



## News Sheet

### February 2025



#### Chairman's Chat

As we approach the time for you to be preparing for your WI AGMs I would like to share with you some words that were in a card I received from NFWI congratulating me on my appointment as County Chairman last October. That card contained the words 'Thank you for being an Inspiring Woman, your work in the WI means so much to so many women'. I took this card to my first Board of Trustees meeting and read it out to the other Trustees as it felt just as relevant to them as it did to me.

I also feel it is the same for all the WI committee members across the county. As your AGMs approach and whether you are up for re-election or about to be newly elected, please think about this statement. It really is empowering and gives a great insight into why we love the WI. It's not just about what we get from the WI as individuals but what we get from each other. Share your skills and friendship and you will really appreciate what the WI has to offer.

If you are stepping down from your committee and/or feel you would like to do more, we would love to have you join one of the Federation Sub Committees as numbers are below what we would like them to be. Being part of a sub-committee allows you to influence and organise the Federations activities so please give it serious consideration and contact Jackie at WI House for more information. [admin@ncfwi.org.uk](mailto:admin@ncfwi.org.uk)

Chris Carr

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

#### Join us on International Women's Day

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March at Guildhall,  
Northampton 11am – 3pm**

Lots of local Women's organisations to see and find out about and to celebrate with other women from around the County.

We are also looking for stewards to help at the WI stand. Please contact Fay Tennet if you can spare an hour of your time.

[fay10net@live.co.uk](mailto:fay10net@live.co.uk)



#### Save the Date

Come and join us on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June** on a trip to Bressingham Gardens & Steam Museum.

<https://bressingham.co.uk/>



#### Please note:

I am delighted to know that so many of you read my Quiz Corner and thank you all for spotting the deliberate mistake of last month.

I knew perfectly well that Paraguay and Bolivia are the landlocked South American countries but for reasons best known to myself typed in Uruguay!

Thank you everyone and let this be a lesson to us all, don't try to multitask!!

[christinelouvaine@icloud.com](mailto:christinelouvaine@icloud.com)

#### Enclosures with your Secretary:

- Treasurers Workshop Booking Form
- Annual Meeting Specimen Agenda
- County Bounty Application Form
- Subscriptions 'Pink form'

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle for 2025

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February – WI House Drop - in Session 10am - 2pm**  
Tea and Cake being served.

Please bring your donations of:

Stamps  
Old mobile phones or tablets  
Cameras  
Jewellery, including costume.  
Coins (foreign ones accepted)

## NFWI Annual Meeting and Resolution Briefing Conference

**Monday 31 March 2025 7pm-9pm**

Members Only £5

Do you know who our new Trustees are?

If not, ask your Secretary to send you our latest document with all the information, including photos!



## Upcoming!



## Spring Coffee Morning

**Friday 14 March**  
**WI House**  
**10am-12pm**



A Spring themed coffee morning will chase away those winter blues. Come along and meet friends old and new.

## YARNBOMBING – WWRC 2025

I am really excited about the progress we are making with the yarnbombing project and extremely grateful to all of you who are taking part. I can't wait to see it all on display. With that in mind we are looking for people that may be able to help in a practical way by sewing things together ready for display. We also need people to help us attach the displays onto the allotted street furniture and railings. This will entail tying, stapling, sewing or knitting things. We hope to have a local facility to use for storage whilst we do this.

## POST BOX TOPPERS

The WWRC local organising committee have also asked if I could encourage members to do Women's Rugby themed Post Box toppers around the county – Can you help?

Please let me know if you can assist with either of the above.

Chris Carr

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

## BULBS. BULBS. BULBS!



We will soon be sending out the 2025 Walkers bulb catalogues. The ones I planted last autumn are just peeping through. Please do take some photographs and send them to us so we can put them on our website.

[christinelouvaine@icloud.com](mailto:christinelouvaine@icloud.com)



## Quiz Corner

1. What charity work was Lady Denman involved in during the Second World War?
2. What body in the UK is responsible for all the lighthouses?
3. Which flowers are known as Candlemas Bells and February Fairmaids?

