



WEST MIDLANDS COUNTY NEWS



Dear Members,

I am delighted to announce that we now have a new Chairman, Treasurer and Vice Chairmen appointed this month and I'm sure that you will all join me in wishing them our congratulations on their new appointment and every success for the future



Lynn Smith	Federation Chairman
Iris Montgomery	Federation Treasurer
Liz Galloway	Vice Chairman
Cathryn Marsh	Vice Chairman

Debbie Arkinstall	Trustee
Christine Sears	Trustee
Julie Afridi Martin	Trustee
Claire Woodland	Trustee
Donna Haddock	Trustee
Judy Massam	Trustee
Kim Slivinski	Trustee

Meet the team on page 4

Congratulations 200 Club Winners

Results of the Annual Grand Draw 2020

	<p>1st Prize - £150.00 (number 41) - Pauline Clarkson, Solihull WI</p> <p>2nd Prize £100.00 (number 68) - Julia Croxall, Green Lane WI</p> <p>3rd prize £75.00 (number 60) - Carol Morden, Four Oaks WI</p>	
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Federation Chairman's Address

Hello All WI Members,

I am honoured to have been elected as your Federation Chairman for the coming year. I am very aware that I am following in the footsteps of many illustrious predecessors and that I have very big shoes to step into, but I will do my best to live up to their example and lead WMFWI into the 2020s in fine style. I would like to thank Iris Montgomery for her sterling work over the last three years as Chairman and I am delighted to announce that she is not leaving the Board of Trustees but is resuming her former role as Federation Treasurer. We are not losing Kim Slivinski as she steps down from looking after our financial affairs in exemplary fashion for the last three years as she is continuing to be our COG Editor amongst all the other work she does for the Fed. All of the other Trustees also deserve our heartfelt thanks as they continue to keep us going especially during these particularly difficult times

I also want to thank each and every one of you for the many different ways you have managed to cope with Covid 19, from holding socially distanced meetings in back gardens, parks, village greens, coffee shops and local pubs to mastering the art of Zoom calls. I am in awe of the activities you have kept alive including making scrubs and masks for NHS staff, knitting traffic light hats for tiny babies, sewing Beads of Courage bags for cancer patients, running Zoom book clubs and even going on socially distanced walks. I have been greatly heartened hearing about those little acts of kindness that so exemplify the true spirit of the WI like leaving a posy on doorsteps, shopping for those who are truly housebound, posting letters or delivering fish and chips to neighbours that so many of you have been doing. It makes me proud to be a member of this amazing group of women who not only really care about their local community but actively support it.

I'm sorry to say that I have no idea when we will be able to meet properly again, but I am looking forward to being able to visit WIs and getting to know our members from all over the West Midlands as soon as it is permissible. I know there will be a warm welcome wherever I go. Should you wish to contact me earlier for whatever reason my email address is lynnsmith@blueyonder.co.uk and my phone numbers are 0121-694-4201 and 07854-252-889. I hope to hear from you.

For now, I will wish you all continued good health and ask you to remember that, in the words of Noel Coward, "there are good times just around the corner"

Lynn

Diary of Events 2021

9 March 2021	WMFWI Annual Business Meeting
19 April 2021	NFWI Annual Meeting – Royal Albert Hall
4 June 2021	Federation QUIZ – Shirley Community Centre
29 June 2021	45 th Celebration Afternoon tea, Birmingham Botanical Gardens
June 2021 tbc	Visit to Middleton Hall (and Robert Peel Museum)
8 July 2021	Talk by Dr Kathryn Harkup on Poisons in Literature at the BMI
4 August 2021	Proposed visit to Buxton Opera House (HMS Pinafore)
19 August 2021	John's Garden visit (Ashwood Nurseries)
21 September 2021	Digital Forum at BMI
9 September 2021	ACWW Walk around the Lake at Barston
12 October 2021	WMFWI Annual Meeting – Carrs Lane
4 December 2021	Carol Service – St Martins in the Bullring

Treasurer – Iris Montgomery

To all WI Treasurers and Secretaries, if you haven't already done so, please send a copy of your Financial Statement of Accounts and Annual Report for the period to 31 December 2019 to me at my address below.

