

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN



HINKLEY CANALSIDE WI

OCTOBER 2025

<https://hinckleycanalsidewi.co.uk>

President's Message



Hello Ladies

Hope you are all well?

The trees and hedgerows are looking beautiful at the moment, their vibrant colours are such a contrast to our dry hot summer, at last my lawn is looking green again.

I always feel that October is the month we take stock before the onset of Christmas. I can imagine what you are thinking but I have noticed that the shops are already starting to display Christmas goods.

Our speaker this month is Ginnette Brooks from Silver Swans Ballet; I am looking forward to her demonstration and a chance to participate.

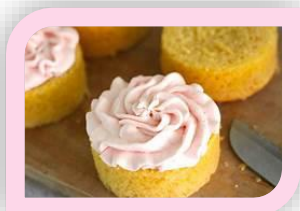
Ann

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

Membership and Receipts

In the past we have given receipts for membership subs as required by WI. All members who pay by Bank Transfer have the equivalent of a receipt in their accounts. We now would like those who have paid by cash or a cheque to sign against your name to say that you've paid. If this is you then see Pat at the table as you come into our October meeting and give her your 'autograph' 😊

Cake Makers



A big THANK YOU to all the ladies who provide such lovely cakes for our meetings. You may bring fruit if you prefer as it has been popular among some of our members.

The following people have volunteered for our October meeting: **Carol Beasley, Julie Edwards, Jenny l'Anson, Julia Gore, Sue Moore and Helen Staniforth.**

Please let me know if you can no longer do that at 07714 097947

Thanks Pat xx

September Meeting Snapshot – Dr Josh Smalley, Runner up in The Great British Bake Off 2024



We had a wonderful talk from Dr Josh Smalley about his time on The Great British Bake-Off in 2024. He went through each week and told us of his experiences on the show. He showed us photos of his amazing bakes and what had inspired him. This included a Leicester Tiger made of bread for bread week and a chocolate box full of homemade chocolates with chemical symbols and equations on them for Chocolate week.

Josh is a Dr in Biochemistry and is a researcher based at Leicester University. He is passionate about chemistry and baking. He is on regular TV science programmes, has podcasts, he demonstrates and teaches at various schools across the country. He inspires school children and students of all ages about science and the strong connection with baking and chemistry. His enthusiasm and passion for this was very inspiring to our members too. He gave us a chemistry lesson explaining the chemical symbols and reactions used in baking. Josh is also a very keen gardener and showed us photos of his home grown produce, including fruit trees, giant vegetables and beautiful flowers and shrubs. He

showed us sketches of his garden and allotment he plans each year before planting. He makes his own wine, jams and chutneys as well his cakes, bread and biscuits. He explained how his wonderful Nan had inspired him as a child to bake and be a keen gardener. She encouraged him to apply for the show before sadly passing away the year he had applied. He also plays rugby at Syston Rugby Club Leicester and is a big Leicester Tigers Fan. The energy he has for everything he does is amazing. He sampled a couple of homemade cakes from our cake volunteers on the night and said he was very impressed with them. Well done ladies!

Fundraising Events

Book Sales Table

There will be a book sales table this month. It will be the last one for this year and I am selling them cheaper. Books will be 4 for £1 or 2 for 50p, so please come and look and buy.

Don't forget I have the trades directory on the sales table. Thanks Cath.



Raffle



We WILL NOT be having a raffle at our October meeting.

Save your £1 coins though as we will be having a raffle in November.

Thanks Gill x

Jigsaw Table

There will be a jigsaw swap table - free to swap, £2 to buy one. Colleen x



Clubs and Teams

Third Tuesday Craft Club



At our last session we made wire wrapped trees using buttons, crystals, and beads.

At our next session we are going to attempt to make autumnal, Hallowe'en and/or Christmas decorations out of pinecones. As none of our members have tried this before the outcome should be very interesting !

Julie Cooper



Bits and Bobs Craft Group

The Bits & Bobs crafters are due to meet on 30th September, and we will be making decorative vases. Hopefully there will be more photos next newsletter! We will be meeting on 28th October, when we'll be making something Christmassy 😊.

Colleen



The Joy of Needlework

"The Joy of Needlework " Ladies met on 2nd September and had a lovely evening chatting and stitching.

If anyone would like to join us , we meet on the first Tuesday of the month 18:30-20:00 at The New Plough. If you are interested, please speak to Julie Murray at the October meeting.

