



## News Sheet

January 2025

### Chairman's Chat

As I reflect on my first three months as Federation Chairman, I recognise what a privileged position I find myself in. I have met a number of you at events or WI visits and hope that this will continue in the new year.

The support I have received from WIs and the Federation Trustees only serves to remind me how successful an organisation we can be if we all pull together and I am sure the Yarnbombing Project will be a great example of that.

I can also see early signs of the benefit of the networking we have been doing with outside organisations that now want to engage with us and can see the value of what we have to offer in all our communities.

A very recent example was an invite from Mike Reader MP to meet and engage with Anneliese Dodds, MP, Minister of State for Development and Minister of State for Women and Equalities and our local Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Danielle Stone. Jean McLeish, NCFWI Vice Chairman and I, together with representatives from Northampton Domestic Abuse Service, Rape Crisis, Age UK and C2C attended and discussed issues centred around Equality, Domestic Abuse and the Criminal Justice System; all current and relevant matters to us all as women as well as a WI member.

We will continue to build on this work with a view to establishing the NCFWI membership at the heart of the county.

Wishing you and your families a very Happy New Year. I can't wait to see how we grow in 2025

Chris Carr

[christine\\_carr@outlook.com](mailto:christine_carr@outlook.com)

NCFWI  
networking  
on Equality,  
Domestic  
Abuse and  
the Criminal  
Justice  
System



### Save the Date



Spring Coffee Morning

Friday 14 March 10am-12pm

A Spring themed coffee morning will chase those winter blues away!

More information to come in the February News Sheet.

### Enclosures with your Secretary:

- Speakers Selection Evening Application Form
- Winning Recruitment Poster
- NFWI Annual Meeting & Resolution Briefing Conference Form
- County Lunch Application Form

### Please note:

Fay Tennet is now the  
NCFWI Safeguarding Lead:

[fay10net@live.co.uk](mailto:fay10net@live.co.uk)

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle for 2025 – New Event!

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February at WI House 10am – 2pm**

Refreshments £4 All welcome

A new event for a New Year – come along to WI House with your unwanted jewellery, electronics, bras, foreign coins and used stamps for WI to recycle.

Have you got any handbags or shoes you no longer want? Please could you bring them to be sold on by donation at our Reuse/Recycle event in February?

All monies donated will go towards our Federation. The last collection of 2024 raised £75!



### COUNTY LUNCH – HOW TO CATCH A KILLER! Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025

12 noon

**Greens Norton Community Centre NN12 8BL. Members £26 Non-members £30**

The husband and father of the deceased (a mother and her two children) is missing but is he also a victim, is he absent through work or is he the offender? Come to the County Lunch and find out from Andy Tennet, a former senior police officer. Andy will tell us what really happens and that's probably not what you see on TV!

**Menu and application form is with your Secretary this month.**

**Ticket allocation date is Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

### Challenge Trophy 2025

Information is now with your Secretary. We want a small group of your WI members to come up with a murder mystery, presented in the form of a 10-15 minute radio script. This doesn't have to be WI related but could be! Get thinking and have real fun coming up with a plot, some action and of course suitable sound effects. Now was that a scream I heard?



Lots to see on the National WI website – our own Federation Page plus access to My WI which not only provides access to the WI Handbook and policies but has resources for craft and baking and much more!

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

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



### Quiz Corner

1. There are two landlocked countries in South America, what are they?
2. What ocean is Madagascar in?
3. Which country is completely surrounded by South Africa?

### County Bounty Winners!

£20	No. 3	Ind	Gillian Hill	Mawsley WI
£10	No.29	Group	Julia Newman	Welford WI

## 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)

## Face Book Editors

Please send us any photos (with Members permission) and short pieces of text of any of your WI activities you would like us to share on our County Federation FB Page:

[suehamilton8487@gmail.com](mailto:suehamilton8487@gmail.com)  
[hmsmith47@btinternet.com](mailto:hmsmith47@btinternet.com)



You will find us here:

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



## 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:

Vera Hunnisett	Little Billing WI
Pat Baldwin	Weston Favell Evening WI



## Cakes for Cransley Hospices

Unfortunately, there are no volunteers for 2025 as yet so if your WI would like to bake for Cransley Hospice please email Sue Johnson Hill:

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

## Cakes for Cynthia Spencer Hospice

In January cakes will be donated to Cynthia Spencer Hospice:

w/c 27 January – Wootton WI

And in February:

w/c 3 February – Northfield (Kingsthorpe) WI

w/c 10 February – Hackleton & District WI

w/c 17 February – Northampton Kingsley WI

w/c 24 February – Roade WI

There are still lots of spaces available in 2025. Please contact WI House if your WI is able to provide cakes.

## Hold the Date - Treasurers Workshop

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025 10am-12.30pm or 1.30pm-4pm**

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 will be with your Secretary next month.**

**Ticket Allocation Date Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

## Winning Recruitment Poster from NCFWI Challenge Trophy 2024

The 2024 NCFWI Challenge Trophy competition was to create an eye-catching recruitment and promotional poster, which could be used by any WI across the Federation. After a close-run competition, Towcester Evening WI's entry was selected as the winner, and this was announced at our AGM last October.

A copy of the winning poster is included in the attachments with this month's News Sheet. The poster can be customised to include details of your own WI, simply click in the green box at the bottom to put in any information you would like to share.

The poster can be printed and displayed locally or used on your social media channels to support your promotional activities.



## 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 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.

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

## Treasurer's Tips

I hope everyone had a good time over the festive period. It only seems like a couple of months ago that we were welcoming 2024 in and here we are in 2025 already.

I won't bore you all senseless with numbers this early in the year, but can I just remind all the Treasurers that 1st February is the beginning of the 2025/2026 year for WI finances. If you have queries preparing your end of year financial statements don't forget to contact your IFE.

I wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2025.

Deborah Mills  
(Badby and Fawsley WI)

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



## Speakers Selection Evening

**Monday 3rd March at WI House 7-9pm**  
Members only £5

Refreshments from 6.30pm

This is always a popular event where WIs has an opportunity to meet prospective new speakers for their programmes.

We can only take 2 members per WI.

Application form is with your Secretary.

**Ticket allocation date - Monday 17th February.**

## Quiz Answers

1. Bolivia and Uruguay
2. Indian Ocean
3. Lesotho

## WI Adviser for January:

Linda Brett                      01604 403525

[linda.brett2@btopenworld.com](mailto:linda.brett2@btopenworld.com)

## MEMBERSHIP & TRAINING

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI)

As we approach the New Year it is time to think about our tasks for 2025. The resolution shortlist was printed in the November/December copy of WI Life. Please remember to select your preferred choice from the four listed and complete your slip for your secretary to post to WI House to arrive by **7<sup>th</sup> February at the very latest**. Every vote counts as the totals for each option are recorded and submitted to National.

We have a number of training sessions planned for 2025 with a Treasurers workshop in April, Presidents and Secretaries workshop in June and two further sessions for Treasurers later in the year.

### A reminder about the end of year timetable –

WI Financial Year ends 31 January. Please complete your accounts promptly and get them to your IFE or arrange for them to be examined.

WI Annual Meeting in March - a specimen agenda will be in the February News Sheet.

WI Subscriptions due on 1 April for the new year.

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