



BEDFORDSHIRE WI NEWS SEPTEMBER 2024



Welcome to September! As you can see above, our stand at the Bedford River Festival was well decorated with bunting, sunflowers and gorgeous blue butterflies all made by WI members. See page 8 for a fuller report.

Exciting News in this issue! See Page 8 & 9 for details of our Federation Holiday offer, a wonderful trip to Harrogate & York to look forward to.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Bedfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes

WI House, 62 Adelaide Square
Bedford MK40 2RW
Tel: 01234 359538

Mob: 07423 819919

Office: fedsec@bedfordshirewis.org.uk

Chairman : Elizabeth Cochrane

chairman@bedfordshirewis.org.uk

Dot Wigg: MACchair@bedfordshirewis.org.uk

Secretary: fedsec@bedfordshirewis.org.uk

News Articles: ATC@bedfordshirewis.org.uk

Web: www.bedfordshirewis.org.uk

Facebook : Bedfordshire County WI

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.

Secretary: Catherine Bentley

Newsletter Editor: Hazel Wade

Content to: WInews@bedfordshirewis.org.uk

by: **01 September 2024**

Next Mailing : Wednesday 25 September 2024

Cover Pic : Kathy Blackwell, Wymington & Podington WI

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

BCFWI is a Registered Charity: 1029278 and a Ltd Company Registered No: 02708888

Printed by **White Hart Printers, 58A York Street, Bedford MK40 3RL 01234 270465**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: Knit, Sew & Crafters, WI House, 11th September, 23rd October 10.30 to 2.30pm, no booking required £3 per person.

Tuesday 24 September Crazy Bag Whist, Gravenhurst

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

Fri 08 Nov Shoe Sale & Lunch, Flitwick Cricket Club

Monday 18 November John Lewis MK, Christmas

Shopping Event see P7

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, 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

WI Duty Adviser for September 2024

DOT WIGG

macchair@bedfordshirewis.org.uk

Please contact the duty adviser with WI related questions. For anything urgent, please ring

WI House on 01234 359538

FEDERATION FLUTTER

July 24 No.86 Caddington WI £50

August 24 No.60 Elizabeth Cochrane, Bedford WI £50

QUIZ

OLD OCCUPATIONS

Can you identify these old occupations from the choices given?

		A	B	C
1	CATCHPOLE	Debt collector	Baker	Cattleman
2	SLOPSELLER	Corn merchant	Glove shop owner	Readymade clothes seller
3	FEWTERER	Seller of fruit	Feather cleaner	Keeper of hounds
4	KISSER	An armour maker	Chambermaid	Glove maker
5	ALNAGER	Trapeze artist	Woolen cloth inspector	Anchor maker
6	BONIFACE	Lawyer	Innkeeper	Butcher
7	SLUBBER DUFFER	Bobbin remover	Walking stick maker	Shoelace maker
8	HARMER BECK	Parish constable	Fine fabric maker	Tax collector
9	LOBLOLLY MAN	Casual worker.	Ship surgeon's assistant	Animal castrator
10	ANKLE BEATER	Maker of leggings.	Street cleaner	Cattle drover

Hello everyone, here we are with the September issue of our Newsletter. Summer has come and gone and we are into the Autumn, and dare I say it, Christmas starts to loom on the horizon.



Federation committees have been meeting as usual, and planning the events for the coming year. Hopefully you will find something that interests you as we release information. We have decided that instead of being what sounds very formal a "sub-committee" we are going to be called Teams, For instance, Art, Sport, and Leisure Team. We work as a Team so this change makes a lot of sense. We have applied the new titles in this issue!!

We had our first Board Team Meeting at Poplars Garden centre in July where Trustees met up for coffee and a casual chat with WI members from the South of the County. This proved very successful, and thank you to all the ladies that came to join us. We shall be arranging other meetups like this across the County so watch for the "Meet the Team" notice with details in the Newsletter, on Face Book and the Presidents & Secretaries email.

Another issue we have been looking into is our Policies and Procedures paperwork. It has been some time since these were last issued. This month we are publishing the Code of Conduct. I would encourage all WIs to make this available for their members, perhaps by leaving it on a table for them to pick up and read at one of your meetings. Other policies will follow once we have made sure they are up to date.

