



theWI Nottinghamshire



September
2025

The Hornblower

A NEW CHANCE TO WIN!



THE FEDERATION FLUTTER

For a stake of £15 there's a chance
to win £30 in each of the 9 monthly
draws, and a chance to win in the Autumn
Bonus Draw



<https://nottinghamshire.thewi.org.uk>



Nottinghamshire WI



Nottinghamshire WI



NottsFedWI



CONTACT: Nottinghamshire Federation of WIs. Email: admin@nottswi.org.uk Tel. 01636 673550
OFFICE HOURS: Mon, Tues & Wed 9.00am – 3.00pm. Closed Thursday & Friday

HORNBLOWER CONTACT & PRINT DETAILS:

Email: hornblowereditor@nottswi.org.uk

Chair's Letter

Welcome to September everyone! The month of change from Summer to Autumn, I love the Autumn with all the rich colours we see in our gardens and all around us, the leaves are starting to change from shades of green to shades of red, brown, and ochre.

As was mentioned last month Heather, who has been working in our office for nearly 20 years, has now left us and I would like to thank her for all her amazing work and wish her much happiness in her future.

I have been talking to you about all the little changes that have been happening within your Federation office, but now I would like to tell you about a bigger change that will be happening in October when we will be leaving Trent Bridge House. The house has served us well for many years but, as you know, was sold earlier in the year as it was no longer suitable for our needs and we could not meet the ever-increasing costs to maintain it.

Firstly, I will tell you that the funds from the sale of the Trent Bridge House will be safely invested and the return on this will go towards the running of the Federation. So, you don't need to worry that our funds are being eaten into, the money will still be there if we decide, should anything become available, that it would be prudent to buy a property instead.

What will this mean for the WIs and members? We will still be working for you as now, providing office support; Sue will be working from home, and all the trustees will be working as usual to maintain finance, compliance and the overall running of the Federation. All the events will run as usual, and you will still be able to book them via Trybooking.com and via postal/email application with, preferably, BACS payments, or by sending a cheque. You will still be able to contact us as usual; our email addresses will remain the same. By telephone: a new number, if necessary, will be advised very soon. By post: a PO Box address will be advised very soon and any post arriving at Trent Bridge House will be sent on.

We will be using a storage facility for Federation chattels, which also offers free meeting facilities for all our Team meetings.

So, from your point of view little will have changed but all these changes will make a significant reduction in the Federations outgoings, avoiding shortfalls at year end. I hope you feel that we have kept you in the loop with everything but if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on helenainley@nottswi.org.uk.

Take care, Helen Ainley



FROM COUNTY OFFICE

Federation Secretary: Sue Sanderson

On **Wednesday 22 October** we will be closing the office door at Trent Bridge House for the last time and handing over the keys to the landlord. After a short break, I will then be working remotely from Monday 3 November but joining trustees and federation team members for regular

meetings. This move reduces overheads and allows federation to have a more sustainable presence going forward.

We will be available by phone, email and post and our **Notts WI Sharepoint** libraries can be accessed for information required by WIs.

Any member can access this. **Go to office.com in your browser, sign in using members@nottswi.org.uk and use password**

CountyHouse1975. On the Copilot Chat screen, click on the "apps" on the left-hand side, then on Sharepoint, then on the blue bar of Notts Fed WI Team Site. This leads you to the federation Events Calendar. Use the tabs "Events and Application forms" and "WI Information" towards the top of the page to look for information.

Please get in touch on secretary@nottswi.org.uk if your officers require the sign in for your Notts WI email address. We are moving away from sending out paperwork, but the information you require can be sent to you by email.

ENCLOSURES: 1. Murder Mystery; 2. Celebration of Christmas

Don't Forget . . .

Reminders: Forms to be in the office before:-

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| • M&S Archive visit (17/9) | 5 Sept |
| • Bingo (10/10) | 10 Sept |
| • Autumn Afternoon Tea (8/10) | 15 Sept |
| • Visoodling (17/10) | 17 Sept |
| • WI Officers' Workshop (6/10) | 19 Sept |
| • County Lunch (5/11) | 17 Oct |
| • Federation Flutter 50/50 (1/11) | 24 Oct |



WI SUPPORT TEAM

Chair: Helen Ainley

Hello everyone, by now all WIs should have received, by email, a copy of the new Constitution. Back when your WIs were formed a Constitution would have been signed, some WIs still do have theirs, but I know quite a lot of the older WIs have misplaced them over the years. Therefore, it is best practice for all WIs to now sign the new one. **Each WI should keep a copy and forward by email, the signed copy of the back page only, which was sent as a separate attachment, to the Office.** I know a couple of WIs don't have access to email so if those contact us, we will make other arrangements.

