

# theWI

## INSPIRING WOMEN



HINKLEY CANALSIDE WI

JULY 2026

<https://hinckleycanalsidewi.co.uk>

### President's Message

#### President's Message



Dear Members,

I hope you are well and managing the hot weather.

Our demonstrator at the June meeting – Alison Suffolk- proved a huge success and some members have requested her return next year. We will do our best - subject to her availability. The flower arrangements were great – as was Alison's sense of humour!

**Online NatWest Bankline Account:** The good news is that we now have this account, which means that refunds can be completed using BACs if you prefer. There is a slip to complete with your bank account details, which our treasurer, Karen Saunders, will shred after use.

#### August Open Meeting – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August at the Mary Forryan Centre

**Please support this event – give your name/your guest's name at the July meeting.**



This year the committee are offering 12 meetings rather than the normal 11. The additional meeting in August is an **open event**, so that you can bring family members and friends along – male and female. **There will be no charge for visitors.**

The speaker will be Lucy Lewis, the UK's first female bomb disposal expert. 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.

Lucy was recommended to me as an **excellent**

**speaker** who has presented at ACMs for a number of WI federations. Her story is fascinating and exceptional, and she has a great sense of humour! Light refreshments will be available.

The committee has contacted and invited local WIs as a goodwill gesture.

**All we ask is that you indicate if you will be attending and if you are bringing a guest. We must be mindful of fire regulations and the capacity of the hall where we meet.**

I hope you will join us for what promises to be a great evening. Mandy.



## The speaker at our July 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting is Ginny Davis

‘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...

## Canalside WI Adopted Charity 2026-27

The result of the vote on the shortlist of 4 charities is as follows:



<b>Air Ambulance</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Concordia Project 2030</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>A Gift to Lift</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Parkinsons UK</b>	<b>4</b>

Thanks to those who put the above charities forward – there is always another year! I think that the Air Ambulance is an organization that resonates with us all.

All funds raised by the Colours Fashion Show on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September at the Mary Forryan Centre will be donated to the Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance. Please see Sue’s item about this event in this newsletter.

## Members’ Questionnaire - results

Thank you for your input on the questionnaire at our June meeting – about any new sub-groups you may be interested in and possible events /trips.

**I want to thank Denise Wilson for all the time she invested on collating the information you provided.**

### Total number of replies: 46

**Day trips:** 39 people expressed an interest, with many wanting these organised on a **bi-monthly basis**.

So, we will be reducing the number of trips on offer next year.

### Votes for different types of trips:

<b>29 garden or park</b>	<b>24 historic house</b>
<b>25 boat trip</b>	<b>21 national trust venue</b>

An historic house and national trust visit could be combined.

**City or town:** Although 25 people showed an interest, we are mindful of the fact that previous days out to a city or town have had to be cancelled, e.g. Stratford ( £6 subsidy offered to each member wanting to go), Cambridge.

**Events:** 23 people showed an interest, e.g. a Creative Craft Show , garden show, food show at the Birmingham NEC.

**Lunch club:** The idea of a monthly lunch club seemed popular with 28 people expressing an interest.

**Hobby/interest groups:** Interest in various hobby or interest groups was not as great – below 10 in all cases.

However, if any member still wants to initiate a group, for example a walking group, then please see a committee member for advice. Karen Saunders has written a helpful item in this newsletter with information about alternative, local non -WI groups that may be of interest.

### What next?

We hope that feedback from the questionnaire will help us to tailor additional events in 2027 -28 that suit more members and increase support.

Sheila Phillips and Jan Heeley have kindly offered to investigate possible options for day trips, and I have, of course, shared the results of the questionnaire with them.

## Canalside WI Lunch Club



**Wildwood , 3-4, The Crescent, Hinckley LE10 0QQ**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

In view of the interest expressed, committee members wanted to try a lunch meet up for members.

