

Red Rose News

The Lancashire Federation of Women's Institutes



Issue 6 2025



WELCOME TO OUR LAST EDITION FOR 2025

The editorial team hope you have enjoyed this year's contributions and continue to enjoy them next year.

We have had such a busy time and we hope you have managed to take part in some of them, with the 105th birthday dinner, the Sanderson Trophy competition for the best pincushion, the Chairman's Challenge to make and donate items for charity as well as making post box toppers and the special Lancashire Day cheese extravaganza. We thank you for the articles and photos you have sent and we hope we have managed to do justice to all the events.

The Editorial Team and everyone at LFWI wish you all Season's Greetings and we look forward to seeing what you have been up to next year.

The Editorial Team

INSIDE THIS MONTH...

Around the WIs	2-6
Tributes.....	6
Flying Visits	7
Scarlet Corner.....	8
Membership Teams	9
Resolution Team.....	9
105th Anniversary Dinner.....	10
Chairman's Challenge.....	11/12

A Message From Our Chairman

Welcome to the November/December edition of Red Rose News. I have had a very busy time in the last two months attending Celebrations for significant Birthdays at your WIs and our third Cluster meetings. I hope those who have attended have enjoyed the different format to those Cluster meetings and have learned lots to take back to your own WIs. The nights have certainly drawn in now the clocks have gone back and the weather has changed. Keep warm and cosy everyone.

I would like to thank you for your recognition of 105 years of Lancashire Federation of WIs and 110 years of NFWI. To those who rose to my recruitment and advertising challenge in the form of events and postbox toppers – well done. I hope you are managing to recruit new members by being out there in your own Communities whether it be litter picking, holding craft sales or displaying your activities in local shop windows.

Congratulations and thank you as well to those who have made items for local Charities. I have received lots of emails and photographs showing me what you have made and where it has been donated to. All very worthwhile causes, who I believe will be very appreciative of your donations (see the page of photos further on in this edition).

Our LFWI open days at Croston House to view the Archives were well attended and all who voted for the best Pin Cushion for the Betty Sanderson Trophy picked the beautifully crocheted lady with a shawl, made by Diane Glitheroe from Heath Charnock WI. I presented her with the trophy at the monthly meeting. Congratulations Diane. Watch out for next year's challenge in the New Year.

The meal to celebrate LFWIs 105th Birthday was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Jeryl Stone NFWI Chair sent a special video message and past chairs Hazel Short, Jackie Hobson and Mary Gibson helped me cut the celebration cake. Our Centenary bench was also out in Blackpool this year for the duration of the Illuminations, go and have your photo taken if you can.

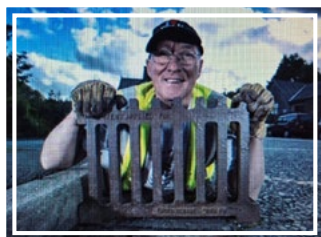
Enjoy the events leading up to Christmas. We hope you all enjoyed the Lancashire Day Cheese Tasting lunch in November. It sold out very quickly. I'm planning another in 2026 further North in our County. I know it's early but I would like to wish you all, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and myself a very Happy Festive Season and a Peaceful 2026.

Heather Williams



Around the WIs

MEETINGS, BIRTHDAYS & PARTIES...



ECCLESTON WI: Hilary McCumiskey, dresser to Rudolf Nureyev, talked about waiting backstage, clutching his woolly hat, huge scarf and cup of honey tea. She gave an

interesting background to the backstage activities and training before a ballet performance. She brought a tutu to demonstrate how the layers were stitched at intervals to prevent them from drooping.

Julie, Mawdesley Rainbow Hub, described the help given to children with various muscle-wasting or life-shortening disabilities. Her work with parents and understanding the effect on the children meant that help could be directed to gaining more independence through fun, hands-on therapies. Each week over 100 families are supported.

Archie Workman described his amazing career from building ship diesel engines to cleaning road signs, bus shelters and benches. He unblocked drains, improved visibility at road junctions and his interest in different designs of drain covers led to him being awarded Anorak of the Year 2019.

