

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN



HINCKLEY CANALSIDE WI

MARCH 2024

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

President's Message



Hello Ladies

March is the month that we celebrate Women's History. The WI is very much part of that, our campaigns and resulting resolutions have helped to change attitudes for more than 100 years. I hope this will continue.

It was wonderful to see 80 of our members and 4 visitors at the last meeting. We now have 92 members some of whom are dual members.

The trip to the Jain Temple and a visit to the Taste Experience was enjoyable and as usual well organised by Mandy and Margaret. I am looking forward to a possible return to the Taste Experience near to Christmas.

Easter is coming up fast and as usual we will be donating **Easter Eggs to the children in our local Women's Refuge**. If you would like to donate one we will have a collection box at our next meeting.

I know they are really appreciated by all the children who perhaps would not have one. Being in a refuge can be traumatic for the children and I hope our small Easter Egg donations brightens up their day. Thank you.

I am looking forward to welcoming you all to our March Meeting. **Ann**

Just a reminder - the email address to contact myself is: canalsidewipresident@gmail.com

March Meeting



Our speaker for our meeting on 6th March is Jo Golby in Victorian Mourning dress.

Jo will take you on a journey to discover Warwick Castle and Calke Abbey's "Not so living history".

The secrets that lie beneath and the inhabitants that still occupy the rooms, corridors and grounds of two very different Stately Homes, as witnessed by herself, colleagues and guests.

Sue

Bottle Tops to Benches

We have been asked by a member of East Leake WI to support the below. They are collecting any hard plastic bottle tops, which are sent to be repurposed and made into benches in the local area. We will be providing a box and a member will be passing it onto a member at East Leake.

Thank you, Ann x



Leicestershire & Rutland Federation Board of Trustees

The officers of the committee (Ann, Judith, Caroline, Sue and Margaret) have been asked to a meeting of the Leicestershire & Rutland Federation Board of Trustees to "Have your say" about 3 questions:-

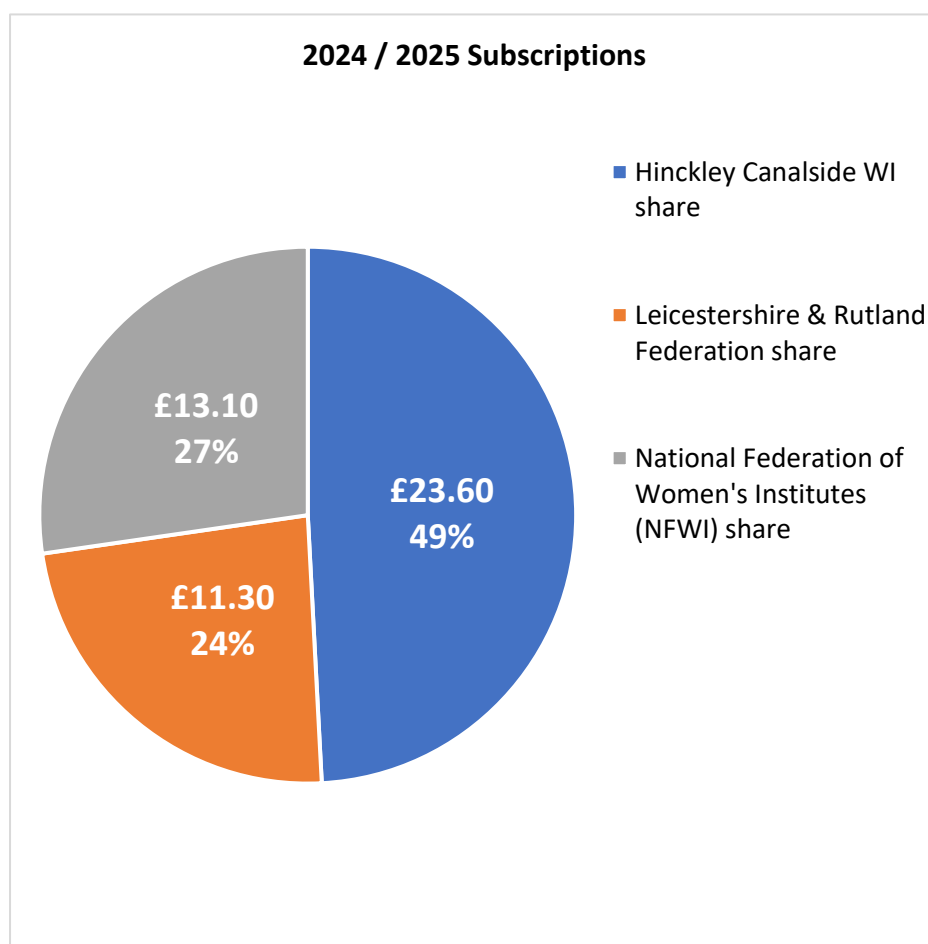
1. What is going well for your WI within the Federation.
2. What we could improve on (The Board).
3. How can the Board help you, moving forward.

