

## Hornblower Newsletter

### A word from our Chair

Welcome to March and the official start of Spring on the 21<sup>st</sup>. We've had snow drops in the garden and there are a few spring bulbs peeping through! It's International Women's Day on the 8<sup>th</sup>, has your WI done anything to mark this? If you have, we would love to have your photos to add to next month's Hornblower.

I would like to remind all WIs of our belief in Friendship and Fellowship. I have heard of cases where members have been absent from meetings long term due to illness and who have not had any contact from their WI. It just takes a phone call and that can make such a difference to someone who may not be feeling at their best. Please let members know they have been missed and thought about. I know lots of WIs have a designated role for welcoming and ensuring everyone is included and cared for, "Sunshine Lady" is a title I have heard, which I think is lovely.

Also, can I remind you of our Nottinghamshire Federation Annual Meeting will now be a lunch at The West Retford Hotel, free for delegates, on 6 May and not in Southwell on 21 March, as previously advertised.

Thank you to those who attended the second of our Trustees' Coffee & Chat mornings at Hall Farm Bird's Nest Coffee Lounge in Weston. What a little treasure that is, tucked away behind the main building! Thanks go to Jenny Bailey for recommending it. Beryl, Deb, my fellow Trustees, and I really enjoyed chatting and getting to know more of our members. If you would like us to visit your area, please let me know



Forest Town WI gathered to celebrate 110 years. Everyone came as a woman they admired or dressed for a time period during that time. Rowan tree saplings were given out to be planted to encourage pollinators and birds alike, in keeping with a past WI Resolution.

Below: East Midlands Ambulance Service visited Halam WI in support of the national WI campaign "Bystanders can be Lifesavers". Members learned some critical skills from CPR to how to use a defibrillator and came away armed with lots of hints and tips about how to help a patient in an emergency scenario.



of a suitable venue. WIST (WI Support Team) will be holding the next Coffee & Chat at Dukeries (Nottcutts) Garden Centre, Worksop on 9<sup>th</sup> March, please come along and support it.

Take care everyone, Helen  
[helenainley@nottswi.org.uk](mailto:helenainley@nottswi.org.uk)



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 Slaley 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](mailto:Rebecca@johnsonstours.co.uk) or telephone 01909 720337.

## ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS 2026

	Activity	Time	Venue	Price	code	Closing date
9 March	WIST Coffee & Chat	10-12	Dukeries Garden Centre	FREE		
18/19 March	Darts Pairs	7pm	Royal Oak, East Bridgford	£7	SL002	6 March
21 March	AFM	CANCELLED	NOW AFM LUNCH ON 6 MAY			
13 April	Using Your Money, Planning	10-1pm	South Muskham Village Hall	£10 & LUNCH	WS003	30 March
17 April	Bridge Day	10am	Arthur Radford Sports Hall	£25	SL011	30 March
24 April	Walking tour	11am	Lace Market Walking Tour	£12	CA005	17 April
24 April	County Lunch	12.30pm	Oxton Village Hall	£25	BT009	17 April
6 May	AFM Lunch	11.00am	The West Retford Hotel	FREE for Delegate		13 April
9 May	Angel Sculpture	10-1pm	Epperstone Village Hall	£30	CA016	20 April
11 May	WIST Coffee & Chat	10-12	Fig & Fern café, Trowell	FREE		
13 May	Kurling	7pm	Lowdham Village Hall	£10	SL017	24 April
15 May	County Quiz	7pm	various	£12	BT033	30 April
18 May	Money for Free	7pm	https://zoom.us/j/91464038699?pwd=QuwqfhnjWIOI9lfWkac1ha6te8afuJ.1 Meeting ID: 914 6403 8699 Passcode: 178009			
8 & 29 June	Croquet	6pm	Arthur Radford Sports Ground	£13		27 May
10 Jul	Bingo	7pm	Lowdham Village Hall	£8		Not yet open
13 July	WIST Coffee & Chat	10-12	Brookfields Garden Centre.	FREE		
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