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Eccles town centre is undergoing regeneration But still celebrated the 100th anniversary of the cenotaph and the 80th anniversary of WW2. Their project is to create a waterfall of poppies which will be displayed in an indoor space at Eccles Library in readiness for 11th Nov 2025. They have reached out to many community groups, schools, Brownies, care homes and individuals in the Eccles area to help make/create over 5k of mixed media poppies for the display. The media that have been made include knitted, crocheted, plastic, felt, paper, and other materials. Groups have made poppies in the following colours to represent all who have lost their lives and Salford City Council have provided funding to help the project along.



FRECKLETON WI had a talk from Barry Marsh who works with Medical Detection Dogs.

Claire Guest started Medical Detection Dogs because her own dog started staring at her and nudging her in the chest. She went to see her doctor and was diagnosed with a deep-seated breast cancer. Had Daisy, her dog, not warned her the prognosis would be very different.

MDD works in 2 areas – Bio Detection Dogs (smell) – Medical Alert Assistance Dogs whereby the dog lives with the client. The dogs are purchased via breeders, rescue centres and some are donated. It costs £30,000 to train a dog. The dogs used are mainly spaniels and labradors and the dog is trained to respond to a particular smell because each disease has its own smell/scent.

MDD would like to work in collaboration with Universities and the NHS in 4 areas: cancers, neurological, bacteria and viruses. The dogs work for 20 minutes 3 times a day and would be very good in detecting hospital infections and urinary tract infections.

The second area is the Medical Alert Assistance Dogs – dogs live with the client and alert an oncoming medical episode. Now there are 100 dogs with clients.

Barry ended his talk by saying the Government and the NHS need to invest in MDD, which now relies on public donations.

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It's been a Special year for **AUGHTON WI**. Founded in 1925 they spent it celebrating their Centenary.

March saw them enjoy a private tour followed by lunch at the Shakespeare North Playhouse.

In May over 30 members followed in the footsteps of their predecessors in 1925, with a memorable trip to Blackpool Tower Ballroom for Afternoon Tea.



...AROUND THE WIs

In August over 70 members, and special guests enjoyed a wonderful Centenary party lunch – a hog roast, followed by dessert served from a vintage ice-cream bicycle, and a slice of lovely Birthday Cake. Music, historical display boards, tombola and their own honey stall and a special raffle made it an afternoon to be remembered. Their Mystery Trip in September was a tour of Liverpool Central Library followed by lunch. What a wonderful year so far.

Tim Oliver, a volunteer with the North West Air Ambulance revealed up to date facts about this Charity to **TATHAM FELLS WI** members. He showed slides of the Yellow Helicopters, the equipment and crew; saying that three Helicopters flying at 158mph and four Cars, as the Helicopters can't fly at night, are leased along with very experienced ex military pilots. Time is critical as a Doctor and especially trained Paramedic, or two of the Paramedics attend each callout bringing the most advanced medical equipment to the patient including an automatic CPR machine. Tim said that they need £12 million pounds a year to fly over 3000 missions and concluded with slides of survivors back in normal life.

Tim was given the proceeds of the sales table for the NW Air Ambulance.



ANSDELL & FAIRHAVEN WI celebrated 20 years' existence in splendid style. The night sparked bright as the

sequins worn. Picture this- a sumptuous meal in Fairhaven Golf Clubhouse beautifully decorated by the industrious committee. Bubbly on arrival. Light fresh starters, perfectly presented mains and sticky toffee pudding to die for! Ladies turned out glamorous in best bib and tucker. Thoughtful gifts for each member and pretty table centrepieces. Name cards adding the personal touch. Past Presidents and Lancashire representatives. Superbly emotional speech of sisterhood, support and love by President Linda Colclough. Long service membership bouquet for Pam Bland- 19 and a half years! A luxury raffle raising £410 for a local Women's Refuge. Fun quiz. Dancing to

the hits of our youth courtesy of singer Wendy. Laughter, chatter and bonding. This 102 members strong WI breathes energy, commitment and friendship. Sisterhood indeed. Here's to the next 20 years. Happy birthday.

