

# Cambridge WI News

APRIL 2024

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## Chair's Chat

Hi everyone

Its sub's time again!

I know £48 is a lot of money, especially as we have to pay it all in one go – but I firmly believe that we get an awful lot for our £48 and it's great value for money.

As a quick reminder: we get 11 (or 12) monthly WI meetings, many with speakers PLUS an opportunity to book coffee mornings, lunches, trips and workshops here at the Federation PLUS access to free courses on the NFWI Learning Hub and WI Life magazine. Not to mention the fact that we are part of the largest women's organisation in the country with an opportunity to get involved in resolutions and the many WI campaigns .... And its all for £4 a month.

This month I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Council Meeting in Comberton (22 April – tickets still available). We are planning a fun evening, starting with a talk by local author and broadcaster Dr Giles Yeo which will include a chance to ask questions. This will be followed by a break to browse the stalls. We have refreshments, cakes, craft/haberdashery and a raffle – and the meeting will finish with reports from me and Valerie Ridgman our Treasurer. The Annual Report and the summary of our accounts have been sent to Secretaries. These are also available on our website [cambridge.thewi.org.uk](http://cambridge.thewi.org.uk)

If you have any questions about the reports please submit them to the office in writing, so we can respond prior to the meeting.

Don't forget to check out the new booking forms this month, a zoom talk on the proposed resolution, a workshop to make Morsbags and a coach trip to London for a tour of both Tate Galleries – to include highlights of the permanent collections. The coach will drop us at Tate Modern and pick us up from Tate Britain – with a short river crossing on the Thames Clipper between the two. Having our own guided tours will make the visit very special.

There are a lot of closing dates this month. I am really looking forward to Tolethorpe Summer Theatre. I haven't been before, but I have heard that it's a lovely event. It's not until July, when I hope the weather will be warm and sunny, but we need to get our payments to the venue in early April to secure our places. I'm also booking the progressive whist coffee morning, after the fun we had recently, at the Bingo coffee morning! You don't need to know how to play whist - there will be instructions (and it's just for fun).

I hope your Annual Meetings are going well. Don't forget to send us your Annual Report Form to let us know if your officers have changed, so we can update our mailing lists.

Happy Easter

*Sue x*



CFWI Office, Oakington Road, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0QH  
01223 234872 [office@cfwi.co.uk](mailto:office@cfwi.co.uk) [cambridge.thewi.org.uk](http://cambridge.thewi.org.uk)

Office open Monday and Thursday 10am-1pm and 1.30pm-3pm. Tuesday contactable by email only  
**The office will be closed for Easter on Monday 1 April**



Charity Reg No: 1099519 Company Reg No: 4811643

# Dates for your Diary

DATE	EVENT AND TIME	VENUE	CLOSING DATE
<b>APRIL</b>			
15	Literary Lunch with Nicola Upson - 12.30pm	CFWI Office	Closed
16	Resolution Meeting - 7pm	Zoom	11 April
20	Walk to Histon Wood and HQ - 10am	CFWI Office	29 March
22	Annual Council Meeting - 7pm	Comberton Sports and Leisure	2 April
26	Quilts Talk with Kay Goddard - 10.30am-12.30pm	CFWI Office	5 April
<b>MAY</b>			
8	Progressive Whist Coffee Morning - 10.30am	CFWI Office	17 April
18/19	Beginners Painting Weekend - 10am-4pm	CFWI Office	19 April
20	Quirky Cambridge Walk - 11am	Cambridge	29 April
<b>JUNE</b>			
5	NFWI Annual Meeting	Royal Albert Hall - In person observer ticket orders can be ordered directly via the Royal Albert Hall Box Office using this link <a href="#">Observers Tickets</a>	
11	Mors bag Making demonstration—11am-3pm	CFWI Office	20 May
18	Tate to Tate Tour	London	28 May
<b>JULY</b>			
13	Treasurers Training	CFWI Office	NBFY
20	Tolethorpe Summer Theatre	Stamford	5 April
24	Summer Lunch	TBC	NBFY
<b>AUGUST</b>			
3/4	Patchwork Weekend		NBFY
<p><b>Craft, Coffee and Chat sessions will be held on 9 &amp; 25 April in the WI Office 11am-3pm</b></p> <p>NBFY stands for no booking form yet. Booking forms can be accessed from the events page on our website using the following link <a href="#">view CFWI events here.</a></p>			

