



Leicestershire & Rutland

County News

May 2020

Issue 460



County News



Leicestershire and Rutland Federation

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with the latest news of federation
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Cover photo by Ann Thomson
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to fit page

Chairman's Column

It has certainly been a different few weeks, WI House closed and no events or activities to attend but the WI has still been carrying on in the background as always. Most of us have very tidy gardens, cupboards, drawers and a smaller stash of craft items and things on our to do lists than we had before. We are using this lock down time usefully and self isolaters are finding ways and means of getting the items they need, often from fellow WI members helping out. Many of the members I have spoken to are keeping in contact with fellow members by social media or just ringing for a chat. I hope most of you are looking at our Web site and Face book page to see what everyone else is doing. If you have anything you would like to share please send it in to the house or to Maxilyn so we can all see what you have been doing. Some of you are busy making items our NHS staff need and I am sure they are greatly appreciated. The photos are great.

We can all work our way through these difficult times if we help each other out and be ready to resume our WI lives when we are able. Jane and her team have worked hard to bring you this edition in a different way and I hope you enjoy looking at it and spread the word to fellow members about where they can find it this month. There are also lots of things on the NFWI website that you may not have had time to look at before, so this might be an ideal opportunity to have a look.

Some of us are still calling in at WI House to deal with the mail and any payments but please be patient as it may be a while before we get any refunds back to you. Please don't knock any random amounts off any outstanding invoices as it can lead to confusion. We will get any refunds done as soon as we are able.

Lastly to any of you who have lost loved ones or have family members in hospital I send my thoughts, love and sympathy to you all.

Take care, stay safe and hope to see you soon. **Janet**

We say goodbye and thank you to Susan

After nine years in her position as Federation Secretary we said goodbye to Susan. It didn't turn out quite how we had planned with the ACM being cancelled and Covid 19 closing WI House, but she was presented with a bouquet of flowers (left on her doorstep) and a voucher on behalf of the Federation. We know many of you would have wanted to say goodbye to Susan so we will hopefully be able to give you the opportunity at next years ACM. We will all miss Susan greatly and thank her for her dedication and commitment over the years. Susan is still a member of the WI so I am sure you will see her at some events soon. We now welcome Sarah Freeman as her replacement. Sarah has been working alongside Susan for a month so when WI House reopens I am sure all will go smoothly and you will find Sarah just as helpful as Susan was.

Monthly Draw

March Winners

First Prize £25

Margaret Gamble, Groby WI

Second Prize £15

Madelaine Platts,
Springbrook and Scraftoft WI

Third Prize £10

Pauline Wells, Burton Overy WI

The monthly draw has been
cancelled for this year and
cheques will be refunded



“On the Street Where I Live”

I find myself humming the tune on the street where I live as the lyrics from the song of ‘My Fair Lady’ buzzes around in my ears. Outside I can see the bees hovering around my fuchsias. The peace and tranquillity of the street where I live is now music to my ears in comparison to the hustle and bustle of life in the city of my younger self, living above my parents shop on the Portobello Road. That is now a distant memory.

In our street I can appreciate the wonders of nature all around me. The pigeons are darting in and out from the Hornbeam on the communal green, back and forth making it their home. Our close knit community on the street where I live is so vividly apparent where ‘Good morning and how are you’ is the norm from our friendly neighbours.

In the street where I live, children are running and skipping as they make their way home from school. Their infectious laughter rubs off on me as I find myself smiling on such a dull, gloomy afternoon. I marvel at the golden colours of the autumnal leaves from the Hornbeam falling like petals down on to the wet sodden ground. Popping the kettle on, I hear the eerie sounds outside where a sudden gust of wind had forced the leaves to scatter around like a whirlpool along the foot path.

Clasping a cup of tea and deep in thought, having time to stand and stare at the wonders of nature, I was for a brief moment transported back in time to the ringing sound of my parents cash till, when suddenly I heard the sounds of tweeting, and turning around and looking out of the window, I see my regular visitor, the robin, who reminded me where I was. Not in the fast lane but in our village street. The Robin had landed onto the front wall of our bungalow.

