



Herefordshire

Federation of Women's Institutes



November 2023 Newsletter



NEEDLE MUSEUM, BORDESLEY ABBEY & WEBBS OF WYCHBOLD THURSDAY 15TH MARCH 2024

£27.50 per WI member (includes coach, tour and light refreshments)
£32.50 per non-WI member

Time & Pick-up Points:
LEOMINSTER 9.00am
HEREFORD 9.30am
LEDBURY 10.00am

Return Time: Leaving Worcestershire approx 3.30pm

Details: A packed trip visiting the Forge Mill Needle Museum in Redditch; the ruins of Bordesley Abbey – a medieval Cistercian Abbey; and Webbs of Wychbold Garden Centre. The trip will be open to EVERYONE, so do bring a friend. **Please note:** Non-WI members will pay an additional surcharge of £5.00 on the ticket price.
Closing date: Thursday, 15th February 2024

Your Secretary has a Booking form, or contact admin@herefordshirewi.org.uk



The October 2023 draw was made on 7/10/2023 and the lucky winners are:

1st Prize (£20) Ticket no 8 (Preston Wynne WI member)

2nd Prize (£10) Ticket no 32 (Stoke Prior & District WI member)

3rd Prize (£5) Ticket no 2 (Peterstow WI member)

YOU can still join the HFWI 100 Club

For details contact:
admin@herefordshirewi.org.uk

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE—Advance notice—WI House will be closed from 16th December to 1st January inclusive. Staff will be back in the office on 2nd January 2024.



Your perfect garden awaits...

www.ngs.org.uk/find-a-garden



Ask your Secretary for details of the first edition of the Herefordshire local National Gardens Scheme Newsletter. In the Newsletter there are contacts and descriptions of local gardens for your WI or you, friends family to visit.

More information is available on: www.ngs.org.uk



WI OFFICERS COFFEE & CATCH UP

Join us at 10.30am at:

The Hop Pocket, WR6 5BT **Friday 10 November** and
Wellington Garden Centre HR4 8BB **Saturday 9 December**

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Poem of the month taken from an entry to the Joy Ward Silver Trophy Poetry 2023

From a Distance

From a distance, I see the big door.
 The small boy runs across the grass and climbs the steps.
 Now the big door looks enormous, a giant's door.
 The boy seems tiny, a fairy child.
 From a distance, I remember
 An April afternoon spent here,
 At home, our home, once his home.
 We wander down our lane, together,
 Generations now so close we share the air we breathe.
 The small boy runs along the lane—what's this?
 A spreading chestnut tree,
 With bark stripped bare as if a door
 Within the trunk. Mysteriously,
 A keyhole and a door knob.
 The door looks tiny, a fairy door.
 The boy seems tall, a giant child
 He knocks and calls. No answer comes.
 From a distance, across the world,
 The small boy waves to me.
 I know him now, and he knows me.
 We know each other from a distance,
 Now we have met
 Now we have shared the fairy door,
 Have touched and laughed and cried together,
 Have played and danced and sung together.
 So now, I see him there
 On the steps of the big door,
 A world away. A small boy that I know.
 No longer just an image on a screen
 As once he seemed.
 We are connected from a distance.

Poem by: Jackie Denman
Putley WI

MARGERET'S MEMO

The ACM was a huge success with speakers on various topics. Now you realise how important the Teddies and the fish-and-chip jumpers are. Patterns are available from WI House either printed or online. We can also supply wool. Do you have a bright idea for a community event but no finance, then contact Ken Stone, the man who can make it happen for you. Effie proved that young people do succeed without a degree as she is most successful as a milliner. Should you need a hat for an important event, she is the person to approach.

Being a WI member gives a diverse range of opportunities. In this Newsletter you will find details of the resolutions for 2024 which are topical as well as affecting each of us and our communities in some way. Do read them, then come to the discussion meeting where you will hear a wide range of arguments both for and against each resolution. The experts' views will make you think and form the basis of discussions with members at your WI.



