

MAY 2018



THE PYONS



JERUSALEM

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the Countenance Divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among these dark Satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold:
Bring me my arrows of desire:
Bring me my spear: O clouds unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire.
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.
William Blake

HFWI WI House

90 St Owen Street, Hereford HR1 2QD

Tel: Main Office (01432) 272268

E-mail: fedsec.hfwie@gmail.com

www.thewi.org.uk/herefordshire

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

2018 Edition 4 — 30p

Federation Chairman - Val Lewis

Federation Secretary - Pauline Shannon

HFWI Charity No: 1056051

The contributors to this newsletter are responsible for the accuracy of their information, and should be contacted direct with any queries.

OFFICE OPENING HOURS: Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30 - 2.30pm

Herefordshire

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Dear Ladies

At last, I can say " Spring is actually here" It has been a long cold winter but now that we have longer, warmer days we can get out a bit more, socialize and enjoy ourselves. I have spent days in the greenhouse sorting out my baby plants. Why are there so many seeds in a packet? What can I do with 200 tomato plants? Not long now to our ACM, I am hoping that you enjoy it this year. An annual meeting is not known to be "fun" but we try our best. Pauline has begged lots of raffle prizes this year from lots of local businesses and is working hard to make sure that it all runs well. Hope to see many of you then.

I attended a lovely lunch on 15th April to celebrate Dorstone WI's 95th birthday, congratulations to them.

We are starting to arrange celebrations for our Centenary. We should be having a garden party at Lower Hope later in the year, more details to follow.

Does your WI sing "Jerusalem" at the start of meetings? All WI's used to do it and it gives a good feeling to start the meeting, please consider this.

Your committees have been given details of changes to the charging of the newsletters, this only affects a very small number of members. Enjoy the sunshine (I hope) Val

Val Lewis, Telephone: 01544 327700 Email: chair.hfwie@gmail.com



Obituaries

It is with great sadness to let you know of the death of two past members of HFWI Federation.

Mrs Evelyn Hatcher of Eardisley WI passed away on Friday 6th April 2018 after a short illness. She was the HFWI County Treasurer from 1995 to 1998 when Mrs Ann Wood, also of Eardisley, was County Chairman. "Ev" was the instigator that got me into the WI when I became joint secretary with her many years ago in Eardisley WI. She was a "larger than life" character and will be greatly missed by the whole village.

Mrs May Wilford, also of Eardisley, passed away on the same day. She was HFWI County Chairman from 1972 to 1976. She was also the wife of the Rector of Eardisley Church at that time.

These two ladies were very active in the activities in Eardisley Village and, together, they started a Flower Festival as well as being involved in many other things.

Val Lewis

DIGITAL NEWS

Want to attract new members in 2018? Perhaps you could think about setting up a webpage or FACEBOOK page to publicise yourself to your local community. Free sites like WEEBLY or similar are quite straightforward to put together. Contact me if you would like some help and examples.

Thanks to those WIs who have sent in their 2018 programmes to go on the WI website next to your WI page.

Are you an officer? MY WI has a lot of information about running your WI and the duties of the officers; much more else besides including the WI Constitution. I would thoroughly recommend that all officers are able to access this useful site. Go to the front page of www.thewi.org.uk

The Digital WI: I am available to do a talk on 'Everything you need to know about WI online...' and 'Publicising your WI'. Short notice is fine. 2nd Wednesdays are difficult.

Please contact me if you require any help or have an idea for a course; the Herefordshire WI website address and Facebook address are always on the front page of the newsletter.

Alison Lord

digitalchampion.hfwie@gmail.com

01544 340256

ACWW - Associated Country Women of the World

ACWW Projects

Grants are awarded to women-led community based projects in developing countries.

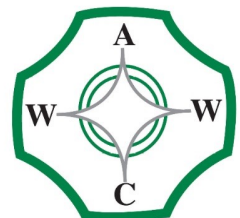
Projects come under these wide headings:

- Small local agricultural schemes, kitchen gardens and animal husbandry;
- Income generating skills; - Healthcare, nutrition and home economics;
- Safe and reliable water sources and sanitation; - Literacy, basic education and civic awareness.