I have also enclosed a copy of the 2021 200 Club application form should anyone wish to join the scheme for this year. The monthly prize draw will take place on the 1st Monday of the month starting on 2nd November 2020. Shares cost £5.00 each

You need to be in it to win it!

WMFWI Treasurer
Iris Montgomery
38 Wensley Road
Birmingham
B26 1LT

0121 743 8678

Iris

Crafts - Debbie Arkinstall

Please note that the closing date for the Trustees Trophy Competition has been put back to January 31st 2021, where they will be judged during February and the winner announced in March.

All entries are to be sent to 31 Holliday Road, Erdington, Birmingham. B24 9HA. Any entries received after this date will NOT be judged.

Many thanks Debbie Arkinstall - Chair Craft Committee

Board of Trustees – Meet the team

Lynn Smith – Federation Chairman



I have been a member of Bournville WI for 12 years and have served on its committee as President and Programme Secretary. I joined the Board of Trustees 9 years ago and have been Chairman of the Music & Drama subcommittee, Resolutions Officer, Vice Chairman and am also a WI Adviser.

When I am not wearing my WI hat I enjoy gardening, going to concerts, the theatre and National Trust properties, playing bridge, canasta and mahjong, walking and above all being with my family and friends.

Iris Montgomery – Federation Treasurer

I belong to Hobs Moat WI and dual at Victory Belles WI. Joined WI thirty years ago, have been a Trustee for 20 years, County Treasurer for 18 years and County Chairman for last three years.

Hobbies when time allows, reading and sewing.



Liz Galloway – Vice Chairman and Public Affairs

Liz Galloway: A founder member of Kings Norton Afternoon since 2011, I've served as President and Treasurer and am now a Committee Member. I became a Trustee in 2015 and Chair the Public Affairs Committee dealing with national campaigns and environmental matters as a Climate Ambassador. I've been a member of Music and Drama Sub-Committee for five years.

I'm always delighted to give an illustrated talk to a WI and hope to continue doing this as Vice-Chair – you'll find me in the Speaker List.

In my own time, I'm a keen gardener, traveller and photographer, and a volunteer contributor to the Trauma Research Group based at the QE.



Cathryn Marsh – Vice Chairman



I joined Walmley Evening WI about 12 years ago. I served on the Committee and then became Secretary and then President and now coordinate our Knit and Natter Group. I joined the Board of Trustees in 2019 and have recently taken on the role of Resolutions Officer and I am about to undertake WI Advisor Training.

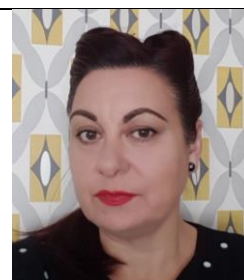
I enjoy doing my garden, reading, walking and visiting places of interest. I am also a member of Sutton Coldfield Flower Club and very much enjoy my Silver Swans Ballet Class.

Claire Woodland – Media

I'm a founder member of Victory Belles WI.

I'm a business owner Antique Dealer. My hobbies include 1940's re-enactment, swing and balboa dancing, walking, allotment gardening and socializing with friends.

Joining the WI is the best decision I've ever made and provided me with the most amazing and inspiring friends.



Julie Afridi Martin – Entertainment



Julie Afridi Martin, President of Yardley WI.

Enjoys singing at the top of her voice.

Performing, socialising, crafting, making costumes and writing poetry.

Chris Sears – Leisure and Wellbeing

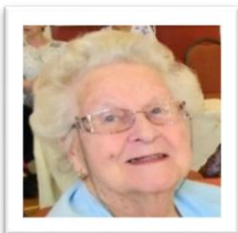


I have been a member of Green Lane WI for about 36 years and have been on committee for most of that time. I was Secretary for many years and President for 2 years and have done many other jobs on committee.

I was on Sports and Leisure Sub-Committee for a number of years. I joined the board of Trustees last year and am now Bulb co-ordinator and also a member of the Sports and Leisure Sub-Committee again.

My hobbies are my dogs - I have had dogs all my life and am known as the dog lady. I only have rescue dogs and I have had some with lots of issues but they have all been lovely. I have 2 at the moment a 9yr old blind Labrador and a 2yr old Yorkie.

