

# Leicestershire & Rutland

# County News

June 2020 Issue 461

From Home and Country 1923

## SOME NOTES FROM A VISITOR TO THE N.F.W.I. ANNUAL MEETING.

I VENTURE to send some general impressions of this wonderful gathering. The chairmanship was masterly, clarity, brevity and wit ruled the decisions.

Our President:

Unfortunately the chairman's back was turned to me and the determination and energy expressed by that back cannot be pictured by my fountain pen.

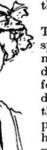
The organisation of the meeting was perfect, the audience was the best behaved that it has ever been

my lot to view. The General Secretary on whom the chief

responsibility of carrying out the A W.I. Secretary. work of Headquarters must rest

has a very clever head on very youthful shoulders. The shake of her head as she advised the chairman suggested the wisdom of a Socrates. Alas that

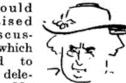
I was not seated in the front of the house!



Another President.

The speaking was excellent. The agenda reflected the intrepid spirit of the Executive Committee. I mastered with difficulty the alternative schemes for a suggested new constitution drawn up by this Committee and

three or four points would have raised nice discussions in which I longed hear the dele-



gates state divergent opinions. My hopes were disappointed, the ladies burked the fences. Conservative

woman ruled no change until a change is inevitable. The speakers interested me. They had studied the



Strong on Procedure.

subjects on which they spoke, they wasted no words. they obeyed the rules as laid down for speakers. The docility of these women to the rule of other women amazed me. The audience interested me even more than the speakers. Never before had seen such a collection of

women, handsome and plain, old and young, fashionable and staid, but all keen members of this great association which it is evident is setting an



Feather-headed Member.



The Jolly Member.

Earnest Member.

example of good order and progress to other associations less happily constituted. Adam was banished from this new Paradise where the Eves



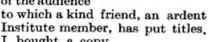
Future M.P.

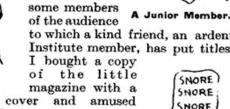
many shades and conditions are determined to manage their own affairs. We poor men may look over the garden fence and

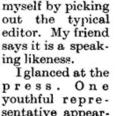
hope that on a future day, Jill may ask Jack's help in fetching



I made hasty sketches of







The Editor.

geographical

press. One youthful representative appeared almost bored. My prophetic fountain pen pictured him thus

in five minutes' time but he wasn't!!



#### New Institute Story.

A member's little girl, on being told that Auntie Mary had a new baby said:

"Why, what was the matter with the old one?"

### **County News**



# Leicestershire and Rutland **Federation**

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Contact the Federation Office

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# **Keep in Touch**

with the latest news of federation events, courses and activities.

#### Via the website:

leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk/

#### Follow us on facebook



just search for Leicestershire and Rutland WIs



Use your phone to Scan this QR to access the website.

#### Chairman's Column



This month's Column is written just after the VE Day celebrations. I am sure they took place in everyone's homes just not quite as most of us had planned earlier in the year. Most of us probably put our WI baking skills to use and made cake of some sort to have an afternoon tea. This lockdown is very bad for the waistline isn't it?

Some of our more senior members will have personal memories of VE Day but most of us will have to rely on family stories told over the years. We should make sure we talk to older relatives to ensure their stories live on. Or if we are the

ones with the stories pass them on to our children and grandchildren or even write them down so they are not lost.

The world has changed in many ways over the years since then and this time of lockdown has made most of us slow our lives down a little and take time to enjoy pastimes around our own homes such as gardening and crafts.

Society today seems to dictate that we do everything at full speed and if one good thing comes from this it may be that we realise that we don't need to be persuaded by social pressure that we need every latest gadget or have to join in with everything. We can take a bit of time for ourselves. We have no idea yet when WI events will be able to resume but as soon as we can we will look at what we can safely put on for you to attend. I know some WIs are meeting on social media and others keeping in touch with newsletters and phone calls. However you are keeping in contact make sure you ask for help if you need it. The Federation Team are all available to you, phone or email us. Take care and stay safe. Janet

This month Margaret has found us some interesting items from the archives. Please note some of the products advertised may be out of stock.

