

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN



HINCKLEY CANALSIDE WI

MARCH 2026

<https://hinckleycanalsidewi.co.uk>

President's Message



Dear Members,

I hope you are well. At least the signs of spring are here and the promise of better days!

The new draft programme of speakers and trips 2026 -27 was emailed to you on the 3rd January; I have included a copy of the final version in this newsletter. Also included are details of how to renew your subscription at our April Meeting; some of you may prefer to pay in March.

Committee members want to thank you for your continued support and loyalty to Canalside WI: it is appreciated and we welcome any suggestions that you may have to improve the offer to members. Please see Pat McShane, who ensures that there is a suggestion box available at each monthly meeting.

Equality and Diversity: change to the NFWI membership policy

You will all have received an email on Thursday 26th February forwarded from the NFWI by our Canalside WI Secretary, Mary Groombridge.

Due to the Supreme Court ruling and to comply with the law, WI membership is now open to women registered female at birth (biological women) who have reached the age of majority.

The updated ED&I Policy will **come into effect on 1 April 2026, in conjunction with the new membership subscription year.**

The updated Membership Registration Form requests people to say whether they are eligible for membership of the WI. **There will be no check on this: it should be self-policing and non-intrusive.**

All members, **existing and new**, will be asked to complete and sign this updated form when 2026-27 membership fees are paid to our WI.

It would be helpful if members can either email the completed form to Pat McShane or bring it to the April meeting. (March meeting if you prefer to pay then.) Pat's email address is:

pat.mcs@hotmail.com (If you forget, we will make sure that some forms are available at the meeting.)

This change in NFWI membership policy does not change NFWI's firm belief that transgender women are women – the Equality Act allows the organisation to hold this belief.

I know that this is a sensitive subject about which Canalside WI members will have different views: some may be trans-inclusive, others trans-critical, others neutral.

The Canalside Committee can only comply with the law and NFWI guidance in its implementation. We hope to do so with respect and discretion.
Thank you for your understanding. Mandy

Preview of Canalside WI Programme 2026 -27

All members will be issued with a programme card on renewal of their subscription in April.

<p style="text-align: center;">2026</p> <p>April 1st SIR JAMES FRANCIS PEROWNE</p> <p>Former Admiral of the Royal Navy and Constable & Governor of Windsor Castle, Sir James Perowne will share some of his experiences over a versatile and remarkable career</p> <p>May 6th Resolutions & JOHN LANGHAM</p> <p>How has listening to music changed? John Langham takes us on the journey from Phonograph to Streaming.</p> <p>June 3rd ALISON SUFFOLK</p> <p>Enjoy watching and listening to NAFAS Demonstrator, Alison Suffolk, creating beautiful flower arrangements – with the chance to win one!</p> <p>June NFWI Online Annual Meeting</p> <p>July 1st GINNY DAVIS</p> <p>'The Mysterious Death of Amy Robsart': Robert Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, enjoyed a notorious relationship with Elizabeth I. His wife, Amy Robsart, was found dead at the foot of a short flight of stairs. A death by arrangement or otherwise? Ginny Davis investigates...</p>	<p>August 5th LUCY LEWIS</p> <p>OPEN MEETING</p> <p>'Lighting the Fuse': the extraordinary experiences of Lucy Lewis - the UK's first female bomb disposal expert & first female Marshal at Cambridge University.</p> <p>September 2nd MITCH BRIDGEWATER</p> <p>A fun and engaging look into the life of contestants on the 'Great British Sewing Bee', including tales from Mitch's time on the show and a chance to see some of his projects.</p> <p>October 7th GEOFF HARRIS</p> <p>'The London No-one Tells You About': Geoff Harris gives an insight into the quirkier side and history of our wonderful capital.</p> <p>November 4th Annual Meeting and MARGARET LAWRENCE</p> <p>Our very own Margaret Lawrence reveals the history and health benefits of the ancient art of Tai Chi - with the chance for some Tai Chi Qi Gong participation.</p>	<p>December 2nd Christmas Party Night</p> <p>CARL & KENNY SINCLAIR</p> <p>By popular request, the duo is back! Professional pianist and vocalist Carl Sinclair will entertain with Kenny Sinclair on guitar.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2027</p> <p>January 6th JO GOLBY</p> <p>'Top to Toe, the Price of Vanity' : beauty regimes with a user beware warning!</p> <p>February 3rd NICK MARTIN</p> <p>'A Celebration of British Birds': A look at the rare birds, the common species and the new kids on the block – and how many species have adapted to live alongside us.</p> <p>March 3rd GRAINNE PURKISS</p> <p>'Love and Romance in Art': Grainne Purkiss will offer us a light-hearted and fascinating examination of beautiful paintings from a range of periods.</p>
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TRIPS AND EVENTS 2026 -2027

