

Red Rose News

The Lancashire Federation of Women's Institutes



Issue 4 • 2026

WELCOME TO THE FOURTH EDITION OF 2026.

There has been so much to celebrate since the last issue and not just in LFWI. There have been festivals and sports across the country and LFWI have been popping up at events around the region.

Thank you so much for your contributions showing what you have been up to, you have shared so many great events and talks. We are grateful to all of you who have submitted them in the format we have requested, but just a reminder we can only print ONE submission and photograph per WI per issue, to be written in the third person. If you send more than one submission we can only print the first one you send. Please look at your latest issue of Red Rose News for the next deadline.

Emma Gillinder - Tarleton WI

Pam Aspden - Croston WI

A Message From Our Chairman

What glorious weather we have had over the last two months – but what a warning of how our planet is heating up. Global warming seems here to stay. We must adapt, and so must our gardens. I hope you, your families and neighbours have kept safe. We need to look out for each other. Saddleworth Moor has suffered again. We can all continue to do our bit for the planet.



LFWI events have gone well recently. Thank you for your support, especially at the Pearls Lunch – Frances gave another fascinating talk and has offered to join us again next year. We are planning a slightly different event, so watch out for our flyer. The Goldwork session was also enjoyed; mine is still “a work in progress”. The Orienteering event in Lancaster was enjoyed by those who attended, and at International Day we learnt about Denmark, the Vikings and some Danish crafts, with a delicious lunchbox. We have visited all the Clusters with a talk about “Keeping your Archives”. You should now know what must be kept safe by your WI for future generations. The Office will be open on 24th and 25th September at Croston House so you can see some of the archives Ruth Grimley has found – do join us for coffee, tea and biscuits.

The LFWI Teams have been planning next year's events. A calendar will be sent out listing special days and weeks you can get involved with in your own WIs or clusters. Don't forget your entries for the Betty Sanderson Trophy – a picture in any medium. We are organising coffee mornings on 2nd and 3rd October for anyone interested in running a small show or competition in their WI, with tips on setting up and class ideas. This could lead to cluster shows in the future. We will soon be visiting Higham Hall again for tuition on enamelling, embroidery and garden visits in the Lake District.

The Board of Trustees and LFWI Teams will be renewing soon. Do you have skills that would help LFWI run successfully? Both need new members. Forms will be with your WIs in September – please consider whether you can help. A meeting has been arranged for 16th October where current Board members will answer questions about the roles.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and your holidays.

Heather Williams

CHAIR



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Around the WIs

MEETINGS, BIRTHDAYS & PARTIES...



Barbara Fielding, a long-standing member of **ACCRINGTON & DISTRICT WI**, has been officially recognised for her lifetime of service to the borough. Known as the Clayton-le-Moors Archer, Barbara has won two world titles, the first in 1971. She has also held the British title nine times and broken countless records at British, European and world level. At the 2026 mayor-making

ceremony Barbara was presented with the title of Honorary Alderman and Freeman of the borough. The award is a rare one, recognising many years of exceptional service and dedication to the community. Accrington and District WI are very proud of what Barbara has achieved.

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The speaker for the May meeting of **BANKS WI** was Simon Davies, who delivers humanitarian aid to Ukraine. So far he has made 13 trips and is planning the 14th. He became involved after attending the Champions League final in 2018 in Kyiv and meeting a surgeon called Anatoly and they kept in touch. After raising £22,000 in a few hours and enough supplies to fill four vehicles in four days Simon made his first trip. Each vehicle carries about 80 tonnes of aid, including medical supplies, food, blankets and clothes. The June speaker was Simon from the Bee Centre, who gave a very entertaining talk on the life of bees. Of the 273 species of bee in England there is only one species of honeybee. They live in colonies of between 40,000 and 60,000. Of these 90% are workers and 10% drones whose only job is to mate with the queen. The workers are produced by fertilised eggs and the drones by unfertilised eggs. They also had the chance to buy some honey. This month they had a games evening. All members took part in some very competitive games of beetle, a quiz based on the theme tunes for classic TV games shows and a round of "Would I Lie to You".



