

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN



HINCKLEY CANALSIDE WI

FEBRUARY 2026

<https://hinckleycanalsidewi.co.uk>

President's Message



Dear Members,

Hope you are all well and weathering out these wet January days with plenty of distractions! There is news to pass on to you all.

Subscription 2026 -27

For the year 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, the NFWI have set the maximum membership fee at **£54**; local WIs have no say in this decision. The distribution is as follows:

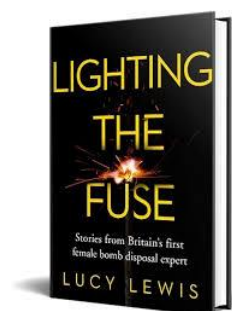
Total subscription	WI share	Federation share	NFWI share
£54.00	£27.10	£12.55	£14.35

Added Value

The Canalside Committee have been busy, focusing on adding extra value to your membership subscription for 2026 -27. So, here are the following offers:

- We will exercise flexibility and **reduce the WI portion by £2 per member**; so, you will pay £25.10 to Canalside (total £52 with the national and federation shares).
- Every member has a **£5 subsidy** to use against the cost of trips organised by Canalside in 2026.
- There will be an **extra meeting in August** with a special speaker – with **no admission charge to members and their family/ friends**.

Wednesday 5th August, Open Meeting: 'Lighting the Fuse': the extraordinary experiences of Lucy Lewis - the UK's first female bomb disposal expert & first female Marshal at Cambridge University.



The Amazon introduction to Lucy's memoir reads: 'From joining Sandhurst to rushing to her first bomb disposal call-out, Lucy's story is full of high stakes and tense situations that for most of us, are beyond comprehension.'

In 2018 Lucy became the first female Marshal at the University of Cambridge where she leads one of the world's oldest Constabularies, assisting with ceremonies and protecting freedom of speech.



I hope you feel this offer helps give your subscription good, added value.

Refreshment monies

It's possible that there is now confusion about payment for refreshments at our monthly meetings. So, I would like to clarify.

The Committee asks for **£1 from each member** at each meeting.

At our last meeting **in January**, there were **59 members present** and Karen, our treasurer, **banked £18**.

It is necessary for members to pay refreshment monies because supplies need to be purchased and the monies collected also help pay for the annual Christmas buffet. **As a WI we are governed by charitable trust rules and if a WI provides any food to their members, those members must pay a contribution towards it.**

Committee members feel that £1 for tea/coffee and cake is a reasonable contribution. Obviously, those members who kindly volunteer to bake, will not be expected to pay for refreshments at that meeting.

At the February meeting and future meetings, in exchange for your £1, you will receive a ticket which you will give in at the serving hatch.

We ask this gesture of goodwill in the context of the Canalside WI reduced share of £25.10 for 2026 -27 - over the 11 meetings that WIs must hold it works out at **£2.28 per meeting per member**.

Thank you for your understanding, Mandy.

Time for something different?

Join the
Canalside WI
Committee

Perhaps you could give some time to help as a committee member – or as a supporter. 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 just to see if it's for you - that's fine.**

We meet once a month on the third Wednesday evening at The Greyhound in Hinckley.

Please give it some thought. Fresh ideas welcome. Mandy.

If you need to contact me, please email at: canalsidewipresident@gmail.com or phone 07724 124094. Mandy.

Suggestions Box

Not very many suggestions put in the box at the last meeting. In fact, there was only one! 😊

We know you've all got plenty of ideas and we want you to share them with us. What would you like to see more of at our meetings?

Cake Makers



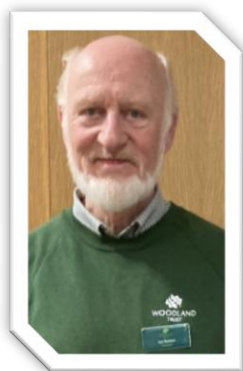
Thank you to the following who have volunteered to make cakes at our February meeting:

Carol Beasley, Marie Cropp, Heather Dunn, Justine Goodwin, Jo Harvey and Jackie Sprigens.

If for any reason you cannot do this, please let me know.

Pat McShane 07714_097947/pat.mcs@hotmail.com

January Meeting Snapshot



At our January meeting, we had Ian Retson from The Woodland Trust to talk to us about the local woodlands and why trees are so important to the environment.

The aim of the Woodland Trust is to have woodlands within easy access to everyone. They acquire large areas of land for trees and they encourage landowners and builders, to plant new trees. He told us about the animals, birds and insects that live in the woods in the UK and the flowers, plants and fungi that flourish in them and he illustrated his talk with slides.

