



### July/August 2025

#### Chairman's Chat



Well, what a wonderful day we had at WI House watching the NFWI Annual Meeting, thank you to all those who attended. It was great to see so much camaraderie and friendship amongst you all. We are now thinking we need a bigger hall for next year!

As a result of the votes cast at the National Annual Meeting and the new Constitution being adopted, we must now adopt revised Articles of Association for our Federation. This is something all WIs are required to have a vote on so we will be setting up a short Zoom meeting for WI representatives to attend on Wednesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. As this is a legal document, we ask that all WIs send a representative to cast their vote. Please see the Events Sheet for more information.

Our own October Annual Meeting plans are now well under way, with guest Speakers booked and VIP invites going out shortly.

**However, we need your help.** We are already short of Trustees and now have several Trustees who are standing down for various reasons, including moving out of the county or due to work commitments. We desperately need people to help support WIs through the work at Federation level. Do you have an opinion? Lots of ideas on what we could do? Want to see change?

Please consider joining a happy band of ladies who want to make Northamptonshire WI the best it can be for its members.

If you are interested, please contact me, you would be welcome, with advance notice, to come and observe a Board Meeting, which are held once a month at WI House.

Meanwhile, enjoy the summer months whether its holidays, gardening or just relaxing.

Chris Carr  
[christine\\_carr@outlook.com](mailto:christine_carr@outlook.com)

#### Ticket Allocation Dates in July/August

Remember to submit your application forms for the following events with ticket allocation dates:

- Treasurers on-line workshop – **1 July 2025**

Full details of these events are in the Events Sheet.



#### \*\*\* EXCITING NEWS – DENMAN STYLE RETREAT \*\*\*

**Friday 24 – Sunday 26 April**  
**Staverton Park Hotel and Golf Club**

Together with Warwickshire Federation, we are planning a weekend residential retreat based on the old Denman Federation Weekend model. We have former Denman tutors lined up including Claire Muir, Pat Lumsdale and John Vigar.

Other activities currently under consideration include walking and paper cutting. More information will be sent with the September news-sheet so watch this space. In the meantime, start saving!

#### Enclosures with your Secretary:

- **Mary Sheldon Bursary Form**
- **Pebble Art Workshop Form**
- **NCFWI AGM Form**

Please support our trips, workshops and events if you can.

Application Forms are with your Secretary.



### PEBBLE ART WORKSHOP WITH TINA BODSWORTH

**Saturday, 13 September 2025 10.30 am OR 1.30 pm WI House - Members £20 Non-members £25**

This time we're going to be creating pictures from pebbles, shells, sea glass on strong watercolour card 5x7 inch. Tina's workshops are always popular so we have arranged to run two on the same day. Ticket Allocation date is Friday 15 August.

### Wired Fabric Flowers Workshop - 4th October

A relaxing and fun morning with Julie Williams at WI House.

£18 MEMBERS ONLY plus £5.00 for materials payable to the tutor on the day. More details to follow.

### Winchester Day Trip & Christmas Market Thursday 27 November 2025 Members £32 Non-members £35



Join us for a day trip to Winchester. There's plenty to explore in the castle and cathedral. Then after enjoy some retail therapy in the Christmas Market and many independent shops. Closing date: 16 October



## Save the date!

### An evening of festive entertainment with Northampton Rock Choir

**12<sup>th</sup> December 7pm**

**The Abbey Centre, East Hunsbury, Northampton**

Festive Refreshments included  
£10 (members) £13 (non-members)

## WI Day, Tuesday 16th September – 110th Birthday Party of WI

The full details will be distributed soon but there will be a delicious cream tea, and of course, the best company!

Hope to see lots of you there.



### NCFWI Annual General Meeting

**Saturday 11 October 2025**

**Northampton High School for Girls,  
Hardingstone, Northampton, NN4 6UU**

Plans for the AGM are progressing well. In addition to Lucy Lewis, the speaker we announced last month, we have a second speaker, Jodie Mutch, from the Maggie's Charity. Jodie will talk about the work of the Maggie's charity and what a difference they make to people living with or affected by cancer. She'll also tell us all about the new Maggie's Centre being built at Northampton General Hospital – the orange one! As well as Jodie, we will be joined by a Maggie's storyteller or perhaps an oncology nurse who have had first-hand experience of the Maggie's charity.

There will be a shopping hour, 10.00-11.00, prior to commencement of the Annual Meeting, with more time to shop at lunchtime.

**Transport:** If a few of you are thinking of coming along why not consider hiring a community bus or share with your neighbouring WI(s).

We look forward to seeing many of you there.



Vice Chairs – Heather Smith (Towcester Evening WI) [hmsmith47@btinternet.com](mailto:hmsmith47@btinternet.com) and Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI) [jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com](mailto:jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com)



### FOR SALE

Formerly in our bedroom at Denman College, your chance to buy this beautiful marble table lamp given to us by the iconic Yelvertoft based craftsman company of the late Nigel Owen.

The lamp stands 10" high with 8" diameter base and is made of Hopton Wood Marble. Similar ones on their website are between £1 - £200.

**Sealed bids ONLY to Chris Carr, c/o WI House, 71 Park View Moulton NN3 7UZ by 8 September 2025.**

### Quiz Corner

1. In the poem, The Garden Year, in the line, "Hot July brings cooling showers, apricots, and gillyflowers" - which modern day flower is the gilly flower?
2. The '20 July plot' was the attempted assassination of whom?
3. August' is the 10th solo studio album by which musician



## News Sheet Editor

Please remember that items about individual WIs will now be posted on our County Federation Facebook Page and will not be included in the new monthly News Sheet.

