



WEST MIDLANDS COUNTY NEWS SPECIAL EDITION – FEDERATION SHOWCASE

Hello Everyone,

The Christmas season is almost upon us and there are two sayings which always stick in my mind. "Christmas comes but once a year and still we can't afford it!" which this particular year seems very apt given the current economic situation. However, "Tis the season to be jolly" is much more to my liking and this edition of the Cog is an excellent reason to celebrate good things as it is crammed with articles and photos which exemplify what a wonderful organisation we belong to.



The Showcase was an amazing display of the crafting talents of so many of our members and I hope it will inspire many more of you to show just what your talents are in next year's competitions. It was also an example of just how supportive many of you are of the ways we can help those less fortunate by making and donating items to the Shoebox Appeal which was very successful. Congratulations also to Hawne WI whose members won a kindness award for their contributions to their local area.

This year my Family Christmas will be held on the 27th December when the mischief and mayhem makers will descend in force for fun, games, presents and the obligatory best roast potatoes although I don't know whether there will be a turkey to accompany them!

Wherever you are and whatever you are doing I send you my very best wishes for a splendid Christmas and every good wish for a healthy and happy New Year.

Lynn

Diary of Events

2022

23rd November – Zoom 16 Days of Activism seminar
1st December - Nutcracker

2023

21st April – Spring Outing (Stamford Friday Market)
26th April – ACWW WomenWalk the World
25th May 2023 – NFWI Annual Meeting, Cardiff
9th June – Quiz
21st June – Summer Outing (Skegness)
13th July and 25th July– Croquet (Kenilworth)
19th September – Autumn Outing (Melton & Oakham)
25th September – Annual Meeting (Austin Court)

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook for regular posts and updates.
<https://www.facebook.com/WMFVI>



Special Edition

Federation Showcase 2nd November 2022

Entries and Trophy Winners

The Federation showcase took place on 2nd November 2022 at the BMI where members and WIs showcased their entries for both the Montgomerie Shield for Craft and the Trustee Trophy photographic competition of Trees.

We were delighted with all of the entries, all being to an excellent standard and being Judged by both NFWI Judge Debbie Arkinstall and Liz Galloway, Trustee and member of Kings Norton Afternoon WI. Our thanks to both for their keen eyes and hard work.

There were also several other crafts on display, our own Federation craft collection that has been donated by members over the years, lots of blankets and knitted baby hats, patchwork quilts, lockdown projects and dolls being donated for the Showbox appeal. Also, several items depicting some our Public Affairs key campaigns such as green hearts, twiddlemuffs, save our bees, knitted uterus for show the signs, banners and table cloths made by individual WIs. (See photos below)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to an excellent and inspiring event.

Besides the Sea



Congratulations to



Hockley Heath WI

winner of the Montgomerie Shield Competition for Crafts 2022 attracting full score of 20 points

If you look closely, you will spot the nudes!

This entry will be on display in March 2023 at the NEC Sewing for Pleasure

Congratulations

Yvonne Glowacz,
Allesley Afternoon WI
Winner of the Trustee Trophy



I thought all you keen photographers out there might like to know a little more about the result of the Trustees Trophy and how I judged the entries. The winning entry was by Yvonne Glowacz of Allesley WI. The subject of 'trees' was clearly popular as there were more than forty entries and all of them were really good, but unfortunately, there could be only one winner!

When assessing the photos, I was looking for adherence to the brief, technical ability (of course), composition, impact of the subject and the story that the photo told. Of course, the right photo can break all the so-called rules if it's striking enough! Thinking about the brief first – the subject was *trees* in the plural – not *tree*, and there were many first-class photographs of a single tree – old trees, dead trees, interestingly shaped trees and trees from novel angles.

I will own up at this point and apologise that in trying to illustrate my criteria, my hasty re-photographing of the entries in situ is far from perfect and has resulted in the blazing out of the top of the winning entry.



The trees which spoke to me loudest were these two trunks with branches intertwined ... there was upward movement there and it told the story of these two trees growing together. Importantly, the photo was technically sound, in focus and even showed a glimpse of background between the branches, lightening what might otherwise have appeared quite dark. I was drawn into the story, trying to work out which branches went where and how the two were related.

In quite a few very good photographs, the impression was of a beautiful landscape in which there were trees - whereas I felt that the brief called for the trees to be the dominant element.





Many photographs were excellent and prompted me to name a few runners up, such as the only twilight photo with beautiful trees in silhouette. Others had found trees with beautifully shaped branches, highly textured bark, often dead trees, and some people used the added effects of water to create beautiful reflections.

Many more are worthy of recognition and I believe all photographers should feel proud of the effort they've made.



Liz Galloway, Judge, Trustee Trophy 2022.