The committee would very much appreciate your views on any or all of these questions and if you would like any questions answered. I will be providing sheets for you to complete at our next members meeting. Ann

2024 / 2025 Subscriptions

It's that time of year when we renew our annual subscriptions and I thought it would be useful to members to include some information about how your subscription is split between our WI, federation and the NFWI. Your subscriptions help with running our individual group and the organisation as a whole and includes the below for the coming year. Ann.

What does my membership include?



- A welcoming place to make friends and participate in activities
- 8 issues of WI Life magazine
- 11 meetings
- The opportunity to involve yourself in exciting local and national campaigns
- Bespoke member only events held virtually and at venues around the country
- Member's book of discount offers
- Training opportunities such as becoming a WI Adviser or Climate Ambassador
- The option to be a WI committee member, a federation trustee and/or an NFWI trustee
- Access to My WI
- WI Learning Hub

Membership Subscriptions 2024 - 2025

Join or Renew
your membership

The subscription year runs from 1st April to 31st March.

For the year 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025, the maximum membership fee will be £48.00.

The distribution of the 2024 membership fee is as follows:

Total Subscription **£48.00**: Canalside WI Share £23.60. Federation Share £11.30. NFWI Share £13.10

Dual Membership: The cost of dual membership - payable to the second WI - is a maximum of **£23.60** for the year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

How to pay: Subscriptions for this year are due on the 1st April and must be paid by the end of April.

We are going to be collecting the subscription monies at the **MARCH and APRIL** meetings.

Member's Fee for 2024/25 is £48. Dual Member's fee £23.60

Cheques

Make payable to '**Hinckley Canalside WI**'. Please print your name clearly on the back of the cheque, as some signatures are unreadable.

or **Correct Cash**

No change will be given. Please place your cash in a sealed envelope with your name and the full amount clearly printed on the front of the envelope.

or **Bank Transfer**

Payee: **Hinckley Canalside WI** Reference: **Subs and Member's full name**

Sort Code: **60 11 06** Account No: **16510771**

or **Post your cheque**

Print your name clearly on the back of the cheque or include your name inside a sealed envelope. Send to: Caroline Drodge, 19 Jubilee Way, Burbage, Hinckley, Leics, LE10 2HS.

Receipts will not be posted but given out at monthly meetings.

Thank you: The committee are grateful for your support which is important and enables us to continue to thrive and offer members a varied programme of speakers, events, and trips throughout the year(s).

Thank you from Ann, Sue, Margaret, Mandy, Caroline, Judith, Jenny, Gill, Caron, Justine, Pat, Lisa, and Cath.

February Meeting Snapshot – From Fleece to Finish by Amanda Dewes



We had a very interesting talk this evening from a Sheep Farmer who uses her very homegrown wool to produce amazing woollen products such jumpers, bags, hats, socks, scarves and rugs. She explained the whole process from the shearing of the sheep to the skirting, washing, dyeing, combing and spinning of the wool.

Amanda has 75 sheep and has named them all. She talked fondly of Colin and Miranda. She explained the different types of breeds of sheep, their wool type and texture depending on their breed, where they come from and whether they are highland or low land sheep. She explained how she dyes the wool or keeps it natural and how it is stored. Amanda was initially bought 16 sheep by her husband and this has grown to 75. They have their own lambs and are kept very busy this time of year with lambing. Most sheep have one to two lambs a year.