HOLCOMBE BROOK & SUMMERSEAT WI want to thank

everyone who attended their 80th Anniversary VE/VJ Day

celebratory party and shared their memories along with an afternoon tea and music from the Greenmount Strummers.

The guests included members of The Oral History project, which was devised to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE/VJ Day (8th May and 15th August 2025), and to capture the wartime memories of a number of local residents. Twenty interviewees, aged 86 to 96, agreed to be interviewed. The interviews were recorded and transcribed by WI volunteers, who also produced a wonderful souvenir booklet as a gift for the participants. In the booklet each interviewee has their own page with recording extracts and wartime photographs that relate to their personal stories.

The audio files will now be archived in Bury Library and with the Ramsbottom Heritage Society, so that the memories of their local interviewees can be kept for posterity. The Oral History Project has given a deal of pleasure to both interviewers and interviewees and has been a great team effort by the members of Holcombe Brook and Summerseat WI.

NORDEN WI have enjoyed two very interesting speakers recently, Richard delivered his wonderful presentation about northern artists and their influences. Richard's avid enthusiasm for the subject held everyone captive and they all came away with much more knowledge about the subject.

Coincidentally their outings group visited the Lowry in Salford to see the interactive exhibition called 360. Definitely worth a visit! Unfortunately a planned cruise on the Manchester Ship Canal the



...AROUND THE WIs

same day was cancelled as there was too much water (hard to believe after the dry summer we've had). Perhaps a trip for another day.



'Edith Rigby' and her alter ego Judith came to see them and shared their experiences of life as a young woman in the early part of the 20th century. Some of our members dressed up as suffragettes in keeping with the theme of the evening.

On Saturday 20th September, **FAB WI** held a celebration of 110 years of WI in England and 105 years of WI in Lancashire. Attended by 80 members, friends and family, including Heather Williams, Chairman of LFWI and Helen Aldcroft their advisor.

They had entertainment from Tom Morris, with Songs through the Ages, plus a sing-a-long. There were lovely flower arrangements, bunting and balloon decorations. And of course a delicious afternoon tea.

There was a free raffle and a display of archive materials including FaBs own scrapbooks.

A lovely afternoon of good company and friendship to combat the awful rainy weather!



Members of **BUCKSHAW VILLAGE WI** made wreaths of yellow poppies to lay at local remembrance day activities to raise awareness and honour

the contribution of the women who were conscripted to work in Royal Ordnance Factories during the World Wars.

In World War II, Royal Ordnance Factory Chorley was the largest ammunition filling factory in the UK. Women were conscripted from all over the country to work here - and it was very dangerous work. When the Factory was decommissioned it was developed as Buckshaw Village.

The women who worked in ammunition filling, like those at Chorley, were nicknamed "Canary Girls" because their skin turned yellow due to exposure to dangerous chemicals in their work. In fact one member can recall her Mum, who worked at ROF

Chorley, being almost orange! Hence the yellow poppies in the wreaths.

All was quiet and relaxed at the September meeting, when yoga tutor Brenda Ward came to teach a seated yoga session.

Members arrived suitably dressed for the activity, and most took part, with just a couple preferring to watch. It is interesting to note how many muscles can be exercised whilst sitting in a chair, and everyone felt very relaxed afterwards.

October is **RIBBY WITH WREA WIs** Annual meeting and afterwards the husband of one of their members, who is a local dairy farmer, answered questions about his farming life.

Farming is clearly not just a job, but a complete way of life. They learned that you need an acre of land per each dairy cow, so there is enough grass for them to eat, and that the farm currently produces just under 2 million litres of milk per year. It was very interesting to hear how modern equipment and automation have changed the way they work. Nowadays, one man can milk 200 cows in 2 hours and, rather than just driving a modern tractor, you programme it!

