



# Northamptonshire County Federation of WIs



## News Sheet

**DECEMBER 2025**



theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

### Chairman's Chat

As the days shorten and the first cold winds blow in it makes me think of all the things I have to look forward to during the winter, some of which include, Christmas Coffee morning, with the County Raffle draw taking place, the magnificent Rock Choir Christmas evening and a new event in January, Soup and Chatter. The Rock Choir have featured numerous times on Radio Northampton lately, so I am really looking forward to seeing them. It might be cold and damp outside, but we have plenty of things to lift the spirits, have you booked your place yet?



On the business side of things, the Trustees have been busy networking with The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner regarding a forthcoming campaign relating to Violence Against Women and Girls. On a lighter note, we have met with Northampton Town Council regarding Northampton in Bloom 2026 and of course we have the 'Denman' style Retreat to look forward to, I think that could be on my Christmas gift list!

It's always lovely to see a group of members together at events and it makes me appreciate the friendships I have gained from being a WI member, hopefully you feel the same and will come and join the camaraderie.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy festive season.

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

### Ticket Allocations

Remember to submit your application forms all our County events ASAP

**Full details of ALL EVENTS can be found in the Events Sheet**

### Correction to the Year Book

Diane Sear is President of Rushton Village WI  
Email: [sear1510@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sear1510@yahoo.co.uk)

### Challenge Trophy 2025 Results

Congratulations to  
Hackleton & District WI  
on winning the 2025 Challenge



### Enclosures with your Secretary:

- Challenge Trophy Schedule
- Pauline Duff Trophy Schedule
- Financial Statement Order Form
- Federation Visits List
- Supplementary Speakers List
- County Quiz Application Form
- County Lunch Application Form

**Secretaries – please remember if you are sending out information to your members or other organisations to use BCC for emails to conform with GDPR.**

## Quiz Corner



1. In Norway what do people hide on Christmas Eve?
2. In what country do they roller skate to church on Christmas Eve?
3. The Cavalcade of Lights is celebrated in which Canadian city.

## Board of Trustees 2025/2026

The Board of Trustees for 2025/26 is as follows, and at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Board on 14<sup>th</sup> October the following officers were appointed.

### Officers

#### Chair

Chris Carr – Great Houghton WI

#### Vice-chairs

Heather Smith – Towcester Evening WI

Jean McLeish – Bugbrooke WI

#### Treasurer

Deborah Mills – Badby & Fawsley WI

### Members

Linda Brett – Little Billing WI

Liz Carter – Hunsbury Hill WI

Anne Rodwell – Great Doddington

Evening WI

Sue Shaw – Hackleton & District WI

Fay Tennet – Towcester Evening WI

## Challenge Trophy 2026

### Triumph with a Tenner

By mid-January, all WIs will receive £10, either by BACs or cheque (if we do not have your bank details), as a challenge to see how much money you can make.

I hope by the end of this challenge you will have had lots of fun and inspirational ideas on ways to increase your £10

Schedule and entry form will be with your Secretary soon.

Sue Shaw

[sueroy946@btinternet.com](mailto:sueroy946@btinternet.com)



## Northampton in Bloom 2026



After our successful year with our Rugby displays and brief involvement with Northampton in Bloom we have been asked if we would like to contribute a Spring / Summer display of knitted and crocheted flowers in Northampton Town Centre for 2026. This will be a considerably smaller display but none the less increase our profile.

A meeting to share thoughts and ideas will take place in the new year but if you do want to start knitting flowers then you will be pleased to know we are not restricted to colours!! Wool will be available from WI House in due course.

Initial indications are that the displays will be put out in early March.

If you can help with making flowers, please let me know by email.

[christine\\_carr14@outlook.com](mailto:christine_carr14@outlook.com)

## NFWI 2026 Annual Meeting Delegates

If your WI is top of the group on the linking list, which was sent out with the November News Sheet, to send a delegate to the NFWI 2026 Annual meeting please remember to send the name of your delegate to Jackie at WI House immediately following your December meeting, if you have not done so already.

The meeting will be held on-line on Thursday 4 June 2026 and delegates can view the meeting from their own home, locally with WI friends or at the Federation "watch party" (more details of this in January).

Please contact Jackie urgently if you are unable to find a delegate, to allow us to offer the opportunity to another WI.

