of healthy eating, Japanese women are amongst the longest living in the world. Yuko is a delightful lady who is keen to visit more WIs.

We thoroughly recommend her as a Speaker.



Market Harborough

Our May meeting was held at 'The Village' in Market Harborough.



This is a community Interest group and helps to promote a sustainable lifestyle with businesses such as Refill Revolution together with various community initiatives, such as the community café and garden and Harborough fixers.

Beth Lambert, Co founder of the Village, gave us a really interesting overview into their various projects including the Community fridge. This allows people to bring in any unused fruit and vegetables together with any unopened fresh produce which would otherwise go to waste. The Community fridge also has close links with local supermarkets and any unsold bakery items are also bought to the fridge. This provides valuable support to many people across the town and importantly ensures food is not wasted. Since its inception the Community fridge has saved 2 tonnes of food from going to waste (the equivalent of 2 polar bears!!) which is a fantastic achievement.



Bruce Durham from Harborough Woodland then shared some of the projects they are involved in. Bruce advised us that Market Harborough is one of the lowest areas for woodland cover with only 3-4% which is one of the reasons for the frequent flooding within the town and shared with us some of the flood management projects they are involved in. Bruce informed us that the group had been instrumental in organising the planting of 34,000 trees over the last 3 years - all of which had been provided for free! In addition they have set up the Green Schools group which facilitates the sharing of ideas between teachers to ensure children are well informed. Interestingly this initiative has been recognised by royalty and Kim Durham received a Royal Coronation award and was invited to Buckingham Palace for a garden party.

We then had Tim Claydon from Harborough Climate Action group speak to us on how to reduce our carbon footprint. Tim advised us that in the UK the average person is responsible for producing approx 13 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year with the main areas being from transport and food and drink. Tim shared several ways we could reduce this including using local suppliers and services wherever possible to minimise the transportation of goods, using LED light bulbs, making sure your homes are well insulated and planting trees and shrubs. Lots more ideas can be found on the website

www.sustainableharboroughcommunity.co.uk/hca

We had a really informative evening with lots of questions to our speakers, some food for thought and several of our members deciding to volunteer at the Village Community garden. The Village community café was open and we had the chance to purchase refreshments including some very delicious cakes and also to have a peruse at the many shops. We can highly recommend a visit there!

Around the Counties

Forest Group

Our speaker for the meeting were the Workhouse Storytellers. There were four members all dressed in appropriate costumes – The Matron, and three paupers – one man and 2 women. Matron told us about the organisation of the Workhouse; who was able to access help and how they were treated. If they were considered able to work, they were treated harshly. Those that were old or unable to care for themselves were treated in a more thoughtful way. We first heard from an old farm labourer, how he had been turned off because he was too old to work. His lost his tied cottage and it meant that as he and his wife had no children or other family they could live with, they had no choice but to enter the workhouse. He was not very complimentary about his wife, but thought he would be separated from her as it was normal to place men and women in separate accommodation. However, due to a plea from a clergyman, they were given a room together. He was not happy! The next pauper was a “trusted” inmate. These were given special privileges and helped about the workhouse with some freedom. The last pauper was not trusted and considered less useful, but she told us a story about an inmate that had a baby which she was unable (or unwilling) to look after. It was a sad story in which the baby finally died from starvation. However, it was a very enjoyable, sometimes amusing and sometimes sad entertainment, and very informative of how a Victorian Workhouse was run.



Broughton Astley

We were introduced to The Power of Colour by Annette Woods, who brought along a range of clothing in different shades of red – who would have believed there are so many! With two willing volunteers she demonstrated how a brighter shade suits a darker complexion and skin tone, whilst a softer shade is more flattering to someone with lighter hair and skin colour. She also showed how the right colour scarf can transform an existing outfit to something more suited to the wearer and how wearing the right colours really does make a difference to your self confidence. She had examples of all the shades of other colours and a card showing how to match your own colouring and the corresponding colours most flattering to you. Annette was very helpful in giving advice to individual members and does offer bespoke consultations. It was a very informative and enjoyable evening.

A group met for coffee and cake at the Okapi cafe at Blaby Golf course and enjoyed a very social morning and another saw a production of “A Murder is Announced” at The Little Theatre, which they enjoyed.

Our esteemed secretary, Bev, celebrated a special birthday so we were delighted to present her with a colourful bouquet to mark this event.



Glenfield Park



We've had a varied summer. We began with a visit to Barnsdale Gardens in Rutland. We were lucky with the weather as it stayed fine for most of the day. The gardens are set as a series of gardens and was set up by the Late Geoff Hamilton of television fame. There were over 30 individual gardens ranging from a tropical garden, a wildflower garden to a cottage garden and many more in between. Our overriding impression was of day lilies.

We were astonished at how many colourful varieties there were. Of course it goes without saying that we indulged in a tasty lunch.

Our next excursion was a trip on a broad beam boat along the river to Mountsorrel, having journeyed in the opposite direction last year. Again the staff of the Peter le Marchant trust were extremely welcoming and very efficient. We enjoyed tea and biscuits courtesy of the staff as we sailed along, enjoying the scenery and the tranquility. It was interesting to spot the wildlife and it gave us a chance to socialise.

We moored at Mountsorrel where we enjoyed a fabulous picnic lunch courtesy of two members of the group. We then headed back and the whole trip was considered a great success.



At our monthly meeting we enjoyed a talk about Hearing Dogs for the Deaf given by Jane accompanied by her lovely dog, Robyn. Robyn was her second dog as Indy her first dog retired as Jane had had him from a puppy for 14 years. They were of different temperaments. Indy was very lively whereas Robyn is very placid. She was quite happy to lie under the table. Jane found the change strange at first but now finds she couldn't manage without her. Because of how valuable she found the two dogs and the fact that they rely on donations, Jane embarked on a fundraising mission and because of her success she was invited to the headquarters where she met Princess Anne who is the patron of the charity. The headquarters is at High Wycombe where the dogs are trained. and they join their new owner after 2 years. Robyn is a Labrador but the most receptive breed is a Cockapoo. It was fascinating to learn about these dogs. I have only given a small insight into the subject. We had an interesting and enjoyable evening

Barwell

It was a beautiful day for Barwell Carnival this year. There was a huge turnout of Barwellians and a great family atmosphere. Barwell WI held a tombola and produce stall. Due to the incredible generosity of our members and supporters we had over 400 prizes to be won, many of which were handmade craft items. We had so many we were able to keep the tombola open for the whole day, selling to Shrek and Fiona, some shady looking pirates and a whole host of other characters in fancy dress, as well as being hugely well supported by the rest of the local community. The day also gave us an opportunity to chat with people about the WI and hand out information and invitations to join. A great day out for all the family, that was hugely enjoyable.



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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

Deadline for December issue 1st November

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Treasurers—do your best to get your accounts audited but if you are unable, please don't worry. Present your draft accounts to your meetings and update your members at a later date.



Thanks to treasurers for all your hard work to make WI business happen so smoothly!

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