

## Annual Council Meeting 2025—thank you for coming!



Three speakers - The Baldwin Trust, who will become our charity of the year, Vicky Macqueen, head of Women's Rugby at Leicester Tigers and Didi Rugby, and Dr Annie Gray, food historian. We received lots of positive feedback about the day so thanks to everyone who made it a success. Two of our talented WI members from

North Kilworth WI, mother and daughter team Sandra Acton and Toni Snell, created the beautiful pedestal and table displays at the ACM. Sandra and Toni previously lived in South Africa where displays using stunning native flowers are the order of the day.



<b>Federation Chairman</b> Glenice Wignall glenicewignall@lrfwi.org	<b>Federation Treasurer</b> Mary Hobbs maryhobbs@lrfwi.org	<b>Federation Secretary</b> Tina Lee fedsec@lrfwi.org	<b>Office Manager/ Accounts</b> Lois McKinder wihouse@lrfwi.org	<b>Finance</b> finance@lrfwi.org
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### Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes

incorporated in England and Wales as a Company limited by Guarantee No. 02769771 Charity Reg No. 1016 766

**WI House, 135 Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5LQ**

**Tel: 0116 2661342 Email: [wihouse@lrfwi.org](mailto:wihouse@lrfwi.org)**

**New opening hours: Mon-Weds 9.30am—2.30pm**

[www.leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk](http://www.leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk) or scan QR code

Find us on Facebook: Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of WIs





## ACM Competitions



Edith Buckley Poetry Entries



The Art and Crafts Committee were grateful for the enthusiastic response to our display and the number of fantastic and inspiring entries to the

Individual Craft Competition. The standard was very high and made the judging difficult. Thank you for your heart-warming response.

The Brenda Barnett standard of exhibits remains constantly high and is a pleasure to see. We look forward to receiving entries for the Art Trophy Competition next year – watch this space for more details.

### Brenda Barnett Entries



1<sup>st</sup> Peatling Magna WI



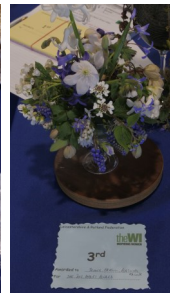
2<sup>nd</sup> Ashby Spa WI



3<sup>rd</sup> Forest Group



4<sup>th</sup> Quorn Afternoon WI



Jose Smart Flower Entries



Margaret Johnston Cup, Dorothy Tomlinson, Peatling Magna WI



100th Year Certificate, New Barkby WI



Darts Trophy Winners, Hinckley Hollycroft WI



Adult Cookery Competition (Chutney), Clare Robertson-Smith, Ullesthorpe WI



Darts Trophy Runners Up, Ashby Spa WI



Long Alley Skittles Trophy Runners Up, Barsby WI



Individual Craft Competition, Lynne Lewis, Kirby Muxloe WI



Long Alley Skittles Trophy Winners, Kirby Muxloe WI



100th Year Certificate, Waltham on the Wolds WI



105th Year Certificate, Cossington WI



105th Year Certificate, Illston on the Hill WI



Brenda Barnett Competition Peatling Magna WI



Edith Buckley Poetry Cup, Beverley Ashby Loughborough Ladies WI



Adult Cookery Competition (Cake), Sue Rayner, Waltham on the Wolds



Jose Smart Flower Competition, Sandra Meakin, Waltham on the Wolds WI



Membership Bell, Great Bowden WI

## From the Board



I hope you enjoyed the ACM, it was great to see so many WIs. We are planning on reviewing our plans for the Annual Council Meeting and our Yearbook so please do contact the Federation if you have any thoughts on future versions of both!

Our officer elections were conducted on Tuesday 1st April and we are pleased to announce that:

Chairman—Glenice Wignall

Treasurer—Mary Hobbs

Vice Chair1—Gail Wooliscroft

Vice Chair2—Susan Woollard

We are also pleased to announce that we have a new Federation Secretary, Tina Lee, who comes with a wealth of experience. Lois McKinder has been promoted to Office Manager as she has been covering both the finance and administrative roles very competently—thanks Lois for your work and well done for the new position.

The Federation's **Holiday Destination for the Year** is Alveston Hall. Located just five minutes from the Cheshire riverside town of Nantwich, this wonderful hotel delivers a memorable experience with its well-kept gardens and impressive historical features.