As an example, the project which I am supporting this year is providing training, tools, saplings and seeds, plus ongoing support, for marginalised Bangladeshi women to grow fruit, vegetables, herbs and spices to improve family diet.

Hazel Penwill. Herefordshire ACWW Representative. 01584 711480.

hazel@penwill.com www.acww.org.uk email info@acww.org.uk



SPORTS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

PLAY BOULES We are looking forward to enjoying the taster session of "Boule" on Thursday 10th May at the Tram Inn, Eardisley. If there are any problems please email me or phone me, let's hope it's not raining

Pat Lemin Telephone 01989780397;

Email: pat@churchendbarn.plus.com

WALKING NETBALL and GOLF SESSIONS - see March's enclosure and let me know if any of you are interested in participating.

HANDICRAFTS CLUB

The club meets at the Salvation Army Citadel, Edgar Street on first Wednesdays, 11am - 12.15pm.

Subscription £6, visitors £1.00. Enquiries please to: Mrs Gaile Harris, Chairman, telephone 01432 469598.

Future Events -

2 May - Craft Day

6 June - AGM with Show and Tell

5 September—To be arranged

COPY DEADLINE FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER TUESDAY 15 MAY 2018
Please note late contributors may not be accepted for the current Newsletter

Membership Support Committee - WI Advisers

I have recently been looking through the evaluation forms re speakers at your monthly meetings and I was really pleased to see how many WIs use their own members to give talks or demonstrations. There is such a lot of talent within the WI - make sure you use it.

The WI Advisers are always thinking of ways to help WIs improve and get more women interested in the WI. We have compiled a short list of top tips which you may find useful, and we will be adding to them next month with tips on recruiting more members. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.

Top Tips for your WI

- ♦ Be friendly and welcoming to all your members and visitors. Have a designated visitors' and new members' hostess.
- ♦ Keep in touch with those members unable to attend due to illness or bereavement. Perhaps produce your own WI's newsletter.
- ♦ Make sure that your programme for the year has a variety of topics and activities which will appeal to all ages and give every member a copy.
- ♦ Does your WI run interest groups which meet during the month in between meetings? This is also a good way to attract new members.
- ♦ Be an inclusive WI and involve all your members.
- ♦ Keep the business short and to the point. The record of the previous meeting need not be read out but must be available for members to read before being signed off.
- ♦ Advertise your WI via local notice boards and newspapers.
- ♦ Make time for social time at your WI, whether over a cuppa or a supper.

And remember:- ENJOY YOUR WI and HAVE FUN!

Angela Southwell

News from the Archives

As the new HFWI Archivist my first duty was to attend the Federation Archivists Conference at Denman last November. After two days of talks on all subjects archival I returned ready to tackle the Herefordshire WI archives.

So what has been achieved so far? A digital catalogue containing all the WI items held at Herefordshire Archives and Record Centre (HARC); a list of items deposited in WI House (about half way through) and a revamped archive area in the WI House store room.

What next? To catalogue items held by WIs/museums/local history societies/churches/village halls and working with all Herefordshire WIs towards preserving their valuable records

Please contact me with any archival questions or concerns.

Tessa Lovell

HFWI.Archivist@gmail.com

01885 788623



EDUCATION & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Visit National Memorial Arboretum on 16 May

We are looking forward to our visit to the 150-acre Arboretum which is a living, growing tribute to those who have served, and continue to serve, our country. The Millennium Chapel of Peace and Forgiveness is situated close to the Remembrance Centre and is the only place in the country where the Act of Remembrance is observed daily at 11 am. For those who wish to attend, we will arrive in time for this service. Veronica Madgen