### From the Federation Secretary

I hope this message finds you safe and well and managing in the circumstances. Please see below some updates from the Federation. WI secretaries will be able to access the necessary forms.

#### WI Bulb Scheme

The Bulb Catalogue is also available on the website. We are taking orders via email or by post to WI House. The deadline for orders is 1 June 2020.

#### 2021 Diaries

This year we are asking for members to pre-order diaries. Secretaries should have received a pre-order form in the last mailing. The deadline for orders has been extended to 25 June 2020. Please send orders via email or by post to WI House.

#### **Denman Weekend**

We are still waiting to hear if this will be able to go ahead as planned. For the time being please do not send any balance of payment and we will let you know further information as soon as we are able to.

#### Lady Denman Cup Update

The Lady Denman Cup competition will continue this year. However, a decision has been made to extend the competition timescale.

To allow a fair and standardised competition timescale across all WIs and federations, the NFWI has set a closing date of Friday 18 September 2020 for members to submit their entry to their Federation office.

After this date, Federations have until Friday 16 October 2020 to select up to three entries to go forward for national judging. Results will be announced by mid-December 2020.

If you have any news or activities we are able to share in our newsletter or on Facebook we love to receive them!

Please do get in touch if you have any queries.

Regards Sarah Freeman Federation Secretary



We probably all know about the more famous suffragettes- the Pankhursts and Emily Wilding Davison - but what is less well known is that, after the success of the suffrage campaign, some of these women went on to setup and run the WI. Such a one was Edith Rigby, who planted a bomb in the Liverpool Corn Exchange and burned down Lord Leverhulme's wooden house on Rivington Pike. She founded a club for girls working in the weaving sheds of the local mills and took them out to the park to play cricket in their clogs.

She, like many other militant suffragettes, went on hunger strike and was force-fed in prison. Married to a long-suffering doctor, Edith refused to confine her servants to the attics and basements of their house: the maids ate in the dining room, wore no uniforms and had the evenings off. The evening the cook went to the theatre, leaving Dr Rigby a meal of sandwiches, proved something of a flashpoint with his wife.

When he complained she left the house. Dr Rigby waited patiently for her to return, as it was not first time this had happened. When she had not returned after a couple of weeks he hired detectives to trace her. She was working as an under housemaid in a large house in London. When he asked how she could treat him in this way, she replied, "I'm sorry sir, we're not allowed followers". She did, however, return to him.

In 1912 the Liberal Prime Minister Asquith who had promised the vote to women, put a stop to the Conciliation Bill, which would have given women the vote, a move which alienated many women who had supported the Liberal Party. Many of them transferred their allegiance to the newly formed Labour Party, and Edith reacted in typically violent fashion. She poured acid on the green of the local golf course and suggested to a friend that she should plant a bomb in the mouth of a cannon in a Blackburn park. As the friend had time on her hands before returning to Preston, where they both lived, she set fire to the stands at Blackburn Rovers Football Club. When the battle for votes for women had been won, Edith transferred her energies to the WI and founded the Hutton and Howick branch of the WI.

(Extract from The WI A Century in the Making by Mavis Curtis)



# Photograph Competition 'We've Got Talent!'



Bid to make the **front cover** of County News with **your** photo!

Photos to be submitted by 31 January 2021 for judging

The winning entry will receive a prize.
We need only digital photos
sent by email or memory stick,
of high resolution (min.1 MB),
and portrait layout

£2.00. per entry Entry form and details on the flyer



# VE Day in Appleby Magna

The ladies of Appleby Magna had been planning and preparing to decorate the WI's tree outside the village church as part of the VE Day celebrations. As our original plans were scuppered by the Coronavirus lockdown, we used bunting and decorations that we had already made to decorate our own houses and gardens prior to some socially distanced street partying.

