

Red Rose News

The Lancashire Federation of Women's Institutes



Issue 3 2025

WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION OF RED ROSE NEWS

Your newsletter stories are already showing how you are taking advantage of the lovely weather and we look forward to highlighting more of these, not forgetting your VE Day celebrations, in the next issue.

Thank you to those members who have responded to our request for particular submissions – please keep them coming (some are included in this issue).

As a reminder, we are looking for quizzes, recipes and interesting stories that we can share with other WIs, such as a trip out, an excellent speaker that others may not be aware of, ideas for social time or craft projects. As always, please ensure you adhere to the editorial guidelines and submission deadlines (see page 8).

The Editorial Team

A Message From Our Chairman

Welcome to this spring/summer edition of Red Rose News (RRN).

What glorious weather we are experiencing as I write this letter. I have loved being able to sit in the garden and being out and about, topping up my Vitamin D intake! I know our gardens, farmers and wildlife are suffering from a lack of rainfall but hopefully nature will put things right in the near future.

I mentioned at the Annual Council Meeting in Lytham that LFWI will be celebrating our 105th Birthday on 25th September and that I encourage you to promote your WI by making a post box topper/ bollard cover/ yarn bomb. Please send your photos in to RRN and promote the things we do in your local area. We have planned a Celebratory Dinner at Barton Manor Hotel on that evening and details should now be with your WIs. We look forward to your company at a special evening of eating, drinking and entertainment to celebrate. You could also stay overnight in the hotel.

NFWI will also be celebrating its 110th birthday on 16th September – National WI Day. There have been ideas in WI Life for celebrating this momentous occasion and all that we have achieved as a Women's Organisation during those years. Get Involved and tell WI Life and RRN what you have done.

For more information visit mywi.org.uk and lancashirewi.org.uk. By the time you read this edition of RRN your delegate will have attended the virtual NFWI Annual General meeting and cast your votes on the Constitutional Changes and the current Resolution- "Bystanders can be Lifesavers". Look out for the report in WI Life and the correspondence from your delegate reporting back about the AGM.

I hope your officers have benefited from the Cluster Groups meetings and have passed on the relevant information. We want to give each cluster a name rather than a number, so if you have any thoughts, please let your President know. The next steps are in the planning stage, and we hope WIs will get together locally to share activities and speakers.

Have a fabulous summer and enjoy promoting our fabulous organisation in your local area. Remember "you get out of the WI what you put into it."

Best wishes,

Heather Williams



INSIDE THIS MONTH...

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Do you have a story to share? See page 11 for important information about submitting editorial...

Around the WIs

MEETINGS, BIRTHDAYS & PARTIES...



A member of **ASHTON ON RIBBLE WI** has just enjoyed a Norwegian cruise booked with Fred Olsen via the WI Life magazine. She had a wonderful time and, because it was booked in connection with the WI, she

and her husband each received £200 to spend on board the ship, plus an afternoon tea and an evening social. Whilst the offers may vary, the WI thought that it may be an interesting snippet for Red Rose News as an incentive to check out WI Life and take advantage of their advertisements. Knitters from Ashton-on-Ribble have also been busy knitting 'trauma teddies'. They are passed to the local Police Community Support Officer, who gives them to children caught up in emergency situations, as a source of comfort. Other charitable initiatives by Ashton-on-Ribble WI in the local community include collecting for two local foodbanks and making more than 60 quilts for the Linus Project, stitched by the craft group in only one year!

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BANKS WI's March speaker was Elaine from the Southport Offshore Rescue Trust, an independently run Lifeboat Station. The RNLI Station closed in 1925, but after a tragedy in 1987, when four young boys were in a boat that overturned and two were drowned, strenuous efforts were made to get the Lifeboat restored. This was turned down by the RNLI so the Trust was set up to raise funds. The new service started in 1988 and eventually took over the old Lifeboat Station. This was inadequate for all the equipment and so in 2022 a purpose built facility was opened. It houses two lifeboats, a sea going vessel and a small boat for the channels and Marine Lake, as well as quad bikes, drones and launch vehicles. It costs upwards of £75,000 a year to maintain the station and equipment, all raised by voluntary events.

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BARTON WI members enjoyed a fast-paced, entertaining and informative talk by Philip Caine, 'Barrow to Baghdad' in March, on his working life

from a sixteen year old, trainee chef in Barrow in Furness, to organising the logistics of building accommodation for thousands of oil workers on rigs in the North Sea to working with the US in Baghdad. He now writes novels, detective stories and thrillers based on places he has lived and worked. Nine completed with a tenth almost finished. What an exciting life!

