



happy new year



Chairman's Message

Hello Everyone,

I do hope you have enjoyed a lovely Christmas. Mine didn't go quite as planned.

My Husband Paul went into hospital on Friday 16th December for a shoulder replacement operation. This was cancelled as he had a violent reaction to the anaesthetic and was rushed into intensive care on life support. This is not a phone call to receive at 6.00pm when you are expecting an update on a successful outcome to surgery. He was in an induced coma and on a ventilator for 36 hours and then in ICU on assisted breathing for a further 8 days. He came home on Wednesday 28th not the best Christmas for me and my family; however, he is still very breathless but he is making progress.

Our family day went ahead as planned on the 27th without Paul but with everyone else gathered together. We all visited him at various times during the day so he didn't miss out completely though he was very tired by the time I went in the evening. Otherwise, we had a good time playing games, catching up on all the family news and sitting down to dinner together. The family rallied round and provided the starters, puddings and cheese courses so all I had to do was the main meal including enough of Grandma's roast potatoes for 12 hungry people!

I would like to thank all of our WIs who so kindly invited me to take part in their meetings and events throughout the year. It's been lovely to meet so many of our members and I hope to see many more of you throughout the coming year. I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2023

Lynn

200 Club Winners £10.00 Draw

December - Lynn Smith, Bournville WI

January – G Willdig, Newton WI

Please remember to cast your vote for this year's resolution, further details in WI Life (Nov/Dec issue)

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 is 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.

Diary of Events

2023

- 30th March 2023 – Resolution Cascade, BMI
- 21st April – Spring Outing (Stamford)
- 21st April – Menopause the Musical 2, Alex theatre
- 25th May 2023 – NFWI Annual Meeting, Cardiff
- 9th June – Quiz
- 21st June – Summer Outing (Skegness)
- 13th July – Croquet (Kenilworth)
- 25th July – Croquet (Kenilworth)
- 19th September – Autumn Outing (Melton & Oakham)
- 25th September 2023 – Annual Meeting (Austin Court)
- November 2023 – Christmas Outing (Hyde Park)

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook for regular posts and updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/WMFWI>



Hockley Heath WI



Hockley Heath WI, winners of the Montgomerie Shield 2023 for their 'Besides the Seaside'

In November they were joined by Debbie Arkinstall who came to present the Shield for their winning entry in the competition the previous day at the craft event at the BMI.

Their meeting was a Christmas Craft session with refreshments, much enjoyed by members.



Boldmere WI

Boldmere WI has made another Frieze for the Boldmere Community Cafe.

Flowers and symbols on the frieze represent the different groups that meet there, namely The Veterans, Alzheimer's and many more.

Judy Holmes

RESOLUTIONS CASCADE DAY**30th March 2023, BMI, start 10.30am**

The Resolution cascade day will be held on 30th March 2023 at the BMI to enable WI Representatives to take part in a full discussion on the resolution selected to be voted on at the AGM Cardiff on 25th May 2023

WI Secretaries will receive final notes on the 2023 resolutions from NFWI, these will also be available to view & download on MyWI and members are asked to bring along a copy to the meeting for discussion.

If more than two members from an individual WI wish to attend then it is suggested that they bring extra copies of the Resolution notes.



Hawne WI

Members from Hawne WI have been busy crafting again for Christmas.

Our 2 Gifting Trees are in the Box of Christmas Love shop in the Cornbow Centre, Halesowen. This is a project we support, to provide local families on low incomes, who are really struggling, with fresh food for their Christmas dinner and gifts and treats for the whole family.

Our trees are decorated with premature baby bonnets, trauma teddies and mini buddies. These will be distributed to hospitals and the emergency services.

Article and photos provided by Anne Turnbull Hawne WI



Great Barr WI

The ladies from Great Barr WI had a full day of wreath making. We applied for and was lucky to receive a grant from Educational Trust which enabled us to have the hall for several hours, all the ladies were pleased with their finished results as many of them had never tried this craft before and all had a fantastic day. So from all the members that took part in this craft session, a big thank you to the Educational Trust as we couldn't have done this without the grant.
Elaine Williams



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.

