



# Northamptonshire County Federation of WIs



## News Sheet

**NOVEMBER 2025**



theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

### Chairman's Chat

I wanted to start this month by saying a huge thank you to those members who contributed, in so many ways, to the success of the WRWC25 Yarnbomb project.



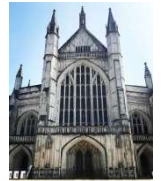
It is extremely difficult to put into words the amazing impact we had on the tournament as a whole, but I hope you get to read two of the letters of thanks we have received and are with your secretary. I am incredibly proud of what you achieved on the worldwide stage.

I was also delighted to see so many of you supporting both the WI 110 birthday Cream Tea and the AGM. Two great events with members having the opportunity to catch up with one another at the same time as supporting the Federation. The atmosphere at both events was so warm and friendly, a real joy to be part of.

As a new committee year starts for the Board of Trustees we have lots to plan and organise, but we also need to focus on the care and maintenance of WI House, your HQ! We recently had the outside of the property painted by a volunteer, at no expense to the Federation, but we have other things that need our attention including, new lighting, computers, website and internal decorating. All of which we must find additional income for. Please support our events or maybe consider a donation or legacy to the Federation, it will certainly be put to good use and benefit all members.

Chris Carr  
Great Houghton WI  
[christine\\_carr14@outlook.com](mailto:christine_carr14@outlook.com)

**PS Fancy a trip to Winchester? Please see note below.**



### Ticket Allocation Dates in November

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

- An evening of Festive Entertainment with Northampton Rock Choir – 6 December 2025

Full details can be found in the Events Sheet

### BULBS. BULBS. BULBS

Thank you again for supporting this fund raising effort for the Federation. This year the total raised was £129.62



### LAST MINUTE OFFER!

We have a 2<sup>nd</sup> coach going to Winchester on **Thursday 27 November** and have extra spaces. Why not come and join us? Please find details of the trip in the Events sheet.

SAVE  
THE  
DATE!

**Wednesday 18th February 2026  
NORTH COUNTY LUNCH  
at Barnwell Village Hall.**

Tickets will be £30 and it will be members only. Speaker TBC.....  
Information will be with your Secretary soon.

### Enclosures with your Secretary:

- NFWI AM Linking List
- Cynthia Spencer Cake Request Form

**A HUGE THANK YOU goes** to all the Stewards who helped to make our Annual General Meeting run so smoothly.

We hope those who attended our AGM had an enjoyable day.



## Quiz Corner



1. JFK was assassinated in November 1963. 3 other USA presidents were assassinated, can you name them?
2. What is the alternative name for All Saints Day?
3. Lewis Carrolls novel Alice in Wonderland was published in November, 1865. What was his real name?

## WI Walks

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



**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.

## Christmas Grinch Knitting Project

If you are knitting a Grinch for the Northampton BID project then can you please let me know so that I can keep a record of how many we are likely to have.

Wool is available from WI House at no cost to you.

**Completed Grinches should be at WI House by Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November please.**



## Christmas Coffee Morning at WI House

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 am – 12.00 noon**

Everyone is welcome. £4 at the door for coffee or tea and cake. The County Raffle will be drawn at this event – come along and see whether you've won anything! Remember to wear your Christmas Jumpers; there will be a prize for the best jumper.

Don't forget the mini-Christmas Tree competition. Make and donate a small decorated Christmas Tree no more than 9" high, any medium. After judging by a guest judge these will be sold to boost funds. There will be a prize!

Dispel those Winter Blues! Join us for a Winter Warmer - soup and roll lunch at WI House on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026** - 12noon til 2.00pm

## An Evening of Festive Entertainment with Northampton Rock Choir



**Saturday 6 December 2025 @ 7.30pm prompt**

The Abbey Centre, Overslade Close, East Hunsbury, Northampton, NN4 0RZ

£10 members, £13 non-members - application forms are with your Secretary

The **closing date of 6 November** is fast approaching, and you really do not want to miss our fantastic evening of festive entertainment from the Northampton Rock Choir including a sing along session, Christmas raffle and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you all in your festive attire.

## ANNUAL COUNTY QUIZ 2026

The ever popular quiz will be held next year at the Mercure Hotel, Daventry on Monday, 13 April 2026. The quiz writers are busy racking their brains; Quiz Master David Saint is primed for checking before they go to print and we are all looking forward to see lots of you there on the night - pencils sharpened and brains bulging with answers!

