



## News Sheet March 2025



### Chairman's Chat

As I write this article, I am looking out the window where it's a dark, dank and dreary morning. However, I cannot say that about the last month within the WI. The momentum for what I hope will be a good year for all members and WIs seems to be gathering pace.

The Yarnbombing project for the Women's Rugby World Cup still amazes me with everyone's ideas, enthusiasm and commitment. It really has bought members and WIs together. On top of that we have been asked to take part in International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March at Northampton Guildhall, have a stand at both Kelmars Show 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April, and a Community Fair at Southbrook Centre, Daventry, on 25<sup>th</sup> April. We also hope to have a display as part of Northampton in Bloom project in June. All these events give us an opportunity to be recognised and shout about what a fantastic organisation we are. Please come along and support members who will be on the promotional stands.

I am also looking forward to the County Lunch and of course the County Quiz that the sub committees have been organising, both very different events but great fun to be part of. Please get your applications in soon.

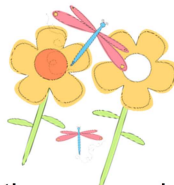
Finally, may I wish all committee members well for your forthcoming AGMs and next term of office.

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

*Upcoming!*



**Spring Coffee Morning**  
Friday 14 March at WI House  
10am-12pm  
£4 including coffee and cake



Come along to the first coffee morning of the year and say "Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring." We will have some spring plants for sale and a raffle. The yarnbombing team will also have a display of some of the amazing items they have created for the Women's Rugby World Cup.

There are also some new cards for you to buy, the new range we brought in have been well received and we've added to the selection. We look forward to seeing you.

### Enclosures with your Secretary:

- 2025 Bulb Catalogue

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

### Ticket Allocation Dates in March

Remember to submit your application forms for the following events with ticket allocation dates in March:

NFWI Annual Meeting and Resolution Briefing Conference – **3 March 2025**

County Lunch, How to Catch a killer –  
**7 March 2025**

County Quiz – **17 March 2025**

Full details of these events are in the Events Sheet.



## BRESSINGHAM

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

Members £50, non-members £53

Come enjoy and reminisce the smell & sound of steam and the chance to explore 9 acres of gardens and perhaps purchase a plant or two from the Nursery.

Ticket price includes unlimited rides on the Narrow Gauge Railway and the Gallopers Roundabout.

There are plenty of places to enjoy your own picnic or use the plentiful facilities on site.

<https://bressingham.co.uk>



## STOP PRESS

### Wilson Browne Workshops

Topics covered will include:

#### Monday 7th April – 7pm

- Will 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



## BULBS, BULBS, BULBS!



When received, please circulate the Walker's bulb catalogues amongst your WI members and encourage them to order, if only a few. This is an easy fundraising way to support our federation office, as we keep 20% of all orders.

For those of you who have had the bulbs before. I'm sure you will agree that they are extremely good quality and produce a much welcome colour to spring.

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

## CHALLENGE TROPHY 2025

Let your inner Agatha Christie imaginations run wild with this murder mystery script. We want to encourage all our members to participate in planning your WI entry for the 2025 challenge.

The schedule and full details, together with the application form were circulated with the December News Sheet.

**Application Forms**, in both hard and electronic copy, need to be at WI House by Tuesday 1st April 2025

## KNITTING PROJECTS

Two new networking opportunities:



### CHRISTMAS GRINCH – November 2025

We have been asked to supply 100 'knitted' GRINCH dolls for late November 2025. This request will open opportunities for us to engage with 100 businesses in Northamptonshire. There will be no cost to you as all the wool will be supplied.

If you can help with this project, please email Jackie ASAP and in any case by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March** so that we can notify the relevant businesses.

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



### BOBBIES BUDDIES

Northamptonshire Police, Domestic Abuse Team are relaunching their Bobbies Buddies scheme. If you can help with this, please let Jackie know. Items can be dropped off at WI House.

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

## Yarnbombers and Crafters – Wool Discount

The Wool Factory are currently offering NCFWI Members 10% discount on any wool purchased online.

Website address <http://www.thewoolfactory.co.uk/>  
For a discount code contact WI House.