Walsall Wood WI



Walsall Wood WI were proud that the wreath made by Elaine Holmes was laid at the ceremony on Sunday 13th November 2022 on behalf of members.

We also decorated the metal Sculptures opposite the Church with poppies. This created a huge amount of interest locally.

Sue Laws



Public Affairs Report, January 2023.

During the month of December, the following key campaigns have been promoted by the national team.

Under the **Climate Change** banner, a coffee morning took place on Zoom entitled 'A Green look ahead to 2023' with presentations from key policy experts on their predictions in terms of policy context and upcoming legislation.



#ShowTheLove

A range of new resources will be available to support Climate Ambassadors (and WIs generally). These include guides to lobbying (MPs/Councillors); hosting an environmental documentary film screening; a directory of available film material available on BBCiPlayer, Channel 4, Netflix, etc; templates, checklists and material for events.

The national team are also asking for feedback on events, relationships etc built up in Federations and their local areas and please don't forget to send me photos and descriptions of your 'Show the Love' activities around 14 February.

The **Warm this Winter** campaign supported by Ann Jones, our Chair, is additional to our current and key campaigns and is promoted by environmental and poverty groups who seek to influence government for action.

Warm This Winter

The campaign for affordable energy now and in the future

The campaign calls for these key actions:

1. Emergency financial support for those in need
2. To keep fossil fuels in the ground
3. A national programme of home insulation
4. Rollout of more renewable energy sources.

A Day of Action was held on 03 December when communities held events all over the country, including a march from Balsall Heath to Calthorpe Park. You're encouraged to continue to arrange events to support this initiative and further resources such as posters and templates are available.

Request Warm this Winter campaign resources from pa@nfwi.org.uk

End Plastic Soup campaign: Over the last few weeks, Alberto Costa MP has re-introduced the Microplastic Filter (Washing Machines) Bill into Parliament. If successful, the Bill would legislate for all new washing machines on sale in the UK by 2025 to be fitted with a microplastic fibre filter.



It's vital that a minimum of five MPs attend the annual meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics (APPG) which will be held on Wednesday, 23 November. *Otherwise the APPG will disband.* Lobbying MPs may seem a long way from your normal daily activities but it's vital that we speak up and

make our views known. There's a template letter which you can request from pa@nfwl.org.uk to send to your MP requesting that he/she attends.

Take action: Invite your MP to the APPG on Microplastics' AGM.

NFWI has launched the idea of **Conversation Cafés** to offer welcome and friendship to refugee and asylum-seeking women. For more information about the idea, go to www.thewi.org.uk where there's an explanation from Ann Jones, our Chair, and much more.

You don't need to search – it's on the opening page!

Hawne WI

		<p>Congratulations to Hawne WI whose crafting team and adopt a plot team were awarded Halesowen in Bloom 2022 Certificate of Appreciation Gold Award, Urban Community and Heart of England Overall Winners in recognition of their support to their Community.</p> <p>Well done teams.</p> <p>From Anne Turnball Hawne WI</p>
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Climate Change in the Garden - Looking Forward to 2023

Christmas is over and with it a very uncomfortable cold spell. So now it's time to make a few resolutions – or goals for 2023. But the weather is swinging from one extreme to the other it seems. I was given two container grown hardy plants for Christmas and kept them indoors briefly to avoid the pots freezing, only to find they were shooting when I took them outside. They're now wrapped in bubble wrap in the unheated greenhouse and I hope they'll realise it isn't Spring yet!