The meeting ended with a slideshow review of the year's activities and events, which brought back many happy memories and much amusement.



At their recent Annual Meeting, members of **LEYLAND WI** celebrated their 28th Birthday, with a lovely birthday cake made by Joyce Banks from neighbouring Hutton & Howick WI and reflected on their many activities over the past year. With the

end of 2025 in sight, they are looking forward to a session of Glass Painting, with their own talented Nicky Robertson, Christmas Lunch at Leyland Golf Club and an afternoon of Christmas in Music and Verse, where everyone can listen, sing and enjoy celebrating the Festive Season. With the committee elected and Lilian Grounds once more elected as President, they are looking forward to another successful year. The members wish all WIs in the Federation a Joyful and Peaceful Christmas, and a Happy New Year.



...AROUND THE WIs

AINSDALE NATTERJACKS WI had a fun time at their September meeting when Judy Munchall and her husband came to talk about the charity 'Dogs for Good'.

They also brought along two of the dogs they have trained to be helping dogs and they were very entertaining and well behaved.

The walking groups had two separate walks but they all met up in Sefton Park Palm House for an afternoon of free entertainment.

Dolce Vita in Ainsdale was the venue for their latest luncheon club meeting which was very well attended and as usual the food was excellent.

October was their AGM and they are delighted to welcome on board some new members to the committee. It is lovely to get some new input and ideas.

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ELSWICK & DISTRICT WI rose to the challenge of a post box topper with this saucy little number



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WESTBY WI decided to celebrate the 105th birthday of LFWI with a Postbox topper, something they have never done before.

Several of their ladies contributed to this

woodland themed topper in crochet and knitting and it was put in place at the end of October.

The postbox it adorns is on Foxwood Drive in Kirkham, with "The Kingfisher" pub nearby, hence the inclusion of the fox and kingfisher along with several other creatures, leaves and flowers.

It has already been admired by several pedestrians and dog walkers and a member paid a visit to ensure it was coping with the rain – it was!

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LONGTON WI members have learned some new skills, although they all hope they will never need to use them. Inspired by the current Resolution 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers', two volunteers from 'Chorley's Angels' were invited along to teach members Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The aim was to equip members with

the confidence and knowledge to be able step forward and help in a situation where someone has suffered a cardiac arrest and their heart has stopped beating.

Put simply, administering CPR on a patient that has stopped breathing is a way of 'buying time' until the ambulance arrives. It does that by keeping blood circulating round the patient's body and delivering oxygen to the brain and vital organs, preventing irreversible damage. Survival chances can be doubled or even triple when CPR is performed immediately and continued until professional help arrives.

A manikin dummy was used to demonstrate CPR, and then members were able to try out the life-saving technique on it for themselves. While someone is doing CPR, another person calls 999 and they may be directed to a nearby defibrillator. The defibrillator was also demonstrated, as it is designed to work with chest compressions as guided by the automatic speaker when activated.

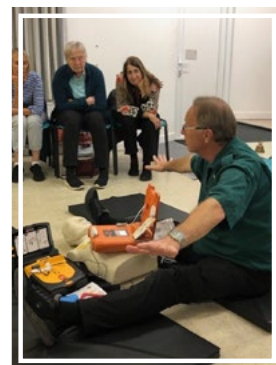
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In August as part of the summer break the members of **HORWICH WI** liaised with Greater Manchester Ambulance Service [GMAS] and arranged a workshop in Basic Life Support.

The trainer was an experienced front-line paramedic and as an integral part of his role provided Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation [CPR] and Automated External Defibrillator [AED] training to community groups in the Greater Manchester area.

The workshop was inclusive, informal and lots of fun and was presented with professionalism and expertise. At the beginning of the session, the trainer stressed that the key to more people surviving a cardiac arrest is the training of members of the community to be bystander life savers subsequently, increasing the likelihood of a person surviving a cardiac arrest, up to 80%. The novice first aiders were eager to learn. Following the presentation



...AROUND THE WIs

members were given the option to practise the lifesaving skills on 'Charlie' the manikin, which also included instruction on the use of an AED. All members have been presented with a certificate of attendance and left with confidence and equipped with newly acquired "Lifesaving" skills.