May is the month for discussing the NFWI resolutions for 2026 at **BARTON WI**. There were two resolutions this year. The first resolution "Action

on women's homelessness" was presented by Judith Harris. The shocking statistic was that one out of 34 mothers in England is homeless and in the last six years 104 children under the age of one have died in temporary accommodation. The members voted unanimously for the resolution. The second resolution "Accessible Public Toilet Facilities" was presented by Fay Percival. 50-55% of public toilets are now closed as local authority budgets are dwindling and it was suggested that more shops should open their toilets to the public. This resolution was further discussed and again the members voted unanimously in favour of the resolution. Once the business part of the meeting was finished they were given a demonstration by a member of the Ambulance service on the use of a defibrillator and how to administer CPR. This follows on from last year's NFWI resolution "How a bystander can help save a life". It was a very illuminating talk and if you weren't strong enough to exert the pressure needed to do CPR you could show someone else how to do it. They held a coffee morning to raise funds for Foxton House, a refuge for women and children in Preston, in line with this year's 2026 NFWI resolution.

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ECCLESTON WI Members displayed craft items which they had created in the last year, including a holly, ivy and mistletoe garland in stumpwork, a crocheted shawl, a hand-made birthday card, a child's knitted cardigan, an indoor spring garland with eggs, knitted jonquils and

daffodils. The Memorial Trophy, a carriage clock, which is kept for a year, was won by Elsie



Chadwick, who painted a lovely rural snow scene. Julie Whitworth talked about advanced and safe driving. Courses aiming to encourage people to focus on and improve their driving skills, and build confidence behind the wheel, were available. These give a methodical approach to dealing with hazards and promote a more positive attitude. A lively discussion ensued with Members talking about their wish to retain their independence, but disliking, especially on motorways, the speed and closeness of other vehicles, and large lorries. Everyone agreed that forward planning and studying road maps were essential.

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There was a good turnout of members from **FRECKLETON WI** to hear from speaker Roy Turner, Water Safety Advisor for Lytham St Annes Lifeboat. Roy told them that he had been an active crew member of the Lifeboat for many years and he now passes his knowledge on by speaking to schools, clubs and various other organisations in the area. Fund raising is important because the boats and technology are very up to date, sophisticated but expensive. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution is a charity founded by Sir William Hillary in 1824 and is a voluntary organisation and covers the immense coastline of the UK as well as the whole of Ireland. The RNLI has saved over 146,000 lives in its history. Lytham St Annes has recently celebrated its 175th anniversary. Roy talked about aspects of water safety including how to call out the service. Firstly dial 999. When asked which service we needed we should ask for the Coastguard. They heard how women have played a role in the RNLI. Although women have always been, and still are, very successful in fund raising there are also a lot of fully trained female crew members. He concluded his talk with amusing anecdotes of the rivalries between local Fylde coast stations.

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Simon Sharp's interesting talk "Gin: the Story of Disrepute" was made even more engaging when "illustrated" with four different samples of gin to taste for the members of **LONGTON WI**. Modern-day gins have only been around

for 400 years or so, but the first sample, a juniper flavoured spirit-based drink, Genever, is thought to have been developed by Arab alchemists in the 9th century. Genever was brought to England by King William III, following a ban on wine and brandy because of the wars with France. This led to the second gin sampled, "Old Tom", a gin distilled at the time in many homes across London. Good quality gin however, was not available until gin distilling laws were introduced and London Dry Gin, the third sample, was subsequently born. Gin popularity dwindled in the 1960s, but new laws allowing the distillation of smaller batches have led to many gin flavours now being available. The final tippie, a lovely Dark Fruit variety of gin was a delightful (and rather tasty!) end to a most enjoyable evening.



It all started on a scorching hot summer day, with a "Brief Encounter" at the iconic Carnforth Railway Station over coffee and a light lunch.