## County Bounty Winners!

£20 No. 70 Ind Brenda Astell Bugbrooke WI

£10 No.2 Ind Margaret Watts Chipping Warden & Edgcote WI

## 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)

## 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)

## 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:

Mary Earl	Geddington & Newton WI
Joan Nie	Thrapston WI

## Cakes for Cynthia Spencer Hospice

3 February – Northfield (Kingsthorpe) WI

10 February – Hackleton & District WI

17 February – Northampton Kingsley WI

24 February – Roade WI

3 March – Long Buckby WI

24 March – Earls Barton Millennium WI

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)

## Please note:

We realise that not all of our members are bakers but the Hospices will take bought cakes too so please consider donating cakes to them.

The Hospices provide such a valuable and excellent end of life care to those close to us in Northamptonshire.



## Cakes for Cransley Hospices

**No volunteers for 2025 as yet!**

Please email  
Sue Johnson Hill:

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

## COUNTY LUNCH – HOW TO CATCH A KILLER!

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 12.30 pm. Greens Norton Community Centre NN12 8BL. Members £26 Non-members £30**

Ever wondered how the police really catch a killer? Come and learn the truth from retired police officer Andy Tennet. Lunch will be served immediately after the talk and, of course, there will be a raffle!

**Menu and application form is with your Secretary.  
Ticket allocation date is Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**



**The County Bounty** begins again on 1 May 2025 and the application form is with this newsletter. Buying shares not only supports the work of your Federation, but you could also win a cash award.

The draw takes place monthly, plus 2 additional draws –1 at our AGM in October and 1 in April 2026.

## 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.

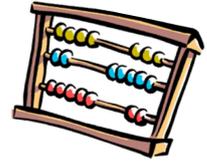
**WI Treasurers** – when paying an invoice sent by the Federation please could you write the invoice number on the back of the cheque or if paying by BACs use the invoice number as the reference – many thanks.

[admin@ncfwi.org.uk](mailto:admin@ncfwi.org.uk)

## Treasurer's Tips

Hopefully you've all received confirmation of your allocated IFE for this year, if you haven't then please contact the office. The Pink Form is included with the News Sheet and should be returned with your 2025-26 subscription fees. Please ensure that subs are paid over promptly and in any case by 30 April.

Deborah Mills  
(Badby and Fawsley WI)  
[darmills8@gmail.com](mailto:darmills8@gmail.com)



## MEMBERSHIP & TRAINING

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI)

Hopefully your WI has received plenty of nominations from members eager to find out how enjoyable, informative, friendly and fun committee meetings can be. Are you a member who may be interested in supporting your WI in this way? Be part of the ongoing success of your own WI by agreeing to be nominated or nominating yourself.

The recommended agenda for a WI Annual Meeting is available on the Northamptonshire Federation Website under Reports & Downloads. <https://northamptonshire.thewi.org.uk/reports-and-downloads> A specimen Agenda for your Annual Meeting is enclosed with the News Sheet.

More information can be found on **MyWI** about the format for WI Annual Meetings under *Running Your WI*. <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/guide-to-running-meetings/wi-annual-meetings>

The WI Handbook pages also contain details about how to hold an Annual Meeting. <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/wi-handbook>

This meeting is an opportunity to discuss how much fundraising needs to be done for the coming year when reviewing the budget. If your WI has been very successful with fundraising, your WI Committee may be able to consider reducing the WI portion of the Annual Subscription. The Programme Planners can also present the next year's Programme, for approval by the members.

## Quiz Answers

- 1.Land Army
- 2.Trinity House
- 3.Snowdrops

## Treasurers Workshop

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025 10am-12.30pm or 1.30pm- 4pm. Members Only £7**

Are you about to take on the role of Treasurer or an established Treasurer who would like an update?

Membership and Training Committee members will take you through a 'Year in the life of the WI Treasurer'. We will discuss budgets, keeping records, financial safeguards, charity law and where to find information and guidance. There will be open discussion and lots of handouts to help assist you in your role.

**Application Form is with your Secretary this month.**

## WI Adviser for February:

Christine Farmer  
(Preston Capes WI)

01327 361284

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