



Whissendine WI

Hello and welcome to Whissendine WI. We are so pleased that you have decided to join us. We hope that this letter will help to explain how the group is organised and who does what.

We are sure that you will find lots to interest you in the Whissendine WI programme of meetings – just come along and enjoy yourself. There are also courses and activities organised in our local group of WIs (The Horseshoe Group), by the County (Leicestershire and Rutland Federation) and by the WI National College at Denman. Caroline and Rosie, the joint secretaries, will highlight at each monthly meeting, activities that they think are most likely to be of interest to members. In addition, now that you are a member, a volunteer will deliver the County News to your home and the WI Life magazine will come to you by post, where you will find so much more.

When you paid your subscription you would have been given a copy of our programme for the year, which tells you what we have planned and also lists the Whissendine WI Committee members. Please do not be put off by all that is on offer, because you can join in as much or as little as you want, but remember, the more you put in, the more you will get out!

All you have to do now is check your diary and join us on the third Tuesday of each month. The companionship and friendship that our WI offers are very important to us, and we hope that you have an enjoyable and interesting time with the Whissendine WI.

Kind regards and welcome again,

Jean Penny (President) and the Whissendine WI Committee

Roles and responsibilities

President – Jean Penny Jean conducts the Committee Meetings and Monthly Meetings and, with other members of the Committee, manages the Whissendine WI business.

Vice Presidents – Lindsey Cleggett & Joan Giblin Lindsey and Joan are Jean's deputies and will lead the Monthly Meeting if she is not able to be there.

Joint Secretaries – Caroline Meakin & Rosie Meakin The role of secretary is shared by Caroline and Rosie. All correspondence is their responsibility and if you want to sign up for any events or activities, they are your first point of contact. If tickets are needed they will order them for you (payments are to be made to the Treasurer). Theirs is a co-ordinating role and so they should be able to answer your questions too.

Minute Secretary – Joan Giblin The business section at the beginning of our meeting is minuted by Joan. The minutes are available in the Minutes Book for all to check at each meeting.

Joint Treasurers – Jean Parkes & Margaret Gamble Financial matters are the responsibility of Jean and Margaret. Payments for subscriptions, events or activity tickets should be given to the treasurers.

Sales Table – Grace Terry At most meetings we have a table for the sale of items to raise funds for the group. There are always books and sometimes plants or preserves. All members can make use of this table to sell something of their own, perhaps something that they have made – just check with Grace to see if it's suitable. The WI will retain only 10% of the price – the balance goes to the member.

Raffle – Jacqui Cranwell-Ward At every meeting we have a raffle to contribute to our funds. There are at least three prizes, and each strip of five tickets costs £1.

'Meet and Greet' – Lindsey Cleggett and Hillary Maunders We want all newcomers to feel welcome and comfortable whilst they get to know us, and so Lindsey or Hillary will try to be there at each meeting to make sure we are hospitable.

Programme Committee Lindsey Cleggett, Grace Terry, Carolyn Copley, Elaine McSweeney and Jean Penny are the members who research and plan the Whissendine Monthly Meetings. They take notice of members' preferences and the successes of previous years. So please make suggestions for anything you would like to see or do with us, but they also aim to surprise us too!

Non-Committee Responsibilities

Register: Helen Roberts keeps the register at each meeting. She needs to count us for both meeting records and safety reasons. She will collect visitors' fees as well as tea and coffee orders.

Birthday cards: Ann Rushton makes sure that we don't forget your birthday.

At the Monthly Meetings

Welcome 2019

Jerusalem: We have decided to continue the WI tradition of singing Jerusalem - see following note. The words are on your programme.

Apologies: There is no need to give apologies, but many members do. If you want to let the meeting know that you will not be there, just e-mail the secretaries or president.

Refreshments: At each meeting we have tea, coffee and biscuits available. Most members are asked to 'host' a meeting. This simply means making tea and coffee for us all with another member – no experience is necessary! Please tell a member of the committee if you have any allergies or cannot tolerate any particular types of food.

Competition: At each Monthly Meeting we have a competition open to all members. Voting is by members putting coins next to the items they consider most appropriate. All money collected goes to the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) – see following note.

Information Table and Notice Board: At the front of the hall is where you will find all the information on activities and opportunities offered by the WI locally, regionally and nationally.

Resolutions for National WI Campaigns: At the end of each year we have a choice of resolution topics to vote for – resolutions are put forward by members nationally. A form is issued in the WI Life magazine to record individual votes, and the forms are collected at the December and January Meetings. The selected resolutions are debated by each WI and the decisions are taken by delegates to the National General Meeting.

Visitors: Visitors are very welcome and can pay the visitor's fee of £3 for each visit for a maximum of three months. After this, we invite visitors to join the WI.

Open meetings: We are introducing more 'Open Meetings' and would love family and friends to visit and we invite the men to come along too.

Lunch Club: Members meet most months at a local restaurant or coffee shop for lunch. These are not in the programme but are announced at each Monthly Meeting.

The WI beyond Whissendine

The Horseshoe Group: You will hear us speak of the 'Horseshoe Group'. This is a group of local WIs who take it in turns to organise events together. Our Horseshoe Group consists of Braunstone and Brooke, Cottesmore, Greetham, Langham and Barleythorpe, Oakham, Oakham Afternoon and Whissendine.

Leicestershire and Rutland Federation: The WI is divided into county groups and Whissendine is part of the Leicestershire and Rutland Federation. You will hear it referred to as 'County' or 'Federation' and the office is in Leicester.

National Federation of the Women's Institute: The 'National' or NFWI is the headquarters of the WI and is located in London. NFWI employs around 70 staff and is headed by a General Secretary.

Denman College: This is NFWI's adult educational residential college in Oxfordshire; lots of courses are held there. Accommodation is available and you can go as an individual or with friends.

Welcome 2019

The anthem Jerusalem and the WI

We still enjoy singing Jerusalem at the start of our meetings because of the history associated with it. The hymn was taken up by the Suffragettes in 1917 and was used at a Suffrage Demonstration Concert on 13th March 1918. After the concert the composer was asked if it might become the Women Voters' Hymn. Accordingly, the copyright was assigned to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS). When that organisation was wound up in 1928, the copyright was reassigned to the Women's Institute, as many of the leaders of the NFWI had been part of that struggle to win the vote for women, where it remained until it entered the public domain in 1968. By singing Jerusalem, the WI is marking its links with wider women's movements, and its commitment to improving the conditions of rural life.

The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)

All money collected by voting in our monthly competition goes to the ACWW, the largest international organisation for rural women. The ACWW works in partnership with its members, offering mutual support, friendship and practical help to women and communities around the world. The ACWW has over 460 member societies active in over 70 countries.

We hope that this helps a little, but please don't hesitate to ask any committee member if you have any questions.

Contact e-mails:

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