



HINCKLEY CANALSIDE WI

DECEMBER 2025

<https://hinckleycanalsidewi.co.uk>

President's Message



Let me start by saying that the new committee and I are committed to doing our very best for you all. The good news is that we now have a Secretary and a Treasurer: Mary Groombridge and Karen Saunders, respectively. I want to thank them both for taking on these roles – and outgoing officers and committee members who have done so much for Canalside WI.

I have been working on a new trips/events programme for 2026-27, and Gill Hannah has theatre visits lined up. Our group is thriving and growing – 99 members to date.

If anyone feels that they can give some time to help as a committee member – or as a supporter, then please speak to any of the committee members. You can do as little or as much as you like ! If you would like to come along to a committee meeting as an observer, that is fine. We meet once a month on the third Wednesday evening at The Greyhound in Hinckley.

Arrangements for our Christmas Meeting on December 3rd

It promises to be a festive event with a buffet and entertainment from singer, Carl Sinclair. Please feel free to don your favourite Christmas jumpers and hats! Bring your own drinks and glasses. Traditionally, I take any leftover food to Lawrence House.

Helpers: If you are planning to help with arranging the room, please can you arrive at 6.30pm. Your help will be much appreciated.

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

Mandy x.

Leicester Rape Crisis – Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th December



Ann Bowles is hosting a coffee morning at The Greyhound, New Buildings in Hinckley, in support of this very worthy cause.

Please can you support Ann by baking cakes for this event. (This is not a WI event.)

If you want to find out more about this charity, then please type in Jasmine House on your search engine – or click on this link:

<https://www.jasminehouse.org.uk/>

Women's Refuge



As you know, it is a Canalside WI tradition to collect Christmas gifts of toiletries, chocolate, and children's toys.

Our gifts make a difference and will be very much appreciated.

If you would like to donate, we will be providing a box for your donations at the December meeting.

Margaret will deliver the gifts to the Hinckley Hub. Thank you, Mandy.

Cake Makers



A big Thank You to all the members who have provided us with cakes throughout the year.

In December we don't need cakes as we're having our Christmas Buffet.

In January, the Committee usually provide the cakes, but if any of you want to make cakes (or join the Committee) please talk to me at our meeting. 😊😊
Pat McShane.

November Meeting Snapshot – Christine Farmer – The History of Masks



At our November meeting, our speaker was Christine Farmer, who gave us an interesting talk on the history of masks and had brought along masks she had collected from many places over the years. We learned that the use of masks goes back many hundreds of years and they were used for religious rituals, celebrations, and carnivals - as well as protection against disease, as in the plague years in the 17th century, when the famous beak mask was worn.

Masks are still used today for cultural and ceremonial events, and entertainment performances - and of course for health and safety protection.

Members were given a chance to try them on after Christine had finished her talk. Cath.

Fundraising Events



Book Sales Table

There won't be a Sales Table in December. Thanks, Cath.

Raffle



We will be holding a raffle at our December meeting. Tickets will be £1 each.

If you have any suitable raffle items, these are always gratefully accepted – please bring them along to the meeting.

Thanks Gill x

Clubs and Teams

Third Tuesday Craft Club



At our last meeting we made Christmas trees using felt and embellishments. We then mounted them onto a stand. This required some needlework skills which we all enjoyed.

We will not be having a meeting in December and will arrange a social event for the group in early January.

Julie Cooper

Bits and Bobs Craft Club

On 30th September we decorated a glass each to make very pretty LED candle holders. We were very pleased with the simplicity and ease of making them using straws and silk flowers.

On 28th October we made a great selection of Christmas cards, using a variety of techniques.

On 25th November we had great fun making Christmas baubles using diamond art. Many of the group hadn't tried this before, and the sparkling results were very impressive. Most of us only finished one side, so we'll finish the other side in January. The baubles can still be used on the tree this year, as a photo can be used on the reverse. Merry Christmas everyone!

Colleen



Book Club



Our last meeting was on the **Monday 10th November** to discuss '**The Gift**' by Alan Titchmarsh.

There were 13 there and it was generally enjoyed although not all had read it. It was decided it was an easy and light book to read.

Our next meeting is on **Monday 8th December**. We are discussing 'The Boy' by Roald Dahl which is an autobiography of his early life. You may prefer to read 'Go Solo' which is about his extraordinary later life.

Since it is nearly Christmas, we may bring in some poetry and some nibbles to share. 😊

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

Skittles



We played our second skittles match against Stoke Golding WI and lost ! So sad but a great night against a lovely team!

