



theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

# CHESHIRE NEWS

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## CHAIR'S LETTER SELINA PRESCOTT

Hello

I hope you have all had a super summer, sometimes the often-glorious weather was too overwhelmingly hot, but this doesn't seem to have deterred you! Throughout this 'bumper' issue your exploits (and I'm sure there were lots not sent in) are amazing and it is so heartening to see and hear about all you have done. It's good to note that another wonderful job of organising all your input into our newsletter has only been achieved by adding another two pages, for which we hope you approve!!! I have been lucky enough to meet many of you at various events shown where there was much chat, laughter and enjoyment.

Our puzzle competition continues to tax the brain cells, we have had one winner and I do hope the £20 voucher was happily spent! Please keep trying to solve the Puzzle Master's efforts.

During our New Members Day, it was brilliant to hear how much everyone enjoys entering into what the Federation and your WIs have to offer. It does take a little time and effort regarding organisation but is so very rewarding when events have been appreciated. Please also don't forget to volunteer for your Committee or offer your support and help in any way possible – it does lighten everyone's shoulders. We do have another couple of new WIs in the pipeline and hope to send a more formal welcome in future issues. Where we have WIs with waiting lists, how wonderful would it be to see new ones started enabling more members to value what we offer.

Welcome, tolerance and friendship are well-used words, but in your case, they are bywords for all our wonderful WIs. As always, I thank you for everything you do and for the warmth you extend to everyone. I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming months.

## DIARY DATES

FULL DETAILS FOR ALL EVENTS ARE WITH  
YOUR WI SECRETARIES

**Saturday 6th September.** Port Sunlight 'Monopoly'.

**Friday 12th September.** Golf Day, Hartford Golf Club.

**Friday 19th September.** Quiz Final. Comberbach.

**Wednesday 24th September.** Mersey Science Day. Widnes.

**Thursday 16th October.** 'Restart a Heart' Delamere walk. 11am to 2.00pm.

**Monday 20th October.** CFWI Autumn Meeting. The Storyhouse, 11.00am- 3.30pm.

**Tuesday 28th October.** Cas Holmes, Textile Artist. Zoom 6.45 for 7.00pm start.

**Saturday 8th November.** Christmas Craft. Frodsham.

## CLOSING DATES FOR EVENTS

EVENT	CLOSING DATE
Mersey Science Day	12th September
Autumn Meeting	12th September
Restart a Heart Day	1st October
Christmas Craft	8th October
105 years Photo Competition	14th November
Chair's Challenge	9th December

## CFWI WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



New Members visit White Friars

On a lovely July day, our CFWI Advisers from the Organisation and Membership Sub-committee were delighted to warmly welcome fifty-two new members from across the Federation to WI House in Chester. Having chosen either a morning or afternoon session, members got to know each other over refreshments of scones, jam and cream (or cream and jam!), before learning about the history of the WI, its structures and how it operates. Between them, the CFWI Advisers explained how, as new members, they can find out about what is happening within the WI, the activities and opportunities on offer, as well as information about resolutions and campaigns, so that they can hopefully become more involved at local, federation and even national levels. There was much discussion, happy chatter and laughter as many members completed the event with a guided tour of WI House before leaving with a CFWI 'goody-bag' and the promise to return to Chester for future events.

A big 'Thank You' to the team of CFWI Advisers who organised and contributed to this event, which we hope will enhance the 'WI experience' to our new members.

*Vivien Lee. Chair of the Membership and Organisation Sub-Committee*

## BYSTANDERS CAN BE LIFESAVERS



Our Federation Resolutions Officer, Jill Kitchen, organised a highly successful Learning Day in July, featuring three engaging and practical workshops: CPR, Choking & Defibrillators, and Simple First Aid. We were delighted to partner with the British Red Cross, who delivered excellent CPR and Defibrillator training sessions. Special thanks also go to Andrea Piggott of [Hough WI](#), who led a fantastic First Aid workshop, giving us all the confidence to deal with common domestic accidents.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive – everyone found the sessions valuable, and the delicious cakes provided by Hough WI were an added treat!

A big thank you to our brilliant volunteers Ann, Karen and Andrea for helping the day run so smoothly, and to Federation Chair Selina and Public Affairs Chair Sue, whose tireless tea and coffee making kept everyone going.

*Sue Bentley MBE. Chair of the Public Affairs Sub-Committee*

## DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY



CFWI were delighted to have a stand at Disability Awareness Day again this year – the world's largest 'not for profit' voluntary-led disability exhibition.

The whole event is about what people can do, and we think the WI is about that too.

