

Cambridge WI News

DECEMBER 2024

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

Chair's Chat

Welcome to a bumper edition of our newsletter. It's been a busy couple of months in the WI office, setting up our **new on-line events ticketing system** and I am pleased to report that the sales of the first two events have started well. Don't forget that members and secretaries can still drop into the office with booking details and cheques or send them in by post – and there is a new option - to call the TicketSource box office on 0333 666 3366 and pay over the phone. Let us know if you have any difficulties booking events.

We have also registered the Federation to be part of the **NFWI Weekly Lottery** – which means that we get 40p from every £1 lottery ticket bought using the Cambridge Federation link – and you get the chance to win £25,000. I am delighted to see that we have already sold 40 tickets and there have been three winners of 3 extra tickets each after matching 2 numbers. Thank you to everyone who is supporting this initiative.

Next, I want to say a huge thankyou to everyone who has supported our **Dental Health Matters Christmas Tree project**. I can honestly say that we have been “blown away” by the generous donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste and homemade bags. This has been a great way to get behind this year's resolution. See pictures on page3. Just to keep us focused and busy – **the resolution options for next year** have already been circulated. There are four to choose from, so I expect there will be some lively debates in your WIs over the next couple of months. See page 3 for details.

The other news from NFWI in November was the **£3 rise in our subs for 2025/26**. In April 2025 we will be

paying £51.00 for our annual membership of the WI. Half of this increase will be kept by WIs and the other half is split between the Federation and NFWI.

I know that there are a lot of competing pressures for our hard-earned cash – but I hope you feel your WI is worth it! It works out to be less than £5.00 per meeting for 11 meetings. Your subs also help to keep the Federation running and provide all the activities we offer members. I know some of our coach trips are quite expensive– but we also offer social events such as coffee mornings and talks which are more affordable. And if you really want to take maximum advantage of your membership, I suggest you sign up for one of the many online courses on the Learning Hub which are **FREE** to members.

I would like to run a feature about the **Learning Hub** in a future newsletter – so if you have used it, please could you send a couple of sentences to the office – sharing your experiences/courses you have enjoyed.

We have lots of events in the pipeline for 2025. We are finalising our plans for the **Annual Council Meeting on 28th April 2025** - see page 7 for information about the speaker and an invitation to WIs to apply to run a stall.

Next year we are planning to continue with some of the favourites: Tolethorpe summer theatre in June, CFWI Quiz in September and another Cambridge walk with guide Murray Jacobs. We also have some new ideas: a Swishing event on 15 March (more details on page 4) a trip to Voulez Vous Abba Tribute/lunch on 30 April and a Race Day in July. I hope I have sparked your interest – dates and costs are being finalised. Watch out for Save the Date information in the Newsletters and Events Diary mailings. On 2 December we start bookings for the very popular Jigsaw Challenge and a visit to the Cambridge Collection in central library.

Merry Christmas – I hope you enjoy your WI festive meetings.

Sue x

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office@cfwi.co.uk

cfwiwebsite.thewi.org.uk

ticketsource.co.uk/cfwi

cfwilottery.co.uk

Office open Monday and Thursday 10am-1pm and 1.30pm-3pm. Tuesday contactable by email only
Christmas closure 12.30pm Monday 23 December until 10am Thursday 2 January



Charity Reg No: 1099519 Company Reg No: 4811643

Dates for your Diary

DATE	EVENT AND TIME	VENUE	CLOSING DATE
DECEMBER			
6	Festive Coffee Morning - 10.30am -12 noon	CFWI Office	Closed
9	Holkham Hall Candlelight Tour	Holkham Hall	Closed
8	Christmas Celebration with Brunch - 10.30am - 1pm	Oakington Pavillion	1 December
JANUARY			
16	Swan lake	Sadlers Wells, London	Closed
21	Winter Warmer Lunch- 12.15 for 12.30pm	CFWI Office	3 January
25	Mosaic Knitting Workshop 10am-12.30pm	CFWI Office	Waiting List
FEBRUARY			
12	The Cambridgeshire Collection - 11am	Cambridge Central Library	22 January
24	Jigsaw Challenge - 10am for 10.30am	Oakington Pavillion	3 February
MARCH			
3	Air Fryer Talk - 10am - 12pm	CFWI Office	TBC
4	Pancake Day Coffee Morning - 10.30am-12.30pm	CFWI Office	14 February
15	Swishing Evening - 10am-1pm	CFWI Office	TBC
APRIL			
2	Spring Lunch		TBC
28	Annual Council Meeting - 7pm	Comberton Sports & Arts	TBC
30	Voulez Vous Abba Tribute Lunch and Show	London	TBC
JUNE			
4	2025 NFWI Annual Meeting	Virtual	
23	Bingo Coffee Morning	CFWI Office	TBC

