



***BEDFORDSHIRE
WI NEWS
OCTOBER 2024***



Hello and welcome to the October issue. As September featured our River Festival stand from way back in July, we couldn't resist featuring the Embankment taken some years ago, this time in autumn!

In this issue please check out the reminder of our 2025 Holiday P3, the John Lewis Shopping Event plus our Meet the Team and Christmas Sing Along Events all on P4. Do come & join us!

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Bedfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes

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Opening Hours: Members are welcome to visit the office between 10.00 to 12.30 and 1.30 to 3pm Monday & Wednesday. Office is closed Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.

Parking is available at Queen Street Car Park first 2 hours free.

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by: **01 November 2024**

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Advertising: To advertise in Beds WI News please contact: fedsec@bedfordshirewis.org.uk

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: Knit, Sew & Craft, WI House, 23rd October 10.30 to 2.30pm, no booking needed £3 each
Saturday 28 September Proms Evening, Kings House
Saturday 12 October, Speaker Day, Barton le Clay VH
Monday 14 October Jigsaw Challenge, Kempston
Wednesday 16 October Meets & Entertains, Houghton Conquest VH, Songs of Nostalgia with Steve Forward
Tues 22 Oct Meet The Teams, Seasons GC Wixams
***CANCELLED* Fri 08 Nov** Shoe Sale & Lunch
Monday 18 November John Lewis MK, Christmas Shopping Event
Saturday 23 November Craft Fair, Flitwick VH
Mon 25 Nov closing date for Tree Santas to WI House
Tuesday 26 Nov Resolution Discussion Meeting Gravenhurst VH at 7.30pm
Wed 04 to Sunday 08 December Christmas Tree Festival, St. Paul's Church Bedford
Thurs 05 December John Rutter (Matinee) RAH
Mon 09 Dec Christmas Singalong, Gt.Barford VH
Mon 16 Dec Christmas Singalong, Stanbridge & Tilsworth Community Hall, LU7 9PN
Sat 25 Jan Burns Night, Wilstead Bowls Club
Thurs 13 Feb (Adult) Panto with lunch, Brick Lane
Mon 24 Feb County Quiz, Addison Centre Kempston
Sat 12 April Annual Meeting, Kings House, Bedford
Wednesday 04 June NFWI Annual Meeting
23rd June 5 days BCFWI Holiday to Yorkshire

FEDERATION FLUTTER
September 2024 No. 28
Leighton Buzzard Riverside WI £50

WI Duty Adviser for October 2024

SALLY BALL

Is.ball@btinternet.com

Please contact the duty adviser with WI related questions.

For anything urgent, please ring
 WI House on 01234 359538

HALLOWEEN QUIZ

1	Traditionally, a silver bullet is supposed to kill which creature?
2	What does the German word 'Poltergeist' literally translate to?
3	Is a pumpkin a fruit or a vegetable?
4	What animal is considered to bring bad luck on Halloween?
5	Which famous magician died on Halloween in 1926?
6	The Bunyip is a legendary monster in which culture?
7	Which fictional creatures multiply when they come into contact with water?
8	How many times in history has Halloween fallen on Friday 13th?
9	Stephen King's 1st novel was turned into a horror movie in 1976. Which one was it?
10	Which phobia means you have an intense fear of Halloween?

Hello Everyone,

As I commence writing this for the October issue of our Newsletter, I am also packing to go on what we term our summer Holiday! We are off to Cyprus and it would be too hot to go during the July and August period. We had a weekend in Wells Next the Sea in the Spring, and have just returned from a couple of days in Wales for a family visit. So, Cyprus here we come!!! I will continue with my Travelogue in November!!!



The Board are currently planning our Annual Council meeting for 2025 and you may recall at the 2024 meeting I announced that we were considering the sale of WI House. I promised at that point to keep you informed as to progress.