In support of our Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers resolution, we demonstrated a defibrillator and CPR using an Annie training dummy, which attracted lots of interest from visitors throughout the day.

*Sue Bentley MBE. Chair of the Public Affairs Sub-Committee*





## CAMP CHESHIRE AKA 'WI LD in FYLDE

Even though the thought of camp did not appeal to a lot of our members, 100 women including at least 30 who had never tried a WI camp before took the plunge and judging by the photos and feedback they had a great time.

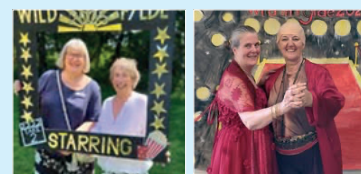
The camp, based in the Fylde Scout Association, Activity Centre in Lytham St Annes, offered a safe place to be yourself and get away from the responsibilities of day to day life.

This year the theme was 'Hollywood', members enjoyed the option to join in craft activities, a book group, organised walks, exercise classes, talks or just sit and chat to new friends. Food and drink were provided, including ice cream sundaes and a cream tea on the Sunday when the competition winners were announced.

Incredible talent was on display with members rising to the challenge to meet the Hollywood theme. Whether the craft, the photography entries, the decorated tables, not to mention the effort and imagination that went into the costumes for our Saturday night. Ranging from Slinky in Toy Story to Audrey Hepburn. We had numerous Pink Ladies, 4 Mary Poppins, the Von Trapp family and even Clint Eastwood and Yul Brynner made an appearance. Lone campers were adopted and everyone chipped in. Home-made cakes were in abundance made by members for everyone to share. We were able to offer a warm Cheshire welcome to a few members from other Federations and the icing on the cake was the fantastic weather!



*Alia el Asmar. Chair of the Leisure for Pleasure Sub-Committee.*



### A POWER-FULL SATURDAY

What a power-full Saturday! Forty-seven CFWI members gathered for a delicious lunch at The Vicarage in Cranage before being swept away by an electrifying talk from Dr. Mark Rippon on the Dane River Hydro Plant – affectionately known as the Archimedean Screw! From the spark of an idea to generating clean energy for four-hundred homes, right through to the plant's recent sale, Mark's journey had members completely hooked. The questions came thick and fast – a true sign of a captivated audience! And just when we thought it couldn't get better – the rain held off and we got to see the plant in action up close.

*Reporter Karen Glendining – CFWI Public Affairs Sub-Committee*



### NEWS FROM DUTTON WI

**Dutton WI's** June speaker was Henry Cook from 'The Clotton Creamery.' He talked about how his family's 6th generation dairy farm started producing Cheshire clotted cream, with work starting in 2015 and producing its first clotted cream in 2017. They initially sold the cream at local farm shops and farmers local markets. The business has expanded, and they now sell the cream as well as custard and rice pudding, to a much larger market.

July was their Annual **Dutton WI** Show and once again members produced a wonderful display of produce and craft. Well done to show committee and all members who entered and won.

There was also an organised trip to the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire, where members from other local WIs joined them. The Arboretum is an all-round place of remembrance and home to the Iconic Armed Forces Memorial, and there is a recognition of the WI in wartime. "A very moving experience" was the most common comment from all members who attended.



### SHELDON- 'A DOG FOR GOOD'

**Capenhurst & Ledsham WIs** June meeting was described as funny, interesting with an inspirational talk by guest speaker Mary Lamb who brought her 'Assistance Dog' Sheldon along with her. Despite her disabilities, Mary achieved her dream of completing her quest of conquering the three peaks of the UK: Ben Nevis - Scafell Pike and Snowdon accompanied by Sheldon and a few experienced British Soldiers. Her goal was to raise money and awareness for 'Dogs for Good' who are a charity that provide assistance dogs for people with disabilities.

£17,000 was raised towards the training of 'Pensby' the puppy, who is a future 'Assistance Dog'. Mary proved to herself and people suffering disabilities that dreams can be achieved. She said her journey ascending the three peaks was a wonderful experience although at times, very harrowing, frightening and hard going but she also said there were many funny moments along the way.