I hope some of you will either have been to our Coffee & Chat at Maxey's or are looking forward to it this month. Look out for the next one on **Monday 17 November** at **Trowell Garden Centre, NG9 3TG** at **10am till 12 noon**. Hopefully by then we will all be looking forward to the festive season and can browse all that the Centre has to offer as well as enjoy our popular chats.

Have you booked the **WI Officers' Workshop** which will be online on **Monday 6 October** from **10am till 12 noon**? This is your chance to ask any questions regarding your WI, particularly about the new Constitution. **These questions should be submitted to us by email admin@nottswi.org.uk before the closing date of 19th September.** As always you can contact me at helenainley@nottswi.org.uk if you need any help or advice.

CALENDAR September & October 2025			
See enclosure for application & full details			
18/9	Rummikub	7pm	Lowdham WI Hall
20/9	Steelpan Drumming	1.30pm	Hucknall Central Meth'st Church Hall
27/9	Archery	1.30pm	Southwell
6/10	'WI Officers' Workshop'	10am – 12noon	Online
8/10	Autumn Afternoon Tea	12.30 for 1.00pm	Hostess Restaurant Mansfield Woodhouse
17/10	Visoodling	9.30am-12noon	Sylvia Bell room Oxtown V H

County Lunch



Wednesday 5 November
12.00 for 12.30pm

West Retford Hotel, Retford
Costume Historian & Dressmaker, Meredith Towne

To Book or use the QR code
<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FDFX>

NEW FEDERATION TRUSTEES

We are pleased to welcome four new Trustees to the Federation for **June 2025–March 2028**



Heidi Platts
Stapleford WI



Deb Jones
Mansfield
Woodhouse WI



Julia Fiddian
Bilthorpe Busy Bees WI



Christine Clark
Carlton in Lindrick WI

WI WEEK OF RIVER ACTION 29 SEPTEMBER - 5 OCTOBER

This year, between 29 September and 5 October, the **WI Week of River Action** returns, and we need you to help make waves! Join hundreds of WIs raising awareness and taking action for better water quality as part of our Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife campaign.

Since the last Week of River Action, the Government has started to take steps to improve our water systems. But, despite this progress, our work is not over. The proposed changes to bathing water regulations may deem some sites too polluted to protect, preventing much-needed protection for our waters. Additionally, microplastic pollution from sewage remains a growing concern, threatening aquatic life and public health. Without stronger action, our rivers and coastal waters will continue to suffer.

How You Can Take Action

Here are just a few ways you can make an impact during the week:

- Apply for or support a bathing water application for a local waterway
- Show off your creativity with an eye-catching photo stunt to raise awareness
- Engage your community by hosting an event, talk, or stand
- Get your voice heard by contacting local media or inviting journalists to cover your events

We can't wait to hear what you have planned! If you need inspiration or practical support, we're here to help.

Resources to help you make waves

We are developing a suite of resources to maximise your impact. In the meantime, check out some of last year's resources here to help you get started. Public Affairs team NFWI



Autumn Afternoon Tea

Wednesday 8 October
12.30pm for 1.00pm
Hostess Restaurant

Entertainment by
Lily Taylor Ward



QR Code
to Book



CREATIVE ACTIVITIES Chair: Bev Stuart

Well, it's September already, hasn't Summer been great? It's lasted so long this year giving us plenty of time in the garden and for days out with family, but sadly it's coming to an end. I've enjoyed my days in the garden and the greenhouse but now it's back to work for the **Creative Activities Team** and we need to get our thinking hats on for a full programme of interesting events and activities for next year. There's already a lot of events in the pipeline so look out for them! There's **Steelman Drumming** at the end of this month, **Visoodling** (doodling with watercolour) in October, and in December the ever-popular **Murder Mystery**, where you play detective and our **Celebration of Christmas**.

Please contact us by email admin@nottswi.org.uk if there's anything you particularly enjoyed and would like repeated or for new events you would like us to consider. Our Team meets every month alternating between online and in person meetings, so contact the office on secretary@nottswi.org.uk for an invitation to join in on a meeting and tell us what you would like in person.

SPORT & LEISURE

On two beautiful evenings in July, WI members met at Southwell Croquet Club to learn how to play croquet: from holding a mallet, striking the ball and going through hoops. The group was then split up to play games against each other. The overall winners were **Lesley (Laxton WI)** and **Diane (East Bridgford WI)**

We have also finished the **Whist League**, and it went right down to the wire on the last night, but in the end **Beryl Northcote** and **Marion Holder (Morton, Fiskerton and Rolleston WI)**, **Christine Salter (East Bridgford WI)** won with 1294 points.

The next event will be the **Rummikub** competition on **Thursday 18 September** at Lowdham WI Hall followed by Archery on **Saturday 27 September** at Southwell. Don't forget the **Bingo** on **Friday 10 October** at Lowdham.

Beryl Northcote berlynorthcote@btinternet.com Tel 01636 812579

Federation Website

Have you looked at the Federation's website?