LANCASTER ROSES WI put the Resolution into practice at their September meeting with a session on how Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers. Members joined in a practical session on CPR and how to use a defibrillator. Everyone left feeling more confident of what to do in an emergency.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR NEWS!



We're always looking for news and events which will be of interest to our readers. To give your submission the best chance of being published, please take a look through our editorial guidelines:

- Take note of the submission deadline - items for the next newsletter must reach us by **Thurs 8 Jan.**
- Email to **editorial@lfw.org.uk**
- Send items as a Microsoft Word document. Please note that PDFs are not suitable for inclusion.
- Include 'Item for Newsletter' as your email subject heading and be sure to include the name of your WI.
- Photos must be sent as a separate attachment.
- Please be aware that items might have to be edited.
- We cannot guarantee to publish every submission and the final decision lies with the Board of Trustees.

FLYING VISITS:

- Short snippets of news.
- Maximum 50 words.
- Photos are optional.

TRIBUTES:

- Maximum 50 words.
- No photos please.

NEWS FROM THE WIs & ORIGINAL ARTICLES:

- Please only submit **one** article per issue.
- If sending information on more than one activity or meeting, please include **all** of the information in a single email attachment.
- Indicative word limit per article - 150 words.
- Photo optional - if submitting a photo, please send **one** clear, relevant image as a separate attachment (please don't embed your photo in your word attachment).
- Please don't send photo collages as we cannot use these.



NEXT ISSUE:

The next issue is due for publication in week commencing **9 February**. As well as your WI news, we would particularly welcome the following items:

- Charity make photos and reports.
- Recipes.
- A quiz for readers to complete (please provide the answers).
- Articles on your forthcoming activities/plans.
- Review of a book or film that you have recently enjoyed.
- Anything topical that you think other WI members might enjoy reading about.

TRIBUTES



Warton WI is sad to announce the passing of Pamela Cawthorne on 9th July. Pam, as she was fondly known, served on the committee for many years. She was a stalwart member of the WI. She was their matriarch and a wonderful, lovely lady. She is greatly missed.

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

EDITORIAL TEAM

Pam Aspden - Bretherton & Croston WIs

Emma Gillinder - Tarleton WI

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR ISSUE 6

Thursday 8 January

Email: editorial@lfw.org.uk



Flying Visits...



LOWTON WI celebrated their 61st birthday in September. As all WIs, they are very fond of a cake or two, so that was the theme of the evening, fancy cakes, nibbles and a cake themed quiz for all to enjoy. The evening wasn't all about eating; there was a very interesting talk from Hilary Scott, the theme being "Rivington, past, present and future". It was lovely to hear about the history and see photos of the ongoing restoration work, as many members have enjoyed family walks around the area and remember the old original buildings



In September, **LYTHAM BELLES** started preparations for Christmas. Members learnt how to make fondant gonks. Instructions were detailed and followed to the letter. We learnt how make those little feet and arms.

Their gonks had long beards and moustaches and pointy hats. Some hats had flowers and others had stars. A very useful and educational workshop. Everyone has one or two gonks ready to go on their Christmas cakes.

BLACKPOOL WI enjoyed their annual summer day out in August with a ride on the East Lancs Heritage Railway, then a visit to the historic Smithills Hall situated at the edge of the West Pennine Moors. Members enjoyed a guided tour of the house and then time to explore the grounds and gardens. The very enjoyable day ended with a delicious three course meal.



The **WOMEN OF WOOLTON (W&W) WI** enjoyed hearing ghostly tales of the Parks of South Liverpool. Richie the Ranger, who is well known on Radio Merseyside, ensured that visiting the Mansion House in Calderstones Park, The Ironbridge in Sefton Park and the Allerton Tower will never be the same again!