Here are a few suggestions for 2023 resolutions:

- Study your plants and see which did well and not so well. Did some of them struggle with drought and high temperatures; how about moving towards some of the hardier Mediterranean species?
- Do you have good systems for collecting and storing rainwater or could you improve on it this year?
- Do you have plans for developing mini meadows or wet areas, perhaps a small (solar) bubble fountain, to attract wildlife in?
- Have you planned which annual seeds to sow for pollinators?
- Have you fully converted to peat free compost for seed sowing?
- Do you have a vegetable area – if not, it's a good time to start one, however small.
- If any plants need replacing, try planting ones which give winter interest and therefore, provide support for birds and insects as well as colourful interest in winter.

Winter Colour and Pollinators: Outside my kitchen window, and in flower



now, is a hamamelis X intermedia, or *witch hazel* – a small tree with beautiful fragrant flowers. (It also has numerous therapeutic properties, we're told but I haven't explored those yet!) In front of it is a vivid green (and evergreen) phormium which, as you



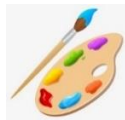
can see, contrasts beautifully. The witch hazel attracts bees (even in January)

and later on, birds. An all-time favourite of mine is the mahonia and this low growing evergreen version provides attractive sprays of bright yellow flowers on architectural foliage next to the delicate witch hazel. The buff-tailed bumble bee is becoming active and nest building over winter and frequents my mahonia and the black berries will ripen gradually and keep the birds happy for weeks.

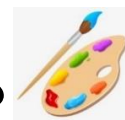
Big garden Birdwatch 2023 on 27 -29 January. For more information,

www.rspb.org.uk

The Climate Book by Greta Thunberg is a collection of more than 80 essays by experts on different aspects of climate change and explores the most urgent issues of our times. Allen Lane, 2022. RRP £25. (Other sources are available)



Acrylic Painting Class?



Would you be interested in learning to paint in acrylics?

The Federation would be willing to hire a tutor and demonstrator, to give members a chance to have a go.

Remember 2023 Trustees Trophy is a painting.

If members could let their WI Secretary know if they are interested and then the information and names passed to Federation by the end of March 2023 @

WMFWI@AOL.COM

Arts and Activities Report

Happy New year to all our members and their families. As you may have noticed we have a new committee name. Arts and Activities! The Trustees hope that by combining these resources and people we can provide cohesive, varied and active programs each year.

- Darts



The information regarding the Darts tournament 2023 has been sent out to all those who have applied to enter a team.

Please contact Jackie -jackie.poyner@btopenworld.com who is coordinating this.

- THE VAL DAGGATT CUP - Award for writing - The subject for this year is



My fondest memory of the natural world

Members are invited to submit a piece of writing (no more than 1,000 words) On this subject

There is an entry fee of £5 for this competition to cover the costs of judging and moderation

The Cup will be presented at The Annual General Meeting in September 2023

ARE YOU INTERESTED? Entry forms available from

Julie Afridi Martin
28 Vicarage Road
Yardley B338PH

jtafridi@hotmail.co.uk
0121 784 7010

Please remember to include a A5 **SAE** so that your entry form can be sent to you.

Plus, your £5 cheque made payable to WMFWI or contact me for bank details.

Closing date for entries Monday 26th June 2023

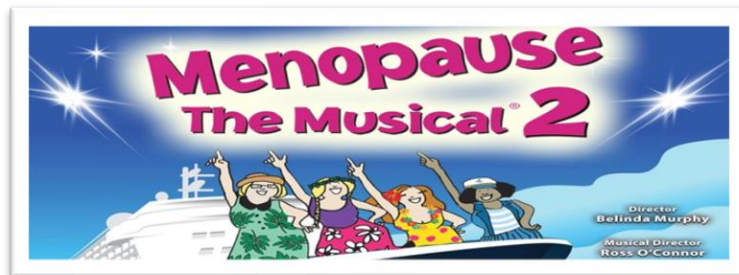


KARTING -We are making plans to offer a trip to Midland's karting in Cannock near Fradley in April. We would be pleased to hear from groups approx. how many of your members would be interested in this activity so that we can plan effectively the numbers of places we need to secure.

E mail Julie - jtafridi@hotmail.co.uk

Sessions usually run for 45-60 minutes. Safety info and equipment will be included in the price.

