



Cog in the Tree

West Midlands Federation of Women's Institutes.



June 2023

Chairperson's Address

Hello Everyone,

Another bank holiday has come and gone with its usual attendant poor weather. I need

to get into the garden and start preparing for the summer bedding plants to go in but my tulips are still in bloom and I haven't the heart to uproot them just yet. The bulbs have been particularly splendid this year and I would urge anyone who wants a magnificent spring display next year to get the bulb catalogue from their WI Secretary and put an order in before the end of the month.



Watching the Coronation on TV brought back a few memories of the 1953 Coronation. I was only five years old but certain things stick in my mind. I remember walking home from school on the Friday carefully carrying my commemorative cup and saucer and being worried about tripping over. My grandparents had a television and it seemed to me that on the Saturday, all the female neighbours were crowded into their lounge to watch the ceremony whilst the men were outside in the rain.

They were stringing up lines of rope from the old-fashioned lamp posts across the road and then covering them with tarpaulins and opened umbrellas to protect the line of tables and chairs down the middle of the street. It wouldn't be allowed to happen today with all the health and safety regulations we now have to abide by but back then everyone just got stuck in and did it. As soon as the programme finished, out came the food and drink for the party and everyone was very upbeat despite the rain.

This time round we had a small impromptu street party in the sunshine on the Sunday afternoon as some of my neighbours came out and we got together to share party food and drink but it was an altogether much more low-key affair.

If your WI had a Coronation party or put decorations up, please remember to send your photos to go in the Cog for us all to share. The email address is cogmediawmfwi@gmail.com, If you have problems with accessing it send your photos to me and I will forward them. Please also remember to let me know if you have any changes of Officers following your Annual Meetings so that I can keep our records up to date.

Lynn

200 Club Winner
Pat Pearson, of
Walmley WI

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A birthday party fit for a King, Great Barr W.I. Celebrating 102 years. Members arrived wearing crowns and sashes to commemorate the Kings Coronation. With plenty of food and wine, a jolly time was had by all. **Elaine Williams, Media Officer Great Barr WI**

Temple Balsall WI

Dressed in red, blue and white, the ladies of Temple Balsall Women's Institute recently celebrated King Charles' Coronation. They partied at The Old Hall at Temple Balsall, with a delicious choice of homemade food provided by members and a glass of bubbly or two! A quiz tested royal knowledge, followed by a chat about the televised ceremony and some reminisced on the coronation of 1953. They recalled memories of the street parties, attended with their parents, and how they watched on a tiny screen of a black and white television. For many, it was the first crowning of a British monarch in their lifetime, and one that none of us will ever forget.

The late Queen, Elizabeth II, was a member of the WI, as was her mother, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and her grandmother, Queen Mary. Queen Elizabeth attended meetings at Sandringham WI in Norfolk and, in 1965, held a garden party at Buckingham Palace to celebrate the WI's Golden Jubilee. Our new Queen, Camilla, joined Tetbury WI near Highgrove House and Llandoverly WI in Wales in 2006. Since 2021, she has been supporting the WI's campaign to end violence against women. This has included writing an article against domestic abuse for the organisation's magazine, WI Life. Recently, Kate, the Princess of Wales, has followed in her footsteps and become involved in some of these WI campaigns. **Beverley Moynihan, Temple Balsall WI**



Hawne WI



Hawne WI's April challenge was to design a card for the King's Coronation. The winning card, below centre, by **Maureen Millington**, was sent to King Charles from Hawne WI. Above are the entries, with below right highly commended card, by **Marie Heynes**. The beautiful blanket below was designed by Anita and crocheted by **Anne Fisher**, who turned the image into her own card with the accompanying poem. **Anne Turnbull, Hawne WI**



*I'm fairly new to this crocheting lark,
But I thought I would see it through
To celerate our new King Charles
Because he's new to the job too.*

*He's the third Charles now to sit on the throne
No alternative name instead,
He'll have a new Queen to help him along,
But I'm hoping he'll keep his head!!!!*

*In our seventies now, Charles, Camilla and me
But no disadvantage there I'll bet,
Experience we bring to this brave new world,
There's life in the old dog yet.*

*So here's to you Charles, my Monarch, my Liege,
I'll be cheering you along the way,
A difficult job you've inherited now
But remember to have a great day.*

Anne Fisher

Author: Anne Fisher
Composed 17/4/2023

Would you like to see your WI featured here?