Resolutions



Those of you who did not vote in January can do so at **February's meeting**.

All the details are available on pages 20 to 25 in the WI Life magazine that all members receive.

Please complete the form on page 20 and bring it to the meeting in February.

The 5 choices are concerning:

1. Public Toilets
2. Women's Homelessness
3. Nearer to Nature
4. Love Your Vulva
5. Every Child Needs a Friend.

Fundraising Events

Book Sales Table

I only had 8 books donated to our sales table last month. I would be very grateful if members could bring me more books this month, as I do not have enough books for a sales table at the moment. Thank you.



Trades Directory



Don't forget I have the Trades Directory on the book sales table. If you need a tradesman, come and have a look at it.

Also, if anyone does any work for you, don't forget to get a trades card off them and write a few words about the work that they've done for you and bring it to me and I'll put it in the directory.

If you need a Tradesperson, any other time, you are welcome to contact me by email to :-

cathgreenwell@hotmail.com or my mobile 07855158730. Thanks Cath.



Jigsaw Table

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

Colleen x



Raffle

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

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

Thanks Gill xx

Clubs and Teams

Book Club



Only 12 of us at the January meeting on Monday 12th but some sent in their views. We were discussing **“Hamnett” by Maggie O’Farrell** and most of us loved it. It is a film in the cinema at present and is proving very popular. It was also more interesting being based on William Shakespeare. I would definitely recommend the film which is easier than the book!

Our next meeting is on **9th February** and we will be discussing **“The Soldier Who Came Back” by Alan Clark and Steve Foster.**

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

Darts

Hope to arrange a practice in February to prepare ourselves for the season that starts in March. Will be in touch with the usuals. Anyone interested, please speak to me at our meeting. Pat xx

Skittles



Our final game in the group stages is against Sheepy WI on Thursday 12 February, at the Heathcote Arms in Croft.

It’s always a fun evening !

Looking forward to seeing everyone then – good luck ladies !

Gill x

Bits and Bobs Craft Group



On Tuesday 27th January we met to finish the other side of the diamond art baubles we’d started in November. We were very pleased with the sparkly results! Some of us made crochet or knit poppies or our own cross stitch instead.

We will next meet the day before the next WI meeting, so won’t be able to report in time for the newsletter. We are aiming to paper-fold paperback books to make a tree or a hedgehog ornament. We’re looking forward to the challenge!

Third Tuesday Craft Group



At our last session we made a leatherette pouch which could be used for a couple of small pairs of scissors. We also brainstormed ideas for future sessions this year.

Ideas for Easter to follow!

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th February.

Julie Cooper.

The Joy of Needlework The next meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd March. There are spaces for new members; if you are interested in joining, please see **Julie Murray** at our WI Meeting.

Collections

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

These help the environment by recycling in various ways and raise money for worthy causes.

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



Crocheted Poppies or Knitted Poppies



To all the lovely ladies that are kindly Knitting or Crocheting Poppies as per Mandy's email of 17th January 2026.



Thank you for taking the time to do this on behalf of our WI- it is greatly appreciated.

Please bring all completed Poppies to the February and March WI meetings where I will collect them ,so I can send them all off together before the 7th March deadline.

Thank you- Julie Murray.

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.



Harlaxton Saturday 6th December

Fifteen members had a wonderful visit to Harlaxton Hall.

The decorations were magnificent, and the architecture was stunning - a great way to start the Christmas season.

Mary Groombridge.



WI Federation Holiday to Alvaston Hall - January



Ann, Mary and Bron went on the **WI holiday to Alvaston Hall**, a Warner Hotel just outside Nantwich in Cheshire last week. What a lovely place! The entertainment, food and all facilities were at a really high standard. We were part of a group of two coaches from Leicester who joined many others from other districts. Our coach driver was really entertaining as well as very knowledgeable on the areas we visited.

We had two one day trips during our stay to Chester and Liverpool. Chester was a really beautiful city with a surrounding walkable city wall, and Liverpool – well, we are all old enough to remember the start of the Beatles and of course Billy Fury! Some of our ladies went on a city bus tour where they were able to appreciate the Beatle Story in more detail whilst others, who had done this in their youth, appreciated the dock and waterfront area and the Billy Fury connections. See our photos above.

Unfortunately, one of the members passed away overnight on Thursday. On the return journey on Friday, we did not visit Trentham Gardens, as we all agreed that we would just like to return home. Bron.

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.

