

# theWI

## INSPIRING WOMEN



HINCKLEY CANALSIDE WI

MAY 2023

<https://hinckleycanalsidewi.co.uk/>

### President's Message



At our April meeting, we enjoyed Maggie Cooper's presentation on the ancient craft of basket weaving and she brought with her a fascinating range of beehives, eel traps, salmon and crayfish traps all made from willow or cane from their local habitat. It was a talk with a difference!



In May, we are going to be entertained by members of our very own committee and Chrissie Field-Toon who will be presenting us with a Murder Mystery! A chance to indulge your inner sleuth as the cast invite you to spot the villain and work out whodunnit.



And, of course, we have the May Bank Holiday to look forward to with community celebrations across the country ranging from street parties to volunteering.

Our WI want to mark the upcoming coronation of Charles III on Saturday May 6th so Karen Morgan has kindly offered to bake special cupcakes for us; this will be complemented by a glass of prosecco (fruit juice if you prefer). So, ladies, please bring a suitable glass to the May meeting. No tea/coffee this time!

At our May meeting, as Pat explains below, we will also be voting on this year's resolution, **clean rivers for people and wildlife**.

7:00pm

**We will need to start the meeting early so if you can be there for a prompt start at 7.00pm that will be much appreciated; doors open at 6.30pm.** The planned schedule for the meeting is:

- 7.00pm start
- Canalside WI Business and Resolutions Vote
- 7.30pm Murder Mystery Part 1
- 8.05pm – 8.20pm Interval with Coronation Cupcakes and prosecco
- 8.20 – 8.45pm Murder Mystery Part 2
- 8.45pm onwards. Presentation of prizes, raffle and Canalside WI Bursaries draws

## Canalside WI Programme 2023 -23

If you have already paid this coming year's subs, don't forget to collect your programme card. These are available in reception.

### Marie Curie Great Daffodil Collection



At the April meeting, Carol Beardsmore and Helen Dawe organized a collection for the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal 2023. This raised £19.50; thank you to those who donated.

Canalside WI will send a cheque for £80 to supplement this collection – from funds raised by the Canalside WI Quiz.

### Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal



**DISASTER  
EMERGENCY  
COMMITTEE**

We had a collection at our March meeting for the above appeal, £41.56 was raised. The money was sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee. I have received a letter from them thanking you for your generosity.

It states, "Your gift will make a real difference, providing urgently needed aid to help those devastated by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria".

Your donations are enabling DEC charities to respond rapidly, as well as support families affected in the months and years to come as the lasting impact of the crisis continues.

Once again thank-you to all those who supported this appeal. Sue x

### Easter Egg Collection.



At our April meeting we had our annual collection of Easter Eggs for the local women's refuge. These were very much appreciated, along with the toiletries. Mel, from the Hinckley Hub, said what a wonderful generous group of ladies we were. She also explained what a difference these small acts of kindness meant to the recipients of them. Bringing back smiles to their faces and restoring their faith in human nature. A big thank -you for all the donations. Sue x

### Future Fund-Raising Events



August will see our **Charity Stall Event**. We would like donations of homemade produce, cakes, jams, chutneys etc.

Also, craft items and garden produce and plants. I will collect any non-perishable items at our June and July meeting. Further details to follow.

October will see our **Charity Fashion Show**, this will be held on Wednesday 25th October at the Mary Forryan Centre.

It is a chance to purchase high street fashion at greatly reduced prices, in styles to suit all.

The event will also be open to family and friends. Look out for tickets at our July meeting. Sue x







## Resolutions 2022- 23



The May Meeting has a tight schedule and Pat, who would normally manage the resolutions slot at the meeting, is involved in the Murder Mystery – so I will be introducing our delegate, Carol Beasley, saying a few words, and asking you to vote.