We were questioned following the meeting about the figure of £400,000 I quoted. We had invited two Estate Agents into the House who both gave us similar figures, and that is quoted above. Since then, we have been in touch with Solicitors to clarify the situation, and to make sure we are legally able to continue the process. We have also contacted our Accountant.

Over the next couple of months, we shall be putting WI House in the hands of Estate Agents and commence the search for new premises. We have a list of criteria as you can imagine. Parking, NO stairs, and perhaps if we can on a bus route. It would be good also to move more centrally into the County. As you see we have been looking at the issues that we feel the members would appreciate a resolution to!

I would say watch this space; I will keep you informed as to progress.

Best Wishes to you all *Elizabeth*

BOOKING TICKETS ON TICKET SOURCE

We have had some enquiries regarding how WIs can assist members who may be worried about making online bookings from January 2025. The Federation is aware that not all members who wish to book for an event are confident using an online booking service, and we hope that in most cases they will be able to get some assistance from someone in their WI who will be able to help them, either by showing them how to make a booking themselves or making the booking for them. In either case, the member/s wishing to make the booking will need to have their credit/debit card details available in order to make the necessary payment for the booking.

In the event that it proves impossible for such support to be offered within their WI, then a member can telephone WI House on 01234 359538 and Catherine will make the booking on their behalf. Again, it will be necessary for the member making the booking to have their card details available so that the booking can be paid. Please note, that as part of the booking process, members will be asked to provide an email address, so that tickets can be emailed to them.

Dot Wigg

PART TIME CLEANER

required for general light cleaning at
WI House

Mainly dusting & vacuuming of committee rooms; corridors & stairs; together with 2 small offices; plus a kitchen and toilet.

Two hours every two weeks.

Day & time to be agreed.

Parking available at Queen Street car par
(first 2 hours free)

Rate of Pay currently : £11.44 per Hour at age 21 or more



Please apply in writing to:

Bedfordshire County Federation of Women's Institutes
WI House, 62 Adelaide Square, Bedford MK40 2RW
or by email to fedsec@bedfordshirewis.com

Federation Holiday to Yorkshire
23 June 2025 5 Days

The colour brochure has been sent to our WIs and we happily look forward to this first holiday venture for some years. It includes a lot for your money with a varied itinerary. Friends & family very welcome!

Applications are on first come, first served basis: by ringing the office, by email or by using TicketSource booking system. Please contact the office for how to book your place.

CANCELLED Friday November 8th Shoe & Bag Sale Flitwick Cricket Club MK45 5AA

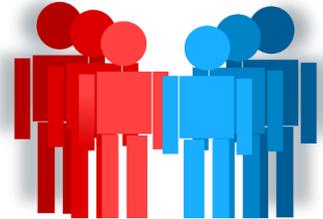


**SORRY, THIS EVENT IS CANCELLED
BY THE SUPPLIER DUE TO ILLNESS**



Following the success of our **Meet the Team** with members at Poplars Garden Centre at Toddington, our promise was to organise more 'get-togethers' across the County. We do coffee and chat on a casual basis and exchange ideas that can prove positive for members and the Board.

Tuesday October 22nd from 10.00am "Meet the Team"
Seasons Garden Centre, Wixams
Monday January 13th from 10.00am "Meet the Team"
Frosts Garden Centre, Willington



Monday 18th November John Lewis Shopping Event
2.00pm - 5.00pm

Come and have a fun afternoon in partnership with John Lewis, Milton Keynes. The afternoon will include a glass of bubbly on arrival, a style talk with a Personal Stylist with a festive theme, a Home Design demonstration (either a Christmas Table Scaping or a Christmas Tree Decorating). Beauty demonstrations/ masterclasses will be offered on a selection of the beauty counters and gift food (and drink) tastings will also be available.

Please register your interest so that we can provide John Lewis with numbers attending and provide you with details of where to park, an itinerary for the afternoon and the collection point for a wristband entitling you to discounts. There will also be small goody bags and vouchers.

