



MARCH 2024

Northamptonshire County Federation of
WIs

1st Prize

£500

Plus afternoon tea vouchers, garden tours,
hampers, wine and much more...

NEW County Raffle Launch

ENCLOSURES

- Application Form Baddesley Clinton and Packwood House
- Application Form Great Big Green Week
- Application Form October Craft Fair
- Application Form President and Secretaries Workshop
- Application Form Visit to Great Billing Water Treatment Centre
- Events Summary Sheet
- Annual Letter to Treasurers and Pink Form
- NCFWI Election Papers for Board of Trustees

WI House, 71 Park View, Moulton, Northampton NN3 7UZ

Tel: 01604 646055 email admin@ncfwi.org.uk



<https://northamptonshire.thewi.org.uk>

www.facebook.com/NorthantsWI

Chairman's News

Anne Rodwell (Great Doddington Evening WI) anneandstever@hotmail.com



With Easter fast approaching the Federation team are working on trips, workshops and events for this spring and summer that we hope will interest as many of you as possible. Do get in touch if you have any other ideas that our members might like to get involved in. We are holding extra Coffee Mornings here at WI House during the year, focusing on different aspects of WI interests. (Dates to follow). We will also be having a Northants WI presence at the International Women's Day event, on 9 March at The Guildhall, Northampton between 11am and 3pm. Do come and see us – look out for the green and purple WI Hoodies!

BIG NEWS Your WI will shortly be receiving County Raffle Tickets, to be sold to all. With a first prize of £500 we are sure everyone will want to take part! See below for more information.

Treasurer - Rosie Duddy (Hunsbury Hill WI) rosieduddy57@googlemail.com

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Pink form for Membership Fees. Please email accounts@ncfwi.org.uk with a copy of your completed form, to agree with the amount paid online. If you prefer you can send the form and a cheque to the office. Remember to keep a copy of the form with your records. As the new year begins on 1 April, we are asking that treasurers collect the annual subs in March and April and send us the county and national portions as soon as possible. Any subs collected after this should go on the green form.

The subscription for the year commencing 1 April 2024 is £48, set by National. £11.30 goes to the Federation and £13.10 to NFWI. The remaining £23.60 is the WI's portion. However, WIs can now decide how much of their portion they wish to charge their members. The decision can be made to waive the full amount, or to reduce it. When your committee is considering this, please remember that the WI must also pay Pooling of Fares, Annual Meeting Contribution and insurance for each member.

Enclosed Annual Letter to Treasurers and Pink Form

Your County Federation Needs You - Get Involved!

County Raffle

We are giving you a fantastic opportunity to **WIN £500**, as well as help raise funds for NCFWI, as we launch our County Raffle. We have lots of other superb prizes for you to win too, including afternoon tea at some great locations across the county, a family pass to Stowe Gardens, hampers, wine and vouchers.



Tickets will be sent out to your secretary shortly and can be sold to non-members, although you may want to buy them yourself to have a better chance of winning the top prize. Good luck!

All revenue, stubs and unsold tickets must be returned to WI House by 21st June 2024.

Get Lucky!

March's birth flower is the daffodil or jonquil. The daffodil signifies regard or unrequited love. The jonquil means "I desire a return of affection."



From Your Secretary - Jackie Andrews (Yelvertoft WI) admin@ncfwi.org.uk

WI House is open to members, however please note that such visits must be by prior appointment only. Please telephone 01604 646055 or email admin@ncfwi.org.uk to arrange.

We are receiving a lot of scam/phishing emails now, so your email may be deleted if it doesn't mention anything relating to WI. If you are contacting WI House by email please don't forget to include the name of your WI, along with your own name.

WI Treasurers When paying an invoice sent by the Federation please could you write the invoice number on the back of the cheque or, if paying by BACS, use the invoice number as the reference.