LONGTON WI's trip then went on to Leighton Hall, the Grade II ancestral home of the world-renowned Gillow furniture family. On arrival, waiting at the end of the carriage drive, members were warmly welcomed by the current owner. Everyone was made to feel very much at ease as Suzie Reynolds went on to take the party on a most interesting tour of this amazing country house, which charmingly is also the family home. A short bird of prey experience and then time to wander through the cooling woodland or enjoy an ice cream in the rose garden was a fitting end to a most enjoyable day out.

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For several years now **NORDEN WI** have been collecting essential toiletries, putting them in bags they've made and donating them to their local women's hostel. In June they had a very informative talk about what



happens to the bags and how delighted the women are to receive them. In July Pam Ashton, a local resident, spoke about her life and experiences on a tall ship. When she was 48 and recently widowed, she spent a week training to sail a tall ship. So began a lifetime love of sailing and tall ships and of encouraging children from difficult backgrounds to participate. Her talk was informative and very entertaining. To strengthen community involvement Norden WI organised a scarecrow competition. The theme was Famous People. There were 23 entries and the winners were Serena Carpenter (in the window of the local carpet shop), Boy George and Taylor Swift. Unfortunately Emmeline Pankhurst wasn't among the winners but when she was being placed on a bench near the village's defibrillator a passer-by was most concerned that she needed help and the use of the said defib. She must have looked realistic to someone!! The event was so well-received by local residents that Norden WI have agreed to repeat the event next year. Hopefully it will be even bigger and better.



PARBOLD WI

members had a wonderful visit to Chatsworth House on Saturday 9 May. It was a day to remember, packed with impressions of a very interesting family home, well

loved over the centuries by generations of the Cavendish family, who have left their mark on their surroundings – and, indeed, continue to do so. There is the house itself, packed with paintings, tapestries, ornate furniture and decorations, which are intensely interesting to look at and connect with the stories of the people who chose them and treasured them; and then the surrounding grounds, which offer wonderful views over the countryside and opportunities to wander through varied gardens, including a maze, a rockery garden and a rose garden. At the time of the visit, there was a featured exhibition about literary links with Chatsworth, including the fact that there is a strong case to be made for Chatsworth being the model for Pemberley in Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice". In and among the enjoyment of the house and gardens, good use was made of the

excellent cafe and the shop, so that everyone was tired but happy by the end of the outing: well and truly a Grand Day Out.



In May, members of **RIBBY WITH WREA WI** were completely spellbound as The Painting Policeman – David Wiles – transformed a

blank canvas into a beautiful alpine painting. While he did this, he entertained the group with a commentary and amusing anecdotes. David was a policeman with Lancashire Constabulary and explained that about 20 years ago he had seen a TV programme called "The Joy of Painting", when Bob Ross had demonstrated a wet-on-wet oil painting technique and David was fascinated. After attending many workshops, David became a certified instructor in 2013. He now runs his own workshops and gives demonstrations in his garden studio. The money raised by the demos and workshops, as well as his talks, is donated to the charity, Heartbeat.

At the end of May, on a lovely sunny day, the walking group enjoyed a walk from the sea front at Morecambe, along to Half Moon Bay and back, via Heysham village. It was a mostly flat 5.5 to 6 miles with great views of Morecambe Bay. They had some excitement on the way back, as an episode of The Bay was being filmed in Heysham, and they had to wait for several minutes until the filming stopped before they could carry on with their walk.

In June, the speaker was Simon Sharp, and his subject was "Gin: the Story of Disrepute". This was a most interesting talk about the development of Gin production and drinking, from early lower alcohol gins, to stronger cheap gins produced illicitly, to the more familiar London Dry Gins. After 2008, a change in the law allowed smaller, less costly stills to be used, resulting in around 1,200 different gins available today. Simon brought along some samples of the different stages of Gin development for members to taste too!





