

November 2025

Dear WI Secretary

We have a lot of information to share with you this month. If you have any queries, please contact me.

**LFWI Annual Council Meeting, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026, Lowther Pavilion Theatre, Lytham**

Delegate tickets have now been allocated to those WIs who have reserved their space. If you are not providing a delegate for the meeting, please email your apologies, as these are recorded at the meeting. A preliminary agenda and information flyer are included with this mailing.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION – All observer tickets will be available to purchase on the LFWI website from Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> January.** Tickets can be purchased individually, in groups, or by the WI Secretary, but the Board asks that WIs don't exceed a limit of 6 tickets per WI (excluding delegate tickets). The maximum allocation has been reduced from 8 to 6 this year to allow more WIs to be represented. It is advisable to liaise with your members before the end of January, as you may need to conduct an internal ballot. Both delegate and observer tickets will be sent out at the same time, in late February/early March. If you need any assistance with the online booking system, please give me a call and I'll be happy to help.

Long service certificates can be presented at the ACM for members celebrating milestones in that year. Certificates are awarded for 40, 50, 60, etc., years. If you have members wishing to receive a certificate, please let me know the details on email by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Certificate receipt doesn't guarantee a ticket, so members will still need to book their ticket online.

**Joy Morgan Bursary** – Full details on this bursary are included with the mailing, along with an application form.

**Bursary for members with a Fulwood postcode.** A proportion of the Josephine Wilcox Bursary was bequeathed for use by members with a Fulwood postcode and is to be used for educational courses and workshops. If members would like to apply to benefit from this bursary, please ask them to send in their details, including their address to the LFWI

Office, preferably by email. Interested parties should respond by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

**Educational Bursaries** – LFWI will once again award five bursaries for 2026, each worth £200 for WIs to use for education and training. These will be drawn and announced at our ACM in April. To avoid non-take-up, we are asking WIs to opt into this draw by registering their interest on the website, similar to booking a free event. You can opt into the Bursary draw on the Website from Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> December. The closing date to opt in will be Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

**NFWI AGM – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (Virtual)** – As previously advised, observer tickets are now available to purchase for this meeting. Please follow the link below to book your individual or group tickets. Tickets can be purchased up to 2<sup>nd</sup> June. NFWI will provide more information on the details of the meeting and support for Watch Parties in due course. **It's important that the link below is not shared outside your WIs.** You may need to copy and paste this link into your browser to open.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1541107226199?aff=oddtcreator>

**Holiday to Southwest Scotland 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026** – A reminder that we have partnered with Bretherton's Gold Line Travel in Longridge to offer a 3-night LFWI Holiday to Southwest Scotland, visiting Dumfries House and Culzean Castle. The flyer and application were sent in the October mailing and are available on the LFWI website or from the office. Applications and deposits are required no later than 20<sup>th</sup> January.

**The WI Insurance certificate** for the coming year is included with this mailing.

On 9<sup>th</sup> February, NFWI will launch 'VIA' designed to make access to learning easier. More information is attached.

Finally, a few reminders that we include periodically, primarily for good practice and to assist new WI Officers and committee members.

- As a registered Charity, we are bound by the rules of our Constitution (updated 2025) and also the Charity Commission, and we must follow these rules and ensure our activities align with our charitable objectives. A copy of the revised Constitution was emailed to WI Officers in June, and it's also available to view and download on our LFWI website under 'useful forms and info' and on 'My WI'. A copy of the WI Handbook,

which covers everything you need to know about running your WI and will answer any questions you may have, is also available on our website.

- In addition, all WI members are required to adhere to the NFWI Code of Conduct (reviewed 2025). This is available on 'My WI' and is included with this email for you to cascade to your members.
- GDPR - WI member personal contact details held by WIs should be used solely for WI business by a limited and designated number of people and shouldn't be circulated to the wider WI membership.

As always, the mailing will be uploaded onto the LFWI website for members to view, and if you have any questions, please let me know.

