



# Cog in the Tree

## West Midlands Federation of Women's Institutes.



July 2024

### Words from the Chair

As I am writing this the sun is shining and it looks as though summer might finally be starting. However, there is still a chill in the air. July is a summer month in the northern half of the world and a winter month in the southern half.

Two well-known National Holidays are celebrated in July.

The 4th of July is Independence Day in America and is celebrated with events throughout the United States.

July 14th is Bastille Day when soldiers stormed the Bastille and the French Revolution would start soon after. Another significant date in July is not a holiday but a date that changed the lives of everyone. The 5th July 1948 was the birth of the NHS. Aneira Thomas was born one minute after midnight on 5th July making her the first baby in Great Britain to be born into the NHS. She was named after Aneurin Bevan the Minister of Health who led the plans for the NHS

In July 2020 the NFWI announced that Denman College would close permanently due to longstanding financial difficulties exacerbated by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Many members will have fond memories of courses that they attended at Denman. However, courses are still available online through the "Learning Hub" which was launched this year. There is a diverse range of courses and if you have not already done so then why not take a look at it.

As you are reading this it will almost be the end of July and many of you will be looking forward to the holiday season. Some of you do not have meetings in August but here at West Midlands Federation the work of the WI goes on and we will be working towards 7<sup>th</sup> October when we will celebrate our 50th Annual Council Meeting. We hope that there will be a representation from each of the WIs in the Federation. This is an opportunity for all our WIs to meet up and we hope that many of you will join us to celebrate our Golden Anniversary. **Cathryn**



### Board of Trustees

As we prepare for the Federation's Annual Meeting, we do just the same as you when preparing for yours! We have to think about our Committee and just as you do we hope that members will think about stepping up to serve on the Committee.

If you have not thought about it before well maybe now is the time for you to consider becoming a member of the Board of Trustees.

If you think you may be interested then contact Federation who will be happy to give you further information.

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### Election Day

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Don't forget to use your hard won right to vote!

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CHARITY NUMBER 1012552, REG.COMPANY NO. 2723008



## Your WI

### Berkswell WI



Berkswell WI held a very enjoyable Mosaic Workshop. Featured are some of the beautiful Mosaic's that were made, that may be displayed indoors, or would look lovely as garden ornaments.

**Pamela Griffiths, Berkswell WI**

### Berkswell WI - Obituary



It is with great sadness that Berkswell WI inform you of the death of **Dot Hall**.

Dot had been a long serving and active member of the Women's Institute, President of Berkswell WI four times and also Treasurer. We will all remember her lovely smile and beautiful flower arrangements.

We will all miss her.

## Balsall Heath & Moseley WI



BH&M welcomed Mel Bearman (pictured right) from locally based Metallix to lead a workshop making embossed fridge magnets. She taught members how to emboss and deboss; all were soon engrossed,



most opting to make a tree magnet. She brought with her many beautiful examples of her art and craft, and is available to lead workshops for up to thirty people. It was a really enjoyable session, see the results below. More information about Mel's workshops can be found at [www.artmetallix.com](http://www.artmetallix.com). **L Blackburn, BH&M**



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## Green Lane WI



We were all entertained with a very different talk in May, by 'The Wise Woman', Pamela Manning, who gave a very enlightening description of the history of medicine, in particular 'Sex and the Tudors'! Everyone had such a laugh at the various remedies for very unfortunate symptoms! Thank goodness we have made such great advances over the last few hundred years! **Belinda Piasecki, committee member**

## Silhill WI



Each year a member of Silhill W.I. is selected to receive the **Margaret Williams Cup** for exceptional service to the Institute. This year the honour has gone to **Angela Keating**, pictured left, receiving the Cup from our President, **Lynn Boothman**.

Angela joined Silhill in December 1995 and went on to join the Committee in 2000. She became our Treasurer in December 2001 and has continued in the post, doing a wonderful job, and keeping us solvent, ever since.

She has also won both the Federation Croquet and Curling Competitions and been a member of the winning Silhill Darts and Quiz Teams.

A very worthy recipient and a lovely, gentle and self-effacing lady.

**Heather Lewis (Secretary)**



This month our footer celebrates Wimbledon, starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> July – 14<sup>th</sup> July.

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## Arts & Activities

### Winners & Losers



The Aldridge quiz was once a gain a huge success with everyone enjoying the evening.

The winners were the "B" Team from Aldridge, and they were each presented with a box of chocolates and received the Winner's Trophy.

Great Barr were wonderful losers and with laughter and good spirit each accepted a wooden spoon as their prize from Cathryn. below left.



### Forthcoming Events 2024

- 28/06 - Deadline for Valerie Daggatt competition
- 18/07 - Croquet at Kenilworth
- 28/09 - Skittles at Hockley Heath
- 05/10 - Skittles at Aldridge
- 07/10 - Annual Meeting, Austin Court
- 21/11 - Christmas at Waddesdon



### 200 Club Winner – no.183

Denise Williams of Halesowen WI.

### Darts



Congratulations to Halesowen Flights who beat Silhill A in this year's Darts Final.

Thank you to all the teams who took part in this year's tournament and to all those that came along on the night to support the finalists, pictured with **Jackie Poyner**, right.

### Would you like to see your WI featured here? We would!

Send your contributions, with your name, to [COGMEDIAWMFWI@gmail.com](mailto:COGMEDIAWMFWI@gmail.com)

Next deadline: 10/07/24

Please send submissions by the above date to ensure inclusion. It may not possible to include all submissions. Texts may be altered to fit available space. Please send original images as individual jpeg files, documents as word documents, and include your WI's name in the email title. Many thanks. *Lisa Blackburn, Editor*

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook for regular posts, news and updates:



<https://www.facebook.com/WMFWI>

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