Amanda told us about her first spinning wheel and how she then became hooked on spinning her own yarn and experimenting with different types of spinning and dyeing of the yarn. She has also learnt how to weave, first on a peg weave and then on a more complicated loom. It was fascinating to watch her spin the wool and make the yarn both on her drop spindle or spinning wheel. We all had an enjoyable informative evening.

Preview of Canalside WI Programme 2024 -25

All members will be issued with a programme card on renewal of their subscription in April. Thanks to Sue Barden – Marshall for her work on organising the speakers. I have worked with Margaret Lawrence on the trips schedule. I hope you will agree that there is an excellent range of presentations with varied and exciting additional events!
Mandy.

<p style="text-align: center;">PROGRAMME 2024 -25</p> <p>Monthly meetings at 7.30pm, usually on the 1st Wednesday of each month.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2024</p> <p>April 3rd Meet John Parnell, the ‘Hoop Guy’</p> <p>A semi-finalist on BGT, John offers a light-hearted talk about the Hula Hoop’s history, plus a comedy demonstration, followed by some (optional) audience participation!</p> <p>May 1st ‘My Big Fat Greek Deading’</p> <p>Members of our very own WI cast will be asking you to help solve an especially ‘Corfu-sing’ murder.</p> <p>June 5th D-Day 80</p> <p>To mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings, the Sarah Bright Musical Theatre will entertain us with songs from the 1940s.</p> <p>June 5th NFWI Annual Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall, London.</p>	<p>Saturday June 15th Canalside WI Fundraising Charity Market Stall.</p> <p>July 3rd Radio Magic Over the Waves</p> <p>Prepare to be fascinated as Bridget Blair, journalist for BBC Radio Leicester and Radio 4 for over 20 years, shares her experiences – from ‘Murder of the Magpies’ to interviewing the Bishop of Norwich. Truth is stranger than fiction...</p> <p>September 4th Life on Board the Royal Yacht Britannia</p> <p>Discover what life was like on board Queen Elizabeth II's floating royal residence. With seven years’ service as a crew member, Bill Haley BEM offers insights into the fun, laughter and ceremonial.</p> <p>Friday September 27th Macmillan Coffee Morning, Sainsbury’s, Hinckley.</p> <p>October 2nd Canalside Craft Event</p> <p>Our WI and local crafters will demonstrate their skills, giving us an opportunity to join in!</p>	<p>November 6th Annual Meeting and Quiz</p> <p>Competitive? In the know? Our very own Justine Goodwin is your quiz master for an entertaining and fun filled evening.</p> <p>December 4th Christmas Party Night</p> <p>Come and enjoy some festive fun with our buffet and entertainment. Members only.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2025</p> <p>January 8th A Crowning Glory</p> <p>Eddie Smallwood takes us through the majesty and mishaps of coronations of English monarchs.</p> <p>February 5th Graham Sutherland’s Feisty Females</p> <p>Learn about some spirited women who have left their mark on history!</p> <p>March 5th The Jewel in the Crown (Only in India)</p> <p>Ian Maber gives us a light-hearted look at life through the eyes of a westerner who finds himself instantly accepted into a somewhat mystifying culture.</p>
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OUTINGS AND EVENTS 2024 -25

