



February

MARGARET'S MEMO

As I write this it is quite cold with just a hint of snow but soon spring will be here with longer days and much warmer weather.

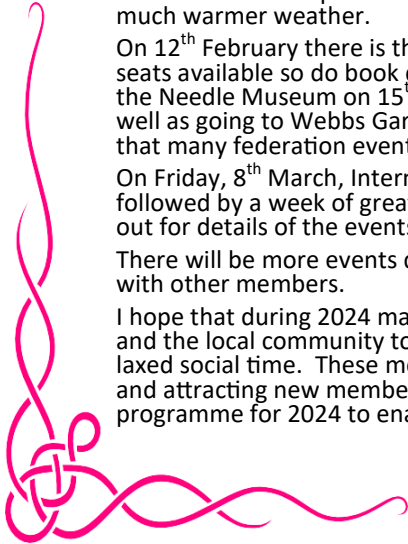
On 12th February there is the opportunity to enjoy the snowdrops at Cerney House. There are a few seats available so do book quickly for a great day out. Of great interest to everyone will be the tour of the Needle Museum on 15th March. We will also have a guided tour of the medieval Abbey next door as well as going to Webbs Garden Centre and outlets including Lakeland. Do book for this and remember that many federation events are open to everyone so bring a friend.

On Friday, 8th March, International Women's Day is being celebrated with a lunch at Munsley Hall. This is followed by a week of great opportunities to discover more about various branches of science. Do look out for details of the events during the week that are near to you.

There will be more events during the year so do watch the Newsletter for details, book and enjoy time with other members.

I hope that during 2024 many WIs will hold open meetings inviting neighbouring WIs and the local community to hear a speaker, watch a demonstration or to enjoy a relaxed social time. These meetings are a great way of raising funds, meeting people and attracting new members. I am sure that you will all have a varied and interesting programme for 2024 to enable you to really enjoy your WI.

Best wishes, Margaret




Soup and Pudding Lunch
from around the world
Friday 8th March
Munsley WI Hall, Trumpet, Ledbury HR8 2RA
12-2pm **Cost £5 pp**

Lets celebrate



8-17 March

British Science Week 2024 is just around the corner on **8-17 March** – it's about time!

HFWI have planned an exciting programme of events to **celebrate Women and Girls** working in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) .

Check out the full programme on page 2.



COACH TRIP TO

ABERGAVENTNY & CRICKHOWELL

FRIDAY 26 APRIL 2024

£30.00 (for WI member)
£35.00 (for non-WI member)

Pick-ups from:
Leominster, Hereford & Ross

Booking information available from:
admin@herefordshirewi.org.uk
or by ringing 01432 272268



WI COFFEE & CATCH UP

Officers and potential officers please join us at one of our Coffee and Catch up events held around the county.

We meet at 10.30am

Saturday 17 February at

THE NEST, Little Verzons Farm,
Hereford Road, Ledbury, HR8 2PZ

Saturday 9th March at PENGETHLEY GARDEN CENTRE,





HFWI CELEBRATES



11-15 MARCH 2024

Join **HFWI** on their **British Science Week** programme of events planned to **celebrate Women and Girls** working in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (**STEM**). Many events are **free of charge**. You may attend more than one event from the full event programme given below, these include – a river visit, a cyber security talk, a practical citizen scientist session to name but a few. Be sure to book your place quickly to avoid disappointment. There will be tea/coffee available at indoor visits.