Send your contributions to COGMEDIAWMFWI@gmail.com

Please send submissions by the tenth of each month to guarantee inclusion. It may not be possible to include all submissions. Texts may be altered to fit available space. Please send original images as jpeg files and documents as word documents. Next deadline: 10/06/23.

Erdington Carnegie WI



Erdington members displaying some of their craft at the Erdington Arts Festival 2023. This is the first Arts festival held in Erdington, so we thought we'd get in early! The local photographic group took our photograph to frame and display at next year's Festival- so, just like Arnie - we'll be back!
Annie Redgrave, President, Erdington Carnegie

Moseley & Balsall Heath WI



We had great fun making cocktails and mocktails at our April meeting. Pictured is **Harriet Cummins**, our cocktail maestro and demonstrator. Here's the recipe for a Classic Mojito: 50ml White Rum, 25ml lime juice or 6 lime pieces, 6-8 mint leaves, sugar to taste or 25ml gomme syrup. Pop in a boston shaker and shake well! Strain over crushed ice, top with soda water, lime and mint garnish. To make a virgin mojito, skip the rum!

Photos, credit **Pauline O'Rourke**

Newton WI



The Ladies of Newton Women's Institute decided to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla by creating a 'Post Box Topper'.

It was a joint creation between 8 members, **Kath Brooks, Sue Bubb, Margaret Gould, Sue Davies, Yvonne Lathbury, Rosamund Lucock, Linda Sanders** and our Chair, **Melanie Wisher**.

After revealing their work, our members were alarmed at the news of the number of thieves and damage to these Toppers in the area.

So, we had a Brain Wave. The local Hair Saloon, (Root 46) that is used by several our members were approached and they readily agreed to display our Topper in their shop window for a period of four weeks. We thank them greatly. **Sue Bubb, Newton WI**



Bournville WI



Bournville thanked **Sue Austin** for her eight years of service as membership secretary, pictured here with the Bournville committee team, all in red, white and blue for the Coronation Party.



Tess Singleton made a fabulous and delicious Coronation cake, pictured left with Bournville President, **Margaret Wills**.

Right: **Janet Everett** pictured with the cushion she knitted to celebrate the platinum jubilee. She writes:

“I’ve been a member of Bournville WI since 2008. When I first joined, I was on the committee, providing refreshments at monthly meetings etc. Now I’m the photographer and archivist, taking

photos of events and competition winners over the past five years. Whilst covering the jubilee I’d amassed a surplus of newspapers etc, so decided to handknit a patriotic cover to preserve them for future members and memories.”



Knowle WI & Berkswell WI



Knowle WI "A" played Berkswell WI in the Semi-final of the Darts Tournament. An enjoyable afternoon was spent with Knowle WI winning. It was good of Prince Charles to join us when he is so busy!!

Stephanie Withers, Knowle WI

Boldmere WI

Boldmere WI produced this beautiful frieze for the King's Coronation, displayed at Wylde Green Station. They also made the bunting for Chester Road Station. Pictured below are the celebrations for their 8th birthday party.

Judy Holmes, Boldmere WI



Editor's Choice #1

June is Pride Month, lets show our LGBTQI community some love and support. The Pride Festival is 27 – 28 May and is certain to be joyous. Take part in the free parade, from 11am in Centenary Square.

