

Warwickshire WI News

May 2026

News, events and updates



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Chair's Message

Dear Members

This month, we are continuing the tradition of discussing the resolutions that have been shortlisted for voting at the AGM in June. This year, there are two resolutions, and you are reminded that you can vote on each of them. Secretaries, please remember to inform your delegate of how members have voted.

MCS representatives, please ensure that, alongside the final subscriptions, your records are updated to show that members have read the membership form information and have confirmed that they have paid their membership for the year.

This month, we will have a stand at The Great British Farm Fest, featuring crafts, competitions, and information about the WI. If you are planning to attend the show, please do come over and say hello.

Next month, we will once again be at the Kenilworth Show. As last year, we will be serving cakes and drinks, so we can always use extra contributions. If you or members of your WI enjoy baking, please let the office know if you would be happy to make one or more cakes. Cakes can be dropped off at the office during opening hours.

Best wishes
Ruth McCartney
WFWI Chair



The Macramé Workshop at Federation House on 28th March was a huge success—filled with creativity and beautiful handmade pieces.

Book tickets via the WFWI Ticketshop



Treasurer's Training

Thursday 28th May - 1pm - 4pm
Federation House

Monday 1st June - 10am - 1pm
Nuneaton Heritage Centre

Tuesday 2nd June - 6.30pm - 9pm
Radford Semele Community Hall

£15



NFWI Annual Meeting Watch Party

Tuesday 4th June
10.30am - 4pm

Coventry Rugby Club
£15

Members only



Machine Sewing Workshop with Claire Salmon

Tuesday 16th June
Federation House

AM Session: £20

PM Session: £20

All day: £35

Members only



Croquet Evening

Wednesday 17th June

6pm - 8pm

Kenilworth

£16

Members and guests



Bloody Leamington

True Crime Walking Tour with Adam Wood

Tuesday 7th July at 6.30pm

£15

Members and guests



Big Day Out - London

Wednesday 29th July

£25

Open to members and guests

Pick-ups from Warwick, Stratford,
Nuneaton and Rugby.

A great summer day out—bring a friend





Speaker In The Spotlight

In this edition we are highlighting one of our brand new speakers, Angus Baskerville.

Angus is an award-winning professional magician and mind reader with over a decade of experience performing across the UK and internationally. A member of the prestigious Magic Circle since 2020, Angus combines illusion, psychology, and storytelling and unforgettable entertainment for weddings, corporate events, festivals and private functions.

In addition to his magic, Angus is also a powerful advocate for autism awareness having been formally diagnosed with Autism and ADHD in 2011 and his memoir 'Naughty or Neuro-Diverse' published in July 2025 has seen him & his mum Kate give talks across national and local radio & in schools, be invited to talk to young offenders and remand prisoners at a local Category B prison along with being the subject of multiple coverage in the local print media.

It is an inspiring story on how nurturing one's passion has led to a full time career despite his diagnosis. Parents, teachers, friends, siblings of children & young adults all affected by ADHD & Autism have all found the talks greatly inspiring along with opening many people's perceptions about what a Autism diagnosis is and how it provides a much greater understanding as a result.



Contact Details:

Angus

07787573183

info@angusbaskerville.com

Price:

In person - £75

Online - £25



To find another great speaker, please check out our Directory.

Joint Federation Weekend Retreat 2026

It's all flaps and gussets! This was the phrase of the weekend for the group of ladies from Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Federation who were making patchwork bags with the lovely Pat Lumsdale. Over the weekend of 24th to 26th April 48 ladies sewed, cut, walked, researched, and even swam at the very first Weekend Retreat organised by the two Federations. The weekend was held at the Staverton Park hotel and golf club, convenient for both Federations.

Many of us miss the days of escaping to Denman to pursue a beloved hobby or try something new. What fun it was to have all your meals prepared, and cleared away, your beds made, tea and coffee on tap, allowing you to sew, walk, make, paint, or read without the demands of home or work getting in the way. This was the reasoning behind setting up this very first weekend retreat – we all hope it is the first of many.

Five different activities were organised. One group, who had the talented Claire Muir as their tutor, made a stunning embroidered cuff using a variety of techniques and free motion sewing. The concentration of the group was very impressive as many learnt new techniques. The end results were beautiful and were proudly shown off by their creators.