More photos taken at the Showcase of some of our campaigns



Beside the Sea Entries

Knowle WI



Arden WI



Hobs Moat WI



Yardley WI



Erdington Carnegie WI



Newton WI



Silhill WI



Heart of England WI



Craft Report – Debbie Arkinstall

Wow! What a day! The Federation did the craft team proud with the day at the BMI on 2nd November. We had a good number of entries from institutes from all corners of the federation, by my reckoning approx. 35% of institutes took part. The level of craft and photography skill was as high as ever.

What was gratifying was the large number of ‘lockdown’ craft that members wanted to show off to everyone else. So much so that hopefully the future of crafts within the federation could be secure.

There are people that I want to thank, firstly, members of the craft team: Iris, Melanie, Suzie and Barbara. Dan and the café staff from the BMI, Liz Galloway and Dawn Statham and the climate change committee for creating an excellent and informative display in the Peek Room.

Walmley Evening WI for their 12 Days of Christmas display and all the institutes who entered the two Trophy competitions.

Finally, those members of the Board who came and supported us on the day.

Congratulations go to Hockley Heath and Allesley WI’s for winning the trophies.



Photo Right - Twelve days of Christmas, Walmley Evening WI

Walmley Evening WI

Started knitting, sewing and collecting items for the Shoebox Appeal early in 2022. Members donated all the items and shoeboxes.

A working party was held in July when the shoe boxes were covered in wrapping paper and in September, we spent an evening packing and labelling all the boxes. We produced 60 filled boxes for the Appeal.



Cathryn Marsh
Walmley Evening WI

Nutcracker Ballet at the Hippodrome, 01 December, 2.00pm.

All tickets were sent out to those who ordered them on 05 November. If you don't receive them within a week of that date, please let liz.galloway@hotmail.com know as they were sent with proof of posting.



Our Trustee Challenge for 2023

will be to provide 'Period Pouches' and sanitary products to help eliminate period poverty and also Topsy Turvey Dolls. Further information will be made available in the new year.



Hawne WI

Hawne WI were nominated by a local councillor for recognition at the Dudley Council Voluntary Services Kindness Awards.



The ceremony was held at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on the 2nd of November. Michele Dimmock, Hawne President and Anne Turnbull, VP, attended on behalf of Hawne WI. During the course of the evening many awards were made to local groups and individuals who have made a difference to people and communities across Dudley borough.

Hawne WI were honoured to be nominated and privileged to be invited to attend the ceremony.

Delighted and proud to report that Hawne WI won a Spotlight Kindness Award for Stepping up in the Community.



Photo below shows Hawne's Remembrance knit bombing



All photos and article provided by Anne Turnbull

Monkspath & Silhill WI – A History Walk with Ian Jelf

On 19th October (2022), 23 members of Monkspath and Silhill Institutes gathered in front of Saint Alphege church for a fascinating journey back in time. Heart of England “Blue Badge” tourist guide Ian Jelf led us on our voyage.



Snippets of information about Sir Christopher Wren, brawling clergymen, the “Traitor of Arden”, Samuel Johnson’s rejected application for head of Solihull School, powdered custard and Princess Margaret’s 1954 visit were shared as we wandered 2 miles around the centre of the “Urbs-in-Rure”.

Ian talked to us in front of the George Hotel which dates from the 16th century and was once a coaching inn. The old bowling green behind the hotel dates from the 1600’s and is perhaps the oldest Crown Green in the country.



We learned about the Malvern and Brueton families as we wandered into the park. The Horse and Master Statue was created in 1874 by sculptor, Joseph Edgar Boehm.

As we continued our meandering around the town, we discovered the site of Solihull’s First Police Station on New Road, first wedding where the couple left the ceremony in a motor car, a Memorial to Workers’ killed at the workplace, the old Parish Workhouse on Warwick Road (later moved to the current site of Solihull Hospital).

We ended our walk at The Manor House in the centre of Solihull, where several of us then stopped for lunch in the Tea Room. The Manor house was built around 1495 by the Greswold Family but has never actually been home to any ‘Lord of the Manor’. It was purchased by a public trust in 1945 and saved from demolition.



With special thanks to the West Midlands Federation Education Trust who provided funding for this.

Marrylou Jeffs, Monkspath WI

Great Barr WI



The ladies at Great Barr WI tried their hand at old fashioned orange and clove pomanders and as you can see they were happy with the finished results.

It's a pity there is no smelly vision because the room smelt wonderful!

Elaine Williams
Media Officer, Great Barr WI

Streetly Evening WI



Streetly Evening WI members shared an exciting meeting in October. Their revised Produce Show attracted over 80 entries across the Craft, Flower, Produce and Preserves categories.

Pauline's entry was judged Best in Show with her autumn flower display in a teapot and was awarded our prestigious Pat Hawkes trophy.