Teams of 4 paid up WI members and a WI can join with another one if they want to.

£28 a team which should come from funds as you are representing your WI.

Can you beat the current holders Silverstone? Maybe 2026 will be your year!



## Places are still available for the Joint Federation Retreat with Warwickshire at Staverton Park Hotel

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026:**



A time to spoil yourself for the weekend. Take part in a new craft or a more strenuous activity. You can also make use of the hotel's spa facilities.

Book your place by going to Warwickshire Federation's website; go to the What's On page and scroll down to the various Retreat Workshops where you will be taken to TicketSource to book. Or go direct to [www.ticketsource.co.uk/wfwi](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wfwi) and scroll down. 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](mailto: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 Corns	Geddington & Newton WI
Delia Oram	Gretton WI
Bridget Hunt	Towcester Evening WI
Eileen Northam	Long Buckby 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 and our website.

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.



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[hmsmith47@btinternet.com](mailto:hmsmith47@btinternet.com)



You will find us here:

[www.facebook.com/NorthantsWI](http://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](mailto:admin@ncfwi.org.uk)

27 October – Barby WI  
3 November – Harpole WI  
10 November – Stowe IX Churches WI  
17 November – Bouverie WI  
24 November – Great Houghton WI  
1 December – Spratton WI



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](mailto: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

December – Cranford WI

Please email  
Sue Johnson Hill:  
[johnsonhilljs@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonhilljs@gmail.com)

## County Bounty Winners!

### October

£20	No. 49	Group	Pauline Johnson	Raunds WI
£10	No. 35	Ind	Sheila Charlton	Milton Malsor & Collingtree WI

## Campaigns, Concerns and Media

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI)

NFWI has now published an action pack for this year's new campaign Bystanders can be Lifesavers. It's full of background information and ideas of things your WIs could do to support the campaign. This includes CPR training, defibrillator guardianship and auditing, fundraising for installing new defibrillators and training or simply placing what to do signs locally. You can download the pack or request some printed copies at the following

<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/public-affairs-and-campaigns/current-campaigns/bystanders-can-be-lifesavers/BCBL-Action-Pack-Digital.pdf>

After all the publicity of the yarnbombing things seem very quiet on the PR front. Our Facebook page is very active and hopefully you will have seen lots of images from the Federation AGM, the numbers of views and comments is ever increasing so we are hopefully, reaching a bigger audience. Chris Carr has done another interview with NLive radio and this will be a regular monthly slot where we will promote not only what we are doing at Federation but also some highlights from WIs across Northamptonshire.

[jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com](mailto:jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com)



## Quiz Answers

1. Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield and William McKinley
2. All Hallows Day
3. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson

## Treasurer's Tips

Deborah Mills (Badby and Fawsley WI)



I've had a notification from National that Lloyds Bank are withdrawing their Treasurer Account. WIs with their own charity number will be moved to a Charity Account. WIs without their own charity number will be moved to a Community Account, which sadly has a monthly fee. Lloyds have agreed to waive this fee for the first 12 months.

National will be meeting with the Charity Commission and hopefully Lloyds to agree how to identify WIs that fall below the registration threshold.

Some good news is that Santander has agreed to drop charges on their Treasurer Account regardless of whether or not the WIs has a charity number.

There are some quite specific requirements to have their Treasurer Account so I would suggest you have a look at their website for more information.

[darmills8@gmail.com](mailto:darmills8@gmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP & TRAINING

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI)

It was lovely to see so many of you at our AGM on 11 October. If you attended, I hope you enjoyed the day and if you didn't attend think about joining us next year, it's a great way to hear more about what we are doing in the Federation, meet members of other WIs and to hear some great speakers.

It is now time to start thinking about another event, the NFWI 2026 Annual Meeting which will be held on-line on Thursday 4 June 2026, which members can view individually or in groups. The Federation plans to, once again, hold an Annual Meeting 'watch party' where members from across the county can meet together and view the event. More details about the annual meeting, speakers and our party will follow in the coming months.

Have you ever considered being a delegate? The opportunity exists for a member of one in four WIs. If your WI is at the top of the Linking List Group this year, perhaps think about putting your name forward to go into the ballot at your WI.

[jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com](mailto:jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com)

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

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