The Spanish sub-group at **ROYTON & DISTRICT WI** celebrated their first anniversary in May with tapas. They have spent the past year learning with and from each other covering topics like introducing yourself, ordering food and drinks, talking about the weather and asking for

directions. In sessions that are both enjoyable and effective, they use a mix of role play, interactive games and group activities. They have built their own creative resources including bingo cards, flashcards, drawings, and exercises meaning that even grammar is approached in a fun and imaginative way. They have also managed to sing "Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" in Spanish! All the members have different levels of proficiency and learning styles, but the group support and encourage one another to make sure everyone feels included. Group members have even put their skills into practice while travelling in Spain, noticing real improvements in communicating with native speakers.

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The March meeting at **TATHAM FELLS WI** saw Hilary McCumiskey revealing the not so glamorous backstage of the Northern Ballet Theatre. She worked as a Dresser and had to deal with smelly costumes every Monday morning, following their journey between venues. She showed photos of ballerinas' ravaged feet as she passed round used ballet shoes. In sharp contrast the April meeting saw Lee Cartledge, a potter from Bentham talk with passion about his work and the history of pottery making in nearby Burton in Lonsdale. He had made 5000 bowls for the Pope's visit and showed his famous limited supply of the Brexit mug. A ten gallon stoneware bottle, now in Australia is stamped with James Kilburn who owned a pottery at Burton from 1850 to 1878. In May Pam Barker, the first woman Constable of Lancaster Castle, recounted her responsibilities there. She was the first ordinary Constable, past ones being wealthy men. A former Head Mistress of Lancaster Girls Grammar School, Pam had her own Coat of Arms when she was appointed in 2013, this is hanging in the Shire Hall with the School colours as the background. Ceremonies she has organised included the visit in 2015 of the Queen (the Duke of Lancaster). Pam presented her with the keys to the Castle on a velvet cushion.

QUIZ

TIME

1. What do Jean Claude Juncker, Donald Tusk and Martin Schulz have in common?
2. In chess, in what direction does a Bishop move?
3. Which of his films did Stanley Kubrick withdraw from UK cinemas in 1973?
4. What stretch of water do the French call 'La Manche'?
5. What collapsed on 15th Sept 2008 to cause the world financial panic?
6. What is the ancient name of Iran?
7. What is the ancient name of Iraq?
8. In which city would you find the 'La Scala' opera house?
9. Who wrote 'Bleak House'?
10. Who invented penicillin?
11. Which British royal dynasty was symbolised by a red and white rose?
12. The last woman to be hanged in the UK has been granted a conditional pardon. What is her name?
13. Which station is the British terminus for the Eurostar?
14. Where would you find the SS Great Britain?
15. What is a trebuchet?
16. What constellation consists of Ursa Major's seven brightest stars?
17. What machine does a musician use to maintain a steady beat or tempo?
18. What is the chemical symbol for Iron?
19. What does the warfare related abbreviation WMD stand for?
20. The logo of what fashion designer is a stylised Medusa head?

Answers on page 11



Flying Visits...



ATHERTON WI had a fascinating visit to the beautiful historic Ordsall Hall in Salford. Members took a bus into St Peter's Square, Manchester then caught an Eccles

tram, disembarking at Exchange Quay. The hall is a 10 min walk from the tram stop. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. Well worth it.



After a successful three-day Armed Forces event held in Morecambe in June which was attended by an estimated 35,000, over £8,000 was raised for various local

charities. **BARE & DISTRICT WI** raised money for the hospice and presented them with a cheque.



After concern that **BELMONT WI** would have to close, President Edna and secretary/treasurer Angela got the go ahead from the Black Dog's Eleanor to hold afternoon

meetings at their premises and numbers dramatically increased. They were then able to host the Annual Meeting with Pink Vintage for superb entertainment, lots of singing, dancing and amazing food. A wonderful come back and an afternoon enjoyed by all.



Members of **BLACKPOOL WI** were entertained by a "This Is Your Life" style presentation of the life of 90 year old Norman Barrett. Born in York in 1935 to a circus family, Norman's many talents included bare-back riding astride two horses, training performing budgerigars

and of course working as a Ringmaster in several circuses including Bertram Mills and Blackpool Tower Circus with legendary clowns Charlie Cairol and Paul.