LADYBRIDGE WI presented a cheque to Bolton Mountain Rescue Team. The money was the

proceeds from a tea and cakes afternoon. The MRT are all volunteers and do a lot more than rescue walkers - searching for missing persons, assisting in times of floods, helping the Fire Service during moorland fires and much more. Although they are Bolton MRT they cover a larger area including Wigan, Darwen, Whitefield, Salford, Manchester and Bury.

Several members of **ASHTON-ON-RIBBLE WI** came to the Federation "Open House" during the LFWI birthday week in late September. A great deal of trouble had been taken to display the memorabilia, historic WI items from around the county and the LFWI wall hanging. Everything was beautifully presented. All had a warm welcome, a cuppa, and the opportunity to chat with visitors from other WIs. It also gave those who had not visited Croston House before an opportunity to "get their bearings!" Thank you to everyone involved.

Thank you so much for your kind words, it makes the work that went into the exhibition worthwhile to know that people appreciated it. Many of the exhibits came from WIs who are no longer active but grateful thanks to Aughton, Broughton, Clayton le Woods, Hutton and Howick, Rainhill Whalley with Mitton and Women of Woolton WIs for their really interesting contributions to the display. Lynda Williams and Anne Neal produced the backdrop to the area where the pin cushions were being voted upon so it was a team effort.

Ruth Grimley



Flying Visits...

October saw the AGM for **BARTON WI** so members were offered a glass of wine or fruit juice to help things along. Barton WI has recently celebrated 104 years – quite an achievement which was marked by a birthday dinner at the Italian Orchard. Hopefully the institute will continue for many years more and the values of fun and friendship will flourish.



In September, Ruth Gibbons was invited to speak. Members spent the evening laughing at her numerous stories. The title "The Road From Wigan Pier" was a ramble through

her life starting in Wigan. Her talk began with the funny story she wrote about her mother as a very small child and finished with her working at Buckingham Palace. There were lots of very entertaining rhymes and songs along the way.

Dorothy Bamber, a member of Barton WI, won the tennis tournament at Wimbledon for the 85 year group and will represent Britain in Croatia in October. Well done Dorothy – quite an achievement.



BELMONT WI enjoyed an evening of Chinese painting, introduced to them by Peta. It was quite different from the styles usually seen, with

no background work and everything created through the direct sweep and angle of the brush using mineral paint. Some members were brave enough to have a go themselves, producing some rather unusual but entertaining results. The horse shown here was completed in just a few minutes – a fun and absorbing evening all round.



ROYTON & DISTRICT WI entered the Royton Scarecrow Festival this year with a suffragette scarecrow. She was on display for two weeks. All money raised by this event goes towards buying Christmas gifts for local children in need.

Jackie Mafi visited **ST ANNES ON SEA WI** and spoke about 'Sweet Memories'. She reminded members about such sweets as spangles, love hearts and some that a couple of our young members hadn't heard before.



Scarlet
Corner

Kindness Begins With Me

I was chatting to someone who has a hidden illness, and she was telling me about an incident in a theatre when she had used a disabled toilet – one to which she has an access key – and upon leaving she was verbally attacked by someone in the theatre lobby, who claimed she was a fraud and there was nothing wrong with her. This attack left her shocked and crying, and no-one around intervened.

My question is why? Why would you assume the worst? Why assume she had no right to use that facility, and even if that is the case why would you feel you had the right to confront someone like that, to the extent that you left them in tears?

No-one knows what anyone else is going through, what physical or mental fights they are coping with, if they are bereaved, in pain, neurodivergent or just upset that day.

In today's society it is all the rage to think only of yourself, to respond with that is a you problem not a me problem, but going forward I am choosing kindness first. So what if someone is a fake or a fraud? The ones who are genuine will benefit. Going forward rather than jumping to conclusions I am being kind first.



MEMBERSHIP

It's been a really busy time for Advisers Ruth, Helen, Jane, Rosalind, Dee and Wendy. We have been going to Annual Meetings taking individual calls, answering emails etc and now we have just completed all the Cluster meetings.

