

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN



HINCKLEY CANALSIDE WI

SEPTEMBER 2026

<https://hinckleycanalsidewi.co.uk>

President's Message

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

or phone 07724 124094. Mandy.



Dear Members,

I hope you are well and enjoying the cooler weather! I trust you had some days out or holidays away – in spite of the waves of intense heat.

August open meeting

Our August open meeting was very successful, and we have received several emails from local WIs and our own members, congratulating the committee and praising the speaker - Lucy Lewis. Some felt that she was one of the best speakers they had heard. The atmosphere in the room was positive and vibrant, with many staying to chat and socialise.

Members from six local WIs joined us, with a total of 112 attending. I think the event gave a very positive image of our WI. Thank you for supporting this event.

The WI Magazine



WI Life has evolved into The WI Magazine.

This new magazine is produced by the NFWI and published four times a year - in June, September, November, and March, each issue introducing the new season.

There are new regular pages, including a WI advice panel, in-depth interviews with members about their own WI, and a section on how to live a more sustainable life. As part of your membership, you will receive copies of this magazine each year, delivered through the post.

The speaker at our September 2nd Meeting is Mitch Bridgewater



Mitch was part of Series 8 of The Great British Sewing Bee in 2022.

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.

Mitch was part of Series 8 of The Great British Sewing Bee in 2022.

Our September 2nd Meeting – Guest from the Local Air Ambulance



Committee members have invited Shonagh Groves Community Fundraising Executive to speak for about 10 minutes about our adopted charity for 2026 – 2027.

All funds raised by the Colours Fashion Show on Thursday 24th 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.

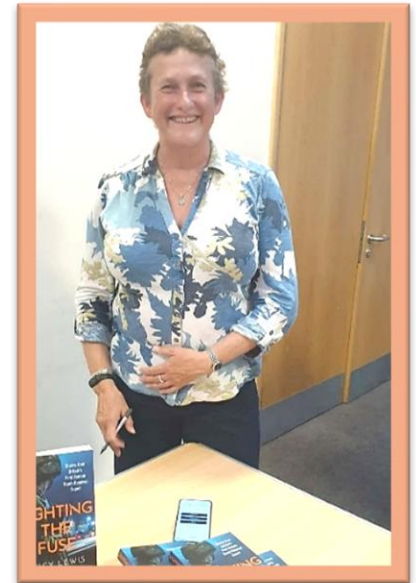


August Open Meeting Snapshot

The speaker was Lucy Lewis, the UK's first female bomb disposal expert. Lucy talked about her time training at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, sharing hilarious anecdotes of military exercises and mess dinners to foster camaraderie.

After her time as a Bomb Disposal Officer with the Royal Engineers, Lucy served with the Royal Military Police in Germany and Northern Ireland, retiring in the rank of Major to start a family.

In 2018 Lucy became the first female Marshal at the University of Cambridge where she leads one of the world's oldest Constabularies. There are currently 26 University Constables, who are also known as 'bulldogs', and they assist at all ceremonies as well as supporting the Proctors in defending freedom of speech across the University. It was an opportunity for members to purchase Lucy's memoirs, 'Lighting The Fuse'.



CAD S Christmas quiz and entertainment evening in aid of Loros

Friday 20th November 2026 at the Greyhound Inn, New Buildings Hinckley 7.30pm

Tickets are £8.50 which will include a light supper



Hinckley Canalside Drama Group invites you to a Variety Evening.

Extraordinary Entertainment plus a Christmas quiz and raffle all in aid of Loros.

The winner of the quiz will receive, the Margaret Copson Cup, which is in remembrance of Margaret Copson one of the committee members.

The tickets will be on sale at our September members' meeting.

Please come along and support Canalside Drama Group and Loros.

Ann Bowles



Canalside WI Lunch Club



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

Friday 11th September 12:30pm

We had a lovely meal at Wildwood on Friday 14th August. 18 ladies came to the meal. The venue is air conditioned and the staff are very nice. It was Mary's birthday and they didn't mind bringing her cake out so that we could sing Happy Birthday to her. We were all able to have a good chat and enjoy each other's company.