WI Handbook

A PDF version is available on request. If you are struggling to get it printed we can do this for you for £5 plus postage. Please email Jackie if you wish to order a copy admin@ncfwi.org.uk

Newsletter Editor - Denise Bott (Welford WI) denisebott02@gmail.com

Time is springing forward....articles and photographs for the April newsletter must be with me, and a copy to events@ncfwi.org.uk, by **9am MONDAY 18 MARCH** at the latest. Submissions received after this time may not be included.

Deadline

March 18

MEMORIAL BOOK

WE ARE SAD TO NOTE THE PASSING OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS THE DONATIONS GIVEN TO THE MEMORIAL FUND IN THEIR MEMORY

Trudy Boddington Ringstead WI

Pam Eaststaff Moulton Evening WI

Jean Mackaness Lois Weedon & Weston WI

Jane Rockingham Cotswold Duston WI

COUNTY BOUNTY - FEBRUARY

£20 No. 7 Ind Joanne Wilde Hackleton and District WI

£15 No. 89 Group Pauline Johnson Raunds WI

Cynthia Spencer and Cransley Hospices

In March cakes will be donated to Cynthia Spencer Hospice by Wollaston WI, Long Buckby WI, Milton Malsor & Collingtree WI and Chelveston cum Caldecott WI. Desborough WI will be making cakes for Cransley Hospice

2024 Rota

Can you help by filling the gaps in the calendar in April, June, July, August and September? If so, please email events@ncfwi.org.uk with your preferred month. If your WI would like to bake for Cransley Hospice please email Sue Johnson Hill johnsonhilljs@gmail.com

PAULINE DUFF TROPHY 2024 - £5 per entry. Members only

The 2024 competition is **AN UPCYCLED ARTICLE**. There are lots of ideas on the internet if you are struggling to get started. This is a competition for individual members so don't forget to ask for the entry form.

**Competition
Get Started!**

Schedule and Application Form is with your Secretary. Closing date for entry forms is Monday 22 July.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

By booking a place for any event organised by NCFWI you agree to receive an email, which we may send prior to the event, giving you (1) information about your event and (2) certain information relevant to payment for your booking.

Application forms should be returned by your secretary, either by post to WI House or email to events@ncfwi.org.uk.

Payment should not be sent with the form. An invoice will be emailed to your treasurer and payment should be made within 14 days of receipt.

By making a reservation for any event with NCFWI you enter into a direct (legally binding) contract relationship with NCFWI. Failure to pay for any event booked may result in action by NCFWI to recover the money and/or refusal to attend any future events.

SPEAKERS SELECTION EVENING Monday 4 March 2024 7pm – 9pm at WI House

Maximum of 2 Members per WI. Tickets are £3 each.

The deadline has passed but check with WI House in case there are any tickets left.

Check with
WI House

NFWI ANNUAL MEETING & RESOLUTIONS BRIEFING CONFERENCE

Wednesday 27 March 2024 7pm - 9pm WI House

Members only £3

This evening is particularly beneficial to delegates and members leading discussions on resolutions at their own WI meetings, to hear knowledgeable speakers on the selected resolution(s). If the Ticket Allocation Date has passed and you are interested in coming along, please email events@ncfwi.org.uk or phone the office at WI House to see if there are any spaces available. Tea/Coffee provided.

Application Form with your Secretary. Ticket allocation date Monday 04 March 2024

Closing
date
March 04

MIDDLETON HALL AND GARDENS, TAMWORTH

Wednesday 17 April 2024

Coach and Guided Tour Members £44, non-Members £47

Just time to get your request in for this trip, which includes refreshments on arrival and a guided tour of Middleton Hall's impressive 900 year history, led by knowledgeable volunteers. Explore the Estate Gardens and the Courtyard, with its 11 independent businesses (including a coffee shop!). If you have time the Tame Valley Wetlands, run by RSPB, is worth a visit. Please note that access to rooms is via stairs, and there are no lifts due to the age of the buildings. If the allocation date has passed please email events@ncfwi.org.uk or contact the office for ticket availability.

