



News Sheet



OCTOBER 2025



Chairman's Chat

As our Annual Meeting is fast approaching, I find myself having to repeat a previous request for members to join either a Sub Committee or the Board of Trustees. Some members of these committees are standing down and we urgently need members to replace them to ensure we have good governance and can organise events and activities for you all. We are keen to have members representing all areas of the county so why not give it some serious thought and contact either myself or the office for more information. The Sub committees meet five or six times a year while the Board of Trustees meet monthly.



On a lighter note, we have some great events to look forward to including a Christmas evening, and have you seen the amazing tutors and activities we have planned for the joint Federation Craft Retreat at Staverton next April? Take a look at the poster that's with your secretary or on Warwickshire WI TicketSource page for more information. Maybe it could be a Christmas present or apply for a bursary and see if you win?

As the seasons change we have lots for you to look forward to. So why not join in and have some fun.

Chris Carr
Great Houghton WI
christine_carr14@outlook.com

Ticket Allocation Dates in October

Remember to submit your application forms for the following events with ticket allocation dates:

Speakers Selection Evening – **27 October 2025**

Winchester Day Trip – **16 October 2025**

Treasurers Financial Statement Workshop –
27 October 2025

Full details can be found in the Events Sheet



WI Rambler
Crossbody Phone
Bags now available:

shop.thewi.org.uk

The pattern for the
Dental Health Matters
Toiletry Bag can be
found on My WI – in
the Make, create and
educate section.



Hope your bulbs arrived safely;
any problems please contact
Chris Farmer:

christinefarmer@icloud.com



Enclosures with your Secretary:

- IFE request application form

Please support our trips, workshops and events if you can.

Secretaries – please send out the Events Sheet along with the Monthly News Sheet to your members as soon as you receive them. This ensures that your members can read them both before your monthly meetings.

Application Forms are sent to every Secretary.

Quiz Corner



1. Who was the first group of people in history to use scarecrows?
2. Is a pumpkin a fruit or vegetable?
3. What country started the tradition of pumpkin carving?

WI Walks



We still have a thriving walking group, with a walk most months. Everyone is welcome to join.

The programme for the next three months is:
Saturday 25 October 2025 (9.45 for 10.00)
Harlestone Firs

Saturday 15 November 2025 (9.45 for 10.00)
Eastcote

Tuesday 30 December 2025 (10.15 for 10.30)
Brixworth

Full details of these walks are in the Events Sheet.



We have bowed to persuasion and the county quiz will now be an annual event!

Next quiz will be held at the Mercure Hotel, Daventry on Monday 13 April 2026.



Are you going to the Christmas coffee morning on December 5th? - If so, a little extra attraction - a small competition.

Make and donate a little Christmas tree no more than 9" high; any medium; decorated as you wish. After judging by a guest judge, these will be for sale to boost our funds.

There will be a 'FABULOUS' prize for the winning tree!!

NCFWI Annual General Meeting, Saturday 11 October 2025

**Northampton High School for Girls,
Hardingstone, Northampton, NN4 6UU**



We are looking forward to welcoming you to our annual meeting with guest speakers Lucy Lewis, former Army Bomb Disposal Officer and currently Marshal of the University of Cambridge, and Jodie Mutch, from the Maggie's Charity. The competition winners for the Pauline Duff Trophy and Challenge Trophy will be announced, if you have entered the competitions please don't forget to come along. We will have shopping hour from 10-11am and over lunch, and please visit our sub-committee and charity stands.

Transport -If a few of you are coming along why not consider hiring a community bus or share one with neighbouring WI(s).

Vice Chairs – Heather Smith (Towcester Evening WI) hmsmith47@btinternet.com and Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI) jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com

**Booking is now open for the
Joint Federation Retreat
with Warwickshire at
Staverton Park Hotel**



Friday 24th April to Sunday 26th April 2026:

A hark back to those lovely weekends we used to enjoy at Denman. We have tried to emulate this as much as possible and have even managed to secure the services of 3 'Denman' tutors. A poster with all the information for this is event is included with your news-sheet email. As well as enjoying the Retreat you will have full access to the hotel's other facilities, e.g. swimming pool.

Please book your place via Warwickshire Federation's TicketSource account on their website <https://warwickshire.org.uk/joint-federation-weekend-retreat-now-booking>. You will be asked to pay a non-refundable deposit of £100 to secure your place. An invoice will be sent to you direct for the balance in January. You need to book this yourself and **not** via your WI secretary or WI House.