Judy Massam, BEM – Office Co-ordinator and Administration



I have been a Trustee on Executive for the past 30 years - 27 of which were as Chairman of Sport and Leisure organising so many different activities for members to enjoy

I have been a member of Hobs Moat for 43 years and have served as President twice and have been Treasurer for many years.

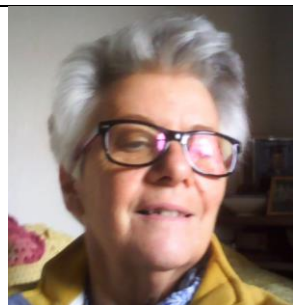
Donna Haddock – Campaigns/ Climate Change

My name is Donna Haddock, I am the Treasurer for Black Country Wenches WI based in Gornal which myself and my Friend Kelly set up back in 2018. I have been on the Board Trustees for West Midlands Federation for just over a year now and I am a Climate Change Ambassador.

In my spare time I enjoy a wide range of Activities from Trips to the Zoo or Safari Park with my Son and Partner to being a Beaver and Cub Leader, running my Stay & Play Groups at the local Adventure Playgroup, Volunteering at the Black Country Museum and spending time in my Allotment or Garden with my Chickens Barbara and Margo.



Debbie Arkinstall – Crafts and Denman Ambassador



I'm Debbie Arkinstall and after a career in fashion, art, and education, I took early retirement in July 2009, I have been a WI member since the 1980.

I joined the BoT in October 2009 and have held various roles the latest one being Chair of Crafts and Denman Representative. I'm now training to be a WI Judge.

Kim Slivinski – MCS and Admin

I have been a WI member since 2008 when I was appointed as Federation Secretary and subsequently Federation Treasurer until October 2020. I look after the Membership Communications System (MCS) for the Federation, take minutes at our meetings and do general Admin work.

My hobbies are enjoying my early retirement with my husband, keeping chickens, gardening, visiting places I have never been before.



Entertainment– Julie Afridi Martin

REMINDER

PROPOSED VISIT TO THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN FESTIVAL

HMS PINAFORE - BUXTON OPERA HOUSE - 4th AUGUST 2021



Since its premiere in 1878, Gilbert and Sullivan's wildly popular operetta *H.M.S. Pinafore* has delighted audiences with a nautically-tinged story of star-crossed lovers.

The gentlemanly Captain Corcoran of the good ship Pinafore has a daughter, Josephine, who is in love with a lowly but gallant sailor named Ralph Rackstraw.

The Captain forbids the marriage, wanting to match Josephine instead with the well-bred Sir Joseph, First Lord of the Admiralty.

In the meantime, the Captain finds himself in nearly the same position as his daughter: his former nanny, Little Buttercup, falls in love with him, but he hesitates to reciprocate due to his higher social rank.

The whole situation is turned on its head when Little Buttercup reveals a game-changing secret she has kept for decades.

A rollicking farce with endearing characters, memorable tunes, and a hilariously happy ending, *H.M.S. Pinafore* is a classic, time-tested delight not to be missed.

We are inviting members to enjoy this show at [Buxton Opera House](#)

The Opera House is a beautiful Edwardian building that is only partially accessible to wheelchair users. The wheelchair entrance is 72cms at its narrowest point. There are three wheelchair spaces in the Stalls area on the ground floor and an accessible toilet.

Date - August 4th 2021

Matinee performance – Seats in the stalls for easy access.

Cost – Approximately £35 - £40 including return coach and theatre ticket

To express an interest please

Email - Julie Afridi Martin - jtafridi@hotmail.co.uk Phone 0121 784 7010

Or post to - Julie Afridi Martin – 28 Vicarage road Yardley B33 8PH

BEFORE 1ST NOVEMBER 2020

Change of Officers?



Please do let the Federation know if you have a change of Officers for the forthcoming period (form is attached)

All Secretaries to submit the form regardless. A NIL return is required if no change to ensure completeness and accuracy of data.

Please ensure that the Membership Communications System (MCS) is also updated to reflect the changes to those Officer's Positions to ensure you receive mailing from NFWI and that Where and When you meet is also up to date so that any potential new members know where to find you via the Website.