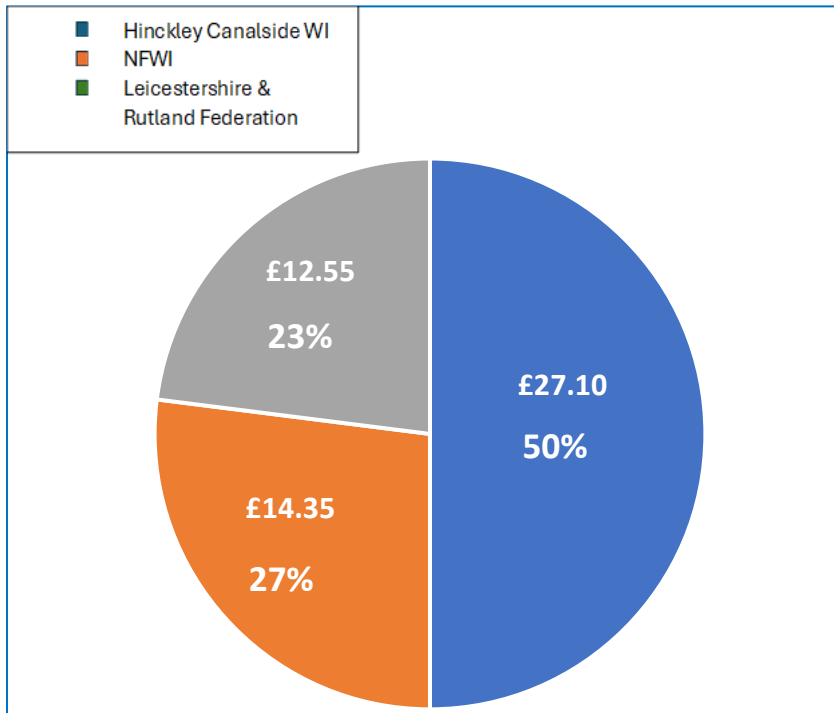
Friday 17th April	Birmingham Botanical Gardens	Wednesday 28th October.	Bicester Shopping Village, Oxfordshire.
Friday 24th April	Houses of Parliament, free guided tour.		
Wednesday 13th May	Guys and Dolls at the Concordia.	Thursday 19th November	ANNUAL MEETING Cocoa Amore Chocolate Workshop, Leicester.
Thursday 14th May	Prebendal Manor, Nassington, and the Mulberry Garden Centre/Café , Elton.		
Sunday 14th June	Rockingham Castle, Market Harborough.	Friday 11th December	Christmas at Charlecote Park, Warwickshire.
Saturday 4th July	Day trip to Cambridge	JANUARY 2027 Date tbc	Pantomime at The Concordia.
Sunday 19th July	Kilworth House Theatre - Anything Goes Matinee		
AUGUST		FEBRUARY 2027 Date tbc	Lunch at The Glebegate Restaurant, Nuneaton.
Thursday 24th September	Colours Fashion Show Evening at the Mary Forryan Centre.	MARCH 2027 Date tbc	Spring Bulb Festival and Shopping Village, Trentham Gardens, Staffordshire.

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

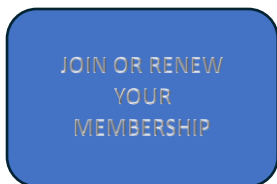
There will be a reduction for 2026- 2027 for Canalside WI members on the WI share – see below.



- A welcoming place to make friends and participate in activities.
- 8 issues of WI Life magazine.
- Monthly NFWI newsletter on email.
- 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.
- Access to the VIA online learning platform, with many free courses.
- The opportunity to meet like-minded women from different backgrounds.
- A place for self-expression – each WI is unique and shaped by its members.
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CANALSIDE WI Membership Subscriptions 2026 - 2027



The subscription year runs from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027.

Full Membership: Committee members will exercise flexibility and reduce the WI portion by £2 per member; so, you will pay £25.10 to Canalside.

This means the **total you will pay is £52** - with the national and federation shares.

Dual Membership: The cost of dual membership - payable to the second WI - is a maximum of **£25.10** for the year 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027. **Dual members at Canalside WI will pay £25.10, a £2 reduction.**

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

We collect subscription monies at the APRIL meeting.(MARCH if you are unable to attend the April meeting.)

Canalside WI Member's Fee for 2026/27 is £52.

Dual Member's fee £25.10

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.	
CHEQUES	Make payable to 'Hinckley Canalside WI' . Please print your name clearly on the back of the cheque, as some signatures are unreadable.	
BACs	Payee: Hinckley Canalside WI Sort Code: 60 11 06	Reference: Subs and Member's full name Account No: 16510771

WHO WILL BE TAKING PAYMENTS?