Book for the Needle Museum trip in March which will be most interesting and includes a stop at Webbs where there is a Lakeland outlet in the fantastic garden centre. Look at the Durham Holiday which is great value being inclusive of all entrance fees. All trips through the year, and there are a lot more being planned, are open to everyone so do bring a friend.

The office is normally open four days a week (Tues-Fri) but be careful over Christmas and the New Year as we are closing for a few days. Make a note of when we are open to receive teddies, jumpers, items for Ukraine, etc and please just visit us for a chat about anything WI.

Best wishes, Margaret

PRESS RELEASE

NFWI have just released a limited number of in person tickets for the 2024 National Annual Conference on 5 JUNE 2024 at The Royal Albert Hall, London.

To book your ticket please contact:
fedsec@herefordshirewi.org.uk
Worried about getting to London? Check out page 5 of this Newsletter—Problem solved!

OFFICERS' HINTS & TIPS

Although (at time of writing) we are all enjoying a welcome Indian Summer Autumn is fast approaching, as is the time when WIs look ahead and plan for the coming year.

If you are stuck for inspiration, why not contact WI House for an up to date copy of the Speakers List? Or take a look at the Federation Facebook page or the WI Forum. The chances are if a speaker has gone down well at one WI, they will go down well with your members too.

Your WI Advisers, Alison Lord,
Cherril Watkins and Joy Edwards.

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.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS & CAMPAIGNS

Saturday 25 November 2023 is White Ribbon Day

Violence against women and girls is not a women's issue.

1 in 4 girls in mixed-sex schools had experiences of unwanted sexual touching in school.

6 in 10 women have felt harassed in the gym by a man.

1.7 million women experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2022.

Make and wear a white ribbon throughout November, at your WI meeting and in particular on White Ribbon Day.

This is followed by 16 days of action thankfully by many all male groups who have signed a pledge to make those unaware VERY aware.



Sandra Walker 01432 830019

sjwalker253@gmail.com

STOP PRESS 2024 RESOLUTION SHORTLIST MEETING

The short list of resolutions 2024 is listed below.

As announced at the ACM this week a chance for members to come and hear expert speakers talk about each resolution has been arranged for **Tuesday 28 November 2pm - 4pm at Wellington Community Centre (HR4 8AZ)**.

Free to attend and join the discussion/debate. Refreshments available.

1. Dental Health Matters

There is a chronic shortage of NHS Dentists and people are suffering health issues as a result. The NFWI calls on the Government to increase investment in the training and retention of dentists and to review the current inadequate NHS contracts in order to ensure everyone can access an NHS dentist wherever they live.

2. Impacts of poor housing conditions

Poor housing can have a deleterious effect on human health and wellbeing, safety and quality of life and can disproportionately affect the most vulnerable groups in society. The NFWI calls on the UK Government to boost housing standards and regulations, increase funding for housing renovations, increase the supply of affordable and secure housing and strengthen collaboration with local authorities, housing associations and other relevant stakeholders to develop strategies that address local housing challenges.

3. Say 'no' to gambling advertising

Harm caused by excessive gambling is a global problem. Some countries are already addressing this by banning advertising. The NFWI calls on members, the government, regulators, the NHS, educationalists and gambling charities to work together towards achieving a complete ban on gambling advertising. This will reduce gambling harm, save the NHS money, protect family relationships and decrease the number of suicides, around 400 per annum at present.

4. Improving Outcomes for Women in the Criminal Justice System

There is an urgent need to radically reform decision making in respect of women in the criminal justice system and in particular, pregnant women and women with children. We urge cross government collaboration to deliver on the 2018 female offender strategy by setting goals, robust governance and performance measures to reduce the number of women who have committed non-violent offences from being imprisoned.

Any queries contact; **Sandra Walker (Federation Resolution Coordinator) sjwalker253@gmail.com**

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to spend time with a fun group of like-minded people? Volunteering at the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust charity shop is a fantastic way to really make a difference.

In October 2022 we opened our new charity shop in Church Street, Hereford. Over the last two years our Ledbury charity shop has done amazingly well and all the money raised goes to supporting the vital work done by Herefordshire Wildlife Trust.