If you don't want to cook or you are by yourself, then this makes for a sociable option and a way to get to know other members better.

**WHEN:** second Wednesday of the month – so that's **Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> July.**



**WHERE:** Wildwood in the Crescent in Hinckley offer a **£10 Senior Club** (Monday to Friday 12 noon until 5pm).

**You can choose a starter or dessert + a main for just £10.**

Please click on this link to view the menu:

[£10 Senior Club](#)

**Some drinks are also on offer with 20% off.**

**Please put your name down at the trips table** and Margaret Lawrence will make a group booking for the number of people interested.

**I will let you know if there are enough ladies interested so that this can go ahead at the end of the July meeting.**

**Are you interested in a local gardening or walking group?**

**As a result of the questionnaire, Karen has kindly researched some alternative non-WI groups that may be of interest.**



A few people showed interest in a gardening group. If anyone is interested, the Friends of Hollycroft welcome new volunteers to help in the park and also at events/cafe. They can be contacted via [friendsofhollycroft@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhollycroft@gmail.com) or on Facebook where you can access a schedule of events.

Interest was also shown in a walking group. If anyone would like to organise and co-ordinate such a group, please speak to a committee member.

However, there is a Walking for Health group that meets weekly on a Wednesday at the Acorns cafe on the common. Walks' start time is 10.30 am - 3 walks are on offer with a variety of distances from 1 mile to 4.5 miles. Tea and biscuits after for £1.00.

Health questionnaire to be completed but just turn up - no booking needed.



There is also Hinckley Ramblers who walk on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays - see website for further details. Click here:

<https://hinckleyramblers.org.uk/en/>

Karen Saun

## Mental Health First Aid Ambassadors



Five Canalside members participated in the Mental Health First Aid Champion course on the 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 and NHS Talking Therapy.



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](mailto: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**.

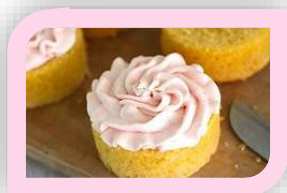
If your details are not there, then use the email address that is registered on the MCS for you and create a password. Please ask either Pat McShane or me if you need to check about your email address.

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:

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

**Make the most of your subscription and enjoy! Mandy.**

## Cake Makers



Thank You to the following who have volunteered to make cakes at our July meeting:

Marie Cropp, Jackie Gilchrist, Jan Heeley, Pat McShane, Janice Morris and Angela Nollett.

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

Pat McShane 07714 [097947](tel:097947) [pat.mcs@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

## June Meeting Snapshot



This months speaker was Alison Suffolk. Alison is a N.A.F.A.S. Demonstrator. She made 3 beautiful arrangements for us. The first one was a low table arrangement using gerberas, sweet williams, roses and foliage. When she had finished it, she put the container into a long low basket. The 2<sup>nd</sup> arrangement was in a deep round bowl and she used mainly proteas for this and added some small flowers and large leaves to this arrangement, then she put the container into an urn. The last arrangement was made mainly from white chrysanthemums and white roses. This was put into a wicker basket with a handle on it. The three arrangements were raffled off and 3 lucky winners took them home. We all really enjoyed the demonstration.

## Fundraising Events

### Book Sales Table



There will be a book stall again at the next meeting. Please come and see what we have. It's only 50p a book.

I do not need any more books at present

### Trades Directory



Don't forget we have our trades directory on the book sales table. If you need any work done come and see if there is anyone suitable in it.

If someone does some work for you and you are pleased with it, get a business card from the tradesperson and tell us a little about what they did for you and I'll put it in the directory.

Thanks Cath.

### Jigsaw Table



There will be no jigsaw table at the July meeting.

## Clubs and Teams



### Book Club

There were 12 of us at the June meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> at the same place.... The Greyhound in Hinckley. The book we were discussing was "**Whose Body**" by **Dorothy L Sayers**. It was a good murder-story and the body was found in a bath. Most enjoyed it although some thought it was rather repetitive and unclear at the end.

