



HAUGHLEY WI MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 2025

This Newsletter confirms arrangements for the September Open meeting. It will also help to keep you updated with what is going on and to confirm our plans for the near future. Please share the contents with WI Friends without email access and let me know if a hard copy is wanted.

Many of you will be aware that our President Julia has been very ill and our Treasurer Christine is recovering from Surgery. The health of both is being enabled by good medical support they are both making good progress, but please be aware that it might take some time for them both to get fully well again. SEFWI has been informed of our situation and we have advised by our Supervisor, Jen Pearson, to continue with our contingency plans as shared with her at an extra-ordinary committee. The purpose of the contingency plans are to ensure that, as far as we can, all meetings and planned activities will proceed as intended.

Please note: our Annual General Meeting (AGM) with the election of your committee and the appointment of Officers for the next 12 months is due in November. As usual our advisor will be in attendance to guide proceedings and support us to help identify and agree with you the best way forward for Haughley WI.

Feedback from recent events

- July 24: Visit to Beth Chatto Gardens. The gardens were beautiful, the ground staff knowledgeable and the café welcoming: the 8 participants had a very nice time - even the weather was kind to us.
- August 6: General meeting. Might have been a disaster: our booked speaker cancelled at 3.00pm on the day of our meeting. However, at very short notice and with a lot of joint effort we secured a new speaker, Keith Norman, and what a find he was! He provided a fascinating illustrated talk about Japan with a short fun quiz at the end, when Mandy won a bottle of Japanese gin. Afterwards we enjoyed lovely cheese platters and wine provided by Sarah. The only person to have a cup of tea and biscuit was the speaker!
- August 16: The Victory in Japan (VJ) commemorations were open to ALL parishioners and included fun on the green. In the evening our WI hosted a supper and dance, which began with a Jive lesson. Jane, Chris and Christine worked long and hard to prepare, deliver and serve fantastic "rations in a box", which were more akin to "feasts in a box". Lots of people carried on dancing to the music of an authentic 1940's looking and sounding female duo. Wartime dress was donned by several people and helped to create a fitting atmosphere. Phew!
- August 28: Lunch Club outing to the White Horse in Stoke Ash was attended by 10 members and as usual a lot of fun was had with good food and good conversation.

September 3: a Free to Members Ticketed Open Evening with Lucy Lewis

Lucy Lewis was the British Army's first female bomb disposal officer. Your generosity and donations of prizes is enabling a £1 a ticket "bottle-themed" raffle., run by Fiona. Guest tickets are £5.00 in advance and £6 on the evening. Sales have been going well. 25 members will be joined by at least xx guests, including friends from other local WIs and due to the popularity of this event there will be 4 hostesses rather than the usual 3.

Plans for the coming months

Don't forget to add these dates to your diaries if they apply to you.

- October 4: WI hosted community café: Your offers of help with baking and running the café have been much appreciated and most welcome, but we need a few more cakes and helpers if you can assist.
- October 29: a guided walking tour in Bury St Edmunds. This optional tour occurs during our centenary week, but is not part of our celebrations. Arrangements for the tour and optional informal pre-tour food and drink will be confirmed and bookings taken at the October meeting.
- Nov 5: our AGM with election of officers. After which there will be refreshments, with an optional glass of prosecco and social time with a session of chocolate bingo, so bring your pens and doobers!

- Nov 29: Parish Christmas event, when we hope to have a cakes and bakes stall. Your help will be requested a bit nearer the time

Our week-long Centenary Celebrations: A free to Members, celebratory week in the October 2025 school half-term to commemorate our Centenary.

- Oct 25/26: FREE open event of a Weekend exhibition in the Village Hall
- Oct 26: FREE open church thanksgiving service followed by refreshments of Haughley WI shortbread and tea or coffee for the congregation.
- Oct 30: Members and specially invited past Members ONLY party in the Village Hall, with a served 2-course buffet dinner, centenary birthday cake and a glass of wine or soft drink from the licensed bar. After dinner non-paying invited guests will help us continue celebrations with live music, optional dancing, when the licensed bar will stay open for the purchase of further drinks as desired.
- Nov 1: The unveiling of a bespoke and lasting memorial to commemorate Haughley WI's 100-year history at around 11.00am during the RBL Community café in the Village hall garden.

Managing Risk:

We are insured via SEFWI and as such are required to consider and manage certain risks.

- Walking risk assessment and other paperwork completed and filed: Anne M has copies of documents.
- Food Hygiene risk assessment is work in progress: 4 members who regularly support and participate in the community café and our cake stalls have begun a funded, certificated on-line Food Hygiene course.
- First Aid in case of health emergency is work in progress: Sarah and Caroline are qualified first aiders and we hope to offer up a funded course for 2 more Members who regularly attend meetings and events.
- We are exploring how best to enable members to learn CPR as part of their life skills and in line with the current WI resolution. Any learning will be voluntary and recorded.

The 3-month rolling Rota for our Hostesses who manage refreshments at monthly meetings:

The new rota is working quite well and is drawn up using the alphabetical members' list. It is updated every month and distributed with general meeting agendas. To change your allocated duties, please contact Yvonne Hannan as soon as possible and offer up alternative dates, to enable a swap with another member.

NFWI Revised Constitution and Rules 2025

The WI Constitution and Rules and Handbook were recently updated, with changes being voted on and implemented following the NFWI Annual Meeting in June 2025. Use this link to access the latest on-line versions of these documents <https://northumberlandwi.org.uk/useful-documents-2/>

Resolutions – we have been advised by our SEFWI advisor, to park this issue at present and pick up later when things have calmed down a bit, our newly elected committee is installed and when we have more information for members

Best wishes,

Yvonne

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