



# NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2023

## President's Message



Saturday 25th February is our Soup and Sandwich lunch, tickets are £6. A good warm hearted way to start the new year spending a few hours over a tasty lunch chatting with friends and our local neighbours. Tickets are still available, please see Pam.

On the day we will take photographs to send to National WI with a copy to Federation to demonstrate how we are supporting the WI campaign to Alleviate Loneliness.



Later in the year we are looking to organise a Healthy Living day, open to all members, with various 'feel good' activities to take part in during the day. If you have any thoughts on what you would like included, now is your chance. Speak to someone on the committee.



Friday 31st March is the Spring Group Meeting, taking place at South Wootton Village Hall starting at 7.00pm. It's an event where several WI's get together to enjoy an evening of chat with a wider audience, refreshments and an impressive raffle. On this occasion there is entertainment from Joan Hocking, Classical Singer. Tickets £4, available from Pam.



We are going to regenerate our Creative Writing competition fairly soon. For those who are not aware, Margaret Dring kindly gave us a trophy (which she had specially commissioned) to award to a member who demonstrated their flair in creative writing. If you have any ideas as to how we take this forward please speak with Lesley

And as always make sure you look at the notices; invitation to an evening Garden Party at Peter Beales Roses and more.

## Lesley



## **Trips and Outings**

2023 started with bitterly cold weather, but the Le Strange Hotel gave us a very warm welcome for our annual January meal. 20 members enjoyed a 3 course lunch, a good natter and lots of laughter, a good time was had by all. Many thanks once again to Sandie for organising. Our next WI coffee morning get together will be at The Well Ingoldisthorpe Village Hall on Friday 24th February at 10.30am, why not come along and join us.

Proposed future outings this year include, Tulips for Tapping House, Watatunga Wildlife Reserve, Ken Hill, Vine House Farm tour and Thursford Christmas Spectacular. Boards will be out at future WI meetings giving details soon.

#### Barbara and Sandie



Walks

Walsingham Abbey is famous for the mediaeval Priory of Our Lady... and Snowdrops, positively acres of them. Our WI Walking Group had the privilege of enjoying The Abbey, the snowdrop walks (and lots of sunshine) when we visited on Monday 6 February. The Abbey Crypt housed a display giving the history of the site in the form of a very informative timeline and we spent a while there, until we realised we'd lost Audrey and Gina. No problem, we soon tracked them down and made our way to the Shirehall Museum and Prison before moving on to the Norton Café for lunch. Lots to see and we plan to return at a later date to explore Walsingham further. A big thank you to Carol for organising the trip and to our chauffeurs, Carol and Jean.

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# **Book Group**



# Girl Woman Other by Bernadine Evaristo

This is an amazing tale which follows the journeys of several women who share their stories. It is essentially a set of intertwined tales about women in Britain with Afro-Caribbean heritage and diverse identities. The main character Amma is a playwright who is producing a play at The National Theatre. In the audience are a range of other people included in the book and somehow have links to

others with related tales.

The manner in which it has been written took some getting used to at first with unusual sentence structure and lack of punctuation. You soon stop noticing this as you get absorbed in the stories themselves. I found it a really thought provoking page turner and can fully understand why it was awarded the 2019 Booker Prize for literature. I for one will certainly be visiting Bernadine Evaristo's work again. *Lindsay* 



## The Angels of Venice by Philip Gwynne Jones

I think the setting of this crime novel was almost more interesting than the 'mystery' itself. The floods in Venice of 2019 form the background to the story and dramatic descriptions of the chaos and the subsequent 'cleaning up' endured by the city's residents. The crime itself revolves around the theft of a Durer drawing and the resulting death of a young woman. *Judith*