

Hornblower Newsletter

A word from our Chair, Helen Ainley

Hello everyone, when you read this, we will be truly into the "Brrr!" months. I am writing this whilst on our Federation holiday to Northumberland. We are having a great time, enjoying the beautiful hotel, seeing wonderful countryside, learning about the area we are visiting and its interesting buildings, who knew there were 70 castles in Northumberland? but above all we are enjoying our time together in true WI friendship and fellowship. We've had lots of laughs, we've even made our driver chuckle, compared our WIs and really got to know each other.

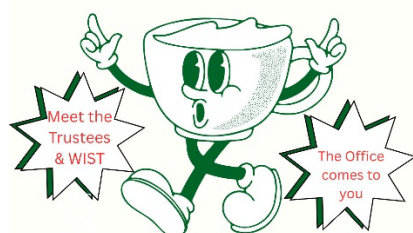


We would all like to thank my fellow trustee, Christine Clark, for planning and organising this holiday, everything has been perfect and exceeded what we hoped for 🍷 Look out for her full report of our holiday next month.

It seems early to be mentioning Christmas, but please look out for our Christmas Afternoon Tea and Christmas Celebration coming up and remember to book early to avoid disappointment.

Take care everyone, Helen email: chair@nottswi.org.uk and mobile: 07804 477635

Coffee & Chat



19th October 2026, 10-12 noon
Aurora Community Hub
The Old Library & Museum
Memorial Avenue
Workop S80 2BJ

&

16th November 2026 10-12 noon
Blue Diamond Garden Centre
Fosse Way, East Bridgford,
Nottingham, NG13 8LA
(in the greenhouse)

theWI Nottinghamshire

Would your WI be interested in having a
Sisterhood Subgroup?

If you would like to explore more about this please
contact Helen Ainley email: chair@nottswi.org.uk or
mob: 07804 477635



Sisterhood Groups info meeting on Teams.

8th October 2026 7.00-7.30pm

<https://teams.microsoft.com/join/346176839311549?p=4UdGBFALjzRJTvsYc>

Meeting ID: 346 176 839 311 549 Passcode: kh6JS9K3

Federation Flutter:

Congratulation to our September winner: Pat O'Brien, from Ravenshead WI
with lucky number 16.



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 WI members

Date	Activity	Time	Venue	Price	Code	Closing date
8 Oct 7.00 - 7.30pm	Sisterhood Groups info meeting on Teams. https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/346176839311549?p=4UdGBFALjzRJTvsYc Meeting ID: 346 176 839 311 549 Passcode: kh6JS9K3					
19 Oct	Coffee & Chat	10-12	Aurora, Worksop	FREE		
15 Nov	Bromley House Library	1pm	Nottingham	£15	CA003	15 Oct
16 Nov	Coffee & Chat	10 -12	Blue Diamond Garden Centre Fosse Way, East Bridgford, Nottingham, NG13 8LA	FREE		Meet in the greenhouse
27 Nov	Christmas Afternoon Tea & music from Jon Alex	1pm - 3.30	Hostess Restaurant, Mansfield NG19 8LL	£25	BT026	12 Nov
11 Dec	Murder Mystery & light buffet	7 for 7.30pm	Southwell Library	£15	CA007	25 Nov
12 Dec	Christmas Celebration	2pm	Carlton in Lindrick church	£10	CA008	17 Nov
9 Jan	Watercolour flamingo	10am - 1pm	Lowdham Village Hall	£20	CA006	20 places available
27 Jan 2027	Burns' Lunch (3 courses) & entertainment	1pm - 3.30pm	Hostess Restaurant, Mansfield NG19 8LL	£34	BT025	14 Jan
5 Feb	Winter Bingo	6 -10	Lowdham Village Hall	£12	SL001	Not yet open
Saturday 27 Feb	Annual Federation Meeting with buffet lunch (subsidised ticket price)	10 - 3pm	John Fretwell Centre, Mansfield NG198LL	£25	BT030	284 places available

GENERAL EVENT BOOKING FORM

to book any event by email to secretary@nottswi.org.uk or call 07955 771 784

WI: _____ Number of tickets: _____ Date of event: _____ code: _____

Event name: _____

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



Congratulations to Elaine Bass of **Burton Joyce & Bulcote WI**, who won the recent Notts WI Rummikub competition with a perfect zero score across the 5 games.



Members from **Mansfield Woodhouse WI** enjoyed a trip out, having a go at Ten Pin Bowling to celebrate WI Day on 16th September. All wearing purple as a theme.



East Leake WI recently held a fashion show to raise funds for a local charity, East Leake Community Care. Members "strutted their stuff" along the catwalk in a variety of outfits.

The WI was also well supported by local businesses who generously donated prizes which, including ticket sales, helped raise £850 for the cause.

Hickling WI helping to raise funds for a children's playground.



Kinoulton WI 90th Birthday party.



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

This month we launch the **Sheila Norris Rose Bowl Competition for 2027**. This year we are supporting "Baby Basics" a charity that provides newborn essentials to mothers who, for whatever reason, have nothing for baby when they come out of hospital. The charity fills a Moses basket full of baby basics. These new mothers may be escaping abuse, have nothing because of poverty or young girls without support and backup; there are a range of reasons this service is needed. We will be asking you to knit baby cardigans but please see the enclosure for more details as they are quite specific, for baby's safety.