We have 30 spaces remaining and bookings are on a first come first served basis to allow for full fairness in booking.

Do feel free to contact me on anything WI.

## From the House

Gentle reminder that Office Hours have changed to Mon-Weds 9.30am-2.30pm, this is for a trial period and you can always contact the Board officers if there is anything urgent. This information is also on our website and in the Yearbook .

I'm Tina Lee the new Federation Secretary who has taken over from Sandra Woodward. A little bit about myself. My background is Executive Assistant and also Event Management roles, having worked recently for the NHS at the Leicester General Hospital supporting the Trust Board and the various committees. I also worked as the Executive Assistant to the CEO for England Netball, however the majority of my career has been

working for 10 years at IOSH (the Institution for Occupational Safety & Health professionals) as well as Relationship Manager for committee volunteers; also Mayor's Secretary for Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council for 4 years; and prior to that I worked for 20 years as the operations manager for a tour operator, Page & Moy, which covered cruises, as well as long-haul holidays and motor racing, so as you can see my career has been quite varied.

I absolutely love to travel and really enjoy cooking. I try to also attend the local walking netball group and have just recently re-joined a local gym to try and get my fitness levels back up. I have a daughter who will be flying the nest soon to go to University, so I will have much more free time on my hands, and at home we also have a crazy tabby rescue cat called Crumpet (we didn't name her that but she seems to respond to that name so we kept it)!

I am really looking forward to working for the LRFWI and having attended the recent ACM, I now hope to meet many more of you in the following months.





## Membership Committee

Are you up for a challenge? Will your general knowledge help you to reign supreme?

Then gather together members, friends and family and enter a team at one of the four venues in this year's Federation Quiz. **£7 per person – teams of four.**

**Bagworth Community Centre, LE67 1BH**

**Rearsby Village Hall, LE7 3DH**

**Stoney Stanton Village Hall, LE9 4LQ**

**Wing Village Hall, LE15 8SA**

**7pm for 7.30pm.** Each team must have 2 WI members, the event is open to non-members, male and female. Light refreshments included. Bring your own drinks if you wish.

If you would like to book for this event, please **contact your WI secretary** or email [wihouse@lrfwi.org](mailto:wihouse@lrfwi.org) with a booking form and pay by BACS by 24th June 2025. Please state clearly the venue you wish to book and if you have any accessibility requirements.

WI Advisers are members just like you, who have been **appointed by the federation** to fulfil this role. As a WI Adviser you would help to establish new WIs and help existing WIs to grow by promoting membership, providing advice, and running training sessions.

The certificated training for this role has been streamlined – so it's all online on the WI Training Hub and there are 7 modules. You can complete the modules at your own pace and you do not have to complete all the training in one sitting. Why not take a look?

<https://learninghub.thewi.org.uk/book-wi-adviser-training/>

In addition to this training, those new to the role will spend time shadowing existing WI Advisers within the federation, including observing monthly Membership Committee Meetings - when WI Advisers get together to discuss business and share best practice.

Experience being a WI committee member is useful, as well as basic IT skills.

Why not contribute to the success of LRFWI and beyond?

**Want to know more?**

You can also go to: <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/federation-team/federation-positions/wi-advisers>

Email me at: [mandycutler@lrfwi.org](mailto:mandycutler@lrfwi.org) or phone 07724 124094.

## Arts and Crafts Committee



### Crochet Day

We spent a lovely day improving our crochet skills. Everybody learnt something new and we had some great feedback from the ladies that attended. Ideas were shared and some very ambitious projects were shown.

## Fundraising Committee

SPRING LUNCH - SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025

This time, we are delighted to have our WI National Chair, Jeryl Stone, as our speaker at our Spring Lunch. This event is being held at Devonshire Place, Leicester. There will be a two course lunch which everyone should enjoy. Tickets are selling well so book your place early to avoid disappointment. With our National Chair attending, this is truly a unique event.

Jeryl is experienced and has a range of interesting hobbies so should make an enjoyable talk. Also you may get to ask all the questions you have wanted to ask of NFWI!



## Leisure Committee

It was lovely to meet and chat with so many of you at the ACM, 29<sup>th</sup> March. This has really helped us to understand what type of events members would like the Leisure Committee to organise. We also had good feedback about the events we have organised.

The walks in Leicester, the Treasure Hunt in Market Harborough and Cossington Open Garden are firm favourites, these being booked to capacity and beyond!

The VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party, 9<sup>th</sup> May, promises to be a real “knees up”, come along and celebrate this momentous occasion with us.

If you are coming to the Speakers Showcase on 24<sup>th</sup> April, we will be there to gather more of your views and suggestions.

OR if you prefer you can always write/email to WI House.

We know we are pleasing some of you some of the time, but we'd like to please more of you more of the time.

Leisure means spending time relaxing, free from duty or work, doing the things you want to do let the Leisure Committee help you do that. We want to open a few more doors to give you the chance to experience something new. Here's to having even more fun with WI.



**Janet Harrison, Vice Chair Leisure Committee**

## NFWI Lottery

Thanks to those who have bought a NFWI Lottery Ticket. We have received £16 for the Federation in February and you can also register if you'd like your contribution to go to your own WI. Lots of amazing prizes . Tickets cost just £1 a week

**Help give our fundraising a boost**

**Win up to £25,000! [www.thewilottery.co.uk](http://www.thewilottery.co.uk)**



**BUY TICKETS**

## What's On?\*

Tue 8th April	Treasure Hunt	Market Harborough	£9 FULL
Wed 16th Apr	Scottish Dancing Taster	Cossington	£5
Thurs 24th April	Speakers Showcase	Scraptoft	£5
Sat 26th April	Beginners Embroidery	WI House	£25
Wed 30th April	Resolutions Briefing	WI House	£5 —1 space
Wed 7th May	Gurdwara Faith Visit	Leicester	£10
Sat 9th May	VE Day Celebration	Scraptoft	£15
Sat 10th May	Spring Lunch	Devonshire Place	£32
Thu 15th May	Open Garden & Cream Tea	Cossington	£16
Wed 18th June	Bletchley Park Visit	Bletchley	£45 FULL
Sat 28th June	Stumpwork Workshop	WI House	£40 for both
& Sat 5th July			
Thu 17th July	Summer Afternoon Tea	Broughton Astley	£14
Fri 4th July	Federation Quiz	Various Venues	£7 per person—Teams of 4

\* final details on What's On are to be confirmed by the Board \*\*further dates to follow

## Family Favourite Recipe—Salmon, purple sprouting broccoli & sweet potato mash

1 ½ tbsp sesame oil  
 1 tbsp low-salt soy sauce  
 Thumb sized piece of ginger, grated  
 1 garlic clove, crushed  
 1 tsp honey  
 2 sweet potatoes, scrubbed and cut into wedges  
 1 lime, cut into wedges  
 2 boneless skinless salmon fillets  
 250g purple sprouting broccoli  
 1 tbsp sesame seeds  
 1 red chilli, thinly sliced (optional)  
 Heat oven to 200C/180 fan/gas 6 and line a baking tray with parchment.

Mix together ½ tbsp. sesame oil, the soy, ginger, garlic and honey. Put the sweet potato wedges, skin and all, into a glass bowl with the lime wedges. Cover and microwave on high for 12-14 mins until completely soft.  
 Meanwhile, spread the broccoli and salmon out on the baking tray. Spoon over the marinade and season. Roast in the oven for 10-12 mins, then sprinkle over the sesame seeds.  
 Remove the lime wedges and roughly mash the sweet potato. Mix in the remaining sesame oil and chilli and season. Divide between plates along with the salmon and broccoli.

## Monthly Draw

**Congratulations to our Monthly Draw winners!**

**1st Prize £25— Michelle Burton, Cossington**

**2nd Prize £15— Christine Rowe, Broughton Astley**

**3rd Prize £10— Ann Mawby Shearsby & Arnesby**



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

### Scottish Dancing Taster

Wednesday 16th April 2025

7pm £5 Per Person

Open to All



### SPEAKERS' SHOWCASE



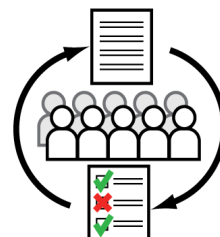
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Goodwood Bowls Club

8A Crofters Drive, LE5 2FH

6.30 For 7pm (prompt) –

### Resolution Briefing Meetings



Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025

2pm & 7pm

WI House

£5 per 2 members per WI

### Gurdwara Visit



Wednesday 7th May 2025

10.30am -12.30pm

£10 to include refreshments

### Beginners Embroidery



Sat 26th April

£25

WI House

### Spring Lunch



Sat 10th May

Devonshire Place

£32

3 course meal fine dining

**Secretaries/Treasurers—Don't leave your booking until the closing date. You can add to the booking by phone at a later date if further members want to attend.**