We did have a hiccup this year at the Inter County Quiz hosted by Buckingham, when the marking of the question papers inadvertently became muddled and our teams from Houghton Conquest and Maulden suffered the embarrassment of the mix up! Houghton Conquest were announced as winners and the Plaque was presented, and then it was announced that this was wrong and Maulden were the winners. Following further clarification over the next few days it became apparent that Houghton Conquest were indeed the winners. Both the teams were magnanimous in dealing with this news, and I would just like to put right the FB comment which named the wrong winners and thank and congratulate both teams for taking part and obtaining First and Second place on behalf of Federation!! Well done to both Teams!!

Thank you!

One last item, I think for this chat. We were very evident at this years River Festival. We had a different position this year and it was in a busier area, which resulted in many enquiries from members of the public. The information we obtained will be collated and forwarded to the individual WIs concerned for further communication to take place. There is a mountain of preparation for us to be able to be at the festival, from paperwork to the physical carrying of the gazebo, tables and chairs etc. I would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to all the Trustees, and also all the WI members who came along to assist them. Well done Ladies it was a success!!!

My Very Best Wishes to Everyone *Elizabeth*

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 park (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

NOTE TO TREASURERS

Where Treasurers forward payments using online banking, would they please ensure any necessary paperwork (e.g, Membership fee forms) is also forwarded to WI House.

Many thanks,

Diane, Federation Treasurer

Meets & Entertains & Proms Evening

Although we are past the original closing dates for the following events, we do have places available for both: Meets & Entertains at Houghton Conquest Village Hall October 16th at 2pm with Steve Forward. Tickets £12.50 pp and the Proms evening

The Proms Celebrating our 105th Birthday

Our Proms evening at Kings House, Amptill Road, is at 7.00pm on September 28th where we are to be entertained by The Amici Singers and Bedford Town Concert Brass. Red, White and Blue dress code on the night!!! The Cafeteria/Bar will be open from 6.30pm and again in the interval.

Tickets £25 per person

****NEWS FLASH** Bedford Hospital Radio is to Broadcast Live on the Night, from Kings House, and to also record with thoughts about making a CD !! Do come and join us and be part of a magical evening**



Saturday October 12th 2024 Speakers Day Barton le Clay Village Hall 10.30 –3.00pm Doors open 10.00am for Tea/ Coffee & Biscuits

An opportunity to listen to a variety of speakers and subjects prior to booking them for you WI Programme. Places cost £7 per person with a maximum of three members per WI. It is expected that WI Members will attend the whole day, even if there is a change over at lunch time of members from within their WI. A packed lunch is recommended.

Friday November 8th 2024

Shoe Sale

Flitwick Cricket Club

The doors will open at 10.30 for Teas & Coffees to enable members who only wish to attend the Sale to purchase goods during the morning. Those ladies wishing to stay for Lunch, this will follow at 12.15pm. This enables all members to purchase Shoes, Boots or Handbags in the lead up to the Winter Season. Cost per person £15 for Lunch -- entry with Tea / Coffee & Biscuits only £7



Christmas Tree Festival at St Pauls Church Bedford 4th to 8th December

The theme is Magic of Christmas - Santas please, in any medium, no wider or taller than 10 cm due to weight on branches!! Crocheted, knitted, sewn, felt, etc. Closing date for receipt of items at WI House is Monday 25th November.

Monday December 9th 2024 Christmas "Sing Along" Gt Barford Village Hall 1.30 – 3.30pm and

Monday December 16th Christmas "Sing Along" Stanbridge & Tilsworth Community Hall, LU7 9PN 1.30 – 3.30pm

This event was a great success last year so here we go again!! and not once, but twice !! The Board hope to encourage Members from across the County to attend and join us for some Christmas cheer!!! We will have a Choir to lead the way with the Carol singing and no doubt your Trustees will have some Poetry reading and maybe a little Panto piece to entertain you. Christmas Hats and Tinsel scarves will be the Dress code. Mince Pies & Teas or Coffee included.

Cost of £6 per person. Friends and Family are very welcome to attend.

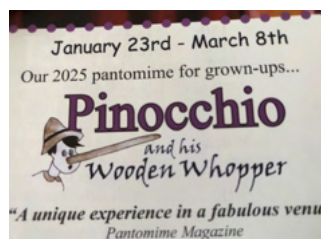


February 13th 2025

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 and a three-course lunch. So, an inclusive deal of Coach, Show & Lunch, not forgetting inuendo, fun and laughter!!



