

JANUARY 2024



ENCLOSURES

Application Form London Walking Tour
Application Form Treasurer's Workshop
Application Form Annual Meeting and Resolutions Briefing
Application Form Middleton Hall
Archiving Information Sheet
Events Summary Sheet

Cover photo by Val Goldfinch
Towcester Evening WI collected green
"waste/rubbish" from which
Val created this magnificent piece.
The WI were shortlisted for the
Green Heart Award by the Climate Coalition.

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



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

As we head into 2024, it feels like a good opportunity to say a big **Thank You to all our Wis**

A great chance to thank all the WI Treasurers, Secretaries and Chairmen and, of course, WI Committee members too for all they do to keep your WI and this Federation moving forward. I have had the pleasure of attending a couple of very enjoyable WI Christmas parties over the last few weeks and clearly lots of work and planning had gone into them. I wonder if photos of your own WI Christmas party will be featured in this Newsletter? I hope everyone has been able to enjoy the build up to Christmas this year, and best wishes to all for a healthy and happy New Year.

From Your Treasurer - Rosie Duddy (Hunsbury Hill WI) rosieduddy57@googlemail.com

I hope those of you who attended the Financial Statement Workshop are now confident to complete the year end accounts at the end of January. The online account book will do this for you. The statement and accounts will need to be checked by an Independent Financial Examiner (IFE) and if you haven't already got one, please call the office. I wish you all a happy New Year with no accounting problems!

NCFWI Archive Team Sue Kendall (Rushton Village WI) suekendall49@gmail.com

Do you make New Year Resolutions? What do you do in January when it's cold and wet? Now is the time then to look at your WI Archives. We have recently received a large box of archive material from a WI who suspended in 2008 and closed in 2011. The large box had a number of different things but also had records and books from 1954 to 1987. They had been stored in one of the members' houses and had recently been found after she sadly passed away – luckily her family realised the value of the contents and brought them to us at WI House. The important paperwork is now on its way to the Northamptonshire County Records Office in Wootton. Unfortunately, WIs quite often lose their archive materials when they are not sorted regularly and they are dumped, probably after a member has passed away. Don't let this happen to your WI.

There are details of what you should and should not keep on MyWI. Definitely, your WI Committee Meeting minutes and Records of your Monthly meetings should be archived. How far back should you go – from the earliest to at least 10 years ago. You may have a big anniversary coming up – don't worry if the Records Office has them it is possible to borrow them for an exhibition. What you must do – make sure you note everything you are taking to the records office, keep a copy for your WI – perhaps keep with the secretary's papers in a separate file. Let WI House have a copy – we have a file of all records previously taken. When you take them to the Records office, make sure you get a receipt – again keep a copy with your WI and send a copy to the office – it will have a registration number.

Perhaps get some of your members together to have a 'clearing out' day. Some of the important do's and don'ts: do make sure any photos have names for the pictures, they are useless in the future if not; the records office does not want Scrapbooks; try and take out all paperclips and staples, they will rust and stain the paperwork. Lastly, if you decide to keep your records, make sure you list what you are keeping, where it is going to be stored and that it is labelled as archives, to be taken to WI House if/when found. Please refer to the enclosed Archiving Information Sheet for further information.

[My WI | Archiving and record keeping \(thewi.org.uk\)](http://thewi.org.uk)

[Archiving-Guidance.pdf \(thewi.org.uk\)](http://thewi.org.uk)

From Your Secretary - Jackie Andrews (Yelvertoft WI) admin@ncfwi.org.uk

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 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.

WI Handbook

A PDF version is available on request, but if you are struggling to get it printed, we can do this for you for £5 plus postage. Please email Jackie if you wish to order a copy 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

Sylvia Lake

Harlestone WI

COUNTY BOUNTY - DECEMBER

£20	No. 11	Ind	Sue Brotherton	Welford WI
£15	No. 46	Grp	Brenda Quinn	Mawsley WI

CHALLENGE TROPHY 2024

Hopefully you are in the process of encouraging interested members to start planning an entry for the 2024 challenge. The schedule and full details, together with the application form, were in the December Newsletter.

Application Forms need to be at WI House by Monday 29 April 2024

Cynthia Spencer and Cransley Hospices

In January cakes will be donated to Cynthia Spencer Hospice by Evenley WI, and to Cransley Hospice by Rushden and Newton Bromswold WI.

2024 Rota

Thank you very much to those WIs who have already offered to make cakes in 2024. **Can you help** by filling the gaps in the calendar in January, April, June, July, August and September? If so, please email events@ncfwi.org.uk with your preferred month. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Newsletter Editor - Denise Bott (Welford WI) denisebott02@gmail.com

Happy New Year! I hope your festivities went well. Articles and photographs for the February newsletter must be with me, and a copy to events@ncfwi.org.uk, by **9am on MONDAY 15 JANUARY** at the latest. Submissions received after this may not be included.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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 treasurer and payment should be made within 14 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.

SPEAKERS SELECTION EVENING Monday 4 March 2024 7pm – 9 pm at WI House

Maximum of 2 Members per WI. Tickets are £3 each.

Always a popular event and places fill up fast. This is your opportunity to hear new potential speakers before anyone else.

Application Form with your Secretary last month. Ticket Allocation Date Monday 12 February 2024

LONDON WALKING TOUR: ISLINGTON AREA Wednesday 20 March 2024

Members £15.00, non-Members £18.00.

Starting from St Pancras and finishing at The Angel Islington, (originally a Toll House), Ian Porter will walk and talk us through the history of the area: from the materials supplied by the Northamptonshire brickyards, through the descent into some of the worst slums in the east-end, and regeneration in the 20th century. We will meet at 9.45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start at the seating area outside 'German Gymnasium', a restaurant located at 1 King's Blvd, London N1C 4BU. Early arrivals may get the chance to have their photo taken by a certain Platform 9 ¾. Magic!

Application date 23 February 2024. Application Form with your Secretary this month.

NFWI ANNUAL MEETING & RESOLUTIONS BRIEFING CONFERENCE

Wednesday 27 March 2024 7pm - 9pm Members only £3

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 you 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. This is an opportunity for delegates and observers to meet each other.

Application Form is with your Secretary this month. Ticket Allocation Date Monday 4 March 2024.

MIDDLETON HALL AND GARDENS, TAMWORTH Wednesday 17 April 2024

Coach and Guided Tour Members £44, non-Members £47

The guided tour (which includes refreshments on arrival) tells the story of how Middleton Hall had grown over the centuries and the people who grew with it. Please note that various stairs will need to be used to access the rooms as there are no lifts due to the age of the buildings. A moat surrounds the Hall, West Lawn, Walled Garden and Middleton Pool. The large estate, which was once used for gravel extraction, is now a vast, vibrant Nature Reserve waiting to be explored and is managed by the RSPB.

Application form is with your Secretary this month. Ticket Allocation Date Monday 4 March 2024.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

TREASURER'S WORKSHOP

Saturday 20 April 2024 10a.m. -12.30p.m. OR 1.30p.m. - 4p.m. Members Only £5

Are you a fairly new Treasurer or an established one who would like an update? Membership and Training Committee members will take you through a 'Year in the life of the WI Treasurer'. We will discuss budgets, keeping records, financial safeguards, charity law and where to find information and guidance. There will be open discussion and lots of handouts to help assist you in your role.

Application form is with your Secretary this month. Ticket Allocation Date Tuesday 2 April 2024.

SPRING COFFEE MORNING Friday 22 March WI House 10a.m - 12 p.m.

£3 including coffee and cake

Come and enjoy coffee, cakes, chat and raffle. Members of the Travel Committee will be at this Spring coffee morning. If you have thoughts and ideas on future trips we would love to hear suggestions. Save the date and just come along – no booking required.

