

Chairman's Column



As we get towards the end of the year it has been so lovely to see the wonderful poppy displays that some of you have created. Remembrance Sunday was very different this year but was still a dignified and fitting tribute to members of the Armed Forces who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service of our Country. Let's hope next year is back to the more usual tribute.

Linda and I attended the National Council meeting, two days of Zoom meetings online. It was very different to the usual get together with not as many small break out meetings but we felt we had achieved something at the end of the two days, still able to having a vote on proposals and learning some of the ideas that NFWI have for the future. We managed to put questions forward and learn how other Federations are coping at the moment as well. We were surprised to learn that the Membership three month extension will cost NFWI around 1.7 million pound in lost revenue. A staggering figure.

I have also attended the Somerset Council meeting online, something that probably wouldn't happen in normal times but it has given us an insight into how it can be done as it is looking likely that we will have to do the same next year.

I hope you have been enjoying "meeting " your Board members in Trustees Tuesday on Facebook, if you don't do Facebook you can still look at it by searching online and looking for the Leicestershire and Rutland Women's Institute page.

It just remains for me, on behalf of the Federation to wish you all a very peaceful and pleasant Christmas. It may not turn out the same as last year's celebration but just take a moment to think of all your WI friends and look forward to when we can get together in person and share the fellowship the WI gives us.

Thinking of you all, Janet



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Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes
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Find us on Facebook: Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of WIs



Membership

Have you completed the Count Me In! Membership Survey?

This year marks the 105th anniversary since the WI formed in Britain on 16th September 1915. And on WI Day, 16th September 2020, the NFWI launched its new five-year strategic vision with 4 statements outlining how the organisation plans to grow its membership and reach more women, making a positive impact in communities across the UK.

The NFWI want to build a more Inclusive, Flexible, Bold & Inspiring, and Growing & Relevant future. You can help by completing the Count Me In! Survey. This will help the NFWI better understand its membership and ensure that everything is developed with you in mind.

Why not have a go and be included?

The survey featured as a hard copy in the October issue of WI Life. You can complete this and return it by post to NFWI London. If you would prefer to complete the survey online, just visit www.thewi.org.uk/countmein

The deadline is Sunday 31 January 2021.

Mandy Cutler, on behalf of the Membership Committee.



Meet your Membership Committee!

This committee is responsible for assisting WIs with any help they require.



Mandy Cutler, Membership Committee Chairman

I have been a member of Hinckley Canalside WI for 7 years, as Programme Secretary for the first year and from 2014 to date as President. Canalside is a large, flourishing WI and I enjoy the companionship and all the activities on offer in more 'normal' times, including the walking group and our charity fundraising events.

In September 2018 I qualified as a WI Adviser – I was lucky enough to enjoy the residential stays at Denman College - and have recently become Chair of the LRFWI Membership Committee and represent them at Board of Trustees' meetings.

I retired from English teaching in 2012, having taught at Lutterworth College for 25 years.

Like so many WI members at present, I am missing the socialising and fun that our face to face monthly meetings and events brought. Let's hope 2021 will bring a return to more optimistic times.

Zoom Hub

In these unusual times, many WIs are using Zoom presentations as a way of keeping members in touch with one another. In the week beginning the 17th August our Federation Secretary, Sarah Freeman, emailed a list of online speakers to all WI Secretaries.

If you have other online speakers you can recommend, please keep Sarah informed and maybe consider writing a brief article for County News!

Mandy Cutler, on behalf of the Membership Committee.



2021/21 Resolution Shortlist

1. A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer

Every two hours in the UK someone dies of ovarian cancer. Making sure GPs and the public know what to look for will not only ensure the early detection and treatment of this disease, but transform lives today and for generations to come. NFWI calls on WI members everywhere to help increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer.

2. Stop women dying prematurely from coronary heart disease (CHD)!

Coronary heart disease (CHD) is twice as deadly for women in the UK than breast cancer. To avoid premature deaths caused by a lack of awareness of the symptoms and misdiagnosis, the NFWI calls on WI members to improve understanding among the public and healthcare professionals of the symptoms of a heart attack and its prevalence in society, particularly among women, and to campaign to tackle inequalities in treatment.

3. Racism and discrimination

Systemic racism and discrimination is still a prominent challenge in society. The global protests surrounding the Black Lives Matter Movement have once again emphasised the extent of the inequality and injustice that people from BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) communities still face across a wide range of settings including the justice system, employment, education and healthcare.