If you want to book as an individual, use the booking form on our website under Federation Downloads

—email the form to [wihouse@lrfwi.org](mailto:wihouse@lrfwi.org) or call 0116 2661342

If you want to book with your WI, contact your Secretary or Treasurer



# Around the Counties

## Broughton Astley

Barry Watson and his wife ran a very successful canal hotel boat company for six years until 2002 as part of his career in canal boating on our wonderful canals and waterways. He started his talk with a bit of history of canals – the Romans started them, of course, joining the Fosse-dyke to Lincoln – then in the 1760s the Duke of Bridgewater wanted to move his coal and Josiah Wedgwood his pots so Joseph Brindley was commissioned to build for

them. They flourished in the 1790s and only declined, not with the coming of the railways as we had thought, but with the



## New Barkby

Speaker – Mitchell Bridgewater, accompanied by his mother, Vicki, herself a W.I. member. Originally from Earl Shilton, Mitchell now lives near Carlisle. He calls himself the “worst best amateur sewer of 2022” as he talked about Covid-19 and its effect on activities. So as an arts theatre manager, he started to learn how to sew from his wife’s instructions. This led him to apply and then be selected to appear on BBC TV’s “The Great British Sewing Bee”. Everyone was amazed and interested in his whole experience of making face-masks and clothes for the programme. After his talk, members could admire some of his garments and other literature, plus items of a sewing nature. . He also makes a podcast about his life now.

Member Gillian Weston came into the meeting wearing a jacket which she then entered into the competition for the evening “an item you have sewn”. This won the most points, to be included in the end-of-year cup for the competition.

## Woodhouse Eaves

We were treated to an enjoyable and enlightening evening by retired policeman, Richard Warren who now gives talks on Leicester’s oldest suburb: Highfields.

Outlining a brief historical and geographical development of Leicester, that took us from the 13th Century and the time of Simon de Montfort through the late Georgian and Victorian periods to the 20th century, it was possible to see how and why Highfields became a large and important suburb of Leicester.

Stretching from the site of the old 1801 Toll House at the junction of Charles Street and London Road and going south out of the city on the A6, Highfields is located all along the left hand side opposite Victoria Park and eastwards behind these houses where once there were agricultural and grazing lands.

Over the centuries competing political factions and Ecclesiastical bodies had acquired large parcels of land. To this day it’s possible to recognise land originally owned by the church through street names; Prebend and Glebe.

We were surprised to learn that the New Walk Museum had

## Oakham

Ten members of Oakham WI travelled to Peterborough Cathedral to visit the exhibition “The Longest Yarn, a thread through history”. The concept was devised by an English woman living in Normandy who started by knitting a topper for her gate as part of her village’s annual D day celebrations. This grew to an 80 metre display and the rest is history. An army of knitters and crocheters, mainly based in England, including Micheldean WI, produced the eighty displays covering all aspects of the D day landings, with scenes based on memories and photographs of the events.

We were stunned by the level of detail in each display and the skills utilised. A really enjoyable and inspiring visit.



## Wymondham

For our March meeting we visited Ben Burgess who kindly hosted an interesting and informative evening at their Oakham branch. A superb conference venue. The presentation included the history of the company to the future of farming. We were privileged to see the latest, driverless tractor in their workshops followed by a short tour of the depot.

A big thank you to the 4 friendly & professional guys from Ben Burgess who gave up their valuable time for us. The evening was enjoyed by all those who attended.

The delicious homemade cakes we left were gratefully received.





## Around the Counties

### Cossington

Our members have had a busy month. We welcomed the Cosby Yarn Bomb founders to our Members Meeting. They told us how they met and how it grew gaining many members. Over the years it has become really well known with the Cosby village getting involved for their open weekend and a lot of visitors coming to view their amazing exhibits. They brought with them Nero the Gladiator who has been invited to a Gladiators television filming.

We also organised a Ten Pin Bowling evening, starting with a meal. A really fun evening and very competitive.

We finished the month with a breakfast Social at Gynsills for an informal chat.



### Groby

In January, the WI Committee had an outing to St Joseph's Tea Room at Abbey Grange, Oaks Road, Coalville for afternoon tea.



