

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Leicestershire & Rutland

County News

April 2020

Issue 459





Leicestershire and Rutland Federation

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Keep in Touch

with the latest news of federation events, courses and activities.

Via the website:

leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk/

Follow us on facebook



just search for Leicestershire and Rutland WIs



Use your phone to Scan this QR to access the website.

Cover Picture
near Foxton Locks
by **Ailsa Jelley** Groby WI

Well spring is finally arriving with longer days and hopefully a slightly drier time. I think we have all had enough of rain and floods. I hope none of you have suffered too badly, we can only feel so sad for people that have had their homes ruined by floodwater and the ongoing problems it must leave them with. This is the time that the resolutions for discussion at our May meetings are released, two very different subjects this year. Increasing potential stem cell donors and ending modern slavery. They should produce some interesting debate and discussion, I hope someone from your WI can attend one of the briefing meetings to find out more from our speakers and take the information back to the WI.

I must mention the Coronavirus situation as well. The Federation is closely following the latest advice from the Government. This is a fast changing situation and will probably have changed from me writing this to you reading it. As it stands we are not cancelling anything but are closely monitoring advice. If any event is cancelled or changed we will inform you. We will also make use of our website and Facebook page. The most important thing you can do is make sure booking forms are filled in correctly with contact information so that we can get in touch if we need to. Please remember that the WI is built on friendship and if you know someone who has to self isolate and may be feeling lonely a quick phone call or email will help make them feel less alone. Hope you all stay well and enjoy what our hard working Committees have arranged for you. **Janet**

Competition Winners

Art Trophy entries will be on display at the ACM. Including the winning entry below.



Competition Winners

Margaret Johnston Competition
'On a street where I live'
Margaret Towsey, Ratby

Programme Competition 2020
Melton Afternoon

Edith Buckley Poetry Competition
'A Favourite Walk'
Sue Wainwright, Thorpe Acre

Federation Art Trophy 'A Tree Stump'
Beverley Ashby, Loughborough Ladies

The winning entries will be on display at the ACM

Monthly Draw

February Winners

First Prize £25

Victoria Tillyard,
Shearsby & Arnesby

Second Prize £15

Janet Stevenson, Thringstone

Third Prize £10

Bethan Cooper,
Birstall & Wanlip

NFWI Diaries 2021

New system for ordering
NFWI Diaries 2021

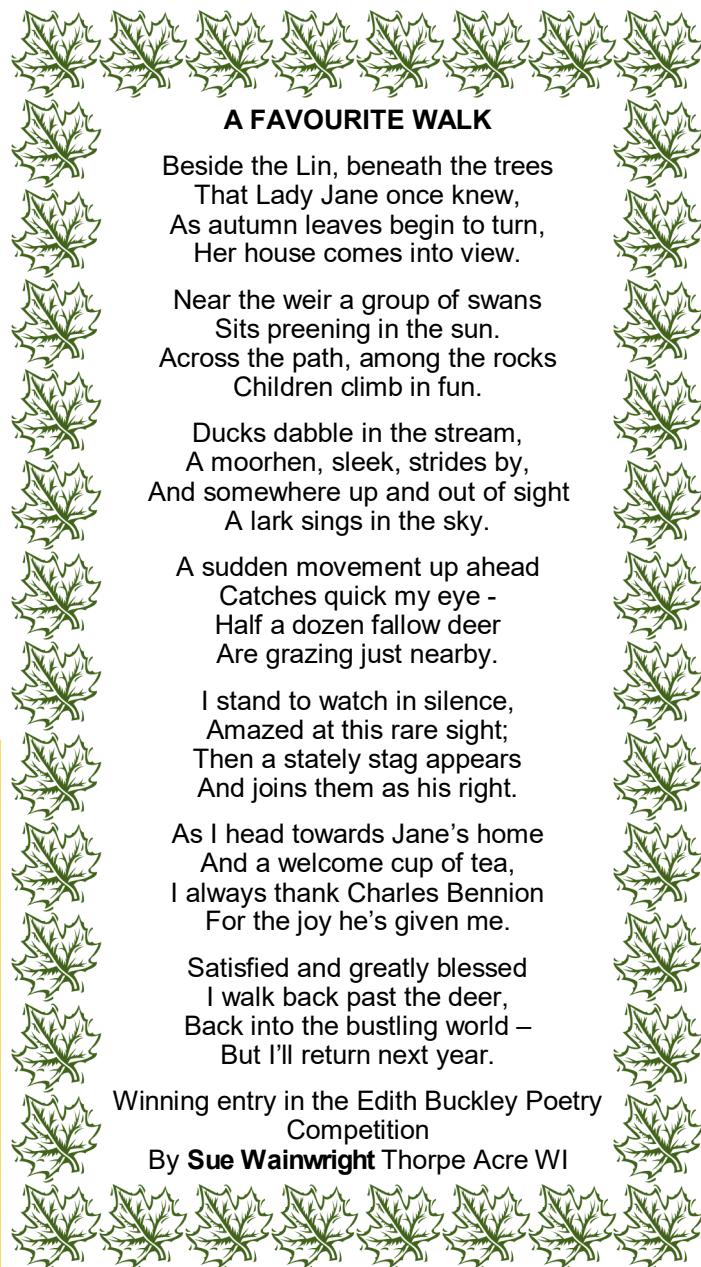
With the increasing cost of the WI diaries, the Federation has opted to take up a pre-order scheme for ordering the 2021 diaries.

The order form will be sent to your WI secretaries in the March mailing and WIs have until Tuesday 26 May to send in their completed forms.

Diaries this year are £5.10 and have a royal blue cover that is completely recyclable, which makes the whole diary recyclable with the exception of the ribbon.



Breedon on the Hill won the Federation Skittles Competition and Ashby Spa were runners up



A FAVOURITE WALK

Beside the Lin, beneath the trees
That Lady Jane once knew,
As autumn leaves begin to turn,
Her house comes into view.

Near the weir a group of swans
Sits preening in the sun.
Across the path, among the rocks
Children climb in fun.

Ducks dabble in the stream,
A moorhen, sleek, strides by,
And somewhere up and out of sight
A lark sings in the sky.

A sudden movement up ahead
Catches quick my eye -
Half a dozen fallow deer
Are grazing just nearby.

I stand to watch in silence,
Amazed at this rare sight;
Then a stately stag appears
And joins them as his right.

As I head towards Jane's home
And a welcome cup of tea,
I always thank Charles Bennion
For the joy he's given me.

Satisfied and greatly blessed
I walk back past the deer,
Back into the bustling world -
But I'll return next year.

Winning entry in the Edith Buckley Poetry Competition

By **Sue Wainwright** Thorpe Acre WI



FEDERATION QUIZ EVENING
Membership Committee Event

Friday 3 July at 7.30pm

£4.50 per person – Teams of four.
The Host WIs are: Ashby Castle WI
at Packington, Burton Lazars WI,
Stoke Golding WI, Ullesthorpe WI and Wigston Magna WI.

Are you up for a challenge? Will your general knowledge help you to reign supreme? Then gather together members, friends and family and enter a team at one of the five venues in this year's Federation Quiz. Venues, postcodes and any special information will be on your tickets. Please read all the instructions. If you want to make a booking, please contact your WI secretary, indicating which venue you wish to attend. The closing date is Thursday 4 June

Speakers' Audition Evening

Monday 27 April

Barkby Village Hall, Beeby Road,
Barkby LE7 3QB

6.30pm for 7.00pm (prompt) –
9.30pm Tickets £4.50

Come and join us at our new venue when we invite prospective new speakers to give us a taste of their talk/demonstration.

Bring along other members of your WI who you feel would enjoy seeing how we select the speakers for our Federation Yearbook.

The venue has plenty of parking, accessible on all levels and refreshments are available to purchase.

County News

Photograph Competition
'We've Got Talent!'



Bid to make the **front cover** of County News with **your** photo!

Photos to be submitted by 31 January 2021 for judging

The winning entry will receive a prize. We need only digital photos sent by email or memory stick, of high resolution (min.1 MB), and portrait layout

£2.00. per entry
Entry form and details on the flyer

A Board of Trustees Event



present

ATALANTA FOREVER
Friday 12 June
7.30 to 9.30



Market Harborough
Congregational Church Centre
LE16 7JD

Tickets £12
Game on! It's 1920 and women's football is big news. But the FA have other ideas.

