

Cambridge WI Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2025

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Chairs Chat

Please can I wish everyone all the best for 2025. I hope the year has started well for you. Despite being bitterly cold in January – we seem to have avoided the worst of the snow and travel disruptions. As you probably know by now – I love to knit and crochet and I have enjoyed a couple of lazy days this month – catching up with films I missed over Christmas and cracking on with my yarn and needles – absolute bliss!

After months of eager anticipation – we finally went to see Swan Lake – and I was pleased to hear how much you enjoyed it. We are finding that booking seats at the theatre is getting more expensive – and in some instances, we are expected to pay for our tickets earlier than previous years. So, thank you to everyone for supporting these events. We have several more “live entertainment” events in the pipeline – **Abba Lunch and Show in London Docklands, an Agatha Christie Mystery at Tolthorpe, Mary Poppins at Milton Keynes and the Christmas Show at Thursford**. Watch out for booking information.

The other thing I did over the festive period was sort out my wardrobe and drawers. Once all the visitors had left, I decided to have a major tidy / reorganise and I have set aside a pile of items to donate to the Swishing event in March. Why do we keep things that don't fit or we don't wear? Some things went in the charity bag – but I hope the better-quality items will sell at **the Swish**. We are running two morning sessions – so I hope to see you there.

June 4th 2025 is the date of the **National Federation Annual Meeting**. This year it is an on-line meeting and the two keynote speakers announced so far are **Emma Bridgewater, founder of her famous pottery business**

and **Angel Strawbridge, founder of Vintage Patisserie**.

We have requested delegate nominations from WIs and you are invited to apply for an observer ticket from Eventbrite. These are free but NFWI have suggested a donation of £5.00 to help pay for the event. NFWI have asked Federations not to publicise the link in newsletters and on social media – to protect the safety and security of the event – but the information has been sent to WI Secretaries to cascade to members. If you want more information please contact the office. One of the items debated at the Annual Meeting will be the resolution for 2025/26. I thought it was an interesting shortlist this year – it certainly sparked a lively discussion at my WI this month.

Tickets are also on sale for our **Federation Annual Meeting – on Monday 28th April**. All members are invited to attend and delegate tickets should be funded by the WI.

I would like to finish with a housekeeping issue. Although the office is open on Mondays and Thursdays (10.00am – 1pm and 1.30pm – 3pm), there could be instances when we need to close unexpectedly (illness etc). So, if you are planning to make a special trip to the office, I suggest that you **call ahead and make an appointment** – so we can contact you to avoid you making a wasted trip if we need to close at very short notice

Sue x



CFWI Office, Oakington Road, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0QH 01223 234872
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. (Please call before visiting)
Tuesday contactable by email only.

Charity Reg No: 1099519 Company Reg No: 4811643



Dates for your Diary

DATE	EVENT AND TIME	VENUE	CLOSING DATE
FEBRUARY			
12	The Cambridgeshire Collection - 11am	Cambridge Central Library	Closed
24	Jigsaw Challenge - 10am for 10.30am	Oakington Pavilion	3 February
MARCH			
4	Pancake Tuesday Coffee Morning - 10.30 - 12.30pm	CFWI Office	21 February
12	Visit to the Whipple Museum	Cambridge Central Library	20 February
15	Swishing Saturday - 10am-1pm	CFWI Office	14 March
21	Angie Stewart from Women's Aid Talk	CFWI Office	14 March
24	Air Fryer Talk - 10am - 12pm	CFWI Office	10 March
APRIL			
2	Spring Lunch with Amanda Harrison	CFWI Office	20 March
14&15	The Pembroke College Area Walking Tour - 11am	Cambridge	24 March
15	Resolution Evening - 7pm	TBC	TBC
28	Annual Council Meeting - 7pm	Comberton Sports & Arts	15 April
30	Voulez Vous Abba Tribute Lunch and Show	London	1 April
MAY			
17	Treasurers Training - 10am-1pm	CFWI Office	TBC
19	Riverside Walk		TBC
JUNE			
4	2025 NFWI Annual Meeting	Virtual	
14	The Mirror Crack'd'	Tolethorpe Hall	25 April
23	Bingo Coffee Morning	CFWI Office	TBC
JULY			
5	A Day at the Races	Cottenham Village Hall	TBC
11	Spanish Evening	CFWI Office	TBC
16	Lavender Afternoon Tea	TBC	TBC
<p>Craft, Coffee and Chat sessions will be held on 11 & 27 February 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.</p>			

