

A word from our Chair

How quickly July has come around, we are now into the second half of the year. Did you know that July is designated as both National Ice Cream month and National Picnic month? Well, I shall certainly be making the most of the ice cream this month, it would be a shame not to!

The **NFWI Annual Meeting** was transmitted via Zoom on the 4th of June, and I thought those of you who weren't lucky enough to be delegates or request a ticket might like a little insight into it. The day started with the business of the meeting, appointing returning officers etc.

Jeryl Stone, NFWI Chair, then welcomed us all and went on to speak about the challenges that we have had to overcome this year, but as our rich history shows, we always overcome challenges. With the ruling on ED&I we have had the challenge of how we continue as a single sex organisation, we took legal advice and changed our policy and registration form to prevent us being legally challenged. Jeryl pointed out that we are all open to legal challenge if our WIs don't adopt these. She thanked all past transgender members for being understanding and dignified about the change. She then spoke about the new Sisterhood subgroups that are now up and running and thanked everyone who has been involved with the development and setup. 100 WIs were lost last year but that is a normal expected average and has not increased because of the changes, in fact recruitment is up. It was noted that the 6 Virtual WIs are flourishing and offering wide-ranging programmes.

VIA, (learning platform) took 5,000 bookings last month, members are using it and taking advantage of the free courses. There is new collaboration with the Royal Mint, they will be producing coins to commemorate Women's Suffrage, so look out for those. She thanked everyone that contributed to the Standing with Giants poppy collection, an astounding amount were sent in. Jeryl announced we are ending our collaboration with England Rugby and again thanked everyone for their involvement.

Jeryl thanked everyone for embracing change...as this is what keeps us moving forwards.

Tracy Baker, Honorary Treasurer, delivered the financial report but I won't go into details as they are available on MyWI.

We heard that **WI Life Magazine** has now changed and is titled WI Magazine which will be seasonal but have more pages and be tailored to what members have requested. If you have received your Summer 2026 copy, I'm sure you will agree it's much improved and there's plenty to read.

Resolutions:

We heard arguments, for and against our two resolutions and then voted, the outcomes were:

- Accessible toilet facilities to promote dignity, health and social inclusion: Carried with 95% votes.
- Action on women's homelessness: Carried with 92% votes.

Throughout the day we heard from three very inspiring women:

Mary Lewis, Chair of the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) UK, told us about the wonderful life of Dr Jane Goodall. Mary began working and travelling with Dr Goodall in 1995. JGI is a global movement protecting wildlife, inspiring youth, and healing our planet. In Gombe Stream National Park Jane Goodall worked observing primates and noted how their traits mirrored human characteristics. She instigated single sex toilets being provided for young girls as she found that they were forced to drop out of education once they entered puberty and had to use communal toilets, thus they could complete their education. Jane was also involved with the micro loans to local women so they could afford such things as chickens to start their own small business and provide for the family. She also played a key role in the evolution of Roots & Shoots, a global youth-led movement which provides many strands of work improving our planet. Jane was an inspirational woman whose ethos was "Everyone can make a difference...stay curious".



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Professor Michelle Dougherty spoke to us about her work as the Executive Chair, Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) which is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

As a Fellow of the Royal Society and a Professor of Space Physics at Imperial College she led unmanned exploratory missions to Saturn and Jupiter and was Principal Investigator of the magnetometer instruments on board both the Cassini mission to Saturn, and the European Space Agency's JUper ICy moons Explorer (JUICE) which launched in April 2023. In July 2025 Michelle was appointed as the United Kingdom's first female Astronomer Royal in 350 years, and from October 2025 she has been President of the Institute of Physics. Her talk was very interesting and insightful, what an impressive role model for us.

Anne Boden founded Starling Bank, the UK's leading digital bank, following a long career in global banking technology. Anne chronicled Starling's story in "Banking on IT", a bestseller and The Times' Business Book of 2020. She is also the author of "The Money Revolution" & "Female Founders Playbook". Anne was awarded an MBE in 2018 and chaired the UK Government's Women-led High-Growth Enterprise Taskforce. She is an Honorary Fellow of Swansea University where she graduated with a BSc in Chemistry and Computer Science in the early 80's. Anne now pursues her interests in entrepreneurship, technology and economic growth as CEO of AI by Boden. She said we should embrace technology and AI, so we don't get left behind as some businesses have already done. I hope that she would be pleased with what we have started to do in Nottingham Federation.