**Please do not share this outside of the NCFWI membership or we will lose the benefit immediately.**

## Quiz Corner

1. What is the name of the Indian festival of colours marking the beginning of spring?
2. Who is the Greek goddess of spring and nature?
3. Which country did the Easter bunny tradition originate from?



## 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

Gwyneth Butler	Broad Green WI
Gillian Sewell	Earls Barton WI
Ann Payne	Earls Barton WI

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:

## Cakes for Cynthia Spencer Hospice

3 March – Long Buckby WI  
24 March – Earls Barton Millennium WI  
7 April – Kelmars, Harrington & Arthingworth WI  
14 April – Flore WI  
21 April – Bugbrooke 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)

## Cakes for Cransley Hospices

March – Women of Woodford  
April – Great & Little Oakley

Please email  
Sue Johnson Hill:  
[johnsonhilljs@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonhilljs@gmail.com)



## COUNTY QUIZ



April will soon be here and with it our much anticipated bi-annual county quiz. To reiterate – teams of four fully paid up WI members; as many teams as you wish, and these can be made up with members from another WI; unfortunately, no room for spectators; there will be tea and coffee and light snacks for sale and also a bar.

Spaces for teams are allocated so don't rush to get at the front!! And the quiz commences at 7 pm sharp. We look forward to seeing lots of you there and it's a great way to catch up with old friends.

The quiz questions are written by various members of the committee, come straight to me in a sealed envelope (or email) and after I have typed them up, go straight to David Saint for checking and verification. To make sure there is no accidental leakage, no members of the Arts, Sports and Leisure committee or the Board of Trustees are allowed to be on a team!

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

Andy Tennet provides an interesting talk, with a few twists and turns, when as a newly qualified Senior Investigating Officer, he leads the hunt for someone who has committed a triple murder – or have they?

The talk is followed by a delicious two course meal prepared and served by professional caterers. We will also hold a raffle.

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



**HEALTH WARNING**

**NO NUTS PLEASE**  
at the Quiz because of the high risk of an allergic reaction for one of our members attending.



## 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)

## Campaigns, Concerns and Media

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI)

The first meeting of the new combined Campaigns and Concerns and Media sub-committees took place a few weeks ago. The new sub-committee has a wide remit and while we are an enthusiastic group there is a lot to do, and we would welcome support from any members who would like to join us. We want to spread the word about all the great things we do in the WI and highlight the changes WI campaigns make on important issues.

If you are interested in helping to support getting the message about the WI out to a wider audience and promoting our campaigns, please get in touch with me.

[jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com](mailto:jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com)

## WI Adviser for March:

**Margaret Foster**

(Irthlingborough WI) 01933 650694

[margaret.foster984@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.foster984@gmail.com)



## Treasurer's Tips

I find it's a bit of a busy time finishing off the Financial Statement and associated documents before getting them to and collecting them from your IFE prior to your AGM.

I'm always pleased when I can get it all delivered to Tina at WI house. It's so important that she has them promptly, so please send them in as early as possible after your AGMs. You might also like to remind members about entering the County Bounty.

[darmills8@gmail.com](mailto:darmills8@gmail.com)



## MEMBERSHIP & TRAINING

Jean McLeish (Bugbrooke WI)

As we approach the new WI year, Membership and Training are looking at opportunities to form new WIs in the County. We are particularly excited to promote a Virtual WI in Northamptonshire and we hope there will be enough interest to form one from April.

If you know of anyone who would like to become a WI member but is not able to attend face-to-face meetings, please encourage them to contact Jackie at [admin@ncfwi.org.uk](mailto:admin@ncfwi.org.uk) and express an interest.

Remember to get your bookings in for two forthcoming events – the NFWI Annual Meeting and Resolution Briefing Conference and the Treasurers Workshop. Full details of these events are in the Events Sheet.

[jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com](mailto:jean.e.mcleish@btinternet.com)

## County Bounty Winners!

£20	No.76 Ind.	Jennie Woods Harlestone WI
£10	No.39 Ind.	Joanne Wilde Hackleton & District WI

## Quiz Answers

1. Holi
2. Persephone
3. Germany