It is busy, but we work as a team, support each other and use each others' strengths. No one Adviser has all the answers and we are not worried about admitting it - thank goodness for WhatsApp!

We are, of course, always looking to increase our Adviser numbers. Now many of you have seen us in action at other meetings, not just an Annual Meeting, you might feel that you would like to talk to one of us about the Adviser role in the Federation. So please get in touch with an Adviser you know or email advisers@lfw.org.uk You are not committed to anything.

We feel this year as a team that we have received such positive feedback, not just at Cluster Meetings but also at your Annual Meetings. So a huge thank you from us to the WIs who hosted the Cluster Meetings. You set up the rooms, made and served the refreshments, cleared up afterwards and made everyone very welcome to your WI. Thank you also to all the Officers and Committee members who made the effort to attend and take part in discussions.

As one member put it *'informative and entertaining once we all got over the shock of not sitting with our pals...but making new pals!'*

Ruth Grimley

CHAIR OF MEMBERSHIP



RESOLUTIONS



As a follow-up to the 2023 Resolution, 'Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife', the Public Affairs Team welcomed members to Croston House for a session led by guest speaker Jack Spees, the CEO of Ribble Rivers Trust. Jack first joined LFWI back in April 2023, to share information and enable members to make a more informed decision when voting on the Resolution.

On this visit, he updated everyone on the work of the Trust to improve our local rivers, including flood management, habitat restoration, improvement of woodlands, use of funding to support local projects, and some exciting community work. He also shared the important news that a designated bathing site has been agreed at Edisford Bridge,

Clitheroe - a project that the Trust have been working on since 2023.

After a refreshment break, the Roe Green WI Wild Swimmers shared their inspiring journey and experiences at local bathing sites and national swimming events.

A very informative and inspiring session, enjoyed by all!

Janette Sharp

RESOLUTION CO-ORDINATOR



105TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER REPORT

On 25th September a very special dinner took place to mark the LFWIs 105th Anniversary.

WI members from across the region came together at the Barton Grange Hotel, Garstang to celebrate this milestone occasion.

Upon arrival, guests gathered in the Balcony Suite where they had an opportunity to catch-up at the pre-dinner reception and to have fun photos taken through the 105th Birthday selfie frame.

Guests were also invited to vote for the winning entry from the impressive range of pin cushions on display in the Betty Sanderson Trophy competition. Their votes were added to those cast by visitors to the Archive Open Days to select the winner on the night.

Following the reception, a delicious dinner was served in the splendidly decorated Barton Suite where the green, white and purple hues of the WI were reflected across the table decorations and room lighting and a souvenir LFWI bookmark was laid at each place setting.

Following a welcome from LFWI Chair, Heather Williams and a congratulatory video message from NFWI Chair Jeryl Stone, a delicious three course dinner was served.

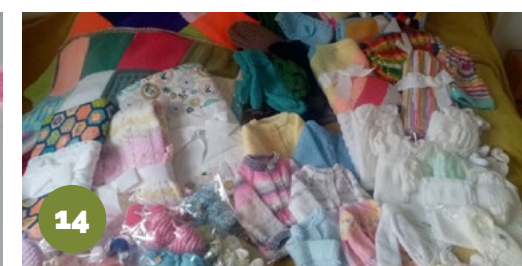
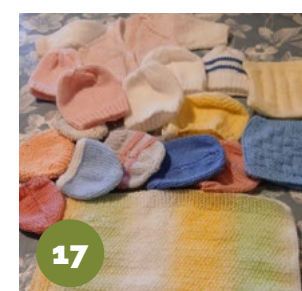
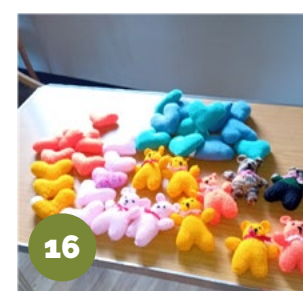
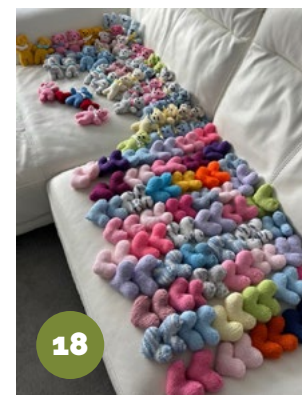
Throughout dinner, members were treated to a photographic slideshow of memorable moments from the LFWIs 105 year history.

