

A word from our Chair

My goodness we are in 2026 already, how time flies!

I am sure you are, like me, looking forward to what this year has in store for us, what opportunities will come our way, what new experiences will there be, what possibilities will there be? The magic of new beginnings! Last year your Federation had lots of new beginnings, we started to work in different ways to reduce cost and wastage of resources, we began communicating with more members directly via email, we launched our new style Hornblower, we started using a storage facility to cut down costs, what will the new year bring?

Well, this year we are hoping to consolidate on what we now have in place: there will be a lot of learning for us as we use the new systems and technology, so please be patient if, for example, the Hornblower is a little late being issued. We are aiming to have it with you for the start of each month, but technical problems have hindered us so far. But we are WI and we will overcome these!

A new initiative this year will see the trustees following in the footsteps of our WI Support Team with their Coffee & Chat sessions; we too will be coming to different areas of Nottinghamshire regularly so you can get to know us better. At these sessions you can just join us for a drink & chat or get any information you need etc. Our first one was last month at YMCA in Newark. We are having the next one on 16th February at the Bird's Nest Cafe, Hall Farm, Weston, NG23 6SY. There is also a shop selling bird food etc and fancy goods on site so a chance for browsing and perhaps a little retail therapy as well as having a catch up with us.



We look forward to meeting more of our lovely members and building stronger relationships.

Sending very best wishes to you all, remember - wrap up well and stay warm. Take care, Helen.



Here is Hucknall WI's original and prizewinning entry to the Hucknall Christmas Tree Festival: "Mr Haywood House Gnome", made of red knitted hearts donated to the unit.


Below is the wonderful display of poppies thanks to the amazing work and dedication the Wollaton WI ladies.



Annual Federation Meeting – Saturday 21 March

10.30am - 3pm (doors open 9.30am) at The Minster School, Southwell, NG25 0LG £10 per ticket (delegates - free) With a talk on Autism/Makaton in the morning and an illustrated music talk by local portrait artist, Paul Lillie in the afternoon. There will be a Prize Draw, café and shopping opportunities at various stalls. To fundraise for your WI book a table for £5.

 www.facebook.com/nottinghamshirewi

 www.instagram.com/nottinghamshirewi

ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS 2026

Date	Activity	Time	Venue	Price	code	Closing date
6 March	Bingo	7pm	Oxton Village Hall	£8	SL001	20 Feb
7 March	Crochet	10.30am	The Centre, Ravenshead	£20	CA004	16 Feb
12 March	Literary Lunch with Jill Berry	12.30pm	Ramsdale Park Golf Club, Calverton	£30	BT028	Now 27 Feb
18/19 March	Darts Pairs	7pm	Royal Oak, East Bridgford	£7	SL002	6 March
21 March	Annual Federation Meeting	access 9.30	Minster School, Southwell	£10	BT030	11 March
14 April	Using Your Money, Planning (& lunch)	10-1pm	South Muskham Village Hall	£10	WS003	30 March
17 April	Bridge Day	10am	Arthur Radford Sports Hall	£25	SL011	30 March
24 April	Walking tour Nott'm	11am	Lace Market Walking Tour with Ezekiel Bone	£12	CA005	17 April
24 April	County Lunch	12.30pm	Oxton Village Hall	£25	BT009	17 April
9 May	Angel Sculpture	10-1pm	Epperstone Village Hall	£30	CA016	20 April
13 May	Kurling	7pm	Lowdham Village Hall	£10	SL017	24 April
15 May	County Quiz	7pm	various	£10	BT033	30 April
18 May	Money for Free	7pm	Zoom	free		Email fed sec
28 & 29 June	Croquet	6pm	Arthur Radford Sports Ground	£13		Not yet open
10 Jul	Bingo	7pm	Lowdham Village Hall	£8		Not yet open
10 Sept	Long Alley Skittles	7pm	Royal Oak, East Bridgford	£12		Not yet open
24 Sept	Rummikub	7pm	Lowdham WI Hall	£7		Not yet open
9 Oct	Bingo	7pm	Lowdham Village Hall	£8		Not yet open
12 Nov	Long Alley Skittles	7pm	Sherwood Ranger, Ravenshead	£12		Not yet open

GENERAL EVENT BOOKING FORM (copy and paste into your email)

Use this form to **book any event** (by email to secretary@nottswi.org.uk or call 07955 771 784)

