

A word from our Chair

Hello everyone. I had mused about starting this month's copy with a wildly fictitious piece for April Fool's Day but, as not all members read the Hornblower on the same day I decided against the idea. Although I do still think it could have been amusing.

By the time you read this piece we will have enough delegates for our Federation Annual Meeting on 6th May, so members can now apply for their tickets. I hope you have all seen the details that were circulated, if not please see further down this issue. We will be having the meeting business in the morning, followed by lunch and then after lunch we will be entertained by Paul Lillie. Paul is the resident artist at the Queen's Medical and City Hospitals in Nottingham, where he works with art and music as therapeutic wellbeing tools, promoting their positive effect on mental health. To conclude we will have the prize giving and the draw will be done. I look forward to seeing you there and chatting to as many of you as possible.

The next Trustees' Coffee and Chat will be at Wheatcroft's Garden Centre in Edwalton on 20th April, 10 am until 12 noon. Please come along and enjoy a little social time, maybe ask any WI questions that you need answering and drop off anything that needs to go to our secretary Sue.

I will also be happy to collect any entries for the Sheila Norris Rose Bowl competition and any recycling items you would like to donate. My contact details: helenainley@nottswi.org.uk or mob: 07804477635
Take care everyone, Helen



Well done to Keyworth WI who raised £1,000 from a Charity Fashion Show and the Christmas raffle. The Lincs Notts Air Ambulance were pleased to accept a cheque from their President.

Joan Ware would like to thank all those who purchased a date from the calendar at the 2025 Annual Federation Meeting. The winner of the lap quilt was Helen Deaville from Costock WI. £185 was raised for outside lighting at Southwell WI Hall which is now installed.



Workshop Wonders WI members enjoying a ukulele session at a recent meeting.

Federation Flutter: Congratulations to our March winner, Lynette Reason from Bottesford WI with her bond number 32. 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.

ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS 2026

	Activity	Time	Venue	Price	code	Closing date
13 April	Using Your Money, Programme 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
20 April	WIST Coffee & Chat	10am	Wheatcroft's, Edwalton	FREE		
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=QuwqfhnjWlOI9lfWkac1ha6te8afuJ.1 Meeting ID: 914 6403 8699 Passcode: 178009			
8 & 29 June	Croquet	6pm	Arthur Radford Sports Ground	£13	SL014	27 May
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		Not yet open
12 Sept	Watercolour Workshop	10-1pm	Carlton Parish Centre	£20	CA006	Not yet open
24 Sept	Rummikub	7pm	Lowdham WI Hall	£7		Not yet open
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 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

A word from our Treasurer DO NOT FRET, IT'S OK.

Like you, we nearly fell off our chairs when we first saw 2024/25 Accounts. Over £50,000 in debt – it can't be! Fortunately, it is only on paper and will disappear next year.

For the Annual Accounts we have regularly had to have Trent Bridge House valued. As the house is an asset the highest possible return was forecast – which looked good in previous accounts. However, when it came to selling the property, the actual market would not sustain the high figure given. A Grade II listed building in need of a lot of investment and update did not appeal to many buyers. Eventually, after negotiation with the final buyer, Trent Bridge House was sold for £313,333.91 after fees.

ACCOUNTS	2025	2024
TURNOVER	£85,584	£100,275
Cost of sales	(25,648)	(27,728)
GROSS SURPLUS	59,936	72,547
Administrative expenses	(70,276)	(70,068)
OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	(10,340)	2,479
Deficit on disposal of fixed assets	(49,019)	
Other interest receivable and similar income	5,875	3,057
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	(£53,484)	£5,536

Why did we have to sell Trent Bridge House? The running of the Headquarters cost £70K per year. Despite managing to cover the cost in 2024, it was increasingly difficult to raise this amount of money each year. Partly due to a reduction in event ticket sales, we incurred a deficit of £10,000 in 2025, thus increasing the overall deficit for the year to £53,484.

Next year we will not incur the £50,000 assets deficit nor will the administrative costs be as high. We are investing the money from the sale of Trent Bridge House as a buffer towards any future property purchase. Next year's accounts 2025/26 should show an improvement, but it will be the accounts for 26/27 (available in early 2028) where the fruits of the decisions taken in 2024/25 will finally be seen.

