

JULY 2021



Kilsby WI marked their centenary
in a most inspiring way!

See page 11

ENCLOSURES

- Grimsthorpe Castle Application Form
- National Memorial Arboretum Application Form
- Cyber Crime Application Form
- Scrabble Competition Application Form
- Literary Lunch Application Form
- Kathy Brown's Garden Flyer
- Visits Request Form

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



Well, the good weather is finally here as I am writing this paragraph. I hope that many WI members are at last able to make plans. Maybe to meet in gardens or outside spaces, maybe to plan their next indoor WI meeting, taking into account regulations of course. We love to see your photos too!

I attended the National Federation of WIs AGM on Zoom this week along with approximately 2000 other people. It was a very well organised event and easy to watch on screen, no stressful travel arrangements this year. So interesting that an event of this type watched on a screen had the power to make me, the viewer, feel both included and inspired by our wonderful organisation.

Talking of AGMs, we have arranged to hold the Northamptonshire Federation's AGM this year via Zoom on Wednesday 27 October. Please do keep an eye on the Newsletter for more information on this and lots of other interesting WI news, photos and events.

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

From Your Treasurer

I am sure you are all aware that your WI Financial year ends on 31st August and the examination of your books, preferably by one of the Federation IFEs, will need to be completed ready for your Annual Meeting in October.

If you wish to apply for an IFE for this year and haven't already done so, please complete the form that was included with last month's Newsletter and return it to Jackie in the office.

Cate Purcell (Broad Green WI) 68wollaston@gmail.com

From Your Newsletter Editor

Just a reminder that there will be an August Newsletter this year so please send in any articles you may have to myself and to Claire at the beginning of July. Many thanks.

Margaret Foster (Warkton Village WI) margaret.foster984@gmail.com

From Your Secretary

Please note that although WI House is closed and the staff are working from home, you can still email us on admin@ncfwi.org.uk or telephone and leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as we can.

Jackie Andrews (Yelvertoft WI) admin@ncfwi.org.uk

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

Margaret Cassidy Badby & Fawsley WI

COUNTY BOUNTY - JUNE

£20	No 47	Pat Faulkner	
		Wootton WI	Ind
£10	No 32	Elaine Morrice	
		Kilsby WI	Ind
£10	No 55	Mrs P A Matthew	
		Welford WI	Group

Report of the NFWI Annual Meeting 8 June 2021

It was an honour and a privilege to be a Link Delegate for this year's Annual Meeting (AM) – my 1st time as a delegate. I had my unique access code to log in to the 1st ever virtual AM – and there she was - Lynne Stubbings, NFWI Chair, with her team at the Royal Society of Arts in London welcoming 2,500 members and guests to the meeting. Two electronic polls in (voting on the Standing Orders and Constitutional Resolutions) we were all feeling confident that things were going well on the virtual platform when a global internet hitch stopped the live streaming! Not to fear, as the professional company employed for the meeting signposted us to watch the live stream on You Tube and we all sat back to listen to HRH The Countess of Wessex.

The Countess is the proud supporter of 70 charities and plays a major role in supporting HM The Queen and she reported that the Royal Family still go into fits of giggles when they recall the cutting of the WI Centenary Cake. But it was of her mother, Mary, which the Countess started her talk with, emphasising the importance of family and friendship that her mother nurtured in her children. Apparently, there was also a “Cakegate” moment in the family when her mother served up a “light fudge cake” in which a hammer was used to get a knife into the cake, where it got stuck and eventually broke the plate!

The Countess spoke eloquently and passionately about gender equality; sexual violence on women in conflicts; and fairness. She concluded her talk with asking us, “To be proud – the WI is full of strong women who are resilient, resourceful and reliable.”



Retiring Hon. Treasurer, Julia Roberts then gave us a very clear and concise overview of our Finances. The total income for the year decreased by 29.85% but with robust reserves we should be able to weather the storm of Covid.

Dame Cressida Dick, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service - the first woman to hold this post - was the next speaker and proved to be a very engaging speaker. She emphasised that perhaps like the WI, the stereotypes of the police force are very far from the truth and her theme was keeping women and girls safe and how the police can help. Although the “police are the public and the public are the police” is one of her favourite mantras.