Application form with your Secretary. Ticket Allocation date Monday 04 March 2024

Closing
date
March 04

TREASURER'S WORKSHOP

Saturday 20 April 2024 10am - 12.30pm OR 1.30pm - 4pm WI House

Members only £5

Treasurers workshops have proven to be beneficial to prospective, fairly new or established WI Treasurers. Budgets, keeping records, financial safeguards and charity law are some of the items discussed as we take you through "A Year in the life of a WI Treasurer". We will show you where to find information and guidance and give you handouts to assist you in your role.

Application form with your Secretary. Ticket Allocation Date Tuesday 2 April 2024.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SPRINGFIELDS OUTLET SHOPPING, CRAFT & LEISURE Tuesday 30 April 2024

Coach only Members £25, non-Members £28

As well as being in a lovely setting, Springfields in Spalding has a well equipped craft barn, along with a variety of outlet shops offering up to 60% reductions. There are cafes and restaurants to suit all tastes. Relax for a moment in the adjacent gardens to savour the beautiful flowers and laugh at the cheeky ducks.

Application form with your Secretary. Ticket Allocation Date Monday 18 March 2024.

CHELMSFORD NATIONAL FLOWER SHOW Friday 17 May 2024

Coach only Members £28, non-Members £31

NEW

Projected Ticket cost: £20, payable on the day

The ticket (purchase on the day) includes entry to: Hylands House, whose flower theme this year is “Hollywood @ Hylands”; the Floral Pavilion; the Country and Home Pavilion; the Craft and Gift Pavilion; the Food and Drink Pavilion; and the largest outdoor show area to date! Hopefully the day will be fine so that we can see the show at its best. Some of the exhibits are in the themed Pavilions, so it should not be too much of a problem if we do get some inclement weather! No doubt there will be something you will want to buy.

Application Form with your Secretary. Ticket allocation Date Monday 8 April 2024

GREAT BILLING WATER TREATMENT CENTRE Friday 17, 10am; Friday 24 May 2pm 2024

Cost: £3, Members only (numbers restricted)

NEW

Following last year's resolution looking at river water quality, we have planned these visits to learn more of the facts behind waste water treatment.

Application Form with your Secretary. Ticket allocation Date Monday 8 April 2024

BADDESLEY CLINTON AND PACKWOOD HOUSE Wednesday 12 June, 2024

Coach only Members £25, non-Members £28

NEW

For non NT members entry price is £14.30 at each house - £28.60 in total

Join us for the day to visit two NT properties in Warwickshire. First up is Baddesley Clinton, in the heart of the ancient Forest of Arden – a medieval Great House with gardens. We will have lunch there and have the opportunity to browse the shop for gifts and plants. A short distance further on is Packwood House, remodelled to create a Tudor house replica. Exotic tapestries from all over the world are on display, together with plants on the house walls and blossom trained through the kitchen garden.

Application Form with your Secretary. Ticket allocation Date Monday 2 May 2024

PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES WORKSHOP Wednesday 28 June 2024 7pm

WI House

NEW

Members Only £5

If you are new to either of these roles in your WI, or feel that you could do with a refresher, do come along to this joint workshop, where members of the Membership and Training Sub-Committee will be pleased to help with any queries.

Application Form with your Secretary. Ticket Allocation Date is Monday 3 June

SUB-COMMITTEE NEWS

ARTS, SPORT & LEISURE Caz Reynolds (Rushton Village WI) caz4070@googlemail.com

The Arts, Sport and Leisure committee are looking forward to seeing you at future events. A reminder to put your name down for the trip to Springfields in Spalding. It promises to be a great day out. We will be running the coffee morning at WI House on July 5th and we are busy finalising the details, so more about that next month.



MEMBERSHIP & TRAINING Anne Seckington (Brackley WI)

anne.seckington@gmail.com



The recommended agenda for a WI Annual Meeting was in the February Newsletter, and more information on the format for Annual Meetings can be found on *MyWI*. Hopefully your WI has received plenty of nominations from willing volunteers to be part of your committee for next year. We have been receiving lots of enquiries from prospective members all over Northamptonshire. With the New WI Year starting in, April now is a good time to welcome visitors and promote your WI.