Independent Financial Examiners Contact Numbers

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CFWI Helpline for February

Ruth Bond

XXXXXXXXXX

Safeguarding Officer

Lesley Challands

XXXXXXXXXX

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Resolution Results

Secretaries, please remember to email the results from your members to the office by Monday 10 February 2025

Resolution Evening
Tuesday 15 April 2025
7pm
Further details to follow

Angie Stewart Talk

We are really excited to welcome Angie Stewart from Women's Aid to Girton on Friday 21 March and hope that you are able to join us. Leading up to the event we will be collecting donations for Women's Aid, in particular:-

New toiletries of any kind (full sizes please), New tea towels, New towels of any size, New slippers or dressing gowns, New teddy bears with labels attached.

There will be a box for donations at Girton or collection can be arranged.

Thank you all for any donations made.

Resolutions over the Years

As you vote for the resolution that you would like to go forward to the Annual meeting, we thought it would be good to look at resolutions in more detail. WI resolution campaigns are member led and are about changing things for the better and tackling issues that really matter to people. Over the past 100 years, members have campaigned to empower and support women within society by exerting their individual and collective influence bringing a series of controversial issues into the public domain and often resulting in changes in legislation and government policy.

Over the next few months, we will be looking at some of the resolutions over the years and what better place to start but with the very first one.

Passed in 1918 at the NFWI's second Annual Meeting the very first WI resolution was all about housing. The resolution called for a 'sufficient supply of convenient and sanitary houses, being of vital importance to women in the country' and urged local authorities to take advantage of the government scheme for state-aided housing. This would have been a very bold resolution in the early 1900's especially coming from a voluntary group of non-political women! It's also very relevant today!

CFWI Annual Council Meeting

Comberton Sports and Arts, West Street,
Comberton CB23 7DY

Monday 28 April 2025

Doors open 6.15pm for 7pm start
Closing Date: Tuesday 15 April 2025



Our speaker this year will be Lucy Lewis. Some of you may have had the pleasure of hearing her inspirational talk about her career as the UK's first female bomb disposal expert. However she now has her hands full with a new challenge – she is Cambridge University's first woman marshal and we are delighted that she is going to include some of her experiences in this role in her talk.

There will be stalls, displays, a raffle and refreshments available to purchase in the break.

All WIs are invited to send a delegate to the meeting, to vote on the constitutional items on the agenda.

Delegate tickets should be paid for by their WI.

All members are welcome.

All tickets (delegates and members) are £10.00

[TicketSource Link](#)

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

200 Club Winners

Congratulations to the winner of
the December draw
Jean Coxall - Lode WI
and January draw
Linda Phillips - Burwell WI
Both winners receive £25.00



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 online 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.

NEW EVENTS

NEW!

Voulez Vous ABBA Lunch and Show

The Tereza Joanne, Royal Docks, London
Wednesday 30 April 2025

Cost: WI Member £80.00 Non WI £85.00

Closing Date: Tuesday 1 April 2025

Dress up and put on your dancing shoes!

You are invited to a very sociable afternoon with good food and top notch live entertainment. There is space and opportunity to dance to the music.



The Tereza Joanne is fully accessible, and seating is at round tables for 8 or 9 people. Sitting with friendship groups is achievable if desired.

[TicketSource Link](#)

Booking starts Monday 3 February

Spring Lunch with Amanda Harrison

CFWI Office

Wednesday 2 April 2025, 12.15pm

Cost: WI Member £20.00 Non WI £22.00

Closing Date: Thursday 20 March 2025

We look forward to you joining us for a Literary Lunch with invited author, adventure pilot Amanda Harrison.



