

## History

The Women's Institute was founded in 1915 with two clear aims of revitalising rural communities and to encourage women to become more involved with producing food during WW1. We now play a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities, the chance to build new skills, take part in a wide range of activities, to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities while, hopefully, having fun! Our own WI has just celebrated its 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday!

## Federations

All WIs are grouped together in county and island federations. Bleasby WI is part of the Nottinghamshire Federation with its HQ at County House in Newark, by the castle. The Federation organises educational talks, craft, arts, social and sport activities throughout the county. The list is endless and details are published in a monthly newsletter The Hornblower.

Members are also kept in touch with events and other members' activities and opinions by our National Federation; they receive a magazine, WI Life, every month.

## Resolutions:

Each year all WI members have the chance to vote on issues that they want the national body to campaign and raise awareness on. Past national campaigns have included equal pay, climate change, mental health, cleaner rivers, violence against women and modern slavery.

## WELCOME TO BLEASBY WI

A very warm welcome to Bleasby WI from your Chairman, Committee and fellow members!

We are delighted that you have decided to join us. We are a thriving group with around 60 members located in the Trent Valley.

We have a modern outlook and do our best to move with the times. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 7pm onwards in the village hall, normally with a guest speaker.



## Bleasby WI

### Activities

In addition to the monthly speakers we have regular groups meeting weekly and monthly: Book Group meets monthly in The Waggon & Horses pub, a chance to discuss a book in a relaxed and friendly way. To say as little or as much as you like about a book which you may never have thought to choose!

Monthly Ladies at Lunch, meet on the second Monday of each at local pubs or restaurants.

Craft and Games socials are held on Wednesday afternoons in the Village Hall.

We have a thriving and successful darts team.

We also arrange ad hoc visits and outings to local gardens, theatres, museums and cinemas or film groups and pubs or restaurants. We try to share transport wherever possible. Other fun competitions take place including sales of unwanted books, tombola, croquet, skittles, raffles etc. You can choose to do take part in as little or as much as suits you or as your time allows!

### Community involvement

We take our responsibilities seriously and like to help with village activities and improving village life. Members help with monthly cleaning at St Mary's church. Car drivers help with driving village residents to a weekly lunch at the Manor Farm Tea Shoppe and we have been involved with litter picking, village fetes and celebrations. We have provided tea and cakes and donated to church funds, whilst also enjoying a good relationship with Neil, the Landlord at the pub!

Once a year, we choose local charities to concentrate our fundraising efforts on.

In addition to the annual charities, this Christmas we supported the Newark Women's Refuge; our ladies donated prettily decorated parcels of toiletries, cosmetics etc. to those who are forced to leave home with little or nothing.

### Bursaries

Each year sums of money are set aside for members who wish to take part in learning a new skill, take up a new hobby or attend a course etc. Names are randomly drawn.

*All in all, we aim to be a lively group with a variety of interests which we hope we can share with you.*

*You can find lots more up to date information on our web-site at [bleasbywi.weebly.com](http://bleasbywi.weebly.com).*

***Do pay a visit!***

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN