



Chris Carr (Great Houghton WI) - Chair



Chris has lived in Northamptonshire all her life and is a member of Great Houghton WI. She has been a WI member for over sixteen years. She is a retired police officer having served with Northamptonshire Police for 32yrs. During her service she worked in various departments including Traffic, CID, Domestic Abuse and Retail Crime. Having established her own Celebration Cake business prior to retiring she continued expanding this business together with a Vintage China hire company, both of which she maintained until 2014.

Her interests include Gardening, watching sport particularly Rugby and Formula 1 as well as supporting her great nieces and nephews with their various activities.

Heather Smith (Towcester Evening WI) - Vice Chair



I came to Northamptonshire in 1985 for two years, but getting married put paid to that and two children and four grandchildren were a blessing I thought I'd never have. After a long and varied career working mainly as a PA in organisations ranging from the Scottish Tourist Board to Cabbage Patch Kids, wedding dresses to body armour, I retired in 2021 giving me more time for the WI. Growing up in Scotland, my mum was always going to 'the rural' so it was probably in my blood. Denman College was my favourite place for many years where I could pursue my love of learning new crafts. I've made great friends during my membership of the WI and honoured to be one of your trustees and vice-chairman.

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI) - Vice Chair



I have lived in Northamptonshire for 18 years, but those of you who have met me will realise I spent the first half of my life in Scotland. Prior to retiring in 2018, I worked in Sales and Marketing roles for two major IT and Communications companies, which is what originally brought me from Scotland. I had been a member of Bugbrooke WI for four years and when I retired and had more time on my hands, I joined the committee and eventually got more involved with the Federation, first as a WI Adviser and then as a Trustee.

In my spare time I like to see my six grandchildren and I'm always willing to try new things, even if I'm not brilliant at them. As I tell my grandchildren, you don't need to be good at something to enjoy it. I like to watch sport, such as tennis, and my partner, Roger, and I follow Formula 1.

Debs Mills (Badby & Fawsley WI) - Treasurer



It only dawned on me recently that actually my first experience of WI was because my Mum was a member. I guess I followed in her footsteps when I began WI life in November 2012. I went to a meeting at Fairwarp on the Ashdown Forest in East Sussex, and absolutely loved it. I joined the committee after a few months and at the 2013 AGM became Treasurer until I moved to Daventry at the end of 2016. I then joined Welton, the first meeting was a cheese and wine tasting at Waitrose, so I knew these were my kind of women. Sadly Welton closed after Covid. I was persuaded by a friend of a friend to join Badby & Fawsley and asked to take over as Treasurer almost immediately, and so here I am today Treasurer of the Federation.

Linda Brett (Little Billing WI) - Trustee



Having spent forty-two years in Education as a profession, I retired as a Primary School Headteacher and found myself with more time to become a member of Little Billing WI. Before very long, I was encouraged by Sue Kendall to become a member of the Membership and Training Sub-committee. Part of this role involves visiting WI's around the County and meeting fellow members – something I thoroughly enjoy. I also enjoyed being involved with the training offered to Treasurers, Presidents and Secretaries through the workshops. With the support of the Board of Trustees I was trained as a WI Adviser – through the NFWI training team at Denman College. This was a one year modular course where we had the privilege of training with experienced leaders and becoming part of the Adviser network – an extremely valuable resource. I was appointed a member of the Board of Trustees in 2018.

Susan Griffiths-Marks (Little Billing WI) - Trustee



Hello. I'm Susan Griffiths-Marks a Wife, Mother of 2 & Grandmother of 4. I have been a member of the WI for 3 years. Previously a member of Ladies Circle, the women's side of Round Table, for women under 40. I have missed all that I enjoyed and when full time work became slower, I investigated the WI and liked what I found. After joining I went to the Cardiff AGM representing my WI & 6 others as a voting delegate. I went to meetings of all those I voted for and did a brief presentation of the fun I had doing that. Hopefully they will remember me! I re-met many again at the county AM Meeting October of last year, which culminated in being invited to get more involved with the Trustees for Northamptonshire. I will say I've still a lot to learn but am enthusiastic about that.

Linda Llewellyn (Yardley Gobion WI) - Trustee



I am a member of Yardley Gobion WI. I have been on the Board of Trustees a couple of years now. I'd always been keen to understand the "bigger picture" of anything I'd been involved in, so I was pleasantly delighted when someone felt I was worthy of nomination. I hope I've grabbed this opportunity with gusto! A bit about me. I'm single and very independent, almost to a fault. I'm not into traditionally WI activities but I'm quite creative in many ways. I enjoy reading, volunteering, and travel and seeing friends, my life is so very full and blessed. I worked as a nurse, midwife and health visitor. During my career I had three stints working abroad for Save the Children in emergency famine relief situations. Following post graduate studies I ended up as a specialist health visitor leading on safeguarding and practice development. For the Federation I am Safeguarding Officer and support Travel and Finance sub-committees. I am not sure if I will complete this year of office as I am in the process of re-locating to Chichester. All I can say is that I have gained so much from my involvement with the WI at county level, in skills, knowledge but perhaps more importantly friendships.

Sandy Reid (Little Billing WI) - Trustee



I was born in Chelsea and went to school in Battersea, leaving at 16. I went to work for London Telecommunications for 8 years, I married 1972, moving to Northampton May 1974. My son and daughter were born in Northampton. I worked for Barclaycard between 1983 and 2010 when I was made redundant. I have two wonderful grandchildren Oliver and Amelie. I joined Little Billing WI in 2023, to meet local ladies, what an amazing group they are I always come out of our meetings laughing/smiling. The WI has so much to offer with lots of events, coffee mornings, craft events, coach trips, literary lunch and so much more and yes my name is normally down for all of them. I was very fortunate in October to be voted onto the Board of Trustees, a big learning curve ahead of me but so looking forward to it.

Caz Reynolds (Rushton Village WI) - Trustee



We moved to Corby in 1986 when I was just 16 from St Albans Hertfordshire so my father could go into the Baptist Ministry. I have worked in a factory sewing nighties for M&S and then for a large Electrocomponents company where I worked my way up from factory worker to a Corporate Account Manager, looking after huge accounts. I used to tread the boards with Eclipse Performing Arts before my accident and sang solos from Chicago the musical and others with much enthusiasm. I was also their members representative and head fundraiser.

I am a mum of 2, a nanna, and a wife but I am also an active WI Member. I have been with the WI since 2013. I enjoyed my time for 12 years as a secretary for Oakley Vale WI and now enjoy my role as Sub Committee chairman for Travel, Arts, Sports and Leisure and member of The Board of Trustees.

Sue Shaw (Hackleton & District WI) - Trustee



I have been a member of Hackleton & District WI for 10 years and served on the committee twice as an Outings Co-ordinator and recently as Correspondence Secretary. COVID led me to form our Green Fingers Gardening Sub-Group and more recently a WI Theatre Sub-Group. I joined the Board of Trustees a year ago and really look forward to being more involved with the Northamptonshire WIs. This will give me a more broad understanding of the WI. My work life included working for Nissan for 26 years in administration and I retired 10 years ago. I am married with 3 children and 7 grandchildren. My hobbies are keep fit, anything sewing, gardening and travel.

Fay Tennet (Towcester Evening WI) - Trustee



I have the WI in my DNA with my Granny & Mum both pretty much life-long members. I was first a member of the WI in Buckinghamshire when I was under 20 - I think I was the youngest WI member in Bucks at that time. I was the Secretary of the Sports and Leisure County Sub-Committee. I don't knit or bake but I do love being active and I really love that WI offers so much, no matter what your interests are. I really enjoy what WI offers and gives women - support, education, community, new experiences, friendship and so much more. Outside work my big hobby is swimming

and lifeguarding in the open water. I also enjoy walking, running, cycling, gardening and reading. I am a member of Towcester Evening WI.