### **200+ Club Draw**

November – Not publicly disclosed.

Best Wishes

**Diane Jenkins**

Federation Secretary

### **Enclosures**

- ACM 2026 Preliminary Agenda
- ACM 2026 Flyer
- Joy Morgan Bursary Application
- Standfast Trophy Nomination Form
- Resolution Selection Voting Form
- LFWI Budget year ending November 2026
- Flyer – Beginners Watercolours
- Flyer – Presidents Workshop
- WI Code of Conduct
- NFWI – Information on 'VIA'
- Insurance Certificate



**Make and Create – Watercolours for Beginners  
with Nicky Robertson  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March  
LFWI Offices, Croston House, Leyland - 10am - 3pm**

Have fun learning the use of watercolours while focusing on how to paint challenging shapes, colours, reflections, and textures of edible items.

Please bring a smartphone, so that you can photograph your arrangement for use at home later, along with your watercolour paints, brushes, watercolour paper and a pencil. If you have your own masking fluid, please bring that also. You may like to stretch your paper (s) beforehand, but this is not essential.



Nicky will bring the sweets, apples, etc, for you to take away with you. She will also bring some watercolour paper for those who need it, provide spare brushes, masking fluid and watercolour paints to borrow.

Tea/Coffee will be available throughout the day, and you will need to bring a packed lunch.

This workshop will be available to book on the LFWI website from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

[www.lancashirewi.org.uk](http://www.lancashirewi.org.uk)



## **LFWI ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at the Lowther Pavilion Theatre,**

**Lytham FY8 5QQ**

**1 pm – 4.30 pm (Doors open at 12 noon)**

**Observer Tickets £10**

We are looking forward to welcoming you once again to our ACM in Lytham

Our main speaker will be Andy Airey from 3 Dads Walking. Andy, Tim and Mike are 3 ordinary dads from normal homes in different parts of the country who would never have met if suicide had not united them in one cause. After losing their daughters Sophie, Emily and Beth, a quirk of fate brought them together, and together they decided to fight back.

In 2021 they walked over 300 miles between their homes, from Cumbria through Manchester to finish in Norfolk, raising funds for and awareness of PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide. Along the way, they spoke to many others touched by suicide and were inspired to ask the government why suicide prevention wasn't included in the school curriculum.

Further walks followed in 2022 & 2024, raising more funds for PAPYRUS and encouraging more conversations. A petition to make suicide prevention a compulsory part of the school curriculum received over 160,000 signatures and was debated in Parliament, where every MP that spoke supported the suggestion.

In July it was announced that the new secondary school curriculum in England will include suicide prevention as a mandatory topic.



We will also welcome members from Roe Green WI, Women of Woolton WI, and Ashton on Ribble WI, who will share their fascinating and inspiring stories with us.

There will be an opportunity to browse our Makers Market next to the auditorium, where some of our talented members will be selling their crafted items and preserves.

All delegate tickets have now been allocated and will be sent out with observer tickets in late February/early March.

**Observer tickets will be available to purchase from our website from Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> January.** Please note that this year WIs can book a maximum of 6 observer tickets, which can be purchased on a first-come first-served basis. We ask that you don't exceed this number, and if you have more members wishing to attend, you may need to conduct an internal ballot prior to the 26<sup>th</sup> of January. Tickets can be purchased in groups or individually.

[www.lancashirewi.org.uk](http://www.lancashirewi.org.uk)



## **LFWI Membership Sub Committee**

### **Presidents Workshops 2026**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March via Zoom 6.30 – 9 pm**

**Or**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 10.30 am – 12.30 pm**  
**LFWI Offices, Croston House, Leyland, PR26 6TU**

Are you new to the President role, or do you want a refresher? Please come and join us for an informative training session that will help you in your role within your WI.

Also suitable for those members who are considering being a President in the future and want to see what's involved.

All sessions are informal, and we encourage you to ask the Advisers who are leading the sessions lots of questions and take the opportunity to network with other WIs who are attending.