Pat McShane will be taking payments by cash or cheque at the APRIL meeting. (MARCH if you are unable to attend the April meeting.)

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SIGN TO CONFIRM YOU HAVE PAID.

RECEIPTS

When you pay by cash or cheque, Pat will ask you to sign our record - this is in lieu of a paper receipt.

When you pay by BACs, the transaction will appear on Canalside WI's bank statement and on your bank statement – this record is lieu of a receipt.

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).

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.

In 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.



**Join the
Canalside WI
Committee**

Time for something different?

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.

Cake Makers



Thank You to the following who have volunteered to make cakes at our March meeting: **Caroline Drodge, Debbie Littlehales, Winnie Marshall, Carole Reynolds, Carole Roberts and Heather White.**

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

Pat McShane 07714 097947/pat.mcs@hotmail.com

February Meeting Snapshot

Our speaker for our February meeting, was Paul Gardner. He gave us a talk on Hinckley oddities, like of marks on the outside of old houses and other things on the outside of buildings and photos of what they look like now. He then showed us a video of all the jittys and yards in Hinckley and told us about the history of them. There was 83 jittys and yards around Hinckley in the 1980's and 512 houses in these yards. 277 homes were unfit for habitation. Cath.

Suggestions Box



We are not getting very many suggestions from you. We know you have lots of ideas 😊

For example....please let us know how you like our meetings and what we can do to make them more interesting for you. The box will be at the back of the room by the desks where we are taking names for trips etc.

Fundraising Events

Book Sales Table

There will be a book sales table at the next meeting. All books are 50p as usual. Please come and see all the new books we have. Cath



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.

Jigsaw Table



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

Colleen x

Raffle



We WILL be having a raffle at our March meeting.

Tickets are £1 each.

Thanks Gill xx

Clubs and Teams

Book Club



Twelve of us at the February meeting on Monday 9th. There was a very good discussion on "The Soldier Who Came Back" by Alan Clark and Steve Foster. It was a true story and well written about two very strong and brave soldiers who planned escaping from a war prison but were captured and only one returned home after war. Highly recommend it 😊

Our next meeting is on 9th February, and we will be discussing "The Daughter" by T.M. Logan.

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



The Darts competition starts in March with a match monthly until July.

Please talk to me if anyone would like to take part.

Pat xx

Skittles

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

Woo Hoo ! We won !

The result was four games to one, great result and evening with lovely company, well done ladies, Gill x



Third Tuesday Craft Group



At our last meeting we made Easter baskets using a paper cup, wool, and embellishments. This seemed to take longer than expected but this may be because we enjoyed chatting and catching up with all members of the group!

At our next meeting we are going to revisit diamond art where we will decorate a coaster.

Bits and Bobs Craft Group

The Bits & Bobs crafters finished off the Christmas baubles or made knitted poppies at the end of January, and had a lovely catch-up after not meeting since November.



On Tuesday 24th February, Marie showed us how to use paperback books (or, in one case, an old hardback) to make either a folded paper tree or a hedgehog. We had a great time, and felt very pleased with our results.

Our "homework" is to finish them off by next time.

On 31st March we will be making crème egg holders - knitted, crocheted or sewn. We won't be able to report for the next newsletter, as it's the day before the meeting.

Collections

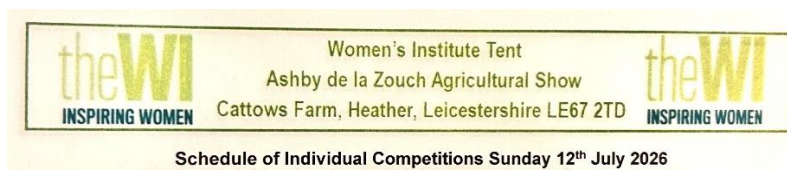
Please remember to bring the following items to the meeting: stamps, lids, bras and loose change.

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



For Craft People



Some people who have craft skills may be interested in Ashby de la Zouch Agricultural Show. They have a WI Tent and a huge schedule of competitions on Sunday 12th July. For more information talk to me or Carol Beasley who is more knowledgeable than me about these things. 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.

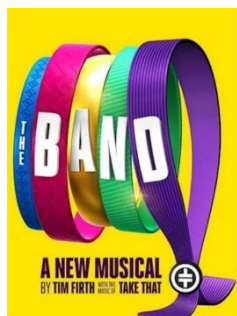
Thank you- Julie Murray.

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.

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



Concordia Theatre – Wednesday 25th March

I will meet everyone upstairs, as usual, near the piano, to hand out tickets, from 7pm onwards.

A 7.30pm start.

