



## County Office

We are open to members Mon, Tues and Wed.  
9.00am – 3.00pm When emailing the office

[admin@nottswi.org.uk](mailto:admin@nottswi.org.uk), please do remember the office opening times.

**Closing Date reminders:** Lady Denman Competition: 31<sup>st</sup> July. WI Diary: 31<sup>st</sup> July. **Enclosures are sent to secretaries by Office 365 email, if you require help with access, please contact the office. This month:**

- 1. Information for July. 2. Federation Events

## Federation News

Our last Zoom event in June was very thought provoking. It was a fascinating talk all about crop circles and, do you know, they aren't all circles!

We were hoping that we would be meeting up together once again by now. During May & June WIs have met outside at Garden Centres, members' gardens, parks etc, but most of all enjoyed seeing one another, having tea and cakes and maybe a glass of wine! Some WIs took up the 'Miles for May' walking challenge and have met at a variety of venues. Now we are looking forward to July 19<sup>th</sup> when possibly we will at last meet inside. We are not doing so many Zoom events now as we thought you would be busy with your own WI events. However, we will continue to have Zoom events offering a diverse range of speakers as they have proved to be very popular with members. The classes and clubs are to remain on Zoom with no charge for the Craft & Chat and Book Club. However, the Chair Pilates will be £5 a month. You may pay using Eventbrite, BACS, cheque or call into the office with cash. August will be quiet to give the staff a chance to have a holiday!



Check our Facebook page: Nottinghamshire WI or our website <https://nottinghamshirethewi.org.uk> Instagram Nottinghamshire WI If your WI has something you would like to post let us know by getting in touch via social media or contact: [suzanneplamping@nottswi.org.uk](mailto:suzanneplamping@nottswi.org.uk)

## Dr Helen Rose Federation Chair

Hello everyone, What is the purpose of the WI? To have fun and enjoy ourselves is part of it, but it is so much more than that. As the three guest speakers at the National Annual Meeting in June reiterated and stressed, the purpose of the WI is to empower women. Learning new things, being on the committee, participating in campaigns all help to empower us and make us fuller citizens. Do our WI programmes reflect this? It's worth considering.

I've just finished reading 'They Fought in the Fields' by Nicola Tyrer [1964]. It's the story of the Land Army set up by Lady Denman in 1939. What's intriguing is that it shines a light on how our own WI movement was established using the same principles: a central body supported by Counties and Voluntary County Organisers [VCOs] and an emphasis on resolving to improve the life of rural women, which indeed had not moved on in centuries. It's well worth a read especially as it was recommended by our own virtual Book Club.

The time has come, so let's go for it. **'Come and picnic with us'**. Have a look at the promotion. See you there. **Kind regards Helen Rose**

**STOP PRESS We are sorry but due to Covid restrictions the Fun & Fundraising Free tea & cake on July 14<sup>th</sup> is postponed**

## July events

There are two Zoom events for you this month.

**'Japanese Gardens' on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July @**

**7.00pm** when Andrew Young will give a personal impression of the main elements and show a selection of gardens in Honshu & Shikoku Islands.



**Tickets £5 REF CODE. JG157 Eventbrite:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/japanese-gardens-tickets-156679940921>



**'SOCIAL MEDIA Hints & Tips'** The Communications Team will help you with tips on sharing, as sharing is caring. Get your #hashtags reviewed and find out about the information you can get from insights.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July @ 7.00pm.** Book your free space via **Eventbrite:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/social-media-hints-tips-with-notts-wi-communication-team-tickets-156707497343>

## Come and picnic With us



We would love for you, your friends & family to come along with a picnic and enjoy meeting up with other WI members on

**SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 11.00am – 2.00pm**



We have two venues on the same day for you to choose from. Meet with us at

**Wollaton Park, near the Car Park or the Idle Valley Nature Reserve, Retford. Look for the Notts WI flutter flag.**

## Craft & Chat

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July @ 10am  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July @ 10am



Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July @ 2pm

**Chair Pilates**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July @ 2pm  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July @ 2pm

Hello everybody, this is my very first entry in the Hornblower as the new Chair of the WI Support Team; following on from Helen Rose has given me some excessively big shoes to fill, but "nothing ventured, nothing gained". For me joining WIST has been a revelatory journey particularly as we progressed through the pandemic with all its uncertainty and challenges. Our WIs have responded to the lockdowns in so many innovative ways to keep their members together and spirits up; makes you proud really. The challenge now is starting to physically meet again, so to reiterate, do make sure you have risk assessed your meetings and venues in line with current guidance to keep everyone as safe as possible. Also, some WIs are still catching up with their Annual Meetings, these must be held. If you are struggling, please contact County House who will allocate a WI Adviser to help and support.



