theWI Nottinghamshire

Hornblower Newsletter

November 2026

Issue 12

A word from our Chair



Welcome to November everyone, it's getting very near to that exciting time of year, dare I mention it... Christmas! Beautifully fragrant Christmas trees, delicious cake, robins on cards, and carols sung by the choir. Well, I can't promise you all of that but if you come to our Christmas Celebration at Carlton in Lindrick there will certainly be cake and singing. Have you secured your ticket? I hope to see lots of you lovely members there.

We also have our Christmas Afternoon Tea, at the end of this month, which will certainly get you in the festive spirit, please apply for your ticket for this popular event, held at The Hostess Restaurant.

Please may I remind you of our new booking policy for events, we have taken other Federations and NFWIs lead with this. There is still a closing date, but tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis. This makes it easier to assess the viability of an event, without incurring charges. Please contact the office early to secure your booking.



Last month, along with my Vice Chair Beryl Northcote, I enjoyed a delightful afternoon tea when we were guests of **Normanton on Soar WI**. The vintage tablecloths and china were set on the table, and music was playing as we arrived - the room looked a perfect setting for our afternoon tea. Two of the WI members had worked very hard and provided a sumptuous spread for us to enjoy with sandwiches, quiche, cakes, scones etc, all homemade of course. Thank you very much Normanton on Soar for your kind invitation. I love visiting WIs!



As always, I will close with saying please contact me if you need anything WI, especially if you can't get through to Sue. email: chair@nottswi.org.uk mobile: 07804 477635 Take care everyone.



Federation Flutter Bonus Draw: Congratulation to our Bonus Draw winners: Maureen Ashby from Kirkby in Ashfield WI won £60 with bond number 37, and Suzanne Cooling from Southwell Morning WI won £25 with lucky number 28.

The new 50/50 draw application form is with your WI secretary. £10 per share, payment code BT021.

The new draw begins in March.

www.facebook.com/nottinghamshirewi www.instagram.com/nottinghamshirewi

Notts Federation of WIs, PO Box 11460, Newark, Notts, NG24 9Y. Charity no: 1015139 Hours: 9am-3pm Mon - Wed
Email: secretary@nottswi.org.uk Mobile: 07955 771784 https://nottinghamshire.thewi.org.uk

ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS						
	Activity	**Time**	**Venue**	**Price**	**code**	**Closing date**
16 Nov	Coffee & Chat	10 -12	Blue Diamond Garden Centre East Bridgford, NG13 8LA	Buy a drink		Meet in the greenhouse
27 Nov	Christmas Afternoon Tea	1pm - 3.30	Hostess Restaurant, Mansfield NG19 8LL	£25	BT026	12 Nov
11 Dec	Murder Mystery	7 for7.30	Southwell Library	£15	CA007	25 Nov
12 Dec	Christmas Celebration	2pm	Carlton in Lindrick church	£10	CA008	17 Nov
9 Jan	Watercolour flamingo	10-1pm	Lowdham Village Hall	£20	CA006	FULL
27 Jan 2027	Burns' Lunch with entertainment	1pm - 3.30pm	Hostess Restaurant, Mansfield NG19 8LL	£34	BT025	14 Jan
5 Feb	Bingo & light supper	7pm	Lowdham Village Hall	£12	SL001	27 Jan
Saturday 27 Feb	Annual FEDERATION Meeting & buffet lunch	10 - 3pm	John Fretwell Centre, Mansfield NG198LL	£25	BT030	
10 or 17	Darts Pairs	7pm	The Royal Oak, NG13 8PA	£7 pair	SL007	26 Feb
12 Mar	Glass fusion workshop	10-12	Tollerton	£30	CA001	12 PLACES
14 April	Long Alley Skittles	7pm	The Royal Oak, NG13 8PA	£12	SL012	31 Mar
23 April	Bridge Day & lunch	10am	Arthur Radford Sports Hall	£20	SL011	30 Mar
April Date tbc	Lunch & Tudor costume talk	12.30pm	Belgrave Rooms, Nottingham	£35	BT011	Not yet open
14 May	County Quiz		Various			Not yet open
20 May	Fashion Show & lunch	11.45am	Notts West College	£25		Not yet open
3 June	NFWI Annual meeting	10am	Connexin, Hull speaker: Steph McGovern			Not yet open
16 July	River Cruise & lunch	midday	The River Lodge, Colwick NG2 4RF	£25	BT013	£10 Deposit by 13 Jan

GENERAL EVENT BOOKING FORM to **book any event** (by email to secretary@nottswi.org.uk or call 07955 771 784)

WI: Number of tickets: event: **code**:

Payment by bacs/cheque (delete as necessary) sent on:

To pay *send cheques to: Notts Federation of WIs, PO Box 11460, Newark, NG24 9TY or pay by bank transfer to: Notts Fed WI Read Charity, Sort Code: 05 06 22 Account: 50342581*

Creative Activities Team (chair: Bev Stuart. bevstuart@nottswi.org.uk)

The year is galloping away with us and it will soon be time to think about the big "C" word, but not quite yet… there's still time to book for some of our arranged activities: the visit to The Bromley Library in Nottingham, Murder Mystery Play at Southwell Library and the lovely Christmas Celebration in December.

