

Minutes of the 51st Annual Meeting of the above Federation took place on Wednesday
6th May 2026 at the West Retford Hotel commencing at 11.15am

- 1 Present
Federation Chairman Helen Ainley

Trustees Helen Rose (Treasurer) Bev Stuart, Beryl Northcote, Deb Jones, and Christine Clark.

Past Federation Chairmen Maureen Ashby, Linda Davey, Ann-Marie Morley, Jane Jefferson

Federation Secretary Sue Sanderson

Speaker Landscape & portrait Artist Paul Lillie.
- 2 Welcome and Introduction
The Federation Chairman, Helen Ainley opened this the 51st meeting since incorporation (the 207th meeting since 1917) by welcoming members, Past Federation Chairmen and guests.
- 3 Apologies
Apologies were received from past federation chairmen Vera Carter and Pam Stoddart and Trustees Julia Fiddian and Heidi Platts.
- 4 Adoption of Standing Orders
The adoption of the Standing orders was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Brenda Bartle, Shelford WI and carried.
- 5 Minutes of the last Meeting and Matters Arising
 - a. The minutes of the Annual Federation Meeting, held on Saturday 14th June 2025 at the Minster School Southwell, were seconded by Wendy Whitaker, Upton WI and carried. The Minutes were then signed as a true record by the Federation Chairman.
 - b. There were no matters arising.
- 6 Financial Statement 2024-2025 and Appointment of Auditors 2025-2026
Federation Treasurer Helen Rose told the members about the accounts.
The Federation had worked hard on providing a variety of events throughout the past year and she thanked the members for their support.

The Federation Treasurer then proposed that the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement ending 31 October 2025 be approved. This was seconded by Marion Monks, Watnall WI. Motion carried.
Also proposed was that the Chartered Accountants, Tom Geraghty and Associates, be appointed as Auditors for the period 1 November 2025 to 31 October 2026.
This was seconded by Tanya Montgomery, Oxton WI. Motion carried.
- 7 Federation Chairman's Address

Helen Ainley spoke of the steep learning curve which Federation had to follow to reduce overall expenditure after the sale of Federation headquarters. Following a 6-month rental of Trent Bridge House, the Trustees decided on a virtual office option, with Federation Secretary working from home, coupled with storage rental in Mansfield with free meeting room use. The reduction in staff hours and numbers from 3 to 1 was cushioned by Federation Chair taking on the IFE coordinator role, and some trustees taking on additional work. The Hornblower newsletter was circulated free of charge to all members by email. In response to member feedback, the pagination and use of colour was reduced. Coffee and Chat events were launched around the County to maintain member contact. Future federation events will be provided at reduced cost and to offer added member benefits.
Members were directed to the suggestion box, where ideas & comments could be made.
- 8 WI Support Team Report
Helen Ainley spoke of the establishment of Sisterhood Groups, running alongside WIs, to provide an opportunity for transgender members and other members at meet at a regular meeting, following the High Court decision that transgender women were no longer eligible to join the WI. Facilitators for this role were being sought. She advertised

that new Advisers were needed and for anyone interested to come along to a WI Support meeting to gain further information.

The Federation Chairman expressed her thanks to everyone who served on of the Federation Teams and who worked hard on behalf of the Federation and members.

- 9 Guest Speaker: Paul Lillie, a local landscape and portrait artist, gave a presentation of Elvis Presley, creating a large water colour tableau of the singer whilst giving members insight into the life. He also gave a rendition of some of his songs whilst playing the guitar. Chairman thanked the speaker.

- 10 Presentation of Anniversary Certificates by Paul Lillie

<i>WI Name</i>	<i>Anniversary</i>
Bramcote	75
Kinoulton	90 (<i>sent by post</i>)
Bottesford	100
Car Colston & Screveton	100

- 11 Presentation of Awards

The winner for Canada Cup was Diana Temperley, Bleasby WI, who was unable to attend the meeting.

SNRB wash bag competition was won by Lesley Metherringham from Forest Town WI, who made a fish shaped wash bag. Jenny Fleming from Ravenshead WI came second and Holly Herbert from Southwell WI came third. Forest Town WI won the certificate for entering the most washbags.

- 12 Prize Draw

The draw was pulled and the winners collected their prizes from the foyer.

	number	name	WI	prize
1	0420	Deb Jones	Mansfield Woodhouse	Southwell racecourse entrance x 2
2	1179	Helen Boffy	Morton Fiskerton Rolleston	luxury gown set
3	0873	M Campbell	Clarborough	Southwell croquet club x 2 sessions
4	1478	Jo Smith	Winthorpe	Fourball Southwell Golf Club
5	1886	Ruth Carter	Beeston	Dining out gift card £25
6	1087	Kath		Southwell racecourse entrance x 2
7	0112	Theresa Martin	Bleasby	£100 cash
8	1894	Emily Hunt	Beeston	£10 M&S gift card
9	1370	Moiria Hufton	Ravenshead	Southwell croquet club x 2 sessions
10	1515	Lorna Barker	Clarborough	Sherwood Archers session x 2
11	1051	S Clarke	Laxton	Southwell racecourse entrance x 2
12	0629	Anne Durkin	East Bridgford	Bottle of Cava
13	1074	Jan Hewitt	Lowdham	Toiletries gift set

- 13 Thanks

Helen Ainley thanked all those involved with Federation roles: Treasurer, Helen Rose; Creative Arts Team Chair Bev Stuart, Sports & Leisure Team Chair Beryl Northcote and Bookkeeper Jenny Bailey.

She thanked the West Retford Hotel, the office staff, Trustees and the members for their continued support.

- 14 Any Other Business None

- 15 Date of next Annual Meeting To be decided once a suitable venue has been determined.

- 16 Close of Meeting

Helen Ainley, Nottinghamshire Federation of WIs Chairman, reminded members of forthcoming events and asked everyone to stand to sing "God Save the King" before wishing everyone a safe journey home. Meeting closed 3.00pm.