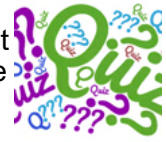
We have 50 seats reserved but are required to pay for them at the end of October 2024!!

Cost is £88 per person . We shall be leaving Bedford Aspects approx. 9.50am; Flitwick Village Hall 10.20am; & Leighton Buzzard area ** at 10.50am. This last pick up is dependent on us having bookings for south of the County, ** exact location tbc.

Great Big Green Week 2025 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 at our Annual Council Meeting.

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 a 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 directly with myself or via Catherine in the Federation office.

Best Wishes, *Elizabeth*

ART SPORT & LEISURE Team

ls.ball@btinternet.com

Hello to you all, Sally here, taking over the reigns from Rosemary who is happily remaining on the team, and I would like to sincerely thank her for all she has done and still does for us.

As usual, we have had a slower paced August but are now gearing up for our trip **Fishers Botanical Gin Distillery Monday 9th September** at the seaside at Aldeburgh Suffolk, we have quite a number taking the Distillery tour, eagerly looking forward to what they show us and quite a few folk are content to have just a trip to the seaside. We look forward to publishing pics in a future issue!

There are still places available for the following: **Crazy Bag Whist 24th September** at Gravenhurst; then **Jigsaw Challenge Monday 14th October** at the Centenary Hall in Kempston. Please contact the office for tickets.

We round off with the spectacular **John Rutter's Christmas Concert** which this year is a **matinee** on **Thursday 5th December** with the price at £67 per ticket and as always, friends & family will be very welcome. We need to confirm our ticket uptake soon, so do place your orders as soon as possible; we look forward to you joining us!

We would very much welcome new members on the team. We meet approximately 4 times in a year. Please contact me, or Catherine in the office if you would like to know more. *Sally*

Below are a few of the pics taken at a seriously windy Priory Park on 09 June for the WI Charity Walk. We supported our 2024 Charity, Carers in Beds and as you can see somewhere in the left hand pic, their representative Laura shared our gazebo. Several of us sat inside with chairs holding down the skirt of the gazebo. The editor regrets that she was sent the magnificent team pic but she is not sure which WI; you did fantastically well anyway! The final pic is another team effort. Having struggled rather to put the gazebo up, it took all these Trustees and a trusty hubby to take it down and pack it away! And that was after Diane & Roger Sanbrook had done 2 circuits of the walk, so a double well done.



At blustery Priory Park for charity walk



Warming up the helpers!



A team of walkers, unnamed



Beating the gazebo into submission

RECIPE BISCOFF CHEESECAKE**8 inch/ 20cm tin****Ingredients****For the base:**

200g Crushed Biscoff biscuits
 80 g Melted unsalted butter

For the cheesecake mixture:

300ml Double cream
 400g Full fat cream cheese
 200g Biscoff spread



Pic: Liz Potter

Instructions

1. Mix the crushed Biscoff biscuits with the melted butter and press into the tin. Pop in the fridge then make the topping as follows:
2. Pour the double cream into a bowl, add the cream cheese and Biscoff spread. Whisk until it's very thick – almost the consistency of ice cream. Use an electric whisk if you have one.
3. Remove the base from the fridge and add the cheesecake mixture, smoothing the top.
4. Pop into the fridge for at least 3 hours (or overnight is much better if you don't need it until the next day).

Now you can decorate your cheesecake in any way you wish. It is such an easy cheesecake to make. Enjoy.

The Eves Trophy Schedules have been sent out to your Secretary. **Apologies for the error in the Knitting element in a previous issue which suggested a scarf was also required, to clarify we just want gloves and a hat!** Please, if you have any questions give us a call at WI House.

Would you like to join our Team? We meet 3 times a year and we'd love to hear from you if you're interested in any craft, gardening or cookery, you would be very welcome.

I also have a small request. I help out with another member at our local school. We have a knitting and craft group and are desperately short of knitting needles. The children take needles home to finish off their knitting, but they never appear back. If you have any spare needles that you don't need, please contact me at the office. I am happy to collect.

Many thanks. *Liz*

**GARDENING**

Most gardening guides recommend setting new lawns this month, however after a long dry summer, this may have to be put on hold until the rain returns!