Broughton Astley and Blackfordby members raised awareness

We all cut out lots of green hearts and made them into bunting, which is displayed on the railings by the stream in **Broughton Astley**. We have had quite a lot of positive comments! Some hearts had motifs representing the causes of climate change (greenhouse gases, burning fossil fuels), and others represented the effects on our environment from extremes of temperatures, rising sea levels, deforestations, danger to wildlife and of course too much plastic, especially in the oceans. Even those members who don't really like crafting said they enjoyed our workshop, and there was certainly a lot of chatting and social interaction.



The Craft and Chat group of **Blackfordby WI** decorated the trees round the War Memorial in our village with Green Hearts as part of the campaign by the National Federation of WIs. One of our ladies even made one specifically in the name of our WI. This one has not been attached to the trees, but will be used on our notice board at our meetings.



Mountsorrel and Leicester Ladies WI members planted trees

Three members of **Mountsorrel WI** were at Sence Valley on Saturday 8th February. It was a glorious day and we planted nearly one hundred trees.

We were ably assisted by one member's husband and in the background you may see approximately 80 other people. A real community event.

There's a piece of the National Forest in Sence Valley that is now very close to the hearts of **Leicester Ladies WI** after they spent a sunny, muddy Saturday afternoon planting 350 Japanese Cedar trees with Forestry England.

This was part of a larger community project to plant 100,000 trees on the site, combating global warming. Tea and cake at Cattows Farm after planting was well deserved, and justified by the exertion level on everyone's fitbit!
Rachel Davies



Food & Flowers

**Tour and Tea at
Leicester University
Botanic Gardens**
Glebe Road, Oadby, LE2 2LD

**Tuesday 30 June
or Thursday 9 July**

**2.00pm to 4.00pm
Tickets £10.00**

Make the most of this year's Summer Garden event with a visit to the beautiful Botanic Gardens in Oadby. Enjoy a guided tour, in small groups, then indulge in tea and cake in The Knoll.

Please park in Glebe Road
bordering the
Botanic Gardens.



It's Time for Tea at Thurnby!

a Traditional, Home-Baked
Afternoon Tea

on Sunday 14 June

Thurnby Memorial Hall, 4 Main Street,
Thurnby, LE7 9PN
3.00pm to 5.00pm
Tickets: £15.00 each

Indulge with a tempting array of
homemade sandwiches, scones and
cakes, with non-stop
tea or coffee in the company of friends.

**Hear all about the history of
tea from Anna Stasinska.**

Taste and Try!

kindly hosted
by Hungarton and Keyham WI

**Thursday 14 May
at 7.30pm**

Hungarton Village Hall,
Barley Leas, Hungarton, LE7 9JH
Enjoy a short cookery demonstration,
and a flower demonstration and take
home a recipe leaflet of all
the dishes served.
Country Markets will be there and we
will have a raffle.

Tickets £8

CHEESE FLAN

Pre-heat oven to 180°C

Shortcrust Pastry

8oz Plain Flour
2oz Lard
2oz Margarine
Iced Water

Filling

½ oz Short grain Rice
1½ Eggs (one whole egg and one
egg yolk, beaten together)
8oz Mature Cheese, grated
¼ pt Milk

Method

Make Pastry in the usual way, this
amount should line two 6 inch foil flan
cases. Bake blind the flan cases while
preparing filling.

Cook the rice in the milk, either in the
oven or in a saucepan until most of
the milk has been absorbed by the
rice.

Cool the rice for 20 minutes and then
stir in the eggs and the cheese and
season.

Pour the filling into the cooked pastry
cases, on a baking tray, and return to
oven for about 25 to 30 minutes.
The top of the flan should be a lovely
golden brown.

Do you have a favourite recipe you'd
like to share with our readers? If so
send it to WI House for the attention
of the County News team.



Spring Has Sprung

The Jerusalem
Jammers are
planning their
dancing year.

7 April we will be at

Congerstone WI for the Gopsall
Villages meeting and 6 May we visit
Canal Side WI in Hinckley.

Come and be part of our friendly
side..... to dance, play--or both!

Next practices Saturdays....