A Craft, Coffee and Chat session will be held on 10 December in the WI Office 11am-3pm
 Events in bold are new on TicketSource this month. TBC stands for to be confirmed. Further information can be accessed from the events page on our website using the following link [view CFWI events here.](#)

CFWI Helpline for December
 Sally Kingman
January
 Sue Smales -
Safeguarding Officer
 Lesley Challands

Independent Financial Examiners
 Anne Bullman Ann Fletcher Val Neather
 Valerie Ridgman

200 Club Winners
 Congratulations to the winner of the
 October draw
 Eileen Murrell - Heydon & Gt Chishill WI
 and the
 November draw
 Jean Osborne—Pampisford WI
 Both winners receive £25.00

Public Affairs

STAGE 3 SELECTIONS

The shortlist of resolutions has now been published on the NFWI Website, My WI and WI Life.

1. Let's talk about incontinence
2. Bystanders can be life savers
3. Join the repair revolution
4. Eliminate landfill of medication packaging

Please let your secretary know your vote.

Secretaries please email votes to the WI Office by Monday 10 February 2025

The Little Book of Big Scams

Nigel Sutton, Fraud & Cyber Security Advisor from Cambs Police gave a very interesting talk at the recent CFWI Coffee Morning. He recommends reading a useful booklet 'The Little Book of Scams' produced by the Metropolitan Police to make you aware of the latest and most prolific scams.

The link goes to the Cambridgeshire Police public website, so if you are not happy clicking on the link, then you can visit the Cambs police website and search for the document that way.

[The Little Book of Big Scams – 5th Edition \(cambspolice.uk\)](http://cambspolice.uk)

Dental Health Matters

Our Dental Health Matters Campaign has gone from strength to strength and we cannot thank you enough. We have had so many donations of toothbrushes and toothpaste - our Christmas tree will look amazing!

This week members made gift bags for the tree and we will shortly be decorating it. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made bags – it was a fun session

We are still collecting - all donations will be going to worthy causes throughout Cambridgeshire as we spread our dental message so please get involved if you can.



Christmas Movie Quiz

Just for fun!

1. In Home Alone, where are the McCallister's going on vacation when they leave Kevin behind?
 2. Who plays the Grinch in the 2000 live-action movie How the Grinch Stole Christmas?
 3. In It's a Wonderful Life, what happens every time a bell rings?
 4. Which British singer sings the song "Christmas Is All Around" in the film Love Actually?
 5. What is the name of the department store in Miracle on 34th Street?
 6. In The Holiday, who plays the two women who swap homes?
 7. Who plays Ebenezer Scrooge in The Muppet's Christmas Carol?
 8. In The Polar Express, what is the first gift of Christmas?
 9. In White Christmas, what are the names of the two sisters who sing the famous "Sisters" song?
 10. What does Clark Griswold plan to use his Christmas bonus for in the film National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation?
- (Answers page 5)

CFWI Events

Events are available to book on TicketSource using this link:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/cambridge-federation-wi

Members who prefer not to make a booking on-line will have two other options.

TicketSource Telephone Box Office Service – by calling 0333 666 3366 or

By Post - Cash or cheque sent to the CFWI Office with written contact details.

Visit to the Cambridgeshire Collection

Central Library, Lion Yard, Cambridge

Wednesday 12 February 2025, 11am

Cost: £6.00

Closing Date: 22 January 2025

Cambridgeshire County Council's Local Studies is home to major collections of material from across Cambridgeshire.

During the visit we will be looking at some of the collection and having a guided tour of the archive store.

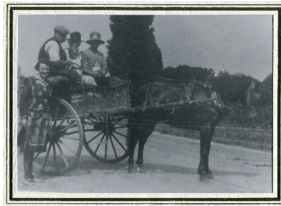


Photo from 1920s. Copyright G Pilbeam

[TicketSource Link](#)

Booking starts Monday 2 December

Jigsaw Challenge 2025

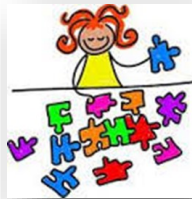
Oakington Pavillion

Monday 24 February 2025

10am for 10.30am start

Cost: Members only £11.00

Closing Date: 3 February 2025



Gather a team of 4 friends from your WI and come along to take part in our annual Jigsaw Challenge - to see who can complete the picture first. No snow this year! You will be welcomed with tea and coffee from 10.00am. A light lunch of soup and bread, followed by a muffin, will be served at about 12.30pm, when all puzzles are completed. A small prize will be awarded to the members of the winning team. Why not bring along your old tried and tested puzzles to swap with other members on the day.