### CHARITY BUS RIDE



At **Haughton & Faddiley WI**, the speaker for the June meeting was Wil Emerton, a local man whose family had recently celebrated 100 years in the roofing business. The family has a passion for restoring old buses 1950's coaches and have amassed over a dozen! Their father

bought a miniature 1960's bus that was built to carry a few children along the promenade back in the day. It needed restoring. A replacement engine was fitted and the body work made good. They decided, Wil and his two brothers, to travel from Lands' End to John O'Groats in just over a week, calling their adventure 'Little Bus, Big Ride.' The back up vehicle was a new transit van which took them to Cornwall, it broke down! The 60-year-old bus didn't! Wil and his brothers took it in turns to drive on B roads with a bucket and information for people to donate to their three chosen charities, namely Hope House, MPS (a rare disease charity) and the Children's Society. Once they had reached Scotland, the news was out, BBC Scotland interviewed them, and they were an item on the evening news! In total they raised over £30,000



## THE 'BELLES of PEOVER'

The Quiz team of Over Peover WI (The Peover Belles) have been regulars at the quiz nights at their local hostelry. They are apparently a modest bunch, and we hear that their track record is excellent having had many wins under their belts, this evening in June was no exception. The weather was hot, as was the competition, and they were sizzling. Having enjoyed a chat and a drink, the quizzing started at 8pm. The theme for this evening was 'Fathers for Father's Day,' and they did well in the photo round which was all about recognising Fathers and Sons. Pooling their knowledge, they were on form and at the end of the evening they took third place. Good practice for the CFWI Quiz Next year!



## LEARNING TO LIFE-SAVE

**Poynton WI** members recently gained critical life-saving skills through two comprehensive CPR training sessions. These impactful sessions went beyond basic CPR, to include crucial demonstrations on defibrillator operations and how to manage choking incidents. Participants praised the evenings as exceptionally informative, valuing the hands-on experience that boosted their confidence in these vital techniques. We are thrilled that these productive sessions have empowered our members with invaluable skills, significantly bolstering our community's ability to respond to emergencies.

## STOCKPORT WITHOUT ABUSE

**The Heaton's WI's** 2024/25 nominated charity was 'Stockport Without Abuse'. This charity does vital work offering a range of services to help and support women, men and children who are affected by domestic abuse. Last autumn our members donated new kitchenware for SWA, which will go towards helping those setting up new homes, and via a range of fundraising events throughout the year, has raised in excess of £940 for the charity. The photograph shows The Heaton's WI President, Kate Young presenting a cheque to Sue Westwood, Trustee of SWA.



## THE DRESSMAKERS OF AUSCHWITZ



It was by far the busiest meeting of the year at **Lower Withington WI** in July. The meeting was attended by their own members and sixty-three visitors from other WIs. The committee took on the task of providing refreshments very seriously, and they can safely say that no-one went away hungry! The star attraction of the evening was fashion historian Lucy Adlington ([www.lucyadlington.com](http://www.lucyadlington.com)) with her talk 'The Dressmakers of Auschwitz'. Based on her best-selling book, Lucy held attendees spellbound with her story of the women prisoners in the WW2 concentration camp who were forced to create a fashion salon for the wives of high-ranking German officials. Supported with photographs, clothing and even an original outfit, the talk was delivered with warmth and humour that helped to support a difficult subject.

## OUT AND ABOUT - CONTINUED FROM AUGUST 2025

**Aston & District WI** welcomed members and visitors to a special VE Day celebration meeting. The room was decorated in red, white and blue and some colourful outfits could be found together with a couple of Land Girls. The meeting sprung into life with a game of Bag Beetle which everyone enjoyed once the rules were explained, and a delicious supper was served which the committee had prepared. The evening rounded off with a patriotic sing song and all agreed it had been a very happy and sociable event.

Although he was about to retire as Chair of the Whitchurch Food Bank, Alan Scutt took the time to tell members of **Burleydam WI** about the food bank, how it began and its organisation. When clients arrive, they are greeted by volunteers and invited to have a cup of coffee and a chat where other help and advice may be given. Alan praised the 40 volunteers who weighed, labelled and sorted the donations, the provision of extra food and activities in the school holidays and the extra effort made to make Christmas special, as well as on many other occasions of crisis in some homes in the town.

**Croft WI** welcomed Phil Chadwick who gave a very entertaining talk on his life and experiences. Phil 'Chaddy' Chadwick is well known in the town from his time as Warrington Wolves strength and fitness coach. He spent many years working 'on the bins' and enjoyed the human interaction with people he met on his bin round. In later years Phil gained a degree from Salford University and became an Education Officer, visiting schools, community and religious groups to promote recycling.

**Crowton WI** President Diana opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and celebrated the 80th birthday of one of their members, by singing happy birthday which was a lovely start to the evening. Unfortunately, their speaker, was unable to attend due to ill health but that didn't dampen their spirits and after the business was concluded all enjoyed a lot of chat and a huge tin of chocolates.

