



Cog in the Tree

West Midlands Federation of Women's Institutes.



July 2023

Chairperson's Address



Hello Everyone,

With this wonderful weather we have been enjoying I'm surprised that we haven't had a hosepipe ban! Thanks to constant filling of the watering cans and giving the plants a soaking in the cool every evening my garden is looking lovely. Unfortunately, I can't sit out too long to enjoy the twilight (which is often the best part of the day) as my hay fever kicks in as the pollen begins to descend, my eyes start to water copiously and my sneezes can be heard all down the road.

June is always an expensive month for me as many of my friends and family members have birthdays and the cost of cards and stamps makes quite a hole in my budget. One of my grandsons gets a special treat as his birthday falls either on or close to the date of the annual summer fete in Bournville and we take him and his sister to the magnificent firework display which closes the event. Sometimes all of the grandchildren are staying with me so we make quite a crowd as we jostle for the best viewing points. I do hope the weather is kind for everyone on that day. We have had two very successful Quizzes in June and we have croquet and skittles yet to come so the Federation is putting on lots of events this summer which we hope you are enjoying. It's lovely to see our members having such a good time. Don't forget to send us reports and photos of what your WI is getting up to which we can all share in the COG. **Lynn**

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200 Club Winner
Pat Pearson of Walmley WI

Would you like to see your WI featured here?

Send your contributions to COGMEDIAWMFWI@gmail.com

Please send submissions by the tenth of each month to guarantee inclusion. It may not be possible to include all submissions. Texts may be altered to fit available space. Please send original images as jpeg files and documents as word documents. Next deadline: 10/07/23.

Forthcoming Events

- 21st June Darts Final, Knowle Cricket Club
- 13th July Croquet (Kenilworth)
- 19th September Autumn Outing to Windsor*
- 23rd September Skittles, Hockley Heath
- 25th September Annual Meeting
- 4th November Christmas Glass Mosaic
- November 2023 Christmas Outing (Hyde Park)
- 9th December Christmas family celebration

**Unfortunately, Windsor Castle will be closed to the public on this date, but still plenty to do, hope you will join us!*



Your WI News

Great Barr WI



We didn't burn the cakes! The Great Barr ladies had a go at making Rock Cakes at their monthly craft morning, after weighing, mixing and shaping the Rock Cakes on baking trays ready to put into the oven there was a power cut so we were unable to cook them! They were eventually cooked at home and I've been told they were very enjoyable.

Elaine Williams, Media Officer

Silhill W.I. celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III by having a buffet meal, including a Coronation Quiche. Members wore red, white and blue and we had a Royal Quiz, with emphasis on the various Carolean Kings. Great appreciation goes to our Refreshment Guru Gabriele Gardner and her hard-working assistant Sandra Hunt (*pictured to the right*) for organising and presenting a fabulous repast. **Heather Lewis, Silhill Secretary**



Silhill WI



At our AGM we awarded our Margaret Williams Cup for exceptional services to our Institute to Christine Dainty, who joined **Silhill W.I.** in 2006. Since then, she has been an active member as President, Secretary and Outings Secretary more than once. She organises and stores all the raffle prizes, writes and sends out Birthday Cards (including cross-stitching cards for special birthdays), sets up the room the night before our meetings, provides prizes for games and quizzes at our socials, has produced many craft items over the years for Silhill's entries into Federation Competitions and cross-stitches all the name badges that we wear for our meetings and competitions. She also composes poems to mark special occasions. She is the Captain of our Darts Team, has the task of organising our fixtures (and the food we supply). She also represented Silhill W.I. on the Sports and Leisure Committee for ten years, where she compiled and checked the questions for the Federation Quizzes. A worthy winner."



Heart of England WI



Heart of England WI's Post Box Toppers for the Coronation! They were placed on Boxes around Balsall Common and Hampton in Arden. A group of members are keen knitters, and have made several Toppers in the past. We think they surpassed themselves this time!

We also held a Coronation Supper at the conclusion of our AGM, with Coronation Chicken sandwiches and Cupcakes included on the menu.

Kathryn Shayler (Secretary)



Monkspath WI



Monkspath WI went on a fascinating Walking Tour on a sunny June Saturday in Birmingham's city centre. Our tour was led by Jonathan Berg, of the Positively Birmingham Walking Tours company. The tour costs £16 per person, with a portion going to a homeless charity. We walked approximately 3.2 miles in 2 hours. We stayed mainly in the Digbeth area, looking at Street Art and learning about future development plans. To the left, our group in front of a mural called "Future of Birmingham" which features 22 of the city's most influential Black stars of the future. Corner of

Meriden Street and Bordesley Street, created by artist Gent 48, aka Josh Billingham, who ranks among the most talented and prolific street artists in Birmingham.



