

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN



HINCKLEY CANALSIDE WI

JUNE 2026

<https://hinckleycanalsidewi.co.uk>

President's Message



If you need to contact me, please email at:
canalsidewipresident@gmail.com

Or phone 07724 124094.

Dear Members, I hope that you are well and have been enjoying the taste of summer recently! I have been enjoying time out in the garden, planting out summer bedding.

Can you help at Canalside WI meetings?

We are **very grateful** for the help that a few Canalside members give at the start of meetings, helping to arrange the room, welcoming visitors, giving out badges and taking refreshment monies. **We couldn't manage without them.**

But it would be good to have some more volunteers- especially helping visitors and new members to understand what our WI is about. If you are someone new to the WI, there is quite a lot to take in! The different tiers of the WI, how our meetings are organized, what's on offer, subgroups, trips, federation events, our adopted charity, website etc.

If you think you might be able to give it a try, please have a word with a committee member – or see my contact details above.



Canine Partners

Canalside WI members raised £430.79p for Canine Partners, our adopted charity for 205-26. The CEO of the charity, Lucy Eldred, is attending the June meeting to say a few words.

Canalside WI Adopted Charity 2026-27 Committee members have discussed suggestions put forward by you, as well as coming up with some possible recipients – to create a shortlist that fulfils the charitable objects of the WI. We will ask you to complete a vote at the June meeting.

Members' Questionnaire

At our June meeting we are asking for your help to complete a questionnaire that committee member, Denise Wilson, has been working hard on – about any new sub-groups you may be interested in and possible events /trips. It may be that having a new event or trip on each month is a little too much, and we want to tailor what we offer with your input in mind. Please be honest!



The speaker at our June Meeting is [Alison Suffolk](#)

Enjoy watching and listening to NAFAS Demonstrator, Alison Suffolk, creating beautiful flower arrangements – with the chance to win one!

Canalside WI Bursary Winners 2026

Congratulations to

[Jackie Sprigens](#) and [Carol Beardsmore](#), who are the two winners of the 2026 bursaries.

Justine Goodwin is the reserve.

Mental Health First Aid Ambassadors



Five Canalside members participated in the Mental Health First Aid Champion course on the 17th March. The course was part of a programme of free first aid provision (mental and physical) that the Leicestershire and Rutland Federation of WIs is making available to members. The funding is generated by a successful grant application I made, with colleagues, to the Denman Trust.

The Canalside WI members who participated have agreed to act as ambassadors for Mental Health First Aid.

[Judith Smith](#), [Mandy Cutler](#), [Jenny Hetherington](#), [Chris Garner](#), [Marlene Chapman](#)

We are not experts in this field, but we can point you in the right direction if you need some support.

Judith has kindly agreed to include her mobile number if you want to get in touch: [07435 434666](tel:07435434666)

This is Judith Smith's report:

[My contribution is to ensure everyone feels they can access the information we gathered.](#)

[It was called Mental Health First Aid, and we would like you to consider us as Ambassadors for this. We have been given a great deal of information about who may be at risk and the way to approach someone who may need help. We also have a lot of information about organisations who are free and available to all, offering some support for many mental health conditions.](#)

So, if anyone needs support for themselves or another, they can approach us - in confidence- to get help or advice. Everything will be in strictest confidence and if you are worried about someone, we can advise and point you in the correct direction for help. We hope anyone who feels the need for support will be happy to approach us.

Mental Health is very debilitating and, hopefully, our newfound knowledge may put you or someone you know onto the first step to good health.

Thank you, Judith.

MHFA England offer a range of free resources at [Resources · MHFA England](#).

He also recommended a website entitled Hub of Hope: <https://hubofhope.co.uk/> and

NHS Talking Therapy: <https://www.nhs.uk/tests-and-treatments/talking-therapies/>

Adopt a Charity for 2026 – 27

As a charity, the WI's objectives are to:

- advance the education of women and girls
- to promote sustainable development
- to advance health
- to advance citizenship

– all for the public benefit.