**Davenham WI** was delighted to welcome Jacky Finch, a retired researcher from the University of Manchester who gave a fascinating talk on ancient Egyptian jewellery. She took up Egyptology as a hobby with a particular interest in mummification and brought a unique perspective to her presentation, combining scientific insight with historical context. Her engaging talk explored the symbolic meaning, craftsmanship, and cultural significance of jewellery in ancient Egypt, providing members with a deeper understanding of this captivating subject.



**Eastham WI** enjoyed an Educational Day Out when they visited the St Helens World of Glass Museum. It was a wonderful coach trip to watch a glass blowing demonstration, see many displays of historic glass pieces plus enjoy a fabulous lunch.

**Glazebrook WI** Matthew Martin, a solicitor specialising in wills, gave an illuminating talk entitled 'Tax, Care & Toy Boys'. Making a will can give one peace of mind, to 'give what you have when you die to those you choose'. Martin also covered tax issues, care, the 7year rule, gifting and sideways inheritance to name but a few and gave members a lot to ponder on and generously donated his fee to a Chorley Children's Hospice.

**Hartford WI** held a very enjoyable Summer Show which was their second year of holding the show. They had 88 entries over 10 categories, and it was attended by 48 members. They have some very talented members and hope for an even bigger, better show next year.

**Heatley WI** Helen Owen of the Helen Owen Foundation, a charity she set up 14 years ago in Uganda gave an inspirational talk on the school it supports for impoverished children, many of whom were orphans.

In recent years through fundraising the school now has electricity, running water and toilets. More recently they have been helping organise work for the older children when they leave school such as sewing and farming. Helen has been given an award for international services to Uganda.

**Jodrell Side WI** welcomed Becky Williams from Cheshire Wildlife Trust to the meeting. The Trust works across Cheshire managing and influencing huge swathes of land and has a network of over 350 volunteers. The Cheshire countryside is home to several rare species including natterjack toads, bittern, otters and water voles. Two beavers were released in 2020 in the Delamere area and Becky stressed how much nature needed our help for both encouraging wildlife and plant life. Members with their own gardens can help in many ways by providing water, a wild area, bee hotels and hedgehog highways between gardens.

**Sundial WI** enjoyed a talk given by their borough Archivist, Philip Jeffs, about Warrington Women and how he set up the archive to gain information about them. Members put ideas forward and everyone enjoyed the slides showing various 'fields.'

**Willastonhey WI** enjoyed a coach trip to Shrewsbury for their annual day out. Some members partook in the walking tours, whilst others a boat trip on the River Severn and many enjoyed doing their own thing. There were numerous independent shops as well as many well-known retailers, plenty of coffee shops and eateries to choose from. A good day was had by all.



**Willaston (Nantwich) WI** celebrated VE Day in style. Members dressed in red, white and blue or wartime outfits. Specially decorated cakes were provided and the Committee read details of the work carried out during WW2 by WIs all over the country. Members, dressed as Land Army Girls, gave a rendition of the Land Army Girls song.

**Woodnoth cum Shavington WI** Chris Griffith from The NE Wales Search and Rescue Service outlined the valuable work of the 55 volunteers who provide a rescue service 24/7 in all weathers. They can be called out to mountain climbers, missing persons reported via the Police, weather related incidents or to anyone in trouble. Based in North Wales, they depend on the Ambulance Service and Helicopter Rescue to take the injured to hospital and explained that mobile phones and drones now play a big part in locating an injured person. They enjoyed a summer outing to Tweed Mill, in St Asaph and continued to Anglesey where they had a photo shoot at Llanfair-PG which was followed by a traditional afternoon tea and an interesting tour of The WI museum.



**Ashton Hayes WI** Most people would have suspected that a talk about Chutney would be pretty mundane but this was not the case when Melanie Lytham gave her talk entitled 'Chutney and Cheer' and kept everyone completely entertained with her stories not just of how Holly Farm Preserves was formed but also of some of her comical (and embarrassing) adventures along the way! All this whilst cooking and bottling beetroot, pear and ginger chutney!



**Aston & District WI** John Dwyer, a retired police officer, gave a very interesting and humorous talk entitled 'Plodding to the Top.' John started as a constable in Nottingham, moved on to CID working with Special Branch alongside MI5 before finally becoming a Chief Inspector in the West Midlands where he was responsible for trialling the use of helicopters in police work. Members have also been collecting blister packs as part of the Green Dot campaign.