Mr John Butler, Consultant Gynaecological Surgeon at The Royal Marsden Hospital, supported the Public Affairs Resolution and talked about his work with “inspiring women” who have ovarian cancer. He also informed us of recent surveys that indicated the barriers we have for low cancer treatment success in this country. Whereas GPs in the UK would only refer 40% of patients, GPs in Canada presented with patients displaying the same symptoms, would refer 60% of them.

The Rt. Hon the Baroness Hale of Richmond was our last speaker of the day and through the story of her childhood and her career in the law she gave us an insight into her life as the first woman Law Lord and President of the Supreme Court, until she retired. Baroness Hale attended a state school and was accepted into Cambridge University to study law. In her year, there were 6 women and 110 men and she graduated top of her class. She pleaded the case for diversity in the Judiciary system and thought that motherhood, rather than gender, holds women back in a career in law.

There followed some heartfelt thanks given to Lynne Stubbings as she retires from her role as NFWI Chair. Although it was not the final year that anyone would have wished for her, when the storm hit, she was the woman you wanted at the helm.

Finally, Lynne Stubbings spoke of the future of the WI with its 5 year Strategy Plan and the need to be BOLD. We shouldn't be a “best kept secret” but we should be loud and proud of the WI, the largest women's organisation in the UK.



In the end the 2021 AM proved to be a “Great Day In” with like-minded and inspiring women but I did miss the company of fellow WI members from across our county. Perhaps next year we can get together in person in Liverpool for the 2022 AM. Fingers crossed!

Sue Hamilton (Towcester Evening WI)

Cakes for Cynthia Spencer and Cransley Hospices

In July cakes will be donated to

- Cynthia Spencer Hospice by Wootton WI, Braunston WI, Yardley Hastings WI and Welford WI
- Cransley Hospice by Raunds WI

If you can help with the Cransley rota please contact Sue Johnson Hill, 07947 803225 email johnsonhilljs@gmail.com.

WI Walks

Oundle and RIVER NENE WALK Saturday 10 July 10 a.m. start Approx. 4 miles

Meet on Ashton Village Green, once home to the World Conker Championships. The walk will start via the old Ashton Mill and onto the riverbank. Following the Nene Way, the walk will take us into picturesque Oundle with its lovely old buildings. Our return journey will be over the Oundle bridge, (crossing the A605 with care) returning to Ashton across the fields. We hope the Chequered Skipper in Ashton will be able to accommodate us for lunch, perhaps in a marquee, which we would order prior to starting our walk. Please contact the leader in good time if you wish to join us.

Leader : Ann Jeyes : 01933 359053 email : ajeyes.org@hotmail.co.uk

Address : The Chequered Skipper, The Green, Ashton, PE8 5LD

FOOTPATH WALK from ISHAM Saturday 14 August. 10 a.m. start. Approx. 5 miles

A short walk from The Lilacs in Isham down to the Slade Brook, towards Burton Latimer and back through the Pocket Park. Lunch may be pre-ordered at pub prior to starting our walk.

Leaders: Aida and Nick Freville 01536 723211, 077437 18086 email: Aida.freville@yahoo.co.uk

Address: The Lilacs, 39, Church Street, Isham, Kettering, NN14 1HD

WALK from MAIDWELL SATURDAY 18 September with optional lunch at The Stag. Details next month.

Competitions and Challenges

LADY DENMAN CUP COMPETITION 2021

Let me show you what a woman can do! There's still time to enter this national competition for a piece of writing in no more than 500 words, fact or fiction, in any style, based on the painting by Artemesia Gentileschi, *Self Portrait as Saint Catherine of Alexandria*, 1615-1617.

We need your entries at WI House no later than **Friday, 30 July 2021**.

Details of the competition are on My WI and were also in WI Life.



CHALLENGE TROPHY 2019/2020 Update

Thank you to those WIs who may have been considering taking part in the board game challenge set in 2019 and deferred to this year. Sadly, due to the difficulties faced by members in working together safely over the past 15 months, resulting in very few responses, it has been decided to withdraw this competition. However, please consider retaining any work you may have completed so far as the idea may be used sometime in the future.