Members of **DUNSOP BRIDGE WI** visited the Horse and Pony Protection Association in Briercliffe, Burnley. They enjoyed a hot supper of pie and peas before a talk

and tour explaining how the equines came to be living at HAPPA — some because the owners can no longer afford to keep them, some are cruelty cases that have been reported to the authorities. There are horses, ponies and donkeys living in stables or out in the fields. Jen explained the need for fundraising as the weekly running costs are eye-watering. They rambled out to the tracks bordering the fields. The ponies were all grazing contentedly, but some came to the fence for a fuss and chat. The countryside around the stables is beautiful especially when the sun is shining.



ELSWICK WI had a summer trip to Leighton Hall in Carnforth. Leighton Hall is the lived-in home of the Gillow Reynolds family. If

you haven't been it's really worth a visit. There was a falconry display which was so interesting and the owls very well behaved. The sun was shining and a lovely day was had by all.



Joyce Nelson of **EUXTON WI** attended the Make and Create event at Avant Garden centre at the end of April. She has sent a photo of the planter she made and said, "It was a most enjoyable day. Good company and excellent advice from Diane. So encouraging to see this as a

result and I would try to be the first to sign up for another course."



GOOSNARGH & WHITTINGHAM WI entered a float into the Goosnargh Festival in June. They had great fun crafting pink and red flowers for their "Ladies Day" themed lorry. They got lots of cheers and claps as they made their way round, and were

delighted to win "Best in Parade" from the judges! They are already planning next year's entry.



Flying Visits...



In May the speaker at **GREGSON LANE WI** was Catherine Galaska who gave a very interesting talk about her intrepid travels around the world on her gap year that she was able to take courtesy of winning a £10,000 prize to do exactly that. She told of how she had to travel for at least six

months and visit at least 8 countries and send a vlog to the company who ran the competition each month of her travels. It was inspiring to hear how she planned her journeys and overcame difficulties that she encountered along the way. The craft group meet each month and are busy knitting trauma teddies. One member's sister works with children in the community and has found these teddies are a great source of help as an aid to communication. The group are also busy knitting blankets for the Baby Beat charity shop.



When the WI celebrated its 100th birthday in 2015, the members of **HOGHTON WI** decided to mark the occasion by placing a bench in the grounds of Hoghton Village Hall, where

their Group holds monthly Meetings. Sadly, over time, due to natural weathering, the bench began to deteriorate so this year they decided to replace it with a new stronger one, with metal sides featuring the WI logo. The bench was put in place and officially unveiled before the May Meeting, to claps and cheers from members.



In early June, 32 members (and friends) of **LITTLE THORNTON WI** enjoyed a trip to Jacqueline Iddon's garden at Bretherton. They had a delicious lunch on arrival and then Jacqueline took them on a guided tour of the garden. She gave lots of advice

and tips on growing plants and the garden was stunning. After the tour, Jacqueline did a flower arrangement while telling them how she started her business. They had a wonderful day and many members got on the coach for home, loaded with plants they had bought from the sales table.



A big shout out to **LUMB-IN-ROSSENDALE WI** committee member, Marilyn, who is a recent recipient of a prestigious award. Marilyn has been made an Honorary

Townsmen of Whitworth in recognition of the outstanding service which she has given and continues to give to Whitworth and its local organisations. Marilyn founded a soup kitchen which led on to the Lighthouse Project being set up. Members are so happy for and proud of Marilyn.



In the last meeting **LYTHAM BELLES** learnt a bit more about the Suffragist movement. They had a guest speaker who enlightened them on the fact that the fight for women's vote started earlier than thought! The suffragists fought for the

vote peacefully with words while the Suffragettes fought with deeds not words. This difference was relevant as some members had no idea how early the movement had started and were unaware of the "civilised" fight taking place. We are a country full of determined women who fought by deeds and all at the time "kept the home fires burning".



May saw **MaD WI** being treated to a talk from a solo traveller who has travelled the world. The talk was full of useful information inspiring those who are a bit uncertain

about taking their first tentative steps into solo travel.