Ex RAF Corporal Tracey Dobson gave a fascinating presentation relating to her former years as an RAF photographer to members of **Croft WI**. Always interested in photography from an early age and after studying the art at university she joined the RAF and following basic training was sent to the Defence School of Photography at RAF Cosford. Her first posting was to Northern Ireland where her career really 'took off' taking Air to Air photos from the back seat of fighter jets.

**Crowton WI** Judith Walmsley, now a retired police officer, worked tirelessly with the homeless in Manchester in her career spanning 30 years with the Manchester Police Force and her talk was both fascinating and inspirational. She was one of the first officers to go part time when it was introduced in 1994 which was a radical idea then but suited Judith as she had young children. She was assigned a role in charge of beggars, drinkers and the homeless alongside preventing low level crime on the streets and spent fifteen years as part of the Homeless Unit for Greater Manchester Police.

**Cuddington & Sandiway WI** members held a Race Day themed celebration of 'all things summer,' afternoon tea, posh frocks and most importantly hats! A profusion of vibrant head wear adorned many and competition for the 'best' almost impossible to judge. 'Name that hat' quiz also generated rivalry and laughter between the 'teams.' A group of volunteers provided a delicious afternoon tea and set tables, beautifully adorned with flowers. A glass of fizz completed Race Day with bubbles that reflected a very bubbly afternoon.

**Didsbury Village WI's** Summer Social had an Indian Theme. They had a fantastic performance of Indian Dancing from Sharmista, (who has worked on Bollywood musicals). She then had all our members up dancing. It was great fun, and all had a great time, finishing their evening with an Indian supper and raffle. Let's hope for an 'Indian Summer' in our forthcoming autumn season.

Following the Green Dot Day at White Friars, **Eastham WI** members had a good clear out and donated their old redundant laptops, tablets and phones for recycling. They collected 15 laptops, 9 tablets and 24 phones and also agreed to have a good look at their emails especially the junk box and delete what no longer needs to be kept, to help reduce their carbon footprint.

**Glazebrook WI** Frances Raftery gave an interesting talk on 'The Royal Personal Jewels'. Speaking about several Royals over the years, but mostly Queen Elizabeth II, Frances told members that only two books have been written about these jewels, some of which are housed in the Tower of London and Queen Victoria started to 'pass down' jewels, to other Royals. Frances had amazingly collected an array of 'replica' Crowns, brooches, and an ostrich fan, of the famous Royal Collection.

**Glazebury WI** had a most interesting and thought-provoking evening presented by four ladies from a now countrywide organisation called Project Linus. The purpose of the charity is to make blankets to bring comfort to sick and traumatised children. Project Linus was started in the USA in March 2000 and was registered as a UK Community Interest Company in 2013. It is a 100% volunteer based and non-profit making group which rely on donations. If your WI Craft Group is interested, why not check out 'Project Linus' on Google.

**Goostrey WI** held their summer meeting and were joined by members from other local WIs for entertainment provided by The Funky Choir. All were soon singing along and tapping their feet to the well-known tunes. They shared a lovely buffet with a range of fresh bread, cheese, paté and lots of home-made desserts and cakes.

**Heatley WI** Dave Duckett gave an interesting and amusing talk entitled 'Tales out of School.' He started his career as a librarian but has many interests including poetry and playing musical instruments which led to a career as a School Visitor.

**Jodrell Side WI** James Ellison, a police officer, mountaineer and crime writer described his successful ascent of the Matterhorn, a mountain which has claimed the lives of 500 climbers since the first ascent by Edward

Whymper in 1865. His first and second attempts were unsuccessful due to adverse weather conditions but his third was a success reaching the summit in perfect weather conditions. After taking photos, he abseiled down using rings already fixed to the mountain.

**Little Sutton Sapphires WI** held a Summer Afternoon Tea spread and were entertained by a Magician and Illusionist and enjoyed taking part in his show and trying to work out how his magic worked. Their 'Knit and Natter' Group have been busy knitting for the Neonatal unit of Arrowe Park hospital Wirral. Some 300 sets of 'bonding squares' have been made and gratefully received. They have also made Easter chicks and jolly little snowmen, phew! So industrious!



In April **Marfield WI** planted Wildflower Seeds and Japanese Anemones in the local Morris Brook area of Grappenhall and have been watering them in the warm weather and checking on their progress, hoping for colourful blooms.

**Moulton WI** welcomed Glenys, David and Brenda to their meeting to talk about 'Life on the Home-Front.' Glenys and Brenda were both dressed in typical WWII fashion and David was kitted out in full Home Guard uniform. They heard about the history of the Home Guard who initially had no weapons, just whatever was to hand e.g. broom handles or spades and no uniform. It was a very informative and amusing talk and Glenys and Brenda gave a brilliant account of how women managed during the war. They brought an amazing array of items and memorabilia for members to see.