Above, our group in front of the Robbie Jeffcott mural of Black Sabbath, singer Ozzy Osbourne. Ozzy is pouring a cup of tea. How appropriate for a WI photo!

Left, previously a musician, sound engineer and

occasional illustrator, the female artist called Anatomix creates symbolic, modernist works.

She has become particularly well known for her large-scale murals, distinctive polygonal animals and geometric patterns.



Above right, the Red Brick Market on Floodgate Street has over 50 independent retailers inside, selling bohemian wonders.





Left, this building is the future home of a huge movie studio along the canal. The new Peaky Blinders movie will be made here.



Right, The BBC MasterChef studios are moving here, to the site of a former banana warehouse. The Grade II listed building is currently vacant and in need of repairs before the production teams move in. **Marylou Jeffs, Monkspath WI.**

Berkswell WI



Berkswell WI held a 'Bring and Share' Lunch to Celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, with a beautiful cake made by June Smitten, and a Toast to the King. The special occasion event was enjoyed by all our members.

Pictured are **Pamela Griffiths, President Berkswell WI**, and June Smitten

Moseley and Balsall Heath WI



We spent an afternoon making beautiful cyanotype prints with garden flowers and leaves, amazing to see the images left behind after the final water dunk to set the chemicals. We also practised our origami skills making butterflies, roses and boxes. **Photos: Cath Palgrave**

[How To Make an Easy Origami Butterfly \(in 3 MINUTES!\) - YouTube](#)



JOB DESCRIPTION

The post holder will be familiar with Microsoft Office in particular Excel and have a sound knowledge of Accounting practices and be willing to work on a part time basis from home. Hours and pay to be negotiated. ***This position is open to all our WI members and their friends and family.***

- To produce weekly Bank Pay-in-Slip and pay in cheques and cash weekly to bank account when applicable.
- To maintain Income and Expenditure spreadsheet and provide cumulative results to the Board of Trustees at month end.
- To reconcile Income & Expenditure to Bank Statement each month.
- To provide a Cumulative Financial Situation Report to the Board of Trustees monthly.
- Manage the bank account to pay for Activities, Suppliers and Board member expenses as directed by the members of the Board and approved by the Chairman.
- To provide a quarterly return to National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) of the number of paid members renewed or joined the WI and release payment accordingly.
- To manage the Federation's 200 Club membership.
- Update Charity Commission, Companies House and Lottery licence annual details.

Please apply by letter with a copy of your CV to Mrs Lynn Smith
(Details are shown listed in footer of the COG)

CALLING ALL MEMBERS WHO KNOW TYSELEY.

Iain Barber of the Active Wellbeing Society is running a storytelling project funded by Historic England called Tales of Tyseley. He is working to uncover forgotten or overlooked stories to celebrate the history of the Tyseley area and the people who lived there through the years.

If you have any experience, relationship or knowledge of this area please contact Iain and he will arrange to come and collect your stories.

iain.barber@theaws.org or 07584-664-039

023 INTERNATIONAL BLIND SPORTS FEDERATION (IBSA)

The IBSA World Games are being held in Birmingham for the first ever time during August 18th-27th. Around 1,250 blind and partially sighted athletes from 70 countries are competing in 10 sports, some of which are qualification tournaments for the 2024 Paralympic Games. Many of the events will be taking place at Birmingham University Campus in Edgbaston but some will be held in Coventry, Walsall and Warwick. Volunteers are required for a range of positions from helping with classifications to assisting athletes in their villages. Help is also needed by the Media and Marketing teams. Several WI members were volunteers at last year's Commonwealth Games and may like to offer their support for IBSA. If you would like to volunteer please email:

ibsa2023volunteers@powerofpeople.org.uk

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

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



West Midlands Federation of Women's Institutes

**SKITTLES EVENING
WITH FISH AND CHIP SUPPER**

At the King George VI Memorial Hall, Stratford Road,

Hockley Heath B94 6NY

(Right opposite the Lighting Shop)

ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD AT

6.45PM

Please bring your own drinks as there is no bar

(Coffee/Tea served after supper)

TICKETS £11.00

Closing date August 31st 2023.

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Skittles - Saturday 23rd September 2023

Please return to; Julie Afridi Martin, 28 Vicarage Road, Yardley, B33 8HP

_____ **Institute would like**

_____ **Fish & Chip suppers**

(Please give names and food orders

and state if alternatives are required)

REMITTANCE CHEQUE FOR £11.00 ENCLOSED

PAYABLE TO WMFWI £_____ (No refunds given)

Closing date 31st August 2023



WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP

This year's Trustees Trophy is a painting with the theme "A Green and Pleasant Land".