Membership Communications System – MCS

WI Secretaries will have received correspondence from NFWI advising that November and April are nominated as MCS months.

This is where we are required to ensure all members personal records are up to date and current.

Please do let your Secretary know if you have changed any of your personal details such as change of address, contact number or have a new email address.

Treasurer and MCS Reps will need to ensure that the No of Records held on MCS match the number of subscriptions received and where a member has not renewed her membership this year that her record is marked 'inactive'

Any WI who does not have their own MCS Rep can forward changes required to Kim Slivinski via County House

Business Meeting – Tuesday 9th March 2021

We have provisionally booked the Birmingham and Midland Institute (BMI) Dickens Room for a half day morning session on Tuesday 9th March 2021 for a Federation Business Meeting and will be inviting one member per WI to attend. Further details will be disseminated in January 2021

Messages from WIs

Olton WI – Jan Sharp

Dear Iris and Board of Trustees

I think we will all agree that 2020 has been a year like no other we have lived through. We should have been looking forward to attending the WMFWI Annual Meeting in October. One of the many events that had to be cancelled due to Covid-19.

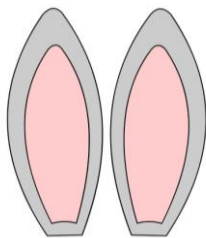
I realise changes in the Board of Trustees will shortly take place. Before the new committee is announced I wished to say Thank You to Iris and the existing Board of Trustees for all you have done and tried to do this year. It must have been an extremely frustrating time for you all to have so many events cancelled. It takes team effort to organise and run the Federation with everyone playing their part.

As Treasurer for Olton WI I wish to give a special Thank You to Kim as Federation Treasurer for her help and support, it really has been appreciated.

We must hope that we will be able to resume our WI meetings and activities at some stage. Although it all seems a long way off at the moment.

Kind Regards,

Janet Sharp, Treasurer Olton WI



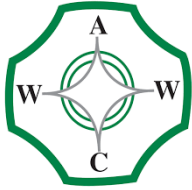
Are you having trouble with your ears?

I've been struggling with my ears sticking out every time I wear my face mask; I think my elastic is too tight or else my head is too big!

I mentioned this to Jan Parkes, Member of Great Barr WI who suggested I may benefit from a bit of crochet? So here are instructions on how to make a much comfier option for securing your face mask.

Instructions for an Ear Aid for your Face mask – From Jan Parkes, Great Barr WI

20 chain treble all way around 5 at each end stitch then dc all way round. Stick on buttons with cast on and cast-off wool. An alternative is a strip of material about 5-6 inches long stitched in couple layers and buttons on each end for people who do not crochet.

Sub – Committee News**ACWW – Pamela Griffiths****Associated Country Women of the World**

I am looking forward to receiving your donations for ACWW which I would normally collect at the Annual Meeting in October.

The WE Fund (Women Empowered) that your donations go to connects and supports women and communities Worldwide including projects Education for Life, Organic Cultivation, Beekeeping for Sustainable Income, Improved Access to Water, Sanitary Facilities for Improved Menstrual Hygiene and Sexual & Reproductive Health Education

My visit to India in the New Year to view projects is on hold and the European Conference is postponed till May 2021 (Hopefully!)

Take care ladies. Hope to meet up with you at events for ACWW next year
Thank you for your support

Pamela

WIs and members wishing make their Annual Donation to ACWW Pennies for Friendship can be sent direct to

Pamela Griffiths ACWW
Clinton Barn
2A Clinton Lane
Kenilworth
CV8 1AT

Please make cheque payable to ACWW and write Pennies for Friendship on the reverse and also include a contact WI and email address so that Pam can acknowledge receipt.

Messages from WIs

Great Barr WI – Jan Parkes

Jan Parkes, Great Barr WI sent in this photo of the Beads of Courage bags made by Barbara, Shirley and Jan of Great Barr. W.I.



Hawne WI – Avril Heaselgrave

The Hawne Knit and Natter group started knitting 6" squares early in 2020 and were kept busy during lock down, meeting remotely on Zoom.

Members are contributing by knitting squares, sewing them up and decorating them with Christmas decorations.

Other members have volunteered to help with the "knit bombing" of Halesowen in December, this means decorating railings, trees and bollards!