We aim to make our Hereford shop just as successful. With its prime location amongst the cafes and boutiques on Church Street this shop has the opportunity to offer shoppers a chance to help support our conservation work whilst also reducing their impact on climate change by buying second hand.

We are looking for friendly and enthusiastic individuals who can help make this shop a success.

Full details are on our website

<https://www.herefordshirewt.org/volunteering-opportunities/shop-volunteer-our-new-hereford-charity-shop>

Check out the National Federation of Womens' Institutes at: <https://www.thewi.org.uk/>



NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

The theme of the archive display at the recent WI Day, held in Bodenham Parish Hall, was Federation anniversaries and how they were celebrated. I am grateful to Margaret and both Carolines in WI House for searching out the memorabilia held there. The table was covered with two anniversary tablecloths – the centennial (worked by Jenny Winchester, Bishopswood WI) facing into the hall and the fiftieth (designed by Pamela Fortnum, Putley WI) to the back. The backdrop showed two tea towels marking the sixtieth (designed by Ruth Robson, Llangrove WI) and one hundredth milestones. On the stage behind was the huge wall hanging worked by the Crafts Committee to celebrate the 75th anniversary in 1995. Sadly the central circular section, originally made of plastic, has since disintegrated. Photographs on display showed the unveiling with the missing part. This inspired Federation Assistant Secretary, Caroline Miller, to plan a project to revive the absent piece.

Archival note – plastic and archives are not a good mix and should be avoided.

Also marking the golden jubilee was a Review leaflet and a schedule for an exhibition held in the Shirehall. The Review made reference to ball point and fibre tipped pens marking the occasion but I doubt any are still in existence. An Order of Service and photograph of the WI Choir marked the Diamond Jubilee Service in Hereford Cathedral; an additional piece of memorabilia was a souvenir plate. The biggest undertaking for the seventieth anniversary was filling the Cathedral with an impressive array of flower arrangements on the theme of Home and Country. This event was recorded in a special booklet on display. The HFWI County News (forerunner of the HFWI newsletter) indicated that a thimble and box (£1.20), mug with logo (£1.25) and cut glass tumbler (£10.50 or 3 for £30) were available as souvenir items. Only the tumbler was available for display.

Long standing WI ladies were very interested in the record that holds the signatures of all members, by WI, in 1995 and many memories were shared. Photographs of floral displays at the Grange in Leominster and a souvenir plate marking the eightieth anniversary were on display; as was an order of Service for the Choral Evensong in 2005. Centenary items on the table included souvenir mugs, bag and the Centennial Service programme.

Please let me know if you have any other souvenir items so that they can be recorded in the WI catalogue.

For more information on HFWI archives and how to look after your WI's records please visit the Herefordshire page on the national WI website: <https://herefordshire.thewi.org.uk/> <https://herefordshire.thewi.org.uk/> then go to About us > Federation Archives. Contact me with any archive questions or concerns.

Tessa Lovell, HFWI.Archivist@gmail.com 01885 788623



CAN YOU REMEMBER THIS?

The centre piece of the HFWI 75th Anniversary banner is no longer with us.

It was made of plastic—plastic does store well and eventually breaks up.

Consequently the centre of the banner is now missing vital detail.

We are looking to information on how the centre was constructed and identifying all of the images within the circle (some clear, some not so clear from this photo of a photo).



If you know, or know of someone who might be able to give us some information on the centre-piece we would love to hear from you.

Maybe you would be interesting in trying to re-create the centre piece, or maybe each WI could take one small image to re-create.

Whatever we can do together is better than the blank space that has been left. Let us know.

Caroline Miller,
admin@herefordshirewi.org.uk



Herefordshire WI National Annual Conference, London Tuesday 4th - Wednesday 5th June 2024

Tuesday Holland Park & Gardens, Kensington

The Holland Park and gardens were created in the early 1800s by Lord Holland and cover some 50 acres. There is the immaculately kept Kyoto Garden which was opened in 1991 to celebrate the Japanese festival. This has a delightful pond with waterfall.

