



WI News

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024

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**Sending you the Season's
Greetings and saying
"Hello 2024"**



Contact us at:

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Web:
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Office hours:
Mon - Wed
10am - 3pm

Closed for lunch from
noon to 1pm

If you are making a
special journey, please
call ahead to check the
office is open

The office is closed on the
2nd Wednesday of the
month to accommodate
trustee meetings

The Federation Chairman
can be contacted on
01472 398501 or
07876 614824

Email:
LNFWChairman
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**Please note:
WI House will close for the festive period on
Tuesday 19th December and
will re-open on Monday 8th January 2024**

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Hello everyone

Well what a time it has been since the last newsletter.

As you will know, thanks to Storm Babet and an issue with Horncastle's flood defence system, WI House, like many businesses and homes in the town, was the victim of unprecedented flooding.

Initially we thought the damage was confined to the sheds, rendering our catering fridges unusable. We were grateful to the provision of skips by the district council which enabled us to dispose of them.

The clean up began and thanks go to the trustees and other members who gave up their time to help with that.

Gill Pursey did a great job with the carpet as you can see from the picture. However, as time moved on, we realised the carpet tiles would need to be lifted otherwise the floor would not dry completely.



As trustees, one of the duties is to maintain WI House and there is a rolling programme of work to do this. As the tiles were up and the skips were available, we decided to bite the bullet, get rid of the carpeting completely and take on a major project for 2024. Unfortunately, our insurance policy did not cover us for flooding from the river, only for water ingress through the roof, something we are looking into currently. We already had some money set aside for maintenance, but more is needed to undertake such a project. Therefore, we have applied to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for a grant to replace the flooring, redecorate, purchase new fridges and also repair the car park wall - so fingers crossed. It will take some time to be completed, but WI House will be refreshed and more user-friendly as a result. We hope you all agree.

Meanwhile, WI house is fully operational - although the floor is a bit sticky.

So as we come to the end of the year, we can certainly say 2023 has been eventful and we can look forward to 2024 with optimism, as well as with a packed programme of events and opportunities.

Best wishes for the festive season to all and good health for the New Year.

Take care as always

Dianne

Springtime Extravaganza Saturday 6th April 2024 New Life Church Centre, Market Rasen

How are your spring bulbs faring during these soggy times!

I have lots of little green shoots appearing all over my small garden. It's really exciting, as it means that Spring will arrive, but it's not here yet! And so, I keep popping out and heaping a little more soil over the top of them all in the hope they won't get nipped by a frost.

I spotted this on a fridge magnet while I was away - *'A garden is a friend that you can visit anytime'* – what a wonderful thought!

Don't forget, a 'Daffy Doll' will be very happy to come to your WI and give a few hints and tips about your entries for the Springtime Extravaganza. Contact WI House to make a booking.

Happy gardening! Jean Burgess





Strictly The Federation Annual Meeting Wednesday 27th March 2024 Embassy Theatre, Skegness

**Tickets can be booked now for this event
which is open to members and non-members**

Another exciting, interesting and informative agenda is being drawn up for our 2024 Annual Meeting in Skegness. If you haven't been before, you really should go this next year. Those who have been many times before will tell you how worthwhile and enjoyable the day is. Just think - a whole day listening to interesting speakers; looking at the Gifts to Go new ranges (Easter Goods are going to be in abundance!); seeing the whole 2024/25 events spread out before you and being able to book, there and then.

As well as all of that, you will be surrounded by all things WI; you can ask questions, catch up with old friends and make new ones.

This year we have a particularly exciting "main event" as we have the STRICTLY COME DANCING backstage crew who are responsible for all of the costumes, make up and hair of the performers. We think you will LOVE it and to this end we have decided to open it up to non members as well as members.

Members tickets cost £13 and non members £18 - booking is open now.

An important thing to note is that THERE WILL BE NO ALLOCATED SEATING IN THE HALL. You can sit where you like and save seats if not all your party are there at the start of the day. The only thing to remember is book your tickets SOON, don't wait until your WI has collated numbers, **remember you can choose your own seats when you get there.**



Improvers Knitting Workshops

1.00pm to 4.00pm at WI House, Banks Street, Horncastle, LN9 5BW

**Member £20 per workshop –Book all three for £50
Non-member £25 per workshop - Book all three for £62.50**

Join tutor Sue Axford for one (or more!) of these knitting workshops



Sue will provide each student with
1 ball of Aran, pair 4mm needles, cable needle, stitch markers, and copies of
easy-to-follow patterns to take home.