Our next book is **Mrs Winterbottom Takes a Gap Years**" by **Joanna Nell**. Several have already read this and say it is good 😊

We meet at The Greyhound on the second Monday of the month at 11.45. Next meeting is on **13th July**.

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

Pat xx

### Darts

We have now had 3 matches and lost all 3. However we have met lovely people from other W.I.s and had lots of fun. Our final game is against Countesthorpe W.I. on 27<sup>th</sup> July at The Red Lion in Sapcote. We shall be fitting in a practice in preparation so maybe we can win this one!?

Pat xx

**Skittles** Skittles are not playing at the moment

## The Joy of Needlework



The Joy of Needlework group had another lovely meeting welcoming a couple of new Members this month to join us in our Sewing and Chatting.

We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month 6:30-8:00 at The Plough Pub, Hinckley and if anyone is interested in joining please see Julie Murray at the next Members meeting.

## Third Tuesday Craft Group



The 3rd Tuesday Craft group had a lovely evening making Felt book covers and as usual having a good old chat.

Our next project will be using the art of Decoupage to decorate Shells using Serviettes.

**This group is currently full.**



## Drama Club

Canalside Amateur Drama Club (CADS) are currently hard at work rehearsing for their next production, which will take place on 20th November 2026. The evening promises a delightful mix of entertainment, followed by a light supper and, to round things off, a fun quiz.

Tickets are available for £8.50 each. The event will be held at The Greyhound Inn, New Buildings, Hinckley, and everyone is welcome—family and friends alike. All proceeds from the evening will be donated to Loros.

Tickets will be available for purchase during our meetings in September, October, and November. By joining us and securing your tickets, you'll be directly supporting a meaningful cause, and your contribution will make a real difference. There will also be a raffle. We truly appreciate your generosity and hope to see you at one of our upcoming gatherings.

Sue

## 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



## Gift Aid



If you think you are eligible for this please see Pat for a form.

Several people who have filled in forms in 2022 must now complete another as they are only valid for 4 years. I will have forms for you and will get them to you.... 😊

Thanks Pat x

## 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.

### Rockingham Castle Adventure (With a Twist!)



Thirteen of our members recently enjoyed a wonderful mini-coach outing to the historic Rockingham Castle.



The weather was on our side, and we spent a delightful day exploring the beautiful grounds, taking in the spectacular views, and immersing ourselves in the castle's rich history.



It truly was a lovely day filled with laughter and great company.



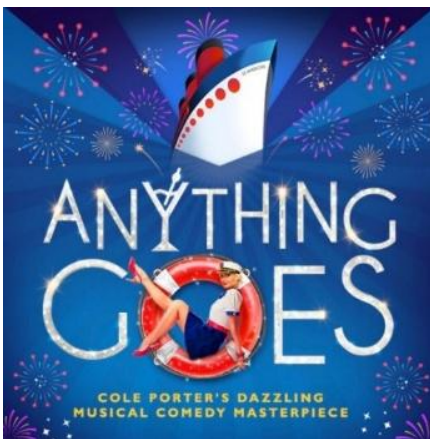
Of course, no Women's Institute trip is complete without a little adventure! On the journey home, our mini-coach broke down. Undeterred, the group showed true WI spirit, keeping morale high during the hour or so long wait for our rescue vehicle.



A huge thank you to everyone who joined us and made it such a memorable day—broken-down coach and all. Mary x

Castle pictures courtesy of Louise Berry

Breakdown pictures courtesy of Mary Groombridge



### Anything Goes – Kilworth House Theatre

### Matinee performance – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2026

All tickets are now sold.

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

I will be handing out any tickets not yet collected at our July meeting.