WIs can raise funds for local, national and international charities **in line with the above objectives**. Each year members make suggestions about potential beneficiaries, and then a vote takes place. The committee works on ideas and organizes activities that will raise monies. Past ventures have included an abseil, aqua splash, sponsored walks, a bra walk, barn dance and beetle drive.

I want to thank you if you put forward a suggestion: the committee had to make a shortlist; we decided to support a charity that had not previously been chosen.

Here are the 4 charities (in no particular order) committee members and a Canalside WI members are putting forward:

1. A Gift to Lift
2. Air Ambulance
3. Concordia Project 2030
4. Parkinsons UK

I have checked on the Charity Commission Register and each of the following charities' objects overlap with those of the WI. Mandy.



1. A Gift to Lift is a Hinckley-based charity (Reg. 1162821) supporting blood cancer patients and founded by the late Alex Hopwood in 2014.

<https://agifttolift.com/>

Blood cancer is the third biggest cancer killer in the UK, claiming the lives of more than 15,000 people each year – more than breast cancer or prostate cancer.

We provide wishes to blood cancer patients as a pick me up during harsh treatment.

A wish can be anything they desire from a Spa Day to an iPad, up to the value of £200.

We donate annually to Blood Cancer UK (previously known as Bloodwise).



This money funds the vital research they carry out to find cures and new treatments for Blood Cancer.

Our ultimate aim has always been to buy a holiday home in Norfolk to send patients and their families to for respite and to make memories. In 2022 we achieved this dream and now own Lexi's Lodge in the Burnham Market area of Norfolk. We now need support with upkeep and bills and have launched a new campaign called Sponsor a Stay

The charity operates in Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire.



2. Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance Charity Number: 1098874

<https://theairambulance.org.uk/>

When the unthinkable happens, families need more than hope, they need immediate, specialist care.

That's why The Air Ambulance Service exists: to bring lifesaving expertise to the most vulnerable people, wherever they are, whenever they need it.

Through the [National Children's Air Ambulance](#), we work alongside NHS clinical teams to transfer critically ill babies and children to the specialist care that can save their lives.



Through [Your Local Air Ambulance](#), we deliver rapid emergency care to communities across Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland — 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Because when time matters most, being there matters even more.



3. Concordia Project 2030 Charity Number: 501904

To advance the education of the inhabitants of Hinckley and District.

<https://concordiatheatre.co.uk/project2030/>

Project 2030 is a five-year initiative aimed at upgrading the Concordia Theatre's facilities for future generations. Central to this plan is the refurbishment and modernisation of the auditorium, with additional improvements planned across the theatre to enhance the experience for all visitors.



The auditorium will receive entirely new seating designed for improved comfort and ergonomics. The seats will be staggered with in-fills every other row, ensuring better sightlines for all patrons.

We plan to replace the existing heating and ventilation system with a more efficient, modern system that will regulate climate and air quality in the auditorium and stage areas. In addition, the current ceiling tiles will be removed to reveal the building's original features and acoustic treatments will be installed to enhance the overall sound quality of the space.



4. Parkinsons UK

In the UK, the current total number of people diagnosed with Parkinson's is around 166,000. In 2025, around 28,000 people in the UK were diagnosed with Parkinson's. That's someone being diagnosed every 20 minutes.

Donations fund vital information and support and the most promising research to find new treatments and a cure.

Campaigning for better health and care. Funding research into groundbreaking new treatments. Running life-changing support services.

465 volunteer-led groups throughout the UK, offering local support to people with Parkinson's, their carers and families.

There is a Hinckley and District Branch of the organisation which meets monthly at the Mary Forryan Centre. Our aim is to bring together local people with Parkinson's, their families and carers to create supportive and friendly social opportunities.

As well as meeting new people, we can also help signpost you to local support and information about living with Parkinson's.



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.



VIA

Dear Members, if you have not already used this new website, I recommend it to you – it is **mostly** free to WI members.

What is Via?

Via replaces the old WI Learning Hub. **VIA is the WI's digital home for learning**, bringing courses, talks and ideas together in an accessible, clear, welcoming space for everyone. While WI members access the majority of learning for free, VIA welcomes all learners.

How do I access Via?