Should help with the Christmas spirit in Halesowen this Christmas.

Avril Heaselgrave
Secretary Hawne W.I.

We had a visit from the lovely ladies from Hawne WI this afternoon who plan to decorate the town this Christmas with these wonderful yarns.



The photo shows Laurina, Pat and Anne with a sample of their work.

Public Affairs – Liz Galloway

A First Adventure! by Liz Galloway.

The current health crisis and various forms of lockdown have caused me to reminisce about holidays enjoyed in the past. A great early summer has turned, rather suddenly, into a cold, wet and windy autumn and I long to travel to sunnier climes, *as I'm sure many of you do!*

I remember my first adventure, almost sixty years ago – overland to Rome, in an Austin Mini with three other *young ladies* and a heavily laden roof-rack. Two of my friends were nurses – *the medical support team!* It was a finely organised expedition – personal luggage allowance in the door pockets and the camp kitchen and tinned/dried food for three weeks filling the boot. Bell tent, sleeping bags, water carrier and so on were on the roof, together with mallet and fire extinguisher (needed later to ward off amorous Italians!) *Cost of the whole trip - £30 each!*

After Paris to Grenoble (by autorail), our brave little Mini bore us valiantly up and over the Mont Cenis Pass into Italy, although it did suffer shortness of breath in the thin air at the top! Stopping for rest and a picnic, we found an idyllic turquoise lake with wild lilies and mountain flowers all around - water bottles cooled in the sparkling icy stream.

On through Turin and the Autostrada del Sol towards Rome. In Rome, we linked up with relatives and were shown the sights, often at terrifying speed sitting side-saddle on the back of a Vespa scooter!

With a besom broom as a souvenir, tied to the roof-rack, we set off north, causing much amusement as we went! Our next stop, Venice was amazing. We walked miles through the back streets, on one occasion missing the night ferry across the lagoon and sleeping in the Piazza San Marco until the first ferry at dawn. An interesting insight into the abandoned piazza – only wide-broomed cleaners and stray cats!

Onwards and upwards to the beautiful Lake Como where a seasonal storm funnelled down the lake and blew our tent away. Next day, we joined in an informal trade of belongings, clothes, underwear etc with other campers - we weren't the only ones caught out! And so, it continued to rain as we crossed the Alps and our tent was soaked, finally drying out on the north shore of Lake Geneva. So, on to Calais!

I remember our return through British Customs well. A group of young Officers were delighted to see us and clearly thought it would be entertaining to take us apart. They asked us to empty everything, boot, door pockets (including dirty washing) and roof rack. Little did I realise at the time that they were allowed to literally take the car apart, engine and all, if they chose ... and were NOT required put it back together again
.... now that might have been testing!

A wonderful first journey - I've been hooked ever since, following byways rather than highways and avoiding busy tourist attractions.

My husband and I have a caravan, now 20 years old but very dear to us and these are the holidays we love the most, where we can just explore at our own pace. I'm a keen photographer, always interested in plants, flowers and wildlife. I've a huge collection of photos which I'd love to share with those of you who'd enjoy going on a virtual adventure with me. I've put together a few illustrated presentations in addition to those I give about WI Campaigns and they can be viewed over Zoom at present or in the flesh (*in due course*). Here are a few examples:

[Bunga Bunga and the Kakadu \(N.Australia\)](#) [A Spanish Ramble](#)

[Bali, the Island](#) [Chateaux of the Loire](#) [Around the isle of Skye](#)

[Circling the Pyrenees](#) [Borneo and THE orangutangs](#)

[North Macedonia & Lake Ohrid](#) [South Pacific islands](#) [New Zealand](#)

[EXPLORING The Blue Mountains](#) [Singapore and the Bay Gardens](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOU **WI CAMPAIGNS: AN OVERVIEW**

Travel Quiz: Do you know where these beautiful Medieval illustrations come from and in which journey I came across them? Answer on page 17



NFWI News

NFWI have asked that we distribute information about the ROADSMART Survey and ask that you encourage members to participate in the SURVEY at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X3XXC9L>

NFWI developed a partnership with IAM RoadSmart which resulted in a number of successful driving events being held around the country. Over a 3 year period, over 1500 members took part in various driving experiences, all proven to help develop and improve women's road confidence; from speed awareness, driving at night and motorway driving

Following lockdown and continual changes to government restrictions, the NFWI felt that now more than ever, members would be interested in the benefits that our partnership with the IAM RoadSmart could offer. Getting back behind the wheel, with heavier traffic, will require more caution especially as many drivers may feel out of practise or may have lost some confidence in their competence.

