



Wanstead WI newsletter January/February 2023

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Hello Wanstead WI members,

Our first newsletter of 2023! At last the mornings are getting lighter earlier and there's a tinge of blue sky at 6pm. YES - Spring is advancing towards us... Our Members Programme has got off to a good start judging from the positive comments received, thank you! The 2023 Programme Team hope you will enjoy this year's speakers. It's brilliant that many members have contributed and arranged speakers for this year's programme. Some exciting follow up treats are planned, as well other member organised trips and visits... watch this space ladies.

Treats and trips will need some help from members in arranging, they don't happen by magic - you may wish to organise one and helpers are always needed to undertake sign-up lists, dish out tickets etc and report back to the organiser. If you enjoy going on our extra activities, please offer to support. Otherwise...?

Details of the 2023 programme is included at the end of this newsletter for those who haven't yet been able to attend an evening meeting. This year's programme team were Angela K, Cathy U, Claire T, Gillian B, Gillian T, Gill W, Gladys S-R & Maralyn R. A few ideas have been kept in reserve in case of emergency. Keep those suggestions for 2024 coming!! You can be part of 2024 Programme Team... speak to Gladys.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE TOOGOOD, WWI PRESIDENT - ESSEX LIFE

A tribute to Christine was submitted Essex Federation (FEWI) for publication in the monthly ESSEX LIFE WI magazine. The FEWI Secretary has replied as follows: *"Such a lovely and fitting tribute to Christine. I have spoken to the Editors, and it is likely to be published in the March or April edition. With best wishes to all at Wanstead WI. Sarah.*

We will need to elect a new President. This will be done at our Annual Meeting in May, when WI members will select a President from the elected Committee. If you wish to put your name forward, please speak to one of the existing Committee members or send an email to the usual Wanstead WI email address. Thank you.

2023 Extended Committee dates are - Wednesday 1 March and Wednesday 6 September, 7.30pm start at The Scouts Hall, Holy Trinity Church, Hermon Hill, South Woodford.

Q. How does the Committee know we are on the right track? A. Feedback from members.

We hold two evening meetings a year where all members who take on roles at our meetings, organise trips or visits are invited to join us. If you have any issue that's important to you just speak to any committee member or email us at our email address above. You don't need to wait, you can always attend one of our monthly committee meetings to see what goes on, just ask and you'll be warmly welcomed. Mmm, Does tea/coffee and biscuits constitute as a bribe, or a warm welcome...?

Speaking of roles at our meetings – DO YOU ENJOY A CUPPA & CAKE?

After many years of arranging the refreshment rota, Pamela wishes to hand over the organising of this hugely important function - Who ever heard of a WI without Tea & Cake? The majority of you have been a refreshment lady at our meetings. It's easier than serving and you're not on the rota! A volunteer is (gasp)erately needed. Pamela will provide a handover Xxx.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

The Committee are very pleased to announce that Vicky Ensor has volunteered to be our next WWI Newsletter Editor. This is a very important means of communication with members. Thank you, Vicky.

Wanstead WI CHARITY 2022 Report -

What truly generous, thoughtful ladies you are!

Maggie has provided an update from the Magpie Project.

Once again there was a tremendous response for gifts for the women who access The Magpie Project in Forest Gate and it was much appreciated.

We had been told that their party and gift giving would take place the week after our December meeting so we're given plenty of time to organise and collect. Instead, at the last minute, 95 asylum seeking families were sent to hotels in Newham and Maggie were inundated with pleas for assistance. To accommodate all the extra families Jane reorganised, planning two parties instead of one and bringing both forward by a week. Luckily two bags of presents had already been collected in November. Teresa and Maggie were also able to make up 35 more by using toiletries and toiletry bags you have donated along the way. 54 presents were delivered for the first party on the Thursday and another 51 were dropped off immediately after our December meeting for the party the next morning. I could admit that the snow almost derailed delivery too but they all reached Jane without incident.

I'm sorry some of you were unable to donate the gifts you had prepared. Snow prevented some from getting to our December meeting and as the parties had been brought forward there was no time to arrange an extra delivery. I believe some ended up at a food bank collection point instead so I'm sure they brightened the Christmas for someone.