SCRABBLE COMPETITION - Wednesday 22 September 2021 WI House 7.00 p.m. Members Only £5.00

O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!" Lewis Carroll's words echo my feelings exactly! I haven't slain the Jabberwock; I am just really happy to say that this event will go ahead. The evening will follow the usual format of two one-hour sessions with a break for refreshments in between. We shall be using Collins' Scrabble Dictionary 2020 edition. Please bring a Scrabble set with you, and a torch might be useful if you have to park in the lane.

Application form is with your Secretary this month.

Meeting Hall Information Form

Just a gentle reminder to complete and return the Meeting Hall Form that was sent out last month. It is extremely helpful for the Board of Trustees to have this information for when we are looking to organise events around the county. Please do not think this doesn't apply to your hall, events come in all shapes and sizes! We would be grateful if someone from your WI could complete and return the form to WI House by post or email to admin@ncfwi.org.uk by 30 September.

If you know of any other halls in your locality that may be available for use please feel free to complete a form for those too.

CPRE Northamptonshire Town and Country Awards

CPRE (the countryside charity) in Northamptonshire are holding their biennial awards again this year. Why not nominate your favourite new building or restoration project in the county. Full details of the awards scheme and entry details are available at c23fed_c913e004fca34214ae9fe9866eefc87.pdf Winners will be announced at the end of the year.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please Note: 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 secretary and payment should be made by your treasurer within 7 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.

ZOOM EVENTS

Email events@ncfwi.org.uk to reserve a place and receive your Zoom invitation for any of the following:

MODERN DAY SLAVERY - Monday 28 June 2.00 p.m. Free Zoom Event

There is still time to join this FREE event in support of NFWI's campaign to raise awareness of, and eradicate, modern day slavery. Victims of this shocking crime can be men, women and children in a wide range of settings from factories and farms to nail bars. Our expert speaker is one of our own members, Nicky Vaughan.

TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS WITH A MOBILE PHONE Friday 2 July 2.00 p.m. Members only £5.00

Last chance to book this online Zoom workshop with Trevor Jordan, a retired GP and Church of England priest who has been a keen amateur photographer for over 60 years and now uses a 'phone camera for all his photographs. He will share a range of his photos along with techniques and suggestions for improvement, avoiding technical jargon!

Zoom invitations will be sent out on Tuesday 29 June.

SPEAKERS SELECTION EVENING – Thursday 8 July 7.00 p.m. Members only - FREE

The next of our ever-popular speakers' selection evenings will again be held on Zoom. As before, tickets will be allocated for one per WI. A link to the event will be sent out once places have been allocated. Whilst only one ticket will be issued to a WI, members should be able to sit together in each other's homes.

Zoom invitations will be sent out on Monday 5 July.

NCFWI AGM - Wednesday 27 October 2021 7 p.m.

Please note this date in your diary. More information to follow.

EXCURSIONS and HOLIDAYS

SUDELEY CASTLE and GARDENS - Tuesday 17 August 2021 Coach - Members £22 Non-members £25
Entry £14 payable on the day Free to Members of the Historic Houses Association (membership card to be shown)

There is still time to send in your Application Form for this day out in the Cotswolds. Sudeley was the home of Katharine Parr, sixth wife of Henry VIII and she is now entombed in the church within the castle grounds. Ten award-winning gardens surround the castle. The Pheasantry is home to 17 species of rare and endangered pheasants from around the world. Locally sourced food is available.



Application form with your Secretary last month. If you have previously registered your interest, please note an application form is still required and must be submitted by 30 June, either by post or email to events@ncfwi.org.uk

GRIMSTHORPE CASTLE, LINCS - Monday 20 September 2021

Members £43 Non-members £46 Price includes a guided tour of the park and a guided tour of the castle



Another castle connected to Henry VIII - Grimsthorpe was granted by Henry to the 11th Baron Willoughby de Eresby in 1516 and has been the de Eresby family home ever since. It houses a collection of thrones and furnishings from the old House of Lords, as the family fulfills the hereditary Office of Lord Great Chamberlain to the Palace of Westminster. The tranquil gardens include topiary, ornamental pools, a woodland garden and a walled kitchen garden with

a collection of Quince and Medlar trees. The tearoom is currently closed; mobile food and drink vendors are on site and you can take your own picnic.