SAVE THE DATE

CHELMSFORD NATIONAL FLOWER SHOW, ESSEX

Friday 17th May 2024 Cost to be agreed

Visit the National Flower Show held annually in Hylands Gardens and Park, Chelmsford. This is its 9th year and is well worth a visit for all flower and garden lovers. More details next month.

SAVE THE DATE

NORTHAMPTON KINGSLEY W.I.

KINGSLEY PARK METHODIST CHURCH

MILTON STREET

NORTHAMPTON NN2 7JF

SPRING TEA

£5

We cordially invite all WI members and their friends to join us for a selection of delicious homemade sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee

THURSDAY MARCH 21ST

2:30PM - 4:00PM

To book your place
please contact Fiona Jones by March 1st
07552789050

Or get tickets from
Heather's Café
Kingsley Front



SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday May 8th 2024

Silverstone WI invite you to

'Royal Diamonds: two centuries of Splendour'

Presented by Caroline de Guitaut

Surveyor of The King's Works of Art.



SUB-COMMITTEE NEWS

ART, SPORT & LEISURE Caz Reynolds (Rushton Village WI) caz4070@googlemail.com

The Literary Lunch in November was a very enjoyable occasion, with good food, great company and an interesting speaker. The Decoupage Workshop was also well supported. Attendees decorated a variety of items, including some beautiful shells provided by the tutor. Many of us were inspired to purchase pretty napkins to add further decorations at home. Please email me if you have any suggestions for craft ideas you would like to try in 2024

MEMBERSHIP & TRAINING Anne Seckington (Brackley WI) anne.seckington@gmail.com

Hope you are all in the process of selecting your preferred choice of the four Resolutions shortlisted for 2024, (see pages 23-25 of the November/December edition of WI Life). Your WI needs to get your selections into WI House by **11 February at the very latest**. The Membership & Training Sub-Committee collate all those submitted and send the results off to NFWI.

Looking ahead to your WIs March Annual Meeting, a specimen Agenda will be in the February Newsletter. Item No 6 on the Agenda is Review of Decisions and Bye-Laws. All WIs have made decisions that should be reviewed annually and approved by the members. The four key WI Decisions are: -

Name of WI,

Date, Time and Place of WI Meeting

Number of members on the WI committee

Number of Vice Presidents

These key decisions are fundamental to the WI and can only be changed at an Annual or Special Meeting.

A few WIs have a Bye-law limiting the time their Officers serve. However, because Bye-laws can have unforeseen side effects, WIs should always notify the Federation Board of Trustees ahead of their discussion and adoption by the WI.

In addition to the key decisions above, there are other more minor 'decisions' to consider, such as the amount to charge visitors, what refreshments will be provided and if there will be a charge. Some WIs also discuss and decide whether to sing Jerusalem and how often, whether to read the record of the previous meeting (minutes) or send via email with copies available for those not on email, whether to have competitions and hold raffles, how often and what to charge. Your WI may have other items that could be included in your minor 'decisions' that would be relevant to you. If they are reviewed at every Annual Meeting they can be discussed and changed as appropriate.

WI Adviser for January Linda Brett (Little Billing) 01604403525 linda.brett2@btopenworld.com

MEDIA Chris Carr (Great Houghton WI) Chris@jcdmail.com

We love sharing photographs of your activities and events - a picture is worth a thousand words and yours reflect the friendship and camaraderie in the WI. If you don't use one of the hard copy Newsletters sent out to your secretary you might consider putting it on your 'News and Events' table. Other options are to print the newsletter in black and white rather than colour, or select only the pages you want to print.

SUB-COMMITTEE NEWS

CAMPAIGNS AND CONCERNS Jean Bates (Chipping Warden and Edgecote WI) robertbates115@btinternet.com

A New Year, and maybe you are full of good intent and resolutions. Firstly, look after yourself, as this enables us to care for others. And that is much of what we do in our Campaigning, trying to make life better for those in our communities, and wider afield. February 14 is our WI day for Showing the Love of all we appreciate in this world that is under threat from Climate Change. Recent years have certainly confirmed to us all that our climate does need our concern and care. Please take every opportunity to share the message with friends and family. We can all make a small difference, and show how - as WI Members - wearing your Green Heart brooch can start a conversation and stimulate others to question their carbon footprint. Happy Campaigning!