Please book your places via the LFWI website. The sessions are free of charge and will be available to book from Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> December.

[www.lancashirewi.org.uk](http://www.lancashirewi.org.uk)



**LANCASHIRE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES  
ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

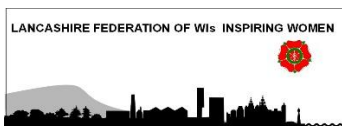
**1pm – 4.30pm**

**The Lowther Pavilion Theatre, Lowther Terrace, Lytham**

**AGENDA**

1. Jerusalem
2. Chairman's Welcome and Introduction of Guests
3. Apologies for Absence
4. Adoption of Standing Orders
5. Minutes of the previous Council Meeting
6. Chairman's Address
7. Adoption of Annual Report
8. Presentation and Adoption of 2024/25 Accounts
9. 200+ Club Draw
10. Meet the Members
11. Forthcoming Events
12. Bursary Draw
13. Meet the Members
- Short Interval
14. Presentations
15. Meet the Members
16. Main Speaker – Andy Airey (3 Dads Walking – Papyrus)
17. Raffle Winners
18. Expression of Thanks
19. Closing Remarks
20. Any other business (By leave only)
21. National Anthem





## LFWI – THE JOY MORGAN BURSARY

WI Member Joy Morgan left a bursary to be distributed annually among three Federations to support WI members. The bursary was originally intended for a residential course at Denman College, as Joy had visited the college on numerous occasions as a WI member in Lancashire, Surrey, and Hampshire. She joined members from all over the country in learning new skills, taking trips abroad, and generally enjoying the company and atmosphere that Denman offered.

Since Joy sadly passed away, Denman College has been sold, and courses are now offered via the WI Learning Hub. Joy's legacy can still allow a member to enjoy a similar experience by providing course or tutor fees and travelling expenses to a recipient, provided the course is educational. (It does not need to be a residential course). This year, the bursary is offered to all individual LFWI members, and the value is £300. Please cascade this information to your members and make the form available to them. It can also be downloaded from the LFWI website.

Please complete the form below and return it to the Federation Secretary by post or email. LFWI Offices, Croston House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TU. [officeadmin@lfw.org.uk](mailto:officeadmin@lfw.org.uk)

The closing date for applications is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026. The winner will be drawn at random at the ACM in Lytham on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026. The bursary must be spent by the end of the LFWI financial year, which is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2026. The successful applicant would be expected to give feedback to the Board on their experience.

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Name of member .....

Name of WI .....

Email address .....

Please give details of the course/courses you may wish to attend, including the name of the provider and the cost.

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES  
2026 ANNUAL MEETING  
RESOLUTION SELECTION SLIP**



Please fill in the slip below using **BLOCK CAPITAL** letters.

WI: \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Number of Votes</b>
1)	Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health and social inclusion.	
2)	Action on women's homelessness	
3)	Every child needs a friend	
4)	Love your Vulva – Self-checking is your best defence against vulval cancer	
5)	Nearer to Nature	

WIs should meet to cast their collective votes. WI Link Delegates will then vote on behalf of WIs at the Annual Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

Resolutions that are passed at the Annual Meeting then become mandates and form the basis of campaigns and educational activity in the years ahead.

**Additional materials, including detailed briefing notes, are available from 'My WI'. A brief explanation of each Resolution is given overleaf**

***This selection slip is to be returned to The Federation Secretary, Office 8, Croston House, Lancashire Business Park, Centurion Way, Leyland PR26 6TU  
BY Thursday 5th of February 2026 – Please ensure all votes are recorded***

**1. Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health, and social inclusion**

This resolution is a call for accessible, clean, free public toilets which are fundamental to inclusion and wellbeing, especially for women, older people, disabled individuals, parents and carers. It invites WI branches to take meaningful action—through advocacy, partnership, and community engagement—to support local authorities and civil society in reversing the closure trend and ensuring dignity for all.