Because of the lack of time at the meeting, here are a few points to consider on the resolution: **clean rivers for people and wildlife.**

### Did you know?

0% of all rivers in England and Northern Ireland are classed as 'good overall'.	99% of British rivers have artificial barriers obstructing migrating fish.	83% decline in freshwater species globally since 1970.	1% of the earth's surface is made up of freshwater ecosystems, yet they provide habitat for 100,000+ species.
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A full campaign would be developed by the NFWI if the resolution is passed. Here are some ways the WI could consider working on this issue:

- **At local and regional levels**, WIs and federations can work with local authorities and communities to support or start new applications for bathing waters in suitable areas. (The Environmental Audit Committee suggested water companies should designate a stretch of each river to gain status as bathing water to drive the clean-up.)
- WIs could learn more about the issue and hold educational events to raise awareness in their local areas.
- **Nationally**, the NFWI could form partnerships with expert organisations to raise awareness and promote education on a national scale.
- The NFWI could support existing campaigns to promote bathing status in rivers.

In an ideal world, points for and against this resolution should be presented, but personally I would be hard pressed to counter this resolution. Mandy.

## Canalside WI Bursaries



The bursary is to spend on a federation approved course or activity locally (including any costs of travel & materials). Those taking up a bursary should get their choice of provider approved by Canalside WI Committee. There is a document on Canalside WI's website with suggestions of educational providers for bursary winners. Please click this link:

<https://hinckleycanalsidewi.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/MEMB-Suggested-providers-for-bursary-courses-2023.pdf>

**Bursary winners do not have to select a course from this document – it is simply there as a help.**

For 2023 there are two bursaries, each for up to £100, available. The conditions are that a course is booked in the same financial year, takes place within 12 months of the draw, and you cannot enter the draw if you have been a previous winner for the preceding 5 years.

Qualifying (full or dual) members simply add their name to a draw at our May meeting in 2023, for a chance to win a bursary. Good luck! Mandy.

## April Meeting Snapshot – Maggie Cooper - Willow Weaving

We had a very interesting talk and demonstration from Maggie Cooper, a traditional willow weaver and basket maker. Maggie is a Yeoman Member of the Worshipful Company of Basket Makers who began learning the craft in the 1960's in the arts and crafts circuit in Birmingham. She went to art school and gained a City and Guild in basket weaving and prefers to weave baskets in the traditional way and loves the historic connection of how baskets were such an important part of life centuries ago.

She brought with her bee hives, eel traps, salmon traps and crayfish traps all made from willow or cane from their local habitat and gave us an insight into the different sort of baskets that had been made and developed according to their local need and purpose. There were flat edge baskets from Kent from the apple and pear orchards, all sized appropriately as to how much a person would be able to carry whilst fruit picking. It was such a fascinating talk not only on the talent and skill of Maggie's basket weaving but also the history that went with it. Maggie had travelled to Australia, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, and Ireland to learn new skills in weaving.



Maggie had moved from Birmingham to Castle Donnington in Leicestershire and has since discovered that Castle Donnington was a basket weaving village. She was invited to give her input at The Leicester Museum when archaeologists had found some giant eel traps embedded in a riverbank in Leicestershire and help produce replicas of these. Maggie also brought twine in for us to have a go at making twine bracelets, some were more successful than others, but we all had fun having a go.

## Clubs and Teams

### Walking Group - Next Walk: Wednesday 17th May



Our next walk will be on **Wednesday 17th May at Catthorpe**. We will start at Manor Farm Shop and Cafe, Main Street, Catthorpe LE17 6DB. Please meet here at 10.45am to start walking at 11.00am.

The walk takes us through the village, past the Latvian Centre to Lilbourne Church and village.

Whilst most of this circular rural walk is along lanes and noticeably quiet roads, the last section will be along a footpath and across only one field – a plus if the ground is wet! There are no stiles, and the distance is 2.9 miles.

We will be able to enjoy a cup of tea and snack in the café afterwards!

To get to Catthorpe leave Hinckley on the A5 East (towards Lutterworth). At the Magna Park roundabout, continue on the A5 and head for Milton Keynes.