Their April speaker was Dave Byers, who spoke about the charity, Medical Detection Dogs. Based in Milton Keynes since 2008 and funded by a small legacy from Dr John Church and Dr Claire Guest, they are known as Doggie Central. Dave is a Firefighter, training search and rescue dogs. His love of dogs led him to be involved with the charity as a volunteer speaker.

The dogs are trained for: Bio detection – recognising specific diseases by odour. During COVID, a single medical detection dog could screen up to 750 people in an hour; and Medical Alert Assistance – detecting and alerting to an oncoming medical episode such as Addison's Disease, severe allergies or Type 1 Diabetes.

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In March, **BILLINGTON, LANGHO & DISTRICT WI** enjoyed a presentation on 'Guide Dogs Past and Present'. Keith and Christine Boothman, local residents and ambassadors for Guide Dogs, were joined by Linda, a puppy raiser and the lovely Willow, a working guide dog. They went through the life and training of a dog from birth to retirement and gave an insight into how the Guide Dogs charity helps, especially young children, using new technology. Any book a child wishes to hear can be put onto audio, with no limit to the books requested. They help those with sight problems to become more independent with walking aids, computer programmes and making working a reality. Dogs who do not make the grade are used as buddy dogs for children to give them the confidence to go to school and become more social.

In April, members embraced the concept of being in clusters within Lancashire Federation and held a joint meeting with Grindleton WI. Neil Hanson gave a wonderful and humorous talk of the time he both managed and then owned The Tan Hill



Do you have a story to share? See page 11 for important information about submitting editorial...



...AROUND THE WIs

Inn, the highest pub in Britain. He described the development of the pub to its current standard and the colourful regulars who support the pub. A spectacular venue in nice weather, but not great when snowed in for several weeks in the winter.

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BLACKPOOL WI put on a show entitled 'Blackpool Here we Come' to entertain **STAINING, TREALES and WEETON WIs** at the Amounderness Group Meeting

in April. 1920s bathing beauties arrived on the legendary Blackpool Belle train, to the whistle of Stationmaster Ron. Dressed in period costumes made by wardrobe mistresses Pam and Christina, they danced along the promenade to George Formby's hilarious 'Little Stick of Blackpool Rock', and were then joined by circus clowns. The compere gave historical details of Blackpool's heyday, and 'Mrs Ramsbottom' recited details of the fate of her son Albert when he annoyed a lion named Wallace! Dances were expertly choreographed by member Ruth Peet, a former dance teacher. Great fun was had by all, especially at rehearsals!

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Variety is the key at **CHILDWALL WI** and 2025 is off to a good start. Their first meeting included a successful Silent Auction fundraiser. Members also chose the Whitechapel Centre, a Liverpool homelessness charity, to receive a donation raised by their WI Christmas Fair Crafts sales. Craft club used two meetings in January and February to make felt hearts as gifts or pincushions ready for Valentines' Day. Their February meeting saw members wonder at the quilting skills of the volunteers who support the Linus Project. The "Supper Club" also enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant, which was well attended, with the usual relaxed atmosphere of being with friends.

In March they welcomed a former 'Sewing Bee' contestant, who gave an interesting insight into such programmes. They admired her sewing skills and the garments she produced for the programme.



The highlight of the March meeting was celebrating the 100th Birthday of member Pat, with special cupcakes and an exploding candle! Pat is always ready to be involved, with her friend Marjorie, in all aspects of the WI group - attending meetings and craft club, meals out and rarely

missing any event. All had a lovely evening.

Looking ahead, they have a Calligraphy workshop and a visit to Clare House Children's Hospice already planned in addition to the regular meetings, so are looking forward to another busy year.

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ECCLESTON WI recently welcomed Pam Coates, who brought along her beautiful examples of quilting. She explained about the different patterns and the

importance of accurate measuring and sewing. Pam read out several amusing, interesting or thought-provoking poems. She also passed around her amazing quilts for the members to admire.

When Catherine Galanska won sponsorship for her Senior Gap Year, she travelled from Vancouver via Alaska to the National Parks, the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas. She visited the Caribbean coast, Columbia, snorkelled in the Galapagos Islands and spent time in Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires, visiting the Iguassu Falls. Next was Asia for a Thai cookery course, and helping to care for elephants at a sanctuary in Chang Mai. She watched the sun rise in Angkor Wat, Cambodia. Finally, Melbourne, Sydney and the Great Barrier Reef, then driving a camper van around New Zealand. What an amazing experience!

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FRECKLETON WI's March meeting included a talk by Lyn Clarke on 'Women of Ancient Egypt', about the 18th Dynasty of Egypt, 1550 – 1292 BC. It's a vast subject, so Lyn concentrated on the lives of women in this era: it was surprising to learn that they had many equal rights on social life and marriage and were able to legally manage their inheritances and make their own wills. Lyn showed slides of images taken by historians from stone relics including pictures of clothes, hairstyles, make up and jewellery. The unchanging subject of pregnancy and childbirth was also depicted. Although women had many household duties it was surprising to hear that laundry was not one of them – this was men's work! This small taste of what Egyptologists have pieced together over years of study was fascinating.

FRECKLETON WI gathered to celebrate their 103rd birthday in April. Formed in 1922, they have been a part of village life ever since and are proud of their unbroken record. The meeting started, as always, with a lusty singing of Jerusalem. Two members were celebrating special birthdays - Paddy Dean (her 90th) and Christine Yeoman (her 80th).

All enjoyed a delicious supper, glass of wine and birthday cupcakes. Then the hard work started ... each table was presented with an identical pack including newspaper, paper cups, pipe cleaners, sellotape etc and told to build a tall tower using all these components. At first this seemed impossible but surprisingly, seven precarious towers took shape. The winner was very high and named 'The Faulty Tower'! There was a competition for a Birthday Bonnet and the evening ended with puzzles and quizzes.



GREAT HARWOOD & DISTRICT WI had a wonderful celebration of the two-year anniversary of their reforming on 8 April. Newly elected President, Joyce Newton, joined by WI advisor Rosalind McEntee, welcomed everyone and led the evening. Members

enjoyed a fun evening with Su Ainsworth, President of Longton WI and a published author.

Su, a motivational speaker, has been travelling the country presenting seminars for the last 18 years. She regaled members with tales, tips and techniques to empower their lives. After the speaker, members were invited to raise their glasses to toast the anniversary and then tucked into some lovely cream cakes before getting down to discussing plans for the coming year.

HUTTON & HOWICK WI started their year with a 'Talking Tables' session on the proposed Resolutions, followed by tea and cakes. In February, Peta Allingham gave a fascinating demonstration on Chinese painting – she made lovely pictures with what appeared to be just a few brush strokes! Richard Catmore, the March speaker, gave an illustrated talk 'Painting the North'. After many members identified Lowry as the most famous painter in the north, Richard proceeded to show work by other artists who had known Lowry and in some cases been influenced by his work – each with a very individual style but influenced by their own locality in the north. Richard was an enthusiastic speaker and when asked if he himself painted, he showed some of his own work, which was much admired.

In April, speaker Rachel Sampara gave a fascinating insight into the lifecycle of honey bees, with a display of bee keeping equipment. She explained how she collects the honey from her own hives (one on the roof of a building in Liverpool!) and from a friend's hives. She answered members' questions and explained the importance of buying honey direct from producers as commercially produced honey contains other ingredients to bulk it up. A very informative and enthusiastic talk.



The Book Club had a day in Manchester, visiting Pankhurst House and Elizabeth Gaskell House – both very interesting and recommended to any small WI group. So far this year, the Walking Group has braved the elements on a local walk, visited Lytham Hall to see the snowdrops and walked around the lake and marina in a sunny but chilly Southport. They recently followed the Leeds/Liverpool Canal from Burscough, with a refreshing coffee at the Ring 'O Bells at Lathom and lunch at Burscough.



HOOLE WI puts the FUN in FUNdraising



*In sleepy Hoole, post noon on Mondays,
You may hear The Singing Hoolies.
We sing for fun & to lift our Spirits,
Rehearse to theme our Charity Do hits
Garden Parties in May, be it acre or hectare,
Grab your sunscreen & shades & pull up a deckchair.
Chat, laugh, feast....try tombola or raffle,
Buy plants, preserves, jamsWI in a nutshell!*

*Thank You For The Music at Summer Nights ABBA,
With retro vibe & Seventies clobber.
Meatballs, Swedish bites, quiz & a raffle,
Prizes galore, well themed indeed.
Most treasured....the booby...Yes, t'was a swede!*

*As Autumn falls a fashion Show called,
Thirteen glam models strut the catwalk,
Shun sized-zero, stick thin, embrace variety.
Our ladies rocked their fun personality,
Six once loved outfit changes, garments a-flying
... & flying the flag for sustainability!*

*November heralded Lancashire day,
A reet good do lass, only 10 pounds to pay,
For hot-pot, Ukulele fun, celebrating our roots.
One hundred revellers, grab your shawls, clogs & boots!*

*Singing Hoolies performed all to great acclaim,
with their signature sign off "we'll be back again!"*

Hoole WI Fundraising Sub-committee's mantra!

Community	
Home	Charity begins at home therefore, supporting local Charities!
Affordability Raising awareness & plenty of funds!	Ten pounds a ticket to include entertainment & refreshments!
Involved	Great to feel a part of and using special skills!
Togetherness	Bringing us all together socially!
YOU!	Can all get involved, something for everyone!



HOGHTON WI had a great evening with speaker Hilary McCuminsky, who gave members an insight into her duties as Wardrobe Mistress for Northern Ballet to ensure the smooth preparations

for a week of performances by a touring ballet company. Hilary was responsible for cleaning and repairing all the costumes and ordering the correct number of shoes for the dancers. She also created both costumes and headdresses and showed members how the beautiful tutus were made. As background to her talk, she had a wonderful display of photos, shoes, costumes and headdresses which members were able to handle and try on. She told fascinating stories, with humour, about guest dancers, such as Rudolph Nureyev, and their demands backstage. Whether you're a ballet fan or not, this talk will interest, educate and amuse your WI, making for an enjoyable evening.

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It seemed word had got around the local hedgehog community: if you are feeling poorly, or are troubled by fleas in your prickles, make

your way to a WI member's house. They will know what to do! Days after **LONGTON WI** enjoyed a presentation by the local Hedgehog Rescue, WI member Helen spotted a poorly hedgehog on her front path. She rang the charity and was advised how to pick up and care for the poor little creature until it could be collected by the rescue centre. Fast forward five months, and thanks to the care and dedication of volunteers at the Rescue Centre, Helen received the brilliant news that 'Len' had made a complete recovery. His weight in November was 233 grammes and was now a whopping 930 grammes! It is good practice to return healthy hedgehogs to the place where they were found, so Len was returned 'home' into Helen's garden, safe and well.

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LYTHAM BELLES WI's March meeting aimed to fulfil a well rooted principle of the WI – instil confidence in women so they can empower themselves and thrive.

The workshop was Chair Burlesque! Not only did members learn to exercise while sitting and making sure the right muscles were worked to increase mobility, but they also worked on increasing their fitness levels.

The workshop had three different levels of learning and exercise so all could participate appropriately for them. Furthermore, due to the nature of workshop, the boost of confidence was visible straight away. The participation was fabulous and laughter echoed throughout the hall.



PARBOLD WI had the good fortune to win one of the bursaries awarded in 2024. In April, they went by coach for a sightseeing tour of Liverpool. Using

the bursary to secure the services of delightful guide, Harriet, they met up with her at Albert Dock and she gave a fascinating commentary on the city, with insights into Liverpool's history and culture. Many were familiar with the city and there was a two-way exchange, as some of the members spoke about their memories of living and working there. For those from elsewhere, it was a real eye-opener to understand the landmarks of this great city.

During a stop at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral, Harriet explained the background to its construction and pointed out some of its interesting features. Members saw some more of the city, before returning to the Albert Dock, where they took advantage of some free time to explore further.

Members would like to thank LFWI for this wonderful opportunity, which all who participated thoroughly enjoyed.



A group of **RAINFORD WI** members decided to hold a coffee morning to raise funds for

the North West Air Ambulance. This was their first attempt at organising a fund raising event and at times it was quite stressful. They worked very hard, involved the rest of the membership and the local community also joined in. It was a great success and they raised a remarkable amount which will be presented to the North West Air Ambulance Service soon. They are already deciding their next event after a well-earned rest. They certainly have discovered new talents!

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Unfortunately, **SIMONSTONE WITH READ WI's** April meeting fell on Maundy Thursday, which meant that some ladies couldn't attend. However, nineteen members and four guests did go to the Old School for a most enjoyable evening listening to Melanie Latham who, having studied for a Degree in Criminology and Criminal Law, opted instead for a life making chutneys!