[admin@ncfwi.org.uk](mailto:admin@ncfwi.org.uk)

## 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:

Celia Powell

Hackleton & District WI

## 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)

1 December – Spratton WI

8 December – Available

15 December – Great Doddington Evening WI

## Cakes for Cransley Hospice

December – Cranford WI

Please email  
Sue Johnson Hill:

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



Congratulations to Jenny Slater (Weston Favell Eve WI) for winning the Pauline Duff Trophy in 2025!



## CPR & Defibrillator Training

If your WI has received training please can you let the office know so that we can compile a list of all the WIs who have taken part in this WI campaign. If possible, please send us your photos too.

[admin@ncfwi.org.uk](mailto:admin@ncfwi.org.uk)



## 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.

**It would be very helpful if you could label ALL your photos (not just the folder) with your WI's name and brief description please.**

With many thanks.

[suehamilton8487@gmail.com](mailto:suehamilton8487@gmail.com)

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



You will find us here:

[www.facebook.com/NorthantsWI](https://www.facebook.com/NorthantsWI)



Don't do FB – then check out our excellent website which has news and photos galore from WIs across the county! <https://northamptonshire.thewi.org.uk/>

## 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 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.

## Pauline Duff Trophy 2026

We are asking members to make a piece of wearable headwear. The design must be original and made by the person stated on the entry form. All mediums are welcome and will be given equal consideration, so go on let your imagination and skills run riot!

## County Bounty Winners!

### November

£20	No. 4	Ind	Jane Cottrell	Welford WI
£10	No. 36	Ind	Brenda Astell	Bugbrooke WI

## Campaigns, Concerns and Media

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI)

As we approach the end of the year the Campaigns, Concerns and Media sub-committee have been discussing which campaign the Federation will focus on in 2026. All of the current campaigns are worthy contenders and each will appeal to some members.

As Chris mentioned in her Chairman's Chat, the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is developing a campaign which relates to the WI 'No More Violence Against Women' campaign and so we have decided to build some activities around this. We will develop a number of activities around International Women's Day, building up to the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence in November 2026.

By promoting campaign activity in conjunction with all the other great things the WIs in Northamptonshire do, we hope to show another side to the WI and continue to raise our profile across the county.

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

### NFWI ANNUAL MEETING & RESOLUTIONS BRIEFING CONFERENCE

**Tuesday 31 March 2026 7pm-9pm**

#### **Members only**

Have you been chosen as a delegate for the National Annual Meeting this year? Are you one of the members who will lead the discussions or get involved on Resolutions at your WI meeting?

If you have answered yes to either of these questions or are a WI member interested in finding out more on the chosen topic/topics, come along to WI House to hear knowledgeable speakers, ask questions and join in the debate.

Application Form will be with your Secretary next month. **Ticket Allocation Date: Monday 2 March 2026**

## Quiz Answers

1. Their brooms
2. Venezuela
3. Toronto

## Treasurer's Tips

Deborah Mills (Badby and Fawsley WI)

Well here we are in December again; this year has absolutely flown by. It's certainly been a busy one. I've really enjoyed meeting some of you at the events we've held at WI house as well as when we've been out and about around the County. And thank you for all your support.

We will soon be coming to the end of another WI financial year; I always find it's good to have a thorough check of the online spreadsheet to make sure everything balances before I get to the end of the year. If things are in the wrong column it can really cause havoc with the Financial Statement, as I found out the other day when trying to balance my WIs books, I got there in the end but it take a few minutes to realise what had happened.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we do not get any snow.

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

### MEMBERSHIP & TRAINING

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI)

The shortlist for the 2026 resolutions was published in the November edition of WI Life. Five resolutions have been shortlisted and cover a wide range of subjects so hopefully, there will be something which appeals to everyone.

Every member now has the opportunity to pick their favourite. The most popular selection/selections will determine which go forward for debate and voting at our May meetings next year and then taken to the 2026 NFWI Annual Meeting to be held on Thursday 4 June.

WI secretaries should collect the votes from their members and send the votes by post or email to Jackie at WI House by 6 February 2026. Remember to include the number of votes for each resolution as every vote counts.

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

**WI Adviser for December – Anne Seckington (Brackley WI)**

**01280 702290**

**[anne.seckington@gmail.com](mailto:anne.seckington@gmail.com)**

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

Tel: 01604 646055 email [admin@ncfwi.org.uk](mailto:admin@ncfwi.org.uk)

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

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