NFWI and IAM RoadSmart have been working together closely, sharing knowledge and experience, to put together a programme of activities, bespoke for the WI, that offer a variety of opportunities which members could access to help them improve, or reassure them of, their driving skills. However, before we launch our programme, we want to be sure that what we are offering is exactly what members of the WI want by completing the survey. This should no more than 5 minutes and the results of this will help us build a programme that meets the needs and interest of members, both short-term and long-term.

Thank you for supporting and contributing towards the development of a new programme of opportunities for WI members. I look forward to sharing the feedback from the survey, and our proposed responsive actions, in the coming months.

Helen Neal
Activities Officer



Try the WI! theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

You can have a taste of the Women's Institute for 6 months for only £10.75!*

The WI offers women the opportunity to connect with their local communities in a fun, friendly and inclusive space. Whether you're interested in making friends, campaigning on local and national issues, or learning new skills, the WI is here to inspire you!

Each WI is unique and shaped by its members so 'Try the WI' and be inspired!

'Try the WI' membership runs from 1st Oct 2020 to 31st March 2021 and includes all the great perks of membership:

- WI Life magazine
- Physical and/or virtual meetings
- Access to the member only area online
- My WI with exclusive recipes, craft projects and more
- The opportunity to involve yourself in exciting local and national campaigns
- Bespoke member only events held virtually and at venues around the country, with organisations including the National Gallery and England Netball
- A new member pack including the members' book of discount offers

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL WI OR FEDERATION (COUNTY OFFICE) TO FIND OUT MORE!

Your local WI is _____

WI website/social media page _____

WI contact information _____

Your local Federation is _____

Federation contact information _____

If you have any questions or are interested in setting up your own WI, contact the National Federation of Women's Institutes at membership@nfwl.org.uk
020 7371 9300

*This is half the usual price as new members usually join in October - December for £10.75. This offer is for three extra months for free. Subscriptions can be renewed in April 2021 at £44 for the year. No subscriptions are automatically renewed.

 [womensinstitute](https://www.instagram.com/womensinstitute)  [womensinstitute](https://twitter.com/womensinstitute)  facebook.com/thewi

www.thewi.org.uk/trythewi

Please share the 'Try the WI' leaflet in your WI Life magazine with your friends and neighbours

NEW SPEAKERS

The following Speakers have contacted us willing to give ZOOM talks

FRANCES CARLAW: ZOOM OFFER SUMMARY (francescarlaw@gmail.com)

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

Frances Carlaw (formerly Benton) was a WI speaker on 12 Federation lists and a Denman tutor for 7 years, before she retired to a life of rural peace in central France. Frances now offers 4 zoom talks, and Q&A sessions about **PEARLS** and jewellery design. All aspects of pearls are covered from the science, myths and legends, jewellery and pearl-knotting. The talks are lively and illustrated with hundreds of pearls and shells from Frances' extensive collections. Frances asks for a donation for giving her talks and she passes this directly onto charitable groups, which support the lives and education of the poorest children in the district of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.

FRANCES IS HAPPY TO JOIN MEETINGS BUT CURRENTLY DOES NOT HOST THEM

Also visit www.ThePearlLady.co.uk or email francescarlaw@gmail.com

'How to' films on pearl knotting are also available on Frances' YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKQMsCekijOABYdhad0-WBQ>



There are four talks that are based on those which Frances used to give to WI groups all over the UK and which have now been adapted to zoom talks, with examples of pearls and shells to show and explain. Frances Carlaw is an experienced speaker, theatre-trained, so not afraid of the camera... She promises you a fascinating and sometimes hilarious glimpse into a world of beautiful jewellery and mystery through entertaining story-telling. Her collections of pearl jewellery, which she sources, designs and makes are available to view on her website www.ThePearlLady.co.uk and there is more to read and see in her regular posts www.facebook.com/FrancesThePearlLady

- **The Origins of Pearls - Talk 1 (approx. 30 minutes plus questions, or 40 minutes without)**

...is a lively and entertaining talk about the history and science of the world's most secretive and only living gemstone, the pearl. Going back over 5000 years, pearls have been associated with wisdom, power, wealth and beauty. This talk is illustrated by viewing images of historical characters and places as well as many pearls and shells.

