

From the Board of Trustees...meet Beverly Blackburn



My name is Beverly Blackburn and I have been a member of the board for about 18 months. I have been a WI member at Birstall and Wanlip for nearly 20 years and am currently their secretary, having been the President previously for 12 years. I joined the Arts and Crafts committee when I retired as I am a keen crafter and having attended events over the years I was keen to become more involved. I really enjoy meeting members from other WIs and learning new skills and sharing ideas and would recommend coming along to events or coming and seeing how a committee works. You may even be tempted to join one and have fun organising events with us.

Recently I have been looking at some of the archives to find out about the History of LRFWI where I found the information about the WI copse at Billa Barra Hill. Hopefully this year we will be able to celebrate 25 years of the planting now that we have identified where it is. If you have any information on other past events, you think may have been forgotten, I would love to hear from you.

Beverly Blackburn




WI House - A Warm Welcome



WI House is open to members 9.30am-1.30pm Monday to Thursday. Members are welcome to visit for as long as they choose. Tea and coffee are available. We are here to welcome you!



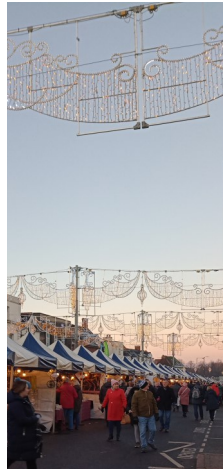
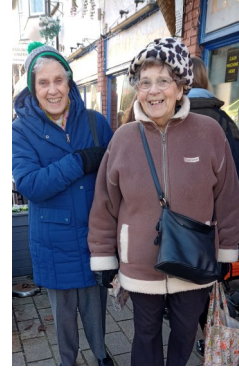
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Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes
 incorporated in England and Wales as a Company limited by Guarantee No. 02769771 Charity Reg No. 1016 766
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www.leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk or scan QR code
 Find us on Facebook: Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of WIs

Stratford Christmas Market Visit



Although it was a cold and frosty start to the day the sun came out and the Stratford Victorian Christmas Market was as good as ever.

There were a lot of food and drink stalls which people took advantage of for lunch and last minute Christmas gifts. Plenty of other stalls had interesting ideas for gifts or just for people to take home for themselves. The river close to the theatre was frozen over and ducks and seagulls were fed and watched, with some very precarious and slippery landings!



Subscriptions and Flexible Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2023 are due in April and will be £46.00 for the forthcoming year. Each Member should pay their subscriptions and WI funds cannot be used to subsidise subscriptions.

What can be used to reduce the amount paid is the Subscription Flexibility that is available to all WIs. The full Subscription rate is split three ways £12.60 is the NFWI share, £10.80 is the Federation share and £22.60 is the WI share. All WIs have the flexibility to reduce the WI portion that they keep, to their members.

This is a decision that should be discussed by your Committee each year and then put to your Members. Your committee will have to decide if your WI has sufficient funds to run and put on events and meetings for the Members with the funds you have in hand, as well as reserves for a "rainy day". Each WI is different and there are increased costs for speakers and hall hire to take into consideration. Some WIs may not be able to reduce Subscriptions at all, to provide the program they have planned. Members can also choose to donate up to the full amount if they wish.

Dual Members only pay the same WI portion as your full Members. They pay the NFWI and Federation portion to their main WI.

If you need any more information, you can contact any of the WI Advisers or look on the MYWI pages on the NFWI website. Whatever you pay I am sure that you will find a year of fun and friendship for your WI Subscription.

Janet Kirk, Chair of Membership Committee

Art & Crafts Committee

Which Craft?

Craft Social Mornings

3rd Thursday of the Month

Starting 16th February 2023

10am till 12noon

WI House

Do you enjoy crafting?

Come along for a friendly and relaxed morning where we each bring our craft projects for a time of crafting, sharing ideas, expertise and chat.

If you would like to join us, please register your interest by contacting WI House as numbers may be limited.



International Women's Day—9th March

On 9 March 2023 from 7 to 9pm, the NFWI will be hosting a webinar on Zoom for WI members and members from the Six-O group. The Six-O group is made up of the six leading women's organisations in the UK.