Gill xx

Annual Council Meeting on Saturday 28 March 2026

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.**

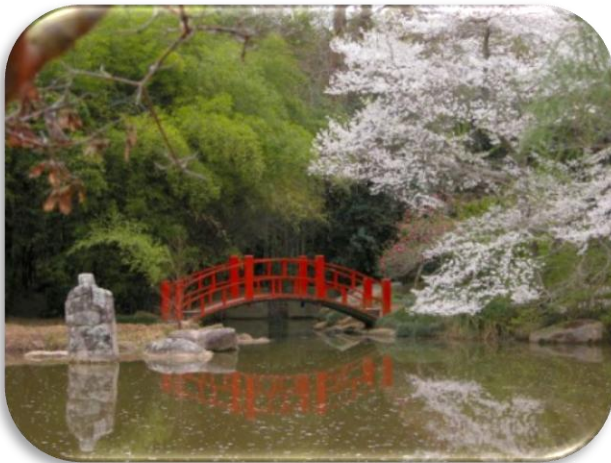
Adam Henson is one of the UK's best-known farmers and a presenter on BBC1's Countryfile. He regularly reports from his own farm on topical, practical challenges he faces and is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4's On Your Farm and Farming Today.

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

Final payment needed at the April Meeting.

Now open to friends and family.

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.

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, and drinks.

I would recommend that you take a packed lunch with you, Mandy.

Arrangements for this trip – Q & A: please see the attachment emailed to you with the Canalside WI March newsletter.

Guys and Dolls - Concordia Theatre – Wednesday 13th May



Final payment needs to be made at our March meeting.

11 people are going.

Gill xx

Prebendal Manor (Nassington, PE8 6QG) and the Mulberry Café at Bosworth's Garden Centre, Elton.
Thursday 14th May.



Leave Mary Forryan at 10.30am.

Arrive at the manor at 12 noon approximately.

Leave the manor at 2.00pm.

The Mulberry Café is a 10-minute drive away.

Spend about 50 minutes at the café.

Arrive back at Mary Forryan at 4.30pm approximately.

Minibus cost £18

Entry fee to the manor £12pp

TOTAL COST £30

Prebendal Manor is a delightful place to visit: the manor is the oldest property in Northamptonshire with a history dating back to the Anglo-Saxon period. There is a large recreated medieval garden, fishponds and dovecote, with nest-holes for a thousand birds. The Tithe Barn Museum houses artefacts from the archaeological excavations.

When owner, Jane Baile and her husband first arrived, the manor was in a sad state, needing complete restoration.

Jane's talk on the plants in the garden will also give insights into old medicinal and domestic uses.

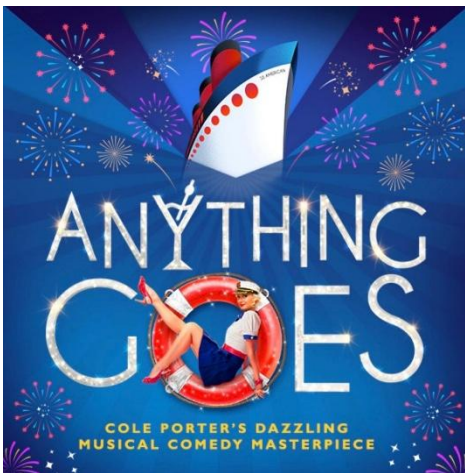
For more information click on this link: <https://www.prebendal-manor.co.uk/>

Please bring a packed lunch; Jane will open the Tithe Barn so we can eat there.

The Mulberry Café , Elton, serves quality refreshments and is at Bosworth's Garden Centre so there is a walled garden centre to browse as well as a shop.



Anything Goes – Kilworth House Theatre - Matinee performance – Sunday 19th July 2026



I will be taking names plus £10 deposit at our March 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 10 people)	January Meeting
Birmingham Botanical Gardens	Friday 17 th April		February Meeting		March Meeting	£10		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	£20.00 (£18 if more than ten people)	February Meeting	N/A	N/A	£10.00	£10.00 (£8 if more than 10 people)	March Meeting
Prebendal Manor	Thursday 14 th May	£30	March Meeting	£30	April Meeting	£10	£20	May 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 20 people)	March Meeting	£10.00	£49.00 (£44.00 if more than 20 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) Free First Aid Course for Adults (Physical) - Thursday 11 June** 9.30am - 2pm Ashby Baptist Church, 4 Brook Street LE65 1HA

- b) Free Mental Health First Aid Champion - Tuesday, 16 June 2026** 9.30am - 5.30pm at Methodist Church, Northgate, Oakham, LE15 6FH

- c) Federation Quiz Friday 3 July** - 7pm for 7.30pm start - (See flyer for locations & details)