Many thanks to Maggie and all those ladies who generously donate their time and efforts to giving comfort to those so less fortunate than most of us.

Local Foodbanks were our 2022 Charity

You will be pleased to hear that at year end we had raised a total of £1929.50, which is an excellent amount. At our meetings throughout the year members chose to distribute, on a quarterly basis, the monies raised so as to provide much needed funds to these organisations on a regular basis.

At your request, cheques were issued as follows: Jan to Mar - £327.00 to Eat or Heat Walthamstow, Apr to Jun - £294.00 to Ilford Foodbank, Jul to Sep - £357.00 to Ilford Foodbank, Oct to Dec £951.50 split equally to each of the above (£475.75 each). Your generous donations were very gratefully received by these foodbanks. Thank you to everyone who donated, organised events, made, crafted, and purchased homemade items and who in other ways helped to raise these funds.

This year our money was raised in the following ways:

Home Produced / Craft Table - £1351.00

Cadogan Hall Ticket Donations - £490

Donations from activities and events - £88.50

In April we were also able to give the Magpie Project a cheque for £1761.40 (2019 to 2021 fundraising) and continued to support them with donations of warm blankets and knitting for babies and Christmas gifts for parents.

AND our monthly food collection for Eat or Heat continued throughout the year.

Charity Nomination 2023

Each year we ask members to nominate and vote for a local charity they wish to raise funds for, through either our evening meetings i.e. Food bank donations, Home Produced Table or by specific events.

You may have a local Charity you wish to nominate. **Please email our WWI email address with your suggestion as soon as possible so that we can start the selection process at the March members meeting.**

We will continue to support the Eat or Heat foodbank and the Magpie Project as in 2022.

You may also have some ideas for fundraising in 2023. Perhaps we can restart our popular summer afternoon tea events in members gardens and our annual Quiz Night? Ideas and volunteers always welcome, please come forward with suggestions.

Wanstead WI Art Group Trips 2023

Cathy has been busy. First outings of 2023 were to the Fashion and Textiles Museum to see the Kaffe Fassett exhibition on the 20 January, a very colourful start to the year. Thanks to Ann S for info on the exhibition SHELF LIFE, Claire Willberg opening on the 19 January at the Stone Space Gallery in Church Lane Leytonstone, a trip to Tate Britain for Lynette Yiadom Boakye on 13 February and a planned trip to Tate Modern for Magdalena Abakanowicz on Thursday 23 March.

If you want to join the emailing list for WWI Art Group trips - let Cathy know either by our evening meetings or contacting our WWI email address above.

MEMBERS - Are there any other groups or extra-curricular activities you might like to start up? Occasionally organise an outing, a walk, a visit, a Quiz Night or hold an afternoon tea to raise funds for our Charity. Sub groups could be a Craft group, a supper club etc. Are you willing to help at meetings, to run another book club, a music or gardening group. You may have a technical skill, an artistic skill, a marketing or campaigning skill. We'd love to hear from you and the committee is always on hand to provide advice or help. Please come forward to help and make our already thriving WI an even more enjoyable, fun and interesting group!

Regular Reminder of things to bring to meetings

* a mug for your refreshment drink

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CUP AS WE ARE TRYING TO BE ECONOMICAL AND ECO-FRIENDLY BY NOT HAVING SPARES (EXCEPT FOR VISITORS)



* your spare pennies for the 'Pennies for Friendship' piggy bank

* raffle prizes and money for tickets

* items for the market stall

* donations for the Food Bank always needed.

* one book or quality monthly magazine for the Book Swap Box

PLEASE DON'T PARK IN THE GROUNDS OF THE CHURCH WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DO SO

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN IN AT EVERY MEETING AND WEAR YOUR NAME LABEL

As a reminder here are the timings for our monthly meetings

- 7.45 **SIGN IN** Arrive and collect a chair and arrange as requested (help with tables if needed).
- 8.00 Briefing to draw attention to events to sign up for and Organisers to talk to in the break.
- 8.15 Feature of the meeting
- 9.00 Social time - meet new members, chat with regulars, buy raffle tickets, enjoy refreshments, browse noticeboards, swap books.
- 9.40 WI formal information and raffle
- 9.50 Clear away. **All members round a table are responsible for putting away their table and chairs so please share this task fairly and consider those less able.**

Mask wearing is still encouraged. *Please remember to wrap up warm for the meeting as windows/ doors will be open and the hall can be chilly in normal circumstances. Also, it would be helpful if members could wear lanyards with names.* Sanitiser and wipes will be available for you to clean your chair before you return it at the end of the meeting.

Dates for your Diary

As well as meeting monthly on the third Thursday evening we also have other regular opportunities to get together.

*AFTERNOON TEA is held every **FIRST THURSDAY**, at Belgique, Wanstead, 2.30 pm, and **MORNING COFFEE** is held every **FOURTH THURSDAY**, The Bull, High Street, Wanstead, 11.00.*

Both are great opportunities to meet and get to know other members for an informal chat over a hot cuppa.

Members Corner – Wanstead WI out and about

Everyone is welcome and new members are particularly invited to join events organised by members.

Do you know of any local events that are taking place which may be of interest to other members – do let us know and we can include in this space.

Items of interest

Foodbank - Volunteers are needed to take goods to the foodbank. Please advise FRANCES S if you are able to help out. It does make such a difference to those who are less fortunate than most of us and are struggling with such increased costs just trying to survive.

Please ask Frances S what items are currently needed by the FOOD BANK.

Details of the 2023 Members Evening Programme are available on the next page

Wanstead WI - Calendar of Members Meetings 2023

Thursdays	Event
19 January	<p>The Mercy Ships – Dr Leo Cheng <i>What is ‘Mercy Ships’, what does it do and how vital is it to disadvantaged people? We will hear about the lifesaving and life transforming surgery on board its ships in West Africa Plus Voting on the WI Resolutions 2023</i></p>
16 February	<p>Mudlarking - Thames Explorer Trust - Vanessa Bunton, Archaeologist <i>Finding, and looking at historical evidence of London’s past courtesy of the River Thames! A chance to view recent ‘finds’ from the Thames shoreline, follow-up Mudlarking</i></p>
16 March	<p>Fine Cell Work – Jane Nairn, Prison Volunteer and Quilter <i>Insight into people detained in HM Prisons, how they learn a skill that helps them to rehabilitate and rebuild a ‘new’ life for themselves to give them a better, more fulfilling future A selection of small products will be available to purchase</i></p>
20 April	<p style="text-align: center;">Spring Social <i>Our Spring / Easter get-together - time for Members to enjoy getting together Bring a dish for the buffet</i></p>
18 May	<p style="text-align: center;">Annual Meeting of Wanstead Women’s Institute <i>Business reports followed by another highly enjoyable quiz led by Kathy Moore, WWI member</i></p>
15 June	<p style="text-align: center;">Women’s Football – 50 Years Gone in a Flash - Patricia Gregory <i>An Insight from a women’s football player in the 70’s. Patricia is an author as well as an advisor to the FA and the Olympics</i></p>
20 July	<p style="text-align: center;">Walthamstow Wetlands – Emma Whiting, Visitor Engagement Officer <i>A fully operational reservoir providing water for 3.5 million people and an internationally important nature reserve for waterfowl and birds of prey Plus A follow-up walk in July</i></p>
17 August	<p style="text-align: center;">Summer Social <i>Enjoy an ice cream and an outside picnic (weather permitting!) with an earlier evening start time Bring a dish for the buffet</i></p>
21 September	<p style="text-align: center;">A Fool’s Gold – a History of British Saffron - Sam Bilton <i>Hear from a food writer/historian on the significance of saffron and sample some delights! An opportunity to purchase books</i></p>
19 October	<p style="text-align: center;">Seasonal Craft Workshop <i>A sociable occasion to show your artistic side. Led by Cathy Unwin and Gill Wensley, WWI Members An Autumnal theme - we will have to wait to see!</i></p>
16 November	<p style="text-align: center;">Guardians of The Lights - Mark Lewis, Author and Lecturer <i>Discover the world of the lighthouse keeper. What were the daily lives, hobbies, challenges and heroic deeds of the men and women who tended the lights</i></p>
21 December	<p style="text-align: center;">Christmas and Winter Social <i>TBC Light Entertainment – local choir, music, activity Bring a dish for the buffet Plus A discussion of the WI Resolutions before our vote at January 2024 meeting</i></p>