This event is free of charge but please note you are expected to provide your own Transport

Please reply by Friday 19th October 2024.

December 4th to 8th December Christmas Tree Festival St Pauls Church, Bedford. Closing date for receipt of Santas at WI House is Monday November 25th

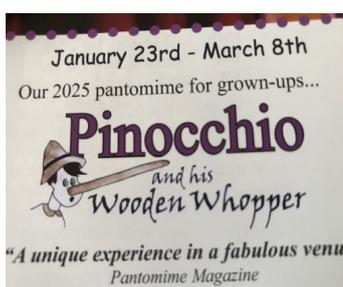
At the end of the festival, we will offer Santas to the Hospital for the Children's Ward or they will go to the Charity Shops. If members know of somewhere that would be pleased to receive them, then please let us know.



Monday December 9th Christmas Sing a Long Great Barford Village Hall
Monday December 16th Christmas Sing a Long Stanbridge & Tilsworth Community Hall
1.30pm – 3.30pm at both events

This event was a great success last year so we are trying to encourage members county wide to join us at one of these events for some Christmas cheer!! We will replicate the format of some Carol singing with the aid of a Choir, some Poetry reading, and it's Christmas . . . so a Panto too to make you smile!!

Mince Pies and a cup of Tea or coffee included for £6 per person. Friends & Family especially the Menfolk, are very welcome. Don't forget Christmas Hats and Tinsel are the dress Code!!!



Thursday February 13th 2025 Brick Lane Music Hall A unique experience in a fabulous setting

Brick lane music hall retains a sense of nostalgia with old school variety performances and of course Pantomime. This event is an adult Panto with a three-course lunch. So, an inclusive deal of Coach, Show & Lunch, not forgetting inuendo, fun and laughter!! We have 50 seats reserved but are required to pay for them at the end of October 2024!!

Cost is £88 per person . We shall have pick - ups in Bedford, Flitwick, and the Leighton Buzzard area. This last pick up is dependent on us having bookings for south of the County, ** exact locations tbc.**

GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK is from 7th to 15th June so watch this space for events that we may be able to become involved in. We are making headway with our Climate Banner and the Green Hearts that all WIs are making. I am hopeful that it may be completed by April 2025 so that we can display it at our Annual Council Meeting. It is hoped that all our Wis will send in a heart!

Plans are afoot for the team to visit the National Arboretum in Staffordshire in Spring 2025 and to visit Bletchley Park Milton Keynes. The museum is in line with our museum visits this year which were great success. I hope to have further information next month.

We are also busily planning our Christmas Quiz and anticipate this being available at our event at Houghton Conquest on October 16th 2024. It will also from that point be available to order at your Wis etc.

The Public Affairs Team are small in number, just 4 of us! If any WI member is interested in attending a meeting to see how it works please make contact direct with myself or via Catherine in the Federation office .

Best Wishes, *Elizabeth*

LIFESTYLE AND LEISURE TEAM

ls.ball@btinternet.com

Change is on the way, please note our new name. At the time of writing, Autumn has suddenly raised its head with vengeance, as we look forward to the last 3 months of the year.

Do you like singing Would you be interested in being part of a Bedfordshire WI Choir???? If you are then please let me know

The trip to Aldeburgh to the Fishers Gin Distillery or just a day out at the seaside was I understand, a really good day out and the weather was fairly kind to too. Looking into my crystal ball, Crazy Bag Whist at the end of September, was enjoyed by all and The Jigsaw Evening will prove to be as challenging as ever. John Rutter's Christmas Celebration at the Royal Albert Hall is on 5th December, further details of the Flitwick and Bedford pick up points will be advised in the confirmation letter sent to those members who have booked tickets.

Over the next few months will be compiling next years list of events, so if there is anything you would like to see us put on please let me know and we will see if we can arrange it.

Sally

SCHOOLREADERS

As you know, BCFWI support the Schoolreaders scheme and encourage more member participation!