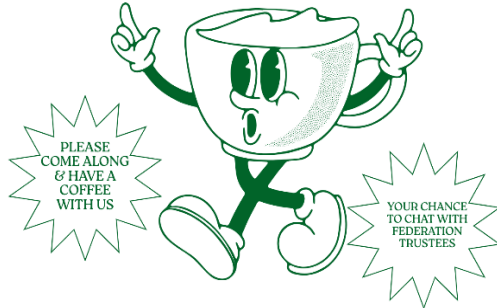
**GENERAL EVENT BOOKING FORM** to **book any event** (by email to [secretary@nottswi.org.uk](mailto:secretary@nottswi.org.uk) or call 07955 771 784)

WI: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of 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**

## WIST Coffee & Chat



Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 10am-12noon  
Dukeries Garden Centre, Welbeck, Worksop  
S80 3LW with a talk from Garden Centre  
staff.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 10am-12noon  
Fig & Fern café, Trowell Garden Centre,  
Stapleford Road, Nottingham NG9 3TG

## County Lunch

**with Aromatherapist, Toni  
Pincott**

**Join us at Oxton Village Hall on  
Friday 24 April when Federation  
Friends will be serving a 2-course  
lunch to members.**



**Cost: £25 with  
coffee.**

**Booking code  
BT009**



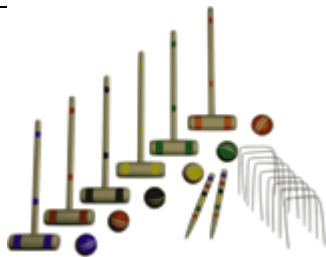
## COUNTY QUIZ

**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**

Venues: Rivergreen Methodist Hub, Forest Town Arena, Oxton Village Hall, Acacia Centre at Annesley Woodhouse, Carlton Parish Centre, Winthorpe Community Centre



## CROQUET

**Monday 8 & 29 June 2026 at 6pm. Price: £13**

At Southwell Croquet Club, Arthur Radford Sports Ground, Cooks Lane, Morton, NG25 0UT

**No experience necessary, come along and have a go!**

As March comes in, I am taken back to the Lewis Carroll character of the Mad March Hare leaping around. We see so many pictures of boxing hares, but did you know they are not often male hares but rather a female hare punching a male with her paw to ward off unwanted attention? Another occasion where we see strong females. Perhaps this might give inspiration for the Sheila Norris Rose Bowl Competition this year, adding a beautiful strong hare appliqué to a sponge bag perhaps?

I hope you are busy making a sponge bag for this competition, it's not just a lovely creative item to make but also will be gratefully received by a woman in need in one of the Notts Women's Refuges or Homeless Centres. Remember to use recycled materials if possible. Full details of this can be found with your WI secretaries, our web page and on Facebook, if you haven't already seen them.

The WI Support Team are expecting a lot of Annual Paperwork Returns coming our way soon as we know a big majority of WIs hold their Annual Meeting around March time. Please can I remind you to email the completed forms back to me promptly for checking by your advisers. We hope all Annual Meetings went well and you are eagerly looking forward to starting your new year's membership from 1st April. As always please contact me if you need any advice or assistance with WI matters at [helenainley@nottswi.org.uk](mailto:helenainley@nottswi.org.uk) or mob: 07804477635.

*Federation Flutter:* Congratulations to our February winner, June Freeman from Ravenshead WI with her bond number 11. It's not too late - you can buy a bond for £15 and join the Federation Flutter draw at any time, please contact the office.



We fondly remember:

Barbara Gash, Wollaton WI. Anne Wells, Burton Joyce & Bulcote WI.  
Celia Hoult, Worksop Wonders WI

**From the Office:** Enclosures are with your secretary for: AFM Lunch, Croquet, WI Subs, WI Insurance.

Please ask your WI secretary if you would like to see the Federation accounts 2024-25 and 2025 AFM minutes or contact the office.

Canada Cup limerick competition: deadline is now Thursday 23 April.

Sheila Norris Rose Bowl washbag competition: entries can be taken to the AFM lunch.

Prize Draw ticket stubs can be taken to the AFM lunch or sent to the office by 1 May.

Secretaries, please make a paper copy of Hornblower available for any members who do not have access to email.

**National are holding their Annual Meeting**, hosted online, on Thursday 4 June.

We have very few delegates willing to attend meaning WIs will lose their resolution vote. Please contact the office by Wednesday **11 March** to volunteer. Speakers are: Anne Boden, founder of Starling Bank and Prof. Michele Dougherty Exec Chair, Science and Technology Facilities Council.