In June, the speaker was an Opera singer who, with hard work and dedication, worked her way from Oldham to Italy. She let them know how she did it and performed a few of her songs. Some MaD ladies also took part in the local carnival dressed as Dalmatians. Thankfully it was a glorious sunny day. In their monthly craft group they wet felted some lovely flowers. Who knew it was such hard work?



Flying Visits...



In May **OVER HULTON WI** held their annual fundraising event in aid of Bolton Hospice. Supported by other local WIs and friends, it was a great success. Drinks and cakes were the order of the day with the usual stalls to

boost takings. It was followed by entertainment from Kimberley Riley singing popular songs from the 70s and 80s with much audience participation.



In July, members of **VIADUCT VIOLETS WI** enjoyed afternoon tea at The London Carriage

Works in Liverpool - one of Liverpool's leading restaurants. Built in the 1860s architectural fashion of the day - the elegant Venetian palazzo - it was once a warehouse of coach and carriage builders. During renovation the original name was discovered carved in the stone lintel and was kept out of respect for the building's history. The day ended with an architectural tour of Liverpool's famous buildings.



Happy birthday to **ST ANNES ON SEA WI** who recently celebrated their 36th birthday.

Joyce Wright, a member of **FRECKLETON WI**, celebrated her 100th birthday on the 14th July. Congratulations Joyce.



A SUMMER OF EVENTS

It could be said that the LFWI have had an eventful summer inasmuch as we have had a summer full of events! As part of our promotional activity to support new member recruitment and to introduce the WI to the next generation, we attended Chipping Steam Fair, the Royal Lancashire Show and the Rochdale Classic Car Show. Additionally we supported the White Coppice WI Community Garden at Chorley Flower Show.

At each of these busy events we welcomed many visitors and told them all about the WI and the opportunities it affords women for lifelong learning, socialising and friendship. We were also delighted to see many of our members who stopped by to say hello - it was lovely to hear all about their WIs. From further afield we met ladies from the wider WI family who were visiting from Cheshire, Cumbria, Northern Ireland and Yorkshire.

Speaking of visitors, we were delighted to receive local dignitaries to our stands. In Rochdale we welcomed Iram Faisal, Mayoress of Rochdale. We were joined by the Mayor and Mayoress of Fylde: Councillor Richard Redcliffe and Mrs Sheila Redcliffe at the Royal Lancashire Show and in Chorley, Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP called in to admire the community garden.

Several visitors had a family connection to the WI and proudly told us about relatives who had been members in days gone by. Others mentioned that membership is something they are considering and we assured them of a warm welcome at their nearest WI.

A big thank you goes to the trustees, advisors and members who helped with (wo)manning the stands with special mentions going to those members from Buckshaw Village WI, Chipping WI, Royton & District WI and White Coppice WI who helped out - your assistance is greatly appreciated.



NEWS FROM THE LFWI TEAMS

MAKE & CREATE TEAM

FUSED GLASS LANTERN WORKSHOP WITH GLASSY BIRDS

The Make and Create team held their most recent workshop on Saturday 4th July. It saw twelve members engrossed in glass fusing techniques as they made the panels for a lantern. With support from Glassy Birds instructors, Emma and Bev, each member put their artistic head on to create five colourful panels which, when fired, will complete a unique and individual lantern for indoor or outdoor use. The designs incorporated flowers, sea scenes and abstract patterns all in vibrant colours using a range of small glass pieces. All agreed it was a thoroughly enjoyable time with a lovely group and tutors.