<p>Thursday 11th April</p> <p>Visit to Saffron’s Flower Farm – Tulip Event</p>	<p>Wednesday 8th May</p> <p>Evening theatre visit</p> <p>The Concordia Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat</p>	<p>Tuesday 12th September</p> <p>Visit to Saffron’s Flower Farm – Dahlia Event</p>	<p>Tuesday 18th September</p> <p>Afternoon visit to Stanford Hall, Lutterworth</p>
<p>Thursday 16th May</p> <p>Afternoon visit to the 1620’s House & Gardens, Donington Le Heath</p>	<p>Monday 24th June</p> <p>Day visit to Broughton Castle, Banbury, Oxfordshire.</p>	<p>Wednesday 30th October</p> <p>Beetle Drive Evening at the Greyhound, Hinckley</p>	<p>Thursday 7th November</p> <p>Staunton Harold Christmas Artisan Show</p>
<p>Wednesday 10th July</p> <p>Day visit to Warwickshire Lavendar Farm</p>	<p>Sunday 21st July</p> <p>Kilworth House Theatre Singin’ in the Rain Matinee</p>	<p>January 2025</p> <p>Date to be decided.</p>	<p>The Concordia Mother Goose pantomime</p>
<p>Thursday 1st August</p> <p>Day trip to Elton Hall & Gardens, Near Peterborough</p>	<p>Wednesday 7th August</p> <p>Afternoon tea at Buttercream Tearoom, Hinckley</p>	<p>Thursday 13th February</p> <p>Canalside WI Quiz Evening Stoke Golding Club</p>	<p>Wednesday 12th March</p> <p>Guided Walk: Leicester – Where Old Meets New & Lunch at Taste Restaurant, Leicester College</p>
<p>March to July 2024</p> <p>September to March 2024 - 25</p>		<p>LRFWI darts</p> <p>LRFWI skittles</p>	

Craft Sales Table



This is a new project. It is proposed that we hold a Craft Table Event for the Sale of your Work about four times during the year, starting with Easter...

We are holding the first Craft Table Event at our next WI meeting, Wednesday 6th March, so please bring along any item you have made and would like to sell which can then be added to the Sales table.

Obviously, you would have to be responsible for any items you bring along Putting a Price on it ***Displaying it *** Taking it home if it doesn't sell that evening.

Checking the rules and regulations we can do this, but I just have to ask for 10 per cent of the price of the sale of the item. I will look after the financial side of the project and any monies collected will be donated to a charity of your choice. This makes it a win-win project ...you are able to sell your work at the same time helping a local Charity.

I do hope some of you are able to support this project. I am keen to run this Craft Table as years ago we used to run a very successful one.

Looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday.

Margaret Lawrence

Regular Social Monthly Meet Up



The next Coffee morning meet-up, will be on Thursday 21st March, in the Hansom Cafe, in the Atkins Building, at 11am. You can park in the car park opposite for £1.20, for 2 hours, card or cash payment.

It would be nice to see a few more members there.

It's lovely to have an informal chit-chat and get to know people outside of the meetings, so please try and

come on the 21st. They serve a nice coffee and the staff are very friendly. Hope you will come to join us.



Fundraising Events

Book Sales Table

Because of the Craft stall this month, there won't be a book sales table. I will still be taking books though. I will be helping somewhere, so you can bring them to me, in a bag please. Thanks Cath.



Raffle



We will be holding a Raffle at our February meeting.

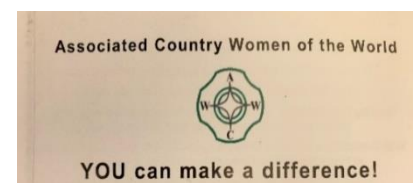
Tickets are £1.00 each.

Any items you have that would make suitable raffle prizes, please let me have at the meeting.
Thanks Gill x

ACWW / Pennies for friendship

Please remember to bring any loose change you may have and throw it in the big purple bucket or the smaller containers around the room. Thanks for your continuing generosity.

Pat x



Jigsaw Table



There will be a buy (£2) or swap (free) jigsaw puzzle table at Februarys WI meeting.

Cake Makers

A big Thank You to the following who very kindly agreed to bake or buy cakes for our February meeting: **Vivienne Gorrod, Jan Heeley, Jenny Hetherington, Carole Reynolds, Pat Ross and Angela Sparham.**

We are very grateful to so many of you who volunteer readily and produce such delicious cakes. If you prefer you could bring some fruit instead. In the past this has been appreciated by some members.

Thanks Pat.



Clubs and Teams

Canalside WI Walking Group If any members would like to volunteer to arrange a walk in the coming months, please don't hesitate to contact Ann, thank you.

Third Tuesday Craft Club



At the last session we revisited quilling as some of our newer members had not tried this craft before. We enjoyed creating our design and getting together again. We also partook of a very fine Swiss roll kindly baked by Joy. At our next session we will be trying sashiko embroidery. Our next meeting is on the 19th March.