WI Adviser for March Margaret Foster (Irthlingborough WI) 01933 650694

margaret.foster984@gmail.com

International Women's Day – The Guildhall, Northampton

Saturday 9th March 11am – 3pm

Members of the Board of Trustees and the Federations sub committees will be manning a WI stand at Northampton Guildhall on International Women's Day. This is a great opportunity for the WI to network and promote what a fantastic organisation we are. The day includes stands from a number of county organisations and charities, some of which will be relevant to our ongoing Campaigns. Entertainment from The Rock Choir and other local groups. The Inspirational Women's Award winners will also be announced.

Come and support the WI



THE START OF SPRING

The March equinox occurs on **Wednesday, March 20, 2024**. In the Northern Hemisphere, this is known as the vernal, or spring, equinox and marks the start of the spring season. In the Southern Hemisphere, autumn begins.



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SUB-COMMITTEE NEWS

CAMPAIGNS AND CONCERNS (Chipping Warden and Edgcote WI)

robertbates115@btinternet.com

Campaigns

The **Great Big Green Week** - the UK's biggest celebration of action on climate and nature - runs from 8-16 June. We are showing our support via some NEW events: a visit to a water treatment plant (p5), early Summer Coffee Morning (p11), and The Great Big Green Week talk and tea (below).

As Spring is on the way, you may be having a sort out. Please remember we can recycle broken and unwanted jewellery, old phones and cameras, foreign currency and stamps. Just bring these into WI House, or ask one of the Trustees to bring them in for you, I know they will be pleased to do so as these items contribute to federation funds.

GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK Friday 14 June 2024 2pm - 4pm

Great Houghton Village Hall

Cost Members £10, non-Members £13 (includes cream tea)

NEW

Bring your friends and enjoy a delicious cream tea as we mark **The Great Big Green Week**. Our expert speaker, Brian Eversham, CEO, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust, will talk about how local wildlife has responded to Climate Change, and how we can help.

Application Form is with your Secretary Ticket allocation date Tuesday 7 May

DENMAN NEWS - THE WI LEARNING HUB

Christine Farmer (Preston Capes Daventry WI) Christinelouvaine@icloud.com

The Denman Learning Hub is now up and running! Some of you have had problems logging in and getting your free courses. You need to login using the email address associated with your 'My WI'. You will be then recognized as a member and the course will be free. Although Denman at Home had been running for the last few years, the Learning Hub is in its infancy, and more courses will be added. It is nice to know that three or four of the staff who worked at Denman College are still with NFWI, administrating the hub. If there is anything you would like to see added, please either email me or the Learning Hub direct.

BULBS. BULBS. BULBS.

Watch out for the new bulb catalogue soon to be with you - so ask your secretary to circulate it. Last year we managed to return £1,342.63 to Northamptonshire Federation - let's see if we can increase that amount this year!

1. What are Galanthus?
2. Approx how many Spring Tides are there in a year?
3. Who is the Greek goddess associated with Spring?

QUIZ CORNER
Answers P8



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

17 March

WI WALKS

25 WI members and friends strode out from the village of Tiffield for the first walk of the 2024 calendar, skirting the village of Gayton and returning to 'The George' at Tiffield, through the Pocket Park. After a rather dull and wet winter, it was good to be together again, and out in the countryside with the early signs of spring around us.



COTTINGHAM Saturday 16 March 2024, 9.45am for 10.00am start. Approx.4.5 miles

Hopefully the spring weather will help us to enjoy magnificent views over the Welland valley, and relish in the spring flowers blooming. We will set off from the café and car park at East Carlton Country Park, through Cottingham and Middleton, then back to the Country Park. The Country Park is marked by the brown road signs, off the A427.