**200 Club Winner**  
 Congratulations to the winner of the March draw  
 Liz Parkes, Heydon and Gt Chishill wins £25.00

**CFWI Helpline for April**  
 Sue Smales

**Independent Financial Examiners  
 Contact Numbers**  
 xx

**April Closing Dates**

Annual Council Meeting	2 April
Quilts Talk	5 April
Tolethorpe Summer Theatre	5 April
Coffee Morning with Whist	17 April
Beginners Painting Weekend	19 April
Cambridge Walk	29 April
200 Club	30 April

## Public Affairs

### Resolution Result

The resolution results are in and the resolution going forward to this year's Annual meeting is:



#### Dental Health Matters

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

We will be holding a resolution evening by zoom on Tuesday 16 April where we will be joined by Gill Gauntlett who has spent 36 years working in general dental practice and the hospital service under NHS contract in England and Wales. Booking forms is with your secretary soon. NFWI are also hosting a webinar on Wednesday 24 April at 12 noon – if you wish to join make sure to register your interest via My WI.

Further resources to help your discussions can also be found on My WI.

#### Save the date: Clean Rivers webinar 19 April

On 19 April between 11am and 1pm, the NFWI Public Affairs team is hosting a webinar on the Clean Rivers campaign. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about what is happening on the topic of river pollution, hear from bathing waters campaigners, and find exciting new ways of taking action on the campaign

[Clean Rivers Webinar link](#)

## WI Bulb Scheme



Although many of you are probably only just thinking about your gardens for this year, we are already planning for next and we are delighted to announce that we will be running our successful Spring Bulb scheme again this year.

On line catalogues and information has already been sent to your secretary but hard copies can be collected at our ACM in April.

This scheme was very successful last year and we've had some really positive feedback - lots of colour already in many gardens with the bonus of supporting the WI.

Any queries please contact CFWI office.

### Not In My Name Competition

NFWI-Wales has launched a new competition for members to enter as part of its Not in my Name campaign. Established in 2012, Not in my Name aims to raise awareness about violence against women and involves WIs recruiting male ambassadors from their communities to make the White Ribbon promise to never use, excuse or remain silent about men's violence against women.



The 2024 competition is to 'Design a Mug' depicting the Not in my Name campaign to end violence against women.

The competition guidelines are available on My WI:

<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/wales/nfw-wales-campaigns-and-projects/not-in-my-name>

## CFWI Events

### Tate to Tate

Tuesday 18 June 2024

Cost: WI Members £70.00, Non Members £75.00

Closing Date: Tuesday 28 May 2024

Join us for a private tour of the Tate Modern including the permanent collections before boarding the Thames Clipper taking us to a private tour of the Tate Britain on Millbank Pier.

### CFWI Annual Meeting 2024

Comberton Sports & Arts West Street, Comberton

Monday 22 April 2024, 7pm

Cost: £10.00 pp

(Delegate tickets to be paid by WI)

Closing Date: 2 April 2024



Our speaker this year is local author and broadcaster Dr Giles Yeo, who is well known for his BBC2 series, Trust Me I'm a Doctor. There will be stalls, displays and a raffle.

Refreshments will be available in the break.

**Tickets still available**

### Literary Lunch with Author Nicola Upson

Monday 15 April 2024

CFWI Office, 12.15 for 12.30pm

Cost: £20.00 pp

Closing Date: 15 April 2024



#### Main

Sausage Plait or  
Mushroom, Onion and Parmesan Plait  
served with Spring Salad and Potato Salad

#### Dessert

Lemon Posset

### Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility

Tolethorpe Hall Open Air Theatre

Saturday 20 July 2024, 11.30am performance

Cost: WI Members £46.00, non members £51.00

Closing Date: Friday 5 April 2024

Performances take place on an open air stage set within an enchanting woodland glade.

Jane Austen tells the tale of the Dashwood Sisters and their contrasting approaches to life and love.

### A Morning with Kay Goddard

### Quilts made to raise funds for war effort in both World Wars

Friday 26 April 2024

CFWI Office, 10.30am-12.30 noon

Cost: £8.00 pp

Closing Date: 5 April 2024



Come along to a morning talk about quilts made to raise funds for the war effort during World War I and II as well as quilts made by Japanese prisoners of war. Refreshments of coffee & cake will be available.