Application form with your secretary this month. If you have already registered your interest, please now ask your Secretary to return the application form on your behalf, either by post or email to events@ncfwi.org.uk. If you are interested but unable to return the form yet, please register your interest with events@ncfwi.org.uk as soon as possible, so that likely numbers can be assessed. Ticket Allocation date Monday 23 August.

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM, STAFFORDSHIRE Saturday 16 October 2021

Coach Only - Members £20 Non-members £23

There is so much to see once there - with memorials, statues, flags, as well as all the wild life that live in the area. A very peaceful place. All meaning that cameras should be brought. (Photos to Barbara, Claire and Margaret for our communication pages). As mentioned last month – sit-down eating places with a good choice of food as well as your own picnics can be consumed. Once your legs begin to feel the strain there is seating around the site.



The visit is subject to government and coach legislation such as masks to be worn indoors and on the coach.

Thank you to those who have already registered their interest; please now return the application form which is with your Secretary this month. If you are now interested but not ready to return the Application Form, please register your interest as soon as possible by emailing events@ncfwi.org.uk, so that the viability of this trip can be assessed. Ticket Allocation date 6 September.

FOUR DAY STAY IN CARDIFF Sunday 20 – Wednesday 23 March 2022

We have already received some registrations of interest in this holiday which will include visits to Bath, Bristol, Cardiff Bay, the Millennium Centre, St Fergus open air museum and the Welsh Industrial and Maritime Museum.

Much more information in your September newsletter.

OTHER EVENTS

TREASURERS FINANCIAL STATEMENT WORKSHOP - Wednesday 21 July 2021

WI House 3 - 5 p.m. or 7 - 9 p.m. Members Only £5.00 Application Closing Date extended to Monday 5 July.

Please note the afternoon session is now full but places are still available for the evening session.

Whilst this workshop is aimed particularly at those Treasurers who do their accounts using the accounts book, it will also benefit those who complete their WI accounts online. Helpful tips will be shared by the Federation Treasurer and the Membership & Training Sub-Committee, to give you confidence you have all your financial year-end paperwork in order ready for your Independent Financial Examiner. **Application form with your Secretary.**

CYBER CRIME and ONLINE SAFETY - Tuesday 10 August 2021 2.30 p.m.

Great Houghton Village Hall, Leys Lane, Great Houghton NN4 0AN **Members only £5.00**

We are delighted to announce that DS Jason Cullum from Northamptonshire Police Digital Intelligence Unit and Simon Aston, Online Safety and Wellbeing Officer, Safeguarding in Education, North Northamptonshire Council have both agreed to speak to members on the subject of Cyber Crime and Online Safety. We hope the event will provide members with information and advice on what to look out for regarding online scams and how you and your family can use the internet safely and securely.

Application form with your Secretary this month. Ticket Allocation Date 27 July 2021.

MINDFULNESS MANDALA DOT PAINTING with Tina Bodsworth

Saturday 4 September 2021 10.00 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. at WI House

NEW

Members £20 Non-members £25 plus £5 for materials payable to the tutor on the day.

'Mandala' in art has become a general term for geometric patterns. They are mostly circular, but can also be other shapes, and are commonly used as drawing or colouring exercises meant for relaxation and / or concentration. This is great for unwinding, slowing down the frenetic pace of life and focusing the mind on something completely different. Being able to chat to others while crafting is just a wonderful way to spend the day. We will be painting on pebbles.

Tina will supply all the materials needed for this workshop at a cost of £5 payable to her on the day. There will also be an opportunity to purchase the equipment you use if you would like to continue with this craft afterwards.



Please bring a packed lunch. Application form with your Secretary next month

AFTERNOON TEA AT BARNWELL - Thursday 16 September 2021 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Members Only £12

Touch wood, this event is still going ahead! We appreciate many WIs may not be meeting in person until September but please do contact your Secretary as soon as possible to book your place for this popular event.

Apply via your Secretary who has the booking form. Please do not send payment with the application form, an invoice will be issued to your WI. Ticket Allocation date Tuesday 24 August.