25 April, 30 May and 27 June.

St Bart's Church hall, Main Street,

Kirby Muxloe, LE9 2AN

...all from 10am till 12 noon..

Find us on Facebook
www.jerusalemjammers.co.uk
jerusalemjammers@hotmail.com
Our secretary Sue 01455 458107

Art and Crafts

WHAT'S NEXT IN CROCHET

Saturday, 6 June 2020

WI House

10.00am until 3.00pm Tickets: £20

During our workshop we will be learning
some unusual crochet stitches.

Materials will be supplied.

Some experience will be helpful
but beginners are welcome.

There will be a short break for lunch at
12-30pm. Glasses for close/fine work
may be needed. There may be a small
charge for some items.

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided
but please bring a packed lunch.

Forthcoming Workshops

18 April - Dabble Day

6 June - Crochet Workshop

4 July - Canvas Embroidery

22 August - Dorset Buttons

19 September - Beading

10 October - Gold Work

Watch out for the flyers

To see what A&C do, especially if
you are interested in joining
the committee, come to the

Open evening 22 June

7 to 8.30 at WI House
light refreshments

WI Bursary

**Does your WI need help to
recruit and retain members?**

Why not apply for the Federation WI
Bursary, worth £100?

It's open to all WIs regardless of size
and may help you to afford a more
expensive speaker, put on an open
evening or produce advertising leaflets.

Applying is easy - just download the
form from the Federation website or
request a copy from WI House.

We need to know how you'll spend the
money, and your current financial
position.

First awards will be made in June 2020,
and the decision of the Board of
Trustees is final.



Barrow unfortunately does not have a butchers anymore, so it was a pleasure to welcome Glenn Lewin who has run his butcher shop in Sileby since 1992. Following a part-time job as a teenager at the local butchers, Glenn took over the shop in 1992 when the butcher retired. Glenn demonstrated how to link **sausages** together. Supplied with yards and yards of sausages, it was **Barrow WI** members' turn. We were allowed to take our sausages home, so I think bangers and mash would possibly be on the menu for the following night.

One Mans Junk. - "Whatever could this be?" **Breedon on the Hill's** guest speaker Tony Ward kept us puzzling, discussing and giggling about the variety of antique items he'd brought in to show and talk about. We'd divided into small groups to handle all 10 items provided. The idea was to say what they were; their age; and their present value. We handled them, passed them round, bemused and puzzled and in most cases, had an inspired guess! It kept us very entertained. Tony then explained their proper name, value and age of each item to many calls of "got that right" and "told you it was one of those." All great fun. We laughed and we learnt.

Botcheston WI members were shown the retro craft of Macrame – our guest displayed a number of articles she had produced including a piece that was an entry in a competition on Kirsty's Handmade Christmas. We were then instructed on how to make a feather keyring.

Leicester Ladies WI held their 10th Anniversary meeting on 17 February. WI member **Rosie of Rosie Makes Jam** demonstrated her new range of makes, sustainable and eco-friendly products. Members got stuck in and made their own samples to try at home. Rosie's demonstrations are always a crowd pleaser. A very well attended meeting on a cold February night, plus 2 new members!

Shearsby and Arnesby had a **Curling** session at their meeting which was great fun and caused hilarity. It was a close competition and may lead to a regular session. Our Craft Club has restarted with good attendance and we are having a taster bowls afternoon as well.



Springbrook and Scraftoft WI decided to try **Nordic Walking** under the watchful eye of Penny Fielding, who regularly coaches a wide range of people in this sport. Penny explained that Nordic walking was classed as a high intensity but low impact sport which was good news for anyone that wanted the benefits of a sport like jogging but without the problems associated with it. Members were keen to try out their technique - which wasn't as easy as it looked at first. Soon though, quite a few members were strutting their stuff around the village hall!

Jane Beaumont came to talk to **Gilmorton WI** about **The Academy for Dementia Research and Education** incorporating Lutterworth Share and Care Group. This is an educational and social support project set up by Professor Jacqueline Parkes from the University of Northampton. Many activities are organised locally for both people with dementia and their carers, including cooking, gardening, woodwork, dance and yoga and outings. The Dementia Research Project run by Professor Parkes in Northampton and Lutterworth is the only one in the UK but has partners in Denmark and Norway.



From antiques to horticulture and highland cattle is the remarkable story of Jeff Dale's journey from his start as an Oakham auctioneer to his family's new venture in breeding **Highland Cattle**. He celebrates 50 years as an Auctioneer and shared with **Uppingham WI** the excitement and highlights in his sale rooms. Not only has he been a local Councillor for many years but is now a blooming good judge, so to speak, judging flowers at local Horticultural Shows. He was born above a shop in Market Square Uppingham and 69 years later this photo shows him back in the square at the annual Fat Stock Show.

In January **Kirkby Mallory** members learned all about **readymade cocktails** with a little tasting session thrown in. In contrast, in February, we welcomed Michael Peachy to talk about his career as an **artist**. A talented man, he showed us examples of his work from his 50+ years in art and having set up his easel he produced a lovely beach scene as we watched and he chatted away. He even asked for volunteers to help paint parts of this work and his enthusiastic and amusing commentary made for a very pleasant evening.

Coleorton WI welcomed a member of the local historical group to give a fascinating talk on **the Women of Coleorton** from early members of the Beaumont family to the rather formidable school mistress Lucy Beckworth. Also on display was the ceremonial spade used to lift the first earth from New Lount Colliery on loan from the Beaumont family.

Blackfordby WI had a fantastic and friendly time at their meeting. Our speaker was Brian Hammond who spoke about **Cone Shells: 'Killers or curers'**. It was a talk about a large family of seashells with a wonderful history. Some are not only poisonous, but are also used in drug manufacturing.



Local artist, Heather Griffin, gave **Appleby Magna WI** a fascinating talk and demonstration on **painting portraits of animals**. She used a photograph of pet dog Dexter to show how she paints and builds up a perfect picture. We were impressed - a very enjoyable evening.

Gardener, Heather Taylor, is passionate about roses and she gave **Kegworth** members a fascinating insight into **the history and propagation of pre-1900 roses**. They are a very old species and fossil roses have been found all over the world and were cultivated by the Chinese 5000 years ago. They are used in medicines and rose oil is common in perfumes, they are said to be beneficial to digestion. The first hybrid tea rose was grown in 1897 and since then roses have been classified into four groups.

Sheepy WI Ladies were recently treated to a talk about **Airport Security** 'from the other side' with Martin Saunders. Martin worked for many years at Birmingham Airport and explained the reasons for the tight security and tips for when you are travelling.

If you need some advice on cyber awareness, scams and fraud then Samantha Hancock, the **Cyber Protection Officer** for Leicestershire police is the girl for you! Samantha's advice to the **Countesthorpe** ladies is to remember her ABC: Accept Nothing, Believe Nobody and Confirm Everything. We should have a separate password for everything; not use free WIFI for anything sensitive and keep our devices up to date as they include security patches. Our talk was delivered with a good sense of fun and we were encouraged to report any perceived fraud to www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Bagworth WI went on tour recently with a visit '**behind the scenes**' at **Curve Theatre**. Although the tours are not widely publicised, it was a fascinating visit, exploring areas the public don't usually access. We heard about the original design and development of the building and why it is so popular for theatre productions outside London. Our knowledgeable guide steered us through wardrobe, backstage, lighting, the orchestra pit and rehearsal space, as well as showing us the best seat in the house (well fit for HM The Queen on her visit, anyway!).

The speaker at **New Barkby's** meeting was Sam Dobson; his subject was '**An Illustrated History of Leicestershire Symphony Orchestra**'. The founding of the orchestra by several people included the importance of Sir Malcolm Sargent who set the course in 1922.

Loddington WI welcomed John Shone and his son in law Martin who gave a very entertaining talk and demonstration on **willow weaving**. John shared some of his fascinating experiences from a lifetime of gardening and skilled country crafts. Willow is no longer used commercially but is now a creative and artistic business on a much smaller scale. John and Martin's creations include pheasants, hares, fishes and even giraffes.

Leire WI was treated to an evening of **Morris dancing** with the Bare Bones Border Morris Dancers from Loughborough, aptly named as they adapt the bare bones of traditional Welsh border dances to their own creations accompanied by our local historian and musician John Goodacre on the English bagpipes. With their ragged bright coloured costumes and daubed faces, they were very entertaining and, following a talk and demonstration, members thoroughly enjoyed having a go at this brash and energetic dance with much clashing of sticks. It was a great workout too.