The webinar will offer WI members and members from the Six-O group the chance to hear from expert speakers on the importance of women in leadership. The panel of speakers will also reflect on their own experience taking on leadership roles in their own careers. We will be publishing the full panel for the event in the new year.

You can register to attend by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-wi-webinar-international-womens-day-2023-tickets-471310300797>



Monthly Draw Winners!

Congratulations to our Monthly Draw winners for December!

1st Prize £100

No.73

Kim Goodwin, Huncote WI

2nd Prize £50

No. 10

Anne Smith, Burbage WI

3rd Prize £25

No. 35

Rosanna Ayres, Barkby and Beeby

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



What's Coming Up?

February

Sat 18 Temple Visit* & Beading Workshop

March

Wed 8 Abbey Park Guided Walk, 11am* & 2pm

Sat 18

ACM, Leicester Grammar School, 10.30am-3.30pm

Thurs 23

NFWI Annual Meeting Delegate Meeting, 2pm

Tues 28

Resolutions Briefing WI House 2pm and 7pm

April

Wed 19

Afternoon Tea with Baroness Bolsover

May

Sat 13

RHS Malvern Spring Show

*fully booked but a new date will be sent



Federation Events

Annual Council Meeting 2023

Leicester Grammar School,

Great Glen, Leicester LE8 9FL

Saturday, 18 March 2023 10.30 am – 3.30pm

Tickets: £15 each (£7.50 for stewards)

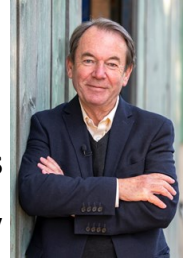
Doors open at 9.30am to shop at the stalls, view competitions and Committee displays. Please bring a packed lunch. Drinks are available for sale and you may wish to bring your own reusable cup.

Our speakers for the Annual Council Meeting 2023:



Ruth Goodman

Social & domestic historian & TV presenter



Eric Knowles

Antiques expert, writer & TV

Federation Competitions

Cookery, Craft and Flower exhibits

Please bring to Leicester Grammar School on Saturday, 18 March 2023 between 8.30am & 9.45am.

Competitor must make arrangements for collection of the item after the meeting.

The entrance fees can be paid on the day, but please let WI House know you are entering by completing the slip on the schedule and returning it to WI House by Friday 3 March 2023.



INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

Open to all members

ADULT COOKERY

Schedule: Victoria Sandwich on a plate (see schedule for recipe)

The winner be awarded the Leicestershire tray for 1 year

CHILDREN'S COOKERY

Schedule: 3 Decorated Cupcakes
£1.00 per entry

Class 1: Age 7 and under; Class 2: Age: 8 to 15

The winners in each class will receive a small prize

CRAFT

Schedule: A Card Inspired by Poetry

In any medium, no larger than A5. The title of the poem should be written on the back. Envelope or box optional.

£1.00 per entry on the day, no entry form required.

The winner of this competition will receive gift voucher

FLOWER COMPETITION

"THE JOSÉ SMART AWARD"

Schedule: A fresh spring flower arrangement in an egg cup
£1.00 per entry

The winner of this competition will be awarded the José Smart cut glass trophy for one year



Brenda Barnett Trophy 2023

Theme: A Family Celebration

Three different craft items to be displayed on a board 22" x 22" (56cm x 56cm), with an optional back board but no side boards are permitted. Accessories are allowed. A card of intent must be provided explaining the interpretation of the theme and choice of items displayed.

Exhibits will be displayed at the Annual Council Meeting 2023 and will be featured in County News.

Entry fee £6.00 (non-refundable).

Closing date for entry forms: 26 January 2023

This competition is open to WI Groups or individual WIs of the Leicestershire & Rutland Federation. ONE entry per Group/WI

In Memory—Freda Williams 1929—2022

Everyone at Ullesthorpe WI was saddened to hear that Freda died on 5th December 2022. Freda joined our WI in the mid 1950s and was an enthusiastic and dedicated member until March 2021. She served on the committee for a number of years and was President from 1973 to 1976. She was actively involved with the Wycliffe Group, a very enthusiastic and long-standing member of the Federation Home Economics Committee and was elected onto the Executive Committee, now the Board of Trustees, for a spell. Freda took delight from being involved in all aspects of the WI and attended the Federation ACM and National Annual Meetings whenever possible. She could be relied upon to enter our competitions and participate in any outings we organised, especially to the Hinckley Concordia, and promoted the work of ACWW.