How to Book: If you have a team of 4, the lead booker can book for everyone. Alternatively the lead booker can let the team know their table number and you can all book separately. If you don't have a full team you can still book - and other jigsaw enthusiasts can book seats at your table to make up a 4.

[TicketSource Link](#)

Booking starts Monday 2 December

Swishing Event

CFWI Office

Saturday 15 March 2025

10am - 1pm

Cost: £2.50 WI Member Non WI £3.50

Save the date

Never heard of swishing?

The idea is we all search out and **donate any new/nearly new clothing/handbags/hats**. We then sell your donations on to other lucky ladies, to enable all to look and feel Fab-U-Lous!

Please all start sorting through your wardrobes.

Donations can be dropped off at the WI Office in Girton from **17th February until March 10th** and collections can be arranged .

Please ensure all items are washed and ironed, this will make them look their best at the sale.

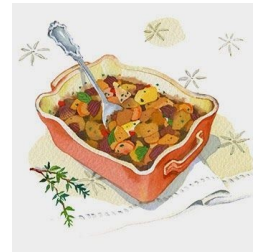
Winter Warmer Lunch

CFWI Office

Tuesday 21 January, 12.15pm for 12.30pm

Cost: WI Member £20.00 Non WI £22.00

Closing Date: 3 January 2025



Join us for a lovely warming lunch of
Pork and Pear Cassoulet or
Mushroom, Butternut Squash and Pear Cassoulet
with Boulangère Potatoes. Green Beans and Spinach

Dessert

Sticky Toffee Pudding with Ice Cream

Followed by tea and coffee

[TicketSource Link](#)

Christmas Celebration with Brunch

Oakington Pavilion

Monday 16 December, 10.30am-1pm

Cost: WI Members £15.00 Non WI £18.00

Closing Date: 1 December 2024



Join the Federation Players and Combined Activities Committee for a morning of festive readings, singing and delicious food.

Still time to book

CFWI Quiz 2024 Winners



Our annual WI quiz was held at a new venue this year - Cottenham Village Hall. It was a great evening and very well attended. Well done to all the participants and congratulations to Swavesey1 for getting the highest score. Their prize? Setting the questions for next year!

Gamlingay Christmas Sale



Gamlingay took part in the Christmas Sale at The Hub and raised £50 for charity.

CFWI WINTER FUNDRAISING QUIZ

QUIZ

We know how much you all like a quiz - and as it's a long time to wait until our quiz event in September - we are selling a Winter Quiz to keep you entertained while also raising funds for the Federation. The quiz sheets will cost £1.00 and will be sold at all our winter events. There will be a first prize of £50 and 2 runner up prizes of £10 each.

Christmas Quiz Answers:

1. Paris
2. Jim Carrey
3. An angel gets its wings
4. Billy Mack (Bill Nighy)
5. Macy's
6. Cameron Diaz and Kate Winslet
7. Michael Caine
8. A silver bell from Santa's sleigh
9. Betty and Judy Haynes
10. A swimming pool



PLAY THE CAMBRIDGE FEDERATION LOTTERY

The WI Lottery is an exciting weekly fundraiser drawn every Saturday Night. Play the lottery and support the WI with 40p from the sale of each ticket coming back to the Federation.

Tickets cost just £1.00. Each ticket has a **1:50 chance** to win a prize each week, with a top prize of £25,000.

www.thewilottery.co.uk/support/cambridge-federation-of-wis



CFWI Reports

Sashiko Workshop

On Saturday 2nd November a group of WI ladies met at CFWI headquarters to learn Sashiko. We were taught by Margaret who started the session with a very interesting talk on the history of what Sashiko was. She then distributed kits for us to have a go. I was most impressed that we all managed to produce a sampler with at least two designs. We then went home with instructions on how to finish our sampler. I think we all felt that we had learned a new skill and would continue to use it on other pieces.

Thank you Margaret for a lovely day.