Listening to her talk about her beloved grandma in Sandbach and her failed attempt to obtain a Royal Warrant from Prince Philip at the Lowther Show was amusing and delightful. Whilst demonstrating how to make a spicy plum chutney, she talked about her embarrassment at forgetting she was only wearing her underwear under her apron whilst shopping for lemons at a late-night supermarket!

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SOUTHPORT SCARLETS

have had a very busy few months, with talks by members of The National Garden Scheme, a talk on the history of Southport Pleasureland and

another about working with the poorest in Goa. Their May meeting fell on VE day, so members dressed up with a prize for the best dressed member, held a buffet with 1940s themed food including jam tarts made with their allotment jam, and had a speaker who led a quiz on 50+ unusual vintage objects; members came up with some interesting ideas for their uses!



The Outings group has been to The Western Approaches Museum followed by a meal at Ma Boyles for her traditional scouse and an evening at the colourful Liverpool Borealis Show by the Albert Dock. They also visited Port Sunlight and the Walker gallery. Future months include a guided tour of Birkenhead Park, a trip to Hawthorne Nursery and a private tour and tea at a local NGS garden. The Dining group has supported Southport College Clouds restaurant, enjoying Jazz and American themed evenings with meals provided by the students. They have also eaten at The Great Himalayas, Thai Rice and JT Akshaya over the last couple of months, with plans to visit Dolce Vita next month. The cinema and theatre group have been to see numerous films at Vue and the retro Bijou cinema since the new year, along with productions of Evita and Brassed Off. The book club meets to discuss varied and interesting books monthly and the craft group donated handmade quilts to the Linus Project, and assisted with creating post-box toppers themed on International women's day and VE day. Southport Scarlets always have something exciting planned.



Danni Metcalf, a volunteer with Westmorland Red Squirrels, a protected species, spoke recently at **TATHAM FELLS WI**. She showed how their population has declined whilst the territory of Grey Squirrels has

increased since 1945. She also showed a heart-wrenching photo of a Red Squirrel with Squirrel Pox which it had caught from the greys. Not only do the greys, classed as vermin, pass on the pox, they also starve out the reds by eating all the food in the woodland. They also kill the trees by eating the bark and even eat birds' eggs. Danni said the only way to help the reds is to control the greys by contacting a warden, who will trap them, and by using squirrel-proof bird feeders. Future control measures are giving contraceptives to the greys and introducing pine martens which eat them. She displayed a nest box, made from recycled plastic, with the entrance hole only big enough for the tiny red squirrel.

WARTON CRAG WI's March meeting saw Count Nikolai Ilkovitch Vandehyra give a very interesting talk on 'Easter in Ukraine' (despite many faults with the computer/slide system). This only righted itself at the end of his talk, so many people had a chance to speak to him on a one to one basis.

Their April meeting was a talk on 'Female Agents in World War Two' by Deborah Swift. She spoke about her research on female agents for her books. It was very interesting with many questions asked.

So far this year, the WI has held two successful coffee mornings and a fashion show, raising substantial funds for their nominated charities.



This Spring the **WOMEN OF WOOLTON (WOW)**

enjoyed a guided tour of a Grade one architectural gem in their home city, the Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation Synagogue, which opened in 1874.

Many had passed it on the bus, but few members had previously visited.

Everyone's breath was taken away on first entering this Moorish style, Orthodox Synagogue with its Lapis Lazuli decorated roof and the stunning blue

dome above the gilded Ark.

The guide opened the Ark's doors and everyone was amazed at the stunning workmanship of the silver scrolls of the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. These were all handwritten on specially prepared parchment by a scribe. If a mistake was made, that panel was rewritten! The guide answered questions, ranging from wedding customs to seating arrangements, and showed everyone a table set traditionally for the Friday Night Sabbath Meal.

If you're planning to visit Liverpool, try to visit the Old Hebrew Congregation Synagogue – it's not far from the city centre.

www.princesroad.org



COALITION OF THE WILLING

This phrase has come to prominence in recent weeks, and what better way to describe the development of our Cluster Groups throughout the Lancashire Federation?

The aim of the WI is to "support women to learn, develop new skills and achieve their goals throughout their lives, building confidence and improving physical and mental wellbeing.

We are a unique organisation shaped by its members and give women a voice and the power to be a force for good in the community". (NFWI)

The success of the Cluster initiative is dependent on all our members engaging with this project. We can help and support each other at all levels through sharing information and best practice, perhaps hosting collaborative educational events and enjoying collective experiences.