**Susan Spanswick, WI Support Team Chair**

## Creative Activities

Welcome to our newly formed Creative Activities group. I am very excited to be leading this new group. However, a planning group is only as good as its members, so I am delighted to be working alongside Christine Clark, June Freeman, Maddie Goodwin, Moira Hufton, Sylvia Inasley,

Helen Rose and Pat Wilcox. The lovely Heather Roberts is our secretarial support at County House. Under our new group structure, we shall be promoting the visual arts in all forms, including cinema, photography, music, drama, dance, craft and creative & imaginative writing. We have already started planning for **AUTUMN 2021** and our programme is going to be extremely varied so all we need is your support and enthusiasm. If you would like to join us, contact [assistantsec@nottswi.org.uk](mailto:assistantsec@nottswi.org.uk)  
Our July event is a talk on Japanese Gardens via zoom on the 15<sup>th</sup>, join in and enjoy some spectacular gardens. **Carrie Young**

## Miles for May

A big thank you to all those who took part in the Communications Team 'Miles for May' walking challenge. We are adding the remaining miles into the totalizer. So far, together, we have walked over **5,500 miles that's all the way to the North Pole and back to Nottingham! What a fantastic feat (feet)! Please email any more miles walked in May to [suzanneplamping@nottswi.org.uk](mailto:suzanneplamping@nottswi.org.uk).**

**MCS REGISTER.** If your WI has a website or changes your venue, meeting time or day etc you need to input the web address or change your meeting information on your MCS WI Register. This will automatically change the basic details of your WI on the NFWI website. If your WI doesn't have a MCS Rep, please contact County office by telephone or email: [admin@nottswi.org.uk](mailto:admin@nottswi.org.uk)

## FUNDRAISING GUIDELINES

Everyone knows that as well as all their other attributes, WI members are great fundraisers. They are generous to a fault and work brilliantly as a team. However, a word of warning! Funds raised and donated by WIs **MUST comply with the NFWI Constitution** which, in turn, is based on Charity law. Funds may only be given to causes, however worthy, that meet the aims and objects of the WI. This rules out many wonderful national charities that may be dear to our hearts and even local charities/causes if they do not directly benefit the WI members in the area. However, if a group of WI members and friends want to raise funds for something that doesn't meet the criteria, there is no reason why they shouldn't. They can get together to plan an event as long as: - Posters, tickets or other pre-event publicity material does NOT mention the name of the WI and funds raised are NOT paid into a WI account. Subsequent publicity if required could say something like - 'A local group of people, including some members of Anytown WI, organised a charity event for the RSPCA and raised £500'. **There is more detailed information on this issue on MYWI and in the newly updated A-Z for Treasurers.** Also, I am always willing to discuss financial queries with WIs or individual members. Pauline Redmile IFET (Independent Financial Adviser Trainer)

## Around the County

**Lindhurst WI knitting group,** 'Audrey is the blanket queen, Joyce - who lets us use her lounge to meet and keeps us going with tea and biscuits, Pat a friend of



Joyce's, Brenda and myself have been busy knitting. This has been done just before and during lockdown for the stillborn and neonatal unit at Kings Mill Hospital. There are 26 cardigans and jackets, 8 beanie hats/2 ventilator bonnets, 18 sleeves to cover cannulas, and 72 blankets and shawls! I can only say a huge thank you to the ladies who have given their time to support this and have often refused recompense for yarn they have bought. **Judith Pratt, President.**' What a brilliant achievement and so worthwhile.

**Grove (Retford) WI** have a very valued Member, Sheila Pickersgil. She has machine sewn hundreds of face masks, in a variety of patterns and colours, selling them to fundraise for charity. Sheila has given £1000 to Macmillan and another £1000 to Retford Lions. Well done, that's a fantastic amount Sheila!

**Shelford WI members** are always busy. One of the things they do is look after airmen's graves in the village. This year they sowed wildflower seed next to the headstones. What a glorious sight it is! Have a look at their Facebook page.



We are very sorry to say Goodbye to **Jacky Toplis** as she is moving to live near to her daughter. Jacky is a former Federation Chairman, WIA and Chair of Membership, Bulb scheme organiser, an IFE and the IFE Trainer for the Federation. She organised fundraising for a new roof for County House and lots lots more! She was Chairman during the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Federation and has been an absolutely wonderful Notts WI member. We will miss you and thank you for all the help you have given the Federation over the many years. **Farewell Jacky**

**August** The Sports & Leisure Team are giving you an opportunity to play **Croquet** on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August & Thursday 19 August @ 6.30pm**. The venue is the Southwell Croquet Club, Cooks Lane, Morton. Cost £9 pp. Closing date Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July. Full details are on the form.