**Mow Cop WI** have had a very busy meeting in July, with not one but two speakers. Firstly, they had the wonderful Kate from 'Foundations of Nantwich' who discussed everything bras, sizing and fitting related. Their second speakers were from 'Pink Sisters and Misterys', a cancer charity based in the area who support provide a safe space and network for those who have cancer. Both speakers were brilliant and informative. Finally, members were even treated to some fabulous 'breast' related cakes baked by one of their members Norma Jean.

Members from **Prestbury WI** spent a very hot afternoon at Rudyard Lake. At the helm of the boat named 'Sunray' trustee Ray Perry kept them in order. A relaxing afternoon had by all.

**Sundial WI** Roger Browne played 'Jerusalem' on his keyboard and told the story of Cole Porter and his songs. He sang many of these and got an encore before tea. A grand afternoon.

**The Heatons WI** Gin Club had a Ginspiring August meeting in the back garden of member, Yvonne Steel. It was an idyllic summer evening, and all enjoyed a raffle, a quiz and delicious nibbles, as well as Gin, of course.



**Row of Trees cum Wilmslow WI** were delighted to welcome their Adviser Angela Britland to their meeting and to be entertained by Ian Black who spoke amusingly about his life and work as a notable hairdresser. Angela presented President Sheila with a certificate to mark their WI's 75th anniversary.

**Stalybridge WI's** gardening group have been enjoying the fine weather with visits to gardens in Mellor, Didsbury and Simmondley which were open for the National Garden Scheme. Members enjoyed a relaxing day spent on a 70-foot canal barge cruising down the Macclesfield canal from Marple to Adlington.

**Wallasey WI** enjoyed a recent afternoon strawberry tea in the beautiful garden of our treasurer, Nanette. Sixteen members attended, and all enjoyed lovely weather as well.

**Winwick WI** enjoyed a lively and interesting evening with speaker Frances Raftery whose talk was based on the history of "Crown Jewels and Coronations". Frances brought with her a replica collection, two different crowns, an Orb and Sceptre, a satin gown and a cloak trimmed with artificial ermine. Members were invited to try on these amazing items and be photographed, all genuine fun. Members also enjoyed a very pleasant rail trip to Chester and a sail on the river Dee.

**Woodnoth cum Shavington WI** members were given a demonstration by member Sue Brooks on how to make a lovely material wreath out of used cotton material. Sue explained how to select and cut out pieces of worn shirts and material and push the squares into a polystyrene circle to create a decorative wreath for any room in the home. She then went on to tell members of her link with an organisation, based in Sandbach Library, who make Mors shopping bags and aprons, from old duvet covers and curtains to give to charities.

Members from **Worleston WI** enjoyed an interesting talk on the history of Nantwich by Mick McCarthy from Nantwich Museum. He had only lived in the town for under two years and members who could trace family history back for centuries were able to give him the benefit of their knowledge too. He had brought with him several items from the Museum and members had much fun recalling memories of themselves and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the Roman relics he had brought with him.





# HAVING FUN IN THE SUN



*garden parties, shows, festivals, days-out*

In July 1945, 2 ladies from neighbouring farms in Burleydam decided that what Burleydam was lacking was a Women's Institute. Both had recognized a need for social activities in the village. So now in July 2025 **Burleydam WI** celebrated its 80th birthday with a visit to their neighbour, Combermere Abbey. They were welcomed by Victoria, whose childhood home it was and by Myra their tour guide. The Abbey has changed hands and has been considerably altered and restored over the years. Myra told members about the history of the Abbey which started life as a Cistercian Monastery but was disbanded by Henry VIII in the Reformation of the Monasteries. Members were taken up a wonderful wide shallow staircase to the Library, which was the original Refectory of the Monastery. Myra told us that in those days it was unusual for the refectory to be on the first floor of a monastery and also unusual for the Abbot to sit separately on a raised dais as he dined.



After the tour, members were invited into the panelled dining room, where a beautiful cake was cut and served with sparkling wine so the WI could toast it's 80 years..

**Comberbach WI** members and committee did themselves proud filling the produce stall at the Comberbach fete at the end of June. The fete was very well attended – the weather was hot but very windy, which made many a tent unstable! However, the assortment of cakes, bakes, jam and produce was amazing. It was a pleasure to help man the stall, encouraging new members and having a fun time. They managed to sell everything and making a contribution to both their funds and to the Fete committee. Definitely a date for the diary for 2026.



'Tea, cakes, fun and friendship' were on the menu when **Boothmere WI** held its annual tea party in member Linda's lovely garden. Guests browsed the plant, books and jigsaw tables before enjoying cups of tea and a delicious selection of cakes supplied by members. The sun shone while everyone mingled and chatted. After a very enjoyable couple of hours the raffle was drawn, bringing the afternoon to a close. Their many thanks go to Linda for hosting yet another summer event.



**Cheadle and Gatley WI** had a wonderful evening at their 'Summer Social' event. To begin the evening, they had a brief talk from Nikki Guy

from their chosen charity- the Stockport Women's Centre. Nikki was delighted to be presented with a cheque for £500, money raised by the WI. Then they all tucked into a delicious fish and chip supper followed by cupcakes. The evening continued with a '110 Years of the WI' which was very tricky! Concluding the meeting was a fun 'fancy hat' competition. Many members' hats represented the theme for the evening - 110 years of the WI. There were some very impressive creations! Congratulations to everyone who took part.

**The Social Lites WI** held their July Book Club meeting in the beautiful surroundings of Davyhulme Park — and the weather couldn't have been better! A perfect setting for lively discussion, laughter, and literary inspiration.



Sunshine, laughter, and the clink of cava glasses set the scene for a perfect afternoon, when the members of **Kelsall WI** held their annual Garden Party in the beautiful garden of one of their members; it was a lovely sunny afternoon and the parasol-shaded tables were busy with chatting members enjoying an afternoon tea, supplied by the cafe at our local farm shop. The committee worked hard providing cool cava and later on cups of tea for everyone; it was enjoyed by all.

**Blacon Butterflies WI** celebrated craft and creativity at their July meeting, with their second show. It had been a great success the previous year, so, with a few changes suggested by members, categories included photography, poetry, baking, upcycling, floral art and knitting / crochet. It was a competitive evening, judged by independent judges and standards were high. However, the focus at the meeting was fun. Members all enjoyed the evening, and appreciated the effort everyone had made, with the craft and the organisation.



**Lymm Jubilee WI** won the prize for best adult float in the recent Lymm May Queen Parade. The theme was Great British Farming, and members went as land girls.



On a Sunday in June **Heaton Mess WI** took part in the Heaton's Open Gardens event. One of their green-fingered members opened up her beautiful garden, and members of the WI baked cakes and savoury goods to sell and there were also a massive selection of plants to sell. Many of their members got involved either by baking or helping out on the stalls and the amount raised for this year's chosen charity, Signpost Young Carers, was £1165. Special thanks especially to Jo and to all those involved in making the event a success.



**Croft WI** members Lesley, Janet and Louise created a marvellous scarecrow of Tutankhamen for this year's Croft Carnival. The Roaring Twenties was the theme to mark the carnival's 100-year anniversary celebration. The ladies were congratulated on their imaginative use of a loo brush and wooden spoon to represent the Pharaoh's crook and flail."

**Gee Cross WI**, Hyde, have celebrated 25 years using this frame, at their local, annual 'Well-Dressing' Ceremony. This is the last year they can use the frame, as it's come to the end of its life. This made it an extra special event for the WI. This year's theme was 'Bee Kind' so lots of their members 'petalled' during the week in the church getting ready for the big event on the Sunday. A brass band played whilst members marched from one well to another, with hundreds of people coming along. The MP Jonathan Reynolds and our Mayor Shirley Alam attended too. The event concluded with a church service before everyone enjoyed refreshments.



**Bee Moor (Sale) WI** knows how to throw a summer party! Their annual Summer Party is always a hit—full of fun, laughter, delicious treats, and plenty of feel-good vibes. Swapping a traditional meeting for a sunshine-filled (or sometimes not) social, this group proves the WI is all about community, connection, and good times.



## MALBANK GROUP OUTING



### Malbank WI Group

sponsored a coach trip to The Black Country Living Museum early in June. At the outdoor museum, former industrial land had been transformed

with over fifty authentic shops and houses carefully reconstructed from the region and depicting different eras. There are trams, canal side buildings, a mine and still under construction a street depicting what shops and houses were like in the 1950's and 60's. Costumed characters played the parts of shop owners, bank clerks and homemakers within the shops and houses and were full of information. One of the highlights for most of the visiting party was the fish and chips, cooked in the old-fashioned way with beef dripping instead of vegetable oil, delicious. A great day was had by all.

The Malbank Group Committee and Coordinator, Rosalind Lea also organised a friendly bowls competition between members representing a number of WI's from the Nantwich area. The competition was between pairs of players at Wrenbury Bowls Club in June, were fortunate that the weather was kind, not too hot but with the sun breaking through occasionally. The shield was won by two players from **Aston & District WI**.

