



September 2025

Chairman's Chat

The last few weeks have really shown what Northamptonshire members can do to promote ourselves and the County. The Yarnbombing project for the Women's Rugby World Cup Tournament has seen us featured on local radio and Regional TV programme, BBC Look East. Finally, you all get the chance to see the displays designed and created by your amazing friends and members. Why not consider a group visit and walk the route in the Town Centre and St James area to see their yarnbombing work, it really is amazing. As the only town, rather than a city, hosting some of the matches we can be tremendously proud of our achievements. Thank you to all those that contributed in so many ways.



We are very much looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM next month but to ensure we have a sustainable future we desperately need members to come and join the Board of Trustees or a Sub Committee. Please give this some serious consideration. More information is circulated with this News Sheet.

I hope you all see The Events Sheet which contains details of our future events and we have lots of things to look forward to including celebrating 110yrs of the WI with a Birthday Cream Tea and guest speaker Jules Osmany from Radio Northampton. The Quiz is also becoming an annual event so you may want to start thinking about getting teams together for next April.

We are now trialling TicketSource for some of our smaller events, you may wish to have a look at their website and search for Northamptonshire WIs to familiarise yourself with the screen and layout of things.

Enjoy the rest of the summer months.

Chris Carr

christine_carr@outlook.com

Ticket Allocation Dates in September

Remember to submit your application forms for the following events with ticket allocation dates:

- WI Day 110 Birthday Cream Tea – **1 September 2025**
- London Walking Tour – **5 September 2025**
- Northamptonshire County Federation of WIs AGM – **13 September 2025**

Full details of these events are in the Events Sheet

Please support our trips, workshops and events if you can.

Secretaries – please send out the Events Sheet along with the Monthly News Sheet to your members as soon as you receive them. This ensures that your members can read them both before your monthly meetings.

Application Forms are sent to every Secretary.

Enclosures with your Secretary:

- Supplementary Speakers List
- October Speaker Selection Evening Application Form
- Treasurers Workshop Application Form
- Winchester Trip Application Form
- NCFWI AGM Delegates Pack will be posted
- Retreat Poster
- TicketSource Info
- AGM Packed Lunch Order Form
- Rock Choir Application Form

Quiz Corner

1. In what year was the first summer Olympic Games held?
2. Pilgrims set sail for America from Plymouth on the Mayflower in which year- 1610 1620 1630?
3. The sculpture 'David' was unveiled in Florence in 1504 who was the sculptor?



Get ready; those spring bulbs will be arriving this month!

Wired Fabric Flowers Workshop

Saturday, 4th October 10.30 -12.30

A relaxing and fun morning with Julie Williams at WI House. In an effort to keep our administration costs down and free up time in the office at WI House, we are trialling TicketSource for bookings.

All the information you need and how to book is here:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on?q=northamptonshire%20federation%20of%20WIs>

Please book direct and **not** through your WI Secretary or WI House.

Remember there is £5 to pay direct to the tutor on the day for your kit.

London Walking Tour

Thursday 16 October or Tuesday 21 October 2025
Members £40 Non-members £43

All day tour (5 hours with breaks – approx. 3 miles walking) exploring the area from Trafalgar Square to Somerset House.



Start point in Trafalgar Square (South side) 11 am

Contact WI House to see if places are still available.

Winchester Day Trip & Christmas Market

Thursday 27 November 2025

Members £32 Non-members £35



Come for a day out to Winchester. There's plenty to explore in the cathedral and castle. Then enjoy a visit to the Christmas Market and many independent shops. A wonderful pre-Christmas treat - places filling fast!

Application form is with your Secretary.

An evening of festive entertainment with Northampton Rock Choir

DATE
CHANGE

Saturday 6th December 7.30pm
The Abbey Centre, Overslade Close,
East Hunsbury, Northampton NN4 0RZ



Members £10 Non-members £13



Come along and join us for an evening of festive entertainment featuring the Northampton Rock Choir.

There will be a Christmas raffle as well as festive refreshments of tea/coffee and mince pies.

Ticket allocation date 6th November

Application forms are with your Secretary.

NCFWI Annual General Meeting

Saturday 11 October 2025

Northampton High School for Girls,
Hardingstone, Northampton, NN4 6UU

As we continue to organise the AGM we are pleased to announce that once again Wilson Browne Solicitors are supporting this year's event. We are really looking forward to welcoming you to the Northampton High School for Girls to listen to our Guest Speakers Lucy Lewis former Army Bomb Disposal Officer and currently Marshal of the University of Cambridge and Jodie Mutch, from the Maggie's Charity.

We have invited various stallholders to join us including **Zuche Boutique, Sixty Two Homeware, Whimsy and Wist Candles, Ruthies Home Comforts**, with Charity representatives from Maggie's, Ability Transport and AGE UK. Access to stallholders will be from 10am-11am and during the lunch break. Many of the stallholders will take Debit/Credit cards and if you intend to buy refreshments then the school operates a Card payment only system. A raffle with some great prizes to win will also be available.

Please get your bookings in by the closing date of 13 September. Observer tickets are £12.50 (Delegates attend for free) and remember to order your lunchtime "meal deal".

Transport: If a few of you are thinking of coming along why not consider hiring a community bus or share with your neighbouring WIs.