Traditional Fish Pie (contains prawns)

Or

Mushroom, Broccoli and Leek Pie with vegetables

Lemon Mousse with shortbread

Followed by Tea and Coffee

NEW!

[TicketSource Link](#)

Booking starts Monday 3 February

The Pembroke College area Walking Tour

Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 April 2025, 11am

Cost: WI Member £15.00 Non WI £17.00

Closing Date: Monday 24 March

NEW!

This walking tour, going into Pembroke College, will start in front of the Pitt Building on Trumpington Street (opposite Fitzbillies) and reveal some curious stories and sights in the Pembroke College/ Peterhouse area.



[TicketSource Link](#)

Booking starts Monday 3 February

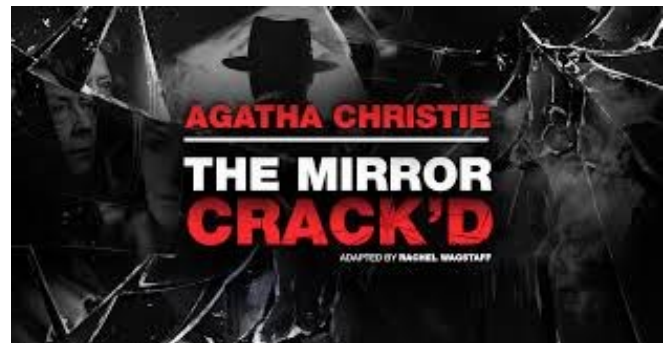
Tolethorpe Open Air Theatre "The Mirror Crack'd"

NEW!

Saturday 14 June 2025

Cost: WI Member £52.00 Non WI £55.00

Closing Date: Friday 25 April



This fresh and witty adaptation of the Queen of Crime's famous novel brings real emotional depth and psychological insight to a thrilling story of revenge and dark secrets.

We are aiming to reach the grounds of Tolethorpe Hall at 12 noon for your homemade picnics.

[TicketSource Link](#)

Booking starts Monday 3 February

SAVE THE DATES

NEW!

Mary Poppins

Milton Keynes Theatre

Wednesday 19 November 2025

Thursford Christmas Spectacular

Thursday 4 December 2025

JIGSAW CHALLENGE 2025

Oakington Pavilion

Monday 24 February 2025, 10 for 10.30am start

Cost: £11.00 (WI Members only)

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.



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.

[TicketSource Link](#)



Coffee Morning with Pancakes

CFWI Office

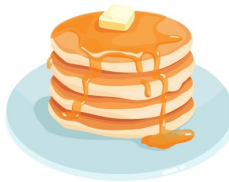
Tuesday 4 March 2025, 10.30am - 12.30pm

Cost: Members £8.00 Non WI £10.00

Closing Date: 14 February 2025

Join us for some delicious Pancakes

Bacon and Maple Syrup
Traditional Lemon/Orange/Sugar
Nutella



Along with a cup of coffee or tea

[TicketSource Link](#)

Visit to the Whipple Museum

Wednesday 12 March 2025, 10.30am

Cost: £6.00 (WI Members only)

Closing Date: 20 February 2025

Exclusive visit to Whipple Museum with our guide Alison Giles.



[TicketSource Link](#)

A Morning with Angie Stewart CEO of Cambridge Women's Aid

CFWI Office

Friday 21 March 2025, 10.30am

Cost £6.00 (Members only)

(A donation from your ticket will be made to Women's Aid)

Closing Date: 14 March 2025



Join us as we welcome Angie Stewart in the month that we celebrate International Women's Day. Angie will talk about her role and the incredible support provided by Women's Aid.

[TicketSource Link](#)

Air Fryer Talk and Demonstration

CFWI Office

Monday 24 March 2025, 10am-12pm

Cost: WI Member £7.00 Non WI £8.00

Closing date: 10 March 2025



A helpful discussion & demonstration on the Air Fryer. Tea & Coffee will be available.