Marion Nixon (Treasurer)

#### Let's all drink to lockdown

I'm normally a social girl I love to meet my mates But lately with the virus here We can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now We need to stay inside If they haven't seen us for a while They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did Before we got this old There wasn't any Facebook So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies Who would never be uncouth But we grew up in the 60s -If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll The pill and miniskirts We smoked, we drank, we partied And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married And turned into someone's mum, Somebody's wife, then nana, Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace Because our lives were full But to bury us before we're dead Is like a red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside For 4 weeks, maybe more I finally found myself again Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me I'd while away the hour I'd bake for all the family But I've got no flaming flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful I like a gutsy thriller I'm swooning over Idris Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze For when I'm being idle There's wine and whiskey, even gin If I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lock-down To recovery and health And hope this awful virus Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis And be back to join our mates Just hoping I'm not far too wide To fit through the flaming gates!

If you would like to visit Jan Beaumont Poetry on facebook I'm sure you'll find others you would enjoy. This poem was wrongly attributed to Pam Ayers. We have Jan's permission to publish it in County News

# HORSE CHESTNUTS

(without the outer green husk)

# ARE URGENTLY NEEDED

Collection is sponsored by The Ministry of Supply

# Collecting groups are being organised in your district

Groups of scholars, Boy Scouts, etc., are being organised to collect the "conkers". Receiving depots are being opened in most districts. All schools, Women's Institutes, W.V.S. Centres and Boy Scout Leaders will ordrise you of the address of your advise you of the address of your

nearest depot where 7/6 per cwi. is being paid for immediate delivery of the Chestnuts (without the outer green husk). This collection is valuable war work and is very urgent. Please encourage it.

\* LANDOWNERS

encourage this collection on Please your land.



SHE STOOPS TO "CONKER"

In the Autumn of 1917 children responded to a notice on their classroom walls:

#### 'THIS COLLECTION IS INVALUABLE WAR WORK AND IS **VERY URGENT. PLEASE ENCOURAGE IT.**'

But why was this huge effort so important in helping the Allies win the First World War?

A vital ingredient in the manufacture of cordite was a solvent called acetone. Although some was produced in Britain, most was imported. Low stocks became a crucial issue from 1914 onwards, and it was clear that an alternative domestic supply would be needed. Although it was never explained to them exactly why this national campaign was required, the conkers were processed to make much needed acetone. Remarkably, the cooker house, where the mash for fermentation was prepared, and the bases of the fermentation vessels, survive today at Holton Heath. The site, now owned by the Ministry of Defence, is closed.

(Adapted from For Home & Country 1919-1959 Penny Kitchen/ historicengland.org.uk)

#### Uses and Abuses of the humble comma.

Many of you will be familiar with the tale by Lynn Truss in her book 'Eats, Shoots and Leaves'

"A panda walks into a cafe. He orders a sandwich, eats it, then draws a gun and fires two shots in the air.

"Why?" asks the confused waiter, as the panda makes towards the exit. The panda produces a badly punctuated wildlife annual and tosses it over his shoulder.

"I'm a panda," he says, at the door. "Look it up."

The waiter turns to the relevant entry and, sure enough, finds an explanation.

Panda. Large black-and-white bear-like mammal, native to China. Eats, shoots and leaves."

So omitting a comma, or placing one inappropriately can at best make us laugh or at worse lead to serious misunderstanding.

#### **Commas in lists**

Commas come after each item in a list

I bought tomatoes, bananas, grapes, oranges and apples.

There is normally no need to put a comma before the 'and.'

#### The Oxford Comma

But in some circumstances the use of a comma before the and in a list is vital. Known as the Oxford comma. Gyles Brandreth, in his book 'Have You Eaten Grandma?', gives an example of a much needed Oxford comma. He quotes The Times Newspaper that included a description of a journey made by Peter Ustinov where:

'Highlights of his global tour include encounters with Nelson Mandela, an 800 year old demigod and a dildo collector.

#### Commas separate clauses in a sentence.

Gyles Brandreth, in his book on grammar, details a number of rules that apply to clauses. However, the easiest way to see where one is needed is to read your work aloud and judge where there is a pause in a sentence.