DIARY OF EVENTS - MAY 2018

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	COST	TIME
30 APRIL-5 MAY	HOLIDAY	NORTHERN IRELAND	Speak to Eileen Dilley	
10 MAY	PLAY BOULES	TRAM INN, EARDISLEY	Rearranged date	
14 MAY	ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING	THREE COUNTIES HOTEL, HEREFORD	£6.50	10am-3.30pm
16 MAY	NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM	ALREWAS	tba	see itinerary
6 JUNE	NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING	MOTORPOINT ARENA, CARDIFF	see costings	see itinerary
9 JUNE	CRAFT DAY	BISHOPSWOOD VILLAGE HALL	£20.00	10am-4pm
14 JUNE	TALK BY RUTH RICHARDSON	SUTTON ST NICHOLAS	£8.00	7pm
15-17 JUNE	HUXLEY CUP COMPETITION	THREE COUNTIES SHOW-GROUND		
25 JUNE	SPEAKERS' AUDITION EVENING	ST JOHNS, HEREFORD	£5.00	7pm
11 JULY	LACOCK ABBEY AND BRADFORD ON AVON		£32.50 or £22 NT members	
28 JULY	CHESTER ZOO	CHESTER	£39.00 or £36.80 (over 65)	
4/5/6 SEPTEMBER	HOLIDAY	LONDON	Speak to Eileen Dilley	

DENMAN COLLEGE REPORT

DENMAN RESIDENTIAL VISIT

Application forms are now available for this visit on Sunday, 18 to Monday 19 November 2018. To obtain a form please contact Margaret Simcock and please complete your form and return it with the £20 deposit payable to HFWI as soon as possible. The course options are: Dance, Fun and Fitness; Music with Carl Attwood; Willow Work and Silver Clay Jewellery. The visit is a wonderful opportunity not only to explore Denman and to experience the outstanding facilities there but also to meet members from all over the county and, at Denman, from all over the country. Come on the visit and relax, have a little 'me time' before the seasonal panic hits us all!! The total cost for the Residential Designer Visit is just £170.

DENMAN

As 2018 is Denman's 70th anniversary, they are planning many events to celebrate. Look on the Denman site denman.org.uk for full details or ask your secretary who will have received the information. For anything you would like to know about Denman, the November visit or the Herefordshire room refurbishment, contact me. **Margaret Simcock - 01885 400700 email margaret.norbrook@gmail.com**



FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

LONDON 4th, 5th & 6th September
Staying at the Novotel London West. We visit Woburn Abbey on the way to London, then Bella Italia for Dinner. Visit Middle Temple Lincoln's Inn. Lunch. Theatre is 'Woman in Black'. Take a boat to Hampton Court. Will try to keep cost to around £300, but things are getting more expensive. Need £80 deposit asap. If you are interested please send large SAE for brochure to **Eileen Dilley, Bramley, Sutton St Nicholas, Hereford, HR1 3AY Tel: 01432 880527**

VISIT LACOCK ABBEY & BRADFORD ON AVON
11 JULY - A TRIP to Bradford on Avon which is a lovely market town in Wiltshire, followed by a visit to Lacock Abbey in the afternoon to enjoy its marvellous atmosphere. See attached enclosure which has full details. Cost is £32.50 or £22.00 for NT members



CHESTER ZOO

WILD WORLDS CHESTER ZOO
A VISIT to Chester Zoo is arranged for Saturday 28 July. Chester Zoo has over 21,000 of the world's most exotic and endangered animals to discover in 125 acres of award-winning gardens. As a wildlife charity, conservation is at the heart of everything they do, there in the zoo and around the world. It will be an amazing day out – there's so much to see and do! See enclosure for full details and contact Eileen with any queries

Thursday 14 June - Come and join us for the latest talk by Ruth Richardson on up to date news about Blanche Parry, confidante of Queen Elizabeth 1 - To be held at Sutton St Nicholas at 7-00 pm. As it will be summer, the price of £8.00 includes the talk, a pudding and punch. Ruth has a new book (2nd edition) will be available on the night. Please see enclosure for full details and contact Eileen if you have any questions.

The Federation Centenary committee have started a fund for the Centenary celebrations and thank you to Ross & District Group for starting this

FUTURE EVENTS

CRAFT DAY ON 9th JUNE



To be held at Bishopswood Village Hall at Kerne Bridge, Ross on Wye. Cost is £20 for the day and bring a plate of food to share for lunch. Free tea and coffee available throughout the day. The day starts at 10am and runs until 4pm. See enclosure and any questions please speak to Jenny Winchester, telephone 07415 655126

CRAFTS TO CHOOSE FROM:-

1. Home and Garden
2. Flower Arranging and Design
3. Willow Work
4. Two Stitch Embroidery

These days have proved very popular and we look forward to seeing you on the day. See enclosure for full details

DO IT FOR DENMAN

Thank you for your support for the project to refurbish the Herefordshire room at Denman. The generous donations to the fund will be used towards larger items. Please continue to remember the fund when holding a raffle or coffee morning. The greater the fund, the more complete the refurbishment of the room will be. The craft items will make the room a joy to visit and exhibit the skills of Herefordshire members. We do have material which can be used in projects. Individual members or craft clubs who would like to use these materials please contact me, Margaret Simcock, telephone 01885 400700 or email me at margaret.norbrook@gmail.com

THANK YOU for the following donations towards the Herefordshire Room at Denman
Bromyard Group donated £50.00
Wellington WI has donated £200.00
Huntington (Hereford) has donated £20.00
Saltmarshe & District donated £50.00

SPOTLIGHT

The Pyons WI

Meet at Canon Pyon Parish Hall
On 4th Wednesday at 7.30pm

Since the formation of The Pyons WI in 1999, we have settled on a couple of interests that make our meetings and visits very popular – food and drink. Whatever the time of year, we always seem to find a way to meet and enjoy the delicacies of local tea-rooms, hostelrys and unsurprisingly, refreshments at our meetings, always something to be anticipated.

November was our month for a fund-raising coffee morning, run by our then 20 members. We sold crafts, produce, bric-a-brac, plants and of course, delicious cakes and bakes made by our talented members. It was an ideal moment for a recruitment drive (we have sixty new houses in Canon Pyon), so we took bribery biscuits, a lightbox, and our "Keep calm and join the Pyons WI" posters. It must have worked, at our most recent meeting we welcomed six new members and six visitors.



The cover photograph shows us wearing red, white and blue, enjoying a French evening following our Annual meeting, with French cheese, bread and wine.

Our January meeting was a good-humoured squash which could have been due to our popular and boozy choice of speaker. Duncan Fox from Haven Distillery, Dilwyn came to educate us about his Sly Gin with samples of his signature lemon verbena and pink grapefruit gins. We left a little rosy cheeked after Duncan's intoxicating offering.

We have enjoyed a visit to the Wonkey Donkey tearoom in Canon Pyon for afternoon tea and company of our members. The tales of our Pyon Hill walk beforehand, were quickly forgotten with the arrival of cake. Can you see a pattern emerging here?

What does the future hold for The Pyons WI?

We've organised a Pimms and Pudding party after the Resolutions meeting in May. After the serious discussion, we will enjoy a little injection of cream and meringue. If that doesn't tickle your fancy, there's always Chilli Keeper Pam Davenport from Chilli Zoo talking about spicing up our lives.

Ultimately, we look forward to welcoming more new members and making new friends (although a good-humoured squash could become a game of sardines).



Next Month's Spotlight article will be on THE SPARKLING WYE WI

The 14-18 NOW Poppies Tour



The presentations by 14-18 NOW, the UK's arts programme for the First World War centenary, give people across the

UK the chance to experience the impact of the ceramic poppy sculptures in a range of places of particular First World War resonance. At the end of the tour they will become part of the Imperial War Museums' collection. The men and women of Herefordshire made a huge contribution to the war effort, from the brave young men recruited into the Herefordshire Light Infantry - among them Allan Leonard Lewis who was awarded the Victoria Cross - to the Canary Girls who filled munition shells at the Rotherwas Munitions Factory. Local farmers provided food for the country and the Front, as well as horses for the movement of soldiers and supplies.

www.herefordcathedral.org

St. Edward's Church Knighton EXHIBITION

May 26th 27th and 28th
10am - 4. 30pm each day

"My favourite things"

By

Lingen Stitchers

Patchwork, Quilting, Embroidery, Feltwork and much more. Raffle.