Saturday 3 rd February 2024	Saturday 10 th February 2024	Saturday 17 th February 2024
Different ways to cast on and why Straight vs Circular needles Pick up dropped stitches Simple patterns to add texture Simple Cable Knit along	Tips & tricks to change colours Measure the gauge, ribbing, edges Different wool weights and types Casting off and sewing together Easy to follow patterns Knit along	Pattern writing made simple Abbreviations and their meanings Introduction to picture knitting (intarsia) Knit along

Cream Tea (included in the price) will be served at the end of each workshop, consisting of a fruit scone, jam & cream, with a cup of tea/coffee.

Closing date – Monday 15th January 2024

Places will not be confirmed until payment has been received. Please specify dietary requirements at the time of booking.

Public Affairs

It's that time of year again when we, as WI members, can make a difference! As our federation's public affairs representative, I attended the national zoom meeting to shortlist the resolutions which had been put forward. I am pleased to say that this year, I think, we have chosen some interesting and topical issues for your consideration, which, you may have noticed are now published in this month's WI LIFE magazine.

Dental Health Matters.
Impacts of poor housing conditions.
Say 'NO' to gambling advertising.
Improving outcomes for women in the criminal justice system.

All members are encouraged to read about the four proposed resolutions, and remember each member has a vote.

We are now supporting EDAN as we save our 'Change for Change', (previously known as Pennies for Friendship). We will collect your usual monetary donations at the AGM in March.

Maria Scott, Federation Trustee for Public affairs



NEC CRAFT SHOW TRIP

A coach from Lincolnshire North travelled to the NEC, Birmingham, where members could visit four different craft and cake shows all under one roof!

From the picture on the left, it looks like they might have taken retail therapy to the next level!

The trip was organised by the Events and Activities Team (EAT); look out for trips they are arranging for 2024.



Member development

Build on your skills and see what learning opportunities are available to you through the WI. Whether you want to gain a qualification, enrol on a course or train for a national or federation-level role, there are the tools you need to get started. There is a whole section of MYWI dedicated to training, development and getting more from your membership. Have a look on the web site and maybe you will find something you want to take on or are maybe just interested in knowing more about.

The WI Denman at Home team does not have a physical brochure for online courses as they update the website on a regular basis with new courses, however you can subscribe to their weekly newsletter which will let you know what's coming up for the week or so ahead. You can also follow them on Facebook for regular updates. To be directed to sign up to the newsletter visit:

<https://www.denman.org.uk/newsletter/>

Find the Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/denmanathome>



OUR TRIP TO LINCOLN GUILDHALL

A group of members and guests met at the Stonebow on Lincoln High Street to experience a guided tour of the Guildhall, which sits above the arch. There has been a Guildhall in this location since 1237, although this building dates back to 1520.

The original A15 goes through it, up to the top of the high street and then up Steep Hill and was originally the south gate of the city.

Our guides, Richard and Andrew, gave us very interesting talks, which covered the current and past uses the Guildhall has been put to.

It is the council chamber for the city. Lincoln has been an important residential and commercial area going back through the ages when it developed waterway connections from the Brayford Pool to the Trent. In the Council Chamber, we sat around a huge table, which is the width of two swords plus a gap, so no sword fighting! We also got to see the bell which is rung when the council is sitting and also a second room where members can meet plus the Robing Room. This room contains the beautiful robes still worn today at civic functions and also artifacts such as the oldest sword in England, the mayoral chains of office and charters relating to the city.

Sara Carter



A number of the Federation Trustees are interested in joining the Million Women Rise march in London on 9 March 2024.

NFWI writes: "Members are encouraged to join us in calling for an end to male violence against women. The WI will again host a pre-meet for members before the march."

There will be further details available in the new year, but if you are interested in accompanying us, save the date and keep it in mind.

We just wanted to say "THANK YOU" for buying NFWI Raffle tickets earlier in the year. Your purchases earned the Federation £358 as their share of the proceeds from National.



October's 50/50 Draw

1. 64 Val Elliot - Washingborough WI
2. 62 Jean Thomas - Nettleton & Moortown WI
3. 58 John Kane - Non-member



'Wonky Houses' Free Motion Embroidery Workshop

By popular demand, a second date has been arranged!
9.30am for 10.00am start to 3.30pm - Monday 18th March 2024

At WI House, Horncastle - Member £38 Non-member £43

The day will begin with a Free Motion Embroidery and Applique practice piece, before moving on to create your own row of 'Wonky Houses'.

All materials, threads and patterns will be supplied as part of this workshop.

You can bring your own electric sewing machine or reserve one at WI House at the time of booking your place. The finished piece will be A4 size.

Lunch is included on this day – Soup & a roll, plus cake.

Closing date – Monday 29th January 2024

YOUR NEWS FROM AROUND THE FEDERATION

Alvingham & District WI

welcomed their speaker, Kate of Softscape Florist. Using four bunches of flowers, purchased from a local supermarket, she demonstrated the many ways they could be displayed in various shaped vases.