6/13



WMFWI, 50 Station Road, Kings Norton, B30 1DA, 01216944201

Email Lynnsmith@blueyonder.co.uk

CHARITY NUMBER 1012552, REG.COMPANY NO. 2723008

Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) Walk the World



In April WI members met at the Roundhouse Birmingham for Women Walk the World. We had a great day beginning with a very interesting talk on the history of the Grade II listed building. The Roundhouse was built in 1874 providing stables for horses who pulled the canal boats as well as stores for city lamplighters and the Public Works Department right at the heart of Birmingham's canals. This was followed by a lovely walk along the canal with Betty our guide giving lots of information on the history of the canal. A lovely day out and the sun shone! Thank you to the WI ladies who supported.

Pamela Griffiths, ACWW Coordinator West Midlands Federation

Diary of Events 2023

25 th May	NFWI Annual Meeting, Cardiff
2 nd June	Quiz, Aldridge Church Centre
9 th June	Quiz, Shirley Community Hall
13 th July	Croquet (Kenilworth)
19 th September	Autumn Outing to Windsor
23 rd September	Skittles, Hockley Heath
25 th September	Annual Meeting
4 th November	Christmas Glass Mosaic
November 2023	Christmas Outing (Hyde Park)
9 th December	Christmas family celebration

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook for regular posts and updates.
<https://www.facebook.com/WMFWI>



Arts and Activities

Julie Afridi Martin - Entertainment Subcommittee Chair

I was very lucky to get up to the Scottish Lochs last week. Not only that but the sun shone every day and



I could really enjoy the magnificent scenery and the entertainment too. One evening we had some lovely young ladies who treated us to a string of Highland dances. The sheer pleasure on their faces as they danced was just joyful. It brought to mind the possibility that we might explore putting on a dance night or indeed some dance tuition at some point. I'd be grateful for any feedback on this idea. Thanks

MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL

23 of our members enjoyed an evening at the theatre last month. From e mails I've received, they seem to have had a lot of laughs!

QUIZ NIGHT

The teams are lining up for the quiz nights. Please contact **Jacqui Poyner** if your group would like to have a table.

Quiz 1 Aldridge Church Centre Friday June 2nd.

Quiz 2 Shirley Community Centre Friday June 9th

Cost – A table of 4 is £20



CROQUET

Thursday 13th July

In response to a couple of e mails I've received about croquet. The answer is YES! Complete novices will be welcome. Fingers crossed for good weather on the day.

At Kenilworth tennis club, £10 per head to include equipment, tea coffee biscuits and tuition.

Book soon ladies!



THE VAL DAGGATT CUP

Award for writing

Closing date for entries Monday 26th June

We're looking forward to receiving your entry.

It's not too late to apply!





Darts

Congratulations to **KNOWLE A AND SILHILL**. These 2 teams are the finalists in this year's darts tournament.

The final match venue hasn't been set yet but it's surely going to be a wonderful game.

There's lots of fun to be had around the West Midlands this month.

Taste the Wild...

Fire Lighting and Cooking Workshop

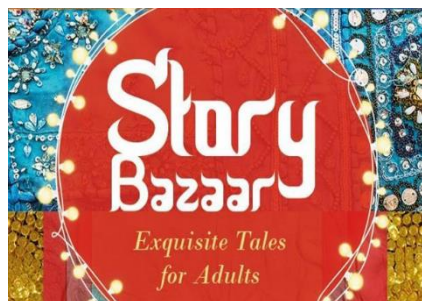
Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, Chester Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, B36 9BT, Tel: 01217494100

13th May, 20th May, 10th June (Over 18s only)

In this workshop you will get in touch with your wilder side, by interacting with one of the rawest of elements, fire. We will cover how to start a fire using a fire striker, how to build a fire that will burn well and most importantly we will try out a number of fire cooking methods and dig into some delicious food as we go.

What to Expect: This session is completely outdoors, so please dress for the weather. Please alert us to any food allergies or intolerance when booking. Adult ticket £14, Gardens Member £12.

