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**GROUPS**

Dear Secretary

For many years a system of WI Groups has operated in the Nottinghamshire Federation, whereby a number of WIs situated close to each other have arranged joint meetings once or twice a year. Sometimes the WIs in the Group have taken it in turns to organise these meetings or they may have been co-ordinated by an elected Group Secretary. Such meetings have represented an opportunity for WI members to broaden their WI friendship circle.

**Unfortunately, since Covid, many Groups in Nottinghamshire have ceased meeting and several have disbanded so that only a handful of Groups now remain active within the Federation. However, many WIs are still maintaining contact with neighbouring WIs but on a more informal basis. After much discussion and with regret, the Federation has decided that this may well be the best way forward. We would like to encourage all WIs to maintain contact with nearby WIs by inviting members to share special celebrations or to participate in shared meetings or activities. However, it will no longer be necessary for formal reports and financial statements of these events to be sent to County House.**

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those Group Secretaries and WIs who have worked tirelessly in the past to make their Group activities so successful. We are sure it has enhanced everyone’s experience of WI membership. We hope very much you will continue to keep in touch with neighbouring WIs and share more of your activities.

WI Support Team