One in four children leave primary school unable to read to the expected standard.

This will have a negative impact on their secondary education and future life chances.

Children's literacy charity Schoolreaders is recruiting volunteers across England to listen to children read in primary schools.

If you have some time to spare, a good grasp of written English, and if you enjoy spending time with children, you could become a Schoolreader. Volunteers are asked to listen to children read once a week in term time and to commit to a full academic year, though of course holidays and weeks off on occasion are no issue. Schoolreaders is based in Bedford, but they are currently looking for volunteers across England, so do get in touch to learn more.

We hope you will join us.

If you can spare just an hour a week to listen to children read, you can help to change their life-story.

To find out more about Schoolreaders please visit www.schoolreaders.org

Alternatively, you can email us at office@schoolreaders.org or call on 01234 924111

Schoolreaders 10 Years
improving literacy • increasing life chances

Schoolreaders on the radio!
improving literacy • increasing life chances

[Click here to Catch up on BBC Sounds](#)

Donations Doubled, up to £30,000!



A BBC RADIO 4 APPEAL



Presented by
Gyles Brandreth

Web: www.schoolreaders.org
Registered Charity Number: 1159157



RECIPE An easy fruit loaf. Hope you enjoy!

SULTANA MALT LOAF

- 225g plain flour
- Half a level teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda
- One level teaspoon of baking powder
- 225g sultanas
- 80g demerara sugar
- 175g malt extract
- 1 tablespoon black treacle
- 2 large eggs beaten
- 150ml of strained cold black tea



2lb lined loaf tin
Pre heat oven 150C/130C fan

Measure the flour bicarbonate of soda & baking powder into a bowl. Stir in sultanas. Gently heat the sugar, malt extract, black treacle and sugar together. Pour onto the dry ingredients along with the beaten egg and tea. Beat well until smooth then pour into tin. Bake for approx. 1hour, until well risen and firm to touch.

Liz

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. A WEREWOLF
2. NOISY GHOST
3. FRUIT
4. BLACK CATS
5. HARRY HOUDINI
6. AUSTRALIAN
7. GREMLINS
8. 0
9. CARRIE
10. SAMHAINOPHOBIA

Tiptree Visit 16 August: We hope that all the members who joined us on the trip to Tiptree had a great day. We had a completely full coach and a very jolly coach driver. The weather was really kind to us. We have had some very positive feedback as you will see on our Facebook page and here are a couple of pics, to remind us of another very good WI day out!



The Eves Trophy Thank you for the entries received so far. Entries must be delivered into WI House by Monday 7th October. Good luck!



I would like to thank those members who brought in knitting needles and even some spare wool so another member and I can continue to help the Knitting & Craft Group at our local school. We would love to have more needles, especially if anyone has shorter ones which are easier for the children to use, and maybe some yarn that you don't need; please contact me at the office. I am happy to collect.

GARDENING Sorry, the gardening correspondent is having a rest but should be back soon!

New Website!

Soon we will have a new inspiring website to share with you. As part of this change, we will be moving our booking of events to TicketSource. TicketSource is a much easier platform for us to display our events on and for you to book and pay for places. To help, please see Dot Wigg's piece on P3 regarding using TicketSource.

To find our TicketSource page you can search google using the terms: **ticketsource bedfordshire federation**. We appreciate this is a big change, so we have set up a test event and encourage you to try out the site and become comfortable with it before you make your real first booking. This link will take you to our page: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bedfordshire-county-federation-of-wis>

At **Houghton Conquest** Jane Carwithen, who is a volunteer for the Mid Shires Search and Rescue was the speaker. Most of us know about mountain rescue and the RNLI, but the low land rescue is not so well known. She said that Mid Shires covers Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, and most of their work is looking for missing people, and it is generally in wooded areas that they search. They are all volunteers and have to go through rigorous training, which includes a mock up search every month. All the money they need comes from donations, and they are involved with lots of charity events. This was a most interesting talk by a good speaker and I think we all learned a lot.