Jean York, Gamlingay WI



Literary Lunch with Gytha Lodge

On Tuesday, 22 October myself and two other members of my WI arrived at Landbeach Village Hall to find the hall filling up with eager diners/listeners. We had a very enjoyable lunch of bacon-wrapped Boursin chicken or mushroom rarebit with new potatoes and vegetables followed by a wonderful plum and blackberry pudding with lemon cheese. The preparation of the food and getting it to our tables is an enormous task and was very slickly done!

After lunch we were introduced to Gytha Lodge who is a local author, living in Cambridge. She read English at the University of Cambridge before going on to the University of East Anglia to study Creative Writing.

She wrote her first book at the age of 14 which she submitted and although it was turned down, a personal telephone call encouraged her to keep writing and go back to them in a few years! This she did and eventually obtained an agent and then a publisher. She now publishes her books under Penguin. Before she got to that stage, she got involved in drama and writing for the stage and screen as well as for video games. Her marketing skills enabled her to produce the synopsis that would sell her story to the publisher. She has been encouraging and helping others to hone this skill to get themselves noticed by publishers.

Her talk was very informative about the journey of a 'budding' writer and her informal, relaxed talking style made her easy to listen to. At the end of her talk, she invited questions from the floor before inviting us up to purchase her books, signed by the author, which many of us did!

It was a great afternoon

Joan Dearman, Chrishall WI



Phone Camera Workshop

An inquisitive group of Members gathered together to learn how to make best use of the cameras on their phones. As with many of today's technologies we all use just a small fraction of the facilities available. Our tutor Ian Olsson taught us how to select our subject and make a good composition, and how to use the optimum exposure to get the best results. We learned that there is so much to think about when taking a photo. We came away with lots of tips to improve our photography!



After a refreshing break we moved on to photo editing and learned how to use the numerous features we hadn't noticed on our phones before!

Christine Wyde, Stapleford WI

Off the Beaten Track Walk

Despite the less than promising weather forecast, an enthusiastic group of WI members enjoyed another tour of Cambridge 'off the beaten track'. Our guide was great fun to be with and very knowledgeable about Cambridge's history. We started at Great St Mary's church and made our way to the University Library taking in a number of interesting sites, many associated the various colleges on route. One quote, by Germaine Greer regarding the library is 'Cambridge University Library is probably the ugliest building in Cambridge, but those of us who regularly use it love it very much. To us, it's undeniable ugliness is as irrelevant as the warts on the face of a beloved mother'. Our guide pointed out many things I have previously walked passed and not noticed - but will be much better informed in the future.



Christine Wyde, Stapleford WI

Learn to Play Bridge for Fun

It was good to do something a bit different. When I signed up to this short course, I had no idea what to expect. There were 15 of us at the first session and Terry, our tutor, had us playing cards almost immediately. We were all novices - but we were playing very basic Bridge by the end of the first session. By the end of the second session, we were starting to score our games and getting competitive. I certainly feel like I can play at a friendly level - now I just need to practice!



Sue Smales, Linton WI

CADBURY'S MAGICAL WORLD

It certainly was a day choc-full of fun and chocolate when 30 expectant members took a trip to Cadbury World in Bournville, the village created around a factory in a city with the intention of bringing the sweet delight to humanity. It all began with drinking chocolate, devised by John Cadbury in 1824; this delicious innovation gave rise to the business empire of today, taken forward from around 1861 by sons, George and Richard. From the beginning, working conditions were good and wages relatively high. Every aspect of the health and welfare of their employees was paramount.



This and much more of the history of the phenomenal place known as Cadbury World was learned from the guide who joined members on a coach trip around Bournville. This came after a day of indulgence enjoying all that chocolate can reveal.

We had journeyed through the Aztec rainforest of the Mayan Indians, discovering the origins of the cocoa bean, amidst trees and waterfalls, deep in the ancient tropical rainforest, where the cocoa tree was the mainstay of their culture and the Aztec Emperor's favourite drink was 'chocolatl'. When the Spanish conquistadors landed in the 16th century, Hernan Certez realised Europeans would also relish these cocoa beans. Cocoa came to our shores.

Then a trip along Bull Street in Victorian times, where we met Quaker entrepreneur John Cadbury in his tea dealer shop, and learned how the business began. We viewed some of the original Cadbury products then ventured back into the twenty first century on a Cadbury car ride collecting all the ingredients to make a Dairy Milk bar. We travelled with Fredo and his team of monkeys through 3D sets and screen to pick up the ingredients – which included water (from above)!