I'm really looking forward to 2027 as it will be the 110th Anniversary of the Nottinghamshire Federation and a great year of celebratory events is planned. Looking forward, we are bringing back the Willow Workshop, and there is a Walking Tour around Historic Nottingham arranged along with other events which will be advertised throughout the year.

Due to member retirement, we are looking for new members to join our small Team please contact us by email secretary@nottswi.org.uk if you think you could contribute to selecting activities for members. Also let us know if

Sport & Leisure Team (chair: Beryl Northcote. berylnorthcote@btinternet.com)

During the summer months the Whist League was successfully held and proved to be an enjoyable event for all participants, Congratulation to Kath Jowett and Monica Richardson who were crowned champions.



Our recent Rummikub Competition was a great success with 40 members attending and enjoying a fun and friendly evening of competition. Congratulation to Elaine Bass from Burton Joyce who emerged as the overall winner. Well done, Elaine!

In September we held a Long Alley Skittles evening attended by 24 members it was an excellent and enjoyable event with a close finish Congratulation to Karen (East Bridgford WI) who emerged as the winner after a hard-fought competition. We also held an Archery session, which provided members with the opportunity to develop new and enjoy a different sporting challenge.





A very entertaining evening of Bingo was held at Lowdham providing members with lots of fun and laughter. The event was enhanced by a delicious supper, making it an excellent social night for everyone who attended. Overall, these events were well supported and provided fun and entertainment for all who took part. If there are any events you'd like my team to put on we'd be happy to help. Please let me know your ideas, thanks.

MEMORIAL BOOK	We fondly remember: Jo Smith, Southwell Morning WI

WI Support Team (chair: Helen Ainley, helenainley@nottswi.org.uk)

I hope you enjoyed reading about Ravenshead WI in last month's Hornblower, even if you aren't involved in producing this report for your WI, I think it was interesting to read what another WI has been doing over the past year. I will publish others in due course which may provide ideas for your own WI when programme planning is being compiled. Last month we also launched our Sheila Norris Competition for 2027, which is in line with our theme for the Federation Annual Meeting in February. I have been asked what members can donate if they can't, or don't have the time, to knit. Below is a list of items that the Baby Basics group needs. Please bring your donations to our Annual Meeting.

What needs to be packed in a Moses Basket?

New items (for baby): size 1 nappies, baby wipes, baby top-to-toe bath liquid, nappy cream, baby soap/soap dish, cotton wool pads, 0-2 toothpaste, 0-2 toothbrush. Toy – must state that it is suitable for newborn or 3 months, baby board book.

New items (for mum): maternity pads, breast pads, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, adult soap/soap dish, hairbrush/comb, wash bag, small gift for mum.

Can be good quality pre-loved (second hand): any knitted items must not have any lacy patterns or "holes" knitted into them. Nor can they have ribbons or other cords.
Moses basket, moses basket stand, sheets-fitted and flat for the basket, sleeping bag (0-6 months), blankets-to fit the basket but also larger for wrapping baby-cotton, knitted or fleece, typical size 70x90cm.Swaddle blanket, snowsuit/pramsuit, vests, Babygro's, outfit, knitted cardigans, knitted hats- pull on style. Cotton hats knitted hats - pull on style, fabric bibs (not plastic backed), scratch mitts, socks, knitted bootees and mittens, changing bag, bath towel for mum, baby towel – hooded preferred, muslins, taggy blanket.



Jayne, one of the members of Blidworth and Rainworth WI, gave a talk at her WI meeting in October to highlight the work of the Canary Girls during both World Wars and the issues they faced as munitions workers handling TNT (which turned their skin and hair yellow). Their sacrifice was no less than other wartime workers.

The Canary Girls' Memorial Project has been set up to raise funds for a memorial at The National Remembrance Gardens. Blidworth and Rainworth WI are supporting this fund and our members have made 2 yellow poppy wreaths to be presented at our villages' remembrance services.

From the Office: **The event enclosures** with your WI secretary this month are:

1. River Princess cruise & lunch 2. 50/50 3. WI officer training 4. Glass Fusion 5. Bingo & supper

6.Darts Pairs 7. Bridge Day & lunch 8. Long Alley Skittles 9. Resolution shortlist voting

They are also available on the website under "County Office Downloads", and on Notts WI SharePoint under "Events & Application Forms".

"With every day comes new strengths and new thoughts" Elenor Roosevelt.