

## Hornblower Newsletter

### A word from our Chair

Welcome to May everyone, the month of May Flowers and in my childhood memories, Maypole Dancing. This was a huge tradition



in the farming community where I grew up, there was much excitement about decorating the May pole with crepe paper flowers and yards of ribbon and of course, learning the Maypole dances.

I'm sure you all have very precious memories of events in your childhood that are recalled as the seasons change and the year moves on; would you like to share any of yours?

May is also our Annual

Federation Meeting month this year. I had hoped for it to be in March and a full day but sadly plans had to be changed because of the lack of delegates from WIs and applications for tickets from members. I am sure you will agree it would not have been prudent to go ahead with an event that didn't look viable in terms of cost.

The West Retford Hotel was chosen because we know members enjoy the venue and the food, it is tried and tested. There is good road access from the south of the county via the A1, it has good parking and is on the ground floor. I look forward to seeing you there.



Regarding the new Sisterhood Groups please see the WIST report further on. If at any time you have problems contacting Sue, please call me on 07804477635 or email: [chair@nottswi.org.uk](mailto:chair@nottswi.org.uk). Take care, Helen.



There were 29 of us on the walk which was led by "Ezekiel Bone" who is an expert on the history of Nottingham and the legend of Robin Hood. We walked around the Lacemarket area and learned a great deal about the beginnings of Nottingham from Saxon times until the present day. Our tour guide was very funny and knowledgeable, and we really enjoyed the experience. He offers other walks on different parts of Nottingham so we may look at trying another one in the future. From Moira, Creative Activities Team.

*WI Support Team are hosting a Zoom talk - "Money For Free" on Monday 18 May at 7pm*

*Copy this link to your browser to join and ask any questions you have*

<https://zoom.us/j/91464038699?pwd=QuwqfhnjWlOI9lfWkac1ha6te8afuJ.1>

Meeting ID: 914 6403 8699 Passcode: 178009



	Activity	Time	Venue	Price	code	Closing date
11 May	WIST Coffee & Chat	10-12	Fig & Fern café, Trowell	FREE		
18 May	Money for Free	7pm	https://zoom.us/j/91464038699?pwd=QuwqfhnjWlOI9lfWkac1ha6te8afuJ.1 Meeting ID: 914 6403 8699 Passcode: 178009			
8 & 29 June	Croquet	6pm	Arthur Radford Sports Ground	£13	SL014	27 May
15 June	Coffee & chat	10-12	Roots coffee lounge, Pleasley	FREE		
Saturday 4 July	Day Disco & lunch	12 for 12.30 – 3.30	The Hostess Restaurant, Sookholme	£27	BT010	17 June
10 Jul	Summer Bingo	7pm	Lowdham Village Hall	£8	SL001	1 July
13 July	WIST Coffee & Chat	10-12	Brookfields Garden Centre.	FREE		
10 Sept	Long Alley Skittles	7pm	Royal Oak, East Bridgford	£12	SL012	26 August
12 Sept	Watercolour Workshop	10 -1pm	Carlton Parish Centre	£20	CA006	26 August
19 Sept	Archery	1.30pm	Southwell NG25 0RR	£15	SL005	26 August
24 Sept	Rummikub	7pm	Lowdham WI Hall	£8	SL002	4 Sept
9 Oct	Autumn Bingo	7pm	Lowdham Village Hall	£8		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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**

**Sport and Leisure Team Congratulations** to the winners of our Darts Pairs; Sue Levey (East Bridgford WI)

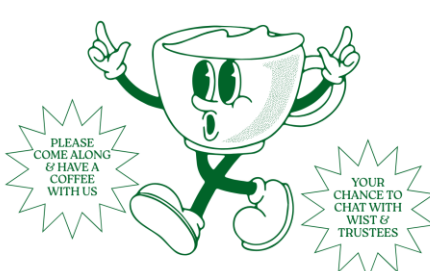
and Elaine Burgess (Car Colston & Screveton WI) and to our Darts League winners from Caunton WI: Kate Ashworth, Kate Jackson, Jo Heathcote, Cathy Mallalieu, Diane Corah and Alison Bacon. Congratulation to Pat from Bottesford WI for the highest score of 153.

How would you like to join the Sports and Leisure Team? We are looking for others to join the team or help with putting on specific events during the year. To find out more, please get in touch ([berlynorthcote@btinternet.com](mailto:berlynorthcote@btinternet.com))

We are having another popular Bingo night on the 10 July at Lowdham Village Hall, a Kurling competition on 13 May at Lowdham WI hall, Croquet on 8 & 29 June at The Arthur Radford Sports Ground, Morton, also Archery in Southwell on Saturday 19 September, and many more events.