Book Club



Our last meeting was on the **Monday 8th September** to discuss **"The Women" by Kristin Hannah.**

There were 15 of us there and all those that had completely read the book loved it. They all gave a score of 4.5 out of 5. It was about women nurses in Vietnam and their experience of the chaos and destruction and the problems facing them when they got home. Highly recommended by our group.

Our next meeting is on **Monday 13th October** in the usual place. The book we are discussing is **"Raising Hare" by Chloe Dalton.** I am expecting this to be much lighter. It is about the relationship between a woman and a wild hare.

We meet at the Greyhound at 11.45 on the second Monday of the month and welcome new people to come along and see if it suits them. Pat xx

Skittles



Great News ! We played our first skittles match against Hollycroft WI at the Heathcote Arms and won ! Well done ladies !

The score was 3 games to 2.

It was a great evening and lovely to catch up with everyone.

We have a bye in October but will play again in November. Gill x

Against Breast Cancer Charity Collection



Many thanks to the members who have donated used and unwanted bras for me to send to the charity Against Breast Cancer.

I have so far sent 36 boxes and have another 4 waiting for collection. PLEASE continue to donate and involve your friends and family. These bras would have ended up in landfill waste sites, not good for the environment.

Every year over 55,000 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed. Even more shocking, over 11,000 people each year lose their life to breast cancer.

Money raised from bra sales is used by the charity to fund pioneering research that focuses on breast cancer prevention, detection and therapies. Patricia Sykes.

Poppy Cascade

The CLA Supervisor & Green Champion, Museums & Heritage, at Leicestershire County Council has contacted our LRFWI head office in Leicester regarding Leicestershire WI groups supporting this project.

Carol Beasley has a few friends involved in making the poppies, but obviously the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre need a lot more than they can produce. Carol will be helping on the 9th October and possibly the 10th so would be happy to act as a collection point. Warm regards Carol.



Poppy Cascade

*Are you a knitter or create crochet?
We need your help to create a poppy cascade for
Remembrance Sunday 2025*

Materials: Red & Black wool and 4mm knitting needles

Cast on 60 stitches with the red wool
Complete 5 rows of knit 5 and purl 5 repeat to the end of row

Cast on black wool
Complete 5 rows of knit 2 together

Sew the seam and leave two ends of the wool
to tie onto the display

Deadline by 8th October 2025

*Please drop into the Bosworth Battlefield
Heritage Centre*

Reminder - £5 subsidy for members on trips or a theatre visit



Committee members have agreed to offer all **members** a **£5 subsidy**.

This can be used **on one occasion** to offset the cost of **either a trip or theatre visit** in the period January 2025 to December 2025.

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, 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.

Canine Partners Curry Night – Monday 27th October at 7:00pm, Cuisine of India, Wigston

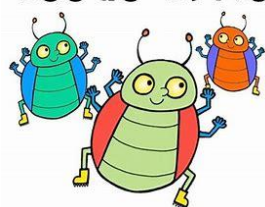
Cost £20 per head which includes a buffet and some entertainment, with proceeds from the evening will go to Canine Partners.

If you would like to go the tickets are £20 and I will be collecting money at the next members meeting. Ann x



Beetle Drive – Wednesday 29th October at 7:30pm, The Greyhound

Beetle Drive



Held every year in remembrance of former member Margaret Copson, proceeds donated to LOROS. Please feel free to bring friends and family, all are welcome.

Cost is £7.50 and includes a supper, please be sure to bring the correct money or a cheque. Ann x

Taste Experience at Leicester College – Thursday 20th November 2025 at 12 noon.



The cost of the lunch is **£24 per person**.

Full payment at the latest by November 5th.

Thank you Mary & Carol

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON MENU

FIRST COURSE

Celeriac and apple soup with crispy sage (GF) (VG) (VE)

Smoked salmon with balsamic roasted beetroot

Curly endive and radicchio salad, horseradish and crème fresh dressing (**GF)

Chicken and mushroom press, tarragon mayonnaise, chargrilled ciabatta, dressed baby watercress (**GF)

MAIN COURSE

Sage and onion stuffed turkey breast, roast potatoes, pigs in blankets, finished with a turkey jus (**GF)

Braised feather blade of beef, roasted potatoes, caramelised shallot purée, red wine gravy (**GF)

Pan seared sea bass with sapphire, sun blushed tomato cream sauce, lemon and thyme fondant potato

Butternut squash and spinach wellington, roasted potatoes, sun blushed tomato sauce (**GF) (VE) **VG)

All served with potatoes and winter vegetables

DESSERT

Homemade Christmas pudding, brandy sauce (**GF) (**VG)

Winter berry pavlova (GF)

Chocolate tart, caramelised clementines, Chantilly cream (**GF)

Spiced poached pear, gingerbread crumb, blackcurrant sorbet (**VE) (**GF)

Coffee/tea and Chocolate truffles

VE- Vegetarian, GF-Gluten Free, VG- Vegan (*GF) adapted for Gluten Free, (*VG) adapted for vegan Please advise at time of booking.