SCIENCE LECTURES RETURN! STARGAZING - A Whistle Stop Tour across the Universe

Friday 24 September 2021 7.30 p.m. Great Houghton Village Hall, Leys Lane, NN4 0AN

Members £6.00 Non-members £9.00

NEW

Dave Eagle presents a mind blowing journey from Earth out to the very edge of our observable universe, visiting objects of interest along the way. Come and see some beautiful images of our amazing universe. Dave is an astronomer and astrophotographer as well as a tutor for Adult Education.

Let's see if we have a clear evening and can appreciate the night sky! **Application form with your Secretary next month.**

MOSAICS WORKSHOP with ANNA CONTI - Saturday 2 October 2021 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
WI House Members £60.00 Non-members £65.00

NEW



Anna will teach us how to use stained glass off-cuts to make a unique mosaic mirror. All materials needed to make the mirror are included in the above price. A list of things you will need to bring will be sent out with your confirmation email.

Application form with your Secretary next month.

LITERARY LUNCH with SIMON MICHAEL at the MARRIOTT HOTEL - Friday 12 November 2021

Northampton Marriott Hotel, Eagle Drive, Northampton NN4 7HW Members £35 Non-members £40

Join us for a delicious 3-course lunch and listen to the author Simon Michael. Simon was called to the Bar in 1978 and until the late 1990s worked almost exclusively in the field of criminal law, prosecuting and defending enough murderers, armed robbers, con artists and other assorted villainy to provide him with a lifetime of true crime plots. No doubt we'll hear about some of them before we have lunch.

Tea and coffee will be served from 11.00 a.m.; Simon's talk will start at 11.45 a.m. after which lunch will be served. Find out more about the author at www.simonmichael.uk



Menu choices and application form with your Secretary this month.

Closing date Monday 27 September.

WI House Coffee Mornings –

Friday 30 July 10.30 a.m. - 12 md

Friday 20 August 10.30 a.m. - 12 md

Saturday 11 September 10.30 a.m. - 12 md



Entrance on the day £3.00 to include a hot drink and slice of cake.

We are pleased to announce that Coffee mornings at WI house are back! It will be lovely to see members and friends reconnecting after the last difficult 12months.

Please come along and enjoy a lovely social morning whilst supporting your Federation. There will be a raffle and it will also be an ideal opportunity for you to stock up on gifts and cards.

We look forward to welcoming you back to WI House.

Please note these dates are all subject to any changes made to the current Covid 19 restrictions

GOOD NEWS, GOOD NEWS – SKITTLES ARE BACK!

All going well, we hope to offer a Skittles tournament again. Application forms will be sent out in September to be returned no later than Monday 13 December. The final will be played in late June.

Amendments to Zoom Speakers List

- Email address for Gary Prescott, aka The Biking Birder, is bikingbirder2010@hotmail.com
- Terry Penny does not offer Zoom talks.

SUB-COMMITTEE NEWS

ART, SPORTS & LEISURE Heather Smith (Towcester Evening WI) hmsmith47@btinternet.com

Well, what a lot of activities we've got going on! This is your last chance to contact Claire (events@ncfwi.org.uk) to join the Photography with a Mobile Phone workshop (see page 5).

An Application form for the **Literary Lunch** is included with this newsletter. A **Mosaics Workshop** and a **Mindfulness Mandala Dot Painting Workshop** have been arranged and those application forms will be sent out next month. I have to say it has been quite mindful preparing these articles. We can be positive again.

The Sub Committee have agreed we should stage a **Skittles Tournament** again too. The number of WIs who decide to enter will determine how we run the tournament, but we are optimistic.

We had hoped to arrange a Federation Visit for you to **Kathy Brown's Garden at Stevington** just over the border in Bedfordshire. This proved to be a bit unrealistic during the last couple of months, but Kathy has put together an offer for you to visit, either as individuals or as a WI. Your secretary has the information.

I'm so looking forward to seeing some of you again soon – **IN PERSON!**

CAMPAIGNS AND CONCERNS Jean Bates (Helmdon WI) robertbates115@btinternet.com

How important to you as a WI member are the resolutions we debate and vote on each year? In December we had an event looking at Violence Against Women, and in June there is a presentation on Modern Day Slavery (see page). Both of these topics are covered by resolutions we have passed nationally with a vote. So how do you act upon the resolution you have agreed to? Often the resolution asks for us to raise awareness, so please remember to find out more on a topic, open conversations, and lobby our MPs and policy makers. All of this makes a difference, and as we wait for the result of this year's resolution on awareness of the subtle symptoms of ovarian cancer, the fact that we have discussed it has raised awareness. We can do so much to bring benefits to subjects needing support, being the largest women's organisation in the country, remember how powerful the WI can be. Enjoy lots of conversations on the many topics that need our awareness.