URGENT! ANNOUNCING A PROPOSED SHOW VISIT



Hot flushes, mood swings, memory lapses, weight gain – these are a few of our favourite menopausal things! *Cruising Through Menopause* is a hilarious, heartfelt, reassuring and unflinching look at the joys of menopause and friendship. When your life is a bumpy ride full of twists and turns, it's hard to find true friends. But step on board and we'll take you on a trip of self-discovery, love and friendship all backed by a soundtrack of brand-new toe-tapping parodied hits!

AT THE ALEXANDRA THEATRE BIRMINGHAM IN THE STALLS
FRIDAY 21st APRIL 2023 - COST £36

WE HAVE 70 SEATS RESERVED FOR 5.30 AND ANOTHER 70 FOR 8.30

FINAL DATE FOR PAYMENT - MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY
(Sorry no exceptions can be made - reservation will lapse after this)
Please see the flyer for more details

Have fun everyone and if you do anything within the West Midlands that other members might enjoy, please let us know.
Thanks Julie

TRUSTEES CHALLENGE 2022



ON BEHALF OF ALL THOSE WHO WORK AT THE CHARITY TEAMS 4U AND FROM ALL THOSE WHO BENEFIT FROM THEIR WORK.

To all members who knitted, sewed, stuffed the toys, brought things for the shoeboxes, provided empty boxes transported the goods, crocheted, sorted, filled the boxes and covered them.

This went a huge way in supporting the total number of 1016 shoeboxes that have gone to the charity by way of the regional coordinator Chris, this year



A MASSIVE THANKYOU

From the charity Teams 4U



Our Trustee Challenge for 2023

will be to provide 'Period Pouches' and sanitary products to help eliminate period poverty and also Topsy Turvey Dolls.

Knitting pattern is available contact Kim
@kimsliviski60@gmail.com

Photos from Cardiff

3 coach loads of WI members, friends and family joined us on our Christmas outing to Cardiff 22nd November 2022. The weather was kind, although a little chilly!

Members took to the Bay, Castle, Christmas Market and even the open top bus!

Thank you to all members who joined in and especially for their kind words of thanks and for the photos.