Refreshments available all day

Further information - contact

Rebe Brick 01547 529167

Medical Supplies for Philippines

Maureen Sullivan, Cradley WI, will again be collecting unwanted medical supplies for her sister's charity in the Philippines at this year's Annual Council Meeting on Monday 14th May 2018. If you have anything you would like to contribute please bring it along to the Meeting and Maureen will have a collection table ready and happy to receive your items. If you have any queries in the meantime, such as what items to bring etc please contact Maureen on 01886 881045 / maureensullivan60@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENTS - MAY

ADVERTISE your church fete/sale, Charity event, delicious W.I. Teas, coffee mornings and entertainment, etc. 20p per word.

PUBLICISE your business across the county from only £20 per monthly issue.

TO SECURE YOUR SPACE, please contact:

Rosi Taylor, 18 Southbank Close,
HEREFORD HR1 2TQ 01432 611436
Email: rosi.taylor54@googlemail.com

with details of your advertisement and the issue(s) you want it to appear.

Copy and Payment by the 1st of previous month (cheques payable to HFWI)

TAPESTRY CANVASES

Beautifully stretched and made into cushions,
bell-pulls, rugs, etc
Cheltenham 01242 233883

Poetry In Flowers 25th - 28th May 2018

A festival of popular poems translated into floral designs, staged in Ledbury's beautiful Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels.

The event will support the on-going work at both St Michael's Hospice, Hereford and The Friends of Ledbury Church. Come and see more than 30 displays created by talented arrangers from near and far.

Tickets are priced at £8 purchased prior to the event or £10 on the door and are available:

online at st-michaels-hospice.org.uk or by contacting the Festival Coordinator on 01531 631104

Hereford Guild of Guides:

Daily guided walks (no need to book)

March 14th - Oct. 31st,
(not May Fair 8th, 9th, 10th)

Mon-Sat: 11.30am; Sunday 2.30pm;

From main entrance to Cathedral
Tickets from Cathedral Shop/Guide

Themed, booked walks all year:
01981 590603 or 07527 993054 or
herefordguidedwalks.org.uk

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WI FORUM

COLWALL WINGS WI meeting on Weds 21st March was another truly successful event. We were privileged to welcome Dame Yve Buckland to talk to us about "Glass slippers and Glass ceilingsand what is really important in life!" Dame Yve has achieved a tremendous amount in her professional and personal life. She spoke about juggling work/life balance when she started her family, the support she received in order to be able to continue with her career, and the choices she went on to make in order to have some sanity around her hectic lifestyle. What a great combo - power suit, briefcase and expresso machine! A great supporter of the need for equality, Dame Yve showed us what can be done with drive, determination and support.



BISHOPSWOOD WI began their 99th birthday meeting with a beautifully presented tea provided by The Committee members. After our tea we cut the lovely 99th Birthday Celebration cake homemade by our President, who sadly was unable to attend this meeting. We welcomed our speaker Mr Matthew R. Hall, criminal barrister, thriller/crime author and 10 years a screen writer and producer who had come to talk to us about "My Life of Crime". Matthew was born in London but lives in the Wye valley. When a criminal was shot on the tow path of a canal was a pivotal moment in his decision to become an author. He learnt the craft of screen writing and eventually got his first commission in television 23 years ago writing an episode of the ITV series, Kavanagh QC starring John Thaw. He then went on to write his own show "A wing and a Prayer" (A BAFTA nominated original series) as well as contributing to various other shows. His debut novel, "The Coroner" was nominated for the Crime Writer's Association Gold Dagger in the best novel category