HFWI British Science Week 2024 Programme

| Date | Event | Venue | Time | Places | Cost |
|-----------------------|---|--|----------------------|----------|--------------|
| 11 March Monday | Leominster Water Treatment Plant Tour (1 hour) | Welsh Water Leominster HR6 0QF | 10.00am/ 11.00am | 10 10 | Free Free |
| 11 March Monday | NMITE: Timber Innovation Sustainable Design Talk (1.5 hours) | NMITE, Rotherwas HR2 6SR | 2pm | 30 | Free |
| 12 March* Tuesday | Citizen Science with Dr Ian Hague (Friends of the Upper Wye), Sue Hickman (WI pharmacist) Talk and practical | St Mary's Garden Village Hub, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7WP | 10.30am (2 hours) | 15 | £5 |
| 12 March* Tuesday | Marine Conservation Society with Peter Richardson Talk (1.5 hours) | St Mary's Garden Village Hub, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7WP | 2.00pm | 15 | £5 |
| 13 March Weds | Midlands Cyber Security Centre Tour Centre – 1 hour Talk Canary Girls – 1 hour | Rotherwas HR2 6NT | 10am | 15 15 | Free Free |
| 13 March Weds | HWT river visit to include Talk and River walk (2 hours) | Wilton Road Ross on Wye HR9 5JA | 1.30pm | 10 | Free |
| 14 March* Thursday | Citizen Science with Pat Stirling (Manager of Citizen scientists, Friends of Upper Wye) Talk, practical (2 hours) | Dilwyn (Cedar) Village Hall, HR4 8HS | 10.30am | 15 | £5 |
| 14 March* Thursday | Citizen Science with Sue Thornton (Citizen scientist, Radnor) Talk, practical | Dilwyn (Cedar) Village Hall, HR4 8HS | 2.00pm (1.5 hrs) | 15 | £5 |
| 15 March Friday | HWT river visit to include Talk, river walk (2 hours) | Oak Tree Farm project, HR1 3JP | 10.00am | 10 | Free |

Open to EVERYONE. Booking forms available from admin@herefordshirewi.org.uk or 01432 272268

Booking closing date: Thursday, 29th February 2024

WINNERS



December **2023** draw was made on 7/12/2023 and the lucky winners were:

1st Prize (£20) Ticket no 39 (Dorstone & District WI);

2nd Prize (£10) Ticket no 36 (Brimfield WI);

3rd Prize (£5) Ticket no 28 (Marden WI).

January **2024** draw was made on 12/1/2024 and the lucky winners were:

1st Prize (£20) Ticket no 15 (Munsley WI);

2nd Prize (£10) Ticket no 42 (Moccas & District WI);

3rd Prize (£5) Ticket no 39 (Dorstone & District WI).

Join the HFWI 100 Club

For details contact: admin@herefordshirewi.org.uk

HFWI Events Please apply for tickets through your Secretary/Treasurer/Booking Person. (Associate members may book direct with the HFWI office.) BACS or cheque payments shown on your bank statements will act as receipt of monies received by HFWI. Receipts will be issued for cash transactions. If the word 'non-members' is not printed on the application form, the event is for members only. If oversubscribed (too many applications for places received before the closing date), WI members have priority and a ballot may be held. Notification of cancellation or over-subscription will be sent to the Booking Person as soon as possible. If you can't attend, it is up to you to sell your ticket (as appropriate), no refunds are given unless the event cannot go ahead or is over-subscribed. Please note: All events except training are fundraisers for HFWI.



**RESOLUTION
SHORT LIST**

1. Dental health matters
2. Impacts of poor housing conditions
3. Say 'no' to gambling advertising
4. Improving outcomes for women in the Criminal Justice System



**YOUR
VOTE
COUNTS!**



Make sure you cast your Resolution vote asap so that your Secretary can submit your individual votes to:

**Sandra Walker (Federation Resolution Coordinator) sjwalker253@gmail.com
BEFORE THE 11th FEBRUARY 2024**

Your Voting form can be found in your WI Life magazine.

Feedback from River Surveys Autumn 2023

Once again, a very big thank you to everyone who took part in our river survey back in the autumn and sincere apologies for the delay in releasing the results. As space is limited in the newsletter, full details are on the climate ambassador page on our website and everyone who took part should have received their own personal copy. If you haven't, please do get in touch.