Whatever the season we are in, there is always something to see or hear in the street where I live. The Spring bringing forth the daffodils that are scattered around the Hornbeam. The unexpected delight at seeing not one but two hedgehogs in our forecourt as the headlights of our car catch them as we approached our driveway after an evening out on a summer’s night. From the autumnal chill in the air to winter’s frost, ice and snow, to the local brass band playing Christmas carols in the week before Christmas. What a joy it is to be living in our street.

From the Portobello market traders, bellowing out their wares, to the sheer tranquillity and the nature that now surrounds me. These are the simple things in life that won’t see me changing it for the past. What a delight it is to be “on the street where I live”.

Margaret Towsey Ratby WI

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

From the County News Team

During the corona virus crisis it has not been possible to get paper copies out to our readers. We hope that our regular subscribers are able to see this copy and April’s County News on the WI website. Having it published on the web site does mean that all Leicestershire and Rutland members are able to read it.

However, with WI events and meetings cancelled, our usual supply of copy will dry up so we hope that members will send us news and views of the situation in their communities. Pat, Margaret and I will put together a newsletter every month which we hope will cheer you up.

Stay safe and continue to log onto the website to read County News in the coming months.

Best wishes

Jane, Pat and Margaret

Approved Speakers

Let’s be Gin

Masterclass in history of Gin, distillation, tonics, botanicals, garnishes and a range of Leicestershire Gins, includes full tasting of up to 11 gins

Gaynor Gawood Leicestershire 07794 276604 £150-200 depending on numbers gaynorcaewood@hotmail.com Available at short notice should you have a cancellation and need a speaker to step in

Inter Care

Charity based in Syston working with over 100 health units in 5 sub-Saharan African countries to save lives and alleviate suffering through the provision of surplus medical aid.

Alison Briggs Cropston, Leicester 0116 2350345 Donation to charity alisonj.briggs@ntlworld.com Available daytime and evening
Claudia Coxon Syston, Leicester 0116 269 5925 Donation to charity fundraising@intercare.org.uk Available daytime and evening

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.

The diaries are £5.10 and have a royal blue cover that is completely Recyclable apart from the ribbon.

Jackdaws

by Ken Follett

When a handsome German asks a pretty French woman to take a photograph of him and his girlfriend outside a chateau in Sainte-Cecile in May 1944, neither could have guessed the real identity of the other.

Although dressed as a civilian, he was Major Dieter Franck a high-ranking security officer on Field Marshall Rommel's personal staff. She was Major Felicity (known as Flick) Clairet working for the British Special Operations Executive, responsible for sabotage behind enemy lines.

Her French husband, Michel, is leader of the Resistance circuit. The chateau was now a Gestapo HQ with a vitally important telephone exchange in the basement. After the failed Resistance attack on the chateau, Flick rescues her injured husband and briefly meets the eyes of Dieter. From that moment the two of them are embroiled in a cat and mouse game of mammoth proportions.

Whilst sheltering briefly in the nearby house of Michel's aunt, Flick has the glimmer of an outrageous idea. Back in England she persuades her superiors to allow her to carry out an all female operation that, although highly dangerous, if successful will destroy the Gestapo's most important telephone system. Her frantic search for recruits leads her into the lives of prisoners, criminals and even the illegal gay world. With her incredibly unusual team assembled, Flick's perilous mission to wreak havoc with the enemy's communication system is underway.

The book is dedicated to the fifty women who were sent into France as secret agents by the Special Operations Executive in WW2. Only a third of them survived.

Ken Follett's novel races at such a speed I had to cover up the next page to force myself to stop reading. I would not normally choose to read a 'war' book but have become a Follett fanatic after my old youth club leader recommended one of his books.

I was amused that he felt the need to warn me that there are some 'fruity' bits – I think he still sees me as an innocent fourteen year old! Ken Follett's writing covers an enormous range of genres with some serialised on television.