Accepting a chocolatey reward we then rode the Crunchie rollercoaster and dove into liquid Cadbury Dairy Milk! A 4D cinema screen took us along with Fredo and other Cadbury characters, complete with moving seats, to be entirely immersed in chocolate. Oh yes, can you believe it?! We took to the sky in a Cadbury Cream Egg piloted by the Caramel Bunny. Yes, we did!

A chance to smooth and pipe liquid chocolate appealed to the vaguely creative in me while the child in me loved every moment of this immersive, chocolatey experience. It was rounded off with a bag of chocolate misshapes and a few other bars! from the Cadbury shop that joined the chocolate bars we were already rewarded with after every stage of the adventure.

Afternoon tea then awaited us in the Cadbury World Café – not a piece of chocolate in sight – all accompanied by a cup of tea. CFWI events does it again! Thank you – and I have the picture to prove I was there!
Ruth Bond, Wednesday Women WI

CFWI Annual Council Meeting Announcement

Our Annual Council Meeting will be taking place at 7pm on Monday 28 April 2025 at Comberton Sports and Arts.

We are delighted to be welcoming **Lucy Lewis as our speaker**. She was the UK's first female bomb disposal expert and now she has her hands full with a new challenge – becoming the University's first woman marshal in its 809 year history.

Booking details for delegates and members will be released next month and we are inviting WIs contact us if they would like to run a stall.



Once again, we are offering WI's the opportunity to run a small stall (and make some money) at our Annual meeting in April.

If you are interested email office@cfwi.co.uk by Monday 17 February with details of your stall and we will be in touch.

Please note that we have limited spaces so we will be looking for a variety of stalls. In the event of being oversubscribed the final decision lies with the Board.

Cost to your WI: £20 a stall which includes one ticket to the Annual meeting.

Out and About



STETCHWORTH W I

At our October meeting we were delighted to welcome Liz & Guy Gibson who talked to us about their hobby of Beekeeping. They took it up about 8 years ago and now have 10 hives.

They brought a portable hive to show us the drones and, if we looked very carefully, the Queen Bee. Guy explained the dynamics of the hive and how the drones react to the Queens, what makes them swarm etc. Liz explained how different pollens produce different tasting honey. The honey which isn't palatable is given back to the bees to eat.

We were able to sample the honey and buy a jar or two. As the couple live locally in Stetchworth I'm sure they'll have lots of new customers now.

Lynn Curtis

HARDWICK W I

Our sub-group meetings continue with monthly Good Reads and Craft sessions. During the year, our members have been knitting or crocheting poppies, contributing to the display on the village sign. We have also been using bottle bases sprayed dark red – very effective. A big thank you to all those involved.



A large group of us are going to La Pergola to sample their menu. We choose local restaurants and give our own reviews. On the same theme the members are organising "in house" food for our Christmas meeting, hopefully tasting a few cocktails as well.

The annual Christmas Tree Festival takes place in early December, and we are putting together a display – the theme is Hardwick local history.

As usual some of our members continue to attend the events run by CFWI which are always great fun and good value.

Naomi Roy

BARTON W I

We had a fascinating and timely talk in September, when Jenny Jeffries talked about food and farming. She married a farmer and, experiencing the intensity of harvest at close quarters, realized that she, and millions of others, knew absolutely nothing about food

production. To rectify this, she has produced five books, two on British land produce, two on British sea produce and one on global produce. In each volume producers tell their personal story and include recipes using their particular products. A percentage of the sales' profits go to charity, notably the World Food Programme. Jenny encourages everyone to do what they can to improve the health of the planet. An entertaining and inspiring speaker.

In October, Sarah Harrison delivered her versified thoughts with verve and panache. She covered a wide range of topics, ranging from birthday presents to shipping forecasts, new motherhood, to the effects of aging on the human body and the bickering over the final bill for a meal out with girlfriends. In the persona of a grandma who would prefer a tattoo to an angora cardigan, her list of possible tattoos was mind boggling. Regarding aging she remarked that it was a pity that elderly skin couldn't just be ironed! Sarah is a lively and entertaining speaker.

Ann Killen

HISTON & IMPINGTON W I

In September, we held our first Flower & Produce Show following the guidelines of a traditional village show. There were many categories including the old favourites – wonkiest vegetable, flower arrangement in a jam jar and a Victoria Sandwich made to a given recipe. Elaine Bailey of the WI Craft and Cookery committee kindly judged the baked goods and David Smith, Head Gardener at Clare Hall, the vegetable and flower entrants. Points were awarded for the different placings in the categories and the overall winner with the most points was member Jackie Hodson. Jackie was presented with an Emma Bridgewater mug suitably inscribed.