Our speaker for February was Philippa Guy who is a consultant for Colour Me Beautiful. She explained how using a system known as the Munsell system, a colour palate could be developed for each person, taking into account their eye, hair and skin colour and resulting in a wallet of 42 shade recommendations which aims to help us look our best. We discussed another element of the Colour Me Beautiful service to help us look our best and build a cohesive wardrobe. This involves understanding 6 style categories with examples. We discussed where we thought we would fit in these categories. It seems that these categories were influenced greatly by lockdown with people staying at home more for work and not socializing. Our session ended with us trying many coloured scarves to see what suited us and purchasing them if we wanted.

It was an interesting talk and I'm sure that some of the participants will take up the consultation services offered in the future.

### Newbold Verdon

In February we held an auction with donated gifts. Bidding was brisk with members vying with each other for the various items. It was a noisy but very enjoyable evening.

In March it was our 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We celebrated in style, starting with musical entertainment from singer Helen and pianist Sally who sang songs through the years. This was followed with a faith supper and birthday cupcakes and fruit punch both made by members. We also thanked Hildred Freeman, who had retired from the Committee after serving for 55 years. She told us a bit about what it was like all those years ago and brought photos from past times for members to see. This caused lots of chatter and it was altogether a brilliant birthday. Here's to the next 90!



### Wigston Magna

Our February meeting speaker was "Confessions of Game Show Junkies". Stephanie told us how after appearing in her first show it became a bit addictive (she got her partner to join in too). She met Bob Monkhouse, who was really nice, on Bob's Full House, Anne Robinson, not so nice, on The Weakest Link, and many more presenters. There were wins and losses on the way, and lots of nerves and laughs.



In March Ginnette Brookes, a "Silver Swans" dance teacher visited and we learnt some basic ballet moves with audience participation. I think we were better than we thought we would be. Even small movements can make a lot of difference in our ability to keep our balance and prevent falls as we age. It was also a lot of fun.

### Anstey



Lorna Lovett came to our meeting to deliver a sleep workshop. Who among us has never lost some sleep at night? She began by explaining the stages of sleep, and then gave some suggestions for a night-time routine, such as avoiding blue screens, keeping the bedroom clutter free, and avoiding caffeine and alcohol after 6pm. One trick Lorna uses is to move her pillow and turn upside down in the bed! Possibly not for everyone.

She then turned to the use of sprays and essential oils. Who knew that lavender oil could be effective when applied to the soles of the feet?

Our monthly competition, an owl in any medium, attracted a large number of entries, varying widely. The winner once again was the talented Sue Crook.



### Ullesthorpe

We welcomed Carol Manchester to our February meeting to talk about her life as a Taxidermist. What an amazing person she is. Carol had always wanted to follow that career even to the point of asking her family, as a young child, for a "brain scoop" for a birthday present.

Her talk was informative and very amusing. The members were enthralled by the descriptions of her work. No gory details just lots of interesting and amusing facts about her unusual life. When she was approached by a WI local to her, news had spread round the village about the strange title of the talk and only few members turned up !! Hope they realised what they had missed. She uses a lot of animals from accidents and road kill, not family pets.

She has used foxes, birds and even a bison. They are often sold as mascots for companies.



## Around the Counties

### Hinckley Hollycroft

We have had an interesting look into the world of musical entertainment. First we had John Langham telling us all about how listening to music has changed over the years. Music halls in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and a piano in most homes was how music was enjoyed by the majority of the public until record players took over. The demand for music on the move has moved all the way from portable transistor radios, followed by Sony Walkmans to ear buds in the digital age. Next we had Dave Andrews telling us all about 'Auntie', aka the BBC, and how television took over from radio after the war to convey the important events of the age. He explained how the Duke of Edinburgh was instrumental in ensuring the coronation was televised in 1953 as one example of the massive influence the BBC had at that time. Video recorders were a significant jump forward but, now most of us have mobile phones, we can watch when and wherever we choose.



### Loughborough Ladies

We enjoyed a lively and entertaining talk by Jo Golby on the life of a ladies' maid in Victorian times. Jo, in costume, played the part of Violet, maid to Lady Curzon and we learned a great deal about the privations suffered by aristocratic ladies having to wear neck braces and corsets to achieve the fashionable figure of the day and heard that ladies were allowed to be beaten by their husbands as long as it was with a stick no thicker than their thumb (the "rule of thumb"). Jo also delivered a quick lesson in the language of fans so that we are all prepared to encourage or repel would-be admirers at the next ball!



