

Jackies leaving gift from all County Trefoil Members



Mid Guild having a go at a Sequin Waste Card



Trefoil Guild
Northamptonshire



Tales

Summer 2026 No 45

St Peters and St Pauls Church Kettering in blue for 100 years of Thinking Day arranged by Jo Pearce



Higham Ferrers & Rushden Guild



If you are interested in joining Trefoil Guild Contact the following:-

Retiring Chairman of Isham and Burton Latimer Guide Hall after 15 years Ann Machin was given a surprise party.



County AGM at Irthlingborough Community Centre Top Table



Mid Guild painted glasses And gardens



Isham and Burton Latimer Guilds hosted a Fashion Show

Nine members from both Guilds acted as models.

These two charming ladies are the Chairmen of Isham and Burton Latimer Guilds Plus seven more as models in front of a crowd of over 60 people attended.



Members who are no longer with us.

June Wright



The Region AGM and "A bit of a do" Elaine's last event and party. At Staffordshire County Grounds



25 members from the County spent 5 days on a Region trip to YORK.



Dates for your Diary 2026

June	12th	C.H.Q. A.G.M. In Scarborough
	26th – 28th	Summer Camp at Jubilee
	27th	Day Camp
July	9th	Jubilee A.G.M and Quiz
	16th	Mac Queen Summer Buffet 12.30pm
	16th	County Awards at Barton Seagrave Village Hall 6.45pm
Sept	7th—11th	County TG at Waddow
Oct	31st	International Day in Herefordshire
Nov	5th	MacQueen Coffee morning
Dec	3rd & 10th	MacQueen Christmas Lunch's 12.30pm

Desborough & Rothwell

It was lovely to see over 130 Trefoil Guild members from all over the county at the 100th Thinking Day celebration In February. We all enjoyed it and, from your kind words to many of our members and messages we received, you did too. Thank you for coming and thank you for your 'pounds for your thoughts' which have enabled us to send £150 to WAGGS and £80 to Holy Trinity Church Rothwell.

In March we welcomed an old friend of our Guild, Bobbee Mellor, who brought us an update on what is known of the Titanic. As usual her talk was interesting, but she also challenged us with a quiz, which sadly suggested that many of us do not have good memories! The talk and quiz were related to the 'water' element of the Motivate challenge, in which we are taking part.

As with many other Guilds, several of our members had a great time at Elaine's 'Bit of a Do' as the end of her term as Chair of Midland Region. It was good fun but also a bit emotional at times. We are very proud of 'our Elaine'. Pity about the 'long and winding road' to get home on the coach. The M1 was closed. Aaaargh! Otherwise, a good time was had by all.

April's meeting was another part of our Motivate Challenge; we were spoken to by local amateur photographer David Lawton. He enjoys driving around our beautiful countryside in his motorhome. With a lot of patience and I would imagine a certain amount of skill, he takes shots of wildlife. He shared with us photos of birds, native and otherwise as well as some fantastic shots of land animals. He gave us some information about each species, which resulted in a very interesting evening.

May was an interesting meeting as we had George Burgon, our own member Margaret's husband come and talk to us about nursery rhymes, the origin of them and the darker meaning of the little songs we have been singing since childhood. George had done lots of research into familiar rhymes such as Hickory, Dickory Dock, Ride a cock horse to Banbury cross and many many more.

Some of our Guild were away on the Midlands Iceland cruise.....Lucky things.

We have had such a busy start to our year and cannot wait to complete our motivate challenge over the next few months.

If you require information on who to contact for putting items into Trefoil Tales or to do with Finance please ask you Guild Chairperson.

Northampton

January's meeting saw a visit from Pudding and Barny with their owners to tell us about the working life of a guide dog and how they make a difference to their owners.

Jane told us about how much Pudding gives her the confidence to lead as much of a normal life as possible. She went on to tell us about how the dogs are trained as a pup about them about the training she had to do when Pudding was allocated to her. This can take up to 5 weeks for the dog to become familiar with their owner. All of this after 8 months of not having a guide dog and having to get around with a cane. In total we raised over £100 to go towards supporting the guide dogs.

February was a special month celebrating 100 years of guiding. Members met at Rothwell Church to celebrate and come together for this special occasion. We carried on the theme at our meeting by thinking about all the world centres. We wrote on a piece of paper what friendship means to us and it was made into chains linking our thoughts locally, nationally and internationally. WAGGS is divided into 5 regions so we lit candles for each region and we sang "This little guiding light of mine" apparently the most sung song on Thinking Day.