Bits and Bobs Craft Group



The Bits & Bobs crafters met on Tuesday 27th February. We really enjoyed making cords using a kumihimo technique and very impressed with the results! On 26th March we will be using macrame to cover jars or pots. Best wishes, Colleen.



Darts



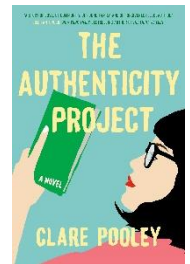
We have had two practice session now at the New Plough and are as ready as we can be to start this year's competition. Our first match is against **Great Bowden** on the **19th March**.

All are welcome to join us. It is more about socialising and meeting people from other WIs than playing darts, although it is good to win 😊 Talk to one of us if interested. Pat xx

Book Club

At our last meeting on Monday 2th February there were 19 of us there and the book we were discussing was “**The Marriage Portrait**” by **Maggie O’Farrell**. This book divided the group very equally.... we either loved it or struggled to read it. It could be compared with marmite!!

Our next book is “**The Authenticity Project**” by **Claire Pooley** to be discussed **on Monday 11th March** at **The Greyhound** at **11.45**. Having read the book I am pretty certain that it will be liked by most of the group 😊 All welcome! Pat x



Events and Trips

If you have put your name down for a trip and then find that you can’t go, you must inform the committee member responsible.

Please email Mandy and Margaret at canalsidewitrips@gmail.com or phone 01455 251809.

Or the person named in the Events and Trips section below.

Our priority is to find a replacement(s), so you need to give us **a minimum of 48 hours’ notice**. If we cannot find an individual/people who want to go then, unfortunately, we are not able to refund you. We do try to have a reserve list for the trips we run.

Skittles Evening – Friday 22nd March 2024 Barnacle Village Hall, Lower Road Barnacle CV7 9LD



You will play two rounds of three types of skittles in teams of a size yet to be determined, with a break in between rounds for supper.

THERE IS NO BAR SO PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LIQUID REFRESHMENTS

Anyone who has not yet paid please do so at the March meeting.

Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Concordia Theatre, Wednesday 8th May



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Concordia Theatre – Wed 8 May 2024

Reminder – full payment for this show needs to be made at our March meeting.

Ticket cost is £15.30 each, this is discounted as we have 20 people going.

Gill x

Singin’ in the Rain – Kilworth House Theatre, Matinee Performance, Sunday 21st July

Matinee performance – Sunday 21 July 2024.

Reminder – Full payment for this show needs to be paid by our March meeting.

The great news is that we have sold 20 tickets, therefore the cost will be discounted to £44.50 each.

Kilworth never fails to put on a fantastic show!

Gill x



Visit to Jain Temple and Taste Experience Restaurant at Leicester College – Thursday 15th February 2024.



Members of Canalside WI enjoyed a visit to the spectacular Jain Temple, the first to be consecrated in the Western world and the first to accommodate all sects of Jainism. There are carved sandstone pillars, a beautiful temple dome and ceiling with traditional carvings, white marble floor, mirrored walls, traditional doors at the Garbhagriha (the inner sanctum). We were also lucky enough to observe a daily prayer ceremony.

We were given a very informative tour, including an explanation of the beliefs of this religion. Originating in India, Jainism is one of the oldest religions. Jains believe in equality in all living things and so swear a vow of non-violence, care for the environment and are tolerant of other faiths. Jains are vegetarian - so strict, in fact, that eating root vegetables is not allowed because removing the root would kill the plant. Jainism embodies five stages of spiritual development. We then did the short walk to the Freeman's Park Campus of Leicester College and enjoyed a very good lunch prepared and served by the students in the Taste Restaurant. The feeling was that we would like to return and sample the Christmas menu! **Mandy.**

If anyone would still like to attend this event, our March meeting is your last chance to put your name down. It's open to all friends and family and is **£12 per head** and includes a supper of fish and chips or chicken and chips.



Visit to Saffron's Flower Farm – Tulip Event.

Thursday 11th April 2024, 10.00am – 12.30pm
(approximately).

£25 pp. Final payments by the April meeting please.

A lovely way to celebrate spring after the long winter months!

This event is now full, but if there is more interest I may be able to organise a second day. Please see me at the trips desk.