Leader: Alison Mitchell alisonm@email.com 07833 350461 / 01536 201916 (answerphone)

Venue: East Carlton Country Park, Church Lane, East Carlton LE16 8YF

ROADE Saturday 13 April 2024, 9.45am for 10.00am start. Approx 5 miles

This walk should offer the opportunity to appreciate the bluebells - fingers crossed! We will meet at 'The Cock', Roade, where we will pre order lunch before taking a pleasant walk, mainly along footpaths, around the area of the old estate village of Courteenhall. Please let the leader know by **Saturday 6th April** if you are attending and if you would like lunch.

Leader: Sue Williams sue@williamsfarmingpartnership.co.uk 07769967532

Venue: The Cock at Roade, 1 High Street, Roade, NN7 2NW

NENE VALLEY WETLANDS – RUSHDEN LAKES Saturday 11 May 2024, 9.45am for 10am start 5 miles.

We will meet outside the Nene Wetlands Visitor Centre to explore this new reserve on the River Nene, between Rushden and Irthlingborough. Parking in Rushden Retail Park is free for 5 hours. Highlights along the way include the Sculpture Trail and the Skew Bridge Loop, and we then walk through some of the reserve, following the old railway track and returning via the riverside path. There are a variety of eating places in the retail and leisure park adjacent to the Wetlands to enjoy your lunch.

Leader: Ann Jeyes ajeyes.org@hotmail.co.uk 07469186731

Venue: Nene Wetlands Visitor Centre, Boardwalk, Rushden Lakes, Rushden, NN10 6FA

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Snowdrops
2. 24/25
3. Persephone

Answers to Quiz P7

Have you ever heard the saying, "March comes in like a Lion and goes out like a Lamb"? This proverb may have evolved into the weather saying we have today by first relating to the heavenly stars above. Leo (the lion) rises in the east to start March and ends the month with the constellation Aries (the ram, or lamb) setting in the west.



Out and About

Ashley Welland Valley WI

Members have been using the Cottingham Community Shop for a few years to showcase their ideas promoting **Show the Love**. Under the guidance of Chris West-Robinson, a great time was had by all, making items from rubbish – or the nicer version, junk! It not only got people talking about the display but asking about WI.



Milton Malsor and Collingtree WI

Members decorated these beautiful green hearts to display around the village, in support of the **Show the Love** Campaign.

Blisworth WI

Members are delighted to report that the total by weight of their regular donations (delivered by Alison) for 2023 was 189.3kg, the second highest of the WI's that supply this foodbank in Towcester.



Bozeat

WI

Members enjoyed decorating hearts to hang on the trees on Bozeat village green to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Towcester Evening WI

WI members took part in a very successful **Show the Love** event, highlighting the importance of tackling climate change, food waste and river pollution, and embracing recycling and sustainability to help build a better future for us all. They were joined by local organisations to help share the messages, and the community came together to learn how they can help with these issues. There was a lot of fun along with the educational aspect of the day.

<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love>



Fay Tennet, WI member, Cllr John Shephard WNC (West Northamptonshire Council) Chairman, Sue Hamilton, WI member, Petra Giffen, WI member, Jean McLeish, NCFWI (Northamptonshire County Federation of WIs) Trustee

Warkton Village WI

Toiletries and women's essential items were collected over a 3 month period to donate them to the Salvation Army for distribution to those in need. Jennie Willis, Norma Williams and Janice Hyde delivered these items, which were gratefully received by Salvation Army member, Colin.



Yardley Gobion WI

Members held a CPR and defibrillator session, facilitated by local community first responders.

ANNIVERSARIES, BIRTHDAYS, MEMORIALS

Preston Capes WI - Centenary

On Sunday 11 February (the actual date of inauguration in 1924!) members past and present gathered at the village hall where they enjoyed afternoon tea (and a little "fizz"!), and a magic show. There was much chat and catching-up, as well as reminiscing around the display of photographs and documents from the archives.