### Glenfield Park

Did you know that we lose 50 -100 hairs a day. Sounds worrying doesn't it but fret not. Sally Archer came to our WI to talk about healthy hair and she explained that these hairs are replaced over time and each hair grows about 1/2 inch a month which set our minds at rest. Sally is a trained trichologist and trichology is linked to dermatology but deals with hair and scalp. The only time to worry is if your hair comes out in clumps as it normally indicates an underlying problem. There are various reasons why women lose hair.. The menopause is one. Others are lack of vitamin D, shock, trauma, crash dieting and chemotherapy. The body decides that hair is not important so starves it of nutrients. On the positive side we can help our hair. Obviously a balanced diet is extremely important but other things can help. Use a good shampoo, do not rub your hair vigorously, and dry hair on a medium setting. I plead guilty to some of these.

Apart from our craft and tea and chat sessions, we decided to banish the February blues by treating ourselves to Afternoon tea.. A thoroughly convivial afternoon . We all felt better afterwards and decided we would be indulging again.



### Illston on the Hill

At our last meeting, we had something to get the little grey cells working: Help with Technology. Our speaker was Mitchell Burnell . This was a fascinating talk and it was horrifying to note how little we knew about the difference with iPhones and Android and why was everything sent up to the "cloud". As this was mentioned, we all looked up to the sky!!! Did we know our Apple or Google account details – do you? It was a revelation to find that WhatsApp is part of a social media platform.

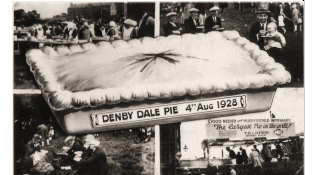
There are a very high number of scams and digital theft within the UK – it is important to take the necessary precautions so we do not end up a victim. This subject is an absolute minefield and one evening was certainly not sufficient to familiarise ourselves with all we should know. There is still a long way to go to understand everything and of course the scammers always seem to be one step ahead.

Our meeting started with a glass of bubbly provided by Mary, who had reached a "Big O" birthday. Hope there are some more soon. The evening ended with wonderful refreshments and long chats about, phones, computers, banks, scams etc.

### Ratby

This evening we had a fascinating talk about the History of the Denby Dale Pie.

The speaker, Norman gave us an amazing recount of the history of the Denby Dale Pie from its conception, the good years and the bad. Most memorable for most of the ladies was the year that the pie was being cut and it collapsed making the poor man doing the cutting fall in. We then finished off the evening with a nice cuppa and a natter.



### Sheepy

We got together and put our creative hats on We used acrylic paints and pens to paint pebbles and coasters We had a really fun evening and also enjoyed light refreshments and of course a cup of tea! I think you will agree that all the pebbles look fantastic



### Swinford

December saw the culmination of our centenary celebrations. A wonderful evening with excerpts from minutes for each decade, a sketch from our archives , jokes from Hazel ( a long-standing Swinford tradition), and an excellent buffet were enjoyed by members and guests.

Our January meeting was a social get together with a quiz game and discussion of this year's resolutions.

In February we were transported to SE Asia by Carole. Her beautiful photographs and insights into the history and culture of Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia made us all think of holidays and warmer climes!

The 100 daffodils planted to mark our centenary are beginning to bloom in the Spring sunshine heralding our 101st year.



# Around the Counties

## Hinckley Canalside

We had an enjoyable evening finding out all about our chosen charity this year which is Canine Partners. Nick Sydenham a volunteer speaker for them, came and gave us a talk on what they do and how we can help if we want to. It was a good talk about how these amazing dogs transform the life of people with a physical disability, who are usually in a wheelchair. Canine Partners is a registered charity providing canine companions for adults in the UK. We were shown some photographs of a local dog called May. She was amazing. She was able to use her bank card for contactless payment and withdraw cash from the cash machine.

These dogs are truly amazing and it just shows you how clever our canine partners can be.



## Barrow Upon Soar



Our 75<sup>th</sup> year ended by the members enjoying a Two course Christmas Meal at our function Room followed by entertainment firstly singing the '12 Days of Christmas WI

Style' written by one of our ladies, which consisted of 12 different meetings, celebrations & makes we have done this year. Then the competitive nature of some of the ladies came out when the 'Reindeer Racing' began.



