



News Sheet April 2025



Chairman's Chat

As we enter Spring and see green shoots appearing in the garden, I'd like to think the same happens as a new WI year begins: new speakers and celebrations to share with friends old and new.

We also have much to look forward to with events being planned by the Board of Trustees and Sub committees. With that in mind the Trustees have been looking at how they can simplify the booking process for members wanting to attend Federation events and activities. They are also conscious of how much work this can be for treasurers and secretaries, so are currently researching the best way to improve this process and reduce their workload. Please keep your eyes peeled as we look to introduce changes over the next few months.

In the meantime, keep feeding those new shoots and let your WI grow!

Chris Carr
christine_carr@outlook.com

STOP PRESS!



NCFWI have negotiated a 10% discount for a group of up to 6 WI members on production of your membership card (download from MyWI) at all McManus pubs in the County. Please visit their website for venue details:

<https://www.mcmanuspub.co.uk/our-pubs/>

Upcoming!

Wilson Browne Workshops



Monday 7th April – 7pm

- Wills the benefits of having one
- The use and need of LPAs and what happens if you don't have one

Tuesday 8th April - 2pm

- Care Funding & your property – brief overview of care funding and how we can use trusts in wills to protect your family assets; discussion about life time property trusts

County Quiz

By the time you read this, the Bi-Annual County Quiz will be almost upon us. I hope you have got your teams registered – note I said Teams!

You can make up another team with a neighbouring WI as long as they are paid up members. I hope you have all been practising! Don't forget it's not the winning – it's the taking part!

An evening of fun, friendship and networking with your fellow members - that's what the WI is all about. Who is going to turn out to be the brainiest WI in the County for 2025?

May the best team win!

Ticket Allocation Dates in April

Remember to submit your application forms for the following events with ticket allocation dates in April:
Treasurers Workshop – 7 April 2025

Full details of this event are in the Events Sheet.

Enclosures with your Secretary:

- President & Secretaries Workshop Form
- Supplementary Speakers List
- Annual Meeting Screening Event Form
- Trip to Malvern Autumn Show
- Trip to St Albans

BRESSINGHAM TRIP

Thursday 12th June

Please note!

We hope you are looking forward to the Bressingham trip, those that plan to go. There has been a re direction in that the price originally quoted was for the coach and ticket. The price payable to WI House is just £35 members and £38 for non-members. This is for the coach only. The rest is payable on the day. Apologies for any confusion caused.

Members £35, non-members £38

Entrance Ticket price £15 to be collected on the day – please bring cash!

**Saturday
27 September**



Food, Gardening,
Nostalgia and so much
more...



Bulbs, bulb, bulbs!

Please make sure you pass around the Walkers Bulb Catalogues and give your order to the Secretary for her to collate to send to WI House – even a small order helps the Federation to raise much needed funds as well as adding beauty to your garden or village.

Looking out of my kitchen window I have a beautiful display of vibrant purple crocus as well as narcissi and snowdrops.



Visit to St Albans Hertfordshire

Wednesday 23rd July 2025

Members £26, non-members £30. Coach Only.

We are delighted to let you all know we are running a coach trip to St Albans in Hertfordshire. St Albans offers the chance to visit the incredible history and the stunning Cathedral which features medieval wall paintings.

Verulamium park nearby has ornamental lakes and the remains of the city's ancient Roman wall. There is also a wealth of artisan shops and high street shops. The benefit of visiting on a Wednesday is it is market day and the market spans the whole length of the high street. There is plenty to see and do whether it be an historic visit or retail therapy, or a bit of both, the choice is yours. Let us take you, whilst you relax. Application will be with your secretary next month.



**John Lewis
Milton Keynes**

We are working with John Lewis to offer members an Exclusive Shopping & Network event!

More details next month.

OPEN WATER SWIMMING



Would you like to try Open Water Swimming?

Fay Tennet, (Open Water Swimmer, Open Water Lifeguard, Swimming Coach and teacher), has offered to lead a 90 minute trial session. There are 2 possible locations; Castle Ashby and/or Silverstone.

Interested?

Register your interest to admin@ncfwi.org.uk. A kit list, instructions and an idea of cost will be supplied to those interested if there is sufficient numbers.