The Design Museum, Kensington

Founded in 1989 by Sir Terence Conran, the Design Museum exhibits product, industrial, graphic, fashion, and architectural design. The Designer Maker User exhibition features almost 1000 items of twentieth and twenty-first century design viewed through the angles of the designer, manufacturer and user.

Free time in Notting Hill

Markets, a carnival and a movie of the same name, Notting Hill is one of London's most vibrant neighbourhoods. The Shops of Notting Hill range from Westbourne Grove's upscale boutiques to colourful vintage and antique shops on Portobello Road.

Wednesday The British Museum, Bloomsbury

Founded in 1753, the British Museum has a collection covering two million years and was the world's first public museum of its kind and attracts more than six million visitors each year.

V&A Museum, Natural History Museum or Kensington Gardens

The V&A is the world's largest museum of applied arts, decorative arts and design, housing a permanent collection of over 2.27 million objects. The Natural History Museum is home to life and earth science specimens comprising some 80 million items within five main collections: botany, entomology, mineralogy, palaeontology and zoology. Kensington Gardens is the home of Kensington Palace, the Serpentine Galleries and the Diana Memorial Gardens.

Cost
£255
per person

Your tour includes

- Coach and Concierge for the duration
- 1 night Hotel, Bed & Breakfast
- Entry to free attractions (listed)
- Financial Protection Insurance
- £20 per head for the WI Federation
- 24 single rooms without a supplement
- Plus 6 x twins & 4 x doubles

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TAPESTRY CANVASES

Beautifully stretched and made into
cushions, bell-pulls, rugs, etc.

Cheltenham 01242 233883

Hereford Guild of Guides

Daily guided walks (no need to book).

April 1st to October 31st 2023.

Mon-Sat 11.30am; Sunday 2.30pm.

Starts: main entrance to Cathedral.

Tickets: Cathedral Shop/Guide on Sunday.

Also themed, booked walks all year.

Details: herefordguidedwalks.org.uk



WI Day



CELEBRATE Success!



ACM



Normal WI Forum will resume next month. Articles for the Forum should be sent to HFWI.News@gmail.com on or before 15th of the month.



HEREFORDSHIRE FEDERATION WI DIARY OF EVENTS OCT 2023-AUG 2024

DATE	EVENT	INFORMATION & VENUE	TIME	COST
28 th October	Coach Trip	Westonbirt Arboretum	Day trip	£36 (coach & entry)
Mon 30 th October	Half-Term Craft Workshop	Munsley WI Hall, HR8 2RA	10am-12 1.00-3pm	£5 entry (incl 1 adult with 1 child)
Tues 7 th November	Coach Trip	Stratford Upon Avon	Day trip	£20 plus optional town tour (£8)
Fri 10 th Nov	WI Officers Coffee & Catch-up	The Hop Pocket, WR6 5BT	10.30am	
Sun, 19 th Nov	Weobley Craft & Food Fair	Hopelands Village Hall, HR4 8RZ	10am-3.00pm	Entry £1, children free
Sat, 25 th November	Yule Fayre	Bodenham Village Hall WI Stalls available	10am-3.00pm	£5.00 per table
Tues 28 th November	2024 Resolutions Shortlist Meeting	Wellington Community Centre.(HR4 8AZ)	2-4.00pm	Expert speakers and debate. Free to attend. Refreshments available
Sat, 9 th Dec	WI Officers Coffee & Catch-up	Wellington Garden Centre	10.30am	
Sat, 16 th Dec-Mon 1 st Jan	WI House	Christmas Closure		The Office will re-open on Tuesday 2 nd Jan '24
Mon 12 th Feb 2024	Coach Trip	Cirencester & Snowdrops at Cerney House	Day trip	£32 includes coach, entrance, talk and refreshments
Fri 15 th March 2024	Coach Trip	Needle Museum, Bordesley Abbey, BP8 8HY & Webbs of Wychbold	Day trip – open to all. Surcharge for non-WI	WI members £27.50 includes coach, entrance, tour and light refreshments
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 – see pages 2 and 5 of Newsletter
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