This two-hour workshop will be run by Kendrick Snodin, watercolour tutor for Denman at Home, who will demonstrate the basics of colour mixing, painting skies and trees, simple compositional ideas and developing depth and distance. There will then be an opportunity to create your own painting to enter into the Trustee's Trophy competition which will be judged at the Annual Meeting in September 2023.

There are four workshops based on a first come first served basis:

Thursday 27th July 2023: 10:00am-12:00pm

Thursday 27th July 2023: 1:00pm-3:00pm

Friday 28th July 2023 10:00am-12:00pm

Friday 28th July 2023: 1:00pm-3:00pm

To be held at Birmingham and Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS

Cost: 13.00

Including refreshments

All materials will be provided although you are welcome to bring your own

To book

Please email dawn.wmfwi@outlook.com to book your place and be given payment details (this can be done individually or per WI, payment can be cheque or bank transfer). Please record your name, Women's Institute and confirm you have paid two full years membership as stated within the terms and conditions below.

Booking and payment must be made by Friday 14th July 2023.

(Cheques/bank transferred will need to be cleared by this date)

Terms and Conditions:

Applicants must be members of the Women's Institute within the West Midlands Federation.

Applicants must have paid two full years membership to Women's Institute.

There is no refund for non-attendance.

Each course has 10 spaces and will be given on a first come first served basis. People who expressed an interest during the December 2022/January 2023 call out will be given priority.



Trip to Windsor

Tuesday 19th September 2023



Join us on our autumn outing to Windsor with lots to see and do!

Visit the Castle

Picnic on or walk the long walk

Cruise on the Thames

Walkabout the town or by the river

Open-top bus trip around Windsor and see Eton

Enjoy a Royal coffee in one of the many Coffee shops

Enjoy an Ice cream beside the Thames

Please note pick up times will be early between 7.00 to 8.00am to ensure sufficient time to enjoy Windsor.

Members are required to book their own activities direct as this is not included in the cost.

We will aim to arrive by 11 – 11.30am to enjoy the day and depart at 5.00pm.

Cost inclusive of coach, is **£25.00** (non-members welcome)

Closing date is 11th July 2023

Pick Up points;

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

(Times to be confirmed)

Please contact [Kim Slivinski 07843 123748](mailto:Kim.Slivinski@wmfwi.org.uk) if you would like to discuss other pick- up points

WMFVI - Autumn Outing to Windsor 19th September 2023

Cheques to be made payable to WMFVI to - Kim Slivinski, 136 Common Lane, Sheldon, B26 3DN by no later than 11th July 2023

INSTITUTE _____ Require _____ tickets @ £25.00 =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 49th Annual Meeting

Monday 25th September 2023

at

Austin Court, 80 Cambridge St, Birmingham B1 2NP

Guest Speaker

Corrine Brazier, Heritage Manager, West Midlands Police & Museum



WMFWI will be holding the Annual Meeting on Monday 25th September 2023 at Austin Court, Birmingham.

I would like to extend a cordial welcome to all members to join us at this event. It is hoped that all WIs will send one member as a Delegate and that other members will attend as Observers. The cost for the day will be £12.00 per person. Delegates will have their cost defrayed from their WI's funds.

This invitation is to all WI members and not just Committee members. The hall seats 150 and we will hold a ballot if we are over-subscribed but all WIs will have a representative attendee.

The day will begin with coffee and pastries from 10.15am and a chance to chat with friends. The morning session will start at 11.00am with business matters and the presentation of certificates. Lunch will **NOT** be provided. There are lots of opportunities to find lunch around the canal basin.

In the afternoon we shall hear from our guest speaker Corrine Brazier, Heritage Manager at the Birmingham Police Museum. Corrine will talk about the 100year history of women in policing with some very interesting stories about the women, the force and the museum. I sincerely hope that your WI will join us for a most enjoyable day

Lynn

WMFWI Annual Meeting 25th September 2025

Please return to Kim Slivinski, 136 Common Lane, Sheldon, Birmingham, B26 3DN by **1st August 2023**

INSTITUTUTEREQUIRE.....Tickets @£12.00 each

Name of Delegate.....

No of Observers..... (Please list names on reverse).

REMITTANCE CHQ ENCLOSED £..... SAE ENCLOSED

Tickets will be issued for this event

10/10



WMFWI, 50 Station Road, Kings Norton, B30 1DA, 01216944201

Email Lynnsmith@blueyonder.co.uk

CHARITY NUMBER 1012552, REG.COMPANY NO. 2723008