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

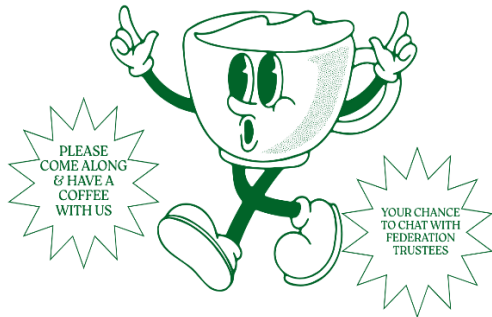
Booking & payment ref: _____ Payment by bacs/cheque (delete as necessary) sent on: _____

Reminder of ways to pay for Federation events

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

Federation Coffee & Chat



Monday 16th February 2026, 10am-12 noon

BirdsNest Cafe, Hall Farm,
Weston, NG236SY

WIST Coffee & Chat

Monday 9th March 2026, 10am-12 noon

Dukeries Garden Centre, Welbeck,
Worksop S80 3LW
with a talk by the Garden Centre staff

Literary Lunch

Join us at the Ramsdale Park Golf Club, Calverton, on Thursday 12 March 2026 for a 2-course lunch at 12.30pm.

Price £30. Apply by 27 February.

Our speaker will be local author, Jill Berry a Nottinghamshire-based former English teacher who has written four novels since 2019 including "Eighteen Months" and "The Button Box". She talks about the process of starting to write fiction, getting it published, and promoting it. She shares extracts from her novels during the talk.



FEDERATION HOLIDAY to the Northumberland Castles, Coast & Roman Ruins on Monday 14 – Friday 18 September 2026

Twin/Double Share: £628.00 p/p Single Room: £808.00 p/p at Slayley Hall 4 star hotel and spa.

Visits include Alnwick Castle & gardens, Hadrian's Wall, Holy Island & Bamburgh Castle. Open to non-members.

For further information or to book by 13 April 2026 please contact Rebecca@johnsonstours.co.uk or telephone 01909 720337

Federation Flutter:

Congratulations to our January winner, Mollie Smith from Hucknall WI with her bond number 9. It's not too late - you can buy a bond for £30 and join the Federation Flutter draw at any time, please contact the office.



Freda Melbourne, Oxton WI
Marie Langdon, Radcliffe on Trent WI
Penny Messenger, Woodthorpe WI

The WI Support Team hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas with your WIs and would like to wish you all a very Healthy and Happy 2026.

This year for our **Sheila Norris Rose Bowl competition** we would like you to produce washbags using preferably recycled materials and fill them with basic toiletries, these can be any style or design and will be distributed to woman's homeless charities and women's refuges after judging, thus benefiting women who are less fortunate and in need. They will be judged on creative use of materials and overall appearance. You can enter as many times as you like; the winner will be presented with the Sheila Norris Rose Bowl to hold for a year and the WI to produce the most washbags will be awarded with a certificate. These will be presented at our Nottinghamshire Federation Annual Meeting in March 2026. We hope you will support this initiative and show us how creative our members are and help women in need in our community.

The WIST Coffee and Chat will be on 9th March at Dukeries/Nottcut Garden Centre, Warsop, Notts. We will be having a talk by one of the staff which is sure to be enjoyable, and we can treat ourselves to a drink and tasty treat from the cafe. Please come along, we look forward to seeing you. As always if you need help or advice on anything WI related, please contact helenainley@nottswi.org.uk

From the Office: Prize draw counterfoils can be sent to the office or taken to the AFM to be included in the draw. Federation accounts 2024-25 will be available on 6 February and sent to WI secretaries. Enclosures: AFM, Kurling, County Lunch, Walking Tour, County Quiz, Powertex Angel, Using Your Money & Programme Planning



COUNTY QUIZ

Date: Friday 15 May 2026
Time: 7.30pm prompt
Venue: Various – see below
Price: £12 per team of 4
Closing Date: 24 April 2026

Please apply using reference BT033

The winning team receives £20 for each player

- A) Rivergreen Methodist Hub, Rivergreen, Clifton, Nottingham NG11 8AU
- B) Forest Town Arena, Clipstone Road West, Mansfield NG19 0EE
- C) Oxton Village Hall, Main Street, Oxton NG25 0SA
- D) Acacia Centre, Acacia Avenue (off Forest Road), Annesley Woodhouse NG17 9BH
- E) Carlton Parish Centre, Carlton in Lindrick, Worksop S81 9EG
- F) Winthorpe Community Centre 1 Woodlands, Winthorpe, Newark NG24 2NL

NFWI are holding their Annual Meeting, hosted online, on Thursday 4 June with speakers: Anne Boden, founder of Starling Bank and Prof. Michele Dougherty Exec Chair, Science and Technology Facilities Council. If you would like to attend as a delegate, please contact the office.