Next year's NFWI Annual Meeting will be in person in Hull, look out for Notts Fed details of this being published.

As always, you can contact me, email: chair@nottswi.org.uk and mobile: 07804 477635. Take care everyone, Helen



The **Epperstone WI** Watch Party members enjoying the NFWI Annual Meeting



Karen with her husband at the Royal Garden Party.

Congratulations to **Karen Wakefield** of Ollerton WI, who recently had the great honour of being invited to Buckingham Palace to attend a Royal Garden Party. The invitation recognised Karen's remarkable 27 years of dedicated service to local government and the wider community. What a wonderful and well-deserved acknowledgement – we hope she enjoyed every moment of this special day.

Sport & Leisure Team (chair: Beryl Northcote)



On Monday 8th June members had an enjoyable and friendly evening playing Croquet together showing a strong sense of community and fun. The activity provided a relaxed social setting where participants could interact, compete and share laughs during the game Jane and Clare from Forest Town WI emerged as the winners adding a celebratory highlight to the event.

Other Activity Long Alley Skittle on 10th September at The Royal Oak East Bridgford. Archery on Saturday 19th September in Southwell also Rummikub 24th September at Lowdham WI Hall.

Creative Activities Team (chair: Bev Stuart, bevstuart@nottswi.org.uk)

The Creative Activities Team has been busy organising events for you so look out for our great events on offer for the rest of the year. Our Christmas Craft Workshop in October is on a weekend day, as some members asked for more events at the weekend. This is aimed at the “have a go” level, so you don’t need to be an experienced crafter to take part. In November we are arranging a trip to the Bromley Library in Nottingham; this fantastic Georgian House with a private garden is a great place to visit. We are also running the ever-popular Murder Mystery at Southwell Library and the lovely Christmas Celebration event. All details will be on the flyers coming to you soon so please book early to get your seat at these events.

WI Support Team (chair: Helen Ainley, helenainley@nottswi.org.uk)

This month I have been asked to explain and clarify how the resolution process works.

How a Resolution becomes a Campaign

Stage I: Between July and September, WIs and federations submit resolutions about current issues they are concerned about to the NFWI.

Stage II: In early autumn, the submitted resolutions are discussed and debated by federation and member delegates and reduced to a shortlist.

Stage III: Between November and February, federations and WIs hold meetings to discuss the shortlisted resolutions, giving every member the chance to have their say on the shortlist. Each member casts their selection for the resolution they support the most.

Stage IV: The NFWI Board of Trustees reviews the results of the member selections and agrees on the resolutions to go forward to the Annual Meeting. This is usually one resolution, but sometimes more than one is taken forward.

These resolutions are then again discussed by each WI to determine how they wish their delegate to vote at the Annual Meeting, whether to support the resolution or not. Each delegate is responsible for the votes of four WIs and it’s important your WI reports your decision to your delegate.

Stage V: At the NFWI Annual Meeting, delegates hear from the resolution proposer, seconder, and experts on the topic before they cast their votes on behalf of WIs. If a resolution is adopted, it will go on to form the basis of a WI campaign which your WI can work on.

I hope that has clarified a little but if anyone would like to contact me, we can chat it through. Please contact me on 07804 477635.

Spotlight on Halam WI



At our May meeting, **Halam WI** marked a very special milestone as our members came together to celebrate our 70th birthday. We had a very special evening filled with fun, laughter and plenty of dancing with Jo Porter from Kitchen Dancing UK who led us through some great routines set to music from the past seven decades. We even had the opportunity to turn the lights down and switch on the disco lights...not your usual Tuesday evening in Halam! A beautifully decorated celebration cake - from Southwell baker Weng at “Bake, Love, Smile” - took centre stage, while members enjoyed sharing memories and the opportunity to look through photographs and other mementos from our 70-year history. Halam WI has long been a huge part of our village life, offering opportunities for learning, creativity and friendship - bringing people together through regular meetings and events. We are incredibly proud of reaching this milestone in our history and to still have such a thriving and ever-growing WI in our small village. From Kate Taylor, Halam WI member.