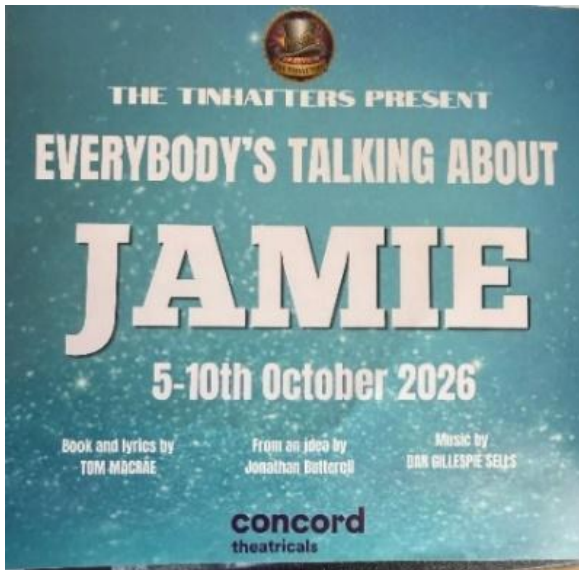
Always a great afternoon. Looking forward to a fantastic show! Gill xx

## COLOURS CHARITY FASHION SHOW

### THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

Tickets for our Charity Fashion Show will be available for purchase at the July meeting. This year, we are excited to collaborate with Colours, who bring a fresh perspective by providing their own models and showcasing an extensive selection of clothing and accessories designed to appeal to a variety of ages and styles. The event welcomes not only members, but also family, friends, and colleagues, so please feel free to extend the invitation.

All proceeds from the evening will be donated to our chosen charity for the year, the Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance. We encourage everyone to support this worthy cause by securing tickets, which are priced at £7 and include light refreshments. Additionally, the evening will feature a raffle with some fantastic prizes up for grabs—don't miss your chance to win and contribute to a great cause! Sue x



## 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 July meeting.

Tickets will be discounted to £16.20 each, as we have more than 10 people going!

Remainder to be paid in August

Gill xx

**Bicester Shopping Village, 50 Pingle Drive, Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX26 6WD**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October**



**Leave Mary Forryan at 9.30am**

**Arrive at the village at 11.00am**

**Leave the village at 3.00pm**

**Arrive back at Mary Forryan at 4.30pm**

**Minibus return fare: £24**

**Names only at the July meeting – members and non-members.**



Bicester Village first opened its doors in April 1995. Since then, this pedestrianised, open-air setting has grown to include more than 160 boutiques and shops - all with items reduced from the original retail price.

Beautifully landscaped pedestrianised streets, which are modelled on the villages in surrounding Oxfordshire.

Great restaurants and cafés all come together to provide an excellent shopping day out.

## 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
<b>Anything Goes</b>	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> 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
<b>Open Meeting with Lucy Lewis</b>	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> August	No charge	Names at the July Meeting	No charge	Names at the July Meeting	NA	NA	NA
<b>Colours Charity Fashion Show</b>	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	£7	July Meeting	£7	July Meeting	NA	NA	NA
<b>Everybody's Talking About Jamie</b>	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> 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
<b>Bicester shopping village</b>	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	£24	July Meeting	£24	July Meeting	£10	£14	October 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.