In October, to celebrate our 97th birthday, about 40 members enjoyed a meal at the Tawa Lounge in the village set up by our committee. The meal was rounded off with a magnificent birthday cake, made by Helen our secretary.

Mary Law

BALSHAM W I

Our September meeting featured the inspirational Miles from Morgans Butchery as our speaker. Miles explained to us how having a stroke had impacted him and his career and how he has had to adapt to his limitations. He was unable to continue in his pre-stroke job but was still desperate to work. So, he went back to his first job as a butcher but started his own business. After a rocky start, and with the help and support of his family this has been a success. He then proceeded to show us how to joint a chicken (making it look so easy), and how many different dishes you can make from a large chicken other than just roasting it.

Several members vowed to make the trip to Baythorne Hall to visit his shop.

At our October meeting, Dr Gwenda Kyd delivered her talk on 'Incredible edible and drinkable plants'. We learnt about some of the chemical compounds in various fruits and vegetables we eat, and how they are good for us. And often better in conjunction with others. We also heard some of the popular old wives' tales about how some common vegetables came into being, as well as some historical facts about them. The talk was greatly enjoyed by all present.

Debbie Mower

CALDECOTE W I

Following a very lively and enthusiastic talk from The Prospects Trust at our April meeting, we arranged our summer outing to visit them at Snakehall Farm, Reach. The Trust is a meaningful work, skills and training provider for people (co-workers) with additional needs, learning disabilities or autism. It is sited on an 18-acre organic farm with multiple poly tunnels to grow organic produce. There is a farm shop on site to buy their produce and a shop in Ely.

Mark is the manager, and he showed us around the poly tunnels explaining how they rotate the crops for the best yield. We saw tomatoes, butternut squash, salad leaves, herbs and many more organic crops. We were even allowed to sample the tomatoes picked straight from the vine. Delicious! We then walked around a large field which had been seeded with wildflowers and planted with trees to encourage wildlife. They have 2 ponds on the field and a family of ducks are already in residence on one. Mark showed us how they have cleared a wooded area and placed tree trunks in a circle on the ground as a peaceful place to bring co-workers to enjoy the quiet and listen to the birds. Finally, we visited the farm shop and bought salad, fresh eggs, tomatoes, herbs and jams. It was a lovely morning walking around in the sunshine. The Prospects Trust has a lovely, relaxed atmosphere whilst doing very meaningful work.

Teresa Baffa

HEYDON & GREAT CHISHILL W I

At our August meeting we were entertained by Jacqueline Aviolet on the topic of "I am a tulip." This talk is really for the gardeners in the group. Jacqueline has the idea that we should all have a place in our gardens, window boxes or containers. To do this we could include a plant with our name into our garden spaces. She had done her homework and brought a plant name for each of our members. The format was amusing, and Jacqueline did supply three plants for our raffle.

September saw a return of "dessert island discs." several members volunteered pieces of music which they enjoy and said why. We had two refreshment breaks so that the desserts and cheese and biscuits could be sampled. A very pleasant evening was had by all. Thanks go to the music and pudding volunteers who, as usual, excelled.

October can be quite a grey month. Not so thanks to Hannah Apperley and her talk entitled "Faux flowers." She had brought along examples of beautiful autumn flowers and foliage. She gave a short talk on "floriography" or the language of flowers. Did you know that each month has its own flower? My April birthday is represented by a daisy. The type, colour and number of flowers in a bouquet all have their own meaning. Hannah went on to demonstrate making an arrangement which she then offered as a raffle prize. All agreed that, even if faux flowers are not to your taste, this was a really interesting and colourful evening.

Ann Crawford

PAMPISFORD W I

The September meeting was a flower arranging demonstration with autumn flowers and foliage gathered from the garden and a kind gardener in the village. Sarah explained the container was foam free, florist's tape placed on top of the container, crisscrossing to give support for the stems, The orange and yellow chrysanthemums blended well with the dahlias and rudbeckia. The arrangement was raffled. Our October speaker, Jill Hayden, explained the work of the John Huntingdon's Charity where she has been in post for 20 years. The charity was set up by John Huntingdon, a local landowner, in 1554. Seeing a lady in a field taking peas to feed her family made him realise there was a need to help the poor. He left his estate to his wife and when she died the trust was set up, including land and several properties creating an income for the charity.