**2. Action on women's homelessness**

The NFWI echoes the calls of homelessness charities and urges all levels of government to take action to reduce women's homelessness, reduce the number of women at risk of homelessness, and improve the quality of temporary accommodation. We call on WI members to support homelessness organisations in their communities and campaign to ensure that all women have a place they can safely call home.

**3. Every child needs a friend**

We call on all WI members, the care system, and government to raise awareness of the independent visitor system for children in care in order to increase the number of volunteer Independent Visitors and the children in the care system who are befriended by them. We want every child in care to be offered the opportunity to have an adult figure in their life who chooses to spend a few hours a month with them.

**4. Love Your Vulva – Self checking is your best defence against vulval cancer**

Self-checking your vulva is important in ensuring the earlier detection of vulval cancer and to enhance survival chances. We call upon WI members to work together to raise awareness of the importance of self-checking and seeking medical advice as early as possible, and, to help highlight this rare cancer to GPs to promote prompt referrals to medical specialists when needed.

**5. Nearer to Nature**

There is a growing body of evidence that getting closer to nature is of great benefit to physical and mental health as well as to the environment. This is called 'green health'. We call on WI members to work locally to improve access to local green spaces and support others to access it too. We call on health promotion services to increase public awareness of the use and benefits of 'green health', and health and care commissioners to support 'green social prescribing' in every GP practice.



## LANCASHIRE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

### STANDFAST TROPHY NOMINATION FORM 2026

Standfast WI was based at Calderstones Hospital, and on its closure in 1993, the committee presented the Federation with a shield, which is now awarded annually to a member who has served her community well. If there is someone in your WI who you feel is worthy of nomination, please complete this form and return it **no later than Monday 9th March 2026** to: The Federation Secretary, LFWI, 8 Croston House, Lancashire Business Park, Centurion Way, Leyland, PR26 6TU.

**Please do not nominate members of the current Board of Trustees.**

**The Trophy will be presented at the Annual Council Meeting on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

**From** ..... **WI**

**Name of Nominee** .....

Please state **FULLY** the reasons for your nomination so that your nominee has the best chance of success. We advise you to continue on a separate sheet to outline the reasons for the nomination.

**Signed** ..... **President**

# Preparing for VIA: Let's work together to make access simple!



As the November/December 2025 edition of *WI Life* begins to reach doormats, we hope you'll be as excited as we are to read about the next step in our learning journey: VIA. We know it's a busy time of year, but once the festive rush has passed, the new year will be upon us, and with it, the opening of VIA. That's why we're asking you to take just five minutes out of your day to carry out a quick, but important, check...

**Why?** Signing into VIA has been designed to be quick and simple. Each member will have their personalised user profile automatically created through the link between VIA and the MCS (Membership Communication System). While the Learning and Development team will be available to offer support with any technical issues, members will have a much smoother and more positive first-time experience if they can log in without difficulty. **This is only possible if your email address is correct on the MCS, which is why we are asking members to check that their email address is up to date on their MCS record.**

**Who?** Your MCS Rep will be able to assist you; if your WI doesn't have a Rep, please contact your federation office.

**When?** VIA launches on Monday 9 February 2026 at [VIA.theWI.org.uk](https://VIA.theWI.org.uk), so ahead of this we're asking members to check that their email addresses on the MCS is correct. Keeping these details up to date makes a real difference, as so many parts of the WI, from National to WI Presidents and Federation Secretaries, and WI Life mailings, rely on accurate records.

**Did you know...** since the WI Learning Hub opened in January 2024, we've amended over 700 email addresses, simply because members had forgotten to ask their MCS Rep, or federation, to update their MCS record!

## Don't forget...

- **Sign up to our weekly newsletter;** this is the best way for us to communicate directly to our learners on a weekly basis, and is the most effective way to stay informed about the latest opportunities and updates: [WI Learning Hub](#)



Image screenshot from VIA build.

**Your learning journey,**  
**VIA us**