In summary, the rivers surveyed were the Wye, Leadon, Wellington Brook, Dulas, Marlbrook, the Arrow and Gad Brook; a good cross section across the county. Sadly, only one person mentioned seeing any form of wildlife present while they were monitoring.

Currently, information on the health of our county rivers is very limited, making it difficult to target areas that would benefit most from restoration works. Surveys like this can feed into larger databases of information, informing future projects and focusing their works. By repeat monitoring, we can see any changes that happen over the long term, whether due to land use changes or improvements in wildlife habitats, so we would like to repeat the process and perhaps start our very own citizen science project. We are proposing 2, possibly 3 surveys a year of the same stretch of water. It is not too late to get involved so if there is anyone who would like to participate who hasn't done so already, please do get in touch - hfwl.climate@gmail.com.



COME AND JOIN A NATIONAL CONVERSATION ABOUT HOW WE VALUE OUR RIVERS AND OCEAN, AND WHAT WE AND OUR COUNCILS CAN DO TO SAFEGUARD THEM.

If you wish to attend please contact the organisers and **NOT WI House.**

Organiser's email: mckinleye1@cardiff.ac.uk

Community voices and conversations

Two evening workshops will be hosted premiering a new documentary film about the River Wye and how it connects local communities to the estuary and the ocean, followed by group discussions. Join us at one of these events and have your say!

Ross-on-Wye

Tuesday 30th Jan 2024
6pm-9pm
The Royal Hotel
Royal Parade
Ross-On-Wye
HR9 5HZ

Chepstow

Wednesday 31st Jan 2024
6pm-9pm
The Beaufort Hotel
Beaufort Square
Chepstow
NP16 5EP

Please use QR code to register by Friday 26th January or email mckinleye1@cardiff.ac.uk



Catering will be provided!





DIGITAL NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2024

FACEBOOK: If you would like to put something about your WI on Facebook. please either send it by email to me (address below), admin@herefordshirewi.org.uk (Caroline Miller) or christy_r_crouch@yahoo.co.uk (Christy Crouch) as we are all admins of the Federation Facebook page.

There is also a blue button saying message; you can also copy and paste your report on a message and attach any photos and this will be picked up and put on the page direct.

NFWI WEBSITE: Would you like to be a web editor for your WI? By default, your WI will have a details page that shows the WI's meeting address, time etc. under FIND A WI.

WI Web Editors create new pages under the details page to give website visitors more insight into their WI.

If this interests you, please get in touch!

Alison Lord digitalchampion.hfwi@gmail.com

01544 340256 **07896888629**



Intentionally
Blank

CAN YOU FILL THIS SPACE?

Might you be able to volunteer your time, once a month, to fill this space? Maybe members might like to see a book review, or a recipe or maybe instructions on completing a craft project, a gardening tip, a good place to visit, etc. We would love to include a Member's Section but require a member or members to provide contributions.

We would love to hear from you.

Contact: admin@herefordshirewi.org.uk



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**OUR SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE
HAS BEEN DELIVERED**



SPEAKERS CORNER



Angela & Graham O'Connell, Assistant County Organisers, National Garden Scheme (Herefordshire). Title of the talk: Beyond the Garden Gate: The National Garden Scheme Past and Present. Description: We explain what the NGS does and delve into its fascinating history. We cover the Victorian links to nursing, how the first garden openings came about and how the scheme has evolved. You will find out about upcoming garden openings, with lots of lovely pictures, including gardens that welcome exclusive group visits. And lastly we explain where all the money goes in supporting many of the UK's best loved nursing and health charities.

Duration: Around 45-50 mins plus plenty of time for questions.