[TicketSource Link](#)

SWISHING SATURDAY

I have heard that there is a lot of excited chatter at WI's about our SWISHING event in March - and the main question we are being asked is whether it will be similar to a jumble sale?



I love a rummage at a jumble sale - but that is NOT the vibe we are going for here. We would like items washed and ironed - and they will be hung on rails so they look their best.

We are counting on **your donations of new/nearly new ladies clothing/bags/hats and scarves**. Is your WI collecting items from members? These can be dropped off at the office from **17 February until 10 March**, or call the office and we can arrange to collect.

Also - do you have a **hanging rail** we can borrow. Please call or email the office with offers and again we can collect.

Here are the booking details:

Swishing Saturday

CFWI Office, Saturday 15 March 2025

2 sessions, 10am-11.30am and 11.30am-1pm

Tickets available until 14 March

This will be the perfect opportunity to pick up affordable "new to you" clothes and get behind the Reuse Revolution.

Payment for sales on the day can be made by either card or cash.

This is a fundraising initiative and proceeds will help to run the Federation.

Tickets can be purchased on Ticketsource - Members £2.50 and Non WI £3.50 [TicketSource Link](#)

Dorothea Jude Competition 2025

TAKE ONE TEA TOWEL

Don't just dry dishes with it - take ONE tea towel and transform it from an everyday essential into a stylish, original item.



The winner will be chosen by members attending the Annual Council Meeting.

All finished articles and photograph to be received at the CFWI Office by Thursday 17 April 2025.

£6.00 per Entry (Members Only)

Antiques Road show with David Palmer

About 60 of us including a few men gathered to be entertained by TV Auctioneer David Palmer who of course was wearing one of his flamboyant waistcoats. We had three tables full of Curios, Antiques and Jewellery. What an eclectic mix. David talked with such enthusiasm about everything on the tables their history and values some good some not so. He brought everything to life and much laughter ensued. We broke for Tea, Coffee and Homemade Biscuits. Then onwards again. David also Auctioned a Hamper donated by Tesco. The successful bidder as it happens was myself. Where did nearly four hours go? I don't know.



Thanks must go to David, our Federation organisers for the event and the refreshments. A wonderful afternoon.

Ann Fletcher, Early Birds WI

Christmas Brunch

We started the Christmas celebrations earlier this week with our Christmas Cracker Brunch. The food was delicious as was the company and we enjoyed readings from the Federation Players and festive songs led by singers from a local Oakington choir.



Holkham Hall Candlelight Experience

What a lovely way to get in the mood for Christmas. Our trip to Holkham Hall in Norfolk was amazing. We arrived at Holkham to see many deer in the wonderful parkland surrounding the stately home. The first stop was the 'ladies', followed by a coffee. We had free time until 2pm to visit the shop, cafe and an exhibition explaining how the Holkham Estate started and developed. The Earl of Leicester with his wife and four children currently live in the Hall. Prior to entering the Hall, we enjoyed a glass of Prosecco and a mince pie which was very welcome. The Hall was very tastefully decorated with a total of 38 Christmas trees with the largest one being 20 feet high. There was a total of 70 Christmas trees on display overall. It takes the staff all of November to decorate the trees and three days to take them down. The decorations are stored in a nearby building during the year.



Although I had visited Holkham Hall a few years ago with my husband, visiting it at Christmas time was a whole new experience and thoroughly recommended.

Thank you CFWI for organising this trip, the four of us from Hardwick WI had a very enjoyable day.

Anne Jones, Hardwick WI

Come from Away Theatre Trip

Thank you CFWI for booking this wonderful musical. The storyline background is dramatic – it's the story of a plane diverted to Gander, Newfoundland immediately after the 9/11 attacks. The cast portray the whole event in such a beautiful and thought-provoking way, so emotional.

The musical is one of the best I have seen, superb Irish music, dancing and brilliant singing. You were laughing one minute, close to tears the next. The cast quite rightly received a well-deserved standing ovation from a full house audience.