THE REGGAE COOKOUT! WITH LEE ALEXANDER (JOHN HOLT TRIBUTE) & DJ Milo Sadler



Spellbinding Storytelling with Story Bazaar: The BrumJabi Brothers Storyteller Peter Chand has been entralling us with his Story Bazaar nights for the past two years by introducing us to some world-class Storytellers live at the Arts Café. All the performers have bought a unique cultural perspective which makes their performances all the more memorable and meaningful. 2023 will be no different, and we hope you will join us in the heart of Wolverhampton for some incredible, thoughtful, moving and eerie traditional tales for adults.

The BrumJabi Brothers- 25/06/23 -Chris Lowe & Peter Chand. Separated at birth, reunited by stories? Mayhem and silliness from the Brum, Punjab, and beyond...! Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Bar available on the night. (Minimum age 14, must be accompanied by an adult).



16th -21st May – Flatpack Festival

Flatpack Festival will be lighting up venues across Birmingham. This year we're marking not only our 17th festival, but twenty years since our very first film night at the Rainbow pub in Digbeth. We'll be celebrating with immersive film experiences all across Birmingham, including outdoor film at Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Ukrainian films and live music at Moseley Road Baths and film and performance at the Lapworth Museum of Geology.

Public Affairs

Liz Galloway, Vice Chair & Public Affairs

Public Affairs: At a recent National Federation PA meeting, Lynda Gibbon (President, Harborne Village WI) explained PA's approach to the Police and Crime Commissioner. We have been congratulated as the only Federation to have done this.

The Great Big Green Week 10 – 18 June 2023.

It may seem a long way away but we need to start planning now. This will be the UK's biggest ever celebration of action to tackle climate change and protect nature! Get your WI to keep up the pressure on decision makers!

The NFWI PR Guide: The guide provides instructions on how to work with local journalists, promote meetings and events and how to prepare for interviews. There are many leaflets and posters which you can use.

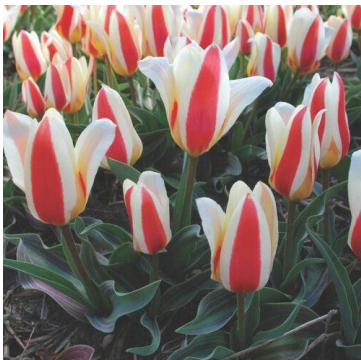


Zero Hour request: (Climate and Ecology Bill)

Liz Galloway (PA Chair) has supported the initiative by the Zero Hour Partnership to strengthen the Climate and Ecology Bill on its journey through Parliament. It was scheduled to be reintroduced on Wednesday 10 May. You can read the bill here: [Bill \(zerohour.uk\)](http://Bill(zerohour.uk))

Annual Meeting Speakers: Two inspirational speakers have been announced, namely Ebony Rainford Brent MBE, world cup winning cricketer and Laura McAllister, ground breaking international footballer and now professor at the University of Wales Governance Centre.

Please visit thewi.org.uk for further details on all of the above. **Liz Galloway, Kings Norton WI**



WI Bulb Scheme

Now is the time to think about your garden for next year. Browse the new bulb catalogue for ideas, it has plenty of choice with good reviews from WI members. Your secretary has the catalogue and order forms.

Please send your orders with cheques payable to WMFWI to Christine Sears,

131 Berkley Road, Shirley,
Solihull, B90 2HU

By no later than 1st June 2023

Editor's Choice #2

Talking of Gardens, June and July are Open Gardens Months. Notable areas in June are Moseley, on Sunday 25th June, 11-5pm, (£10, 18 gardens, early advance tickets £8.50) and also Olton 1-5pm on the same date. (11 gardens, £5, proceeds to the Stroke Association.) More details available here:

[Open Gardens - the UK National Directory | Open Gardens county listing.](#)

Allesley, Bournville and Meriden all open on the 2nd July.

Editor: L Blackburn, BH&M & Bournville WIs

West Midlands Federation of Women's Institutes

CROQUET

THURSDAY 13th JULY

The cost is £10.00 which includes tuition, equipment and tea/coffee and biscuits.