Please come and join us at some of these events, you are sure to have a very enjoyable evening.

**Coffee & Chat**



PLEASE  
COME ALONG  
& HAVE A  
COFFEE  
WITH US

YOUR  
CHANCE TO  
CHAT WITH  
WIST &  
TRUSTEES

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 10am-12noon  
Fig & Fern café, Trowell Garden Centre,  
Stapleford Road, Nottingham NG9 3TG  
&  
15th June 2026, 10am-12noon  
Roots Coffee Lounge,  
Pleasley Landmark, Chesterfield Road North,  
Pleasley, Mansfield, Notts., NG19 7SP



Come and join our Summer Bingo  
session

Place: Lowdham Village Hall, Main  
Street, Nottingham NG14 7BD

Date: 10 July Time: 7pm

Ticket price: £8 (tickets also available at  
the door)

Please apply using reference SL001

There is still time to book on our **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 the exceptional Slaley Hall 4-star hotel and spa. Visits include Alnwick Castle & gardens, Hadrian's Wall, Holy Island & Bamburgh Castle. Open to non-members, bring your friends and family. For further information and to book, please contact [Rebecca@johnsonstours.co.uk](mailto:Rebecca@johnsonstours.co.uk)



The **Creative Activities Team** needs you. Due to Team members retiring, we have vacancies for people to help make decisions about the activities and entertainment we put on for your enjoyment. If you would like to give it a try, we meet on the second Tuesday of the month, with every other meeting on zoom, to avoid travelling. Join us and help make the decisions! Need more information? Contact me on [bevstuart@nottswi.org.uk](mailto:bevstuart@nottswi.org.uk) OR contact the office for your invitation to join our Team [secretary@nottswi.org.uk](mailto:secretary@nottswi.org.uk)

**Federation Flutter:**

Congratulation to our April winner Lucy Richardson from Clarbrough & District WI with her lucky number 18  
It's not too late to join, for £15 you can join the next draw, please contact the office.

## WI Support Team

This month I would like to update you on the new Sisterhood Groups that have been developed by NFWI (National Federation of WIs).

I attended a Zoom meeting with Melissa Green (CEO of NFWI), where she explained that these groups have been developed in response to the recent ruling to uphold the definition of women as those who are assigned female at birth. She explained that our previous stance of accepting all people who live their life as a woman to join the WI could not continue, as we would be breaking the law, even though we had been doing this for the past 40 years.

This resulted in a new Registration Form, which everyone has been asked to complete on renewing their membership of the WI for the year 2026-2027. This will not need to be completed every year; only new members will complete it from now on. This is to ensure we are compliant with the law.

This has led to the development of Sisterhood Groups; any WI can open a Sisterhood Group which will work in the same way as any of your subgroups i.e.: Book Club, Lunch Group etc. At National level the Sisterhood Groups will be overseen by the new Pathfinder Team, at Federation level we will have a Facilitator to work with those WIs that would like to open a Sisterhood Group. We have already had a member step-up to volunteer as our Federation Facilitator, and we will give you more details about this after our next meeting with NFWI this month. Sisterhood Groups are not compulsory for all WIs but an option that you can explore if you feel that it would be a good option for your WI to reach out to all in your community.

I know that's a lot to think about; we will hold a Zoom Meeting to introduce our Facilitator and, hopefully, answer your questions about opening the Sisterhood subgroups as soon as possible, please lookout for the Zoom link being sent out and posted on Facebook and Instagram before the end of the month.

If you should need to contact me at any time my details are email: [helenainley@nottswi.org.uk](mailto:helenainley@nottswi.org.uk) mobile: 07804477635.

## From the Office

Event enclosures are with your secretary for: 1. Archery 2. Long Alley Skittles 3. Rummikub Competition and 4. Watercolour Workshop.

They are also available on the website under "County Office Downloads", and on Notts WI SharePoint under "Events & Application Forms".

- The **office will be closed** for the week beginning Monday 25 May (Bank Holiday) reopening on Monday 1 June.
- If you do not receive confirmation of an event by email, 1 week before the event, please get in touch.
- Secretaries, please make a paper copy of Hornblower available for any members who do not have access to email.



Treasured in our memories: Fay Sowter, Plumtree WI; Brenda Youngs, Laxton WI