Thank you,
Jean

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD (ACWW)

Jean Bates (Helmdon WI) robertbates115@btinternet.com

A very big THANK YOU this month, to those who have recently contributed to our recycling for charity, and those who have made donations to ACWW. The latest cheque received from the recyclers was for £65. This is often from items that would otherwise be discarded, thrown away and maybe end up in landfill. £65 goes a long way towards one of ACWW's projects, which are often funded by fairly small sums of money.

My thanks also to the WIs who have made recent contributions. I especially want to mention one WI have chosen for their contribution to be forwarded to the WE Fund (Women Empowered) for sustainable water, sanitation and energy. Please remember you also can request which WE fund you wish to support. By looking on the ACWW website, acww.org.uk you can see the list and which may need most help.

Jean Bates

MEMBERSHIP AND TRAINING Linda Brett (Little Billing WI) Linda.brett2@btopenworld.com

The first ever Virtual National Annual Meeting in June was a great success. A full report appears on page 3 of this Newsletter. With more opportunities to meet face to face we look forward to a summer of reconnecting with our members and being able to promote our WIs. Enjoy!

WI Adviser for July: Anne Seckington 01280 704290 anne.seckington@gmail.com
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CLIMATE AMBASSADORS Lou Stockwin and Sharon Henley (Stowe Nine Churches WI)
Carol Blake (Towcester Evening WI), ncfwclimateambassadors@gmail.com

A mature tree absorbs carbon dioxide at a rate of 48 pounds per year. In one year an acre of forest can absorb twice the CO₂ produced by the average car's annual mileage. Oak trees absorb the most carbon but horse chestnuts, the London Plane and various pine trees are also notable sequesters of carbon. To mark the Queen's platinum jubilee communities across Britain are being encouraged to plant trees and in his support of the initiative Boris Johnson said trees 'stand at the front line of our fight against climate change'.

The Queen's Green Canopy Scheme has been launched to encourage people to plant trees during the tree planting season – October 2021 through to the end of 2022 to mark Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne. The Woodland Trust is a partner of the Queens Green Canopy scheme and they have over 3 million saplings in tree packs available on a first come first served basis. Information on how to apply for your free saplings is available at

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities

For further information about the scheme please go to www.queensgreencanopy.org

DENMAN COLLEGE Christine Farmer (Preston Capes WI) christinefarmer26@yahoo.co.uk

I am sure things are happening behind-the-scenes but we are not privy to any of these discussions. If you were at the annual general meeting, which was from a virtual platform last Tuesday, you will have noted that hardly any mention was made of Denman. Reprinted below is the little bit we were given on the finances of Denman and a bit of a blurb from their promotional page from the Denman 'room' at the meeting.

'DENMAN COMES TO YOU...

Learning and development have been at the heart of the WI since its very beginning. In May 2020, we opened our virtual doors to Denman at Home, our latest offering in a long history of delivering added value to WI Membership and the community at large. Just one year since the launch of Denman at Home, we've had over 70,000 different people join 794 online courses and events. Could you be the next to discover that hidden talent you never knew you had? There's something for every ability and interest – and all at the click of a button.'

And on the finances –

TOTAL INCOME	£1.324m
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£2.489m
DEFICIT	£1.165m
GAINS ON INVESTMENTS	£16k
NET DEFICIT	£1.149m

Go to <https://www.denman.org.uk/whats-on/> to view courses on offer in July, including:

- The History of English Gardens
- The Spitfire Women of World War II
- Getting to know Beethoven's 5th Symphony

BULBS, BULBS, BULBS

Very shortly your bulb orders will be winging their way to Walker's bulbs, then we will have to patiently wait until they are delivered to us in September. However, if you were clever, you will, last year, have ordered some summer/autumn flowering bulbs to brighten the garden until the 2021 Autumn plantings burst through the ground to welcome Spring!