We then celebrated with Geraldine Duffy who made her promise and another Geraldine who joined us as a new member. March saw some trefoil members go to Cave castle as part of a midlands region Holliday. We were wine and dined in style and entertained. We visited York and had a look around this memorable city. Whilst we were away the members back at the group enjoyed a game or two of bingo. Eyes down!

April we concentrated on our little friends in the garden and how we can look after them. We were able to explore several activities around the room including; making a bug hotel, butterfly puddlers, making seed bombs and trying our hand at some wildflower painting.

Many a true artist was found...

Chairman Report

Thankyou from Jackie

By the time you read this Jane will have taken over from me as County Chair and so I want to take this opportunity to say a big thankyou to all of you who have supported me over the last 5 years. I also want to say a big thankyou for the generous gift given to me. Since being ill my garden had been neglected and I had just started considering what needed doing and removing some weeds, the water feature spurred me into action even with my limited mobility. As there is a switch behind the solar-panel I needed to position the feature where it was easy to reach and so I removed some pond walling and fitted it in there. The photographs show an overall view of it in my garden and photos of it working during daylight and evening with it lit up. I am thinking of using the gift vouchers to make the pond heron protection more aesthetic and to get some other bedding plants. I would welcome anyone coming near my house to call in and see it set up, now, or when I have finished extra improvements; so again many, many, many thanks.

Jackie

New County Chairman

I have to start with saying many thanks and congratulations to Jackie and her team for a fabulous 5 years. There are too many wonderful activities and events that have happened to make a list. They have given Northamptonshire a very positive reputation as a County that does lots.

What an honour for me to be asked to take on the Chair of the County. I have been told it's the best job in Guiding and Trefoil. Thank you for all the messages of support, it really is appreciated.

Let me introduce the new team, Maddalena Tinker (Northampton) will be the secretary, Val Tate also Northampton will be treasurer, Gill Joy (Desborough and Rothwell) will be taking the lead on the programme front and Brenda Hewison (South) on the International side of things. The PR post is still to be filled, it mainly involves taking photos and keeping a record of events. I am delighted that Margaret Pilsbury will continue to create, edit and produce Trefoil Tales and Jean Gosling will carry on administering the database. Thank you all for agreeing to be on the team.

I look forward to visiting you all.

Jane Causebrook

South

Nothing to report for January as our meeting was cancelled due to the dramatic snow warnings, not sure if it was a yellow, orange or red warning. Weather reports have become quite colourful. We had no snow in Brackley but 'better safe than sorry' as several of our members travel from surrounding villages.

Our delayed AGM took place in February which coincided with Thinking Day. Much of the meeting was taken up discussing ideas for our 2026 programme resulting in some interesting outings and activities to look forward to, including Tuptonia and a trip to Northampton Museum.

We missed out on our fish and chips in January and were not able to include them in February but not wanting to miss out on the food element of the meeting, tea and coffee was provided by Jasmine and Avril with delicious cakes from Diana and Barbara to celebrate Thinking Day and 100yrs of Trefoil. Members then had the opportunity to make macrame key rings. Some were more successful than others but there was plenty of laughter. The fish and chip lunch is included in the plans for later in the year!

Our March meeting was a social and games afternoon. After a Prayer for Peace and the handing out of the County Notes, the social element took over along with refreshments, and ended with a rather chaotic Bingo game.

Avril and her husband were going to organize a quiz for our April meeting but sadly, were not able to do so. Instead our planned film afternoon was brought forward and we were able to watch the film Easter Parade, rather appropriate for the start of Easter week. The quiz is pencilled in for later in the year.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our May meeting which will be lunch, once again at one of our favoured eating places, the Croughton Tea Rooms.

Mid

In March we had our birthday lunch at the Wharf Inn in Welford. Betty Barlow a past member who is now in her 90's was able to join us. It was lovely to see her and we had a lovely meal. Some of us had a stroll along the canal afterwards.

Two members went to A bit of a do - Midland region AGM and had a good day out.

Half of our members enjoyed the County AGM at Irthlingborough. A great spread and we all thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment. Well done

In April we enjoyed a new craft for some of them - sequin waste. It went down well and the cards were very effective.

On May 11th we are visiting Pax Lodge in London travelling by minibus.