For the rest of 2026, the team have three more workshops planned. Dates for your diary are:

- Beginners Calligraphy by Rose & Mellor – 5 September
- Paper and gingerbread houses with Tracy Ogden – 29 October
- Christmas Floral with Lynn Stott

Nicky Robertson

MAKE & CREATE TEAM



LIFESTYLE & LEISURE

ORIENTEERING IN WILLIAMSON PARK – 30 June

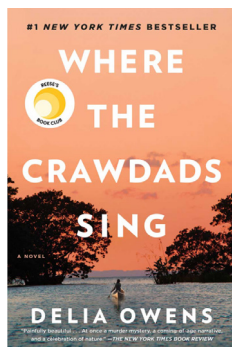
Sixteen ladies from various WIs met at the foot of the memorial in Williamson Park for an exciting hour of adventure orienteering. Their first task was to learn the rules, given by Martyn from South Ribble Orienteering Club who came along with his wife, Sue and several other members. Before they set off, they were warned about slippery paths, dogs, bikes and crags. Then they were split into teams, handed maps and "dibbers" and away they went. One member per team was in charge of timing as any tardiness in returning to the starting point resulted in lost points. Thankfully everyone arrived back although one team was a minute late and lost points. Each member of the winning team was awarded a big tin of Quality Street! A nice surprise. Thanks must go to SROC for their encouragement and support for our members who all had a super time.

Jeannie Prescott

LIFESTYLE TEAM



BOOK REVIEW: WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING



This was the book of the month at Lumb-in-Rossendale WI reading group. It's rare for the ten members to be in agreement about the merits of a book, but there was unanimous admiration for this debut novel by author, Delia Owens. Whilst the book has a possible murder at its heart, it was a long way removed from a standard crime novel. The characters were beautifully drawn and set within small town America, where the landscape and social mores of the time shaped their lives and values. Several members admitted to shedding tears whilst reading this book. "Where the Crawdads Sing" is a real page turner, with an unexpected twist at the end. Highly recommended!



Do you have a story to share? See page 12 for important information about submitting editorial...

Public Affairs Team

LFWI were invited to attend the recent Lancashire Schools Sustainability Conference, hosted by Blackburn Rovers Community Trust at Ewood Park, the home of Blackburn Rovers FC.

Students, teachers and organisations from across the North West came together to share workshops and activities that connect school curriculums with real-world sustainability challenges.

Members of the Public Affairs team and the LFWI Chair highlighted the WI's long history of campaigning to protect the environment, detailing current campaigns including Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife, Climate Change and End Plastic Soup.

It was a fantastic day (albeit rather warm – global warming?!) and good to meet a wide range of people, of different ages, to tell them about the WI's environmental campaigns. In addition to an engaging exhibition, the conference included sustainability activities, presentations and workshops. It was so encouraging to see the interest in sustainability initiatives shown by the next generation.



INTERNATIONAL DAY 7 JULY 2026 – DENMARK

What a lovely way to celebrate International Day – a room full of WI ladies, listening to a really fascinating insight into the life of Queen Æthelflæd, daughter of King Alfred the Great, enjoying a good Scandinavian-themed lunch graze box, then participating in a fun activity.

In the 10th century, Æthelflæd became known as The Lady of the Mercians after she continued to rule after the death of her husband, a real first for a woman in those days.

Dave the Viking (aka Dave Copener from the Wirral Archaeology) and his companion came suitably dressed as a thane and his wife and gave an excellent presentation on the life and times of this Warrior Queen, explaining how the country was divided into realms governed by Saxons and Danes.



It was amazing to see just how much research has been done on this period of our history. After lunch, members were given a few interesting facts about Denmark and its most famous export the Lego brick, and listened to a Hans Christian Andersen story, The Teapot.

Then came the fun part – cutting out and making a red and white Christmas heart, and a cardboard Dress the Dolly in Danish costume. The level of concentration on faces was impressive, despite the noise level going up quite a few decibels!

A really successful day – thanks to the Public Affairs Team, especially Pam Coates for her tireless planning but a big thank you to everyone who attended and made it such an enjoyable day.

Patricia Forder

CHAIR, PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM





Blackpool WI said goodbye to former long-standing member **Gladys Hall** who died at the age of 100. From Sheffield, Gladys served in the Women's Land Army during the war. Her funeral took place on what would have been her 101st birthday. Her cheeky humour will be much missed.

It is with sadness that **Aughton WI** announce the passing of one of their long serving members, **Margaret Rowe**. Margaret had been an active member of the WI for many years, and in the latter years, a valued committee member. She will be missed by us all.