<https://nottinghamshire.thewi.org.uk>



It's part of the National site. Every WI has a page.

- Find a WI, your meeting details are there.
- County Office with downloads of enclosures.
- Microsoft 365 login, makes it easy to get your emails from the Federation.
- WI Annual meeting documents.
- Our Federation Teams.

Highlights

In July, **Blidworth and Rainworth WI** welcomed John Roughton, Community Trainer from EMAS who provided free training on the use of defibrillators and CPR procedure. This was in response to National's campaign '**Bystanders can be lifesavers**'. Leaflets - "The Law and saving lives out of hospitals" and "Lifesaving reminders" were also provided. They offered this out to the community, and they welcomed ladies from the group Women for Women. A donation was made to **Teddies for Loving Care**.

On a summer evening in July **Kimberley WI** members and guests enjoyed a private guided tour of **Bennerley Viaduct** on the Notts/ Derby's border. Only one of two such remaining viaducts in the country and now a historic listed structure.



Wollaton WI celebrated 110 years of the WI by having a picnic in August at **Wollaton Park** (where else) members enjoyed quizzes and had a couple bottles of Prosecco to celebrate together! It was a celebration of friendship, community, learning and laughter, inspiring women who came before them -- and those who carry that legacy today. What better way to celebrate that spirit than with food, laughter, stories and sunshine. They also had a new member join them called Troublesome Deer (yes one of the park deer) who was after a very nice box of chocolate biscuits!



This year, in January, **Watnall WI** members enjoyed an interesting talk from one of the volunteers at **AquaBox**, a charitable organisation dedicated to ensuring safe drinking water and humanitarian aid is sent to people affected by natural disasters, extreme weather, and conflicts. Funded by donations, teams of volunteers manufacture, assemble, test and pack the family filters. Their outing in July took them to the Depot for an educational morning where members delivered towels, which are included in the aid boxes. These are good packing material and can then be used as towels again when they arrive. They were given a warm welcome, a demonstration on how the filters work and a tour of the workshop seeing how the volunteers work as a team assembling the various parts of the filters. AquaBox pack an amazing number of items into the Aid boxes including the family water filter, shelter materials and tools, cooking utensils, personal hygiene items and educational items and toys.

Members of **Workshop Wonders WI** were very lucky, they had a lovely sunny afternoon for their "Tea in the Garden" event enjoying the cake and company.



MGS REGISTER

Due to the significant steps we are taking to go paperless, the Federation will be relying heavily on the MCS for information. **It is therefore imperative that your MCS rep updates your records as soon as any changes are made at your WI. This includes anything relating to the venue, meeting days, officers, all committee members WI and any members' contact information.**

Your MCS Rep is responsible for updating any changes throughout the year as well as after your Annual Meeting. **Would all MCS reps please update the MCS within two weeks of the Annual Meeting.**

If you have any difficulties updating the MCS, there is a Helpbook on the MCS (next to the log out button).



AUGUST 2025

The winning numbers were randomly chosen by computer before the Board of Trustees Meeting

Name	WI	Number
Cynthia Wakefield	MWPV	33
Josie Scales	Radcliffe on Trent	55
Kath Jowett	Hoveringham & Th	23

MEMORIES FROM HORNBLOWER EDITORS

When I asked two former editors, **Jenny Holmes**, and **Ellie Briggs** how they best remembered their time as editors, they immediately replied, "I loved it." **Jenny Holmes, Editor from 1987 – 1990 and again from 1992 – 1995** (she was Federation Treasurer in between!) did it pre-computers and had to type up all the copy. The Rural Community Council also asked her to help judge parish magazines & newsletters for an annual competition. **Ellie, Editor from 1995 – 2001** tried hard to get WIs to take a copy for every member and conducted a survey of members' likes and dislikes. She loved knowing what was happening in the Federation and the hardest part was meeting deadlines! And having to choose your holidays around them! And my **memories (Jenny Bailey 2001 – 2025)** of the last two decades are really very similar - I have loved it too! My best memory is having it printed in colour for the first time and one of the funniest was giving a talk as the Hornblower Editor to a WI. One member, on seeing 'The Hornblower' in their programme thought it was going to be about a wind instrument! After that I took a horn with me to every talk! Obviously not all members had a copy at that WI. The worst memory was when the delivery van crashed, and we very nearly lost the whole lot the day before it was due to be packed. **All of us involved with the publishing of the Federation's newsletter, "the Hornblower", have loved it and hope you the members have too. Jenny Bailey**



Members are listed by their name and WI. They will be forever remembered and will all be truly missed.

Jackie Payne. A former President of Sutton & Barnby Moor WI.

Elaine Dixon. Newark Palace WI & Dorewood WIs. A much loved member, remembered at both her WIs & the Federation for her enjoyment in competitions & attending events.