

HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH FEDERATION
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the**WI**
INSPIRING WOMEN

WELCOME

to the
HUNTINGDON &
PETERBOROUGH
FEDERATION



HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH FEDERATION

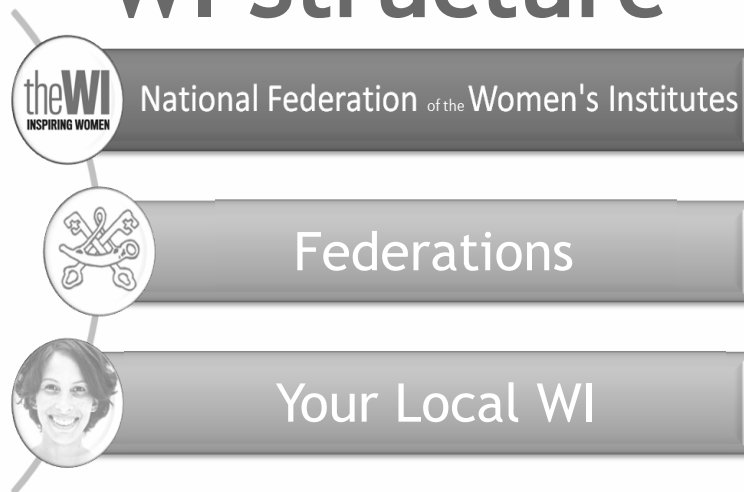
Welcome

We are pleased to welcome you to the WI in Huntingdon and Peterborough. You have joined a large organisation with members in almost every town and village in our part of Cambridgeshire as well as throughout the country.

You have, by joining your local WI, become a member of the National Federation (NFWI) and also the Huntingdon and Peterborough Federation (HPFWI).

This Welcome Guide will help you understand more about the organisation of the WI, particularly the Huntingdon and Peterborough Federation, and the opportunities open to you. You may wish to read it all at once or keep it to use for reference.

WI Structure



AGM - Held in June each year by NFWI. They are held at various locations around the country. WIs are linked together and send a link delegate, who votes on behalf of all the WIs she is representing.

Year Book - This is produced by the Federation and lists members of the Board of Trustees, WI Advisers, Groups, and Country Markets, a directory of WIs and the Speakers panel. It also contains the Federation Annual Report. N.B. All the information in the Year Book is for WI Officer use only.

Remember—if there is anything you wish to know about the WI you can always visit:

www.thewi.org.uk

Social Media

Join the conversation on our social media channels and become more involved in the WI online community. We are available on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Youtube, Blogger and on members own blogs. Search online or at

www.thewi.org.uk/media-centre



Glossary

To help you as a new member here are some WI terms and abbreviations explained.

H&PFWI - Huntingdon and Peterborough Federation of Women's Institutes.

NFWI - National Federation of Women's Institutes.

WI A- WI Adviser

WI Advisers are members trained and appointed by NFWI. They are always available to help and guide WIs, and each month there is a 'duty WI Adviser' whose contact details can be found in the Federation News. Each WI Adviser looks after about 10 WIs and she is there as a friend.

Annual Meeting - Held by each WI to elect President and Committee and during which it reviews its finances and the past year's work.

Annual Federation Day - Held in April each year when the Federation reviews its finances and the past year's work. Each WI sends a voting delegate and members can go as visitors. There are usually guest speakers and an opportunity to purchase goods from various stalls as well.

Link Delegate - Represents a number of WIs at the NFWI General Meeting and votes as instructed by the WIs on the resolutions.

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While every effort has been made to ensure that information is correct at the time of going to print, Huntingdon & Peterborough Federation cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies in the information contained within this publication.

Version 1 (2013)

Your WI

Each WI is self-governing within the framework of the WI constitution and rules. Each WI is what its members make it. Whatever the interests of individual members in a WI, they can, with enough enthusiasm, be followed. We hope you will enjoy your membership of the WI in Huntingdon & Peterborough, and in doing so meet many new friends.

Your WI will meet monthly and for your subscription you will be entitled to attend meetings throughout the year. Your subscription is due annually at the beginning of January. The amount is reviewed annually and decided by the National Board of Trustees. After you pay your WI Treasurer a proportion is sent to the NFWI and the County Federation as a contribution towards their running expenses.

On payment of your subscription, you will receive your membership booklet and regular copies of the WI Magazine - WI Life - which is sent directly to your home.



WI Moodle

WI Moodle is the free online training and resource site for the NFWI. You will need a password to enter but this can be arranged on the WI website. Once in you have opened up a huge resource including general WI information, courses, specialist information, the WI Guide and much, much more. It can be located at the very bottom of the NFWI Homepage or at:

www.witraining.org.uk

Qualifications

In the WI there are opportunities to learn new skills & achieve qualifications both internally and externally.

