



# Cog in the Tree

## West Midlands Federation of Women's Institutes.



August 2023

### Chairperson's Address

Hello Everyone,



Yet again the weather seems to dominate conversations with people complaining that it's either too hot or too wet. I always thought that this obsession with the weather was a particularly British trait until I stayed with some Australian relatives in Melbourne. They were checking their weather Apps every quarter of an hour (or so it seemed) and we were getting hourly updates on the temperature and whether we ought to change out of shorts and T-shirts to long sleeves and trousers! As it was almost constantly hot and sunny we didn't change clothes but actually began to long for a cloud to vary the view.

Yesterday evening we were trapped in our conservatory as the rain hammered down with monsoon like intensity for over an hour but we enjoyed the accompanying thunder and lightning even though we could see that the plants were quite beaten down by the onslaught. They quickly perked up, thankful for a good watering.

Like most WIs, the Trustees will be taking a break in August so the next edition of the Cog will be in September but don't forget to keep sending us photos and chats about your WI's summer events so that we can print them for all to share.

Our Annual Meeting will be held in Austin Court on Monday 25th September so come along and join us for a chance to hear what your Federation has been doing on your behalf for the past year and also to meet up with friends from other WIs and catch up with their news. Your Secretary can book tickets for you so don't delay, book today. I hope you all have a lovely summer and I look forward to seeing you soon.  
Lynn

### In this Cog Issue

Your WI News	p2
200 Club Winner	p2
Diary Dates	p5
Public Affairs	p6
Arts and Activities	p7
Flyers	p9

### PLEA FOR MEMBERS TO JOIN THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The members of the Board would like to invite interested members to join us as Trustees. We meet once a month on the first Monday to discuss all matters pertaining to the smooth running of the Federation and to organise trips and events such as the Quiz, Darts and Croquet competitions and the Annual Meeting. We would be delighted to welcome members to one of our meetings to observe what we do with a view to joining us in the future. Although we get through a great deal of business we also have time to chat and to laugh and there is usually cake to accompany our tea and coffee. If you would like to come to a meeting with no obligation other than to observe, please contact Lynn by phone, email or post. Our next meeting will be on September 4th at 10.00am at my house when the main topic will be finalising the arrangements for this year's Annual meeting. Following that the next meeting will be on October 2nd. I hope to hear from you. Lynn



## Your WI News

### Allesley WI



Allesley WI came 2nd in the Allesley festival scarecrow competition. **Vicki Adey, Secretary**

### Bournville WI



Four members of the Bournville WI Walking Group enjoying the sunshine on an early summer walk around Bournville. This magnificent rhododendron is in the Ladies' Garden which was specifically for the female workers at the Cadbury factory.  
**Lynn Smith, Bournville WI.**

## Castle Bromwich WI



Above: Pat Smith, Castle Bromwich President greeting the figure of King Charles on his Coronation in May.



Happy Castle Bromwich Members enjoying a celebratory Tea Party for The Coronation.  
**Marion Rous, Secretary,**

**200 Club Winner**

**Rose Gilbert**

**Four Oaks WI**





# HAWNE WI



Hawne have been busy! We were asked by Halesowen in Bloom to decorate St John's Church railings with flowers. All part of efforts to make Halesowen a lovely town for residents and visitors.  
Anne Turnbull, Hawne WI





## Moseley & Balsall Heath WI



**Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife**



Moseley & Balsall Heath WI enjoyed a yoga Nidra session, led by Sophie Rey Yoga, followed by relaxing creatively with watercolours, featured is Pauline O'Rourke, left, painting beautiful florals.

We also created panels for Moseley Festival, featuring the WI's annual resolution of "Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife" to help raise awareness.

Our crafters crocheted mallards, fish, frogs and even drainpipes and pool!



**Dirty Rivers**

Would you like to see your WI featured here?