### Coffee Morning with Whist

Wednesday 8 May 2024

CFWI Office, 10.30am

Cost: WI Members £6.00, non members £8.00

Closing Date: 17 April 2024



Join us for coffee and learn how to play whist. No experience or partner necessary. After each game winners move on to the next table and losers swap sides, so everyone gets to play with someone new. There will be a refreshment break during the morning.

## Beginners Painting Weekend

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 May 2024

CFWI Office, 10am-4pm

Cost: WI Members £80.00, Non Members £85.00

Closing Date: Friday 19 April 2024

If you would like to learn to paint, come along to this beginners painting workshop led by renowned Cambridge artist and art tutor, Denise Schoenberg. Participants will complete one painting on the first day and two on the second. Basic materials will be included in the cost.



## Morsbag Workshop

Tuesday 11 June 2024, 11am-3pm

CFWI Office

No Charge

Closing Date: 20 May 2024



Come and join our free morsbag making session run by our craft, coffee and chat group during the Great Big Green Week. Morsbags are strong reusable recycled, unique bags made from textiles.

For further information and booking forms please follow this link: [view CFWI events here](#)

## CFWI 200 CLUB 2024/25

Help us raise funds for CFWI and also give yourself a chance to win £25.00?

For £5.00 a share your name will be entered every month into our monthly draw, running from the start of May 2024 to the end of April 2025.

**You never know you might be a lucky winner!**

**GOOD LUCK**

WI members can buy as many shares as they choose and can either apply directly to the Federation or through their WI. Application form is with your secretary or available to download from our website.

## CFWI Report

### Jigsaw Challenge



What do you call people who do puzzles?

... A Dissectologist!

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February I trooped down to the Pavilion in Oakington to take part in my first CFWI Jigsaw Challenge not knowing what to expect. My first surprise was the number of WI members who arrived to take part.

As a member of Oakington WI knew that we had entered 3 teams, each containing 4 members. After coffee and biscuits, one of our committee drew our names out and the Oakington teams were duly formed.

500 piece puzzles were on each of the tables, all with the same image of the Houses of Parliament in the snow. At a given time we were instructed to all open our boxes and start 'puzzling'!



Our team sorted the pieces, sky, snow, buildings and skyline. We then decided to delegate different aspects – One member worked on creating the outer edges and then progressed to the sky, I worked on the skyline and then assisted with the sky, Another team member created the buildings whilst the last started with the snow. Imagine our surprise when our team finished first!

A lovely lunch of soup (Various varieties) were provided, together with a roll, followed by a choice of muffins. A really enjoyable morning – thank you CFWI. A converted Dissectologist is now eagerly looking forward to another chance to 'Puzzle' again.

**Linda Ward**

**Oakington and Westwick WI**

# Out and About



## BALSHAM W I

At our February meeting our speaker was Jan Cassidy with a talk about Women in Prison and how it affects their families and their mental health. Only 4% of the total prison population in England and Wales are women, which means that there is no need for many women's prisons in the country. The imprisonment of women who have committed minor offences have a wide variety of consequences for families and society. Jan's talk raised many questions and suggestions about ways to bring about better outcomes with less re-offending.

**Debbie Mower**

## CHRISHALL W I

Amanda Sutherland was an inspiring speaker for our February meeting. She told us that she had studied at the London College of Fashion and had a career as head buyer at the Royal Opera House. She also worked on musicals and theatre productions in London, creating ladies' period costumes for numerous films and television dramas and joined high end fashion designers. She showed us that by using and cutting up pre-loved ties, shirts, jumpers and t-shirts along with other items, it is possible to create new clothes. She brought along hats, neck warmers, scarves, tote bags and wrist bands that she had made.

**Jane Gravett**

## DUXFORD W I

Duxford's speaker for February was another we booked from a CFWI speaker showcase, Dr Caroline Shenton on 'Votes for Women! Art and the Suffragettes'. This was a very interesting talk with a PowerPoint slide presentation, which looked at the various types of artworks produced from and by both sides of the argument. The against ones could really make you cross at the lies and injustices put forward! Caroline was a clear speaker, held everyone's attention and provoked quite a few questions, which I feel shows good audience engagement.

**Lesley Hale**

## SWAVESEY W I

We started the New Year with an "Auction of Unwanted" in January. This proved to be a fun evening and raised £111.

In February, members enjoyed an inspiring talk by David Duker about his book "One of our Own", the remarkable story of Battle of Britain pilot, Victor Ekins M.B.E. D.F.C. An enthusiastic speaker, he gave us an insight into the mind of a very brave and respected man, who as one of Churchill's "Few".