After dinner and the loyal toast had concluded the winner of the Betty Sanderson Competition was announced – a delightful character cushion created by Diane Glithero from Heath Charnock WI. Then, it was time for the 'Draw with a Difference'. A lucky winner from each table won one of several special prizes donated by Barton Grange Hotel, Bramble & Bee Lytham, Cedar Farm Shop, Morecambe Bay Bees and individual Trustees. Additionally, a second lucky winner from each group won the table flowers. Formal proceedings were brought to a close when a beautifully decorated birthday cake was jointly cut by Chair Heather Williams and former Chairs Hazel Short, Jackie Hobson and Mary Gibson.

After dinner entertainment was provided by Louise, an excellent singer who delivered floor filling tunes from across the decades. This wonderful evening was rounded off with members throwing some impressive moves on the dance floor!

It could be said that the 105th anniversary was well and truly observed.





CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE

In true Lancashire WI style, members have pulled out all the stops in response to the Chairman's Challenge this year and produced an impressive amount of items. The unique ideas they have come up with have not disappointed and there are so many worthwhile causes that have benefitted. We hope you enjoy the photos and well done to everyone involved.

1. Accrington & District WIs chosen charity was Milly's Smiles, a local charity providing Milly Bags to all families whose child has been diagnosed with a cancer-related illness and admitted into hospital. The bag contains lots of items that will help them through the first weeks of their journey. **2. Arkholme & District WI** presented blankets and quilts to Lunesdale Linus Project. **3. Ashton-on-Ribble WI** made trauma teddies for children involved in police incidents, as well as a variety of toys for the Baby Beat charity shop at Royal Preston Hospital. **4. FaB WI** made toiletry bags and collected items to fill them to donate to their local women's refuge. **5. Blackpool WI** presented 40 scarves and hats to Streetlife, a charity for homeless/disadvantaged 1-25 year olds. **6. Forton WI** made and sold items for St John's Hospice in Lancaster. **7. Newburgh WI** recently took knitted toys and hearts to Derian House Children's Hospice in Chorley. **8. Chadderton WI** made 'end of life' hearts for their local hospice. **9. Roe Green WI** made Fiddle Mitts for Aspire Dementia Service in Walkden, who provide support to people living with dementia, learning disabilities or disabilities. **10. Caton WI** made twiddle muffs and lap quilts for people with dementia. **11. Dunsop Bridge WI** made 19 quilts to donate to the Linus Project. **12. Norden WI** presented almost 50 frogs to Sam Wells, CEO of Springhill Hospice. **13. Broughton WI** knitted premature baby jackets for Royal Preston Hospital. **14. Billington, Langho & District WI** made scarves, hats and gloves for the homeless through the Salvation Army, knitted items to the Friends of Serenity (tiny hats, small gowns, blankets and Angel Wraps) and rainbow blankets for parents who go on to have a healthy baby. They also knitted small cardigans and hats for fundraising at the Blackburn Birth Centre and sent two large bags of blankets and small hearts. **15. Atherton WI** presented baby bonnets to a representative of Wythenshawe Maternity Unit. **16. Pilling WI** made teddies and hearts for Blackpool Victoria Hospital Swan Team. **17. Scorton WIs** selection of baby hats, children's pyjamas, vests and babygros for the Lancaster Royal Infirmary. **18. The Rolling Scones WI** have made hearts and teddies for a local charity. **19. Edgworth WI** made Izzy Dolls for the charity Families and Babies. **20. Bolton-le-Sands WI** and Lunesdale Trefoil Guild sent two large boxes of knitted teddies to the Lancaster Women's Refuge.



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