It was decided that we would like another lunch at Wildwood because it is such a nice location and easy to get to. We will have the **next lunch date on Friday 11th**

September 12:30pm.

I will bring the Ladies Who Lunch List to the next meeting so that you can add your name if you are interested in going. Margaret Lawrence



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.

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 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 10.30am - 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/>



BritishRedCross

Physical First Aid Course at the Mary Forryan Centre, 17th September

If you have put your name down for this course, then just a reminder that the course starts at 9.30am and finishes at about 2.00pm.

Bring a packed lunch – and a yoga mat or thick towel. Tea/coffee provided. 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.

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 myself 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 September meeting. I know it's a long time since you said you could do it but if things have changed and you can't anymore just let me know please. If you wish to bring some fruit instead it may be worth a try. You wonderful people are: Jenny l'Anson, Jenny Wright, Justine Goodwin, Maureen Osborne and Tricia Sykes. I can't read my own writing of the sixth one so I shall provide something to cover that 😊

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

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

Collections/Recycling



Please remember to bring the stamps, lids, bras and loose change.

following items to the meeting:

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

Suggestions Box



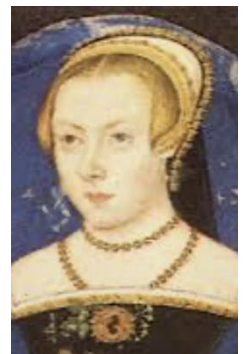
The box is always at the back of the room by Mary who collects money for trips. It's your chance to share your ideas. We would like it if you had some ideas about how we can raise money for this year's charity which is Air Ambulance.

We have taken into our plans for next year the suggestions you have made. We have to sort this out so if you have any ideas still you could pop it into the box 😊

July Meeting Snapshot



Ginny Davis was the speaker at our July meeting. Her talk was about the mysterious death of Amy Robsart. Amy was the first wife of Robert Dudley. She was 28 years old when she was found dead at the foot of a staircase in Cumnor Place, Oxfordshire, on Sept 8th 1560. A coroner's inquest concluded that her death was an accident, but the circumstances of her death have been the subject of debate among historians, with 3 main theories dominating:-



1)Accident- The coroner's report ruled her death a misfortune, suggesting she accidentally fell down the stairs, breaking her neck.

2) Murder- Because her husband was courting Queen Elizabeth 1st, widespread rumours accused Dudley of arranging her death to clear the path for a royal marriage.

3) Suicide - Some speculate she took her own life, due to despair over her declining health or her husband's relationship with the Queen.

Ginny went into a lot of detail about each of the theories and then at the end, we had to vote on which one we thought was the cause of her death. The vote was a tie, as 14 members voted murder and 14 voted accident. The rest voted suicide.

It was an interesting talk and everyone enjoyed hearing about it and voting at the end. Cath.

Fundraising Events

Book Sales Table



There will be a book stall again at the next meeting. Please come and see what we have. All books will be 50p as usual.

Trades Directory



Don't forget there is the trades directory on the end of the book sales table, if anyone needs a tradesman. All of the trades people have been recommended by members. If you have work done and want to recommend the tradesperson, get a business card from them and write a little note about what they did for you and how it went and bring it to me at the sales table. Cath

Jigsaw Table



Jan Heeley has kindly volunteered to run the jigsaw table, so feel free to bring your jigsaws to the September meeting.

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

Raffle



We will be holding a raffle at our September meeting.

Tickets £1 each.

If you have any suitable raffle prizes, these are always gratefully accepted.

Thanks Gill xx

Clubs and Teams

Book Club



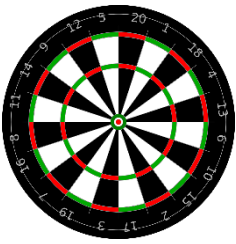
Only 7 of us at the August meeting on Monday 8th. The rest must have been enjoying the lovely weather and reading books as well 😊. The book that was discussed was **"The Giver of Stars" by Jojo Moyes**. They all enjoyed the book and scored it very highly. We have read Jojo Moyes books several times and she never lets us down.