**Deirdre Burgess**

## EAST CHESTERTON W I

At Christmas we once again gave gifts of toiletries to the local food bank rather than send Christmas cards. We got involved with our local community doing the refreshments when the mayor switched on the Chesterton Christmas lights.

In January 2024 Max Field told us about Hobson's Viaduct.

**Elizabeth May**

## HARDWICK W I

2024 looks to be a busy year with plenty of fresh ideas on the horizon. One idea already practised was a bell ringing session at St Clements Church.



Several teams took part in our annual village Quiz night – I am not saying who won but we all did quite well – really!

We continue to support the events organised by CFWI. In April we are providing a cake stall at the CFWI ACM which will raise funds for us.

**Naomi Roy**

## LANDBEACH W I

In February, fashion designer Amanda Sutherland made a return visit. Her subject, 'Make Do and Mend' was an evening dedicated to creative ideas. She demonstrated, that by browsing the charity shops we could use discarded material and other items to make skirts, dresses, and beach wraps. With a little ingenuity it was possible to produce headbands, fascinators, and tiaras for special occasions. She showed us an apron made by using the large triangular sections from men's neckties and a photograph of her daughter wearing a dress made for her school prom. Throw nothing away was her motto, as the smallest of materials can be used to make a pocket for a jacket or a skirt. After an interesting talk we were able to try on various accessories and make some unique purchases.

**Christine Ayres**

## HEYDON & GREAT CHISHILL W I

January and February are months when many of us want to curl up in front of the fire on dark evenings. As a result, our meetings take place in the afternoon. January saw us gathering in the village hall to partake of a delicious ploughman's organised by the committee. It gave everyone a chance to chat and come together after the Christmas break. Just to make sure we had something to talk about, there was a quiz. In February we had a talk about medical detection dogs. It is truly amazing the capabilities of these dogs and how important they are. Truthfully our best friends. (Sorry to all cat lovers.)

One of our members asked how the dogs knew not to rush round in a social gathering and tell people that they are ill. Answer: Dogs are taught when to be on and off duty. I suppose it's obvious really. It was a very informative meeting.

**Ann Crawford**

## MELBOURN W I

Our first speaker for 2024 was Chris Lee of Men's Sheds, which might just possibly be described as a masculine Women's Institute! Started in Australia some 20 years ago, the British branch is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year.

Chris began by debunking some myths about Men's Sheds and stressing that the 'Shed' is not a building, but a concept. Firstly, Men's Sheds are not only for men, but a substantial number of Men's Sheds also have 3 or 4 female members, and they are quite likely to be called Community Sheds. Also, Men's Sheds are not located in sheds but occupy many different premises.

Members may be any age although they do tend to be mostly over 50 and they are not necessarily lonely people, but people who are looking for ways to use and share their skills. which are used in both personal and community projects. He explained that whilst women seem to prefer to chat face to face, men

appear to be able to communicate better shoulder to shoulder. Chris was an enthusiastic and inspiring speaker, and we thoroughly recommend him.

**Mavis Howard**



## STAPLEFORD W I

Ingenuity, calmness and resourcefulness were all displayed by our President, Susan Clark, and our Secretary and Treasurer Christine Wylde, when an hour prior to the start of our February meeting our speaker had to unavoidably pull out. Family members were quickly recruited and Graham Wylde, a philatelist, gave an interesting, illustrated talk about the life of a young girl, Maggie, as described in beautifully written letters to her father starting in 1870. These letters give a fascinating insight into Victorian life. Then Susan's daughter, Wendy Suter taught members the British Sign Language alphabet and we attempted to sign our own name and how to order a drink.



The Craft Cup was awarded to Jenny Wells at this meeting for her beautiful, knitted blanket.

**Joyce Dobson**

## THE SHELFORDS W I

We held our A.G.M. in early March and were delighted to welcome Susan Grossey. She told us of her journey to becoming a successful writer of Historical Fiction. Based in Cambridge, Susan has written seven historical crime novels, set in London in the 1820's and will soon publish five new novels set in Cambridge in the same decade. The first of these entitled "Ostler" introduces Gregory who is enjoying a quiet life of an ostler in a Cambridge coaching Inn, but soon gets involved in a life of intrigue and the murky world of crime in the town and gown, and behind the high walls of Cambridge colleges! Susan is an entertaining and excellent speaker.