In July **Caldecote** visited Peacocks Auctions in Bedford for an Auction Insight Day. It was a fun and fascinating experience, complete with lunch and cake! Over tea and coffee we heard the history of Peacocks Auctions, and about the wide variety of items they auction. We highly recommend this trip and would certainly visit again. Then in August, we were one of two WIs that hosted fashion shows run by Jackie Allen.



Featuring three of our very own as the models for the evening, everyone, especially the models, had great fun! Jackie curated a selection of stylish outfits and demonstrated ways to jazz them up with scarves, bags, and other accessories. WI members eagerly joined in the fun, trying on the outfits themselves and even snapping up a few pieces, all while soaking up Jackie's expert styling tips. That night, the wardrobes of WI members got a colourful upgrade



Cranfield - For our July meeting we enjoyed a cheese and wine tasting. Member Alison Borrett, lead the wine tasting, and Chris Williams, a cheese buyer, lead the cheese tasting for us. Members were able to sample white, rose' and red wines, followed by a tawny port. We were encouraged to look at the appearance of the wine, then swirl the glass and smell the aroma before tasting the wine. The wines were accompanied by a delicious selection of 10 cheeses from around Europe, from Somerset Extra Mature Cheddar to Spanish Manchego. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and the opportunity to taste the different products. Then in August, Cranfield was the second WI to welcome Jackie Allen, ably assisted by two members, Sharon and Alison, who did a fantastic job modelling clothes from the boutique. Jackie gave us styling tips on what to wear for travelling, how to dress up an outfit from beach to dinner wear and what to pack in a cabin suitcase. After the fashion show there was the opportunity for members to purchase clothes and accessories from the boutique.



What an amazing meeting **Wootton** had in July. We had a visit from Pixie and Pickles Therapy Ponies from Hitchin. Lindsey, the owner, spoke about how she acquired her Shetland ponies and subsequently trained to get them to therapy standards. Not only does Lindsey rescue the Shetlands but she also had a dog that had been rescued from Cyprus with her. At the end of her talk we were able to pet both the ponies and the dog. We highly recommend you book Lindsey and her team. And in August, we held another craft evening. Members made dried flower book marks, decoupaged scallop shells, painted birthday cards using polythene bags and acrylic paints and also decorated jars with lace and coloured string.

Barton-le-Clay were joined by Jemma from our local History Society in July, who invited us to guess where old photographs were taken. Many of the areas had changed considerably with some of the houses being demolished. We were also updated on the "Big Dig " which they started last summer, assisted by high tech cameras and video equipment, as well as a small drone. All these were on show for us to examine. It is hoped this will go ahead in the summer of 2025. The hope is to find remains as far back as Medieval times. We know the Village was mentioned in the Domesday Book. We were enthralled and hope she will be able to visit us again soon.

Sutton WI were treated to a very informative and entertaining talk by Amanda Sutherland. She was an inspired speaker who is obviously very passionate about what she does. As a child she was always very creative and this led her to pursue a career in fashion. After a four year course at the London College of Fashion, she was eager to gain as much work experience as she could, working in a variety of costume departments, including the Bond films and Titanic, as well as numerous other films and TV dramas. In 2002 she launched her own business which focussed mainly on Bridal accessories and fascinators, which she later extended by making jewellery which she initially sold through the All Saints market in Cambridge. During Covid she was undaunted by the lack of custom and made over 4,800 face masks which she sold online all over the world! She is particularly interested in using recyclable materials and all of the jewellery she had for sale was made from such unlikely materials as drink cans and plastic milk cartons! In addition to jewellery she makes hand warmers which are recognised by the Reynard's society and has jewellery which is made from leaves using a resin. There was a variety of hats, scarves etc for sale We would highly recommend her as a speaker