Send your contributions to [COGMEDIAWMFWI@gmail.com](mailto:COGMEDIAWMFWI@gmail.com) Next deadline: 10/09/23.

Please send submissions by the tenth of each month to guarantee inclusion. It may not be possible to include all submissions. Texts may be altered to fit available space. Please send original images as individual jpeg files and documents as word documents. There will be no COG issued in August for September as the team takes a holiday! *Lisa Blackburn, Editor*





# Hockley Heath WI



Hockley Heath WI held our annual flower, baking and craft competition at the beginning of July. It was well attended and enjoyed by our members. The winner this year was Pat, closely followed by President Louise and Treasurer Caroline. **Susan Palfreeman, Hockley Heath.**



## Forthcoming Events

- |                            |                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 19 <sup>th</sup> September | Autumn Outing to Windsor*(cancelled) |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> September | Skittles, Hockley Heath              |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> September | Annual Meeting                       |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> November   | Christmas Glass Mosaic               |
| November 2023              | Christmas Outing (Hyde Park)         |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> December   | Christmas family celebration         |

*\*Unfortunately, the Windsor Castle trip has been cancelled due to insufficient applicants.*



Don't forget to follow us on Facebook for regular posts and updates.

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



**Update on Campaigns:** *there's further useful information on*  
[National Federation of Women's Institutes | National Federation of Women's Institutes \(thewi.org.uk\)](http://thewi.org.uk)

## Climate Ambassador Resources Hub on MyWI



Being a WI Climate Ambassador means taking more of an active role in the WI's climate change and wider environmental campaigns. The WI's Climate Ambassador Scheme is for all WI members, everyone, no matter your prior knowledge of climate change campaigning.

Online and downloadable resources are grouped into 3 different categories: resources designed for engaging your WI; resource designed for engaging your local community, and resources designed for engaging decision-makers.

## Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife

Find out more information on the **Surfers Against Sewage's 'Wild Water' website**. The website contains a useful nine-step guide that provides guidance about applying for a designated bathing water. You can also [access the Surfers Against Sewage community bathing waters toolkit here](#).

Take part in the WI's **Week of River Action, 11-18 September 2023**.

## Why not attend the 2023 WI Climate Conference?

**Register your interest now and learn how you can tackle the climate emergency.** The day-long conference for WI members will explore different aspects of climate change and how we can campaign for urgent action. The conference will take place on 17 October, in the Abbey Centre, Westminster, and will run from 9am until 5pm. If you would be interested in taking part in this event, do register your interest with the NFWI Public Affairs team at [pa@nfwl.org.uk](mailto:pa@nfwl.org.uk).

**Clean Water for Wildlife:** don't forget that sources of drinking water for birds and other creatures dry up in this hot weather. You can use any shallow receptacle like a saucer up to a larger plant pot saucer. Put a few stones in as perches and fill with any water— tap water's fine. Make sure you watch the water level and refill as necessary. *Liz Galloway, July 2023.*



## Editor's Choice #1

Have a cup of tea and take fifteen minutes to relax whilst counting butterflies. It's the annual butterfly count from July 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August. Choose your garden, a park, woodland, a different place every day if you like, count the number of different types of butterflies you see over fifteen minutes, and log them onto the app or website to help with butterfly conservation. More details here:

[Big Butterfly Count \(butterfly-conservation.org\)](http://butterfly-conservation.org)







## Arts and Activities

Yippee! The suns finally hit us. No doubt there's much gardening, mowing, dead heading and general outdoors entertainment top of the list currently. Personally, I must confess to really disliking the summer weather. I am a magnet to any biting insect. My skin reacts to umpteen plants in the garden especially anything with a hairy stem. If I don't cover up, I burn to a crisp and as a woman of a certain age I really don't need more heat added to the pot! However, I do venture out at night although it covered in anti-bite concoctions and a shawl! For outdoor evening events, I can recommend The National Arboretum. This year's summer outdoors proms are on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August.