Our February meeting was our Annual Skittles Supper. 35 ladies played skittles which was probably the most for our WI. Jenny Evans won the Visitors Highest Score Prize and Carolyn Drake accepted the Lister Cup from our reigning champion, Alison Bowley for winning the Members game.

Also at this meeting, Lynne Brookes a good friend of long serving Barrow WI member, Mary Payne who died last May came to award a trophy in Memory of Mary. The 'Mary Payne Members Choice Award' to be awarded annually to one of our ladies who the members have voted for. Kate Bowler, on receiving the award said she was very honoured to be the *first* recipient as Mary had been her 'honorary Aunty' & thought she would have been pleased that she had won it.



## Shearsby and Arnesby

We had a visit from Carolyn Boulder for our February meeting. She showed us how to make lavender hearts to keep the moths at bay. We had very precise instructions and the results speak for themselves. This is just a few of the hearts. It was a lovely evening.



## Harby

Our February 2025 meet was billed as an open meeting to encourage non-members and gentlemen to come along. The aim was to achieve greater footfall and hopefully new members. The upside was that we met members' neighbours and friends as well as some husbands. There were 29 members attending plus 4 visitors in all.

The talk, 'The Aftermath of the Titanic' by Lesley Piper was carefully chosen to appeal to all. Lesley delivered her excellent programme with a quiz, slide show and written details of individuals involved. The room was buzzing after the talk as we enjoyed tea and M&S biscuits.

We finished off the evening with raffle prizes from the extensive raffle table. We always know when the evening has been a success as people tend to linger longer and this evening was definitely a success.



## Blackfordby



At our March meeting we had, a visit from the Air Ambulance - Our speaker was Martin Cooper and with his mascot Marty he has raised more than £600 from his tour of 24 Air Ambulance stores in

the East Midlands. He started his 890-mile journey on January 11 2024 in Ashby and he finished in Bakewell, Derbyshire, and raised awareness for the Air Ambulance charity as well as the funds. He was a brilliant speaker and said Blackfordby WI was one of the friendliest he had met. I'm sure he says that to all his groups!

Our Craft group is very lucky to have a member who is a whizz at crafting. During our March meeting Gill showed us how to make cards using a technique called laying. I think you will agree the cards look rather good.



News to **WI House** by email: [fedsec@lrfwi.org](mailto:fedsec@lrfwi.org) or post to arrive by the **FIRST** of the preceding month.

Make sure to include the name of your WI with your article.

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

Articles may be edited.

County News will be emailed, posted on Wednesday of the third full week of the month.

## Advertisements

### Monica (Wing WI) Member

Contracted by the Rutland council to provide Home based care



Do you need help with:

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**Please note that the Country Markets  
Registered Office is now:**

Dunston House

Sheepbridge Works

Dunston Road, Chesterfield S41 9QD

Any queries on Country Markets please  
contact our Federation representative

susanwoollard@lrfwi.org

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## Scottish Country Dancing

### Scottish Country Dancing

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For more details our website is [www.rscdsleicester.org.uk](http://www.rscdsleicester.org.uk)

Or contact Stella Moore [stellamoore@rscdsleicester.org.uk](mailto:stellamoore@rscdsleicester.org.uk)

## Country Markets

It was lovely to see Country Markets selling delicious bakes and  
preserves at the ACM together with lovely hand-made crafts. There are  
two regular Country Markets in Leicestershire, one at the cattle market  
on the first and third Friday in Melton, and the other weekly on a Friday  
at St Peter's Church Centre, Glenfield. Each market sells home-made  
baking and preserves, hand-made crafts and locally grown produce and  
plants. Current members of Leicestershire and Rutland Country Markets  
would love there to be more than two markets, so if anyone you know  
has a flair for baking, crafting or growing (they don't have to be a  
member of WI), they don't have to hold a market each week or  
weekday but regular market means that customers know when to come

more easily. More information can be  
found by emailing Susan at  
[glenfieldmarket@gmail.com](mailto:glenfieldmarket@gmail.com) or Linda at  
[linda.countrymarkets@google.com](mailto:linda.countrymarkets@google.com), or  
pop along to either Glenfield or Melton  
Markets to have a chat.