[denisebott02@gmail.com](mailto:denisebott02@gmail.com)

## Memorial Book

We are sad to note the passing of the following members and acknowledge with thanks the donation given to the Memorial Fund in their memory:

Avril Burrell

Irthlingborough WI

## Cakes for Cynthia Spencer Hospice

There are still lots of spaces available in 2025. Please contact WI House if your WI is able to provide cakes: [admin@ncfwi.org.uk](mailto:admin@ncfwi.org.uk)

30 June – Pattishall WI

7 July – Pitsford WI

14 July – Towcester Evening WI

21 July – Welford WI

28 July – **Volunteer needed**

All dates in August – **Volunteers needed**

1 September – **Volunteer needed**

## Cakes for Cransley Hospices

July – Raunds WI

August – Barton Seagrave WI  
Desborough WI

Please email  
Sue Johnson Hill:  
[johnsonhilljs@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonhilljs@gmail.com)



## 2026 WI Diaries

Application form for these is with your WI Secretary priced the same as last year at £7.



Please let her know if you would like one.

## Face Book Editors

Please send us any photos (with Members permission) and short pieces of text of any of your WI activities you would like us to share on our County Federation FB Page:



[suehamilton8487@gmail.com](mailto:suehamilton8487@gmail.com)  
[hmsmith47@btinternet.com](mailto:hmsmith47@btinternet.com)



**Please note that photos should be sent to us as Full Resolution, otherwise they will come out fuzzy on the post!**

You will find us here:

[www.facebook.com/NorthantsWI](http://www.facebook.com/NorthantsWI)

## Housekeeping Notes



WI House is open to members; however please note that such visits must be by prior appointment only. Please telephone 01604 646055 or email [admin@ncfwi.org.uk](mailto:admin@ncfwi.org.uk) to arrange.

If you are contacting WI House by email don't forget to include the name of your WI along with your name please. We are receiving a lot of scam/phishing emails now, so your email may be deleted if it doesn't mention anything relating to WI.

**WI Treasurers** – when paying an invoice sent by the Federation please could you write the invoice number on the back of the cheque or if paying by BACs use the invoice number as the reference – many thanks.

## MARY SHELDON BURSARY

Drawn at the Annual General Meeting in October this Bursary offers a member a great opportunity to enhance their skills, or learn a new one.

It may even help fund a place at the Residential Denman Style Retreat we are planning for April 2026.

Entry form is with this News Sheet.

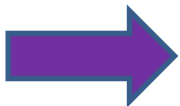


## County Bounty Winners!

**£20** No. 36 Ind Brenda Astell Bugbrooke WI

**£10** No. 3 Ind Diana Babb Long Buckby WI

# Good News!



## Campaigns, Concerns and Media

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI)

It is probably no great surprise that this year's Resolution "Bystanders can be Lifesavers" was adopted at the NFWI Annual Meeting on 4 June 2025. When Federation Trustees and Advisers visited WIs over the last few months there was strong support for the resolution which was obviously the case across all Federations.

The resolution will form the basis of a WI Campaign and in the next few months National will develop a campaign plan for WIs to use.

However, talking to many WIs in the Federation several have already started to plan their own campaigns. It could be arranging CPR training for the own members or the wider community, fundraising for a defibrillator in their areas or raising awareness of the disparity in the survival rate between women and men.

If your WI is already planning some activities please let me know, it would be great to hear from you.

[jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com](mailto:jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com)



## Quiz Answers

1. Carnations
2. Hitler
3. Eric Clapton

## WI Adviser for July:

**Linda Brett (Little Billing WI)**  
**01604 403525**  
[linda.brett2@btopenworld.com](mailto:linda.brett2@btopenworld.com)

## WI Adviser for August:

**Christine Farmer (Preston Capes WI)**  
**01327 36184**  
[christinelouvaine@icloud.com](mailto:christinelouvaine@icloud.com)

## Treasurer's Tips

Deborah Mills (Badby and Fawsley WI)

Following the success of the last Northamptonshire WI County Raffle, we've decided to repeat it this year.

With a fabulous first prize of cash and lots of other lovely prizes, do remember you can sell tickets to family and friends as well as WI members.

The draw will take place at the Christmas Coffee Morning on 5 December. Please support us as this is a great opportunity to win a fabulous prize. Be on the lookout for tickets on sale at your WI from September 2025.

[darmills8@gmail.com](mailto:darmills8@gmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP & TRAINING

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI)

I hope many of you were able to watch the NFWI Annual meeting; it's great to hear from the National Chair about all the things we have achieved in the last year and plans for the future. As Chris mentioned in the Chairman's Chat, the new constitutions have now been adopted and all WIs must now action these.

The new constitution is now available on MyWI for every WI to read and sign. You must print a copy and complete the information on the last page. The information you will need is the name of your WI, the name of the Federation (Northamptonshire), your WI reference which you will find on MCS. The President and Secretary then need to sign the document and send a copy of the signed constitution to WI House and then the original copy must be kept with your WI documentation. The previous constitution then needs to be stored in your archive.

The new constitution can be found on MyWI – Essential Information – WI Policy and Guidance – Constitution and Rules for WIs (2025).

[jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com](mailto:jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com)



**Check out the new WI podcast!**

<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/>

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<https://northamptonshire.thewi.org.uk>

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