Another group spent some 'classroom' time learning about the history of the English Parish Church with Ecclesiastical historian John Vigar. John is a very popular commentator on English history. After the classroom they had a trip out to see some examples of Parish Churches close by, visiting Badby, Newnham, Everden and Fawlsley churches. The group found that Fawlsley church was one of John's favourites. He describes Fawlsley as 'one of the best churches in the country as it combines location, architecture, furnishings and monuments.

The noisy group was definitely Pat's bag making ladies. A thoroughly enjoyable time was had learning how to make the bag. They were fun to make and once completed you could see how the design could be adapted easily to different projects. This was my group and I have not stopped using my bag since I got home – and it has been much admired so thank you Pat!

Two lovely ladies, Sue and Fay, took a group of ladies on two walks on the Saturday. We were blessed all weekend with fabulous weather, so our walkers had wonderful conditions for walking – a real treat after all the rain we have had this past winter. The morning's walk was a circular walk of just under 12 km and took about 4 hours. After lunch and a well-earned rest and refuel, the group set off on their afternoon walk that took them to Lower Catesby and Upper Catesby in just over 3 hours, a 9.5 km walk.

Some of these ladies were then brave on the Sunday morning and went open water swimming! The final group were paper cutting with their tutor Stacey. This was the quietest group as they all had to concentrate using the knives. Their designs were worth all the hard work and effort with peacocks galore and other fancy designs. Participants could choose from a variety of designs and made pictures, cards or gift tags whilst learning the basic skills required for paper cutting.

Apart from the activities the weekend proved to be a lovely occasion to relax, make new friends or link up with friends from another Federation. The conversations were flowing over glasses of rose or gin and tonics in the early evening sunshine before dinner. Many asking, 'Are we doing this again next year?' We all hope the answer is yes and a huge thank you goes to the ladies who took the time to put this on for us. Organising anything on this scale takes time and it is much appreciated by those of us who came along to relax. I hope that those on the weekend enjoyed themselves as much as I did and here's to a Federation Weekend Retreat 2027 – fingers crossed!

Joint Federation Weekend Retreat 2026



Members' News

Great Alne and Kinwarton Village Show 30/08/2025

Our annual village show started in 1985 as a combined effort between Great Alne and Kinwarton, and our neighbouring village Haselor (who sadly now no longer have a WI).

After a break - in part due to Covid (we had not had a show for 7 years) we decided to give it another go in 2025 - because it would celebrate 40 years since the first show. The committee decided to make it a memorable event, keeping the classes as general as possible to encourage entries, advertising as widely as possible, and including a historical angle for interest.

We ended up with 16 classes, judges who were experienced friends but not members (partly due to fewer WI judges being available) and we organised it for the end of the school holidays. Advertising was extended to our local retirement village, as they have a significant number of allotments, used by themselves and some villagers.

We had all the historic photo albums of our WI out for examination, as well as a selection of interest, which were cycled on a screen over the stage. These latter inspired quite a lot of comment and conversation. Our entries were certainly as good in numbers as we had hoped, we got almost as many non-members as members entering, but sadly very few children. The people who attended came from all over the area, and the members on the door were kept very busy! It was a bustling happy event full of memories, and we have decided to try again this year!

Written by Judy Smith



Manning the raffle and the teas... Our Cookery judge and some of the produce, and a selection of hats knitted to a set pattern, all donated to the SCBU at the Children's Hospital Birmingham. (Photos courtesy of Judy Smith & Jane Harris)

Advisers & Membership Team



Your County Needs You: Become a WI Adviser

The WI has always featured in my life, even though I didn't join up for many years. My mum had been a member at Over Whitacre WI and as a little girl I would 'visit' whenever there was a cookery demonstration and help with the refreshments after the talk. After being a member for many years now, I wanted to learn more about the organisation and, having always been someone who wants to help, I signed up a few years ago to become a WI Adviser.

Being an Adviser has been really beneficial in so many ways. I understand more about the constitution and why the WI was set up the way it was. I have met so many lovely members across the County and been to some really fun meetings. You get so many good ideas about new ways of doing things that you can take back to your own WI! Change is a big part of keeping WIs strong and attractive to new members. I can also take the good ideas I get from those WIs I visit to those who are struggling in recruiting members.