Margaret Osborne

JUST FOR FUN

Identify the Logos



Answers on the back page



Make our Day



Keep those apostrophes under control

Adding an apostrophe in the wrong place drives Margaret, the proof-reader, mad. I try to protect her from such horrors by removing them myself. Some still creep through. The most common is the plural of WI written as WI's.

'The WI's teas in the village hall were legendary.'

This is the correct use of the apostrophe to denote possession.

The apostrophe comes after the s when the noun is plural.

'WIs' cakes are always popular.'

'WIs are renowned for their cakes.' lots of WIs.

And in:

'My dog's paws were clean.' One dog all the paws

'All the dogs' paws were clean' Lots of dogs with clean paws

'All the dog's paws were clean.' One dog all the paws

An apostrophe is also used to indicate that a letter has been omitted as in the following:

I'm is short for I am.

You're is short for you are.

It's is short for it is or it has.

'It's a relief that it's stopped raining at last.'

If you can fill in any extra letters then you need the apostrophe.

If you can't, don't. (if you cannot, do not)

Its without an apostrophe is the possessive pronoun along with his, her, our, your and their.

'My dog's got its paws all muddy again.'

'The dogs have got their paws all muddy again.'

Next month - We'll explore the uses and abuses of the humble comma.

How you voted

RESOLUTIONS RESULTS 2020
 How we voted in Leicestershire and
 Rutland and the total national
 vote count.

No1 - A call to increase potential
 stem cell donor registration
 LRFWI 927 National 38,280

No2 - Female crash test dummies
 LRFWI168 National 9,124

No3- End modern slavery
 LRFWI 769 National 35,395

No4 - Time to talk about death and
 dying
 LRFWI 171 National 9,820

No5- Protect our precious helium
 LRFWI 249 National 11,705

Total Votes cast

LRFWI 2,274 National 104,262
 Therefore No1 and No3 go forward



FAIRTRADE

Producing cocoa sustainably In West Africa.

Changing the way cocoa trees are grown is being addressed by Fairtrade farmers in West Africa. The cocoa trees have normally been grown in a 'full sun system' where surrounding forest has been cut down, to maximise the crop. However over a fifty year period more and more tropical rain forest has been lost because of this practice. This leads to less rainfall and lower yields. Deforestation is a major cause of climate change and the Fairtrade Foundation are helping farmers move to a system of 'shaded agriculture.' This involves growing cocoa trees under the forest canopy. The soil improves with the benefit of the decomposing leaves and farmers can grow other crops that benefit from the shade.

'I wasn't getting a fair price; I had no money for fertiliser.' Rosine Bekoin's Story

The Fairtrade Foundation support farmers with training and by paying a premium for the produce they grow. In the Ivory Coast Rosine Bekoin, a cocoa farmer, heard about a fairtrade course through a female co-operative near her farm. She enrolled on the course and began a programme that enabled her to increase the quality and quantity of the beans she grew. Having gained Fairtrade certification she was able to invest in fertiliser and improve the land she had inherited from her mother. Her yield increased six-fold in two years and by selling through the Fairtrade system she receives a much better price than the one from the middlemen she sold to in the past. The premium received by the co-operative members has funded a school and a hydraulic water pump in the village.

Buying Fairtrade chocolate helps these farmers and their communities, is mitigating the effects of climate change, and is great to eat. What's not to like.

- Rethink**
Your choices
- Refuse**
single use
- Reduce**
consumption
- Reuse**
everything
- Refurbish**
Old stuff
- Repair**
Before you replace
- Repurpose**
Be creative, reinvent
- Recycle**
Last option

Thoughts from www.planetsaviours.com

"WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER" QUIZ Calling LRFWI Quizzers everywhere!

I do hope if you already have a copy of this quiz, either from me direct or as a subscriber or from your fellow member who always persuades you to buy one, that you are having lots of brainstorming fun completing it! The idea was to stir up childhood memories from years ago by recalling favourite old toys, games we used to play with each other, as well as some of the tv shows we looked forward to each week.