- **A Passion for Pearls - Talk 2 (approx. 30 minutes plus questions, or 40 minutes without)**

... follows on directly from the first talk and deepens the knowledge about pearls, looking at the shapes, origins of colours, and some misunderstood pearl myths exploded, and other stories re-told of Cleopatra's seductive powers and a soulful mythical dragon...!

- **Pearls of Wisdom – Talk 3 (approx. 30 minutes plus questions, or 40 minutes without)**

...is a lively follow-on presentation for those who have already heard the first two talks, or those who want to understand more about the real thing and the fakes and how to tell the difference. In this follow-on presentation, Frances talks about the wearing of pearls – the making and designing of jewellery to suit skin types and the care of pearl jewellery.

NEW SPEAKERS

Barbara Lawson-Reay

- **First Name:** Barbara Lawson-Reay
- **Email address:** barbreay@hotmail.co.uk
- **Telephone number:** 01492582185

FREE ZOOM TALK

War, Peace and the Women's Institute

The full talk (about 1 hour) covers Women in WW1, the lives of the man – and women who founded the first WI in Britain on Anglesey in 1915 – manning soup kitchens one day and attending balls at Buckingham Palace the next! It closes with the WI's support of the Peace Pilgrimage in 1926.

I can cover just the WI (about ½ an hour) if required.

Zoom only – and I need the WI to send me their link.

FREE – NO CHARGE!

And I can usually fill in at short notice if required.

please contact: barbreay@hotmail.co.uk

NEW SPEAKERS

Andy Thomas has contacted you with the following details:

- **First Name:** Andy Thomas
- **Email address:** andy@andythomas.info
- **Telephone number:** 07771 712960
- **Your query:** Subject: ZOOM PRESENTATIONS Dear Mrs Smith, I am a speaker who has successfully presented for many WIs on a variety of 'mystery and history' topics over the years. Although I am based in South East England, I just want to alert your WI federation to the fact that I am fully available to give online Zoom presentations to groups anywhere in the country, as I know that some WIs are currently struggling to find speakers willing to do Zoom. While the pandemic restrictions continue, an increasing number of WIs are now trying the online approach. Zoom meetings are actually easy to set up and can be surprisingly sociable. Showing slides and having interactive Q&A sessions are effective and simple. I am very experienced in doing Zoom talks so am happy to give talks in this way if you have any opportunity of letting your federation groups know, which I would appreciate very much. I can be available at short notice and a full list of all my presentations can be found at: <https://truthagenda.org/available-lectures/>. Seasonal talks include 'Christmas: A Festive History' and 'The Bonfire Night Capital of the World' in addition to my mystery topics

Fee is £70.00 negotiable

NEW SPEAKERS

Mike Greateorex has contacted you with the following details:

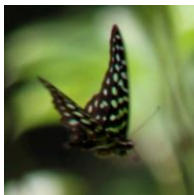
- **First Name:** Mike Greateorex
- **Email address:** gtx958@yahoo.com
- **Telephone number:** 01423889967
- **Your query:** Ladies, during this time of Pandemic I suspect all your WI Talks for your WI Federation have been cancelled. I give talks on "Family History and my Trials and Tribulations" which details research into my own family plus information on the basics of research. Of course, all my Talks have been cancelled as well. However, I have investigated the use of Zoom and have successfully used the Zoom facility in one instant, to give my Talk. I wonder if any of your WI groups are using Zoom in this way? If so, I wonder if you can spread the word among your groups that I can deliver a Talk via this method. Regards Mike Greateorex
email: gtx958@yahoo.com Tel 01423 889967 or 077868 70043

Fee £40.00

Liz Galloway (Federation Vice-Chair):

Liz is the Chair of the Public Affairs Sub-Committee which deals with campaigns which members have voted for over the years. Some of these are 'current' or 'KEY', i.e. very recent like *Climate Change*, *Make Time for Mental Health*, *End Plastic Soup*. Others, like *More Midwives*, *Organ Donation* and *Care not Custody* are a little less current but nevertheless important. *SOS for Honeybees* is still important to many members.