In August **Leighton Buzzard Riverside** were entertained by Evan Willis on, an auctioneer from Woburn . He spoke about all the wonderful characters he had encountered during his career. He showed us mannerisms that we all have but are usually unaware of.....We all talk with our hands. We describe items using our hands to hopefully give greater clarity to what is being said. He told us

that an 'antique' may not be all it appears to be. Is an item 100 years old or cleverly manufactured in the last decade or so. He quizzed us on items he had.....age, value etc. In every case we were wrong. One item we had to work out by feel alone. It turned out to be a 'foster mother' used to feed several baby animals, at the same time, on a farm. A good speaker. So with our trip to Wimpole Hall last month, LBRWI have had a good summer.



Biggleswade's speaker was Robert Brewer who became an Extra in film and television after retiring from 19 years in the Police Force. He explained his journey from seeing an advertising poster in Milton Keynes library to appearing in a James Bond film. He had a slide show with pictures of him in films like Dumbo (his first film) Batman and TV shows such as Eastenders and Holby City.



Clapham Belles member Michele shared her incredibly moving family history of Ted Taylor, 1st Battalion. The Rifle Brigade who was sent to France in May 1940 as part of Calais Force. He was captured and for the next 5 years became part of the huge slave labour force as a POW in Poland. At the end of the war he took part in the infamous 'death marches' to freedom across Europe. Thank you Michele Taylor for sharing this truly inspiring family history with us.



Because it was their last meeting before September, **Dunstable** decided to have a fun evening, given that the hot weather had affected some members who normally attend. Everyone brought food and drinks. Before the games started, members and their partner completed a tick list which could be filled in by whoever got the most hits on each game. Quoits, darts, draughts, clown bean bag frog, skittles, connect 4, play your cards right, pin the tail on the donkey etc were played with so much laughter over who got the most points. But once all calculations were complete, it was Beryl Hickman who was awarded the Chris Brewin cup. Refreshments and drinks were enjoyed by all. Thanks to the people who provided the games, set them up and explained the rules.

At **Kempston Rural** in July, we had our annual outing and went to Wroxham. Then we enjoyed a trip on the Mississippi paddle boat from Horning. In August, our expected speaker had to cancel at short notice. Into the breach stepped Barbara Norton with guide dog Arthur. Barbara told us how guide dogs are trained and now much independence guide dogs have given her. Arthur is her eighth!

Northill & Ickwell held our annual Afternoon Strawberries and Cream with Cava in Sue & Paul Akerman's garden. We were extremely lucky with having good weather and all members who attended had a very pleasant afternoon chatting and eating strawberries and cream and drinking Cava or soft drinks provided by the committee. Many members bought the NFWI raffle tickets which were handed round to anyone interested. Sue & Paul were thanked for their hospitality and Margaret Montgomery presented Sue with a beautiful plant.

NFWI ANNUAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 4th JUNE 2025

Next's year's NFWI Annual Meeting will be held online. Before we can book a venue, we need an idea how many members would like to come & observe the proceedings with us. This will also be an opportunity to meet other members or catch up with old friends. Please let Catherine know on 01234 359538 or email fedsec@bedfordshirewis.org.uk by **Friday 18th October 2024**.

BCFWI CHRISTMAS GIFT & CRAFT FAIR SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 10.30AM – 4PM

FLITWICK VILLAGE HALL MK45 1HP
There will be many stalls selling handmade gifts, cards, crafts & locally produced goods. Homemade cakes will be on sale as well as other refreshments in the WI café.

For more information please call the office on 01234 359538. Or email fedsec@bedfordshirewis.org.uk

BCFWI MEMBER SUPPORT TEAM RESOLUTIONS DISCUSSION MEETING

Gravenhurst Village Hall, High Street,
Gravenhurst, MK45 4HY

Tuesday 26th November 2024 at 7.30pm

Come along and learn more about the Resolution topics for this year. Take the opportunity to learn more about the resolution process & discuss the proposed resolutions with fellow members
£4 per member.

Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be provided
WI Members only please