Raunds

Due to other commitments Raunds have only met a couple of times this year, but we did have a lovely pre Easter meeting where we decorated wine glasses & vases. I'll attach pictures to this email.

We also entered the local Methodist Church Easter Garden display - picture attached.

Members at the County AGM



Loddington

__ Sadly, we have to begin by sharing the sad news that, our beloved June Wright passed away In March. June was an integral part of our Guild here at Loddington and will be missed so very dearly by us all but none more so than her best friend Jill. At the end of her funeral service, those who attended, sang “Go Well and Safely” to her, our lasting tribute to a very special lady.

June would want our fun to continue, and we have done just that! Many of us attended the Thinking Day service at Holy Trinity Church in Rothwell. Thank you to all those who arranged a most enjoyable afternoon, remembering all those members around the world as well as catching up with old friends and making new ones (and the refreshment were very much appreciated too!)

For our March meeting, we played Bingo and enjoyed dinner cooked by Kate and Hannah. Amanda and Jo were our ‘callers’ and did a great job (maybe a career change is on the cards for them both?)

Jean and Fiona spent a most enjoyable few days away in Yorkshire. They said, *“York was a lovely trip, blessed with good weather. The hotel was great, nice not to sleep in bunk beds. Sledmere house was beautiful and so well organised, gave us lunch and opened the house and gave guided tours just for the Trefoil guild. Day in York doing our own thing, also went to Malton and then on to Bridlington sitting on the sea front eating toasted tea cakes. Lovely. Really good trip and looking forward to the next one.”* Thank you to all those who organised this holiday for them.

Three of us (Jean, Fiona and Kate) attended the Region AGM in Staffordshire: ‘A Bit of a Do’ it certainly was! What a great day out we all had with so many laughs. Best of luck and thank you Elaine, for all your hard work and enthusiasm as our Region Chair.

Julie, Kate, Hannah, Fiona and Jean attended the County AGM held at Irthlingborough Community Centre. What a great turnout of ladies in red! We all had a lovely time catching up with and making new friends. Thank you to Higham and Rushden Guild for making this afternoon a big success.

What an amazing morning out was spent by us all at the Weedon Royal Ordnance Depot. We enjoyed breakfast at Gasoline Juice and certainly caused a stir as we mooched round the site in our red tops...amongst the leather-clad bikers and drivers of high-powered sports cars! Lorraine made her Trefoil Promise, such a special occasion in the beautiful sunshine.

We are all very much looking forward to what’s in store for us throughout the rest of 2026.

Unity

In February we had a celebration of Thinking Day 100 which was planned and delivered by Frances Penn. We each decorated a candle jar which we used during our reflection and promise renewal. We played TG friendship bingo and learned a lot about everyone’s guiding history. We enjoyed a Thinking Day cupcake and hot drinks, the evening finished with a tricky quiz on County Flags which showed quite a few gaps in our knowledge! It was a lovely way to celebrate 100 years of Guiding.

In March we had a reminiscence evening of all the fun memories with the girls in our Units over the years. we all had lots of special evenings / weekends trips and camps filled with fun and laughter. there were many examples of “that wasn’t supposed to happen” and “always expect the unexpected” It showed what a special organisation we belong to and how working together we can overcome problems and the great British weather and still have a smile on our faces.

In April the meeting began with an interesting and informative talk from Jane Causebrook about her TOPAZ trip to Sri Lanka. It was lovely to see the enjoyment on the faces of the girls as they crafted, played games and shared their culture with the TG members from the UK.

We welcomed two new members, Sue and Kate which was great and we hope you enjoy the meetings among friends and enjoy the fun and friendship.

Members attended the AGM which they felt was a good occasion and the cake and refreshments were delicious. Thanks also to those who represented Unity Guild at “A bit of a do “and County Thinking Day.

Wishing all guilds a lovely summer as we start our outdoor activities and enjoy the warmer weather and lighter evenings. May the sunshine on us all!!



Loddington Guild

Oundle & Thrapston

Our entry in the Spring edition of Trefoil Tales told of sad losses within our Guild. This sadness has continued with the passing of Raymond Rundle, dear husband of Guild member, Jill, to whom we pass our loving thoughts and sympathies.