Activities for WI members

Date	Activity	Time	Venue	Price	code	Closing date
10 Jul	Summer Bingo	7pm	Lowdham Village Hall	£8	SL001	Pay on the door
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
14 Sept	WIST Coffee & Chat	10-12	Maxey's Farm Shop, Kirklington	FREE		
19 Sept	Archery	1.30pm	Southwell NG25 0RR	£15	SL005	26 August
various	Darts League			£7	SL004	26 August
22 Sept	Printworks visit	10.30am	Linney's Printworks	FREE	Booking necessary	
24 Sept	Rummikub	7pm	Lowdham WI Hall	£8	SL002	4 Sept
29 Sept	Running Your Annual Mtng		With light lunch	£10	WS004	14 Sept
3 Oct	Christmas Craft Workshop	9.30 - 3.30	Oxton Village Hall. Choose 2 craft workshops. Bring packed lunch.	£25	CA016	2 Sept
9 Oct	Autumn Bingo	7pm	Lowdham Village Hall		SL001	Not yet open
14 Oct	Fashion Show & lunch	12 for 12.30	Vision Northwest, Mansfield	£25	BT007	21 Sept
15 Nov	Bromley House Library	1pm	Nottingham	£15	CA003	Not yet open
27 Nov	Christmas Afternoon Tea	1pm – 3.30	Hostess Restaurant, Sookholme, Mansfield Woodhouse.	£22	BT026	Not yet open
12 Dec	Christmas Celebration	2pm	Carlton in Lindrick church	£10	CA008	Not yet open

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

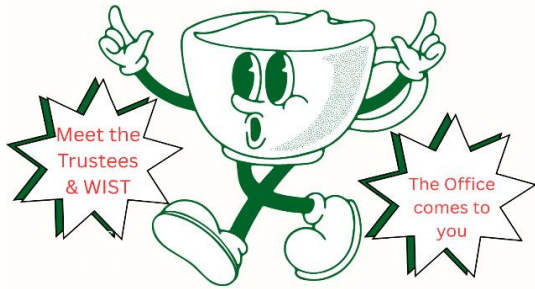
WI: _____ Number of tickets: _____ Date of event: _____ code: _____

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

Coffee & Chat



13th July 2026, 10-12noon

**Brookfield Garden Centre, Mapperley,
Notts, NG3 5RW**

&

9th September 2026, 10-12noon

**Maxey's Farm Shop, Hockerton Road,
Notts, NG22 8PB**

Federation Flutter:

Congratulation to our June winner, Helen Rose from Watnall WI with lucky number 23.

It's not too late to join, for £15 you can join the next draw, please contact the office.

*The sunscreen is greasy, the fans are on high,
We're swatting mosquitoes beneath the blue sky.
The ice cream is dripping, a sticky sweet mess,
And "what should I wear?" is a total pure guess.
We're melting, we're baking, we're fried in the sun,
But oh, how I love it - July has begun!*

Speaker Shout Out!



Morton Fiskerton & Rolleston WI recently welcomed a fantastic, guest speaker from Blood Bikes charity. (contact Chris Perkins on 07736 216909)

Members thoroughly enjoyed learning about the vital work these volunteers do, transporting blood samples, and other urgent medical supplies between hospitals, all free of charge.

The talk was both informative and inspiring, highlighting the dedication of the riders and the difference they make to patient care, often working unsociable hours in all weather conditions. It was greatly appreciated by all who attended.

From the Office: Event enclosures this month: 1. Printworks visit 2. Running Your Annual Meeting 3. Christmas Craft Workshop 4. Fashion Show & lunch They are also available on the website under "County Office Downloads", and on Notts WI SharePoint under "Events & Application Forms".

Office Closed: The office will be closed from Thursday 23 July and reopening on Tuesday 4 August.



Friends forever remembered and truly missed:

Yvonne O'Donnell, past president of Woodborough WI