The role of the Adviser has also seen some change recently. In the past we were the 'fountains of all knowledge' when it came to any query about the WI – apart from Finance which is the realm of the IFE! Our role has been revised to one that just deals with constitutional matters – running Annual Meetings, opening new WIs and, sadly, closing them too. Other queries should be forwarded to the Federation office, although, most Advisers will of course be more than happy to help. We are by nature people who like to help!

If you are the kind of person who loves to meet new people and likes to help and get involved, your County really needs you. Training is provided and you will be fully supported by the Adviser team. It is a really interesting role and if anyone does want to learn more about becoming an Adviser please do email me for a chat. I am more than happy to treat you to a coffee to talk about the role.

I love the role and I hope that I get to have lots of coffee and chats over the coming months!

Emma Sharp - WI Adviser



FARM FEST & THE WI

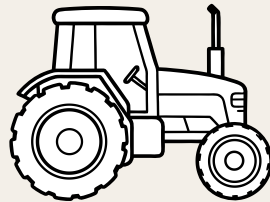
Warwickshire WI, with the help of some neighbouring Federations, will be at Farm Fest which is being held at Stoneleigh Park on 22nd to 24th May 2026 to promote The WI.

Would your WI like to enter one of the competitions? - there is still time to enter!

1. A Farm themed cushion – any material
2. Farm themed bunting - any material
3. A crocheted or knitted Farm themed item
4. A flower arrangement in wellies
5. A character scarecrow – based on the celebrity guests

All Classes will be judged by one of the celebrity guests at Farm Fest 2026. There is no entry fee, but we do need to know how many entries we will have to ensure we have space, so be quick!

[Entry Form](#)



[Buy Tickets](#)



Kenilworth Show


Saturday 6th June 2026

Calling all bakers!

We need homemade cakes again for our refreshments stall.

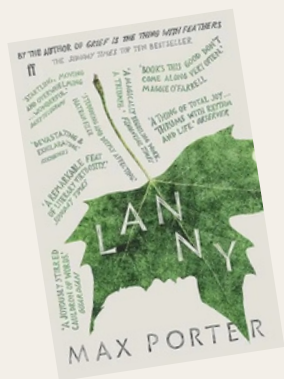
If you can help:

 admin@wfw.co.uk

 01926 419998

Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

WFWI Bookworms



The WI Book Club meets online every other month. The last book, read in March, was Lanny by Max Porter. This was an unusual read, which was nominated for the Booker Prize longlist.

Not far from London, there is a village.

This village belongs to the people who live in it and to those who lived in it hundreds of years ago. It belongs to England's mysterious past and its confounding present. It belongs to families dead for generations, and to those who have only recently moved there, such as the boy Lanny and his mum and dad. But it also belongs to Dead Papa Toothwort, who has woken from his slumber in the woods—Dead Papa Toothwort, who is listening to them all.

The group found this a challenging read in places, as we followed the life of Lanny and his link with Dead Papa Toothwort, but agreed it was creatively written.

For the next meeting in May, we are reading Cambridge Blue by Alison Bruce. This is the first novel in the DC Gary Goodhew series and follows the identification of a young woman found dead on the local common.

DC Gary Goodhew is intelligent, intuitive, and the youngest detective at Cambridge's Parkside Station. He is first on the scene when the body of a young woman is discovered on Midsummer Common and, for the first time in his career, is given the chance to work on a murder investigation.

Soon the victim is identified as Lorna Spence. Richard Moran, her boyfriend and employer, has reported her missing and is distraught to discover that she has been killed. He claims she was loved by his staff and his sisters, reserved Alice and vulnerable Jackie. He says she had no enemies, but it isn't long before Goodhew discovers plenty, including her high-maintenance colleague Victoria and his own reckless former classmate, Bryn.

They both insist they had nothing to do with Lorna's death, but Goodhew knows someone is lying. When another brutal murder occurs, he realises it is time to use his own initiative to flush out the killer—even though it means risking his job and uncovering truths about the one person he hopes is innocent.

If you fancy joining the group, please contact the office and you will be sent a link for the Zoom call later in the month.



*Thank you for being part of
Warwickshire WI— we look forward to seeing you soon.*



If you would like to be featured in a future magazine - please email in.
Please remember to ask permission to use any photographs of members before sending.

Contact Us

Federation Office

Tel: 01926 419998

Email: admin@wfw.co.uk

Our Website

www.warwickshirewi.org.uk

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