Simply type **Via** into your search engine (Google for example). You will see **Via Learning Hub Home Page**. Click onto this. You will see a home page which says: **Lifelong learning, VIA us!**

I would now recommend that you go to the **top right-hand corner** of the page and **click on Login**.

Then click on **WI Member Login**. If you use My WI, it will already have your username and password – so all you have to do is click on **Sign In**.

If your details are not there, then use the email address that is registered on the MCS for you and create a password. Please ask either Pat McShane or me if you need to check about your email address.

Then click **View all Courses** and you will see multiple course that you can access. The categories are on the left-hand side bar if you are looking for a specific topic - see below:

Wellbeing & Lifestyle(17)	Business & Finance(21)
Accessibility & Awareness(4)	Technology & Digital Skills(20)
Arts & Crafts(36)	Maths & Language(16)
Food & Home(2)	History & People(43)
Science & Environment(5)	Federation & WI(5)

Make the most of your subscription and enjoy! Mandy.

Cake Makers



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

**Pat Ross, Judith Orton, Heather Dunn, Marilyn Houghton, Carol Beardsmore ,
Bron Witherford**

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

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

Suggestions Box



We look at and discuss your suggestions at our committee meetings. We try to get back to you on them.

We will consider your suggested speakers for next year's meetings as this year's are already arranged.

The Suggestions Box will be situated at the back of the room by the desks where we are taking names for trips etc.

May Meeting Snapshot



John Langham was our speaker in May. His subject was "How listening to music has changed". He told us he worked for BBC Radio Leicester when he was younger. He then told us about how people used to listen to music many years ago and showed us pictures of things like phonographs, music boxes, radios, gramophones and radiograms that people used to have. In 1952, we had the 1st record sales charts and people could watch music programmes on tv and Juke boxes appeared in pubs. In the 1964, Top of the Pops started being broadcast on the BBC, finishing in 2006 and he said, when the Beatles recorded their first singles, they only got 1old penny for each record sold. He said that nowadays, a lot of artists now make their money by performing in huge stadiums. He had a tableful of equipment that he had collected over the years, including an old phonogram that belonged to his grandparents, that we could look at.

It was a really interesting talk and some of his photos brought back memories of things we had in our houses, when we were young.

Fundraising Events

Book Sales Table



There will be a sales table this month. Please come and have a look. 50p a book.

Trades Directory



Don't forget we have a Trades Directory. If you need a tradesman, come and look in the folder. Members have recommended these tradesmen. If you have any work done, get a business card from them, write down the details of what work has been done for you and put your name on it and bring it to the Sales Table and I'll put it in the folder. Thanks Cath.

Jigsaw Table



Jan Heeley will be running the jigsaw table, so feel free to bring your jigsaws to the June meeting.

It works as follows - free to swap, £2 to buy.

Raffle



We will be having a raffle at our May meeting.

Tickets are £1 each.

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

Thanks, Gill.

Clubs and Teams



Book Club

There were 12 of us at the May meeting on Monday 11th. The book we were discussing was **“North and South” by Elizabeth Gaskell**. It was not an easy book to read as the style of the language was set in another time. Having read the book there was the disappointment of the end. It was “very blunt”. We were put in our place however by one of our ladies who loved the book. She had absorbed herself into the book and got insight into the lives of people at that time.

We meet at The Greyhound on the second Monday of the month at 11.45.

All are welcome to come along to see what it's like. There is a lot of chat 😊

Future reads are: **8th June. “Whose Body” by Dorothy L Sayers.**

13th July. “Mrs Winterbottom Takes a Gap Years” by Joanna Nell.

10th August. “The Giver of Stars” by Jojo Moyes.

Pat xx

Darts



Our second match was played at Stoke Golding Club on 7th May against Hollycroft WI. We only had 3 ladies to play but that is within the rules. They had 4 and several supporters. We gave them a good match but they beat us 4-3. Our next game is in June against Witherley WI. If anyone would like to come along you'd be welcome. Speak to one of us for info.

Pat xx

Skittles Skittles are not playing at the moment

The Joy of Needlework



The enjoyment of this group continues with members bringing along their own projects to work on such as, cross-stitch, embroidery, knitting and English Paper Piecing (EPP)

At the last meeting an experienced member of the group helped another learn how to embroider by designing a sampler for them to work on and learn new embroidery stitches.