DENMAN NEWS Christine Farmer (Preston Capes Daventry WI) Christinelouvaine@icloud.com

Just about a month to wait as I write this - for free courses on the new DENMAN hub. There are excellent things to be had there, in fact something for everyone, so I do hope you will support this new FREE venture.

A little bit more about the proposed plans for Marcham Park, formally DENMAN college: the new owners, the Duffields, have permission to knock down the dining room, the teaching centre and most of the bedroom accommodation. I don't know how much of this has already happened. I must get my spies on the scene to check. I can understand their desire to turn it back into a lovely house and lovely grounds BUT...!

BULBS. BULBS. BULBS.

Tremendous effort from the WIs who participated in the county bulb scheme. £236.76 was returned to the Federation - a welcome boost to funds. Just think what we could have made if YOUR WI had joined in too. Oh well - maybe next year!



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1. What is believed to have become the world's most populous country this year?
2. Which two countries co-hosted the FIFA women's World Cup in July and August?
3. Which European country adopted the euro on 1 January 2002?

QUIZ CORNER

Answers P8

WI WALKS

MINCE PIE WALK Thursday 28 December 9.45a.m. - for 10.00a.m. start. Approx 3-4 miles

Come along and walk off the mince pies exploring the old town of Burton Latimer. Once an important staging post on the London to Glasgow – the old A6 – it has some interesting and quirky architecture and an old church just across the way from the hostelry. £10 selection soup and sandwiches.

Please note this walk is on the **Thursday**. Please let the leader know by **Thursday 21 December**.

Leader: Sue Kendall suekendall49@gmail.com 07889 039425

Venue: The Olde Victoria, Bakehouse Lane, Burton Latimer NN15 5NJ

TIFFIELD Saturday 17 February 2024 9.45a.m. - for 10.00a.m. start. Approx 4.5 - 5 miles

Please note that although this walk starts and finishes at The George Inn, parking is at the farm of Sue Williams, also in the village (see below). Please allow time to walk from your car to the pub. Please let the leader know by Friday 11 February if you wish to join us and if you would like lunch.

Leader: Fay Tennent fay10net@live.co.uk 07976 005903

Venue: The George, High Street North, Tiffeld NN12 8AD

Parking: Ark Farm, Tiffeld, NN12 8AB

COTTINGHAM Saturday 16 March 2024 9.45a.m. - for 10.00a.m. start. Approx.4.5 miles

Hopefully there will be signs of spring on this walk that takes us from Cottingham, via Middleton, to East Carlton Country Park, all with lovely views across the Welland valley. Menus will be provided towards the end of February. Please confirm your attendance and meal choice by Friday 8 March. This is required by the pub.

Leader: Alison Mitchell. alisonm@email.com 07833 350461 / 01536 201916 (answerphone)

Venue: The Royal George, Blind Lane, Cottingham LE16 8XE

ROADE Saturday 13 April 2024. 9.45a.m. - for 10.00a.m. start. Approx 5 miles

We will meet at the Cock at Roade where we pre order lunch, before taking a pleasant walk, mainly along footpaths and taking in the old estate village of Courteenhall. Please let the leader know by Saturday 6th April if you are attending and if you want lunch.

Leader: Sue Williams sue@williamsfarmingpartnership.co.uk 07769967532

Venue: The Cock at Roade, 1 High Street, Roade, NN7 2NW

1. India
2. Australia and New Zealand
3. Croatia

Answers to Quiz P7

Out and About

50th anniversary celebrations!



Rothersthorpe WI

Founder member, Barbara Walsh, shared a few memories and read the minutes of the first meetings in 1973, before cutting a beautiful cake made by a villager (a relative of the first President!). Glasses were raised, and an enjoyable evening concluded with a fabulous musical performance by Lewis Dellar, son of our President, Jenny.