She finished by creating a stunning arrangement in a pumpkin (pictured) just in time for Halloween. Members also had a chance to browse the Federation's Gifts to Go stall, taking the opportunity to buy gifts and decorations for Christmas.

Bardney WI enjoyed a talk by a representative from The Lincolnshire Emergency Blood Bike Service, which many of us didn't know existed. The bikers (plus three cars) are all unpaid volunteers who transport essential blood for transfusions, blood samples to the pathology lab, platelets, plasma, medication, donor breast milk for premature babies, and anything else needed in a hurry which will fit on a bike (not organs). The LEBBS is a charity which saves the NHS a lot of money. Our WI members were impressed.

Caistor WI hosted Clare Manning of Sassy Spirit, who entertained with her lively, amusing and informative talk about the 'History of Handbags'. She illustrated this with many pictures showing the development of handbags throughout the ages, beginning with an Australian cave painting depicting a man with a bag 40,000 years BC. It wasn't until the 14th century that women began to use pouches around their body to carry different items. It was in 1843 and the development of the railways when the term handbag began, with passengers on the trains being urged to only carry a bag that they could hold in their hand, hence the term 'handbag'. Since that time, and throughout the 20th and 21st century, bags have changed in style and shape, often influenced by the fashion prevailing at the time.

The 1950's saw the development of the big fashion houses, for example, Yves St Laurent and the sale of expensive iconic handbags which coordinated handbags to clothing.

Two of the most famous handbag carriers have been Margaret Thatcher and the late Queen.

Hagworthingham & District WI created more than 400 poppies to adorn a structure specially made to showcase the War Memorial in the Churchyard for Remembrance Sunday.



Heighington WI started with a minutes silence in memory of long standing member Pat Taylor. We then had a talk by Maria Scott about the St. John Ambulance.

The St John Ambulance history goes back to the 11th century when the first Knights of St John set up a hospital to provide care to sick pilgrims. Even now the uniform displays the eight pointed star denoting various attributes and values of the organisation and it still continues to be humanitarian in its aims and purposes.

The organisation, as it exists today, was founded in 1877 to provide first aid training for factory workers as there was a recognised need for public first aid and ambulance transport services because no such system existed in newly industrialised England.

Lea WI are not for shying away from good causes and they were proud to shine a spotlight on the fantastic fund-raising achieved at their Macmillan



Coffee Morning. The dedicated ladies raised £700 towards the charity and take this opportunity to thank everyone who played their part in achieving this fantastic result.

North Somercotes WI

Dressed in a stunning sari, our Binal led the celebration of Diwali, the festival of light, celebrated world wide. She explained the significance, the rituals and the meanings including clay pots, powder patterns and of course the feasting. The beautiful saris.... well that's for another meeting!



Tetford WI were joined by over 20 WI members from several local clubs and were splendidly entertained by the accomplished acoustic guitarist, singer and storyteller, Alan Bolt.

Alan related memories of his life in the days of the 1960s Folk Club circuit, when he played with many of the most well-known folk artists. It was lovely to hear and join in with the songs and to listen to Alan's experiences and amusing tales of those years.

To complete the evening, we enjoyed the renowned Tetford supper of savouries, cakes and refreshments, a jolly good raffle and found our early Christmas gifts on the Gifts to Go stall.

Wragby WI member Lou Reeves kindly volunteered to speak at our meeting when the speaker was unable to attend. She talked of her life as a PCSO, a Traffic Warden and an NCP Car Park Attendant. It was hilarious. After all her mishaps she thought she ought to do something safer and had brought samples of her beautiful "Craft Work".

MORE NEWS FROM AROUND THE FEDERATION

Skellingthorpe WI members welcomed David Mitchell to their monthly meeting., who talked about iconic items from WW1.

His interest in memorabilia came about when he purchased a house in France on the Somme. The house was built close to the trenches on the British and German battle lines and he dug up many relics and artefacts in his garden.

David brought a selection of the many items he had collected to the meeting and his talk was made even more interesting by his use of slides and images. He said that even today farmers were still digging up shells and bombs and uncovering underground trenches.



Tetney WI members have had a very creative month. In our monthly meeting, we welcomed Zoe Tant who showed us how to make beautiful Christmas stars. Our Knit and Natter group have also been very busy making blankets to be donated to local care homes. They will be given to residents who are without family and unlikely to receive other Christmas gifts.



West Ashby WI The speaker at West Ashby WI's meeting was funny, lively and entertaining...and, as unlikely as it may seem, her subject was fraud.

Sharon Hall was a police officer for 30 years and now helps to protect people by spreading the word about scams and frauds of all kinds – phone, text, online, through the post, on your doorstep or in your house. She told members how to be on guard, how to seek help, how to report and how to stay safe.