If you have heavy clay instead of nicely friable loam, then some of the other regular end of summer tasks may also be difficult, such as transplanting evergreens; planting out spring bulbs; dividing irises. If you have gardened for years and regularly worked in garden compost and leaf mould, etc then it will be much easier to manage and the tasks will present less of a wrist & ankle breaking challenge.

Starting bulbs and annuals in potting compost works well, transplanting the bulb or plants into the border once the drought has ceased and some localised digging has been possible. You could also sow annual seeds in trays, potting them on and keeping them in a cold frame/greenhouse or garage until the worst of the weather has gone.

When it's dry, giving borders & shrubberies one really good drench once a week helps plants much more than shorter bursts as the moisture seeps down to the roots rather than the roots trying to creep up to find the moisture. No need to water established lawns, they may look ghastly but they do always survive and bounce back, come the rainy season!

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

- 1) A
- 2) C
- 3) C
- 4) A
- 5) B
- 6) B
- 7) A
- 8) A
- 9) B
- 10) C

NFWI ANNUAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 4th JUNE 2025

Next's year's NFWI Annual Meeting will be held online. Attending online in your own home can be a benefit for many women but it can also be isolating. Therefore, we are considering holding an event where we can all watch together.

Before we can book a venue, we would like to get an idea how many members would like to come and observe the proceedings with us. This will also be an opportunity to meet other members or catch up with old friends. If you are interested, please let Catherine know on 01234 359538 or email fedsec@bedfordshirewis.org.uk by **Friday 18th October 2024**.

NEW BCFWI 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 Ticket Source. Ticket Source is a much easier platform for us to display our events on and for you to book and pay for places. To find our Ticket Source 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>

BCFWI John Lewis MK, Christmas Shopping Event, Monday 18th November 2024 2pm – 5pm

Come and have a fun afternoon in partnership with John Lewis, Milton Keynes which 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.

This event is free of charge

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 may even be a small goody bag and vouchers!



Please reply by Friday 19th October 2024.
Please note you will need to arrange your own transport.

CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

anniepalmer@hotmail.com

What's going on? At the end of July, a copy of a "Letter to Nature Conservation Organisations" was shared on a couple of WhatsApp groups I belong to. It was signed by MPs Angela Rayner and Steve Reed (DEFRA).

The letter starts: "This Government was elected on a mandate to get Britain building again (1,500,000 houses), alongside protecting and improving the natural environment" (an impossibility as concrete kills countryside). It also states: "Nature recovery remains a top priority... When it comes to the planning system's role in providing the nature and housing we need, we know that the status quo is not working.". I thought: that's hopeful. Are they recognising that what they're doing is bad for nature?

The following sentence killed that thought: "Environmental Assessments and case-by-case negotiations of mitigation and compensation measures often slow down the delivery of much-needed housing."

It is inadequate EAs (surveys not properly and too quickly done) and mitigation measures (which don't work) that have substantially contributed to the drastic decline in nature. Government et al. wants to make these destructive processes quicker so that they can speed up and push through planning applications more rapidly.

Is Government getting in touch with nature organisations so that it can have more control over them, crow about working with them and nullify / negate anything that might adversely impact on its build, build, build plans? Does Lyndon B Johnson's quote apply here: 'Better to have your enemies inside the tent pissing out, than outside the tent pissing in.'?

Nature Conservation Organisations need to act in the best interests of the natural world. They must not, for future generation's sake, cave-in to the questionable tactics (bullying?) of the powers that be. It would obviously be extremely detrimental to any environmental organisation if people thought that it was collaborating with Government in the destruction of nature.

I came across this Native American (Cree) proverb which is very appropriate: 'Only when the last tree has died, and the last river been poisoned, and the last fish been caught, will we realise we cannot eat money'.