Does your WI have any special qualities that would benefit our membership? Don't be bashful; let us know; blow your own trumpets and let's encourage and spread the wonderful wealth of knowledge that lies within the Women's Institute.

The Clusters will be dynamic as we learn how best to use them, but we can influence the future and positivity of the WI by working together.

Rosalind McEntee - ASHTON ON RIBBLE WI
AND WI ADVISOR

*Do you have a
favourite recipe?
Send it in for
inclusion in future
issues.*

RECIPE

ETON MESS PARFAIT WITH BERRY SAUCE

INGREDIENTS

- 284ml pot double cream
- 200ml pot Greek yogurt
- 4 small meringue nests, crumbled
- 150g strawberries, hulled and chopped
- 50g blueberries
- 2 tablespoons lemon curd or blueberry jam
- 100g raspberries and strawberries, halved for the topping

For the Sauce:

- 150g strawberries
- 150g raspberries
- 2 tablespoons icing sugar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

METHOD

1. Line 6 x 150ml ramekin dishes or 20cm springform tin with clingfilm.
2. Lightly whip double cream, then fold in yogurt, meringues and strawberries and blueberries until well mixed. Stir in lemon curd or blueberry jam to give a soft marbled effect.
3. Spoon into the ramekin dishes and freeze for three to three and a half hours until semi frozen.
4. Meanwhile make the sauce – tip the raspberries and strawberries into a food processor with the lemon juice and icing sugar and blend until a puree. Pass the sauce through a sieve to remove the seeds. Chill.
5. To serve the parfaits turn them out onto serving plates or cut large parfait into wedges, and remove the cling film. Arrange remaining strawberries and raspberries on top and drizzle with the berry sauce



These can be made with other fruits providing they do not discolour with freezing e.g. bananas. You can make them in advance and store in the freezer. Allow time for them to partially defrost before serving. The sauce can also be stored in the freezer in a separate container.



Do you have a story to share? See page 11 for important information about submitting editorial...



Flying Visits...

BOOTHSTOWN AND WORSLEY WI recently celebrated ten years with a party night at the local Marriott Hotel - making memories together.



FaB WI are just coming down to earth following the successful and well received outcome of their Pantomime, Cinderella, which had a cast of several members. They played to two audiences of 130 each and raised enough funding for a fabulous trip to the Wedgewood Museum and Trentham Gardens for all members.



LOWTON WI kickstarted their first meeting of 2025 with some Bollywood dancing for fun, led by Vivian Bentley-Eagles and a couple of her dancers. There was, needless to say, plenty of audience participation from members, who enjoyed a really fun evening. A cake sale was also held on the night which raised a wonderful amount for the North West Air Ambulance.

OVER HULTON WI ladies had a day out with a difference, arriving in style by train to the Parbold WI 'World Women's Day' afternoon tea. It was a very enjoyable event and a great opportunity to meet up with members from other WIs.



For their Easter meeting, **RAINHILL WI** held an Easter craft evening making covers for Creme Eggs.

QUERNMORE WI Committee members presented a donation to St John's Hospice in Lancaster which were the proceeds from an Afternoon Tea held for members and the local community.

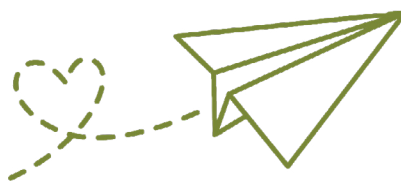


ST ANNES ON SEA WI ladies spent a beautiful afternoon with Jacqueline Iddon at her garden in Bretherton. Jackie did an Easter demonstration and everyone had a look round the gorgeous garden followed by afternoon tea. It's not their first visit but it gets better each time they go.



WADDINGTON WI members had an enjoyable evening when Ian Cheeseman - a BBC sports Presenter for 25 years - talked to them about his journey, from following his father's advice and becoming a bank clerk to being a hospital radio volunteer. This then led him to his dream job working for the BBC as a sports presenter. He shared stories of the many people he'd met and interviewed. His passion for sport showed clearly throughout the evening. Afterwards, Ian enjoyed a cup of tea and a slice of cake and was happy to answer questions. All were thoroughly entertained by an accomplished speaker.