Liz gives a fully illustrated talk giving either a broad brush approach, *How You Can Help Protect Against Climate Change* or *WI Campaigns, Past and Present*. She explores how food production, transport, power, weather, washing our clothes and other human activities can influence climate change, and the natural world.



Liz is a keen photographer also gives talks about her travels, often in areas off the beaten track, such as Circling the French and Spanish Pyrenees; North Macedonia and Lake Ohrid; From Singapore to Penang a Coast Journey; A South Sea Island Trip; The Blue Mountains of Australia

There is no formal charge for these talks but you're invited to make a voluntary contribution to the Federation to help cover travel and equipment.

Answers to Liz's Quiz on Page 13

Illuminated manuscript from the Book of Hunting, medieval book composed between 1387 and 1389 by Gaston Phoebus (Gaston III of Foix-Bearn, Count of Foix and Bearn). Illustrations also show deer, bear and otter hunting amongst colourful and beautifully executed meadows, flowers and trees.

From my journey: Circling the Pyrenees. They were on display in Foix Castle, Ariège, France.

NEW SPEAKERS**Trevor J Bevan MPBC**

Home Phone 01543-672862

Mobile Phone 07775625301

Email trevbev@hotmail.co.uk

I have been in the Staffordshire WI Handbook of recommended speakers for the past 4 years, and have been giving my talks for approx 8 years to Probus Clubs U3a, Rotary, Round Table and many similar organisations and also take great pride and satisfaction that they have been received very well, with many "word of mouth" recommendations.

My Talk is entitled "A Dickens of a Tale", and is given as a Member of The Pickwick Bicycle Club", Which is the Oldest Cycle Club in the "World" and the Oldest Dickensian Society still in Existence!!, with only 200 members "Worldwide, Each member taking a sobriquet from "The Pickwick Papers".

My only requirements are for 2 Long Tables to Display my Memorabilia of "Cycling" and "Dickens" having my own Lectern.

Fee is £50 for Daytime or Evening

Send articles to The Editor @ wmfwi@aol.com by 2nd Tuesday of every month



200 Club 2021



Shares cost £5.00 each and the return will be £10.00 per monthly draw. 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 October 2021.

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

WMFWI Treasurer, Iris Montgomery, 38 Wensley Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 1LT, to qualify for the first monthly draw in November 2020.

GOOD LUCK – BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

WMFWI, Iris Montgomery, 38 Wensley Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 1LT

200 CLUB 2021

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 October 2021) cheque enclosed for £ _____ please enclose a **stamped addressed envelope**.

Signed _____

Further forms are available from County House.

WEST MIDLANDS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

WI AND OFFICER ANNUAL UPDATE

Immediately after the Annual Meeting, WI Secretaries should complete this form and return by 30th NOVEMBER 2020 to

Email – kimslivinski60@gmail.com or post to Lynn Smith, 50 Station Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham B30 1DA

WI & Venue	Mailing Address	President	Secretary	Treasurer
<u>WI:</u> <u>Venue: Full Address</u> <u>Post Code:</u> <u>Day/ Week in month:</u> <u>Time:</u>	<u>Generic Email or other:</u> <u>Postal Address if preferred</u>	<u>Name</u> <u>Address (optional)</u> <u>Tel (optional)</u> <u>Email</u>	<u>Name</u> <u>Address (optional)</u> <u>Tel (optional)</u> <u>Email</u>	<u>Name</u> <u>Address (optional)</u> <u>Tel (optional)</u> <u>Email</u>

Declaration for Officers

The completed Officers list will be distributed to all Secretaries within WMFWI to enable them to contact their neighbouring WIs and Groups. The list must be held securely and in accordance with Data Protection / GDPR Guidelines. The information provided will not be passed outside of the WI and must only be used for WI business

By completing the details above, you are giving your consent for the Federation to collate and distribute this information.
Should you wish NOT to have your details disseminated then please annotate the form stating this.