We are organizing a visit to **Saffron's Flower Farm, (Sutton Lodge), Frolesworth Road, Broughton Astley, Leics. LE9 6PG.**

17-minutes' car journey from Hinckley and just under 8 miles, so an easy drive.

This is an opportunity to:

- ❖ Do a tour of the flower farm with a talk.
- ❖ Followed by a demonstration of making a tulip arrangement.
- ❖ Then you can make your own tulip arrangement with a generous supply of flowers – and you will take this home with you!

Saffron and Nicole will your hosts. The cost includes coffee/tea and cakes. You will need to bring your own jug/ bowl/container – chicken wire will be provided. **The workshop is upstairs; no lift.**

I have heard from other members of other local WI groups, and they have said that it is a very enjoyable and relaxing session. The photos show members of Ullesthorpe WI who attended a similar event last year.



Visit to the 1620's House & Gardens, Donington Le Heath, Manor Road, Coalville, 2FW. Thursday 16th May



A house tour and garden tour – each 45 minutes long approximately.

And a visit to the Old Barn Tea Room on site.

Leave Mary Forryan at 1.00pm and return at approximately 5.00pm.

Entry fee: £5 per person, £4.50 seniors. £5.25 per person for tea/coffee and cake.

So, £10.25 per person or £9.75 for seniors. Minibus fee: £6.50 per person.

Total charge: £16.75 per person or £16.25 for seniors.

An opportunity to Immerse yourself in an early 17th century experience and take a walk back in time!

From their website:

‘This rare and beautiful house is a surviving example of a family home built in the 13th century and then modernised in 1618. The house has been home to many families over its 700-year history, but the Digby family, which included the Gunpowder Plotter Sir Everard Digby, lived in the house for over two hundred years. It is towards the end of the Digby ownership that the newly refurbished house is focused, showing how people lived in late Elizabethan and early Jacobean times.

Visitors can now see the beautifully restored period rooms and talk to our volunteers about the history of the house, the families that lived here and about life in the 1620s. The house is set in beautiful 17th century style gardens with labelled plants and flowers, an orchard, herb gardens and a small maze.’

(N.B. I am told that you can convert your entry fee to a year pass on the day by paying a little extra: £5.95 per person or £5 concession.)

This trip is open to members at the March meeting.

Taste Experience at Leicester College - Friday 22nd November 2024 at 12.30pm.



The restaurant is at Leicester College, Freeman’s Park Campus, Aylestone Road, Leicester, LE2 7LW.

We were so impressed with our visit to this restaurant in February that I have provisionally booked a lunch slot for the Christmas menu at 12.30pm on Friday 22nd November.

All the dates in December have already been taken.

The Christmas menu for 2023 cost £21 per person for a three-course meal and included tea and coffee. There may be a small price rise for 2024.

It’s too early for the Christmas menu to be available, but when we visited in February there were 3 choices available for each course – and they were willing to accommodate special dietary needs.

Please can you give me your name if you are interested at the March meeting.

You may decide to use park and ride, Enderby. See the link below:

<https://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/park-ride/enderby>

The 203-bus service will take you into the city centre from the park and ride. This bus service runs every 15 minutes. There is a stop outside the LRI opposite the Tigers Rugby Ground. The Taste Restaurant is behind the rugby ground.

Summary Of Events and Trips

For WI trip bookings and enquiries, please email Mandy and Margaret at canalsidewitrips@gmail.com or phone 01455 251809. Or the person named in the Events and Trips section above.

Trip Details		WI Members		Non-WI Members		Payment Details		
Name	Date	Cost	Open for booking	Cost	Open for booking	Deposit Amount	Balance	Full Amount Due
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Concordia Theatre	Wed 8th May	£17	January meeting	£17	February meeting	£10	£7	March meeting
Singin' in the Rain Kilworth House Theatre	Sunday 21 st July Matinee	£49	December meeting	£49	January meeting	£10	£39	March meeting
Visit to Saffron's Flower Farm – Tulip Event.	Thursday 11 th April 10.00am – 12.30pm	£25	February meeting	£25	March meeting	N/A	N/A	April meeting
Visit to the 1620's House and Gardens, Donington Le Heath.	Thursday 16 th May	£16.75 pp or £16.25 seniors	March meeting	£16.25 pp or £15.75 seniors	April meeting	N/A	N/A	May meeting
Taste Restaurant at Leicester College – Christmas Lunch.	Friday 22 nd November at 12.30pm	To be decided.	Names at the March meeting	-	-	-	-	-

Trip Notice If your emergency contact phone number has changed, please notify [Pat McShane](#) so that we can update our records. The organiser 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

If you are interested in any of these events, please see me at the County Events table. (More details can be found in the flyers I have sent out.) All the information about County Events is in your newsletter and County News.