The speaker at **HOLMER WI's** April meeting was Malcolm Penny, a volunteer for the National Trust at Lower Brockhampton. Brockhampton Manor House was timber built around 1425 at the heart of the Brockhampton estate. Over the years the house was adapted by each successive generation. In Georgian times the owners had a grander mansion built at the top of the estate in keeping with the architectural 'fashion' of the day. Under the administration of the National Trust, a project called 'Brockhampton Revealed' was initiated which focussed on peeling back the layers of history to show how 7 centuries of occupation have shaped the Manor House. Norma Smith gave a very grateful vote of thanks. Margaret Powell organised a skittles evening at the Golden Lion, Grandstand Road. Once again, Paula, the landlady, catered very generously for us. £1 bought a hearty sausage, chips and bread and butter supper. The ladies medal went to Jill Harrison and the men's award went to William, Shell's boyfriend. Holmer WI next meets on Wednesday May 2nd at 7.30pm at St. Mary's church, Grandstand Road. It will involve cookery demonstrations from several members, with Greek food, sourdough bread and biscuit making being just a few of the 'tasters on the menu'. If all that 'whets your appetite' please come along and join us. Sorry about the puns!



Mrs Jean Emberlin, Derrick Hazelhurst and his guide dog Kitty from The Guide Dogs for the Blind Malvern branch came to **CRADLEY WI's** April Meeting and talked about the work of the charity and how they train a puppy into a guide dog that can transform someone's life. Cradley's WI's Secretary, Maureen Sullivan and Jean Emberlin enjoying some time with Kitty. Jan Long, our guest speaker for **PETERSTOW WI'S** April meeting, gave an anecdotal talk on her working life with the British Council. She was one of 10 children, the daughter of a forces father, spending her formative years in various countries, which gave her a taste of overseas

life. Jan explained that the British Council was formed in 1934 to promote British opportunities throughout the world. Although experiencing a selection of overseas visits to British Council offices, a posting to Newcastle became her work place. The speaker's main task there was giving pastoral care to overseas students. The people involved experiencing diverse problems. Slides of British Council offices throughout the world were shown. Jan was thanked at the end for an enjoyable and informative afternoon.

Mike Pullin, motor biking and fundraising legend, was the speaker at **BROMYARD WI'S** April meeting. Mike and friends are known collectively as the "Hospice Angels" for the outstanding work they do to support St. Michael's Hospice in Bartestree. Since they formed in 1996 they have raised over £500,000 for the charity by riding their multi horse powered bikes to nineteen different countries as well as venues nearer to home. Mike has an array of films showing these trips but on this occasion he showed one featuring a single horse (Frank) powered trip from Ledbury to London.



Rebecca Edmonds came to talk to **ASTON INGHAM WI**; the talk was titled 'Tales from The Crown Court.' She was called to the bar at the age of 30 to find that fellow male barristers had an old fashioned view of women and the atmosphere was archaic. As a 'baby barrister' of the Inner Temple, she was required to attend 18 dinners - 'a money spinner.' Barristers do not choose which cases they take and Q.C.s, only, take serious criminal cases. Her wig and gown, both of which were much more expensive then than now, had to be purchased from a certain store in Chancery Lane, London. Rebecca told us some hilarious tales of what she called the theatre which is The Crown Court. It was a most revealing and entertaining talk which we all enjoyed



WI FORUM

There was much hilarity as **SALTMARSH AND DISTRICT WI** listened to the stories told us by Mr. Ken Reeve of his being an evacuee in WW11 from when he was six years of age until he was just over ten. Arriving in Oakley, in the north of Bedfordshire, he was sent off with a girl to 1 Railway Cottages to be cared for by two ladies: "Auntie" Vi - a widow and Dawn French look alike - and "Auntie" Kate, who had lost her fiancée in WW1. Life was a shock - no running water and no indoor loo. Every Sunday a cake would be made and would be brought out for tea on consecutive evenings thereafter. Once, on the third night, Ken found a spider had made its web on the outside of the cake. Not wanting to get into trouble he ate it all! Laughter came from tales of filling matchboxes with grasshoppers and letting them out in church and all the types of things little boys delight in. Only 50 years later did Ken learn that the girl he was billeted with was his sister. He also learned he had a brother, Sid, and 4 other siblings. His father had died in a diving accident when Ken was three and all 7 children were placed in a Children's Home in Middlesex. Ken was completely without bitterness for was infectious. Next month we discuss the WI Resolution and all Members are invited to bring an item that has a story attached to it. We could time! That's on Wednesday May 9th at 7.30pm in Saltmarsh & District Hall.