News Sheet Editor

Please remember that items about individual WIs will now be posted on our County Federation Facebook Page and will not be included in the new monthly News Sheet.

denisebott02@gmail.com

Memorial Book

We are sad to note the passing of the following members and acknowledge with thanks the donation given to the Memorial Fund in their memory:

Margaret Rogers Brackley WI

Facebook Editors

Please continue to send us any photos (with Members permission) and short pieces of text of any of your WI activities for our Northamptonshire Federation FB Page.

We love seeing them and sharing your news with members across the county. **It would be very helpful if you could label your photos with your WI's name and brief description**
e.g. Towcester Eve WI Show the Love..

With many thanks.



suehamilton8487@gmail.com
hmsmith47@btinternet.com



You will find us here:
www.facebook.com/NorthantsWI

Cakes for Cynthia Spencer Hospice

There are still spaces available in 2025. Please contact WI House if your WI is able to provide cakes: admin@ncfwi.org.uk

22 September – Pattishall WI
29 September – Bugbrooke WI
6 October – Kelmars, Harrington & Arthingworth WI
13 October – Silverstone WI
20 October – Moulton Evening WI
27 October – Barby WI
3 November – Harpole WI

Cynthia Spencer Cake Rota Request Form for 2026 coming soon!



Please remember that the CS Hospice will take shop-bought cakes if your members are unable to bake.

Housekeeping Notes



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.

If you are contacting WI House by email don't forget to include the name of your WI along with your name please. 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.

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 – many thanks.

Cakes for Cransley Hospice

October Kettering Kosmos WI
Barnwell WI

November *Raunds Ladies Group*



Please email
Sue Johnson Hill:
johnsonhilljs@gmail.com

County Bounty Winners!

August

£20	No. 12	Group	Julia Newman	Welford WI
£10	No. 53	Group	Pauline Johnson	Raunds WI

September

£20	No. 37	Ind	Isobel Burbidge	Woodford & Hinton
£10	No. 31	Group	Rushton Village WI	

Campaigns, Concerns and Media

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI)

Well, the Federation has certainly been in the news this month, thanks to the Yarnbombing Project. There have been TV and radio appearances, articles in local publications and social media has gone wild, with posts on pages from our own WIs but also from organisations across the county and beyond. Compliments have been flowing in from representatives of World and English Rugby, Local Authorities across Northamptonshire, the general public and from many WI members from other parts of the country attending matches at Franklin's Gardens. A huge congratulations to everyone involved in the project.

Remember the Federation when you are having a clear out as we continue to recycle unwanted items and raise money to support the Federation. We recycle old or broken jewellery, cameras, mobile phones, watches, stamps and foreign currency. Bring the items along to WI or ask any trustee, sub-committee member or WI Adviser to bring them along for you.

jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com



WI Adviser for October:

Sue Kendall (Rushton Village WI)
01536 722118)

suekendall49@gmail.com

Treasurer's Tips

Deborah Mills (Badby and Fawsley WI)

By now you should have received a supply of County Raffle Tickets and I'd like to thank you all for your support and efforts in selling them.

Please make sure you return the counterfoils together with any unsold tickets to WI House and pay the money into the NCFWI bank account by 21 November at the latest.

The draw will take place on Friday 5 December at WI House. Wouldn't it be great to win the first prize of £500 cash just in time for Christmas – sorry I've mentioned it. Best of luck everyone.

darmills8@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP & TRAINING

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI)

Treasurers, it's time to book into the Treasurers Financial Statement Workshop which is being held on 22 November in WI House. This will prepare you for completing your year-end accounts ready for submission to your IFE in February.

Members of the sub-committee have been working on a new Federation Treasurers Handbook. This doesn't replace the workshops as it's important that all officers attend the training sessions and if you have been in post for some time think about a refresher session. The Handbook will provide a reference for all financial matters for the whole committee, and a copy will be emailed to all officers this month. A printed copy can be provided by the office at a cost of £5 plus postage.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Federation AGM on Saturday 11 October, a great opportunity to catch up with other members and find out more about what happens in the Federation.

jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com



Quiz Answers

1. The Egyptians
2. Fruit
3. Ireland

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