Last month, I hope that you will recall, I was asking that all current forms be used when reporting from your Annual Meetings. Following on from this, I was asked if I could publish some of the **Trustees' Reports** here in the Hornblower so that you could all see what is happening in other WIs.

So, this month, with their kind permission, the Ravenshead WI submission is on pages 4 & 5 for you to see. All sections are completed as requested and this gives us a clearer picture of what is happening in their WI with the details we need to record in their file. This forms part of their history, so is very important.

You will notice that all the sections expand as you type so you are not restricted, within reason, on what you include. I hope this is useful for you to see.

My contact details should you need them about anything WI are, email: helenainley@nottswi.org.uk mobile: 07804477635.

	Trustees' Annual Report for Ravenshead WI 2025-26
Membership	Total number of members = 58 Made up of 53 full members and 5 multi members
Committee	There were 12 members on the committee, and we had 12 committee meetings. Most meetings have been held in the Brammer Room of Ravenshead Village Hall.
Monthly meetings	We had 12 in person members meetings, including 2 parties in June and December. We have had a wide variety of speakers, all entertaining and some also very informative. We have ranged from the cost of fast fashion, the history of theatre masks to gin making and guide dogs. We have also had a talk on the wonders and dangers of AI which gave us all food for thought. In June we had a wonderful evening celebrating our 60th Anniversary with a delicious spread of shared food and some great 60s music. We had a PowerPoint presentation of photographs taking us back in time. Our President Brenda made a delightful anniversary cake which we all enjoyed. We had a professional photograph taken of our members at this meeting which will be a keepsake for the future. We displayed photograph albums of previous WI events which brought back a lot of memories. Our Christmas party was great fun, and we asked members to bring in childhood photographs so we could guess who the photos were of. Some have changed more than others! As a WI we pride ourselves on being friendly and welcoming and have continued to attract some new members in the last year.
WI activities and events	The Book Group and Craft Group have continued to meet regularly and are well supported. The craft group has recently moved to Ravenshead Library which has been a positive move with a bigger attendance. We have continued with our monthly "strolls". The walks are gentle and finish with refreshments at a nearby café. We have struggled to get members to join in, but we continue to encourage them and have a variety of venues for our walks. We have an evening summer walk every August and a meal afterwards. We had our annual picnic in Newstead Abbey in September. A few members made a trip to Denby pottery and had a tour of the factory followed by refreshments in the café. An afternoon tea was held in a local teashop in November and was really enjoyed by those who attended.
Community Activities and donations	Our members, again, helped with refreshments at the Ravenshead Christmas Light switch on. We also helped out at the cake stall at the Church centre. We also have continued to knit hats and gloves etc for Teams 4U and other good causes. This year we also contributed over 31 boxes for the scheme which were filled very generously by members. Our neighbouring WI Abbey Gates contributed to this endeavour also. Our members donate generously to the Great Notts Toy Appeal for Christmas. Our chosen charity which we are supporting this year is The Rainworth Social Action Hub and we had a presentation at our November meeting by the manager. Our coffee morning in March 2026 was largely to raise funds for this worthwhile organisation. We donated £300 to Homestart Mansfield, and we presented the cheque at one of our committee meetings. This money was raised at our coffee morning in March 2025

Federation /National activities	Our members are good supporters of the excellent events organised by County. We have attended a variety of events including the Burns and Literary lunches, craft events, Kurling, a Christmas celebration and the county quiz amongst others. There have been a lot of changes at the County level in the last year with the closure and sale of the office in Newark and a move to online communication rather than paper. We also have a new Chairman Helen Ainley. We have joined in with our Forest Folk Group events and attended an event in Forest Town last summer which was very enjoyable and had a lot of us on the dance floor! Some members have started to take part in online events on the WI Learning Hub which is now rebranded as VIA.
WI Fundraising	Leading up to our 60th year we asked members to suggest a charity at some of the meetings and tell us why they were supporting it. See also above.
Promoting your WI	We regularly post reports of our activities in the local Newsletter to raise our profile in the village. The meeting dates are also in the newsletter. We have had a flyer printed promoting our WI and post notices for all our events in the local area. We had a cake and coffee morning in November at the library to promote our WI within the local community. We have a website and a Facebook page
Goods and chattels	Moira Hufton (committee member) looks after our archives at present. We don't have much in the way of goods and chattels apart from some decent tablecloths, large teapot etc.
Looking forward	We will continue with the monthly strolls in addition to our August walk and dinner. We are starting a games group at the local library which we hope will be successful at bringing people together. We will continue to arrange special events for members from time to time. Patricia Harman our programme secretary has put together another interesting programme of meetings for the coming year. We have a Group Meeting planned for June.

From the Office: Event enclosures this month:

1. Burns Lunch 2. Annual Federation Meeting 3. Watercolour flamingo 4. Sheila Norrris Rose bowl competition. These are also available on the website under "County Office Downloads", and on Notts WI SharePoint under "Events & Application Forms".

"The Down to Earth Diva – amazing!"  SOPRANO FOR THE PEOPLE NICOLA MILLS	ANNUAL FEDERATION MEETING (WITH LUNCH) Member tickets £25 (subsidised) Delegate: free <u>Saturday 27th February 2027, 10.30am - 3pm (doors 9.30am)</u> John Fretwell Centre, Sookholme Road, Mansfield NG198LL 2-course buffet lunch, with tea/coffee available all day.
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