Fee: The fee is £70, all of which goes to the charity. Our travel costs are 42p per mile from Glewstone HR9 6AS. Telephone: 07970 265754

Email: angela.oconnell@icloud.com or graham.oconnell22@gmail.com

**Upton Bishop WI
Photography**

A talk by Paul Cummings



**Everyone welcome.
Refreshments available.
£5.00**



WI Group Offer: We are an award winning Victorian Museum based in Presteigne, Powys, on the Herefordshire border. What makes us special? Our visitors step into the 1870s and experience what the Victorian judges, their servants and felonious guests went through. Your guests get to wander through rooms lit only by gas and oil lamps and be amazed at the contrasts between the Judges rooms and the servants' conditions. Our visitors are accompanied by an audio tour eaves-dropping on stories from the buildings inhabitants. Besides the museum we have a wonderful gift shop with variety of souvenirs, traditional toys, books, cards and lots more. We also have a tearoom which sells teas/coffees and cakes. Maximum seated 35 visitors.

For groups of 10 or more our rate is £8.95 per adult. (Includes audio). Tea/coffee/cake can be pre booked for your visitors at £5.95 per person. This will be laid out for your guests in our tearoom.

We recommend a minimum of two hours to comfortably enjoy all we have to offer. Presteigne High Street is only a 3 minute walk in one direction and our Church is a 3 minute walk in the other. You may wish to add on time to enjoy our small traditional Welsh town too in your itinerary. We have a disabled lift at the rear of our building but any wheelchair bound guests will only have access to ground level rooms. Our museum makes the perfect afternoon out as a day trip. Please get in touch to book your visit and complete a booking form. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes, J L Team. Presteigne Tourist Information <presteigne@judgeslodging.org.uk>



WI FORUM

The **Salties** had fun and laughter, which is what we like, at our November meeting when 21 of us gathered to each produce an angel for our Christmas decorations. There was no staple work, but instead Julie, patient as ever, talked us through how of tissue paper, a lace doily, a piece of string and a few glitter stars to gel; Just right to go with the Christmas star she helped us with last of us with two left thumbs were able to produce something.



messy glue or fiddly to use simple elements produce an elegant angel..... even those



Bosbury WI held an Open Meeting in October when members and visitors were challenged by Dave Hill to identify places and objects 'hidden in plain sight' within Herefordshire during his talk and slide show entitled 'Still Lost in Herefordshire'. Landscapes, castles, signage, dovecotes, and a range of curiosities showed us a new side to our county. His love of history, knowledge of Herefordshire, dedication in seeking out and photographing unusual items provided a fascinating evening. In November, HFWI's Archivist, Tessa Lovell, shared her expertise with Bosbury WI. Tessa used lots of interesting examples as she explained what should be kept and for how long, how to store items, without putting them at risk and stressed the importance of keeping a record of archived items. Members were able to reminisce as images of various events from Bosbury WI's past appeared on the screen and enjoyed her description of investigations to identify unlabelled photographs in her collection.

At **Aston Ingham WI's** Meeting on 14th November 2023 Ant from Ledbury Real Ales came to talk to us about the real ales production company which he and his wife own. They began initially in a shed, they now employ 5 people and make 7,000 pints a week in casks, supplying customers regularly. All main hops are locally grown, Herefordshire being the main growing area in the UK. The company has a well, but Welsh water is used too which is cleaner than some other water, not requiring chemicals to be added. 9 pints of water are used for every pint. Ledbury Real Ales uses solar power. There are 4 ingredients in the production of beer, 95% water, malted barley, hops and yeast. A porridge of malted barley is made by steeping it in water, it germinates then the seed is dried out, the more the seed is dried the darker the beer will be. 4 different types of hops were passed around for members to look at and smell, some had a citrus smell. Hop development is happening in Hereford - it takes 10 years to generate a new plant. Ant was very enthusiastic, and members learned a lot about the production of beer by a local company.