Quiz Corner

1. The King George V1 Chase is run annually on Boxing Day - at which racecourse?
2. Who wrote the novels Gone Girl and Sharp Objects?
3. What is the name of the 1976 film about the Watergate Scandal?



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

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
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

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:

Gladys Williams	Great and Little Oakley WI
Jean Blackwell	Barton Seagrave WI
Joyce Turner	Cranford WI

NFWI Annual Meeting "Party"

Wednesday 4 June 2025 Full Day at WI House

Members Only - £5

(Delegates attend Free of Charge)

Optional Ploughman's Lunch - £7

This year's National Annual Meeting is being held on-line, but if you don't fancy watching it on your own why not come along and join us in WI House and create our own Northamptonshire WI "Party". We will show the meeting on the large screen and there will be plenty of time to chat and meet WI friends old and new.

The speakers who have been announced so far are Emma Bridgewater, founder of the famous pottery business and Angel Strawbridge, founder of Vintage Patisserie and featured on the Channel 4 series, Escape to the Chateau. You will also hear speakers for and against this year's resolution, 'Bystanders can be lifesavers'. You have the option of ordering a ploughman's lunch or if you prefer you can bring your own lunch. Tea and Coffee will be available throughout the day.

Cakes for Cynthia Spencer Hospice

7 April – Kelmars, Harrington & Arthingworth WI
14 April – Flore WI
21 April – Bugbrooke WI
5 May – Blisworth 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

Cakes for Cransley Hospices

April – Great & Little Oakley

May - Geddington and Newton Stanwick



Please email
Sue Johnson Hill:

johnsonhilljs@gmail.com

PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES WORKSHOP

Wednesday 25 June 2025 3pm-5.30pm or 6.30pm-9pm. Members Only £7 at WI House

Are you a new President or Secretary of your WI? Are you an established President or Secretary, Vice-President or Assistant Secretary? The Membership & Training sub-committee members look forward to welcoming you to this joint workshop.

An opportunity to learn from each other, develop skills and explore ideas. If you are leading the team or looking after the admin, come along to hear the jargon explained, help identify the essential jobs and your responsibilities as well as hopefully gaining some useful tips.

Application Form is with your Secretary this month. Ticket Allocation Date is Monday 2 June

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 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

Campaigns, Concerns and Media

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI)

Please consider placing small posters such as this WI Campaign Poster in places in your local community – Libraries, public toilets, meeting halls etc.



CERVICAL SCREENING ONLY TAKES 5 MINUTES AND IS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST CERVICAL CANCER.

The poster can be downloaded from My WI. Log on here: <https://www.thewi.org.uk/>
jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com

County Bountty Winners!

£20 No. 29 Group Julia Newman Welford WI

£10 No. .26 Group Julia Newman Welford WI

WI Adviser for April:

Sue Kendall (Rushton Village WI)

01536 722118

suekendall49@gmail.com



Quiz Answers

1. Kempton Park
2. Gillian Flynn
3. All The President's Men

Treasurer's Tips

Deborah Mills (Badby and Fawsley WI)

Well Spring has sprung, Easter is on its way and we've all had our accounts finalised.

Please don't forget to send your signed Financial Statements into WI House as soon as you're able.

The pink forms to record the 2025/26 subs are with your Secretary; these need to be submitted with your payments by 30 April.

I hope you all have a great time.

darmills8@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP & TRAINING

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI)

Congratulations to all new Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and committee members. I hope you are looking forward to helping run your WI with plenty of ideas and enthusiasm.

We are holding training sessions for Treasurers in April and Presidents and Secretaries in June, please see the Events Sheet for dates and times. All officers are welcome to attend, whether you are new to the role or are experienced officers wishing a refresher.

Secretaries – A copy of the WI Annual Report should be sent to WI House following your Annual Meeting.

Treasurers – A copy of your WIs approved and signed Financial Statement needs to be sent to WI House.

MCS Reps: Please update ASAP new members and changes to your WI Committee members and their roles.

jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com

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Tel: 01604 646055 email admin@ncfwi.org.uk

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

www.facebook.com/NorthantsWI