I've just had a thought; the WI is a "Nature Conservation Organisation" – I wonder if NFWI has received one of these letters. *Annie*

MEET THE TEAM

We held our very first 'Meet the Team' event in July, at Poplars Garden Centre Toddington and were absolutely delighted to see so many of our members from the South of the County. This gave us the opportunity to have a chat with them and ask for their views on events and trips we have held, and that are in the planning stage. We have noticed that members from the South have tended not to join us on trips and took the opportunity to enquire why. Members told us the main reason was the lack of a pick-up points offered, so we have asked them to identify suitable places for coach pick-ups in the Leighton Buzzard/Eaton Bray or Dunstable area. We now know one particular coach company with a depot at Sundon Park offers free car parking. We will ensure that we consider this in future and hope that will lead to more of you joining us on some of our trips and visits. It was also great to be able to seek members' views on our proposed WI Holiday, to be offered for 2025 (see below & P9). And finally, if any members, from any part of the County, have points or issues they wish to raise, just get in touch, either via the email addresses shown in the Newsletter, or via WI House. Huge thanks to members of the Board and WI Advisers who joined us on the day and to all of you who found your way to Poplars. We have planned similar get-togethers, at Seasons Garden Centre, Wixams, MK45 3HU on 22nd October at 10am and Frosts at Willington in the New Year. *Dot Wigg*

RIVER FESTIVAL 2024

This proved to be a very successful two days, with 30+ potential new members showing an interest in joining Bedfordshire WIs. The weather was kind and thanks to all the hard work by members in producing lots of blue butterflies and sunflowers, along with some fantastic bunting produced by a Wymington & Podington member, our shiny new gazebo looked fantastic. Board members and WI Advisers were in attendance over the two days, very ably assisted by WI members who had offered their help – which was very much appreciated.

Having initially been a little apprehensive about our location, we were actually delighted with the footfall, which may of course have been helped a little by the fact that we were next to the Pimms pitch! Now we start planning for 2026.

Dot Wigg



FEDERATION HOLIDAY 2025

fedsec@bedfordshirewis.org.uk

We are pleased to offer our first Federation holiday for some years. See front of brochure on P9. We have selected this particular company as they are very experienced at group travel and offer a lot for the money with a good hotel and varied itinerary. Entrance to York Minster; a trip on the North Yorkshire Moors Steam Railway, and entrance to Renishaw Hall & Gardens are included in the price, as are the Blue Badge guides supplied on days 2-4 in Yorkshire bringing their expert local knowledge. For members fancying slightly less activity, there will be opportunities to sit it out and take in restful coffee breaks here and there!

A full brochure has been included in your WI's mailing and a copy has also been emailed to Presidents & Secretaries with details posted on Facebook. It will also be on our web page. The holiday can only go ahead if we meet our minimum take up. There has been quite some interest already so do ask to look at the brochure or download your own copy. The non refundable £75 deposits will not be committed if minimum numbers are not met. Also note the insurance mentioned in Extras is optional but recommended for those who do not already have their own travel insurance. As always, Friends & Family will be very welcome. We only have 50 seats so do get booking to support your Federation with this summer event!

As time is a little tight we are asking members wishing to join the holiday to apply for their place/s by contacting the office by email, phone, by using the new TicketSource booking system (no payment required for this), or using the Federation Application form sent in the mailing; you will then receive an official booking form for completion and return as soon as possible, to WI House with the £75.00 deposit plus the optional insurance of £28.00 if required. **Cheques to be made out to the travel company**, which the office needs by **18 October** to submit to them to confirm the booking.

Bedfordshire County Federation of Women's Institutes presents

The Historic Houses & Heritage of Yorkshire

5 days from £699 Departing 23rd June 2025



FEATURES

- Harrogate hotel
- Half board accommodation
- All excursion travel & guided tours included
- Some entrance fees included (see below)
- Included train excursion on Day 4
- Blue Badge guide on Days 2 to 4
- Executive coach throughout

WHAT WE WILL SEE

- Belton House
- Harrogate – guided walking tour
- RHS Harlow Carr Garden
- York – guided walking tour
- York Minster (**entrance fee included**)
- Merchant Adventurers' Hall
- Whitby
- North Yorkshire Moors steam train excursion (**train ticket included**)
- Renishaw Hall & Gardens – guided tour of the hall (**entrance fee included**)

ACCOMMODATION

We stay four nights on a half board basis at the 3* Cairn Hotel in Harrogate (www.strathmorehotels.com). Located under a ten minute walk from the centre of the spa town, facilities at the hotel include a restaurant and a bar. All rooms are en suite and feature a hairdryer, television, and tea & coffee making facilities.