Staying on the A5, go over the Gibbet Cross Roundabout and continue on the A5 (Lutterworth is first left and Rugby third turning). Just under 2 miles later, the road/signs to Catthorpe will be on the left-hand side. The farm shop is on your left once you reach the village. There is quite a large car park (no charge) and plenty of room to park on the side of the road if necessary. Mandy.

## Third Tuesday Craft Club



Tonight, we tried quilling and for most of us it was a first. Alison instructed us in how to curl our strips of paper and shape them and then we were off!

Joy very kindly brought some cakes for us to partake whilst we were quilling. They were truly delicious. As usual we enjoyed a good natter whilst creating.

Our next meeting will be at the New Plough Inn on the 16th of May. New members are always welcome. We will be trying our hand at tea bag folding next time.



## Bits and Bobs Craft Group



The Bits and Bobs craft group had a very busy evening on 25th April making pom poms for bunting to celebrate the coronation. We made balls of red, white, or blue and will hopefully bring them along to the WI meeting. Our next meeting will be on 30th May, when we will finally be grouting our coasters. As this shouldn't take very long, we will also try some "Zentangling", which should be interesting!

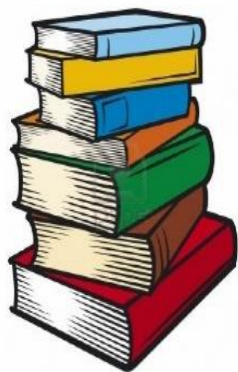
## Darts



Nothing new to report as we had a bye in April. We shall be playing Hollycroft WI in May.

All are welcome to come along and join in or just support us. Please speak to me if you are interested. Pat

## Book Club



There were 15 of us at the Greyhound on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April to discuss "**The Third Twin**" by **Ken Follett**. The majority liked it a lot and nearly all of us had something positive to say about it. It led to discussions on Nature v Nurture, the wonder of DNA and Ancestry.co.uk to name a few.

Our next book is "**The Woman in White**" by **Wilkie Collins**. It is a classic and one of the earliest 'detective' fiction works, based on a real-life 18<sup>th</sup> century case of abduction and wrongful imprisonment. In 1859 the novel caused a sensation and remains as emotive to its readers today. Next meeting is on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 11.45 in The Greyhound**. All Welcome!





### Visit To Shugborough



On Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> April a group of us went on a visit to Shugborough Hall, the former home of Lord Lichfield, the late Queen's cousin. As a celebrity photographer he took many photographs of royalty and well - known artists of the time. These were very interesting - as was the history of his family and the house itself.

Despite the weather, we all had a very pleasant and informative visit and Dave the driver was helpful to all of the ladies. Jenny.

### National Memorial Arboretum 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

**There are 16 places on the minibus for this day trip. Entry to the Arboretum is free. The cost of travel on the minibus is £11 per person.**

**The two pick up points are: Hinckley Bus Station at 9.00am and Burbage, St Catherine's Church at 9.10am.**

**Leave Arboretum at 3.30pm. The journey time is about 1 hour. Payments for travel of £11 per person will be taken at the April meeting.**

#### Optional Arboretum Guided Walk

Learn about the history of the site, the memorials featured and the fascinating stories behind them. £4.00 per person, Groups of 10+.

**This guided walk can be arranged, but we need to have a group of a minimum of 10. The guided walk will cost an extra £4. Please indicate at the April meeting when you pay for the minibus if you are interested in this walk. Payment for the walk will be taken at a later point once we know if there is sufficient interest.**



The Arboretum is home to over 400 thought-provoking memorials, each with a story to be discovered. The memorials are diverse in nature, rich in symbolism and represent a broad population of society, from military associations and charities to the emergency services, fraternity groups and individuals.

It is a UK registered charity and is a 150-acre visitor site on the edge of the [National Forest](#) in Staffordshire. Part of the [Royal British Legion](#), but a separate legal body, it exists to ensure that: [the unique contribution of those who have served and sacrificed is never forgotten and the Baton of Remembrance is passed on through the generations.](#)

There is a year-round space to celebrate lives lived and commemorate lives lost.