In March, **WHITE COPPICE WI** members enjoyed a fascinating talk on traditional Indian weddings. The decoration, delicious food, fragrances and fun involved throughout the festivities were illustrated through a series of vibrant photos and video. To help set the scene, colourful saris were gracefully modelled by two White Coppice members, Jackie and Karen. In April, spring had definitely sprung as members enjoyed a container planting demonstration which covered plant pot options, compost selection and plant choices for Trinity Hospice. Everyone was entertained and these amazing ladies have raised a large amount of money. The committee made the afternoon tea.



NEWS FROM THE LFWI TEAMS

MAKE & CREATE

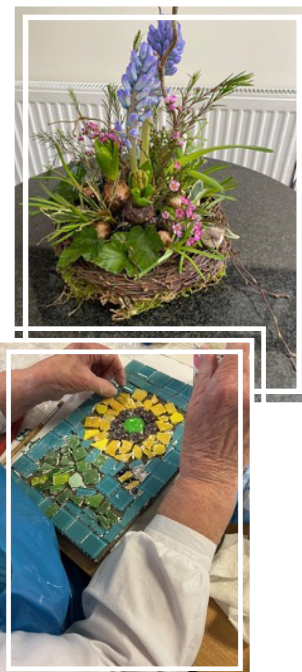
The new team, Make and Create, have been busy finalising courses for 2025 and are now working on a programme for 2026. Thank you to all of those who returned our questionnaire; those returns are forming the basis of the future programme.

Our first session this year was on February 28th making mosaics with Chrissy Webster. The class was over-subscribed, so we know it's a popular topic. The photos show 'work in progress' and some really creative designs.

Our next session was Spring Floral Arrangements with Lynn Stott on Friday 11th April. Lynn was a fantastic inspiration to the group and some beautiful arrangements left the room on that day. We are told the arrangements still look very beautiful.

For the rest of 2025, we have a day on September 9th making Bramble Bear with Sarah Wilkinson, a day of slow stitching with Linda Colclough on October 9th and, to finish the year, a Christmas patchwork with Debbie Northin on November 8th. Please keep a look out for booking the courses.

The sun is finally here as we write this. so that will certainly improve our spirits and improve the creative vibe! Have fun.



INFORMATION FROM YOUR RESOLUTION CO-ORDINATOR

WHERE ARE WE UP TO IN THE RESOLUTION PROCESS?

The proposed Resolution for 2025 is 'Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers'. The proposer is calling on members to work together to increase public confidence and training in the delivery of CPR and to work with local organisations to help to improve access to defibrillators in their communities to give every person the best chance of surviving a cardiac arrest.

As part of the resolution journey, a discussion with your WI and use of the materials provided for you on MY WI was suggested. After discussion, your members will have decided how to vote. Remember- All WIs get one vote, FOR or AGAINST, the resolution or WIs could choose to give their link delegate discretion to decide how to vote after hearing the speakers and debate at the Annual Meeting, where the final votes were cast and decision made. The Annual Meeting took place on 4 June, and the result of the vote will be relayed back to WIs by your link delegate together with a report on the meeting.

NOW is the perfect time to be considering a new Resolution proposal from your WI. Is there an issue that one of your members feels passionate about? Could it make a positive impact on people's lives? If the answer is 'YES', then why not consider turning the issue into a Resolution proposal? Follow these five easy steps to help you decide:

1. Carry out some research on the issue; are there already actions in place/agency involvement/policies being formed? If yes, then the issue is probably already being addressed. If no, then consider a Resolution proposal.
2. Decide on an agency that could support you with your issue. (for example, the government, a charity, an agency).
3. Think carefully about what it is you want to change - being specific is key.
4. Check that you have the support of your WI members.
5. Any Resolution proposal must promote the WI's Strategy and Vision and meet the WI's Objectives.

If this is something that your WI is considering, please get in touch via the LFWI office for any support you need. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Janette Sharp

Resolutions Co-ordinator



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 the following editorial guidelines:

- Take note of the submission deadline - items for the next newsletter must reach us by **Thursday 26 June**.
- 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.

NEXT ISSUE:

The next issue is due for publication in week commencing Monday **4 August**. As well as your WI news, we would particularly welcome the following items:

- Recipes.
- A quiz for readers to complete (please provide the answers so that we can publish them in the following issue).
- 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.

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.