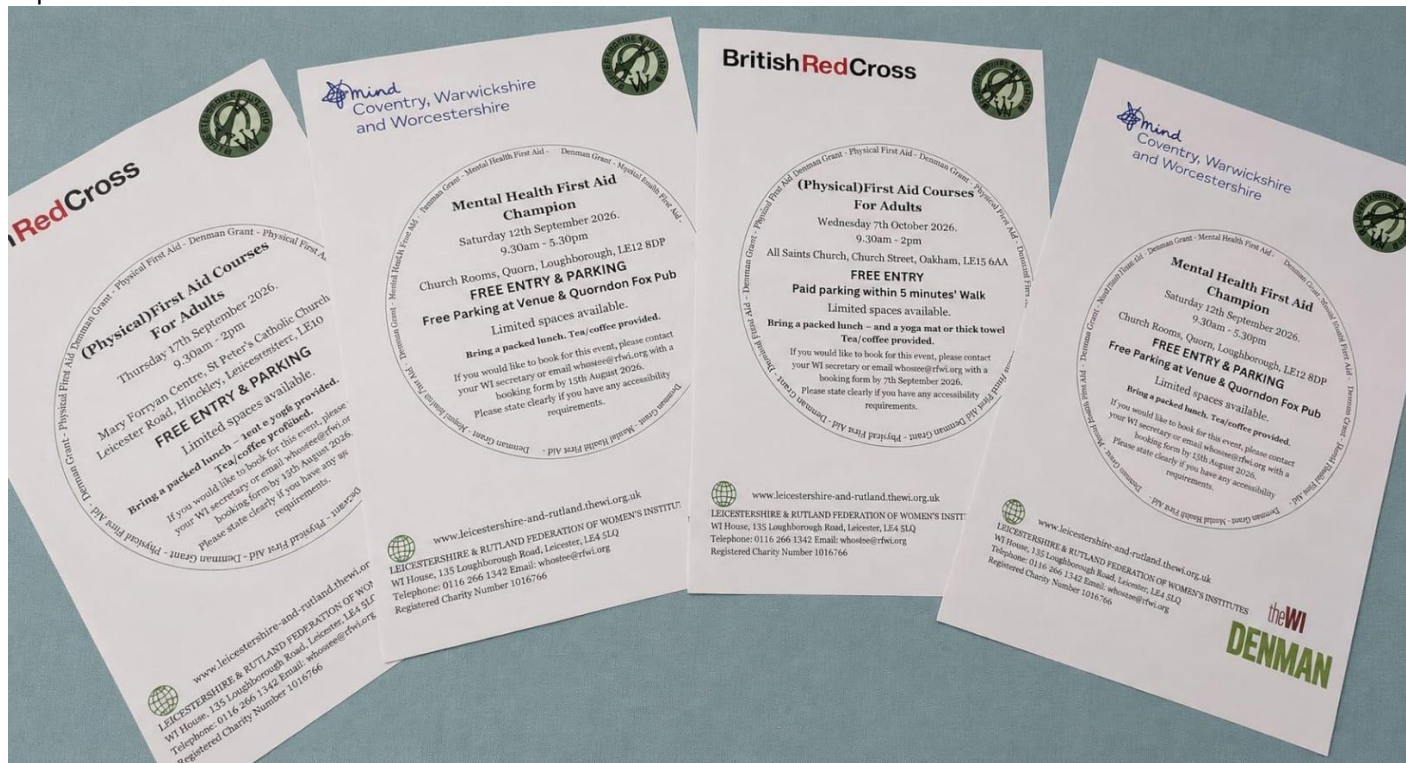
## County Events

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.

Federation Quiz Friday 3 July - 7pm for 7.30pm start

Please note that these **First Aid** courses (shown below) are funded through the Denman Grant. To secure your place, please contact your WI Secretary or email [whouse@lrfwi.org](mailto:whouse@lrfwi.org) as soon as possible. When doing so, please include any accessibility requirements you may have.

Additionally, please be aware that a First Aid course will also be running at the Mary Forryan Centre on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> September.



### Upcoming Leicestershire & Rutland Federation Events


The Federation has lined up some fantastic events for this autumn (see flyers below). If you are interested email [whouse@lrfwi.org](mailto:whouse@lrfwi.org) to secure your spot. Mary x

Leisure Committee Event

## GHOST WALK

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October**  
6.00pm – 7.00pm  
Tickets £10

**Meeting Point: Meet outside Frankie & Benny's Restaurant, St Peter's Square - 8, Bath Lane, Highcross Centre - Leicester LE1 4SA**



As the nights draw in, experience the darker side of history on an atmospheric ghost walk through Leicester. Discover chilling tales, haunted locations, and eerie legends as you explore the historic streets by lantern light. Perfect for those who enjoy a touch of mystery, history, and spine-tingling storytelling.