#### **Just for Fun**

# True or False?

- 1 West Ham United's nickname, the Hammers, is a reference to the area of London from which the team comes.
- 2 The British Library building at St Pancras was the largest public building constructed in the UK in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3 Kiwi fruit were originally known as Chinese gooseberries.
- 4 Krampus is an Austrian version of Father Christmas:
- 5 In the USA the Republican Party is represented by a donkey.
- 6 Princess Reema bint Bander Al Saud is the first woman to become an ambassador for Saudi Arabia.
- 7 The national curriculum was first introduced in schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 1978.
- 8 Richard Nixon was impeached over the Watergate scandal in 1974.
- 9 Liberia was founded by freed American slaves.
- 10 Countdown was the first programme shown on Channel 4.

Answers on the back page
How many did you get right without the
help of Google?

#### From the wine cellar

## GRAPEWISE

"know your grapes, understand your wine"

When the Federation Winoe first started learning about wines in the very early 1980s, one aspect of particular interest right from the very beginning was the humble grape. An easy plant to grow given the right conditions, i.e. latitude, aspect, soil, weather and variety. In short growing the right variety in the right place, just the same as any other plant.

Leaving varieties aside for the moment, the species of grape which produces the wine we know and love is **Vitis** (=vine) **vinifera** (=winemaker) otherwise known as the European vine, indigenous to the whole of Europe. There are other Vitis species throughout the world also producing 'grapes' which can also be fermented into wine of a sort but it is **vinifera** which can be made into the plethora of wines we find on the supermarket and wine merchants shelves today.

Now to those varieties, especially the really well-known ones, let's begin with one of the most obliging vines known to the growers:

CHARDONNAY - white, very obliging variety in that it grows well in all conditions from cool through to very warm. In cooler areas its characteristics are crisp and steely, citrusy with green apples, and high acidity. In mild/warmer climates, the acidity softens making the wine feel 'fatter' with richer fruits such as white peaches, and if made and/or aged in oak prior to bottling, then these processes can add rich butteryness, oak and notes of sweet vanilla making the wine really complex. There are so many Chardonnay wines on the shelves from all over the world, so whilst you are under 'lockdown' get on to the internet call up the source of wherever you do your on-line shopping currently and then do a search for 'Chardonnay wines'. You're sure to find something new to try.

Happy searching!

Sue Lobb Your Federation Winoe

Consume alcohol responsibly: www.drinkaware.co.uk

#### **Around the Counties**

## Answering the call for PPE



Our much loved WI member and NHS anaesthetist Laura Carrick put out a request asking if anyone could donate a plastic face shield, as NHS stock was running low and she had shifts over the weekend and beyond.

This gave two responses. One was a garden strimmer plastic face shield, gratefully accepted. The other response prompted immediate action from one of our members of **Breedon on the Hill WI**, Jo Yates, who contacted fellow members for materials and expertise. Volunteers Helen Hall and Jane Melen joined Jo in obtaining materials including plastic laminate sheets, hot glue gun, Velcro, Elastic and foam. The WI WhatsApp group proved vital to keep in touch. Photos of early attempts and comments were invaluable

as tips and expertise increased. Jo spent hours perfecting these masks to be durable, wearable, and hygienic. Prototype masks were left at the end of Laura's drive for her to try for fit and suitability. At the time of writing ten face shields have been made. What redoubtable ladies, especially Jo Yates with Helen and Jane and all other members who helped. We salute your wonderful efforts. It goes without saying that we shout a wholehearted Thank You to Laura and all NHS staff for their compassionate and professional work at this dreadful time.



Anne Barnacle, a member of **Birstall & Wanlip**, has made 30 drawstring bags for NHS staff to put their scrubs in. Well done, lets see what Anne comes up with next.



Mellor, Groby WI have been making headbands and scrub bottoms for local hospitals.

The first sample of scrubs top finished by



Julie and plenty of cutting out in Birstall with lots of material to use, which have been donated to the Birstall Community. Help from Hilary in Stathern and Clair in Barrow also greatly appreciated.



So far only four ladies have replied to a Facebook

appeal for volunteers. Please see appeal below.



Thurnby & Bushby WI got involved with buying travel sized shower gel/ shampoo for NHS nurses to use as they now have to

shower before they go home to their families due to the COVID-19 crisis. Several members contributed cash and Andrea purchased the items from Sainsbury's. Sainsbury's doubled what she bought so we now have a sizeable contribution. Andrea will deliver these to the person who put out the appeal who will pass them on.