Apparently, not all the past trustees have managed the affairs sensibly. These days the trustees are more carefully guided. The food bank serves the villages surrounding Sawston, usually in the Village College catchment area. Applicants are referred from schools, doctors or any agency that notice a family struggling. There are five members of staff; two administrators, a family support worker, a grants advisor, and one for works and pensions. Currently they are seeking to appoint an adviser.

Sarah Denham

THE MORDENS W I

At our Handicraft Evening in July, Di introduced us to slow stitching - making creations using any form of stitching to layer scraps of fabric without using a set pattern. We were soon engrossed and found this extremely relaxing.

We enjoyed our August Tea Party on a sunny afternoon in Ann's beautiful garden - as usual lots of tea, cake and chatter!

In September Donna Attis told us about her Smallholding Experience which her family began in 2010 in Arrington. Over the years they kept a variety of chickens, ducks, sheep, bees and an orchard. Donna explained how seriously they took the welfare

of their animals, and the huge amount of obligatory paperwork involved.

A very interesting and amusing speaker.

Joyce Hutley

CHRISHALL W I

In October we were given a talk by Iestyn Edwards. He made quite an entrance, having changed in an adjoining room and calling out questions to us from there. Those who saw him at a previous Speakers' Showcase will know about his bizarre appearance. He spoke about touring Iraq and Afghanistan as a military entertainer and a much-needed morale booster for the troops out there. He certainly entertained us! His talk was very funny, and he engaged us completely in his presentation. He is obviously very used to interacting with audiences and really enjoys doing so.

We had a busy October as we hosted a General Quiz, open to all. This was very successful, and we all had an enjoyable night of good company and a supper of baked potatoes, chili and salads. We also raised some funds for our WI.

Jane Gravett

STAPLEFORD W I

At our September meeting we enjoyed a harvest supper of lasagna, salad and garlic bread prepared by the committee. This was followed by delicious fruit crumbles submitted by members as entries for The Produce Cup. Our guest judge, Tony Smith, very much liked his role as he tasted them, and the cup was awarded to Pat Hughes.



In October our speaker, Brian Saddington, gave a highly informative talk about his 40 years' service in the Fire Brigade. As well as describing the training he received and some of the more serious aspects of his job, Brian provided some very entertaining anecdotes. He is a speaker we can strongly recommend.

I'll finish by wishing all WI members an enjoyable festive season and every good wish for 2025.

Joyce Dobson

MILTON W I

We have had a wonderful year with lots of activities and meetings with very interesting speakers. We continue to have coffee mornings and lunches monthly. When weather permits, we meet up for organised walks. It is always great to meet up with

members for a catch up between the meetings. The speaker at our October meeting was Iestyn Edwards with a talk titled "My Tutu Went AWOL". What an interesting life Iestyn has had. He spoke about his experiences entertaining troops in the Middle East and his experience while living in the camps with the troops. He was an entertaining and informative speaker.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas from Milton WI.

Lorraine North

MELBOURN W I

July was our annual Summer Party with an eclectic mix of music from members via a non-member 'Alexa'! Food was supplied by a local coffee shop.

In August some members attended the Hotters evening, Jackie (Manager) provided a buffet and a selection of drinks. Most people bought shoes. A good evening was had by all.

Our August speaker was Stephen, the current owner of Pinkster Gin, by his own admission, a great talker. He lived up to his reputation with many samples enjoyed by members.

Our September meeting speaker changed at the last minute. Bob Tulloch, a business partner of a member, stepped in. He spoke on AI, giving a history and its current capabilities. An interesting but slightly scary talk.

October saw us decorate baubles for the Meldreth Christmas Tree Festival. Our theme was 'Christmas Wishes' and members enjoyed the evening.

We once again put the poppies that were made last year on the village sign.



The Vicar asked us to help create a waterfall to hang in the Church, so members and locals began to knit, sew and crochet more. Four of us attached these over 4 days. The Vicar was very impressed with the creation. The President will be laying a wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

Gail Mcphee

DUXFORD W I

In August, Duxford WI had an afternoon cream tea at Café 19 in Duxford Community Centre. We reserved a section of the cafe just for us and had a lovely time sitting chatting to our present and some past members.