The score was 3 games to Stoke Golding, 1 game to us, with one drawn.

It was a great evening and lovely to catch up with everyone. Thank you, ladies, for a really good evening.

We play Narborough and Littlethorpe in December. Gill x

Collections

Please remember to bring the following items to the meeting: stamps, lids, bras and loose change.

This helps the environment by recycling in various ways and raises money for worthy causes.

We will receive them in the entrance hall. Thank You. Pat xx



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.



Autumn Lunch at The Green Room

Sunday 26th October 2025

Canalside WI members, Ann Large and Bron Witherford, attended this federation event.

[Here is Bron's write up.](#)

On Sunday 26th October Ann Large and I attended the WI Autumn Lunch at the Green Rooms in Hinckley. It was a really enjoyable occasion. The food was excellent, well cooked, and beautifully presented, served by a team of very professional young people. It was a really good opportunity to meet ladies from other areas to swap ideas and experiences. After our meal we were entertained by Jack Lawton, a vocalist, whose choice of songs was just in the correct era for those present. Thank you to those who organised the lunch; we look forward to future opportunities to meet up with new friends made.

Taste Experience at Leicester College – Thursday 20th November 2025



We all had a lovely time at the meal. The restaurant looked very festive, and the food was enjoyable - especially the desserts! Carol Roberts.

Harlaxton Manor near Grantham, Lincolnshire – Saturday 6th December

Here are the final details for the trip.



Journey time: approximately 1 hour 20 minutes

Leave Mary Forryan at: 9.00am

Leave Harlaxton Manor at: 2.00pm

Arrive back at Mary Forryan at: 3.20pm

You may wish to take a snack with you.

Contact for this trip: Mary Groombridge on 07748 046740.

Saffron's Flower Farm on 26th February 2026 from 10.30am- 1pm.

(Sutton Lodge), Frolesworth Road, Broughton Astley, Leics. LE9 6PG.

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



Create a small, dried flower frame or wreath.

£35 per person.

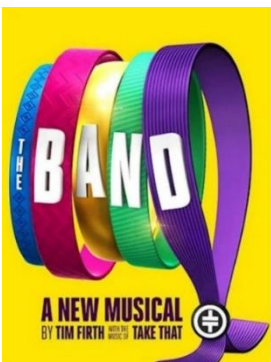
Join us on 26th February 2026 for a wonderful morning at Sutton Lodge Flower Farm.

Enjoy delicious homemade cake and coffee on arrival whilst you warm up by the fire.

Spend the morning working with British dried flowers and create a beautiful 10inch dried flower frame or wreath, perfect to hang decoratively at home - or gift to someone special. All frames and designs will be unique to you.

This workshop is all about taking time out to create, relax, and be with friends - the perfect way to reconnect to you this winter.

The Band – A new musical with the music of TAKE THAT – Concordia Theatre, Wednesday 25 March 2026



We are going to see the above production of The Band at the Concordia.

If you would like to go, please let me have your name together with £10 deposit at our December meeting.

We already have 20 people going, so the cost is discounted from £18 to £16.20.

Gill x

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
Dick Whittington	Wednesday 28 th January	£16.20	October Meeting	N/A	N/A	£10.00	£6.20	December Meeting
The Band	Wednesday 25 th March	£18.00 (£16.20 if more than ten people)	November Meeting	N/A	N/A	£10.00	£8.00 (£6.20 if more than ten people)	January Meeting
Saffron's Flower Farm	Thursday 26 th February	£35	December Meeting	£35	January Meeting	£10	£25	February Meeting

Trip Notice If your emergency contact 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

If you are interested in any of the events there are several ways to book. Read the flyers that have been emailed to you, the methods of booking are at the bottom of each flyer. **Or you can see Mary Groombridge at the Trips Table at the monthly meeting.**

- 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) **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.
- c) **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).
- d) **Bell Foundry** Tuesday 10th February 2026. The Bell Foundry, Freehold Street Loughborough. £16 pp. Closing date 2 February 2026.
- e) **Faith Visit** Tuesday 3rd March 2026. Greek Orthodox Church, Aylestone Road, LE2 7LN. £10 pp. Closing date 17th February 2026.
- f) **Mental Health First Aid Champion** Tuesday 17th March 2026. At the Mary Forryan Centre, Hinckley. **Free.** Closing date 17th February 2026.
- g) **Margaret Johnston Trophy Competition 2026.** The theme of this year's writing challenge is ... 'Are you a Sporting Widow or a Sporting Fan?' Entry fee £1. Closing date: 28th February 2026.