**Rosemary Livings**

## PAPWORTH EVERARD W I

At our February meeting we had a visit from Naomi Wallen a dance teacher, talking about the History of Ballet. It had been suggested that we should enter into the spirit of the evening, and all wear a tu-tu, which would not have been very glamorous but would have made a lovely photo!

Naomi's talk was extremely interesting, she said it had initially been just men who performed and danced in a comical way. By the 1800's women became more involved, and the dancing became more graceful as it is today. She also explained about the making of ballet shoes and the strengthening that must be put in to support the ballerinas who dance on their toes. Altogether a very interesting and well attended evening.

**Naomi Wallen**

## THE CH'FORDS, ICKLETON & HINXTON W I

In February we had an excellent talk by Lucy Lewis, entitled LIGHTING THE FUSE – MY LIFE IN BOMB DISPOSAL. We learnt that Lucy trained at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and afterwards worked as a Bomb Disposal Officer with the Royal Engineers, becoming the UK's first female bomb disposal expert. Later she served with the Royal Military Police in Germany and Northern Island, retiring with the rank of Major. Since 2018, Lucy has worked for the University of Cambridge as University Marshal, the first female to hold this post. Lucy gave us some wonderful anecdotes of life at Sandhurst, whilst working on bomb disposal and in her current position. It was a most entertaining evening!

*Jayne Greenwood*

## THE MORDENS W I

We started the new year with a taster session of carpet bowls at Steeple Morden Bowls Club. It was a very enjoyable evening, and we were invited back to try the outdoor rink in the summer. The village Busy Fingers group, some of whom are members of The Mordens WI, auctioned off the Coronation postbox toppers and donated the proceeds to a local charity.

*Joyce Hutley*



## HISTON AND IMPINGTON W I

We were entertained by Peter Hains who gave the second part of his virtual tour of Literary Cambridge. The first part was enjoyed last year. It gave us a fascinating insight into the lives and peccadilloes of the literary giants who had studied at the various colleges we encountered on our virtual walk. We were in turn amazed, amused and at times horrified by the lives of the alumni described. This was a first-class presentation given by someone with a wealth of knowledge and an excellent way of imparting it.

*Mary Law*

## BARTON W I

Kate Osborne's talk, "Suffolk Shingle: Treasures and Trash". Treasures meant items belonging to the legions of creatures which inhabit our coasts. She showed many examples, including a section of a baby woolly mammoth's tooth. Trash means the mountain of rubbish, most of it plastic. We saw some horrifying examples. Kate urged us to avoid plastic and to seek alternatives. We should take our rubbish home and do a 2-minute litter pick. Beaches can have hidden dangers and we should always allow wildlife plenty of space. Kate's talk raises awareness of efforts we should all be making.

*Ann Killen*

Thanks for all your reports this month.

Please keep articles to approximately 100 words.

Items for the May newsletter to [office@cfwi.co.uk](mailto:office@cfwi.co.uk) by

Monday 8 April 2024.

## Upcycling Talk

I was not sure what to expect when I went to the Upcycling talk so I looked the word up on Wikipedia.

"Upcycling, also known as creative reuse, is the process of transforming by-products, waste materials, useless, or unwanted products into new materials or products perceived to be of greater quality, such as artistic value or environmental value".

Dimitra Frangos certainly does all of this and much more! Dimitra brought an amazing selection of items she has upcycled, ranging from scarves to wrap presents to upholstering dining chairs with three different types of fabric, to upcycled lampshades and making floor cushions from upcycled fabric then stuffing them with old duvets. She makes re-useable cards from card stock and fabric motifs and includes a handwritten note on the back urging the recipient to upcycle it by sending it on to someone else. Dimitra always makes a delicious Greek Prayer Cake to take to all her talks for her audience to enjoy, you will not be surprised to know that there was nothing left to upcycle!

*Sally Kingman*

## WI Learning Hub

The range of courses at the WI Learning Hub will give you the freedom and control to learn anywhere. For April, why not get to grips with your finances with our on demand courses: [Managing My Money](#) and/or [Understanding Mortgages](#) with Open Learn. You could also take part in [Seated Strength Building](#) or get started on learning a new language: [Chinese](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Italian](#) and/or [Spanish](#).

Take me to [the WI Learning Hub](#).

**Sign-up to the new WI Learning Hub Newsletter to be kept up to date, weekly, with new courses, projects and activities.**

[WI Learning Hub Newsletter](#)

Please note that for the WI Learning Hub links to work, you will need your email address to be registered on MCS.