Phyllis, who serves on the committee, was congratulated for her 40 years membership to the group and praised for her continual strong support of the WI.

Finally, our contribution to the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal reached 23 boxes. It was a fantastic membership achievement.

Nola Boulger, President.



ACWW

The very successful ACWW Women Walk the World will be Wednesday 26th April 2023. Details will follow for a really lovely morning.

Christmas Greetings and a Thank You for your support of ACWW during the year

Best Wishes

Pamela

Pamela Griffiths ACWW coordinator WMFWI

MONTGOMERY SHIELD 2023**An Embroidered Sampler**

For the 2023 Montgomery Shield Competition you are asked to produce and embroidered sampler. This can be a traditional cross stitch design, or a decorative sampler book displaying several stitches or designs such as Sashiko Embroidery. The important thing is that it must be decorative!

For the **Traditional Sampler** extra consideration will be given if the design is original. If you are working from a kit this must be clearly stated on the entry form. The finished piece of work must be mounted and framed; you do not want a judge to mark the back of your work! The work to be no bigger than A3.

For a **Decorative Sampler**, this can be displayed in the form of a fabric book but do make sure that the back of your work is neat and tidy. The finished size to be no larger than A4.

Judging for the Montgomery Shield will take place at the Annual Meeting, which will be taking place in September 2023. A wide range of ideas and inspiration can be found on google images. Expressions of interest are to be emailed to Debbie Arkinstall at

arkinstall.mama@outlook.com by June 30th 2023.



TRUSTEES TROPHY 2023

Green and Pleasant Land

For the 2023 Trustees Trophy, members are asked to create a painting either **in oils, acrylic, inks or watercolour** a painting depicting the theme of a “Green and Pleasant Land”.

The completed art work must be no larger than A3 and mounted. It can be framed if so desired.

If you are going to copy from a photograph please indicate on the back of your masterpiece.

Judging for the Trustees Trophy will take place at the Annual Meeting in September 2023.

Expressions of interest are to be emailed to Debbie Arkinstall at

arkinstall.mama@outlook.com by 30th June 2023. GOOD LUCK.

200 Club Grand Draw

The 200 Club Grand Draw took place on 2nd November 2022. Congratulations to the winners



Prize	Allocation No /Name	WI
1 st - £190.00	90 W Amiss	Streetly WI
2 nd - £145.00	150 P Russell	Newton WI
3 rd - £100.00	69 R Smith	Green Lane



200 Club 2023



The next draw will take place on 5th December 2022 with your chance to win £10.00. The monthly draw takes place every month from December 2022 to September 2023 with the grand draw taking place on 25th September 2023 at the Federation Annual Meeting. If you want to be in it to win it ask your secretary for an application form. Alternatively, you can send your entries in directly using the tear off below and post to Iris Montgomery, Federation Treasurer at 38 Wensley Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 1LT. Remember to include a SAE so that she can send you your acknowledgment and allocation numbers.

Application form on the back page

Public Affairs Report November 2022

The latest campaign, Thinking Differently, has now been added to the list of current campaigns and further information is available online with a direct link from the home page tab (top of page) *Our Campaigns*.



Thinking Differently

Our campaign seeks to raise awareness of Autism and ADHD in women and girls and to take action to improve the diagnosis process.

A webinar took place on 21 October on ADHD. If you were unable to attend this, a recording is available on MyWI. October was ADHD Awareness month.

A webinar on autism will take place on November 11th at 1pm-2.30pm and WI members will have the chance to hear from expert speakers on the topic of autism in women and girls.



No More Violence against Women Remember the 16 Days of Activism from 25 November – 10 December.

The Webinar, 16 Days of Activism, planned for 23 November by Zoom has sadly been cancelled due to lack of support. This is very disappointing for the Public Affairs team and particularly in view of the sterling work done by Lynda Gibbon, President of Harborne Village WI in organising the event

A few ideas to keep you busy this autumn!

- Put out a drink of water for wildlife and check daily
- Make a bug hotel for insects and pollinators
- Buy seeds of good nectar bearing flowers for next year
- Put dead leaves in a sack to make next year's leaf mould
- Plant garlic in individual pots/root trainers
- *Springclean* the greenhouse, shed, pots and tools

... and make it a truly sustainable Christmas by

- Using up old wrapping paper and string on eco-friendly parcels
- Try to avoid having food left over but if you do, collect some good recipes for left-overs in advance
- Put a few items aside for your local food bank

- Get to know if anyone near you is alone and invite them around for a coffee or a meal
- Make sure that your Christmas tree and any biodegradable decorations go to compost
- Start preparing for Show the Love in February 2023.
- Minimise your use of plastic: think about plastic in toys

Keep Out the Draughts this Winter!