Our next book is **"The Trial" by Rob Rinder**. We meet at The Greyhound on the second Monday of the month at 11.45. Next meeting is on **14th September**.

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

Pat xx

Darts



This year's competition is over now. We lost all of our games but still enjoyed the evenings. We have met lovely people from other WIs and had lots of fun. The disappointing thing is that several times we could not get the 4 people needed. Rules say that we can play with 3 people because of small WIs.....we have large numbers so should not need to do this. Maybe next year we can get more people involved.

Please talk to me if you are intersted 😊 Pat xx

Skittles Skittles are not playing at the moment

The Joy of Needlework

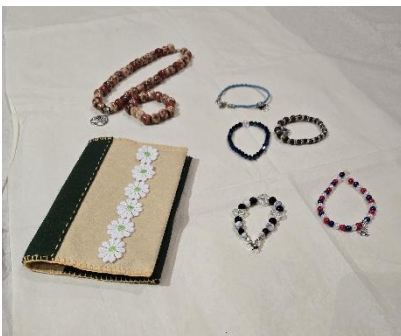


The Joy of Needlework group meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month, 6.30pm – 8.00pm at The Plough.

If you are interested please see Julie Murray as we are not full yet.

This is a group of ladies who share their love of needlework and have a really good chat.

Third Tuesday Craft Group



Due to unforeseen circumstances and reduced numbers due to illness and holidays, we made Jewellery using beads. Joy was finally able to make her felted book cover and a lovely evening was had by all of us.

Next month we will hopefully be making the fabric mice filled with lavender project that was scheduled for August.

This group is currently full.

Drama Club

Current activities are detailed in the President's Message above

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



Thank you to all those members who have filled in Gift Aid forms,

We have put in a claim and just received £219.08. This is Thanks to 35 people who have filled in forms for us.

A form is valid for 4 years. If you wish to fill one in then please see me. Not really necessary now but we will be encouraging those who qualify for Gift Aid to fill a form next March when you'll be paying more subs 😊😊 Pat

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.

Anything Goes – Kilworth House Theatre



Matinee performance – Sunday 19 July 2026.

Once again, what a fantastic time we had at Kilworth.

24 in total enjoyed a brilliant show in glorious sunshine. The whole cast excelled, earning a standing ovation.

Looking forward to hearing about next year's production!



Bicester Shopping Village, Wednesday 28th October **Cancelled**



COLOURS CHARITY FASHION SHOW

Join us for our Charity Fashion Show on Thursday 24 September and help support this year's chosen charity, The Air Ambulance. Tickets cost £7 and include light refreshments.

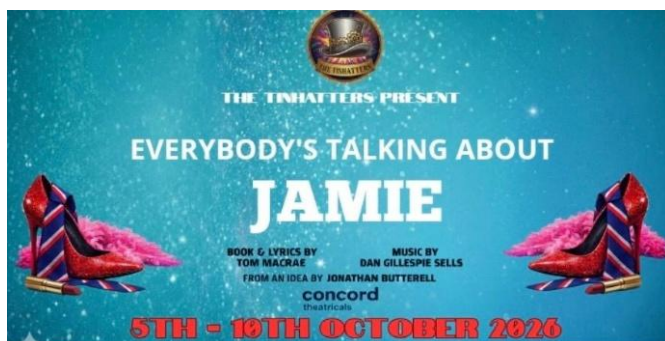
The Fashion Show is also being supported by local businesses, who have generously supplied some fabulous prizes for the raffle.

This vital charity relies entirely on public donations and could not continue providing its valuable service without community support.

Colours Charity Fashion Shows feature popular high street clothing brands at up to 70% off retail prices, along with a range of accessories available at similarly discounted prices.

Everyone is welcome, so please share this with family, friends and colleagues, and join us for an enjoyable evening. Sue.

Everybody's Talking About Jamie ! Concordia Theatre – Tues 26 October 2026



We have 14 ladies going along to this production.

Tickets are discounted to £16.20 each. Final payment to be made at our September meeting. Gill xx

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang !Concordia Theatre – Wed 11 Nov 2026



What a fantastic response !

24 tickets sold, qualifying for the discount, and making tickets £18 each.