Internal Certificates based on a modular system can be completed in your own time. If you have experience in cookery, preserving or craft you may train as a WI Judge enabling you to judge competitions at both local and Federation level. If you have an interest in financial matters then you can train as an IFE (Internal Financial Examiner) to help WIs keep correct financial records.

External Qualifications both from OCN and C&G in a wide variety of subjects can be gained. Some of these are offered at Denman and others as group projects with other WI members.

For more information visit www.thewi.org.uk

Denman

Founded by the NFWI in 1948, Denman offers a wealth of opportunities to learn new skills in day schools and on short residential courses. Set in the picturesque village of Marcham near Oxford the Georgian mansion has 17 acres of grounds



where modern teaching studios and accommodation cottages have been built. All bedrooms are en suite and there are a few twin/triple rooms (for those who wish to share). Each Federation is responsible for the decoration and furnishing of their own room making them all individual.

Lifestyle courses are available to cater for the mind, body and soul while anyone with a passion for cooking can extend their range of skills and experience in the cookery school. In the craft studios experts in their field offer a wide variety of art and craft courses.

Many WIs offer bursaries to help with costs and there is the opportunity to enter the Denman Dip at the annual Federation Day. Denman also offer a variety of bursaries each year.

Each Federation has a member who promotes Denman by giving talks, organising Federation Visits (every 18 months) and keeping members up to date with the latest news.

The course brochure is produced several times a year and copies are available from the Federation Office or from Denman.

01865 391991 or at **www.denman.org.uk**

Your Committee



The WI is a democratic organisation at all levels. At the Annual Meeting of your WI the Committee and President are elected by the members. This happens each year and all commitments are for one year only.

As well as your President there will also be two other officers - a Secretary and Treasurer - and several other committee members who will organise the programme of speakers and events for the year and any special interest groups e.g. book club, craft group, drama group, outings, choir or any other activity you or your fellow members would like.

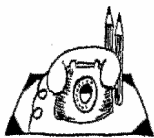
Being a member of any WI Committee is full of interest and variety and is the best way of finding out about the organisation you have just joined. New members and new ideas are always important so never feel you are too new to stand for Committee - your WI will welcome you and your fresh approach.

Your Federation

Each WI is encouraged to be closely involved with its Federation and each month you will be informed by your Secretary, at your meeting, of the Federation's planned activities. You may also receive the Federation Newsletter which will keep you up to date with all Federation matters.

The Huntingdon & Peterborough Federation is run by its Board of Trustees elected by the members, who are asked to send in nominations and then vote on those nominated. There are 12 elected members plus co-options, and voting is biennial. The Board of Trustees works through the activities of the Sub-Committees who manage property & finance and organise events and classes.

The Sub-Committees are:



Membership

Membership co-ordinates the work of the **WI Advisers**, helps form new WIs, aids all WIs in various ways and runs training sessions in personal development and for WI officers. It arranges for delegates to attend the NFWI Annual General Meetings.

WI Enterprises

This is the commercial arm of NFWI, and profits are transferred to NFWI at the end of the year. They are responsible for advertising and sponsorship. The WI online shop offers you the chance to purchase WI products, publications and books. In the Products section, you can buy WI branded merchandise. In the Publications section, you can buy WI publications as well as manuals and handbooks.

wishop.thewi.org.uk

In the Books section, you can buy WI cookery and lifestyle books via the Amazon website.

www.amazon.co.uk

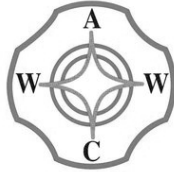


If you would like to purchase from the range of WI Foods - jams, chutneys, biscuits or flour - please visit

www.wifoods.co.uk

ACWW

Membership of the WI means more than just joining your local WI. Through the Federation and NFWI, you become a supporter of the ACWW.



The Associated Country Women of the World is the largest international organisation of rural women and homemakers, representing millions through the linking of over 370 women's clubs and societies in over 60 countries. It has a consultative, non-governmental status with the United Nations, and has a uniquely down-to-earth approach to promoting international goodwill and offering practical help to its members. There are projects to improve health and nutrition, housing and water supplies, literacy, income-generating schemes, and leadership training. All of which encourage women to play a full part in their communities.

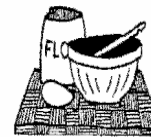
In 1939 a voluntary fund known as 'Pennies for Friendship' was set up to cover the general administration costs of ACWW. WIs are asked to collect 'pennies' during the year - a realistic contribution would be the price of a large loaf of bread from each member - and the donations are passed to the Federation at the Annual Federation Day in the spring. Why not find out how your WI collects their 'pennies'.

<http://www.acww.org.uk>



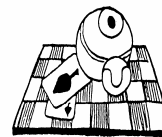
Public Affairs

Public Affairs aim to address current issues ranging from recycling, health, food waste and Fairtrade. It also organises the resolution conferences and promotes national campaigns such as Love your Library, SOS for Honeybees and Country of Origin Food Labelling. An annual literary lunch has also become a popular favourite.