The Arboretum welcomes over 300,000 visitors to site each year, including over 20,000 young people. Visitors can enjoy discovering over 400 memorials nestled amongst some 25,000 trees and experience riverside walks.

There are land train tours (£6.50 per person), memorial talks, exhibitions, and buggy tours.

## Royal Ascot Ladies' Day at Badgers Mount, Elmesthorpe, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2023

This year it is on Thursday 22 June 2023 at 12.30pm. Cost £52.50 per head. £10 deposit required ASAP. A fantastic day and includes a glass of Pimms on arrival. Three course lunch. Staff place your bets on your chosen horses. There are large TV screens to view each race. Very attentive staff with fun competitions for the best hat and the best dressed lady! All this is followed by a delicious afternoon tea and glass of prosecco. If interested, please give your name and deposit to the ladies on our Trips Desk at the May meeting.

Many thanks, Justine Goodwin.



## Cottesbrooke Hall and Gardens, Northamptonshire, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023

There are **16 places** on the minibus.

**Cost of guided tour of the house and admission to the gardens, plus travel on the minibus is £21 per person.**

There will be two pick up points: Hinckley Bus Station at 1.00pm; St Catherine's Church, Burbage at 1.10pm.

Return to Hinckley at 5.30pm.

**If you have paid your deposit of £10, the balance of £11 per person must be paid at the May meeting.**



Cottesbrooke Hall and Gardens boasts award-winning gardens, and the internationally renowned Woolavington Collection of sporting art, along with fine furniture and porcelain. It remains the beautiful home of the Macdonald-Buchanan family.

The house was built for Sir John Langham, between 1702 and 1712, in the Queen Anne style by Francis Smith of Warwick. Featuring beautiful rose-coloured brickwork, it shines like a jewel amongst its stunning backdrop of parkland, lakes, vistas, bridges and ha-has.

You will be able to enjoy the formal gardens that surround the Hall and to the Wild Garden, which flanks a meandering stream where acers and gunneras create a romantic and tranquil air.

Homemade cakes and hot/cold drinks are available in The Old Laundry Tearoom.





## Kilworth House Theatre

**Sunday 23 July 2023 2.30pm**

Tickets for Hairspray will be handed out at the June and July meetings.

Anyone who wants to sit together, please let me know names at our May meeting.

Gill x

## Sezincote House and Gardens on Thursday August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

**Cost per person including travel on the minibus and a guided tour of the house is £26.**

**Names and deposit of £10 will be taken at the May meeting.**



We are organizing a visit to Sezincote House and Gardens, near Moreton in the Marsh in the Cotswolds, on Thursday 3rd August.

Sezincote is a remarkable place, to quote from their website:

**At the heart of a traditional, family-run estate covering 3,500 acres of rolling Cotswold countryside stands a 200-year-old Mogul Indian palace, set in a romantic landscape of temples, grottoes, waterfalls, and canals reminiscent of the Taj Mahal.**

You can find out more about the venue by clicking on the following link. There is also a short TV documentary on the gardens:

<https://www.sezincote.co.uk/>

There will be a guided tour of the house starting at 11.30am for our group. The house has a beautiful, elegant Georgian interior and the gardens have been designed with a Persian theme.

On the day it would be better to bring a packed lunch. The Orangery café will be open.

If the weather is inclement, waterproof clothing may be a good idea.

We will be leaving around 2.30pm for our journey home.

### **Pick up points and times:**

9.00 1st pick up at Hinckley Bus Station.

9.10 2nd pick up at St Catherine's Church, Burbage.

Returning to Hinckley approximately 3.30pm.

## Summary of Events and Trips

For bookings, please contact Jenny Wright on 07790 923423.