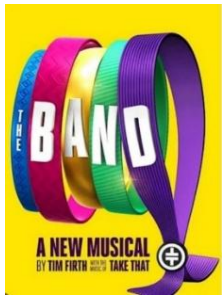
Spend the morning working with British dried flowers and create a beautiful 10inch dried flower frame or wreath, perfect to hang decoratively at home - or gift to someone special. All frames and designs will be unique to you.

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

Contact for this event: Mary Groombridge on 07748 046740.

Now open to friends and family. Final payments at the February meeting please.

The Band – A new musical with the music of TAKE THAT



Concordia Theatre – Wednesday 25th March

If you are joining us to see The Band and have yet to make your final payment, please do this at our February meeting.

The cost is discounted from £18 to £16.20 as we have 22 people going.

Gill xx

Annual Council Meeting on Saturday 28th March 10.30am - 3.30pm at Leicester Grammar School, Great Glen, Leicester, LE8 9FL



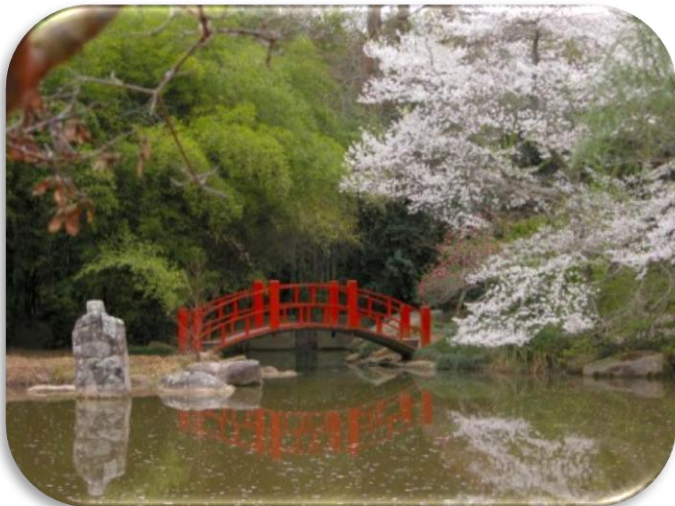
Don't forget we also have our Annual Council Meeting on Saturday 28th March 2026 at Leicester Grammar School. Our speakers for the Annual Council Meeting 2026 are:

- Adam Henson,
- Leicestershire Lord Lieutenant
- Heartwize.

Adam Henson is one of the UK's best-known farmers and a presenter on BBC1's Countryfile. He regularly reports from his own farm on topical, practical challenges he faces and is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4's On Your Farm and Farming Today.

Doors open at 9.30am to shop at the stalls, view competitions and committee displays. Please bring a packed lunch. Drinks are available for sale, and you may wish to bring your own reusable cup. **If you wish to order tickets for this event, please see our WI Secretary, Mary Groombridge, at the February meeting. Mary can make a booking. This is an Opening Meeting, so please feel free to purchase tickets for a friend or family member to bring along – all welcome! Mary Groombridge has kindly volunteered to be our delegate this year.**

Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Friday 17th April



Leave Mary Forryan at 10.15am.

Arrive at the gardens at 11.30am approximately.

Leave the gardens at 3.00pm.

Arrive back at Mary Forryan at 4.15pm approximately.

Minibus cost £13.50

Entry ticket cost £9 standard or £8 for 65+

TOTAL COST £22.50 or £21.50

From their website:

‘Explore over 30,000 plants from around the world within 15 acres of beautifully landscaped, Grade II listed gardens. Marvel at our four Victorian glasshouses, each showcasing unique climates and ecosystems—from tropical rainforests to arid deserts. Enjoy our diverse outdoor spaces, including two Alpine Gardens, a Japanese Garden featuring the National Bonsai Collection, the Pinetum, and an Adventure Playground. Relax on the rolling lawn overlooking our iconic Bandstand. The Gardens offers something for everyone to enjoy.’

The onsite café, **Medicine Bakery**, serves locally roasted coffee, savoury treats, salads, and a selection of pastries and cakes.

I would advise you to bring a packed lunch, Mandy.

Houses of Parliament – free guided tour on Friday 24th April



Free guided tour – visit arranged through our MP, Dr Luke Evans. (Usually £34.)

- **Cost of coach travel £30 pp**
- **Leave Hinckley at 9.30am.**
- **Leave London at 5.30pm.**
- **Arrive back at Mary Forryan at 8.30pm - 9.00pm approximately.**

Final payment needed at the March Meeting or before.

Now open to friends and family.