You can book with me at a meeting or contact federation yourself by email at: wihouse@lrfwi.org

You will need a booking form first at: leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk/federationdownloads.

Payment to the Federation is by BACS. Please send BACs payments to: L&RFWI, NatWest Bank, Sort code: 60-02-17, Account number: 24626546 Reference: Event Name.

Judith Smith

Annual Council Meeting Will take place on Saturday, 16th March 2024 at Leicester Grammar School, London Road, Great Glen LE8 9FL. This event will include the following:

- **Individual craft competition.** Competitors can enter a piece of wearable jewellery inspired by water and in any medium. Entry fee is £1, and the winner will receive a gift voucher.
- **Children's Cookery Competition.** Competitors can enter three pieces of flapjack on a plate and there are two age classes: 7 years and under; 8 years to 15 years. It is recommended that all bakery items be displayed on a china or pottery plate not paper, and all items are covered with cling film or are in a clear polythene bag. Entry fee is £0.50p, and the winners will receive a small prize.
- **Adult Cookery Competition.** Competitors can enter three Cheese scones on a plate. It is recommended that all bakery items be displayed on a china or pottery plate not paper, and all items are covered with cling film or are in a clear polythene bag. Entry fee is £1, and the winner will receive the WI Leicestershire Silver Tray, to be held for one year plus a £20 book voucher in memory of John Lobb.
- **Jose` Smart Award- Individual Flower Competition.** Competitors can enter a small fresh flower arrangement incorporating a single candle in a holder size not to exceed 6" x 6", height unlimited. Entry Fee is £1, and the winner will be awarded the José Smart cut glass vase for 12 months.

Hathern Band Saturday 13th April 7.15pm-9.30pm Birstall Methodist Church, LE4 4JS £10 per person to include tea or coffee and cake at interval. Hathern Band is a First Section contesting brass band in Leicestershire with more than 160 years of history and goes from strength to strength as a village band that has achieved success in competition providing an excellent evening of entertainment.

Spring Dabble Day, 6th April 10-3pm. £20 to include all materials Swinford Village Hall. This is an opportunity to try a variety of crafts. A basic sewing kit and glasses for close/fine work may be needed. Tea/coffee will be provided.

Petanque Competition Evening, 23rd April & 10th September. Cost 7,50 at the Leicester Petanque club

Speaker Showcase Evening. 25th April, Goodwood Bowls Club. 7.30pm, £5. This is an opportunity to hear new speakers and demonstrators on the WI circuit. Parking is available.

Leicester Treasure Hunt . Around the city of Leicester, teams of up to 4. **12th May 10-10.30am.** Cost £5, Lunch arranged but not included in the price. **15th May 10-10.30** , £7 includes coffee/tea and cake.

Spring Lunch 11th May, cost £32 for 2 course lunch. Guest speaker Lesley Smith as Katherine Swynford - mistress of John of Gaunt. Devonshire Place Leicester LE2 0RA

Faith Visit BAPS Shriminarayan Mandir, Leicester. Tuesday 21st May , 10 - 12 pm. £8 to include refreshments. An opportunity to learn about Hindu values and visit their amazing temple.

Barracca Garden visit. 10th June, 7pm or Monday 17th June 2pm. Ivydene Close, Earl Shilton. £10 to include tea/cake. An opportunity to visit a 1-acre garden with lots of garden shrubs and plants.

BBC Gardeners World Live, Saturday June 15th, cost £44. Coaches leave from WI House at 9.00 am and Burbage Three Potts Bus Stop at 9.30am. Return from NEC at 4,30pm. Please note this is going to be very popular so please book early.