Vice Chairs – Heather Smith (Towcester Evening WI)

hmsmith47@btinternet.com and Jean McLeish

(Bugbrooke WI) jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com

Booking is now open for the
Joint Federation Retreat
with Warwickshire at
Staverton Park Hotel



Friday 24th April to Sunday 26th April 2026:

A hark back to those lovely weekends we used to enjoy at Denman. We have tried to emulate this as much as possible and have even managed to secure the services of 3 'Denman' tutors. A poster with all the information for this is event is included with your news-sheet email. As well as enjoying the Retreat you will have full access to the hotel's other facilities, e.g. swimming pool.

Please book your place via Warwickshire Federation's TicketSource account on their website <https://warwickshire.org.uk/joint-federation-weekend-retreat-now-booking>. You will be asked to pay a non-refundable deposit of £100 to secure your place. An invoice will be sent to you direct for the balance in January. You need to book this yourself and **not** via your WI secretary or WI House.

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

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:

Margaret Mansfield - Braybrooke WI

Janet Perks - Overstone & Sywell WI and
Sywell & Overstone WI

Mary Clarke - Great Houghton and Moulton Evening 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

1 September – Volunteers needed
8 September – Brackley WI
15 September – Badby & Fawsley WI
22 September – Pattishall WI
29 September – Bugbrooke WI
6 October – Kelmarsh, Harrington &
Arthingworth WI

Cakes for Cransley Hospice

September Warkton Village WI
Mawsley WI
October Kettering Kosmos WI
Barnwell WI



Please email
Sue Johnson Hill:
johnsonhilljs@gmail.com

SPEAKERS SELECTION EVENING

Monday 27 October 7pm – 9pm WI House
Maximum of 2 members per WI
Tickets £5.00 each

These are very popular evenings, showcasing future speakers for you to consider and book for your members evenings. They do get booked early so get your application in early.

Application Form with your Secretary.

Ticket allocation date Monday 6 October

Facebook 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
hmsmith47@btinternet.com



You will find us here:
www.facebook.com/NorthantsWI

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 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.

Treasurers Financial Statement Workshop

Saturday 22 November 2025

10am or 1.30pm WI House Members only £7

Whilst this workshop is aimed primarily at those WI Treasurers who do their accounts using the Accounts Book, it will also benefit those who complete their accounts online. Helpful tips will be shared by members of the Membership & Training Sub-Committee, to give you confidence you have all your financial year-end paperwork in order, ready for your WIs Independent Financial Examiner. WIs pay for their Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer to attend.

Come along and learn about Acting as Agent to Year-End jobs to be done to ensure your year-end runs smoothly.

Tea/Coffee provided.

Ticket Allocation Monday 27 October 2025

County Bounty Winners!

July £20 No.25 Ind Anne Seckington Brackley WI
£10 No. 21 Ind Sue Kendall Rushton Village WI
August
Not drawn

Campaigns, Concerns and Media

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI)

Which of our current WI campaigns appeals to your members? When a resolution is passed at the Annual Meeting and a new campaign is developed it doesn't mean activities stop on previous campaigns. My WI lists all our current campaigns and any new initiatives which are being planned. Have a look at MyWI

<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/public-affairs-and-campaigns/current-campaigns> to get some ideas and see how you can become involved. Some examples are:

- WI Week of River Action from 29 September to 5 October
- Climate Change, Fair Green Future – bringing everyone along for the green transition.
- Women's Health Zine launch: Gendering Neurodiversity. (A zine is a little magazine to communicate stories and ideas)
- No more Violence against women: How you can help survivors through the Victims and Court Bill.

Everybody is talking about us! As a result of the Yarnbombing project for the Women's Rugby World Cup, Northamptonshire WIs are certainly getting lots of Media coverage. Chris has details in her Chairman's Chat.

jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com

WI Walks

We still have a thriving walking group, with a walk most months. Everyone is welcome to join. The programme for the next three months is:

Saturday 27 September 2025 (9.45 for 10.00) – Raunds – Stanwick Lakes

Saturday 25 October 2025 (9.45 for 10.00) Harlestone Firs

Saturday 15 November 2025 (9.45 for 10.00) Eastcote

Full details of these walks are in the Events Sheet.



WI Adviser for September:

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI) 01604 863967

jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com

Treasurer's Tips

Deborah Mills (Badby and Fawsley WI)

Well can you believe the children are back at school already? I am hoping that gives you an opportunity to come along to the 110th Birthday Cream Tea and celebrate WI Day. It's so nice that most of the pink forms have been returned already, thank you.

Remember there are Treasurers' workshops held throughout the year to help you. They're really informative and good for keeping you updated on any changes, so well worth attending.

You'll be seeing information about a few fundraising events coming up, not least the County Raffle, your WI should have their tickets by now. There are still a few County Bounty numbers left, the application forms are with your secretary.

darmills8@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP & TRAINING

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI)

It lovely to see so many WIs have been active in the community over the summer months, promoting all the great things we do and encouraging new members.

WI House Office continues to receive a number of website enquiries from women interested in finding out more about the WI and visiting WIs with a view to joining. A WI Adviser will forward these enquiries with some basic details, blind copied to the President and Secretary of one or more WIs. Hopefully, either the President or Secretary will respond to the potential member with details of your next meetings and something about your WI.

I know many WIs have a meet and greet member to welcome any visitors and ensure they are looked after at the meeting. It can be very daunting to walk into a room full of people who all know each other, so everything we can do to make a potential new member feel welcome will encourage them to come back and join.

jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com

Quiz Answers

1. 1896 2. 1620 3. Michelangelo

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

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

www.facebook.com/NorthantsWI