From the website: <https://www.parliament.uk/free-guided-tours/>

What does the tour cover? During this 75-minute tour, your guide will:

- explain the work of UK Parliament and its relevance today
- outline how the working spaces you visit on the tour are used
- set out ways you can get involved and engage with the democratic process
- highlight some of the dramatic history of the Palace of Westminster

The Jubilee Shop is located next to the Jubilee Café just off Westminster Hall and is open to all visitors to Parliament. The shop is accessible at the beginning and end of tours of Parliament and can also be accessed from the café. The shop stocks a wide range of House of Commons, House of Lords and Houses of Parliament items.

The Jubilee Café sells snacks, cakes, drinks. **I would recommend that you take a packed lunch with you, Mandy.**

Guys and Dolls - Concordia Theatre – Wednesday 13th May

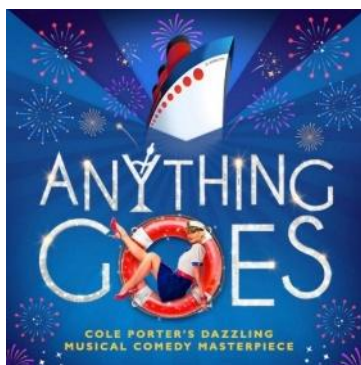


We are going to see Guys and Dolls at the Concordia.

If you would like to join us, I will need names together with £10 deposit at our February meeting.

As we have more than 10 going, tickets are £18 each. Final payment will be at our March meeting. Gill xx

Anything Goes – Kilworth House Theatre - Matinee performance – Sunday 19th July



I will be taking names plus £10 deposit for this show at our February meeting. Remainder of the money to be paid by our April meeting.

Once again, we have managed to secure some excellent seats.

Tickets are £59.00 but if we have 20 tickets or more, as we usually do, the cost will be discounted to £54.00 each

It is always a great afternoon. Kilworth never fails to put on a fantastic show ! 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
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

Birmingham Botanical Gardens	Friday 17 th April	£22.50 or £21.50	February Meeting	£22.50 or £21.50	March Meeting	£10	£12.50 or £11.50	April Meeting
Houses of Parliament	Friday 24 th April	£30	January Meeting	£30	February Meeting	£10	£20	March Meeting
Guys and Dolls	Wednesday 13 th May	£18.00 (£16.20 if more than ten people)	February Meeting	N/A	N/A	£10.00	£8.00 (£6.20 if more than ten people)	March Meeting
Anything Goes	Sunday 19 th July	£59.00 (£54.00 if more than twenty people)	February Meeting	£59.00 (£54.00 if more than twenty people)	March Meeting	£10.00	£49.00 (£44.00 if more than twenty people)	April 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.

- a) **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).
- b) **Faith Visit Tuesday 3rd March.** Greek Orthodox Church, Aylestone Road, LE2 7LN. £10 pp. Closing date 17th February 2026.
- c) **Bell Foundry Tuesday 3rd March** 10.30am – 12pm. Freehold Street Loughborough, L11 1AR. £16 pp.
- d) **Free Mental Health First Aid Champion for WI members, Tuesday 17th March.** At the Mary Forryan Centre, Hinckley. Closing date 17th February 2026.
- e) **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.
- f) **Individual Flower Competition , staged at the ACM on Saturday 28th March.** Arrangement of wild spring flowers in a honey pot/jar. Fee £1. Closing date Friday 13th March. See rules on flyer.
- g) **Treasure Hunt, Market Bosworth, Tuesday 14th April or Thursday 16th April.** 1.30pm on each day. £8 pp. Meet at The Square, Market Bosworth, CV13 0LF. Closing date 30th March.
- h) **Dabble Day 18th April 10.00am – 3.30pm.** Mary Forryan Centre, Hinckley. Open to non-members. £20 pp.
- i) **Speakers’ Showcase, Thursday 23rd April.** 6.30pm for 7.00pm. Finishes 9.00pm. 8A Crofters Drive, Leicester, LE5 2FH. £2.50pp. Closing date 10th April.

- j) Spring Lunch at Devonshire Place, Leicester. Saturday 25th April.** 11.30am bar open and 12.30pm lunch. £34 pp for a 2-course lunch. Guest speaker, Charles Hanson.
- k) Free British Red Cross First Aid Course, for WI members. Thursday 14th May,** 9.30am – 2.00pm, at Beedles Lake Golf Course, East Goscote, LE7 3WQ. Closing date 16th April.
- l) Visit to National Holocaust Museum, Wednesday 27th May.** Coach pick up at Three Pots, Burbage, at 9.30am. £30 pp. Closing date, 14th May.