Members and friends of **STOKE PRIOR & DISTRICT WI** were captivated by a talk recently on the History of Grange Court. We paid a visit to the property for our April meeting and were not disappointed. We were able to move rooms (aided by the lift!) to hear interesting facts and information regarding the Court. This is a free service provided by Volunteers, and they will serve tea and cake after!! (chargeable of course). If you are Leominster at any time, pop in their coffee shop for a drink and meet friends.

Our President Margaret Coulson welcomed everyone to the meeting of **LEDBURY WI**. She congratulated the quiz team, who had won through to the finals, and thanked the many members who had taken part in recent fund-raising activities. Happily the planned trip to Greys Court Oxfordshire in July will be going ahead. Greys Court was the marital home of Lady Elizabeth Brunner who as Chairman of the NFWI proposed the formation of Denman College. Plans are well in hand for the WI display at the Ledbury Community Day on 9 June. The April luncheon club will take place as usual at Countrywide, although due to the impending closure it may be the last time we are able to meet there. Our speaker was David Harrison, MA who gave an interesting talk about spinster sisters Margaret and Gwendoline Davis. The sisters used the immense wealth created by their famous industrialist grandfather to purchase a wide-ranging art collection, now displayed at the National Museum in Cardiff. The evening's competition was 'something you have made'. The winner Wendy Kitto's charming smocked dress. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 May at 7.30 pm - the Parish Room of the Catholic Church New Street Ledbury HR8 2EE, when the NFWI resolution for 2018 will be discussed. Also details will be given about the archery session which members will shortly be enjoying.



In April, **WEOBLEY WI** invited Elley Westbrook to tell us how her charity "People in Motion" distributes clothing, etc to refugees in Calais. What started as a Facebook plea for help has grown into volunteers being able to send donations every 10 days. We brought along items to donate and Elley thanked the Weobley knitters who, at their weekly get-together at the Green Bean cafe, produced more knitted blankets and hats than any other community group!

Once again **UPTON BISHOP WI** held their monthly meeting on Tuesday 10th April 2018 which was an open meeting, where members and visitors were delighted to welcome as speaker the former High Sheriff of Gloucester, The Countess of Bathurst. The Countess is a member of Tetbury WI in Gloucestershire and also President of Salters Hill Gorsley. She recounted many interesting and amusing encounters she had during her year as High Sheriff where she joined Gloucestershire Constabulary on some of its "shouts" in all departments. During her year in office she was directly involved with the category 2 women's prison HMP Eastwood Park. Here with the aid of the funds granted to her as High Sheriff and with the help of a dedicated team from Gloucestershire Federation WI, in 2016 after 4 years of negotiations a WI was opened in the prison. As well as this she also instigated the formation of a Book Club. The Upton Bishop Members welcomed Val Lewis Federation Chair, 27 Visitors as well as members from visiting WI's Gorsley, Aston Ingham, Sparkling Wye, Wellington, Putley, Peterstow, Linton and Hampton Bishop. After some question and answer time Jane Pendlebury the President gave the vote of thanks. The next meeting of Upton Bishop WI is on Tuesday 8th May 2018 at the Millennium Hall, Upton Bishop. Anyone interested in joining is most welcome. Please contact either President Jane Pendlebury on 01989 780763 or Secretary Clare Bell on 01989 780383 for further information.

Go to WI News at www.thewi.org.uk/herefordshire where you will find **fuller versions** of all reports above. Cathrine Stone, Forum Coordinator wiforum.hfwi@gmail.com 01981 540678