Kim Slivinski

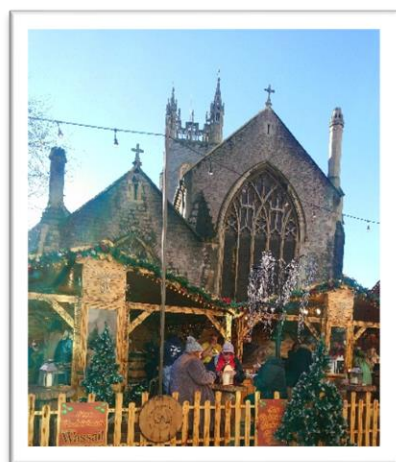
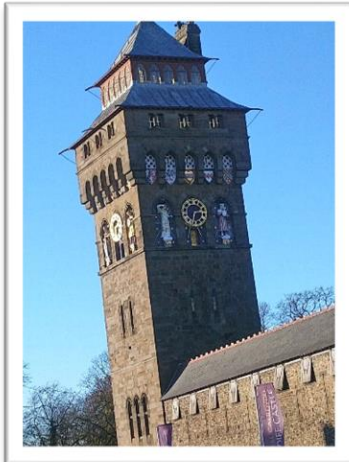
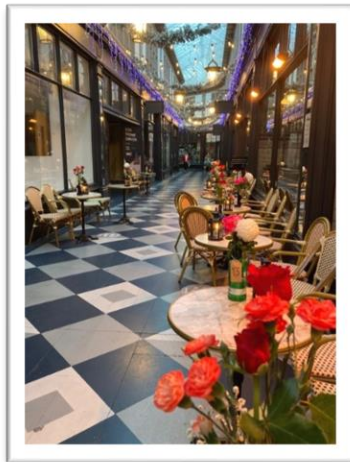
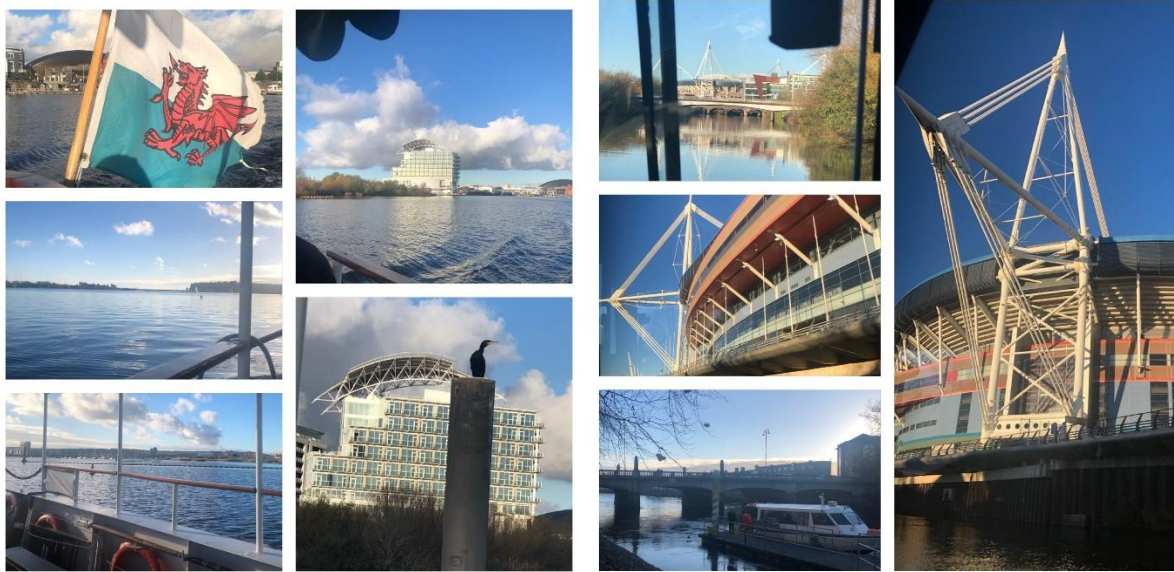


Photo of Castle Arcade tea rooms, the customers were all inside as it was rather chilly to sit outside. Provided by Liz Galloway. Photos of the Bay provided by Anne Turnball, Hawne WI



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.

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)

Application form below

Application form - 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



Summer Outing

Skegness

Wednesday
21st June 2023

Join us on our summer outing to the award-winning seaside town of Skegness that offers plenty to see and do or just sit back and enjoy the prestigious Blue Flag award winning beach that it is amongst the cleanest in the world. Complete your seaside experience with an ice-cream or a delicious portion of fish and chips, there's nothing quite like fresh fish and chips by the sea. Plenty of shops, bars and restaurants and local transport can take you along the coastal road. Easy walking, nice and flat!

We will aim to arrive by 11 – 11.30am to enjoy the day and depart at 5.00pm.
Cost inclusive of coach, is **£23.00** (non-members welcome)

Closing date is 25 April 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](#)

WMFVI - Summer Outing to Skegness

Cheques to be made payable to WMFVI to - Kim Slivinski, 136 Common Lane, Sheldon, B26 3DN by no later than 25 April 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

200 Club 2023

Do you want to be in the 200 lottery with a chance to win £10.00 in the monthly draw plus 3 grand draw prizes at the Annual Meeting? If so simply fill in the application form below.

Each share costs £5.00 each for a chance to win £10.00 in the ten monthly draws.

At the year end the minimum prize will be £100.00, so the more shares bought, the higher the prize.

The 200 Lottery Grand draw will take place at the Annual Meeting 25 September 2023.

Application forms together with stamped addressed envelope and cheque made payable to **WMFWI** and sent to County House at

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

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 _____