In September, Dr Mark Wormald, from Cambridge University and author of 'The Catch, Fishing for Ted Hughes', spoke to us about poetry, pollution and polemic in the battle to save the Cam in his talk, 'From The Water-Babies to The Iron Woman and beyond: chalk streams in culture and crisis'. Having the Cam running through our village sparked a wider interest and we had a few extra guests to this talk, which went down very well. It also fitted nicely with the NFWI's current resolution.

Lesley Hale

SWAVESEY W I

Our August Meeting found members enjoying a "Bingo Night"! A very well attended and fun session which proved lucky for some winning members who took home prizes!

Also, in August we held a very successful Cake Stall in the village and raised £450 with £128 raised for the Alzheimer's Charity. A big thank you to everyone who supported us.

At our September meeting we welcomed Fran Saltmarsh, who gave us a very informative talk on "History of Costume—the Roaring Twenties". She gave us a fascinating insight into this period of fashion and explained all the influences that brought about the changes in the way women dressed then. She also brought along a suitcase of various costumes; each piece had its own story! A delightful speaker and a very enjoyable evening.

Deirdre Burgess

LANDBEACH W I

Our October meeting was, for the first time, held at 2.30pm in the afternoon. One of our own members, Susan Edwards, was the speaker, reflecting on her times while serving as secretary to the Mayors of Cambridge. Leaving school at 15, she learnt shorthand and typing and was offered a job in the Mayor's office, where she stayed for 40 years. She would serve several Mayors during those years and was always extremely busy. There was never a dull moment, with all their travel arrangements and meetings at the Guildhall. She provided us with numerous interesting facts including how Cambridge gained City status in 1951 and the opening of the Lion Yard by Princess Anne in 1975. She had obviously enjoyed her work and we thoroughly enjoyed listening.

Christine Ayers

OVER W I

Following the unfortunate closure of Denman College, we have redirected the funding that was previously allocated for a bursary to support a member's course

attendance towards hosting our own workshops. We have explored a variety of crafts and interests, including felting and photography. Our most recent workshop focused on creating fascinators and corsages, where attendees enjoyed a delightful morning learning these skills.



Plans include felted picture making and CPR and defibrillator training. We have received numerous requests for a basic crochet workshop and would greatly appreciate any assistance in connecting with someone who could facilitate this.

We are continually seeking new and innovative ideas for workshops and would love to hear from individuals who have experience running similar events. Fresh ideas and useful contacts are always welcome!

Rachel King

CAM CITY W I



For our November meeting we were asked to bring fabric and scissors! Members then spent a most enjoyable evening making multicoloured wreaths. Committee members provided additional fabrics and rings to which strips of fabric could be tied. These could be used as Christmas decorations or adapted for any other festive events.

In addition to this wreath making fun we celebrated our 12th birthday.

Vicky Reti

Reports for the February newsletter should reach the office by Thursday 4 January 2025.

Speakers Email Address Amendment
The correct email address for Ralph Jackman is
ralph.jackman@cantab.net

Christmas Canapés/Nibbles

Cheese & Walnut Bites (makes 25-30)

140g strong Cheddar, coarsely grated
100g unsalted butter, softened
Pinch cayenne
1tsp paprika
1 tbsp thyme leaves chopped
140g plain Flour
100g walnut halves (I use less than this, just a small bit in each one)
25g grated parmesan
Pinch salt

1. Set oven : 180°C/160 fan/gas 4
2. Beat all but parmesan and nuts together
3. Shape into bite sized balls, push walnut piece into middle and cover over (can be frozen at this stage)
4. Sprinkle with parmesan
5. Bake 12-15mins until golden, serve warm (or cold)
NB can be cooked from frozen, may need a little longer.



Cocktail Sausages

1 Kg cocktail sausages
125ml/150g honey
2x15ml/tbsp sesame oil
2x15ml/tbsp soy sauce

1. Oven 220°C/gas7
2. Arrange sausages in shallow tin
3. Whisk together oil, honey & soy sauce & pour over sausages, turn until coated
4. Roast 25-30 mins, shuffle around at half time
NB keep an eye on as may not need this long!

Chicken wings

Barbecue Sauce
Mix 2tbsp tomato puree
3/4 tbsp tomato ketchup
2 tablespoons light-brown sugar
1 tablespoon white-wine vinegar
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
2 teaspoons paprika
1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper, (optional)

Pour over 1kg chicken wings and bake for 40 minutes gas 6 or 200 C.

Alternative Sausages

Dependant on number of sausages (say 20-30)
4-5 tbsp bourbon and 1 tbsp grained mustard and 1 tbsp honey bake for about 30-45 minutes until sticky