In March we held our Annual General Meeting, during which a number of important decisions were made. Our long-serving Chair, Jean Norris, was unable to continue in post due to health issues, but fortunately, she has been succeeded by her daughter,

Lara Fox, who also holds the post of Secretary. Christine Telford continues as ~Treasurer, as does Eileen Gunn as Trefoil Tales reporter. A decision was made to continue to hold meetings at Aldwinckle Village Hall – a really ideal venue – although it can be a struggle to pay the hire charges. To help a little on the financial side we held a “Bring and Buy” stall with members contributing and purchasing items of interest. So we swelled our funds a little ! We also had discussions regarding payment of Subscription monies and so, although we are certainly not a wealthy Guild, we are soldiering on and hope to keep our head above water at all times !

Although in the past we have been very fortunate in securing some speakers who were kind enough to make no charges for their services, it was agreed that we would have to forgo too many outside speakers and endeavour to maintain our balance towards rental of the Hall and any other expenses. Each month the meeting will be arranged by a member, and we hope to continue to make our gatherings both meaningful and enjoyable.

Lara then presented a plant to Jean, for her sterling work as Chairman over many years, and to Christine for all her work looking after the financial side over many years - and continuing to do so, also to Eileen for her work as Programme Secretary, again over a long period and now we enter into a slightly less formal programme of events, etc., hopefully with input from all members.

Our A.G.M. evening was finalised with a Bring and Share Supper and a feeling that we had done our very best to steer our Guild into calm and steady waters.

Higham Ferrers and Rushden

Following on from the Chairmans and Treasurers reports, all committee members were voted in en bloc for another year. We then enjoyed a Fish & Chip supper and our thanks to John for being our errand boy.

Those who joined Desborough and Rothwell for their Thinking Day Service enjoyed the afternoon at Holy Trinity church, with everyone going home with a lovely Friendship bracelet they had made there.

Our speaker for our February meeting, Mike Neville, was very entertaining with his talk 'Trust me, I was an Estate Agent'!

Early in March we enjoyed a 'Cream Tea' at Twywell, celebrating our Guilds 75th Anniversary and also Sandy's 80th Birthday, afterwards a local singing group got us all singing along to songs of the sixties.

April 11th saw us playing hosts to the County for their AGM. It was lovely to see so many members and we hoped you enjoyed the afternoon. Our little skit 'The Wonky Donkey', narrated by Eileen with Julie playing the donkey rounded off the afternoon followed by taps.

Brenda and Pauline kindly brought along lots of crafts for us to make necklaces, bracelets etc. in our April meeting.

Come and join us on a Ukulele evening, Tuesday 16th June 7 - 10pm, venue, Irthlingborough Community Hall (same as County AGM) Tickets £5 from Kathleen 07505 935425

We now look forward to our May meeting with its 'Ladies Day' theme!

Tales from the Wharf:

The birds are all busy still feeding their young. A plea to owners of pussycats; please put a bell on your pussycats, it will hopefully warn the fledglings and give them a chance when they try out their first wings. I have three visiting pussycats to my garden and they sit within a yard of a nest box just waiting for a fledgling to fall out. It will all settle down in the next few weeks after the youngsters have flown but in the meantime do your best to help the decline in garden birds. Thank you.

Wellingborough

In February we had the first one of our International at Home meetings. All took part with everyone giving a short talk on an island they would like to visit. This was inspired by a talk given by Marcia at a previous meeting about Barbados.

Several of our members enjoyed the Thinking Day Service given by Rothwell Guild. This was a special day as it was actually on the 22nd February and we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Thinking Day.

In March Lynda took us to Brownsea Island and we enjoyed a scenic tour of the Island when she visited with Trefoil friends a few years ago.

In April we had very competitive games of Beetle followed by a discussion about our forthcoming Auction Meeting in July whilst we enjoyed our tea and biscuits.

Some of our members went on the Midlands trip to York in March and returned having had a very enjoyable trip. Four of us attended the Northamptonshire AGM at Irthlingborough in April.

Burton Latimer

Friday 6th March we met at Karen's house (one of our members) for Pizza and meeting.

Then 6 of our members attended a 'Thank you' event at The Guiding Centre and to see what work had been done recently with grants and also money we had kindly donated from fund raising events that our Guild had done. We all had a lovely afternoon tea and thanked Ann Machin for being Chair of the Guiding Centre for many years.

Saturday 11th April we all met for breakfast at Bosworths to finalise plans for our upcoming Fashion Show Fundraiser.