Close your eyes, take a deep breath. Imagine the aroma of baking bread. Michelle Stratford introduced **Barkby & Beeby WI** to her community focused business '**Planet Leicester Bakers**'. We heard about a 'Baking a Difference Project' the 'Bread Angels' network and her Micro Bakery 'Bread Bike Service'. As she spoke a jar was shaken not stirred by everyone to make butter for the tasting session that followed. We sampled Ed's Bread & Porridge Bread which were also for sale. So guess what we all had for breakfast next day?

Quorn WI celebrated their Valentines Day meeting with a **flower demonstration** by Pat Billing who gave six fabulous arrangements to the raffle. Heart shaped balloons and biscuits added to the occasion and we were taken back to our younger days with Love Heart sweets.

At **Clarendon Park WI's** meeting No 7 beauticians from Boots came to talk about **make up for the older skin**. A member received a makeover and another won a selection of beauty products. It was an enlightening visit and Audrey looked wonderful.



Great Glen WI members had a great time **making flower brooches** under the guidance of Caroline Boulter – who had brought us nice little kits she had put together. There was a lot of chat interspersed with cries for help- or the odd "ouch" as someone stabbed their finger! The picture shows the concentration involved! However, it was all worth it as members produced some very smart flower brooches!



Please send material for inclusion in County News to **WI House** by e-mail: wihouse@lrfwi.org or post to arrive by the **FIRST of the preceding month at the latest.**

Adverts and announcements by the same time to:

Margaret Osborne
16 Spencer Street
Hinckley LE10 1RB
Tel:01455 449956

margaretosborne@lrfwi.org

Advertising Rates

WI Announcements 5p pw
For sale/wanted (WI only)
5p per word text only
£5 per column inch with graphics.
Minimum charge £3.00

Charity rate
£5.00 per column inch
Commercial rate (including WI members business advertising)
£9.00 per column inch

Discounts available for regular advertisers. Please pay on receipt of invoice only.

Cheques made payable to LRFWI and sent to WI House.

We do not accept any responsibility for any adverts published in County News.

Advertisements are accepted subject to space available.

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COUNTRY MARKETS Glenfield Country Market
Spring Craft Fair
Saturday 18th April 2020
Groby Village Hall
LE6 0JD
10am - 4pm
Free entry
Refreshments served all day
Stalls include home made baking and preserves, plants and local produce, bird boxes and feeders, hand made crafts, jewellery, cards
And much more

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TELEGRAPH DAILY NEWS
ROTARY LUTTERWORTH ROTARY PRESENTS
VE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
HANGAR '42, BRUNTINGTHORPE PROVING GROUND
INDOOR STREET PARTY
8th & 9th MAY 2020
19:30 – 00:30
Royal Marines Association Concert Band
DE JA VU & Ashby Big Band
£250 per table of 10
Food hampers and beverages available to pre-order and purchase at an extra cost. For more information visit our website.
WWW.BRUNTINGTHORPE.COM/VEDAY 01162 799 315

VE Day 75th Anniversary
As the day dawns on 8th May 2020 we will be marking 75 years since the end of the war in Europe, the 75th VE Day anniversary. As a mark of this momentous anniversary Lutterworth Rotary presents: VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebration at Hangar'42, Bruntingthorpe.

On the 8th and 9th of May 2020 we'll be looking to recreate that victory spirit, by hosting the ultimate indoor street party, held in our specialist event centre, Hangar'42.

With musical performances that'll take you right back to the Glenn Miller days, you won't be able to resist 'Doin' the Jive'. You're encouraged to don your best era appropriate clothes and descend on the Hangar with your picnics for a fun filled celebratory evening, where all profits will be donated to four chosen charities.

Tickets are selling fast, so please visit www.bruntingthorpe.com/veday for further details and to purchase your table. General enquiries can be made on 0116 279 9318

21st Annual Charity Golf Tournament
Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland is holding its 21st Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Lingdale Golf Course on Monday 8 June. The friendly competition brings together amateur golfers to raise funds which help improve the quality of later life for local people through more than 20 vital projects and services.