EXTRAS TO YOUR TOUR

- Insurance (including Covid cover) £28
- Single room supplement £129
- Entrance fees (except the ones indicated above) to places visited as part of this itinerary (National Trust properties free to NT members)
- Gratuities
- Lunches
- Donations at any churches or cathedrals visited

Price based on twin share. Minimum numbers required. Normal booking conditions apply.



York Minster

For more information on this tour contact your Group Organiser

Catherine - Federation Secretary

Tel: 01234 359538

Email: fedsec@bedfordshirewis.org.uk

WI House, 62 Adelaide Square,
Bedford MK40 2RW



Tailored Travel's ATOL number is 5605



Whitby

View and share this tour online - click on **View Your Tour** at www.tailored-travel.co.uk and quote **bdwi251**

Beds CFWI is a registered Charity - No: 1029278 and Registered Ltd Company in Wales No:02708888

Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands had a foot-tapping evening in June when entertained by 10 members of the U3A Ukelele Band, playing a variety of songs from a Lonnie Donegan skiffle number to the hymn Amazing Grace. We were all invited to sing along, which we did with gusto. The leader explained about the uses of the different types and sizes of ukelele. We didn't know there were so many different sorts! In complete contrast, we have been asked to provide cakes and refreshments for the 50th anniversary celebration of Woburn Sands' inception as a town. We didn't realise until we saw the advertisements how much emphasis is being placed on the WI providing cakes, so it's baking tins to the ready for us all!

Maulden welcomed Aakshi Ajmani to their June meeting – an expert belly dancing instructor whose enthusiasm soon had members joining in to learn the finer points of movements and choreography. By the end of the meeting, many members were able to join Aakshi in a routine to traditional music. The health benefits were clear, both mentally and physically, and all present agreed it had been a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Roxton were inspired and delighted at their June meeting to hear from Lizzie Houghton, how after a diagnosis of Parkinson's she had turned something so negative into such a positive influence by becoming an international table tennis player, published author and guest speaker. What an amazing lady and such an enjoyable and entertaining evening listening to her poetry.

In May **Pavenham** were visited by ex-Wimbledon line judge, Alan Gray, who gave a witty talk entitled 'You Cannot Be Serious'. The talk provided an absorbing combination of personal anecdotes of his experiences with players such as Boris Becker, Serena Williams and Monica Seles. Then in June, Susan Drage, and her husband Richard, spoke about 'Recycling with a Difference' and showed a very wide range of items that made from things that we would normally throw away. Susan showed members how to make everything from jewellery, garden decorations and furniture from plastic bottles, can pull rings and so on.

Sadly **Sharnbrook's** June meeting, planned as a garden event became a washout thanks to the vagaries of the British weather. However, undaunted we retired to the Methodist church hall for what became a joyful gathering as we were greeted with summer fruit drinks and a choice of delicious cakes. We were warmly welcomed by our President before the evening's entertainment began. A group of young dancers from a local dance school joined us to demonstrate their talent and agility in modern and traditional dance. Their ages ranged from 5 to 13 years, and they were all delightful to watch with lively musical accompaniment. Moving from the modern dance to classical ballet required a change of costume as they individually appeared in beautiful colourful tutus, skilfully demonstrating how accomplished they each were. It was a stunning display from some young dancers and all our members were delighted giving them well earned applause. In July, we heard from Dr Pater about signs and symptoms of illness which may affect us as we age and have a demonstration of CPR .



40 **Clifton Ladies** enjoyed a garden afternoon cream tea party with a red, white and blue theme to commemorate D Day. To add amusement we had arranged a blind jam tasting test which produced some varied results, unsurprisingly the majority were able to pick the most expensive one!! Next month Elaine Mountford from CBC is to speak about scams.



Wilstead - The speaker for June was Evan Willison. He spoke about his years at the Woburn Auction Room with Charlie Ross. There were many amusing tales to tell and he also brought along some items for us to identify and guess what the value might be. Evan also brought along an item hidden in a bag which we had to feel and then guess what it was. One of our ladies knew exactly what the item was and she was very happy with her prize, which Evan had kindly provided. There was not enough time to hear all the stories, so another visit will have to be arranged in the future. Evan is very entertaining and our members thoroughly enjoyed the evening. We can fully recommend him as a speaker. His fees are very reasonable too!