A hauntingly good evening this October... if you dare!

If you would like to book for this event, please contact your WI secretary or email [whouse@lrfwi.org](mailto:whouse@lrfwi.org) with a booking form and pay by BACS by 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2026. Family and friends welcome.

Many events are often oversubscribed, book early to avoid disappointment.

**The WI is everything YOU want it to be.**  
This event may be photographed, we will presume permission unless we are otherwise informed.

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES  
WI House, 135 Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5LQ  
Telephone: 0116 266 1342 Email: [whouse@lrfwi.org](mailto:whouse@lrfwi.org)  
Registered Charity Number 1016766  
This is a fundraising event.

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

WORKSHOP - ARTS & CRAFTS - WORKSHOP - ARTS & CRAFTS - WORKSHOP - ARTS & CRAFTS

## Lampshade Workshop

**Saturday 19th September 2026,**  
10am - 1pm OR 2pm - 5pm  
WI House, 135 Loughborough Road, Leicester LE4 5LQ

Open to non-members.  
Bring a packed lunch.

**Book now!**  
**£25pp**  
Includes a 30cm kit

Bring your own fabric or purchase on the day

[www.leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk](http://www.leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk)  
LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES  
WI House, 135 Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5LQ  
Telephone: 0116 266 1342 Email: [whouse@lrfwi.org](mailto:whouse@lrfwi.org)  
Registered Charity Number 1016766  
This is a fundraising event.

Fund Raising Committee Event

## Autumn LUNCH Devonshire Place

78 London Road, Leicester LE2 0RA

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

11.30am bar open, 12.30pm lunch

**Tickets £34 (for two course lunch)**



### Guest Speaker: Lucy Lewis Talk - Lighting the Fuse

Lucy Lewis joined the Army on the spur of the moment and after training at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst was chosen in 1989 to become the first woman to operate as a Bomb Disposal Officer with the Royal Engineers. She subsequently served with the Royal Military Police in Germany and Northern Ireland, retiring in the rank of Major to start a family. In 2018, Lucy made history for a second time by becoming the first woman to be appointed University Marshal at the University of Cambridge and now leads one of the oldest Constabularies in the world.

If you would like to book for this event, please contact your WI secretary or email [wihouse@lrfwi.org](mailto:wihouse@lrfwi.org) with a booking form and pay by BACS by 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2026. Family and friends welcome. Parking Available at Venue.

Many events are often oversubscribed, book early to avoid disappointment'

**The WI is everything YOU want it to be.**

This event may be photographed, we will presume permission unless we are otherwise informed.  
Speaker subject to change at short notice.

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES  
WI House, 135 Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5LQ  
Telephone: 0116 266 1342 Email: [wihouse@lrfwi.org](mailto:wihouse@lrfwi.org)  
Registered Charity Number 1016766  
This is a fundraising event.



Finance & House Management Committee Event

## SPEAKERS' SHOWCASE EVENING



**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

Goodwood Bowls Club

8A Crofters Drive, Leicester, LE5 2FH

6.30pm For 7pm (prompt) – 9pm

£5 for 2 people

We will be inviting new speakers to give us a taste of their talk/demonstration and give you the opportunity to Provide feedback. Parking is available.

Bring along other members of your WI who you feel would enjoy seeing a new range of speakers.

If you would like to book for this event, please contact your WI secretary or complete a booking form identifying if booking as an individual by 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Please state any mobility requirements at time of booking.

This event may be photographed, we will presume permission unless we are otherwise informed.

**The WI is everything YOU want it to be.**

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES  
House, 135 Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5LQ  
Telephone: 0116 266 1342 Email: [wihouse@lrfwi.org](mailto:wihouse@lrfwi.org)  
This is a fundraising event.