The NFWI and its members, in furtherance of their duties as citizens, agree to take concrete action to stamp out racial inequalities including by:

- campaigning for decision-makers to implement the recommendations of existing reviews on racial inequality, and taking action following forthcoming reviews;
- raising public awareness of these issues; and
- otherwise taking suitable action to increase recognition of, and help to address, this inequality and injustice.

4. Now's the time to act! Protect your nature space to create wildlife-friendly communities

UK wildlife is in decline, but solutions exist within all our communities. The NFWI calls on its members to participate in national schemes and local organisations and mobilise their groups to take action to protect wildlife in their own or local green spaces, protecting biodiversity and the environment, and creating a network of accessible wildlife-friendly communities throughout the UK.

5. Stop the destruction of peat bogs to tackle climate change

Peat cutting for compost is harming both our natural environment and our efforts to tackle climate change. 80% of peatlands in the UK are damaged and release millions of tonnes of CO2 into the atmosphere each year. The WI calls on its members to cease using peat-based compost, to persuade others to cease using it and to work with garden centres to encourage them to stock alternative products which already exist, thereby reducing the demand for peat to be harvested.

The deadline for members selection results to arrive at WI House is **18 January 2021**. We understand the problems caused by the Covid crisis but would be very grateful if WIs could collate their members' choices and sent them electronically to WI House by that date. Please do not send the individual slips from WI Life.

If you have any queries please contact
Sue Mottram Resolutions Co-ordinator
suemottram@lrfwi.org
01455 212410

Membership Booklets & Membership Cards

Membership booklets and Membership cards will be posted by NFWI to WI Secretaries between 27 November and 9 December. If WI Secretaries haven't received them by 14 December please contact WI House.

Though distribution will not be as easy this year, due to the difficulties getting together, we hope that each WI will find ways to make sure they reach members as soon as possible.

Please get in touch with WI House if additional membership booklets are required.

Fundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online you could be raising free donations for the Federation with easyfundraising?



All you need to do is go to:

easyfundraising.org.uk & support leicesterandrutlandfwi
Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.

After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to us at no extra cost to you!

Thank you for your support.

Some Festive ideas from Food & Flowers...

The ladies who attended the Christmas Wreath-making day at North Kilworth last year will remember Jennifer's delicious Frangipane Mince-pies, and she is sharing her recipe.

Frangipane Mince Pies

Oven 180°C fan or Gas 6

Deep patty tins, makes approx. 16 (though I prefer the mini mince-pie size)

Shortcrust pastry

8oz/200g plain flour

4oz/100g mixed butter and white fat

1 egg beaten with a little lemon juice and water.

Filling

Approx. half a jar of mincemeat or equivalent of home made.

Frangipane

3oz/75g softened butter

3oz/75g caster sugar

3oz/75g ground almonds

a few drops of almond extract

1 egg. Beat all ingredients together until well blended

A few flaked almonds or halved glace cherries to top the tarts.



1. I make my pastry in the processor by blitzing the flour and fats with a little salt if you wish for approx. 30 seconds then add the liquid slowly pulsing to a stiff paste.
2. Chill for 30 mins then roll out thinly to line the patty tins.
3. Put a generous teaspoon of mincemeat into each and top with a generous teaspoon of frangipane. No need to spread it as it finds its own level.
4. Sprinkle a few almond flakes on top or ¼ or ½ glace cherry.
5. Bake in preheated oven for 15 to 20 mins turning the oven down towards the end if getting too brown.
6. Delicious served slightly warm. Will freeze well.

As the Wreath-making day has inevitably been cancelled this year, Margaret has some tips on making your own festive door hanging.

Make your own Eco-Friendly Christmas Wreath

To make the base, without using floral foam, use –
Willow / Birch / Twigs / Pine / Holly

1. Wearing gardening gloves, form into a circle or preferred shape.
2. Weave and tie with wire or string until it is firm and strong enough to decorate.
3. Next attach wire or ribbon so that you can hang your wreath.
4. Use wire, string or a glue gun to attach your chosen decorations.

Be imaginative – use any type of greenery, holly, ivy, cones, dried fruit, cinnamon sticks, berries, baubles, hessian or ribbon and weave through some mini battery operated lights for a little sparkle.

The possibilities are endless!



Reader Recipe

I came across this recipe in a magazine and it was delicious. Another good use of windfall apples if you have them. I used blackberries instead of the sultanas!

Apple & Almond Pudding

4 Bramley Apples
50g soft light brown sugar
50g sultanas (or blackberries)
100g butter
100g caster sugar
2 eggs
100g ground almonds
1 tsp ground cinnamon (or to taste)
Flaked almonds



Peel, core and cut apples into bite size pieces. Add light brown sugar plus 1 tablespoon of water and cook until just soft. Add sultanas. Grease a 600ml pudding bowl and add the apple mixture. Cream butter and caster sugar, add eggs then ground almonds and cinnamon. Pour onto apples and spread evenly. Sprinkle with flaked almonds if wished. Bake at 180 degrees for approx. 45 minutes or until the topping is cooked through. Serve with crème fraiche (or your favourite addition!)

Fran Marsland
Broughton Astley WI

WI House

Meet your Federation Secretary

After working in support and management roles in adult social care for over 17 years, I moved to my role as Federation Secretary at the start of March to escape the 24:7 shift patterns and enable me to spend more time with my family. Little did I know that I would soon be working at home, refreshments provided by my husband whilst on furlough, sharing a home work space with my 2 teenagers for 3 months!

My interest in the role came from my enthusiasm for volunteering. I have run the local Girl Guide unit for nearly 20 years and enjoy organising weekly activities as well as numerous camping and overnight experiences including a trip to Paris and Disneyland Paris in 2018. Like many WIs, our activity has moved online since lockdown.

I am also Chair of Trustees for our local community library enabling it to remain open, run by volunteers, since Leicestershire village libraries were threatened with closure in 2014. I volunteer in the library most weeks.

In my 'spare' time I enjoy baking and gardening and the last few months has provided plenty of opportunity to enjoy these past times!

I am able to work from home during periods of lockdown but still visit WI House during the week to collect post so please don't hesitate to keep posting what you would normally. When working from home I receive calls on my mobile to ensure the service to members remains the same. I have enjoyed getting to know members over the phone but look forward to being able to welcome you all at WI House as soon as this is possible.

Sarah Freeman, Federation Secretary (and County News editor)



WI House Christmas Closure

WI House will be closed from Thursday 24 December 2020 to Sunday 3rd January 2021 inclusive.



We would like to wish WI members, their families and friends a Happy Christmas and hope that 2021 is a better year for all!

Margaret Johnston Trophy Competition 2021

Leisure Activities Committee

The theme of this year's writing challenge is ...
'The Ups and Downs in 2020'
in no more than 500 words. Your entry should be typed,
if possible, on A4 paper.

Entry fee: £4 Closing date: 10 January 2021

Entry forms are on the flyer which has
gone out to WI secretaries
and is also on the downloads section of the website.

The winning entry will be displayed
at the Annual Council Meeting in March 2021 and be
featured in County News.

Photography 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

The Edith Buckley Poetry Competition 2021

In memory of Edith Buckley, Blackfordby WI

'Lockdown'



Use any poetic form to capture the changes
& challenges of lockdown in Leicestershire, in your village/
within yourself in no more than 150 words.

Entry fee: £4 Closing date: 4 February 2021

Entry forms are on the flyer which has
gone out to WI secretaries
and is also on the downloads section of the website.

The winning entry will be displayed
at the Annual Council Meeting in March 2021 and be
featured in County News.

Federation Art Trophy 2021

Art & Crafts Committee

Fairground

Entrants should submit a painting in any two dimensional
drawing or painting medium. The actual artwork shall not
exceed A3 (42.0 x 29.7 cm) in size excluding the mount/
frame and must have fittings suitable for hanging.

Entry fee: £4 Closing date: 11 February 2021

Entry forms are on the flyer which has
gone out to WI secretaries
and is also on the downloads section of the website.

The winning entry will be displayed
at the Annual Council Meeting in March 2021 and be
featured in County News.



Save the Date! Annual Council Meeting

6 March 2021, On Zoom

Free for all members!



Speakers

Christine Walkden

Horticulturalist, author and TV gardener

Sally Illsley

Girlguiding Division Commissioner for Loughborough
and former UK Deputy Chief Guide



We would like to inform all members about our proposed Annual Council Meeting
moving online.

You will be able to book a **free** place at this event
through your WI Secretary.

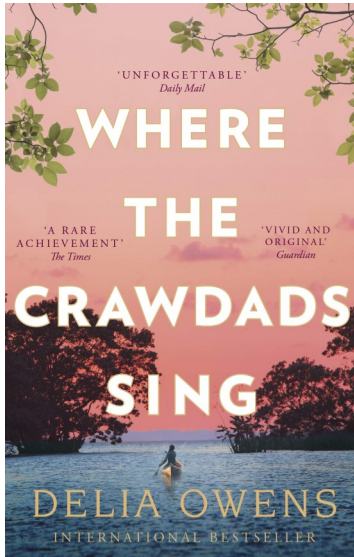
Further information will be available in January.