If you're looking around for an activity this autumn, why not knit or sew yourself draught excluders for any doors that need them? As an example, there's a very simple pattern with tips on fillings on this website, but you hardly need a pattern at all. <https://craftysewingsew.co.uk>

You can sew or knit the cover: why not use scraps of favourite fabrics or left-over wool. *Of course, snakes have always been popular and fun!*

There are also many examples of commercially available draught excluding seals for doors and windows and some can be fixed quite easily.

The shortlisted Resolutions for 2022/23 are

1. Save our water – every drop matters
2. Women to women – turning over a new leaf in the lives of women tea workers
3. Online gambling harm: time for action
4. Clean rivers for people and wildlife

The deadline for your secretary to send your votes to Federation is 14.02.2023.

Further information about the Resolutions and Voting slips will be available in your November WI Life Magazine.

Members need to select ONE Resolution only and hand the voting slip to their WI Secretary. Please do not forward them to Federation. Your WI Secretary will collate the results and forward them to Cathryn Marsh, Federation Rep. Please hand in your vote as soon as possible to enable your secretary to return the results by 14th February 2023.



Spring Outing
Friday 21st April 2023
**Stamford Friday
Market**

Join us on our Spring Outing to Stamford. Stamford's traditional street market is held every Friday with approximately 90 traders, both casual and regular.

Proclaimed by Sir Walter Scott as “the finest stone town in England”, it was declared a conservation area in 1967 and has over 600 listed buildings of mellow limestone. There is a thriving high street with coffee shops, restaurants and a vast range of retailers to tempt you.

Renowned for its wide range of small independent shops together with a surprisingly extensive range of retail outlets and known as the ‘best stone town in England’ Stamford is a must on any tour. It is architecturally outstanding with numerous medieval buildings as well as fine Georgian streets and squares. Five Churches of the first rank cluster closely together for what Sir Walter described as ‘the finest scene between London and Edinburgh’. On the edge of the town lies Burghley House, an unrivalled Elizabethan House.

We will aim to arrive by 11 – 11.30am to enjoy the day and depart at 4.30pm.

Cost inclusive of coach, is **£23.00** (non-members welcome)

Closing date is 21 Feb 2023

Pick Up points;

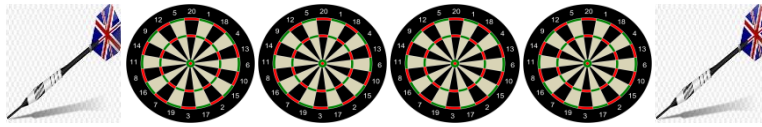
Allesley, Yardley, Solihull, Cotteridge, Halesowen, Walsall Wood, Mere Green, Boldmere

(Times to be confirmed)

Please contact Kim Slivinski 07843 123748 if you would like to discuss other pick- up points

Application form on the back page

REMINDER



DARTS COMPETITION 2023

WANT TO HAVE FUN? TEST YOUR SKILL OR LUCK? THEN PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IN THIS YEAR'S DARTS TOURNAMENT.

Teams of four are invited to register for this fun event, you can enter more than one team. Depending on the number of entries received the tournament will be based in local areas to reduce travelling cost.

The cost for teams that registered in 2019 is £4

The cost for new teams is £8

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2022 WHEN THE TEAMS WILL BE DRAWN AND RULES SENT OUT.

DARTS COMPETITION

RETURN TO; JACKIE POYNER, 97 ST DENIS ROAD, SELLY OAK BIRMINGHAM B29 4JU

BY FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2022

----- **INSTITUTE WOULD LIKE TO ENTER ----- TEAMS**

CHEQUE ENCLOSED FOR----- £8/PER TEAM.

PLEASE ENCLOSE AN A5 SAE FOR RULES DRAW DETAILS

PLEASE GIVE NAME, EMAIL AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF TEAM CAPTAIN,

----- **TEL. NO. -----**

Application Forms

WMFWI – Spring Outing to Stamford Market 21st April 2023

Cheques to be made payable to WMFWI, post to

Kim Slivinski, 136 Common Lane, Sheldon, B26 3DN by no later than 21 Feb 2023

INSTITUTE _____ Require _____ tickets @ £23.00 =Total £_____ Pick up _____

please include a sae with your application and list name of applicants on the reverse of this slip

Refunds will not be issued for this event unless cancelled by the Federation

WMFWI, Iris Montgomery, 38 Wensley Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 ILT

200 CLUB 2023

Application form

I wish to purchase on behalf of

INDIVIDUAL _____ **INSTITUTE** _____

Address _____

Number of shares _____ at £5.00 each (Valid for one year to 31st August 2023) cheque enclosed for £ _____ please enclose a **stamped addressed envelope**.

Signed _____