Bromham welcomed Robert Brewer to our meeting on a cold June evening. We had an almost full house of members, plus some visitors, and Robert took us through his journey about "How I Became a TV Extra". Initially responding to a simple advertisement in the local library, he has gone on to perform in forty different productions, including film, tv drama and adverts, working at varied locations through the region, including our own Cardington hangars. He gave a very entertaining presentation, with amusing tales to be told, and even tested out our own acting skills! We are to hear "Tales from the Auction Room" at our July meeting, and are particularly hoping that summer will have arrived by the middle of August, when we will hold our annual Afternoon Tea Party.

There was no open top bus or ticker tape parade but **Wrestlingworth WI** won the cup this year! Calling our team "Calendar Girls plus One", made up of seven members and one gentleman friend, we won the Wrestlingworth Memorial Hall Annual Quiz. Photo shows some of the team clutching the cup.

Another event this summer was a trip to Southill Park when an informative Charles Whitbread showed us around his ancestral home. And in July Evan Willison told us "Tales from the Auction Room" when Mary Watkins guessed the mystery object correctly and won herself a bottle of wine.



At **Great Barford** We welcomed Guy Lambourne, whose talk was entitled 'Making a living with sticks'. Guy came across as very proud and passionate about his craft and life. We heard that their farm of 70 acres has been in his wife's family since the 1920s and she is the fifth generation. He showed us several things made from willow and hazel which are his two main crops which are coppiced every 7 years. They produce lots of different items from fence panels, wreaths, obelisks, pea sticks, besom brooms and charcoal so nothing goes to waste, supporting a sensitive management of woodlands. The last item he showed us was a pretty stool made from a Salo tree which is white wood. They do workshop training days (which could be fun) in the woods where you get the chance to be hands on. With tea and cake sitting around the fire - it's a good day out if there is tea and cake at the end of it. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

Clapham Belles were delighted to accept the Sharnbrook WI Group meeting invite in June on the 'Kinky Boots' talk. 10 Clapham Belles members had an amazing evening listening to Steve Pateman's anecdotes on the origins of the film and musical. He was a very entertaining speaker & walked very well in the red high heel shoes! (with a few falls & plenty of practice, he told us!). We were very well looked after by Wymington & Podington who hosted the event, with gorgeous cakes, plenty of tea, laughter and friendship. A perfect WI meeting! Thank you to all at Wymington & Podington for your hospitality.



Twenty one members and one guest were at **Houghton Conquest's** meeting on 4th July, when the speaker was Jane Carwithen, who is a volunteer for the Mid Shires Search and Rescue. 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.

Shefford have been busy supporting various community events during the summer. The WI supported the Shefford Town Memorial Association (STMA) Gala held 2nd June this year with a ball & bag tombola which was a great success. We changed to this type of tombola to be more eco-friendly as the balls can be used over & over again and the prizes hidden in bags made it more exciting for those taking part as they had no idea what they would win! We successfully took £248 on the stall. It was a beautiful sunny day which brought out the crowds and we were able to hand out promotion cards for our WI along with Sunflower seeds to promote the coronation garden initiative supported by WI and other charities.



Several of our members enjoyed a fun afternoon at the Ascot Ladies Day Races at Mount Pleasant Golf Club on 20th June, which was arranged by the golf club to raise money for the charity "Against Breast Cancer." The charity raises money for both research and treatment. The successful afternoon was well attended and included many other local WI members and a total of £522 was raised. A lovely afternoon tea was washed down with plenty of Pimms! Our two lucky Shefford members Miriam and Janice won a cash prize on the same horse and went home very happy, though not on their horse! A raffle was also held to raise money. This is an annual event which Shefford WI have supported for many years and hope to for many more.

WHARLEY END WI

Present an Evening with
"THE TURF TAPPERS"

Saturday 21st September 2024, 7pm – 9pm

Come and join us to listen to a unique version of
 Country Music with the opportunity of Singing along
 and Tapping your Feet

Including a Fish and Chip Supper during the break
 Please bring your own drinks and glasses
Cranfield Community Centre, Thillans MK43 0WP

Tickets £18

Please contact: Diane: 07860 6222276 or
 Shirley: 07890 162646
 or Dawn: dawn@ashwell.co.uk

BCFWI

CHRISTMAS GIFT & CRAFT FAIR
SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER

10.30AM – 4PM

FLITWICK VILLAGE HALL MK45 1HP

There will be a variety of 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 call the office on
 01234 359358,

email
 fedsc@bedfordshirewis.org.uk



June seems to have been 'Gemstone Month' as two of our WIs had speakers who talked about very different kinds of gems. At **Cranfield** Jason Middleton gave a very interesting talk entitled 'An Introduction to Gemstones', and explained that in the UK we only see about 50% of the different types of gemstones that are available around the world. As well as showing pictures of different types of mined gemstones both before, and then after they had gone through the processes of cutting and faceting to allow light to radiate through the gemstone and give it its sparkle, he also had samples of various semi-precious stones for us to see. At the end of the talk members were able to purchase silver and gemstone earrings. For the July meeting we enjoyed a cheese and wine tasting. One of our members, Alison Borrett, lead the wine tasting, and Chris Williams, a cheese buyer, lead the cheese tasting for us. The 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 various wines were accompanied with 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.

And **Tilsworth & Stanbridge** were treated to a talk by Frances Carlaw, The Pearl Lady. Her Pearl business supports some of the poorest children in the world giving them access to books. She has been all over the world finding out about how Pearls are made. It all started with visits to her Grandma's house. Grandma would always wear her pearls and take them off, give them to Frances telling her to look after them until bedtime. Frances still has these pearls, together with many others from all over the world. She said there are 2000 varieties of bi-valves, but only 20 worldwide make pearls, they have been around for 535 million years - pre dinosaurs and that oysters can live to 150 years old!! The oldest known Oyster is 276 years old and STILL producing pearls! Frances gave us lots more really interesting information about pearls, but you will need to book her to come and talk to you to find out more. Frances can be contacted on 07711031567 /FrancesCarlaw@gmail.com /Thepearllady.co.uk. You can follow her on Facebook, Frances makes all her jewellery herself, there are some stunning pieces.

At **Wilstead**, the speaker was Jason Middleton. This was his second visit to us. He gave a very interesting and knowledgeable talk about the history of jewellery. The story began in the Stone-age when pebbles, teeth and shells were used as human adornments. Jason brought us through the ages to present times, using photos, and we passed round various examples and books. He travels worldwide, but extensively to Hong Kong visiting World Fairs. We can thoroughly recommend Jason as a speaker. He offers seven different talks.

Warden Hill celebrated their 40th anniversary in June with 52 members and guests. They had an afternoon tea supplied by "Afternoon Teas 2 You," a local firm, who set up each table with their own flower arrangements, crockery and cutlery. There were crisps, sandwiches, cakes with endless cups of tea. A table with memorabilia was used to display photo albums of walks, crafts, outings and past paperwork. Recent photos of lavender bags, made by present members, used as birthday gifts and photos of recent activities, were all available to see. A raffle was held, and various events from 1984, discussed with the members. A member who joined in 1984, gave a few facts about the birth of our WI. There was a campaign that year to increase WI membership; the member was out shopping and went into British Home Stores. I am sure we can remember this shop. A lady was in the store promoting the WI where several other interested ladies also joined up. They were guided by the then County Adviser Ann Salmon, who advised on how to set up a WI. Our first President was Daphne Tait. A very pleasant afternoon was spent reminiscing on how our WI has changed over the years, with new members, activities replacing a lot of the talks, which have all been well received. Everyone enjoyed their afternoon. Here's to the next 40 years !!



Wharley End thoroughly enjoyed hearing their July speaker, Christine Farmer, who entertained them with stories based around her visit to The Repair Shop ... Fame for 20 Minutes! She spoke about the Weald Downland Museum, home of the Repair Shop and gave fascinating information about Jay Blades, his background and how he was chosen by the company Ricochet for this programme. Christine met all the people we see on the programme. Will made a sterling job, whilst keeping the aged look, of repairing her inherited sewing table, which had been left to her in a will and held many childhood memories.

KEMPSTON CENTRAL WI

Have arranged a

COACH TRIP TO LONDON

On Tuesday 12th November

Drop off at Covent Garden to do your own thing!

Leaving Sainsbury's Kempston at 08.30am

and leaving to return home at 5pm

(with a drive through the Christmas Lights)

Cost £25.00

Family & Friends Welcome !

To book or request information

please contact June on 07903171020

BCFWI

**MEMBERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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