Speakers subject to change at short notice.

This event may be photographed, we will presume permission unless we are otherwise informed.

Book Review

"Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens



This is the debut novel of Delia Owens, who is a wildlife scientist and who has previously published three non-fiction books about her life in Africa.

Where the Crawdads Sing is a murder mystery with a difference. It is set in the 1950s and 1960s in the marshland area of the North Carolina coast and describes the life of Kya, abandoned by her family and known as the Marsh Girl, and the beauty and nature of her environment, so wild and

remote that you might even hear the crawdads (crayfish) sing.

The story includes so much detail of the wildlife of the area as well as the racial and social divisions of that era. I really enjoyed it and can thoroughly recommend.

Fran Marsland
Broughton Astley WI

Subscriptions

New members from 1st October 2020-31st March 2021 will pay a membership fee of just £10.75.

Please note that this does not include insurance so should be split as follows:

WI Share £5.28

Federation share £2.50

NFWI share £2.97

Insurance 60p

Payments made to LRFWI should be £6.07 per member.

There is no form to complete simply send cheques with a covering note to WI House.

Congratulations

Congratulations to
Dorothy Tomlinson,
Peatling Magna WI

whose entry
Mind your own Business!
was put forward by the
Federation for the Lady
Denman Cup.



The competition this year was to write about
'What I heard on the bus...'

Best of luck to Dorothy!

Around the Counties

Ullesthorpe

In September we took part in a scarecrow festival in the village as the produce show had to be cancelled.



Thringstone

Thringstone WI Knit & Natter group meet once a month in a member's home. We had a few months of lockdown when we could not meet though when the 'rule of six' was in effect a few of us gathered again. However, we have not been wasting our time as you will see from the photo. Last year we took some items to a church in Ashby who distribute them to relevant charities. We enquired if we could do the same this year and they said they would be glad to have our contributions. So, an email out to all members produced an impressive number of garments. Prem babies hats & mittens, other baby clothes, children's jumpers, adult scarves and hats, many in sets, with gloves, and even a toy caterpillar.



Birstall & Wanlip

Birstall & Wanlip WI delivered goody bags to their members. Funding for the goody bags was given by Birstall Parish Council from the £3000 from the Edith Murphy Foundation for the Birstall Gala, which was cancelled this year. They included Afternoon tea - Scones with crabapple or quince and apple jelly.

Craft - a festive wooden gift tag to 'craft it, stick it, make it' and then use on a present to someone special, or hang on your Christmas tree.

Bulbs - one or two pot luck bulbs, ideal for bedding or borders either red or blue.

Plant - Something for the kitchen windowsill or the garden Also included were a quiz and crumble recipe. Members were encouraged to reuse their bag for the Secret Santa!



Blackfordby

Taking inspiration from the famous ceramic poppies art installation at the Tower of London, the ladies of Blackfordby Women's Institute have been busy making their own version as a tribute to Britain's war heroes.

This time around they have knitted, crocheted and embroidered hundreds of poppies.

It was an idea which stemmed from our craft group, and it just took off from there. More than 30 of our members contributed - some of them with huge numbers of poppies - and we are thrilled with the final installation."



One of our ladies also knitted purple poppies to make a special wreath to go alongside the installation. The purple poppy is a symbol of remembrance in the United Kingdom for animals that served during wartime .



Hinckley Canalside

In September, Hinckley Canalside WI members enjoyed a presentation by Charlotte Wakeling on introducing the wonders of jewellery making with silver clay! We found Charlotte's presentation inspiring and her use of brief video clips to illustrate various stages of the process brought it all to life.

Charlotte Wakeling, is the founder and designer of Felix & Reuben Keepsake Jewellery. She is an experienced and qualified jeweller, silversmith, and silver clay artist.

Silver clay is truly magical to work with, there are so many possibilities - the only limit to what can be achieved is your imagination! Charlotte will take you through an introduction to silver clay, showing the process of capturing natural forms and turning them into silver jewellery. You'll get an insight, via demonstration and videos, to mould making, shaping, refining through to firing and polishing. Charlotte teaches silver clay workshops in Hinckley, so if you like what you see you can book a workshop to learn the process in person!



Bags of poppies kept arriving and as a result we have made this lovely poppy installation. The main wreath has been made up from one poppy from each member and one of our talented ladies embroidered the centre panel.

Broughton Astley



In remembrance of all who were killed or injured in war, Broughton Astley WI laid their poppy wreath at their village war memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

Made in 2018 when members were knitting poppies for the

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal to celebrate 100 years since the end of WW1, we knitted a few more to make our own personal remembrance wreath.

Leire

Our online speaker at our recent meeting was Bruce Durham from the Harborough Woodland Trust who gave a talk entitled "Trees Please!". The Trust began in February inspired by school children chanting "who's future? our future". Their aim is to support and implement the planting of trees in communities and neighbourhoods. Bruce outlined the benefits of trees to our mental and physical health and wellbeing as well as the long-term benefits to air quality and shade, space for wildlife, walking and cycling and carbon absorption. Bruce also showed pictures of how trees, when strategically planted, can slow the flow of water and reduce flooding and how this has been successful in parts of the country prone to flooding.



The trust works alongside key organisations, schools and landowners offering expertise and planting programs.

On the theme of trees, our members held a photo competition of "a tree depicting a season". Here is the winning photo.

Countesthorpe

We might not be able to meet as usual but we've managed to have 4 committee meetings whilst obeying the rule of 6 and are keeping in touch with our members who have been occupying themselves in a variety of ways.

The lovely weather earlier in the year made meeting up in gardens nice and easy and good old mother nature has been wonderful to watch. We're a resilient lot and two of our members have not only been helping others with shopping but have completed a charity walk for Alzheimers raising £800 towards their research. Another member has finished writing the book that she's had on the go for a number of years and a 90th birthday was celebrated with a socially distanced lunch in the garden. We've had

a go at dingbats and an Around Britain quiz to keep the old grey matter ticking.

There's been lots of sewing, walking, baking, gardening, reading and jigsawing!

We are really looking forward though to meeting up once more when it's safe to do so

and hope that soon bubbles will again just be what children blow for fun, masks will be for Halloween and space will be for astronauts!

Stay well everyone.



Cossington

A lovely photo of Barbara Orridge who has been presented with a Cyclamen plant on her retirement as President of Cossington WI and after a recent operation. Barbara was thanked for all her hard work over the last four years, especially during the last six months which have been very difficult.



Leicester Ladies

On a lovely Saturday in September a small but select group from the LLWI ventured out into the County and had a relaxing walk around Thornton Reservoir.

We thoroughly enjoyed the setting, oodles of birdlife and the flat even path. The only downside was, no tea shop! We do like a post walk coffee and cake.



Old Money Quiz Answers from October issue

	£	s	d
Boy's name			
Bob		1	0
Girl's name			
Penny			1
Type of headwear			
Crown	5		0
Transport			
Penny farthing			1¼
Male singer			
Tenor (Tenner)	10	0	0
Craftsman			
Tanner (sixpence)			6
Sun-moon-star			
3 far things (three farthings)			¾
Type of pig			
Guinea	1	1	0
Thief			
Nicker	1	0	0
Poorly sea creature			
Sick squid (£6)	6	0	0
	18	7	9

Copy for County News

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

Adverts and announcements by the same time to finance@lrfwi.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.

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

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Public Affairs

NO MORE violence against women

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread, persistent & devastating human rights violations in our world today and remains largely unreported due to the impunity, silence, stigma and shame surrounding it. Since the Coronavirus lockdown, calls to the national domestic abuse helpline have risen by 49% and the number of domestic killings has more than doubled.

How you can get involved

Take part in 16 days of action - 25th November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10th December (Human Rights Day). You could put together care packages for your local women's refuge centre. (find local services at www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic-abuse-directory) Hold a photo opportunity wearing orange (the UN colour for 16 days of action)

Take part in White Ribbon Day 25 November 2020 -

White Ribbon day is all about recruiting male ambassadors in your local community and asking them to pledge to speak out against violence against women.

To find out more visit: www.whiteribbon.org.uk

Ask your MP to support action to end online abuse—

Online abuse is a growing problem, and has a devastating impact on people's lives. It also disproportionately affects young people and women. We are asking government to commit to more practical action to #endonlineabuse.

Save the Date—International Women's Day 8 March 2021

International Women's Day provides a great opportunity to shine a spotlight on our campaign to end violence against women. It is also a chance to celebrate women's enormous contribution to human kind and the achievements – social, economic, cultural and political – that women have accomplished.



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