Then on Wednesday 15th April at The Cricket Club, Burton Latimer we had our fund raising Fashion Show that we jointly did with Isham Guild. Over 60 tickets were sold prior to the event and then with a raffle and donations for refreshments we managed to raise over £500 which was then kindly matched by one of our members workplace. It was a great evening, with Guild members assigned various jobs of modelling, providing refreshments and selling raffle tickets.

We also had Elizabeth and Rhiannon take their promise before the evening got underway. Plus we have had a couple of ladies wishing to join us. Our next meeting is Sat 16th May.

Jubilee Campsite

90 years ago the County first took the Jubilee lease on and since then hundreds, if not thousands, have enjoyed the splendour of sleeping under canvas and the joys of the out of doors. Today it is still a welcome break from the pressures of modern life and screens for both girls and adults. We will be celebrating on Thurs 9th July at our AGM and quiz. Cost £8 for a Ploughmans and birthday cake. Names and numbers to Jennie Lewell by July 6th.

We have a new challenge badge to mark the occasion and are collecting memories of camping there. What do you remember from your visits and camps? Please email any recollections and/or photos to

jubilee@girlguidingnorthamptonshire.org.uk

Thank you from the Jubilee committee

Danetre

To celebrate 100 years of World Thinking Day we all brought along some guiding memorabilia. It was fascinating hearing everyone's memories. March should have been a cinema visit but we couldn't find anything we wanted to see so we fell back on a tried and tested board games afternoon. Jane enjoyed a glorious week in Yorkshire on the Midlands trip. We welcomed our newest member Janet who happens to be the church Warden at Ashby St Ledger (home of the Gunpowder Plot) which led us to visit the beautiful village church in April and hear all about this historic place. Afterward it was 90th birthday celebrations for Jean Dibben. Many of you will know Jean from her boating and walking activities. Congratulations Jean.

May sees more celebrations as we have been invited to share a day at Jubilee with Wellingborough Guild who are celebrating their 75th. Happy birthday ladies.



Kettering

Kettering Trefoil Guild had a good turnout at the Thinking Day Service held at Holy Trinity Church, Rothwell, to celebrate our 100 year anniversary.

As our chairman mentioned in her report for the Spring edition of Trefoil Tales, we have moved to a new venue, the Boat House at Kettering Leisure Village. We are grateful for the room where we previously held our meetings for over 50 years, but are enjoying a more spacious, brighter, warmer room with free parking on the doorstep.

At our March meeting, one of our members kindly brought along curling equipment for a games night. It was great fun with lots of cheering and laughter. The winners were presented with a well deserved mini trophy.

About half of our Guild were able to attend the County A.G.M. and afternoon tea hosted by Higham and Rushden on 11th April. The fellowship and of course the lovely food were enjoyed by everyone.

In April, we welcomed Rob, from the Green Doctor, who came along to talk to us about energy saving tips, something we were all interested to hear about. It was amazing to learn how much can be saved by simply switching off appliances at the socket rather than keeping them on standby. Home visits were also on offer, with complimentary energy efficient light bulbs and heat reflective backing to fit behind radiators available to help keep our energy bills a little lower -what's not to like!

The Models for the fashion show all Trefoil Members



Isham

March found us back in our Guiding Centre in Burton Latimer. After quite a lengthy meeting discussing the various events taking place in the county and beyond, our Jackie took over with a very interesting activity called Basic or Better. This was a lovely blind tasting session where we had to guess which foods were in the basic or best of ranges. Some of the results were very interesting and quite surprising.

Also in March a few of us went to the Regional AGM in Stafford. Despite the early start, we all agreed that it was a lovely day out and the entertainment was excellent.

We were in The Guiding Centre again in April but this time the lovely Margaret Burgon came to give us a very interesting talk entitled "It Could Only Happen at a Wedding". It was entertaining, humorous and fascinating and enjoyed by everyone. This was followed by a Faith Lunch of amazing savoury and sweet treats. Our ladies are so talented and the food was delicious.

Talking of delicious food, a few of us attended the County Annual Meeting in Irthlingborough - an enjoyable afternoon with the most amazing buffet and delicious cakes. Mmmm!!

Wednesday 15th April found us together with The Burton Latimer Guild hosting a Fashion Show at the Burton Latimer Cricket Club and what a lovely evening it was. Apart from the lovely clothes and even lovelier models there were delicious cakes served with tea or coffee and a raffle. It was a very successful evening and we would like to thank the Burton Guild for inviting us to join them.

Burton Latimer Guild
enrolled two members
while they were at the
Fashion Show.