Freda was a skilled embroiderer and we treasure the President's Tablecloth she made that will continue to be used at every meeting. She loved Denman and during one weekend she struck up a friendship with members from Stretton-on-Dunsmore WI in Warwickshire. A 'twinning' arrangement was formed whereby members from Ullesthorpe would visit Stretton for their August meeting one year and return the favour the following year. This continued for many years until Stretton WI sadly closed in 2019.

We have lost a true champion of the WI but have very happy memories of her friendship and dedication.

Clare Robertson Smith, Ullesthorpe WI secretary



Around the Counties

Markfield

On 6 December, back by popular demand, Markfield WI put on A Christmas Alphabet, a light hearted entertainment of songs, sketches and readings followed by refreshments. Members from other local WIs were invited together with family and friends which made for a very enthusiastic audience joining in the songs and being generous with their applause. Our members are now getting used to the limelight and musical instructions on Stirring the Pudding, a Pantomime of Snow White, with a cast of 7 plus narrator and the 12 Days of Christmas performed by a cast of 6 were amongst the highlights.

There was a lot of praise for the evening and as the WI motto is Inspiring Women we hope we have inspired one of the other WIs to have a go next year.



Broughton Astley



Our members had taken time over previous months in making gift tags from last year's Christmas and birthday cards, which were left at various places in the village for residents to help themselves. These proved very popular again.

foil, yogurt pots, beads and embellishments, parts of plastic bottles, CDs, egg boxes and milk bottle tops to name but a few. Everyone admired our efforts and there was a box of spares for visitors to help themselves and maybe give them ideas to make for themselves next year!



A large group of members enjoyed a pre-Christmas meal at The Bull in Broughton Astley, when we enjoyed delicious food and a very sociable evening to get the season off to a good start.



We all enjoyed our Christmas party, when the committee provided savoury and sweet nibbles accompanied by wine and St Clements mocktail, as well as being entertained by The After Eight Quartet, who performed a delightfully varied selection of popular and seasonal songs. There were lots of raffle prizes and we exchanged Secret Santa gifts before concluding the evening. We all agreed we had enjoyed a successful year and are anticipating more interesting events included in our programme.



The Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church was re-started this year after the enforced absence and our entry was "The Modern 3Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle". A team of members led by Lyn Vendeback crafted an amazing array of decorations only using items we had and materials that are often discarded. There was an abundant use of cardboard rolls, card and paper,



Around the Counties

Newbold Vernon

Our December meeting was cold and frosty outside but warm and friendly inside.



We enjoyed a feast of Christmas flower arrangements from Kerry Evans, ranging from a display in a Christmas Cracker, another in a pottery sleigh/gravy boat and a circular wreath. She also showed us how to enhance a garland for the table or stairway and gave several hints on caring for flowers.

Some members were lucky enough to win the various items.



A festive evening was enjoyed by all.

Hathern



Hathern Christmas Tree Festival was held at the beginning of December and the theme this year was 'Let It Snow'. Here Gill, Julia and Mary are decorating the tree with snowflakes, snowmen, Ice Skates, Angels etc made from a variety of crafts.

Next was our Christmas Lunch which was held at Loughborough College and was attended by around 30 members.



We had a very tasty 3 course meal followed by coffee and mince pies which were all served by the students as part of their college course.

All in all we've had a wonderful year of talks and activities and are all looking forward to see what next year brings.

Quorn



We were kept in awe at the number of beautiful quilts Carolyn Boulter brought to show us at our last meeting. Along with many other examples of her work, some of which were for sale, Carolyn has spent many years creating these wonderful designs all with their own story to tell. We were shown various crafting ideas we could make at a meeting or with your craft group

which we hope to take part in next year. An inspiring afternoon.