Elaine Bailey, Oakington and Westwick WI

Swan Lake

Well, it didn't start well! 61 ladies were due to depart from Trumpington at 9:30am on Wednesday 15th January, but due to the vagaries of the A14, a road closure at Quy meant a minor period of havoc before we could set off just before 10am. From then on, we had a great time travelling to Sadlers Wells to see Matthew Bourne's 'Swan Lake'. Arriving in good time for lunch and a look around, we settled down to enjoy the performance and we were very far from disappointed! Despite seeing it before, it seemed brand new, so maybe it had been revised, with little comic touches like the mechanical corgi belonging to the Queen trotting around the stage. It is unusual for a ballet to be funny, but it really was; at other times it was full of pathos and emotionally powerful.



Our heartfelt thanks to Diane and CFWI for organising this trip, which will live long in the memory and was one of the best trips I have been on.

Nina Kay, Newton WI

Mosaic Knitting

Saturday morning was all about mosaic knitting! Sue and Jill were perfect tutors and although we had to concentrate a lot, we all went away with some form of mosaic! Looking forward to the next knitting session.



Out and About



CHRISHALL WI

In November we welcomed a group of Scottish Dancers from Great Chishill to give us a taster session of this genre of dance. After giving us a demonstration, our members were invited to take part. They were only too willing to strut their stuff and had a wonderful time trying to follow all the correct steps at a fast pace, attempting to keep up with the experts. Many thanks to the tutors for their expert guidance – we had a very enjoyable meeting with a difference. In December we held our Christmas party with members each bringing a plate of savoury or sweet finger food to share. For entertainment we had two quizzes and a Secret Santa exchange of presents. We had a lovely evening.

Jane Gravett

HARDWICK WI

The end of last year saw us enjoy our Christmas Social; run by the members who provided the food and entertainment. The committee provided the drinks. A photo of the evening – sadly the video can't translate but let's say the bell ringing was great fun if a little out of tune!!



Naomi Roy

BALSHAM WI

Our speaker at our November was Susan Widlake from Millhouse Millinery. She told us how she got into the world of millinery as a hobby in 2009. By 2019 she gave up the day job as a computer auditor to concentrate full time on hat making. The basics of hat making were demonstrated in the large display of hats she had bought along. She also explained her inspiration for some of the hat designs which included the Sydney Opera House and Barcelona. She then taught us how to make a lily from sinamay, before we all had great fun trying on her hats. Members enjoyed a lively December meeting, wine tasting, party food, a table quiz & festive singing. Wines from local super-markets were tasted including alcohol free variants. An entertaining table quiz of cracker jokes drew the usual groans. The evening finished with a rendition of the *Twelve Days of a WI Christmas*, which reflected the activities of the W.I. We liberated a decorated tree from the Church, and a secret Santa added to the merriment.

Debbie Mower & Bridget Durham

SWAVESEY WI

At November's meeting, members enjoyed a fun evening with Linda Smith who demonstrated the making of Christmas Crackers. Each member was given a kit to enable her to create her own cracker! Also in November, we hosted a talk on "Scams and Fraud". This meeting was open to the village. It was well attended and informative. Members have been very generous in their support of the WI Dental Health Campaign. Members donations of toothpastes and brushes were donated to the Godmanchester Food Bank. The WI party season kicked off with a Christmas Meal at The Golden Ball, Boxworth. A week later we had our Christmas Party with a buffet, party games, fun and lots of chat and cheer!

Deirdre Burgess,

BLUE BELLES WI



In December we all enjoyed making 'Gingerbread houses'. This consisted of cutting shapes out of brown card-board and drawing the features of the houses on them with white pens. They looked very festive when strung together in a garland.

Our speaker in January was a professional de-clutterer, Katherine, who started her own business called 'SortMySpace'. She suggested a number of techniques that we could use to divest ourselves of STUFF! She set a challenge to those willing to take it up. It was very informative and useful.