If you have any further questions which you would like me to address at the Annual Meeting on 6 May, please get in touch on treasurer@nottswi.org.uk. Helen Rose, Federation Treasurer

Sport & Leisure Team

As you will see on the Events List, we are holding Bridge Day 17th April at the Arthur Radford Hall in Morton, kurling on 13th May at Lowdham Village Hall and two sessions of Croquet on 8th and 29th June. Please support these events and if there are any events you would like me to put on, please let me know.

We have just had a Bingo Night at Oxton where everyone really enjoyed themselves.

Darts League results:

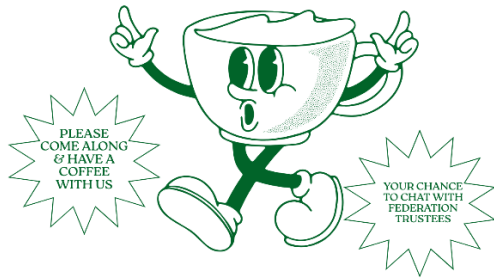
Siamese Cat: 1st Woodborough, 2nd equal: East Bridgford, Bottesford, Shelford, 5th Oxton, 6th Bleasby.

Manx Cat: 1st Caunton, 2nd Ollerton, 3rd equal Hucknall (Leenside) and Kneesall, 5th Farnsfield. Woodborough and Caunton will play in the final.

To book the Kurling sets or Bingo Machine please contact me.

Beryl Northcote, Chair of Sports and Leisure Team berlynorthcote@btinternet.com telephone 01636 812579

Coffee & Chat



Monday 20th April 10am - 12 noon
Wheatcrofts Garden Centre, Landmere Lane,
Edwalton, Notts, NG12 4DE
with a talk from Garden Centre staff.
&

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



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



Please apply using reference BT033

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

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.

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 or telephone 01909 720337.

Creative Activities Team

Hello from the Creative Activities Team, we haven't been in the Hornblower for a while, but we have been busy meeting and organising events for the upcoming WI Year starting in April with a walking Tour of the Lace Market with Ezekiel Bone. Powertex is back for those of you who enjoyed it last time, also we have Play Reading, Watercolour painting and a craft workshop in the pipeline so look out for our events advertised in the Hornblower. Bev Stuart, Chair of the Creative Activities Team.



We fondly remember:

Jan Fudge - Mansfield Woodhouse WI, Marjorie Eyre, Abbey Gates WI
Maria Hunt - Wollaton WI

The 2025/26 Resolution selection results are in!

Between November and February, every WI member had the chance to have their say on the shortlist and the resolution they would like to see go forward to the NFWI Annual Meeting in June. The results of the 2026 resolution shortlist selection are below, with the top two being taken forward. Further information on voting & delegate contact details is with your secretary. Results from our members reflected the trend.

	2025/26 resolutions	Selections received	% votes
1	Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health & social inclusion	41,068	44.7
2	Action on women's homelessness	24,791	27.0
3	Nearer to Nature	6,337	6.9
4	Love your Vulva – Self checking is your best defence against vulval cancer	6,651	7.2
5	Every child needs a friend	13,151	14.3
	Total selections received	91,998	

From the Office: Enclosures are with your secretary for: NFWI meeting Resolution voting instructions; Summer Bingo; Day Disco & lunch.

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

Sheila Norris Rose Bowl washbag competition: entries to be taken to the AFM lunch on 6th May.

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.

WI Support Team

I realise that a lot of MCS (Membership Communications System) reps will be receiving information about change of Officers after Annual Meetings, please can the changes be updated promptly to the MCS along with the addition of new members once their subscriptions have been received. Also, if there has been a change to time of your meetings or venue, which has first been referred to Board of Trustees, then this should also updated promptly.

The new Registration Forms that have been introduced recently by NFWI to encompass Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and NFWI Policies & Code of Conduct are a good chance to gather and check your members' details and update any that have changed. It is important that these details are correct as they are used to send out WI Life and for contact.

How are your wash bag entries for the Sheila Norris Rose Bowl Competition coming along? You now have a little extra time to get them finished with our Annual Federation Meeting now taking place on 6th May. They can be handed in at any WI event before the date if you are not coming to the AFM. The next WI Coffee & Chat will be at the Fig & Fern Café, Trowell Garden Centre on 11th May. Please drop in and see us.

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