£10 deposit needed at our Sept meeting and full balance to be paid by our Oct meeting. Gill xx

Chocolate Wreath Workshop



Venue: Cocoa Amore, 34 Silver St, Leicester LE1 5ET

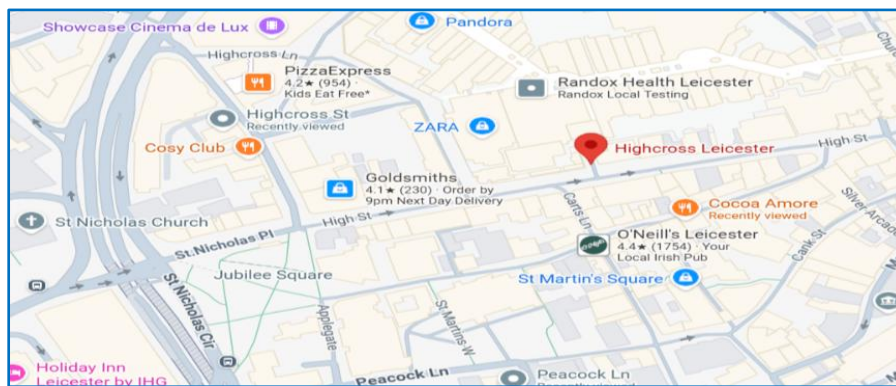
(Located in St Martin's Square)

Thursday 19th November

11.00am – 12.30pm/1.00pm

£25 pp (I have been able to secure last year's price.)

**Enderby Park + Ride drops off at St Nicholas Circle.
Cocoa Amore is on the middle right hand side of the map.**



This is the description of this practical workshop on their website:

‘Our Chocolate Wreath Workshop is a practical session which consists of learning chocolatiering techniques to decorate and mould your very own Chocolate Wreath. You’ll decorate your wreath with seasonal toppings. Once the wreath is set you’ll decorate with finishing touches and gift box to take home.

A refreshment break is included in the session.

Location: Silver Street store

Duration: 1-1.5 hours

Click here for the Cocoa Amore website:

<https://cocoa-amore.co.uk/workshops/>

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
Colours Charity Fashion Show	Thursday 24 th September	£7	August Open Meeting	£7	August Open Meeting	N/A	N/A	N/A
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)	September Meeting
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	Wednesday 11 th November	Tickets £18	August Open Meeting	£18	August Open Meeting	£10 payable at September Meeting	£8	October Meeting
Chocolate Wreath Workshop	Thursday 19 th November	£25 pp	September Meeting	£25	October Meeting	£10	£15	November Meeting
CADS Variety Evening at The Greyhound	Friday 20 th November	£8.50	September Meeting	£8.50	September Meeting	N/A	N/A	N/A

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.

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 wihouse@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, 17th September. **This course is now full**

Fund Raising Committee Event

Autumn LUNCH

Devonshire Place
78 London Road, Leicester LE2 0RA
Saturday 10th 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 with a booking form and pay by BACS by 3rd 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
registered Charity Number 1016766
this is a fundraising event.



Finance & House Management Committee Event

SPEAKERS' SHOWCASE EVENING



Thursday 29th 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 22nd 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
this is a fundraising event.



Stratford Christmas Market



Saturday 28th November 2026
£20 per person

Stratford-upon-Avon Christmas Market 2026 boasts 200 high-quality stalls and promises a truly special shopping experience. Entertainment will be integrated throughout the market, offering visitors the chance to experience a variety of performers as they explore creating an immersive experience. Against the backdrop of the town's historic streets adorned with twinkling Christmas lights, the markets invite all to the magic and joy of the festive season.

Coach 1 from Oakham Bus Station, John Street will leave at 9.30am.
Coach 2 WI House at 10am and Burbage (Three Pots Rd bus stop LE10 2) at 10.30am, leaving Stratford at 4.00pm

If you would like to book please ask your WI or send a booking form to WI House and pay by BACS by 11th November 2026. Please state on your booking if you have any mobility requirements. Family and friends welcome. A completed booking form is essential to secure tickets.

Many events are often oversubscribed, book early to avoid disappointment

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

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES