

Happy New Year!

We're looking forward to welcoming you again in 2024 – all 70 of you! We've grown over the last year and it's been wonderful to see so many new faces. Remember to collect your 2024 programme - We hope you like what you see , with some interesting speakers and some fun activities for you.

They'll also be our monthly coffee morning, supper and lunch clubs – a great way to get to know other members.

Don't forget we have our sub-groups too – if you're interested, please speak to a member of the committee and we'll point you in the right direction for more information.

Make sure to read the newsletter every month so you know what's planned. But if you have any ideas for events, meetings or outings please do let us know – it's your WI!

With best wishes from the Committee

Helen (President)

Name Badges

As Helen has said we are now a 70 strong WI with a lot of new members coming on board in the last year, which has been amazing!!

As it's not always easy to remember someone's name after only being told once, could I please ask that you wear your name badge at future meetings, so that we can all get to know each other.

If you don't currently have a name badge (new members), find Helen who will give you one. If you have mislaid your badge, then please let Helen know, so that this can be rectified.

December 2023 Meeting

It was our last meeting of the year and it finished with a festive feel, brilliantly organised by our very own Christmas Elves: Denise S, Annette C, Jackie S and Nikki Se, accompanied by two of their husbands.

The evening started with a glass of bucks fizz as 53 members and 3 visitors found their way to the tables to start the evening's events.

Helen thanked the girls for organising the evening and dealt with the official business of the day first, then handed it over to the Elves. The evening consisted of Feely bags, Bingo, Name that Film, Pass the Parcel, Newspaper articles and a quick fire musical round, all finished off with carol singing. Members were asked to design and make their own Christmas head piece and lots of ladies took part in this challenge, with the winners being chosen as Christine and Frances. I think the evening was a great success and members went home having had a good evening and a touch of Christmas sparkle.

The WI also presented Luke from the Con Club, with a Christmas Hamper to thank him for all he does for the WI throughout the year.



Food Bank

We thought we'd tackle the Food Bank collections in a different way this year, by choosing one item off the list for our members to donate. Items are often on offer so if we could just bring one thing it would make a big difference! We'll see how it goes, so this month it is tinned meats. Thanks in advance for your kind donation.

Resolutions

For those of you new to the WI, just a brief explanation of the Resolutions that we need to vote for this month (Jackie will be sending out a reminder of their details in an email before the meeting)

Every year the membership votes for a 'cause' out of a selection that has been nominated by members (anyone can propose a resolution but there is a specific process to follow). Someone will come up with an idea that matters to them that they believe the WI can get behind and do something about (a famous one being 'Keep Britain Tidy'). Last year's was to do something about cleaning up our rivers. They then investigate and come up with a proposal. NFWI organise a committee to discuss and whittle down to a reasonable number – this year there are 4.

The idea is that we can get behind the resolution by hopefully doing something practical and by lobbying local and national Government and any organisations that may be involved.

Every full member can vote at the meeting for the Resolution that they think is the most important (not at your dual WI) and that they think we can influence. The votes are collected and then sent to our Federation Office (in Hatfield Peverel) who then collect all the votes from all their WIs and forward them to our National Federation office in London. All votes are then counted. The 'winner' is taken to the National Annual Meeting (this year at the Albert Hall) where it will be debated and delegates representing all WIs will vote as to whether we will take it forward and campaign on it. It is not a given that we will go ahead. There have been occasions when it has been felt that the arguments for the Resolution haven't been compelling enough.

Voting slips will be provided on Monday. Let me know if you have any questions about the process.

We are being asked to choose one of the following options for this years resolution:

1. **Dental Health Matters**
2. **Impact of Poor Housing Conditions**
3. **Say 'No' to Gambling Advertising**
4. **Improving Outcomes for Women in the Criminal Justice System**

Helen

January

15th - Meeting - Getting to know you!

February

6th - Supper Club - Riverside Spice

19th - Meeting - Line of Duty - Lindsey Whitehouse

Regular Activities

Coffee Morning - First Friday of the month - 10 -11.30 am at the Con Club—Bring a friend.

Book Club - Second Monday of the month - 7.30 pm at the Con Club. (Contact: Sue N)

Fast Walking Group - Every Wednesday - (contact: Val G)

Walking Group - Monthly (seasonal) - check newsletter for further details.

Lunch Club - Once a month, look out for sign up sheet at meeting (Contact: Janet)

Supper Club— Once a month, look out for sign up sheet at meeting (Contact: Janice)

Craft Group—Every Thursday at the Atlas Club, Foundry Lane, from 7.30 pm. (Contact: Ann Br)

Garden Club—First Saturday of the month, 9.30 am at the memorial garden. (Contact: Helen)

Swimming Club—Every week Tuesday/Wednesday at Whites Farm Swimming (Contact: Margaret Bar)

Groups can be contacted by emailing: earlscolnewi@outlook.com

Contact Us:

President (Helen): president.ecwi@outlook.com - Tel: 01787 222012

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Book Club - Our next book will be The Queen of the Tambourine by Jane Gardam which we will discuss on Monday 12th February. **Sue N**

Date for your diary: 6th February - Supper Club - Riverside Spice.

Cinema Night - 15th March - Film choice still to be decided.

Please check the sign up sheets, at each meeting, for full details of all our events