QUIZ

SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER PICKETT, RIBBY WITH WREA WI

The following definitions will lead to words containing the letters 'wi' in that order and adjacent to each other.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Strong string of 2 or more strands | 11. Something disappointing; a mild swindle |
| 2. Jumper and cardigan combo | 12. Hold and use a weapon |
| 3. Having experience and deep understanding | 13. A famous Oscar |
| 4. Time before night when it is not completely dark | 14. Three birds found in the UK |
| 5. An opening fitted with glass in a frame | 15. Three big stores in the UK |
| 6. Deceive or trick | 16. An uncultivated and inhospitable region |
| 7. Having a feeling of regretful longing | 17. A party game of physical skill |
| 8. Shrivelled or wrinkled with age | 18. A sudden sharp localized pain |
| 9. A flightless New Zealand bird | 19. To fidget or play with something |
| 10. Yet to be paid | 20. English musical chameleon |

Find the answers on the next page...





It is with great sadness that the Editorial Team heard about the death of longstanding former member, Julie Gudgeon. Julie's positive, can-do yet unassuming, supportive attitude, was highly valued by the team. Her speciality was crafting, and for a while she wrote regular articles for the Lancashire Hotpot Crafter's Corner. There was much more to Julie than met the eye, and In 2021 she became the subject of a Lancashire Hotpot 'Inspirational Women' feature. A former Woman Police Constable, one of only three in Chorley, Julie married Tony, a Police Officer, and they took up several postings together across Lancashire. Upon becoming pregnant with her first daughter, Julie had to give up her police career but that didn't stop her making a contribution to her community through the girl guiding movement, a lifelong passion, providing opportunities for generations of young girls whilst taking up opportunities to learn new skills herself and to travel the world. After her retirement from guiding, she remained a staunch member of the Trefoil Guild and continued to attend events and residential. A talented crafter, Julie's specialities included painting, quilting, knitting and stitching and she was often called upon by her local WI, **LATHOM WI**, to demonstrate or help out with crafting projects. Julie will be very much missed and we send our condolences to her two daughters, wider family and her many WI and Guiding friends.

BANKS WI are very sorry to inform readers that Ann Littleford, a much loved and long-standing member passed away on 22 March 2025.

HALEWOOD WI were sad to learn of the passing, after a long and painful battle, of 'our Jean' - Jean Beck - who was a longstanding member and a lovely, outspoken Welsh lady who never forgot her roots. All members miss seeing her walking everywhere in Halewood with her rucksack on her back, never accepting a lift. Her crafting skills were a thing of beauty, and she always had a crocheted blanket on the go. Goodnight, God bless.

It is with great sadness that **WARTON CRAG WI** announce the death of Angela Singleton. She was a very active member and committee member for many years. She bravely fought her battle with cancer and will be truly missed by all.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Twine, 2. Twinset, 3. Wise, 4. Twilight, 5. Window, 6. Hoodwink, 7. Wistful, 8. Wizenod, 9. Kiwi, 10. Owing, 11. Swizz, 12. Wield, 13. Wilde, 14. Swift, peewit, twite, 15. Wicks, Wilco and John Lewis, 16. Wilderness, 17. Twister, 18. Twinge, 19. Twiddle, 20. Bowie

Scarlet Corner

MAKE EVERY MINUTE COUNT

I was listening to a podcast about Grace Darling. If any of you don't know who that was, she was a lighthouse keeper's daughter who rowed a lifeboat through a storm when there was a ship in trouble. A heroine. She lived in the lighthouse, which was on an island, with her family. What stuck with me about this was that her father had told her that she should never do anything that was not of use, and this included frivolous things like reading.

It got me thinking about how much time I waste during my day, how much time I spend doing nothing or worse things like doom scrolling on social media. I always complain that I never have enough time to do everything and this is perhaps the reason why.

Spring is here, so for May I have challenged myself to a 'Make Every Minute Count May', no prevaricating, no sitting round doing nothing, definitely no scrolling through my phone. I can spring clean, make more of an effort with a vegetable garden, write more.

And ... it's hard. It is hard to be always doing something. Apparently, it takes five seconds to decide if you are going to do something or not, so I have started taking myself by surprise and just standing up to see what happens. So far, it's working. Things are getting done. Perhaps this might spill over into June.

Emma Gillinder - **TARLETON WI**

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

EDITORIAL TEAM

Pam Aspden - Bretherton & Croston WIs

Emma Gillinder - Tarleton WI

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR ISSUE 4

Thursday 26 June

Email: editorial@lfw.org.uk