I have recruited 14 Whissendine ladies, mostly WI but not all, who are geared up to sew. Initially Jean Denyer, who is the initiator and co-ordinator of us in Whissendine and others groups across Rutland, was working to supply care homes and hospitals in

Rutland. But on 20 April she had a plea from a doctor at a Leicester hospital and 'it would appear that they have very few and are desperate'. And we are going to start to help them.

This would really be a great thing for the WI to get involved and lead in at this dreadful time. I am sure there are WI members in Leicester and Leicestershire who would be ready and willing to help – just as there are in Whissendine! Of course it needs co-ordination and Jean Denyer would be very happy to help.

Another 2500 meters of fabric, which complies with NHS standards, has now been donated by Chris Evans. Volunteers are now needed to make scrubs up. Contact Maxilyn Geary via WI House

#### **WI Supporting the Community**

With no pharmacy in the village, no more delivery slots available and many residents (including WI members) in isolation, volunteers from **Huncote WI** started a prescription collection and delivery service. With advertising and word of mouth spreading the news, the service is well used and much welcomed. The pharmacy is also grateful, as it reduces pressure on them (we deal with phone calls/queries) and face-to-face interaction with the public.

# Time to enjoy crafts, hobbies and other interests



At the **Huncote WI** March meeting three members of our programme planning committee organised an "Easter Crafts" session.

Rachel Herbert demonstrated how to make a cute "Bunny Themed" decorated vase from a humble jam jar. Kim Goodwin held a cupcake decorating session. Sue Holmes showed members how to make paper flowers.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed taking part and took their creations home with

and took their creations home with pride. It was a fun, lively meeting led by talented members. Little did we know that "lockdown" was around the corner!

Heather Roythorne-Finch from Stathern

WI has made some oat, fruit and almond biscuits. It's her first bake of Lockdown.



#### **Around the Counties**

Time to enjoy crafts, hobbies and other interests (cont.)

Beverly Blackburn and Maxilyn Geary of Birstall & Wanlip WI have been busy knitting and crocheting blankets, hearts for the hospital to give to patients and their relatives

and sun hats for after lockdown.





Kate Steadman from Newbold Verdon WI isn't a huge fan of the Kindle but in these troubling time a lot of publishers can't send physical copies of books, so she has to admit that having some corking reads



waiting for her on her kindle she is actually excited to pick it up! We love book reviews so let us know your thoughts if you've read any of these or any other books.

Mary Hobbs of Long Whatton Ladies WI made this jumper while in lockdown.



# Staying in Touch

Elmesthorpe members received hand

made cards and phone calls via the institute's snowline plus the option of zoom to keep in contact and continue friendships.

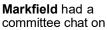


### Staying in Touch (cont.)

## Zooming .....

Ashby Spa WI ladies enjoyed a coffee chat via zoom. They have set up regular Wednesdays while in lockdown.

Three ladies from Birstall and Wanlip WI had a zoom chat on Saturday and intend to continue. Other members welcome to join them.



Thursday and are hoping to have a member meeting later on.



Other WIs are keeping in touch via email. Groby's President is sending out a weekly Newsletter. They have been reproduced on Groby's web page https:// grobywi.org

Please see an extract below.

Hello Ladies,

Well for those of you who may remember (we aren't in the slightest bit old), this feels like a Crackerjack memory to me but instead of the phrase 'It's Friday, it's five to five, and it's Crackerjack', instead it's Monday so it must be time for the Newsletter.

With it being the seventh week of writing does this mean I am officially now classed as a blogger or influencer?

It is encouraging that we are finally starting to hear some good news reports:

Captain Tom Moore has received an honorary promotion to Colonel with his target going up and up to over £31 million.

Members are still generating large numbers of bags, scrubs and masks for the NHS. I am proud to say my 90 year old mum has sewn masks for her elderly neighbours, even though they are currently all in lockdown.