Harlaxton Manor near Grantham, Lincolnshire – Saturday 6th December



TOTAL COST: £27.60 (Concessions £24.60)

Entry Fee: Adults £18; Concessions £15

Minibus Fare: £9.60

Journey time: approximately 1 hour 20 minutes

Leave Mary Forryan at: TBC

Leave Harlaxton Manor at: TBC

Arrive back at Mary Forryan at: TBC

Celebrate the Magic of Christmas at Harlaxton Manor

Gather your loved ones and step into the festive splendour of Harlaxton Manor as we open our doors one last time this year. Our beautifully adorned state rooms will be decked with twinkling Christmas trees, creating the perfect backdrop for a magical day out.

Enjoy live music from our talented pianist and singers, discover the rich history of the Manor, and soak in the joyful atmosphere that fills every corner of our grand estate.

Warm up with a selection of delicious seasonal treats available throughout the day, including mince pies, Christmas cake, pulled pork rolls, and a variety of vegan and gluten-free options.

Located in the heart of the Lincolnshire countryside, Harlaxton Manor offers breath-taking views across the Vale of Belvoir. Inside, explore iconic spaces like the 19th-century Conservatory, the majestic Great Hall, and the gilded Gold Room—all dressed in festive finery.



Dick Whittington – Concordia Theatre, Wednesday 28 January 2026



We are going to see Dick Whittington – pantomimes are always such great fun !

The booking form will be at the trips table as I will not be at the meeting on Wednesday.

As we already have over 10 going the cost of £18 will be discounted to £16.20p.

Please pay £10 deposit on Wednesday to secure your place. Gill xx

Summary Of Events and Trips

For WI trip bookings and enquiries, please see the Trips table during our monthly member meeting 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
Beetle Drive	Wednesday 29 th October	£7.50	September meeting	£7.50	September meeting	Full payment required	-	October meeting
Christmas Lunch at Taste Restaurant	Thursday 20 th November	£24.00	September meeting (Menu choice required)	£24.00	September meeting (Menu choice required)	£10.00	£14.00	November meeting
Harlaxton Manor	Saturday 6 th December	£27.60	October Meeting	£27.60	November Meeting	£10.00	£17.60	November Meeting
Dick Whittington	Wednesday 28 th January	£16.20	October Meeting	N/A	N/A	£10.00	£6.20	December 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 the events there are a number of ways to book. Read the flyers that have been emailed to you, the methods of booking are at the bottom of each flyer. Thanks Judith Smith (Sec)

- a) **Federation Art Trophy.** Painting competition in any medium. Title "Inspired by Sports". Entry cost £5. Paintings must be at WI House by 5th Feb 2026
- b) **Warwick Castle, Christmas Light Trail.** 26th November 2025. Cost £55, open to all. Pick up at Three Potts, Burbage at 1pm, return from Warwick at 7pm.
- c) **Autumn Lunch, Green Room, Hinckley.** 26th October, 11.30am. £32 for two course lunch. Guest speaker Jack Lawton.
- d) **Christmas Event.** 3rd December, 2.00 - 4.00pm St Mary's Church, Barkby. £10 to include refreshments.
- e) **Faith Visit.** Visit to Leicester Hebrew Congregation Synagogue. Highfield St, Leicester. Open to all. Cost £10. 29th October, 10.30 - 12.00
- f) **Alvaston Hall, Cheshire—Holiday. 19th January—23rd January 2026, £399 pp (£50 single supplement—limited singles available).** Four nights' accommodation, dinner, bed & breakfast. Drinks included, portorage, two excursions and return executive coach travel.
- g) **The Edith Buckley Poetry Competition 2026 – Closing Date 19th February, 2026.** Our competition this year is to use any poetic form to bring some laughter to our competition. In not more than 150 words tell the story (fact or fiction) of an incident that made you laugh. (more details and entry form are available on the flyer).

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Thanks Judith Smith (Sec)