## Out and About

Now the weather is so lovely there are lots of opportunities to explore our cities and towns. You can join a guided walk around the city centre on 29<sup>th</sup> July.

There are a variety of walks available go to <https://www.positivelybirmingham.co.uk/>

Here's an example of what to expect- [Walking Tour - Canals and Victorians to today's city](#)

The tour looks at early development right up to the present day; from Georgian industrial growth, the coming of the canals and on to Victorian times where the town developed as a world producer and coped with huge social and infrastructure issues.

Or how about?

## [Women's History of Bournville - Winterbourne House and Garden](#)

8<sup>th</sup> August, celebrating some of the fantastic women who lived and worked in Bournville.

## [Toy and Model Steam Gathering - Winterbourne House and Garden](#)

19<sup>th</sup> August, see steam toys and engines in action & live demonstrations the printing press throughout the day.

of

## Christmas Celebration 2023

This will take place at St Martins in The Bullring on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

We hope to put the focus of this year's celebration on family with traditional carols and songs and some new additions to involve any children you would like to bring along.

Please put the date in your diary.



# Skittles With a fish and chip supper

**On Saturday September 23rd at 6.45PM**

**At the King George VI Memorial Hall, Stratford Road**

**Please bring your own drinks as there is no bar**

**(Coffee/Tea served after supper)**

**TICKETS £11.00**

**Closing date August 31st 2023.**

**Flyers for this event are with your secretaries now.**

## The Quizzes

Earlier this month we held our Annual quiz at Shirley and another at a new venue in Aldridge for the first time.

13 teams took part at Aldridge and Erdington Carnegie won, (pictured right).

29 teams entered the Shirley quiz and Hockley Heath won, (pictured below).



Well done  
to both  
teams!



## Editor's Choice #2

If you like music, and free events, there's a diverse range of events to attend organized by BMUSIC at the Symphony Hall. As part of the JazzFest there are free jazz events throughout August.

[What's on | B:Music \(bmusic.co.uk\)](http://bmusic.co.uk)





# WMFWI 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023

at

Austin Court, 80 Cambridge St, Birmingham B1 2NP

---

## Guest Speaker

Corrine Brazier, Heritage Manager, West Midlands Police & Museum



WMFWI will be holding the Annual Meeting on Monday 25th September 2023 at Austin Court, Birmingham.

I would like to extend a cordial welcome to all members to join us at this event. It is hoped that all WIs will send one member as a Delegate and that other members will attend as Observers. The cost for the day will be £12.00 per person. Delegates will have their cost defrayed from their WI's funds.

This invitation is to all WI members and not just Committee members. The hall seats 150 and we will hold a ballot if we are over-subscribed but all WIs will have a representative attendee.

The day will begin with coffee and pastries from 10.15am and a chance to chat with friends. The morning session will start at 11.00am with business matters and the presentation of certificates. Lunch will **NOT** be provided. There are lots of opportunities to find lunch around the canal basin.

In the afternoon we shall hear from our guest speaker Corrine Brazier, Heritage Manager at the Birmingham Police Museum. Corrine will talk about the 100year history of women in policing with some very interesting stories about the women, the force and the museum. I sincerely hope that your WI will join us for a most enjoyable day

*Lynn*

---

### WMFWI Annual Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Please return to Kim Slivinski, 136 Common Lane, Sheldon, Birmingham, B26 3DN by **1<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

INSTITUTUTE ..... REQUIRE..... Tickets @£12.00 each

Name of Delegate.....

No of Observers..... (Please list names on reverse).

REMITTANCE CHQ ENCLOSED £..... SAE ENCLOSED

**Tickets will be issued for this event**

9/9



WMFWI, 50 Station Road, Kings Norton, B30 1DA, 01216944201

Email [Lynnsmith@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:Lynnsmith@blueyonder.co.uk)

CHARITY NUMBER 1012552, REG.COMPANY NO. 2723008