Please remember to send in your £1 coins whether or not you decide to enter, and if you are one of the very dedicated quiz subscribers who prints off extra copies to sell to other members of your WI, I shall look forward to receiving your cheques as usual. With apologies to the innocent and thanks for the £1 coins and cheques I have already received.

Finally, please don't send entries, coins or cheques to WI House; continue to send them direct to me - details on quiz sheet. Best wishes to all, stay well and safe - and don't worry, I am busy creating more quizzes for later in the year.

Sue Lobb



Sue Drage inspired **Leire WI** with her passion for **recycling with a difference**, showcasing her talent for making interesting and beautiful items from things that we would usually discard such as carrier bags, crisp packets, plastic bottles and clothing. Sue demonstrated that the possibilities were endless and her efforts brought her recognition, when she was asked to knit a spacesuit for a rubber chicken to be used by NASA! She regularly goes into schools with projects for children to enjoy creating these unique items. We were left with many ideas and members had the opportunity to purchase some of her items.

Quorn had a very interesting afternoon with Analize Jones from the Philippines who came to showcase the beautiful handbags that are made there. She has a wonderful personality and entertained us with a detailed power point presentation about how the handbags are made and many of the ladies were thrilled to purchase the colourful handbags she brought with her. Photo of her much depleted display!



“**Fab at 50 and Beyond**” was what Katie Crowe our March speaker, helped members of **Cottesmore Clatterpots** all to feel after her very comprehensive talk on colour, style, skin care and make-up. She encouraged us always to wear bright colours and demonstrated that each of us has a correct range of colours which will enhance our natural colouring. Style and fit should help to emphasise our good points. Skin care is important, especially as our faces are exposed to every kind of weather and pollution! As in our wardrobe, the colours of our lipstick, blusher and eye shadow should suit our natural colouring and we need to experiment to find what works for us as individuals.

Great Bowden WI members didn't have to worry when this month's Speaker did not turn up. Anne Wilson, the Vice President, came to the rescue with a **Quiz** in which members had to identify signs, clocks and buildings from Great Bowden and Market Harborough. It was a lively and chatty evening, and we were all surprised how unobservant we were regarding local landmarks. Great Bowden WI offers many activities. We entered three teams in the Swimathon run by the Rotary Club, in aid of local charities, and managed quite a few lengths between us. Other activities include, The Choir, Crafting, Darts, New Age Kurling, Ten Pin Bowling and a Walking Group.

The life of a Vet was the subject of Chris Booth's lively presentation at **Uppingham WIs** meeting. He is the resident cardiologist and partner at Oakham Veterinary Hospital and he shared with us his experiences of caring for the health of small animals, ranging from dogs, cats, ferrets, bats, angry pigs, chickens and even skunks! A normal day can see him diagnose medical problems, set broken bones, perform surgery and prescribe medicines, as well as giving vaccinations and physicals. He is fascinated by the study of the heart and circulation and emphasised that the romantic depiction of Herriot's life as a vet is in reality far different to today's profession.

Yuko Dixon was the speaker at **Ullesthorpe's** meeting. She is a Japanese lady living in Leicestershire who not only demonstrates **the art of cooking** but also provides a Home Dining service. She made two dishes for us to taste using Sushi, fish, rice and other Japanese sauces and flavours. She talked about the differences in our two cultures and the history of the country. Children in school are encouraged to serve the food, look at the ingredients and consider the health values of each meal. Then they all expected to clear away and tidy up before they go home.

John Burton gave **Stoke Golding** a very interesting talk about **Thomas Harrison**, a young man who was sent out to France in the first world war and the letters he wrote home to his family. He is the only son of the family and has four sisters. He starts all his letters 'Dear Mother' and ends them all 'Yours Truly, Son Tom' each letter ends with kisses, then each name is written with kisses to each family member individually, and all end Kiss Ethel for me, (she was his youngest sister, and about 6 years old). We saw a photo of him he was a handsome young man.