Wellington Church recently held a Christmas tree festival with 30 entries from clubs and individual village. **Wellington WI** entry highlighted the River Wye from its source to the sea, illustrating historical and geographical facts along its course. However, the thrust of its display was to show the current resolution to make places for wildlife and people. A decorated fabric "river" in Powys and commented on



course. However, the thrust of its display was to show the current resolution to make places for wildlife and people. A decorated fabric "river" in Powys and commented on



als in the some play was better and fish cascaded down the tree Herefordshire compiled by our members many visitors over the weekend



Holmer WI's December meeting, took the form of our Christmas party. Most members wore Christmas jumpers, and entered into the spirit of the evening. There were stalls, including, Tombola, crafts, Bring & Buy, and a special raffle for Christmas. The supper was a varied and enjoyable feast, with all the members glory of the supper was a which was cut and pieces distributed to the members. ent version – set around music of Christmas songs and car- to enjoy singing along. This was put together and presented by Jackie. During the evening there was the annual presentation of the Competition cups. The winners were :
1st – The Margaret Hawkes Cup – Mary Burgess.
2nd- The Phyllis Hemming Cup – Frances Riddell.
3rd – The Tattershall Cup – Margret Jones.
Well done to you all



On display at the meeting was a Knitted Christmas Tree. This was made up of knitted and crochet squares, made by our members, and arranged around a support, to form the tree. It was also decorated. The members who made the squares seemed pleased when they were able to identify their own work. After the meeting, the tree was delivered to the Salvation Army Citadel in Edgar Street, where it will be displayed in their foyer until after Christmas. It will then be dismantled, and the woollen squares made into knee blankets.



Ledbury WI's celebratory season began when Philip Bowen came to talk to us about Guy Fawkes and the story behind Bonfire Night. His account of the Gunpowder Plot linked the history leading up to it with many West Midlands stately homes and Catholic noblemen. Excellent speaker, vividly making the past relevant to the present. In November we began to look forward to Christmas with a demonstration by Karen Smith of "Raft" in Ledbury. She gave an enjoyable presentation where we all made pretty tealight holders from natural and recycled materials. In December we met up for a festive Christmas Meeting. We began with games - playing -card bingo followed by a "House of Games" style quiz. Very varying answers to questions such as estimating the distance from Ledbury to Moscow or identifying places on a map of South America. A delicious afternoon tea was served in an individual box for each member - all created by Jo our catering queen (left). The afternoon came to an end with a tale from Yorkshire read by Jenny Harrison - 'The Messiah as you've never 'eard it'.



Holmer WI—Our last meeting was the first of the New Year from the craft/textile shop in Maylord Orchards, called "and around Hereford, some of our members were unable to enjoyable evening. Jackie spoke about her life and travels in led to her shop now established in Hereford. It has been all crafting needs, plus workshops. The competition was " a small handmade item", and was kindly judged by Jackie: 1st - Sue Notely – a pin cushion; 2nd – Mary Burgess – a red dragon; 3rd – Frances Riddell - a small tapestry cushion



and our speaker was Jackie Partridge "Make it Happen". Due to the flooding in travel, but for those who did they had an textile work and education, and how they there now for three years, and caters for

At the first meeting of the year, **Stoke Prior & District WI** gathered to enjoy an afternoon playing games before enjoying the usual refreshments. They are looking forward to celebrating their 95th Birthday in February.

Bosbury WI offered all its members the opportunity to make a floral decora-meeting. Our tutor was Gill Romanowski who demonstrated how to make a fresh flowers and greenery and shared useful flower arranging tips as she under her guidance, to make similar arrangements to decorate our own very satisfying to take home such a striking and colourful arrangement. We social time when a non-alcoholic mulled winter cordial was served to ac-savoury and sweet food. In December **Bosbury WI** also manned and stocked a very successful stall at the local Christmas Fair and supported the 'Festival of Christmas Trees' in Holy Trinity Church, Bosbury. Our theme was 'Bosbury Buildings' and the finished tree looked delightful with many of the decorations hand-crafted by members.



tion during the Christmas festive door hanging with worked. We then attempted, homes. It was great fun and then enjoyed an excellent company the lovely festive

Upton Bishop WIs November meeting was a Christmas craft workshops for all members. Frances (President demonstrat-ed glass jar lantern decorating and members had donated spare ribbon in order to turn a curtain ring into a Christmas tree decoration. In December we welcomed Chris Champness to demonstrate and allow members to make a knitted silver wire and beaded brooch – a beautiful idea for a unique Christmas present.