Date	Event/Trip
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Shrek The Musical at The Concordia Theatre
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	National Memorial Arboretum
Thursday 22nd June	Ladies' Day Royal Ascot at Badgers Mount Hotel (12 noon onwards)
Wednesday 28th June	Cottesbrooke Hall and Gardens
June - date tbc	Westbrook House and Gardens with Cream Tea
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Hairspray at Kilworth House Theatre
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Sezincote House

**Trip Notice** If your emergency contact phone number has changed, please notify Pat McShane so that we can update our records. The organizer needs contact numbers in the event of an accident, illness, admission to hospital or a serious event. This is a safeguarding measure for the benefit of all members.

## County Events



Five members of our WI enjoyed **Tea with Baroness Bolsover on 19th April**, at Thurnby Memorial Hall. Victorian Baroness Bolsover demonstrated the DO's and DON'TS of afternoon tea etiquette.

Joy tells me that they were all asked to bring an old-fashioned China cup and saucer, plus teaspoon. The advice from the Baroness included posture and how to deal with serviettes! A fun filled afternoon! Mandy.

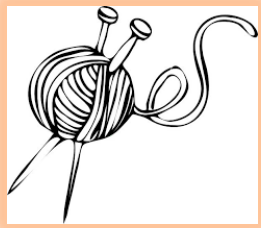


## Future Events

If you wish to book, please see Judith at the County Events desk.

**RHS Malvern Spring Festival, 13th May.** £48 per person, family & friends welcome. 8.30am departure from WI House, 5pm departure from Malvern.

**Spring Lunch, Saturday 20th May 2023.** Devonshire Place 78 London Road, Leicester LE2 0RA. 11.30am bar open, 12.30pm lunch. Tickets £30 (for two course lunch). Guest Speaker: Lynne Sharpe, a NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies) Area Demonstrator.



**Earl Shilton Evening WI Craft Day. Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023.** 10.00am – 3.00pm. The Pelican Centre, Alexander Avenue. Come along and try a range of craft activities – up to 5 different crafts to choose. All materials and lunch included in the cost. £15 per person. Contact Vicky on 07786 967391 for tickets.

**Croquet Taster Session. Tuesday 4th July 2023.** Leicester Croquet Club, Humberstone. 2.30pm or 7.00pm. £11 per person including expert tuition. Flat soled footwear must be worn.



**Federation Quiz Evening. Friday 7th July 2023.** 7.30pm. £5 per person – Teams of four. Four venues to choose from: St James Church, Huncote LE9 3AW; Rothley Centre, Mountsorrel Lane, Rothley, LE7 7PR ; Kibworth Grammar School Hall, LE8 0JE; WI House, Loughborough Rd, Leicester LE4 5LQ (upstairs venue with stairlift).

**Developing Embroidery Skills Workshop. Saturday 7th October 2023.** 10am-3pm, WI House £25. Learn embroidery stitches to make a hanging sampler. Beginners or improvers welcome.

**GROBY WI Coach trip to Thursford Christmas Show, Friday 24 November 2023.** A Roberts coach trip, leaving Groby village centre at 8.30 a.m. Arrives at Thursford approx. 12 noon. Show starts 2 p.m. Leaves Thursford at 5.15 p.m., arriving back at Groby approx. 9 p.m. (There is a WC on the coach)

**Ticket price** includes entrance to the show and depends on the coach size: the more people the cheaper! Smaller coach £92 per person. Larger coach £84 per person. **Tickets** from Julie Kotecha with immediate £5 deposit payable.

Please contact Julie at: [cosmic784@hotmail.com](mailto:cosmic784@hotmail.com) or at 0116 287 2355.

**Christmas Dabble Day Saturday 25th November 2023.** 10am-3pm. Park House, Stamford St, Glenfield LE3 8DL. £20. Learn how to make traditional craft items ready for Christmas gifting.

**Eastbourne Holiday 15 - 19th January 2024.** £299 pp (£20 single supplement) A chance to explore this lovely coastline. Evening meals and buffet breakfast included plus two, day excursions.