Blind Photographer Brian Negus came to tell us about Challenging Preconceptions in disabilities.

Sight loss and the various forms this can take. Many of us wear glasses nowadays and probably

have problems with cataracts, glaucoma, night vision or reading and distance problems. Brian brought various glasses that people could try on to show how your vision is affected by some of these conditions. He showed us several items that could help with sight impairment and as he ably showed us with various slides is a very competent photographer. He is shown judging the meetings competition with a special magnifying lens. Brian's condition was noticed at school by one of his teachers and he was diagnosed with a progressive sight impairment. Brian raises money for Vista not only through speaking engagements but also by selling some of his photographs to companies and charities for their promotional calendars, advertising and point of sale merchandise. Closer to home we recognised a photograph of the Carillon Tower in Loughborough which they proudly used for one of their Christmas Cards plus many more photographs of places in and around our region.



We not only enjoyed a sumptuous feast of turkey, ham and delicate freshly cooked salmon carved by Ian Rogerson but also a delightful number of popular songs sung by him with his accompanist Mary on the piano. Ian has a very good singing voice and clearly has musical experience in the way he performs.



He then led us all in a number of Christmas Carols giving us a festive feel to the last meeting of 2022.



Around the Counties

Shearsby and Arnesby



We were fortunate to be awarded the County Bursary at the ACM in March last year.

We arranged a Floristry Workshop for our members and were shown how to make a "Shovel" to hang on our doors or to lay on a table.

Heather O'Conner from Husbands Bosworth was our tutor and we had a great time.

Hinckley Hollycroft Hellcats..

...are really enjoying their Walking Netball sessions. They have been joined recently by ladies who responded to their article in the local U3A newsletter. Coach, Roz Rathbone, makes it all about fun and the last session of 2022, Christmas jumpers and silly games raised the laughter levels even more than usual. Some members who are unable to join in come along to watch for the entertainment value. Although exercise is the main objective, Roz organises meals out and they are looking forward to 2023. Perhaps other Walking Netballers can copy their idea of using the sessions as an unusual recruitment tool for the Federation?



Anstey



At our Christmas party, we were royally entertained by Alan, Margaret and Eileen, members of Lutterworth speakers' club. Each told several stories, and members had to decide whether they were true or false. One that particularly sticks in the mind was of land crabs in Fiji, who crawled under

groundsheets at night, and stole ladies' underwear and dive computers, which were discovered when a trench was dug. I will not reveal the answer, in case any readers have the chance to play the game at a later date.

There followed an excellent buffet, prepared by our food elves, Gill Bryce, Heddy Prior, and Liz Heggs, and mulled wine prepared and served by president Annie Spanswick, and Jan Darby. All the aforementioned worked very hard, and we thank them very much. Secret Santa gifts were delivered by Santa himself, aided by Mrs Christmas and one of his elves, and finally prizes were awarded to the winners of the monthly competitions, with Elizabeth Robinson taking the trophy. Runners up were Marian Driver and Pauline Annis.



It had been a wonderful ending to our WI year.

Swepestone, Newton and Snarestone



At our November WI meeting we said thank you to our President Vicky who has stepped down, for all her hard work and care for each member of our group. Vicky has worked hard during challenging times with Covid pandemic to keep our meetings running via zoom.

We entered a Christmas tree in Swepestone Church Christmas Tree Festival. This included all our crafts we have during our meetings.



Botcheston

A quietish November – preparing ourselves for a busy December.

Our meeting in November proved to be very popular – WINE TASTING with Ashley Hadfield. We felt that we had to open the meeting up to guests and a number of members brought husbands – this made for a lovely rendition of Jerusalem having some tenors joining in!

We very quickly covered the business side of the meeting as we were all eager for the Wine Tasting to begin. Ashley began by giving a brief outline of her introduction to Wine Tasting starting at the tender ages of 18!

The actual title of the talk was WINE – WHY PAY MORE.

Ashley had selected a supermarket white wine and red wine and then selected a like for like more expensive version – Both the red and white wines caused a split decision – at the end of the day it is a personal choice.





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