## ENGLAND'S ROSES

**Woodford WI** have risen to the NFWI challenge to create rugby-themed artwork to show support for the England team at the Women's Rugby World Cup August-September 2025. Their Craft group, led by Judy Lea, downloaded the patterns and after some hard work, made a banner with crocheted and knitted red roses which is now on display in the centre of Bramhall village.



Also on display here are three beautiful roses made by Lynne from Little Stanney WI, within hours of the project being announced.

So good luck to England's Rugby Roses and congratulations to England's Football Lionesses.

## HARTFORD WI AT ARLEY

For the second year running, **Hartford WI** decided once again to hold its own Summer Show and, with seven different categories for the members to enter ranging from Literary, Art and Photography to Produce and both Hard and Soft Crafts. There was a wonderful variety of entries for the event held at their June meeting which was a great success. Four weeks later Arley Hall was holding its annual Flower Festival, and **Hartford WI** were fortunate enough to be able to have a marquee in which they could showcase the exhibits from their show and also promote the WI in general. From the moment members arrived on Friday morning to organise their WI marquee, they were made to feel especially welcome by all the staff at Arley Hall and the warmth of this greeting set the tone for the entire weekend. When they returned on Saturday morning, they had a delightful feeling of pride as they saw not only their own marquee, laid out in all its splendour, but also the wide array of other exhibitors set up around the grounds. The sun was shining and the whole scene could not be faulted. The garden design areas were immaculate, the exhibitor's stands were tastefully arranged and staffed by the most helpful of people, who were so willing to showcase their skills. As **Hartford WI** members staffed their WI marquee throughout the weekend, they were able to chat to many visitors who were fulsome in their praises not only of their exhibits but also the event as a whole. Their President Linda says, "it was wonderful to chat to other WI members as well as introducing total newcomers to the joys of the WI and the wide variety of activities on offer."



## CHESHIRE LIFE

Following the Literary lunch in June, Cheshire Federation were delighted to find a feature about their lunch in the August edition of Cheshire Life. If members have a copy, we have a double page spread on pages 108-109. Thank you to the Cheshire Life Editorial Team for giving CFWI a great coverage.



## SEPTEMBER PUZZLE FUN

### PUZZLE No.1

Can you provide the beginning and end to each of the following words, so they all repeat the same property.

—UR—      —SUL—  
—ADAC—      —BL—  
—CAP—      —G—  
—CI—      —CKLI—  
—OTOGRA—

### PUZZLE No. 2

The number 1,709,835,264 contains every digit from zero to nine once.

1. Multiply this number by 2, what do you notice?
2. Multiply the original by 5, what do you notice?

Both these puzzles were devised by Alan Turing.

Email your solutions to: cfwipuzzles@gmail.com by Friday 19th September.

Have fun and enjoy. Answers and winners will be published in the November Edition of Cheshire News.

### ANSWERS TO THE JULY PUZZLES.

1. on Halloween we would eat Scorpion: The clue is Star signs.  
St David's Day: Pisces - fish  
US Independence Day: Cancer - crab  
Christmas Day: Capricorn - goat
2. 99 miles

Five clever members got both answers correct. The winner drawn from these is **Kay Breen** from **Mossley WI**. Well done, Kay!

# WINNER! LOTTERY

At the end of July, the NFWI Lottery had its first-ever £25,000 Jackpot winner – a lucky WI member from the Cheshire area!  
CONGRATULATIONS to our lucky Cheshire WI Member.

## INTERESTING DATES FOR SEPTEMBER

**ALL MONTH** is World Alzheimer's Month.

**ALL MONTH** is Blood Cancer Awareness Month

**Friday 5th** is National Food Bank Day.

**Tuesday 16th** is **WI DAY**. Our 110th Birthday.

**Monday 22nd – Sunday 5th October** is Fairtrade Fortnight.

**Friday 26th – Sunday 12th October** is British Food Fortnight.

**Monday 29th** is World Heart Day.

**Monday 29th – Sunday 5th October** is the WI week of River Action

## MONTHLY MEMO

Every Day could be a WI Day! Why not become a 'Multiple Member' and join as many WIs as you like. You pay your full subscription to your Primary WI and only the WI part to the others.

Please email all future items for Cheshire News to [cheshirenewsteam@gmail.com](mailto:cheshirenewsteam@gmail.com)  
For the **NOVEMBER 2025** edition, the copy date is **Wednesday 1st OCTOBER**. Thank You.



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