Liz Coopey from **Baby Basics** came to collect donations made by members of **Earl Shilton Afternoon WI**. Baby Basics Leicester is a local Volunteer-led Charity aiming to support the most vulnerable new mums and families who are struggling to meet the financial and practical burden of looking after a new baby. They are very grateful for donations of clothes (age 0-2), baby blankets, new born knitted items and small toys for 0-5 years. They also welcome unopened toiletries for mum and baby. You can find them at www.babybasicsleicester@gmail.com.



Waltham on the Wolds welcomed Gail Wooliscroft who named her talk '**Decadent Desserts**'. The title turned out to be totally accurate as we all could sample the three puddings at the end. Gail demonstrated one hot pudding and two cold ones, all of them were easy to prepare, whilst entertaining us with some funny stories. Nobody counted any calories, but all of them contained one of our five a day with fruit!



Shearsby and Arnesby celebrated its 87th birthday with the help of Maxilyn Geary who came along to demonstrate "Book Art". Members brought along old WI diaries which they then folded and transformed into hedgehogs. Everyone had a wonderful evening and were delighted with the results. Maxilyn told us that we could download more ideas for Book Art from the internet.

Sadly our WIs are unable to meet due to the current lockdown but that doesn't mean that our members are sitting on their hands. Please let us know what you are doing, nominate WI heroes and send us photos – you know how we love photos! All reports and photographs to WI House as usual. Thank goodness for the ability to work from home.

Anstey WI heard Ian Retson, a volunteer with the **Woodland Trust**, speak about the work of the trust, and why trees are important. Wood plays an important role as fuel, for building and industry, taking up water that might otherwise flood, and absorbing carbon dioxide. Ian's passion for trees shone through as he showed slides of our local woodlands, and the National Forest. The woodland Trust owns as much woodland as the National Trust, and it is all open to the public at no charge. The National Forest is providing jobs and amenities, and increasing biodiversity through preserving ancient woodlands and planting new native trees.

Broughton Astley welcomed Lynne and Peter Upton, to talk about **the people of Bradgate**. Starting from Stoneage settlers who had walked over from Europe to enjoy the readily available deer and water supply, through the Dark Ages, when the land was owned by Ulf until the Manor of Groby passed to the Grey family in 1427. Then forward to the Earls of Stamford, the last being a playboy who married Kitty Cox, a circus performer. As a widow, Kitty kept the estate running until her death in the 1920s, when it was bought for the people of Leicester by Charles Bennion, shoe manufacturer and benefactor.

Kilby WI was entertained by Geoffrey Harris, one of the country's leading **Toastmasters**. He told us about the distinctive red jacket, which he wore during the evening, that was adopted in 1885 having many pockets to allow for the documentation needed in his position as Chairman of Events. The position is very varied from weddings to formal dinners and much more. His website lists him as a "Class in a Coat" with the humorous anecdotes and his delivery which left all us laughing and listening to every word—he definitely was excellent.

Cossington WI welcomed the **Cocktail Shaker Boys** Steve and Andy. Taking it in turns and adding a bit of humour they spoke about the origins of cocktails, and the history of spirits and liqueurs, then they went on to demonstrate how to make a Cosmopolitan and a Grasshopper. They also made cocktails without alcohol, a Merry Berry Cherry and a China Blue (these last two being their own creation). Samples were passed round and tried, and a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

With clips from the 25th anniversary performance of the musical **Les Miserables** and a virtual wander through 1800s Paris streets, members of **Hollycroft WI** learnt about the real characters from Victor Hugo's book portrayed in the popular show. David Price was welcomed back for his third visit with his talk **The Truth Behind Les Miserables**. A very informative evening.

Breedon on the Hill's birthday celebration was "**South American Spicy**" with food and latin music. All ladies brought dishes from this southern continent both hot and cold, with an array of puddings. Empanadas, Guacamole, Refried Beans and Veggie Quesadillas are just a few from the vast array.