Bozeat WI

This beautiful friendship tree was created by members as their entry into the St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival.



East Hunsbury WI

The festive season opened with a pop-up cafe fund-raiser at the Christmas Fayre in the local library. It was a roaring success and sold out! Pictured: Lynne Abraham, Carol Skears and Liz Sheffield.



Flore WI

The President and members planted a tree in Brodie Lodge Playing Fields to commemorate their centenary, postponed due to Covid. It was combined with a celebration of the coronation of King Charles III.



Wootton WI

Our tree, at the Festival at St George the Martyr Church, was not only beautiful to look at but was practical too, as the hats and scarves were donated to The Hope Centre, Prem Babies unit at Northampton General Hospital and EVE.



Out and About

Lois Weedon & Weston WI

Treasurer, Edwina Kidd, initiated a collection of shoeboxes, parcels and clothes for the children of Ukraine, to be delivered for Christmas. WI members and friends from local villages contributed donations and deployed wrapping skills! 101 shoeboxes and parcels, along with several bags of clothes, were presented to Iryna King, the Head of the Coventry branch of the 'Organisation of Ukrainian Women' at a concert in November. Chris Farmer and Anne Seckington kindly came along to join the celebrations. We enjoyed music and songs, both Ukrainian and English, and a delicious selection of cakes (no calories of course!) baked by our Ukrainian visitors. A collection raised £260 to go towards the transport costs for the parcels. The presents are being sent to Nikopol in south east Ukraine. The town is close to the front line and is frequently under attack. The



children's care department will distribute the presents to children who have lost a parent, and the baby boxes will go to a maternity unit.

Long Buckby WI

In November members planted a tree in each of the village pocket parks to commemorate their 100th Anniversary last year, and the Queen's Green Canopy. The annual Craft Fair was very successful. We sold bulbs using recycled baskets which the Craft Group had decorated.



The Craft Group also made paper angels and homemade star shaped biscuits to decorate a Christmas Tree for the village Christmas Tree Festival. Our entry was entitled 'A Homemade Christmas, Christmas as it used to be'.



Overstone and Sywell Afternoon WI

Every November we hold a meeting where our members organise the afternoon. This year we were entertained by a short production of 'The Wizard of Oz', followed by a lovely afternoon tea.



Kettering Kosmos WI

Having made a felt poppy wreath the WI were invited to join the Mayor's Procession to the memorial and attend a reception after the service. The wreath, laid by Joint President, Mrs Denise Waghorn, became very wet during the storm but a major advantage was that it also became very heavy, so didn't blow away like the other wreaths!



Hackleton & District WI

In November members shared a brilliant Open Meeting with other WIs.

on 'How to be a 21st Century Gardener'. The speaker was Timothy Walker from University of Oxford Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum.



From the novel *Bridget Jones*, written by Helen Fielding:

“Dieting on New Year's Day isn't a good idea as you can't eat rationally but really need to be free to consume whatever is necessary, moment by moment, in order to ease your hangover. I think it would be much more sensible if resolutions began generally on January the second.”



“A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.” **Anon**

Poet Robert Burns (1759-1796)

“Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and days of auld lang syne? For auld lang syne, my dear, For auld lang syne, We'll take a cup o' kindness yet, For auld lang syne.”



Show the Love

Join Towcester Evening WI and other local organisations to find out how we can all take small actions to combat Climate Change

Saturday 10 February 10am-2pm

Sawpits Centre NN12 6EX

FREE ENTRY

- Recycling, Reusing, Reducing and Food Waste tips
- Pre-loved clothes, toys, books to buy
- Demonstrations - making Pancakes, Willow making and more!
- Children's Activities including an interactive game
- Recycled items to buy
- Refreshments



Contact:

suehamilton8487@gmail.com / 01327 350822

Monica (Great Oakley WI Member)

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