Please wear flat shoes and bring suitable wet weather clothing in case of inclement weather

**THE VENUE IS KENILWORTH LAWN TENNIS CLUB CRACKLEY
LANE, KENILWORTH, CV8 2JS.
PLAY STARTS AT 2.00PM**

If you have booked a place but are unable to attend on the day, please contact
Julie Afridi Martin 0121 784 7010

Closing date Friday 23rd June 2023

As there is only one date there will be a draw if oversubscribed.

Return to Julie Afridi Martin, 28 Vicarage Road, Yardley, Birmingham B33 8HP by
23rd June 2023.

_____ Institute - cost £10/person would like
_____ places for Thursday 13th July Cheque made payable to
WMFWI for _____

Please give a contact name: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

Trip to Windsor

Tuesday 19th September 2023



Join us on our autumn outing to Windsor with lots to see and do!

Visit the Castle

Picnic on or walk the long walk

Cruise on the Thames

Walkabout the town or by the river

Open-top bus trip around Windsor and see Eton

Enjoy a Royal coffee in one of the many Coffee shops

Enjoy an Ice cream beside the Thames

Please note pick up times will be early between 7.00 to 8.00am to ensure sufficient time to enjoy Windsor.

Members are required to book their own activities direct as this is not included in the cost.

We will aim to arrive by 11 – 11.30am to enjoy the day and depart at 5.00pm.

Cost inclusive of coach, is **£25.00** (non-members welcome)

Closing date is 11th July 2023

Pick Up points;

Allesley, Yardley, Solihull, Cotteridge, Halesowen, Walsall Wood, Mere Green, Boldmere

(Times to be confirmed)

Please contact Kim Slivinski 07843 123748 if you would like to discuss other pick- up points

WMFVI - Autumn Outing to Windsor 19th September 2023

Cheques to be made payable to WMFVI to - Kim Slivinski, 136 Common Lane, Sheldon, B26 3DN by no later than 11th July 2023

INSTITUTE _____ Require _____ tickets @ £25.00 =Total £ _____ Pick up _____

please include a sae with your application and list name of applicants on the reverse of this slip

Refunds will not be issued for this event unless cancelled by the Federation

WMFWI 49th Annual Meeting

Monday 25th September 2023

at

Austin Court, 80 Cambridge St, Birmingham B1 2NP

Guest Speaker

Corrine Brazier, Heritage Manager, West Midlands Police & Museum



WMFWI will be holding the Annual Meeting on Monday 25th September 2023 at Austin Court, Birmingham.

I would like to extend a cordial welcome to all members to join us at this event. It is hoped that all WIs will send one member as a Delegate and that other members will attend as Observers. The cost for the day will be £12.00 per person. Delegates will have their cost defrayed from their WI's funds.

This invitation is to all WI members and not just Committee members. The hall seats 150 and we will hold a ballot if we are over-subscribed but all WIs will have a representative attendee.

The day will begin with coffee and pastries from 10.15am and a chance to chat with friends. The morning session will start at 11.00am with business matters and the presentation of certificates. Lunch will **NOT** be provided. There are lots of opportunities to find lunch around the canal basin.

In the afternoon we shall hear from our guest speaker Corrine Brazier, Heritage Manager at the Birmingham Police Museum. Corrine will talk about the 100year history of women in policing with some very interesting stories about the women, the force and the museum. I sincerely hope that your WI will join us for a most enjoyable day

Lynn

WMFWI Annual Meeting 25th September 2025

Please return to Kim Slivinski, 136 Common Lane, Sheldon, Birmingham, B26 3DN by **1st August 2023**

INSTITUTUTEREQUIRE.....Tickets @£12.00 each

Name of Delegate.....

No of Observers..... (Please list names on reverse).

REMITTANCE CHQ ENCLOSED £..... SAE ENCLOSED

Tickets will be issued for this event