Vicky Reti

LANDBEACH WI

For our November meeting we invited Jason Middleton to give us a talk on gemstones. It was an impassioned talk from someone with a great knowledge of his subject. He showed us samples which included amethyst, ruby and aquamarine in their original rock form. He then explained how these were cut and polished to allow the light to shine through, giving the stones their special luminescence. Stones can be found all over the world, the African continent being the largest producer of diamonds. At the end of the evening there was an opportunity to purchase jewellery. We would highly recommend this speaker!

Christine Ayres

THE CHESTERFORDS, ICKLETON & HINXTON WI

At one of our meetings early in the autumn we each made a felt poppy and one of our talented members made these into our wreath for Remembrance Sunday. We were asked by our Parish Council to make decorations for the village Christmas tree and so our November meeting was a craft evening. We used old CDs as the basis for these and we were pleased with the results.

Jayne Greenwood



HISTON & IMPINGTON WI

At our November meeting we enjoyed a fascinating talk by Kevin Pigney, Wildlife Photographer. He started out a complete novice and gradually built on his enthusiasm and expertise to become the renowned photographer of today. His favourite subjects to photograph are hares, sometimes having to stay in one position for several hours to get the perfect picture. He brought along samples of his work which were greatly admired. He has now diversified into Pet Portraiture. At our December meeting we sang carols, enjoyed readings, a quiz, party games, a craft project and raffle! We also managed to fit in a sumptuous bring and share supper. By the end we really felt that Christmas had arrived!

Mary Law

HEYDON AND GREAT CHISHILL WI

December saw our members celebrating our 70th anniversary. We enjoyed a bring and share supper, music and games. One member reminisced about past meetings, a quiz from 1954 and a team game of Pictionary. We had a grand raffle replacing a secret Santa. Each member brought along a gift or maybe two, so everyone who bought raffle tickets got a prize. We were all in agreement that a lovely evening was had by all. Can we keep going for another 70 years?

Ann Crawford

PAMPISFORD WI

Our November speaker was Nigel Fabb, who is a local musician, He played the guitar and sang well known tunes, with his own adapted lyrics. Members joined in on the chorus when possible. Many of the words referred to issues regarding transport, energy delivery relative to our area.

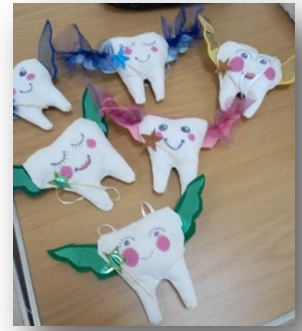
In December members met at a café which the staff had kindly opened in the evening. They welcomed us with a fruit juice, and followed this up with a wonderful Christmas meal with all the trimmings, which was enjoyed by all.

Sarah Denham

DUXFORD WI

Rob Hale was our speaker for November, giving us a photographic account of his 'Travels in Shetland', with his wife and two dogs in their campervan. In 2022 they visited Shetland and took in Orkney on the way back. It looked to be an excellent trip from the many photos, and Rob was very knowledgeable about the island's landscape, wildlife, history and culture. We also started off our 'tooth fairies' to decorate our WI tree in the village Christmas tree festival as a festive way to link to our current Resolution!

Lesley Hale



CAM CITY WI

In December we were treated to a talk by Felicity Flappe who demonstrated how to apply a drag queen's make-up. Felicity told us some funny stories and answered questions frankly.

The rest of the evening was spent enjoying refreshments and playing a game of Wicked Santa!

Vicky Reti

Thank you for your reports this month.
Items for the April newsletter to office@cfwi.co.uk by
Monday 3 March.

PLAY THE CAMBRIDGE FEDERATION LOTTERY

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

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

A winning ticket is potentially a week away, we thank you for your continued support. If you haven't signed up yet visit our page -

<https://www.thewilottery.co.uk/support/cambridge-federation-of-wis>

CFWI WINTER FUNDRAISING QUIZ

QUIZ

Help raise funds for the Federation by doing our Winter Quiz. The quiz sheets 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.

Winners will be drawn at the ACM in April.