BULB PLANTING TIPS

BRIGHTEN UP YOUR LAWN: How about brightening up your lawn - maybe a dull corner of your garden (as if!) Or around a tree? Remove a layer of turf with a spade, plant bulbs as deep as possible – to confuse squirrels - then replace turf, OR use a bulb planter for small areas or for dotting around. Wait until foliage has died down before doing your first mowing.

Spotlight on

.....Kilsby WI's Centenary Celebrations

Kilsby WI started planning for their centenary 3 years ago. They knew they wanted to mark the occasion and after much discussion decided a permanent sculpture would be a great memorial, eventually settling on a sunflower as the ideal subject. "It says 'WI' but also looks really good to everyone who sees it - who doesn't smile at a sunflower?" asks Secretary, Karen Gilmurray. They plan to take a photo of the sunflower every month from the same spot to produce a calendar of the sunflower through the year. Members began fundraising to pay for the sculpture but sadly Covid-19 got in the way, so they are very grateful to Grantscape and Kilsby Parish Council for their generous donations.

Made by local artist, Tony Davis, the sunflower is a metal wire sculpture over 6 feet high so will always be visible over the wild flower meadow in which it is situated. Over time the wire will age, apart from the bee which sits on a sunflower head and, being made of stainless steel, will remain bright as the rest of the flower mellows (see front cover photo).

To include the local community more, Kilsby WI is sponsoring a 'Sunflower Cup' which the local school will award each year to two of their pupils for the best drawing or painting of the sunflower.

Not content with "just" a 6 foot high sunflower, a fantastic celebratory Yarn Bombing exhibition has been created around the village. Co-ordinated by Vicki James, the exhibition is designed to showcase the fun aspects of the WI, lift the spirits of the community and also educate, since many of the installations highlight a different WI campaign from 1921 to 2021, from Women on Jury Service to Don't Fear the Smear. A leaflet with information about each campaign has been distributed via the village shop and pub.

Over more than two years, members and friends of Kilsby WI put their time, passion, creativity and meticulous attention to detail into these fabulous installations which volunteers then spent many days sewing to lamp posts, street signs, fences and trees.

Local MP, Chris Heaton-Harris officially unveiled the Centenary Memorial Sunflower and opened the Centenary Yarn Bombing on June 6th. There are more photos on Facebook, both NCFWI's and NFWI's pages, but the exhibition will run throughout the summer months so why not pop along to Kilsby and see for yourself!

Huge congratulations to everyone involved; truly inspiring women!



Out and About



Ashley Welland Valley WI enlisted one of their own members, Ros Gallant, who, as part of a local history group, gave a tremendous guided walk round Ashley village, to two groups on different days. Afterwards, they were treated to tea and cake in Sarah Wright's beautiful garden. It felt like heaven!

Harlestone WI visited Saxby's Cider where they were taken by tractor-drawn trailer to one of the orchards to see the wonderful sight of 2,500 apple trees in full blossom! Farmer Philip Saxby gave a talk about the history of the company and how the cider is made in huge stainless steel tanks. After a sampling session there was the opportunity to buy. Admiring a day old foal, swallows flying in and out of the farm buildings, and the beautiful square dovecote where cider is produced like champagne, all added to the hugely enjoyable evening.



East Hunsbury WI participated in a community project to give the library, and the outside area around it, a face lift. Members planted up two planters in the WI colours of white, purple and green, for the front entrance of the library.

Seven members of **Wootton WI** participated in a socially distanced walk around Brackmills and Hardingstone, raising £150 in sponsorship for ACWW. Congratulations!



Roade WI has given the planter on the village green some TLC with a varnish and new plants. Members kindly donated the plants and Lesley and Maddy made a spectacular display. Appreciative comments from residents included, ".....how fortunate we are to have selfless folk in our community who indirectly enhance our daily life" and "great to see the village community spirit".

Cranford WI held a Plant Stall at Cranford Village Hall and were delighted to make £265. All proceeds from the sale are going to Federation Funds, which is greatly appreciated.



Towcester Evening WI's Gardening Team has been busy putting colour into the town for the summer. The WI planters have all been planted with a "Golden" theme to reflect TEWI's forthcoming 50th Anniversary.