Ada Macpherson was our longest-serving member, having been a member at **Aughton WI** for over 50 years. Poor health had greatly restricted her attendance at meetings for the last couple of years, and it is with great sadness that we have to announce her passing. Condolences are sent to all her family at this sad time.

Simonstone with Read WI is sad to announce the death of **Anne Atkinson**, a founding member of the Institute, and past President, who died just before her 90th birthday. Members looked forward to the delicious fruit cake she baked each year for our party! We will miss her.

With great sadness we report the passing of **Eileen Unsworth**, née Slinger, at the age of 86. For many years Eileen was a member, and President, of **Cockerham WI** and since its closure has been an active and enthusiastic member of **Forton WI**.

It is with deep regret that Banks WI has to report the deaths of **Marion Sephton** – a past president and secretary of **Banks WI** (Marion was 94 years old) – and of **Jean Evans**, a long-time member of Banks WI.



Scarlet Corner

Someone asked me if I could come from anywhere, where would I want to come from. Interesting question with quite a boring answer.

If I couldn't time travel and be a Viking then I am going to stick to being British. Not English, British. In fact if there was a way of describing it I would be United Kingdomish. With one thing and another it might not be very fashionable but I love how very rich the history is with the different nations, all working together.

I remember my son asking why I knew the words to Flower of Scotland even though I wasn't Scottish. Well, because when it comes down to it if Scotland or Wales or Ireland are taking part in something the only time I won't be sending them all my luck is if their opponent is England, and even then I will be trying to remain neutral.

I don't get it when people say they "hate" any of the home nations. It's like being at school; yes you can have your little rivalries between houses and get your points and someone might win the trophy at the end of the year, but when push comes to shove, you support your school, so when push comes to shove I am supporting the United Kingdom.

Emma Gillinder

TARLETON WI

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Served as the primary leaders of the EU | 9. Charles Dickens | 17. A metronome |
| 2. Diagonally, for any number of squares. | 10. Alexander Fleming | 18. Fe |
| 3. A Clockwork Orange | 11. The Tudors | 19. Weapons of mass destruction |
| 4. The English Channel | 12. Ruth Ellis | 20. Gianni Versace |
| 5. Lehman Brothers | 13. St Pancras International | |
| 6. Persia | 14. Bristol | |
| 7. Mesopotamia | 15. A medieval siege engine used in warfare | |
| 8. Milan | 16. The Plough/Big Dipper | |



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 3rd Sept.**
- Email to **editorial@lfwi.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 **12th Oct.** 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 other members might enjoy.

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

EDITORIAL TEAM

Pam Aspden - Croston WI
Emma Gillinder - Tarleton WI

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR ISSUE 5

Thurs 3rd September

Email: editorial@lfwi.org.uk

RECIPE: RATATOUILLE CHICKEN OR FISH BAKE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tbsp oil or spray
- 1 aubergine, cut into chunks
- 2 courgettes, cut into chunks
- 300g tomatoes cut in half or 1 x 450g tin
- 2 red onions cut into 8 wedges
- 8 cloves garlic
- 200g mushrooms, quartered
- 8 skinless and boneless chicken thighs or 500g white fish e.g. monkfish or hake shoulder
- 2 tsps dried oregano or fresh equivalent OR 1 level tablespoon chilli flakes
- Salt and ground black pepper

METHOD

1. Prepare all the vegetables and spread in the base of a large flat ovenproof dish or tray. Drizzle oil over them or use spray oil generously and toss the vegetables round.
2. Add the chicken pieces or fish, herbs and seasoning.
3. Bake at 200°C, gas 6 for 30 minutes.
4. Stir well and turn everything over to cover chicken / fish.
5. Return to the oven and reduce temperature to 180°C, gas 4.
6. Bake for a further 20 minutes until everything is cooked through.
7. Serve with boiled rice, pasta or crusty bread.



Do you have a story to share? See above for important information about submitting editorial...