You are welcome to join us as we have spaces – knitters and crocheters are also welcome. We meet on the **first Tuesday of each month 6.30 – 8.00** at The New Pough Inn, Hinckley.

Please speak to Julie Murray if you are interested.

Third Tuesday Craft Group



This month we had a lot of fun making Hedgehogs out of Paperback books and giving them all names beginning with the letter H.

Next month we are going to be making Embroidered Felt book covers.

This group is currently full



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



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.

Guys and Dolls - Concordia Theatre – Wednesday 13th May



So sad that we had to miss this performance at the Concordia, through no fault of our own and under very sad circumstances.

Refunds will be handed out at our June meeting.

See you then – Gill xx

Prebendal Manor Refunds



Thank you to those members who showed an interest.

Sadly, due to low take up for this trip it had to be cancelled.

Please see Karen at the June meeting if you need a refund.

Rockingham Castle Corby, LE16 8TH on Sunday 14th June



Leave Mary Forryan at 10.00am

Leave Rockingham Castle at 2.45pm.

Arrive back 4.00pm.

Minibus £14. 50

Admission Adult £19.25

Senior (65+) £17.70

Total Adult £33.75

Senior £ 32.20

Includes a complimentary outside tour, telling you the history of the castle and grounds.

Now open to friends and family.

Outside tours at 11.30am & 12.30pm. Tours last about 45 minutes.

I can recommend a visit: sited on an escarpment, the castle offers panoramic views across the Welland Valley – including the Eyebrook Reservoir famous for its role in the Dambuster raids practice.

Here is the description on the Historic Houses website:

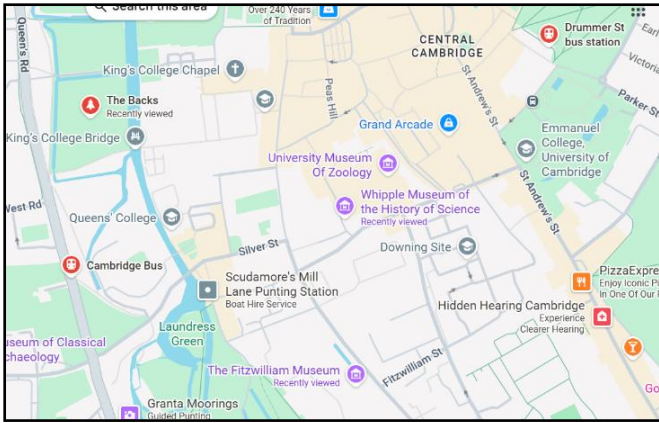
‘There are very few homes that have been owned by just one family since being relinquished as a royal Castle. Whether it is images of Knights in shining armour, a Tudor house, a Victorian home staffed with servants, or contemporary art, Rockingham has it all.’

The formal gardens are beautiful with jewelled borders, David Austin Roses and a sweeping Terrace Lawn.

Walker’s House Tearoom

The tearoom is set in a seventeenth-century building and serves a range of food, from light lunches to homemade cakes and indulgent treats.

Day Trip to Cambridge, Saturday 4th July



Leave Mary Forryan at 9.00am

Leave Cambridge at 4.00pm

Back at Mary Forryan at 5.45pm.

Journey time: 1 hour 45 minutes

The minibus driver will drop you off and collect you from the setting down and collection point on Queen's Road. See Cambridge Bus symbol on left of map.

Minibus £27.50

Whilst final payments can be left until the July Meeting, we do need all names at the June Meeting.

Cambridge is known for its stunning, historic university architecture and scenic punting on the River Cam. Visitors can explore iconic colleges like King's, visit world-class free museums, and enjoy a compact, walkable city centre filled with history.

You can be assured of a great day out with plenty to see and do.

There are many **free attractions**, including:



Fitzwilliam Museum

A collection of over half a million objects includes Ancient Egyptian artefacts, rare coins and mediaeval illuminated manuscripts, as well as modern and contemporary art, historic paintings and classical sculptures.