Sparkling Wye WI's Open evening attracted a good number of visitors and new members who had all come along to hear the fantastic speaker - Fiona Morison talk about the Man's Land. You could have heard a pin drop – group of members (including a Peterstow WI mem-Savoy, Monmouth to see budding actress Jenny as Mrs Sweetenham in Agatha Christie's A Murder



V.A.D. Nurses in WWI - Roses on No fascinating as ever. Late November a ber) headed for the Royal boxes at The Hopkins (a SWWI member) in her role is Announced. WI(Sewers & Knitters)

have had a successful year which culminated in a successful Xmas a donation to some of Ledbury's Afghan refugee women and their much ap-preciated Christmas stockings and meeting members were greeted mulled wine and Christmas fayre Christmas party – a good social



market at Lea and children of some pressies. At

event for merry whilst making fabric meeting gave the floor to our who spoke about and allowed us wonderful



members to mingle, drink and be Christmas trees. January's very own President, Hilary Wilson her passion for to try on a number creations.



millinery of her



HEREFORDSHIRE FEDERATION WI DIARY OF EVENTS JAN-AUG 2024

| DATE | EVENT | INFORMATION & VENUE | TIME | COST |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| Mon 12 th Feb 2024 | Coach Trip | Cirencester & Snowdrops at Cerney House | Day trip – open to all. | £32 includes coach, entrance, talk and refreshments |
| Sat 17 th Feb | Coffee & Catch-up | The Nest, Little Verzons Fm Nr Ledbury, HR8 2PZ | From 10.30am | Social for officers & potential officers |
| Sat 9 th March | Coffee & Catch-up | Pengethley Garden Centre, Peterstow, HR9 6LL | | Social for officers & potential officers |
| Fri 8 th March | Soup & Pudding Lunch | Munsley WI Hall, Trumpet Nr Ledbury, HR8 2RA | £5pp Open to all | Celebrate International Women's Day |
| 11-15 th March | HFWI celebrates British Science Week | Multiple venues & events to celebrate Women & Girls in STEM | Free-£5.00 Open to all | Check out the full programme on page 2. Booking essential |
| Fri 15 th March 2024 | Coach Trip | Needle Museum, Bordesley Abbey, BP8 8HY & Webbs of Wychbold | Day trip – *open to all. | WI members £27.50 includes coach, entrance, tour and light refreshments |
| Sat 13 th April | Coffee & Catch-up | The Hop Pocket, Bishop's Frome, WR6 5BT | From 10.30am | Social for officers & potential officers |
| Fri 16 th April | Coach Trip | Abergavenny & Crickhowell | Day trip – open to all* | WI members £30.00 includes coach, tapestry, talk, tour & light afternoon tea |
| Fri 17 th May | Coffee & Catch-up | Wellington Home & Gardens, A49, Wellington, Nr Hereford HR4 8BB | From 10.30am | Social for officers & potential officers |
| 4-5 June 2024 | Coach Trip | Rural Concierge Trip to WI Conference, London, plus sightseeing. | Hotel stop-over | WI Conference ticket to be booked separately |
| Sat 15 th June | Coffee & Catch-up | Newton Court, Newton Ln, Nr Leominster HR6 0PF | From 10.30am | Social for officers & potential officers |
| Fri 19 th July | Coffee & Catch-up | The Nest, Little Verzons Fm Nr Ledbury, HR8 2PZ | From 10.30am | Social for officers & potential officers |
| 1 August 2024 | Coach Trip | NEC Quilting and Craft Show | Day trip | Entrance tickets to be booked by individuals |

**Non-WI members will pay a surcharge on all trips. For more details email: admin@herefordshirewi.org.uk*

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