Our Officers had organised colourful, decorated tables and warmly welcomed members with a fiery cocktail as our dishes were laid out. From delicious supper to musical entertainment - Los Amigos, a duo, expert in all South American music astounded and delighted us.

When this is over:
.....my family and friends will expect to see a beautifully manicured and colourful garden as they come to my door, where an intricately formed seasonal wreath hangs in their honour. They will expect me to greet them in Italian, a language I learned from a podcast in those odd moments recently as I was deep cleaning the kitchen and bathroom.

They will expect an aperitif of hedgerow origins, brewed in that deep cleaned kitchen, as they sit themselves down amid hand sewn cushions, newly made from the fabric reclaimed from bedroom curtains which themselves were replaced with a new pair I ran up one afternoon, from fabric artfully sourced online – bargain of 15 metres for the price of 10 – free delivery.

To mask the aroma of newly rolled emulsion, they will expect to be relaxed by a subtle room perfume curling up from my freshly homemade, organic, soy candles as they sit back and wriggle their toes in the rug I hooked by hand, made in idle moments from the wool reclaimed from husband's unravelled sweaters that are no longer good enough to wear for gardening.

They'll be looking forward to a gourmet supper, due to the 'cordon bleu on line class' I have enrolled in lately, served on plates hand thrown at home and fired in a pit in the garden, a supper artfully created in the outdoor kitchen which I built myself with bricks reclaimed from knocking down the garden wall last week - now replaced with drystone walls – a skill I learned from You Tube.

They would be disappointed if the wine with the meal is not a homemade one and I wouldn't disappoint them. It hasn't been the season for grapes, nor could I shop much recently, so it is made from frozen fruit of assorted varieties as available in the bottom of the chest freezer. They will expect the bottle labels to have been written in ornate script as learned by me from the book of calligraphy sourced from online bookshops, as directed Stephen Fry.

The weather has been good so they will expect to sit outside under the pergola that I erected last month, hewing redundant telegraph poles with a log axe, poles that were delivered by heavy haulage lorry closing the road for half a day.

As they sit under the stars, warmed by the log fire in the newly made fire pit that I lined with the drum from the washing machine that gave up the ghost a few days ago, they will be made cosy with handknitted throws that I fashioned with combings from gamboling lambs that live in local fields on the route of my daily 6 mile run.

BUT they might be surprised if I go to bed early and leave them to it.....!!
My message – Friends - keep yourselves busy by all means, but don't knock yourselves out! You are allowed to relax too. See you soon.
Brenda Pears Whissendine WI

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

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£5.00 per column inch
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£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.

Some of our sayings come from the church

Facing the music:

Worshippers would have to turn away from the altar towards the minstrels' gallery behind them when they sang hymns.

The weakest go to the wall:

Before churches had pews worshippers would stand. If someone felt ill, they would lean against the wall.

In later years, the organist would *pull out all the stops* to get optimum sound.

The poorest people stood at the back of the church. When you became richer you moved towards the front as your *social standing* improved.



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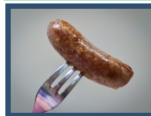
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Most people got married in June because they took their early year bath in May and still smelled all right by then.

Brides elected to carry a bunch of flowers to hide the body odour, hence the custom of the bridal bouquet today.

DO YOU KNOW WHY WE SAY...?



Not a sausage!

This is a way of saying something's free or a person is hard up. It's believed to have come from cockney rhyming slang, sausage and mash being a popular meal in earlier times. Being without sausage and mash was to have no cash.

Winning hands down

You may be forgiven for thinking that this means your hand at cards is so good it can't be beaten, so you can put it down. It actually comes from horse racing. If a horse is so far ahead of the field that it is definitely going to win, the jockey can relax his hold on the reins, literally winning with his hands down.



LOGO QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1 Pepsi
- 2 Rolling Stones
- 3 UEFA champions league
- 4 World Wildlife Fund
- 5 Hewlett-Packard
- 6 Chevrolet
- 7 Cable & Wireless
- 8 Lexus
- 9 Linus
- 10 Wikipedia