Ringstead WI - Centenary - 60th Birthday

Local members and visitors joined together on 12 February to celebrate the 60th birthday of Ringstead. The hilarious local trio, Sweet FA, entertained the audience with songs and poetry about real situations and conundrums we all face daily. Who knew the A605 to Peterborough would be the subject of a very funny song and a poem, about the letter 'F' in auto spell when texting, would lead to raised eyebrows and loud chuckles!! After a sad few weeks, we raised a glass to our absent friends, to remember them in our celebration. Two long standing members, Angela Davis and Sue Johnson, were given the honour of cutting the delicious cake!



East Hunsbury WI

A poem to celebrate their 6th birthday, written by Chris Carr (Gt Houghton WI), and President, Ollie Lyons

E is for everyone who works so hard
A is for Ann who puts a tick by your name on a card
S is for Speakers who entertain one and all
T is for tea and biscuits when the hostess calls

H is for how happy we all are
U is for the unbelievable WI journey so far
N is for Northampton, the town we call ours
S is for lots of sugar, eggs, butter and flour
B is for baking biscuits, scones and cake
U is for the ultimate café and the money we make
R is for raising funds to help keep us going
Y is for YOUR friendship we develop, sometimes without knowing

East Hunsbury is our WI we hold so dear
So onwards and upwards for another great year

Stowe Nine Churches WI

Standing with Giants is installing 1,475 silhouettes across the wild flower meadows of British Normandy memorial - called 'For Your Tomorrow' - between April and August 2024. The 1,475 silhouettes reflect the number of servicemen who died serving under British command on D-Day itself. Sharon Henley, Felicity Prior and Helen Kirby from Stowe Nine Churches WI contributed to the People's Tribute for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. Visiting the Oxfordshire workshop they helped paint and assemble a number of figures. Members were extremely impressed with the slick, organised workshop and enjoyed the challenge of using a range of tools, enabling them to contribute to this commemoration. If you'd like to see more about this extraordinary installation and the amazing team of volunteers making it happen, visit

<https://www.standingwithgiants.co.uk/>



Earls Barton Millennium WI

Apologies for misnaming your WI entry in the February Newsletter!



CHALLENGE TROPHY 2024

Have you are started to collate ideas in your "team"?

SPRING COFFEE MORNING Friday 22 March 10am - 12.00pm at WI House

£3, including coffee and cake

Come to WI House to enjoy a coffee, some cake, a chat, and perhaps try your luck with the raffle. Members of the Travel Committee will be present, keen to receive your thoughts and ideas.

SUMMER COFFEE MORNING Friday 24 May 10am - 12.00pm at WI House

£3, including coffee and cake

An opportunity to hear about the work of The Nene River Valley Trust from our speaker, Molly Simpson.

No need to
book,
Just turn up!

CRAFT FAIR Saturday 5 October 10.30am – 1.30 pm at WI House

£12 per table

Tables are for WI members only and there will be no external traders at this event. To assist with administration and invoicing tables must be **booked through your WI secretary**. Tables will be allocated on a 'first come. first serve' basis and, depending on uptake, may have to be limited to one per WI. All are welcome to come along and enjoy the refreshments available throughout the event.

Application Form with your Secretary this month. Closing date Monday 15 July 2024

NEW



Monica (Great Oakley WI Member)

provides home based carers

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WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

We'd love to know what's going on in your WIs part of the county. Send an email with your pictures (jpeg please) to events@ncfwi.org.uk telling us about your triumphs and trials, and we'll try to include it in the newsletter.



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Spring Song

Author Unknown

Frogs croak
Rains soak
Chicks peep
Crickets leap
Bees hum
Robins come
Birds sing
It's spring!





 **NORTHAMPTON BACH CHOIR**

J S Bach
St John
Passion

23 | **SATURDAY**
MARCH 2024
7.30pm
St Matthew's Church
Kettering Road, Northampton, NN1 4RY

Northampton Bach Choir Soloists from Old Royal Naval College Trinity Laban Chapel Choir
Orchestra - Charivari Agréable Conductor - Simon Toyne
Tickets: £17 • Concessions (over 60) £15 • U16 £10
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on the door, or in person via St Giles Music, St Giles Terrace,
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