It was an enlightening evening for all, with a booklet from Lincolnshire Police for each of us to take home.

Washingborough WI's Family Day and Craft Fayre was a great success and a big thank you to members of the public for supporting it. as well as more than twenty crafters booking tables. We are hoping to hold a similar event in October 2024.

Our Cryptic Bloom Quiz winner, Ann Jones of Skellingthorpe, was announced at the event.

Upton cum Kexby WI had an informative and enjoyable evening this month, with Stuart Spriggens, our local Willow Weaver, providing entertainment. He shared his journey into the craft, which began during his time on furlough due to Covid. His desire to learn a new hobby and express creativity led him to willow weaving. We were introduced to different types of willow and various techniques used for weaving.



Tealby WI's annual festive fair has been a fundraiser for St Barnabas since 1994 and has raised over £11,665 since that time.

This year's stalls sold locally sourced and handmade goods, including chocolates, artisan bath products, handmade woollen items and forged ironmongery, to name but a few.. H

ollie Morris plays an active role as our events official photographer, and here she is, all festive, enjoying a quick tea break*.



Revesby & District WI welcomed Jean Chapman of the Salvation Army for a return visit. Jean loves to come and chat to us about her life in the Army and to tell us how it is developing nowadays. Members were very interested in how the uniform has changed over the years.



Jean had brought along 3 of the uniform hats she has worn over the years including the lovely bonnet with which we all associate the Salvation Army ladies.

Members also ran a successful stall at Mareham Fair.

Binbrook and District WI welcomed Jim and Odile from Mansion Farm Shop, who gave a very professional demonstration on the art of making Lincolnshire sausages from scratch using as many locally sourced ingredients as possible including sage from their garden. After sampling some made earlier, everybody had the chance to buy their freshly made sausages, bread and even fresh butter.

Horncastle WI hosted Elaine Johnson telling us about the Suffragettes. This was different from the normal talks about this subject as it was mostly about the Lincolnshire Suffragettes and their contact with the more famous

	DATE	EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES	TIME	COST
	Tuesday 23 rd January 2024	Sausage Making Workshop , Snelland Booking closing date 18th December	10 am - 12 noon	£25 m £30 nm
	Tuesday 23 rd January 2024	Sausage Making Workshop , Snelland Booking closing date 18th December	1 pm – 3 pm	£25 m £30 nm
	Saturdays 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th Feb- ruary 2024	Improvers Knitting Workshops – Series of 3 - WI House Horncastle – Materials provided plus cream tea at end of workshop included in the price Booking closing date 15th January 2024	1 pm - 4 pm	£20 m each or 3 for £50 £25 nm each or 3 for £62.50
	Monday 26 th February 2024	Wonky Houses - Free Motion Embroidery Workshop - WI House	FULLY BOOKED	
NEW	Monday 18 th March 2024	Wonky Houses - Free Motion Embroidery Workshop - WI House - to include lunch of soup, roll and cake Booking closing date 29th January 2024	9.30 am - 3.30 pm	£38 m £43 nm
	Tuesday 12 th March 2024	Behind the Scenes Tour New Theatre Royal, Lincoln Includes refreshments. Booking closing date 19th February 2024	10.45 – 1.15pm	£19.50 m £19.50 nm
	Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Federation Annual Meeting at The Embassy Theatre, Skegness	TBA	£13m £18nm
NEW	Saturday 24 th April 2024	Forensic Science Workshop New Life Church Centre, Market Rasen Booking closing date 27th March 2024	10 am – 3 pm	£25 m £30 nm

Please note—no booking for any event or course is finalised until payment has been received. Don't run the risk of losing your place on a course you really wanted to take part in.

To book a place on any event email the office including the names and WI (where applicable) of those attending, together with contact details for each person (email address if possible)

Applications can also be made by post to: WI House, Banks Street, Horncastle Lincs. LN9 5BW.

Please note: confirmation will be sent by email unless otherwise requested.

Please pay by bank transfer if possible:

Account name: Lincolnshire North Federation of Womens Institutes

Sort code 40-30-26 Account number: 81186302.

Please quote YOUR NAME and the NAME OF THE EVENT as reference when making payments.

Cheques should be made out to LNFWI.

Terms and conditions of booking:

Payment must be received to confirm booking. All applications will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

Fees and/or deposits will not be returned unless cancelled by the Board of Trustees or relevant sub-committee.

The final date to receive items for the February 2024 issue is:

Monday 15th January 2024

Items for inclusion should be emailed direct to: LNFWInewsletter@gmail.com

The February 2024 issue of WI News will be sent out on

WEDNESDAY 24th January 2024

Heighington WI is
saddened to
report the death of
member
Pat Taylor.