The Backs

Landscaped open areas and gardens weaving behind many colleges on the River Cam, which are known for stunning views of the colleges across the river at any time of year.



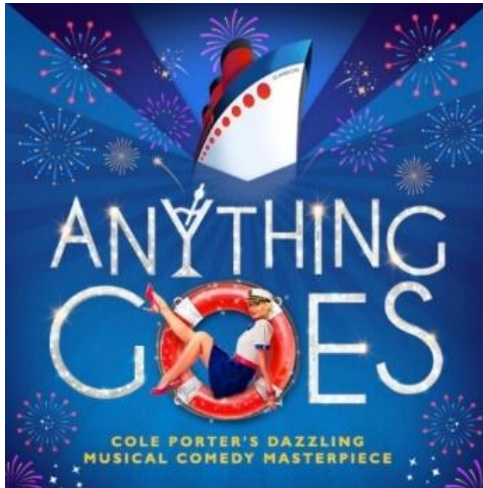
Cambridge Market

Cambridge is a market city, and stalls have been trading at the historic market square in the city centre since the Middle Ages. From Monday-Sunday, 10am-4pm, you will find stalls selling a wide range of goods including Street Food, Books, Vinyl, CDs and DVDs Clothes, jewellery and bags and much more...



The Polar Museum

Discover the extraordinary stories of Earth's coldest, driest, windiest, highest and deadliest places, from heroes to modern climate science. A range of sculptures are displayed in the Institute grounds.



Anything Goes – Kilworth House Theatre

Matinee performance – Sunday 19th July

All tickets are now sold.

If you have still not paid, this payment needs to be made at our June Meeting.

I will be handing out tickets at our June and July meetings.

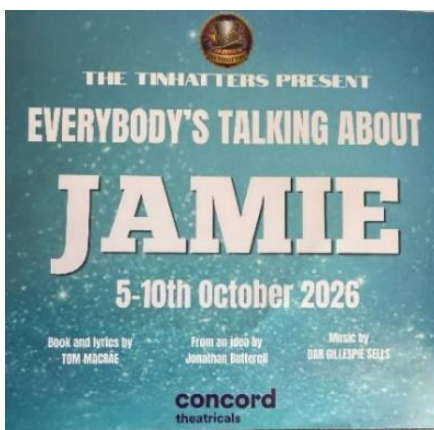
Always a great afternoon. Looking forward to a fantastic show! Gill xx

COLOURS CHARITY FASHION SHOW 24th September

The charity fashion show is nearly upon us, and preparations are well underway for the event taking place on **Thursday, 24th September** at the Mary Forryan Centre. All proceeds raised will be donated to our designated charity for this year, ensuring our efforts make a meaningful impact.

Tickets will be available for purchase at both the July and September meetings, as well as at the additional meeting in August. This time, we're partnering with Colours Charity Fashion Show—a new company for us, distinct from those we've worked with previously. They bring their own models, which promises a fresh and exciting experience for everyone involved.

We look forward to seeing you there and supporting a worthy cause together. Sue Barden - Marshall.



Everybody's Talking About Jamie!

Concordia Theatre – Tues 26 October 2026

If you would like to join us for this production, please let me have your name and £10 deposit at our June meeting.

Tickets will cost £18 each but if we have more than 10 people going this will be discounted to £16.20. remainder to be paid in July. 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
Rockingham Castle	Sunday 14 th June	Adult £33.75 Senior £32.20	April Meeting	Adult £33.75 Senior £32.20	May Meeting	£10	Adult £23.75 Senior £22.20	June Meeting
Day trip to Cambridge	Saturday 4 th July	£27.50	May Meeting	£27.50	June Meeting	£10	£17.50	July 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	£59.00 (£54.00 if more than twenty people)	April Meeting
Colours Charity Fashion Show	Thursday 24 th September	tbc	July Meeting		August Open Meeting			September Meeting
Everybody's Talking About Jamie	Tuesday 6 th October	£18.00 (£16.20 if more than ten people)	May Meeting	N/A	N/A	£10	£18.00 (£16.20 if more than ten people)	July 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)