Creative Crafts & Cookery

Creative Crafts & Cookery arrange a number of day schools each year - from painting to stitching, cookery to gardening. It also organises shows which allow members to show their skills in competitive classes.



Events & Leisure

An enormous number of activities come under the umbrella of Leisure Activities. Bowls, keep fit, music and drama have all been enjoyed by members within the Federation. Additionally, the members of this committee arrange suppers with entertainment, quizzes, walks and outings. Nevertheless, it is always happy to receive suggestions for more activities.

Federation Headquarters

Our Huntingdon & Peterborough Federation Headquarters is situated on the Huntingdon Ring Road.

The centre has its own car park, which may be used by MEMBERS ONLY (not friends or family) with a car park permit. For a small donation you can apply for a permit which will give you a code number for the barrier. The centre is conveniently close to the town centre and shopping area with easy access to public transport facilities.

6a, Walden Road,
Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire,
PE29 3AZ

Telephone: 01480 453137

Email: office@hpfwi.co.uk

Open: Tues-Thurs, 9am-3pm

The centre belongs to you, as a member, and it is hoped that you will use it often. The centre is used for our busy Federation Office, where our Federation Secretary and Receptionist/Book-keeper are always ready to help you.

Resolutions & Mandates

Every year WIs all over the country are given the opportunity to put forward subjects which they feel should become part of WI policy.

Many resolutions are submitted each year. They are then short-listed to those which are considered suitable for the WI to support. The short-list is printed in WI Life magazine in November, when members can democratically vote.

From this vote 1 or 2 resolutions will go forward to Resolutions Discussion Meetings in April when we have specialist speakers on each subject. At the May meetings each WI will vote to instruct their delegate how to vote at the AGM in June. If the Resolution is passed with a two-thirds majority, this then becomes a WI mandate.



It is then that we appreciate the vastness of the organisation to which we belong and what influence it can exert.

The National Board of Trustees holds most of its meetings in London, whilst the National Sub-Committees meet either in London or at Denman. There is also an office in Cardiff. Paid staff work in the offices and manage and co-ordinate WI affairs as well as offering a wide range of services to members.

The staff and Board of Trustees speak for members when asked for the 'WI's opinion' by Government or anyone else. The WI is represented on many national and international committees, reflecting members' opinions.

The NFWI Headquarters is located in Fulham London.

Phone: 0207 371 9300

**Address: 104 New Kings Road,
London, SW6 4LY**

Open Hours: 9pm–5pm, Mon-Fri

Email: hq@thewi.org.uk

www.thewi.org.uk

We carry a stock of WI goods in the office, available to purchase, and all the WI stationery required for WIs. Photocopying can be done at very reasonable rates— subject to the staff's busy schedules.

We have a large hall and kitchen facilities which are used for WI events (also available for hire) and a committee room. All Sub-Committees and the Board of Trustees meetings are held here. We can offer to host WI meetings and give tours of the building (which was an old school). Do feel free to call in at any time during office hours.

Publications

Federation News is produced monthly. Many WIs give members a free copy at their monthly meetings. Details of activities are published along with a diary of events for the Federation, and other items of interest. 'Woman's World' is an annual magazine and is also available for a small charge from the office.



WI Centre Shop



In our WI Centre Shop there are beautifully crafted products made by our members. Come and see the varied selection we have on offer. Shop opening times are Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10am -1pm.

Groups

We have 'Groups' of WIs in the Federation. A Group is usually 3 to 6 WIs who meet once or twice a year, when a less formal gathering is arranged by a 'Convenor' - or sometimes the WIs share the organising on a rota basis. There is an opportunity to enjoy a greater choice of speakers and sometimes an outing is arranged. These meetings are very successful so do try to attend one.

The County Federation Badge

The Federation badge comprises the crossed keys of St. Peter, the badge of Peterborough, intertwined by the hunting horn of Huntingdonshire.



About the NFWI

The WI came to Britain from Canada in 1915 and was founded as a democratic, educational and social organisation for women, to give them the opportunity to develop their own skills and talents. The WI's aims are just as valid today along with the ideals of 'fellowship, truth, tolerance and justice'.

The organisation's aims have since broadened and the WI is now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK. The WI will celebrate its centenary in 2015 and currently has over 210,000 members in around 6, 600 WIs.

The WI plays a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities.

The NFWI is run by the NFWI Board of Trustees. The same democratic procedure is followed for the election of the NFWI Board of Trustees as for your own WI and your Federation Officers and Board of Trustees. Details of nominees are sent to all WIs before voting. The NFWI Board of Trustees stands for two years. As at Federation level, the NFWI Board of Trustees works through the activities of its sub-committees.