So, what else do I have to report this week:

I understand that Morrisons are coming up trumps by making up packages of flour at 65p per kilo and yeast from their own baking stocks for sale to the public. So if you have an urgent need to make bread there is a potential solution for

Members have been coming up with alternatives to bread made with yeast with some starting their own sour dough cultures. If you do not have the patience

to wait for a culture, another option put forward is to use homemade buttermilk created by souring milk with lemon juice in the proportion of 400ml and 1.5 tablespoons of lemon juice. I am still making use of the free theatre viewings available on YouTube and enjoying several Andrew Lloyd Weber musicals including amongst others 'Love Never Dies' which is on the list for one of our future theatre visits (7

October at Curve). For those who are not aware the library service make ebooks and magazines available for free via their web site www.leicestershire.gov.uk/ leisure-and-community/libraries/digitallibrary-services/ Even if you are not currently a member you can join online and gain access to a wide variety of magazines from women's weekly to craft, cooking, gardening etc. You should be able to find something of interest to you, all for free.

New games are in the pipeline: Homemade croquet can be achieved by creating tin foil hoops with embedded sticks to place them in the ground. A tin foil ball, weighted with a stone inside, can be hit by a broom end 'mallet'. I am still avoiding a haircut disaster after hearing that Lorraine from Breakfast tv was trimming her husband's hair and nearly chopped the top of his ear off. Apparently, a central parting and the curtain look is the way to go; I will be keeping my curtains closed. Exercise should be taken with caution. On Friday, I joined in with too much gusto via Zoom to a 90s themed aerobics class. On Saturday, cycled to Anstey with shopping for my mum and yesterday walked the whole golf course in just 1 hour. Today, the only parts of my body that aren't complaining are my fingertips and nose end! So ladies, keep

on staying safe. Best wishes, Angela

#### **Advertisements & Announcements**

Please send material for inclusion in County News to WI House by e-mail: wihouse@Irfwi.org or post to arrive by the FIRST of the preceding month at the latest.

Adverts and announcements by the same time to:

**Margaret Osborne** 16 Spencer Street Hinckley LE10 1RB Tel:01455 449956 margaretosborne@Irfwi.org

# Advertising Rates

WI Announcements 5p pw For sale/wanted (WI only) 5p per word text only £5 per column inch with graphics. Minimum charge £3.00 **Charity rate** £5.00 per column inch Commercial rate (including WI members business advertising) £9.00 per column inch

Discounts available for regular advertisers. Please pay on receipt of invoice only.

Cheques made payable to LRFWI and sent to WI House.

We do not accept any responsibility for any adverts published in County News.

Advertisements are accepted subject to space available.

#### ALL VIDEO &CAMCORDER CASSETTES CONVERTED TO DVD

£8 per cassette: additional copies £4

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£5 plus p & p special discounted rates for WI **GWYNNETH DARBY (WI)** 

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Adverts in County News will be seen on the website.

Taken from For Home & Country Rural life 1919-1959





# NO MORE MANUAL EMPTYING

A BOON TO THE COUNTRY DWELLER!

Age-old Sanitation Problem Solved

by Destrol, with a range of automatically emptied closets which give hy-gienic sanitation at low cost. Without cesspit, without septic tank and without either mains water or sewers!

Models from £19. 10. 0. available. Hire Purchase facilities on all models.

This is the Destrol Fulflush model, looking and behaving like a normal water flush closet—BUT without either MAINS WATER or sewers



NO MAINS SERVICES?

#### True or False? answers

- 1 False: It's a reminder that the team was founded by members of the Thames Ironworks
- 2 True: 10 million bricks were used in its construction.
- 3 True: The name was changed for marketing purposes
- 4 False: Krampus is a demonic creature said to visit children, issuing punishments for bad behaviour.
- 5 False: The republican Party is represented by an elephant
- 6 True: She was appointed as the kingdom's ambassador to the USA in early 2019.
- 7 False: It was introduced in 1988. GCSEs were taught for the first time in the same year
- 8 False: He became the first American president to resign, which he did to avoid impeachment.
- 9 True: A private organisation called the American Colonization Society acquired land on the West coast of Africa for freed slaves. Liberia declared independence in 1847
- 10 True: It aired at 4.45pm on 2 November 1982 and was presented by the late Richard Whiteley.