



theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## HAUGHLEY WI MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2026

This newsletter replaces the usual agenda and minutes at the April 1 Open Meeting and confirms arrangements for the evening. The newsletter is also being distributed to keep you informed about what is going on and to confirm our plans for the near future.

### REMEMBER SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH

This is when the clocks go forward one hour to herald in British Summer Time: BST. In line with our constitution and until the clocks go back in the Autumn, our regular monthly Wednesday evening meetings the Village Hall will start ½hour later at 7.30pm.

### OPEN MEETING: APRIL 1 - doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

We welcome established writer and ex-police officer Gary Powell to our Open meeting to deliver a talk entitled CONVICTED. The evening includes light refreshments and is free to Haughley WI Members, who do not need a ticket. Guests are welcome and need a £5.00 ticket to gain entry: tickets are available from me or the post office. Fiona and Mandy will be running a Spring and Easter themed raffle. Some raffle prizes have been donated: a few more would be welcome, so if you can donate something please bring it on the night.

### FEEDBACK on RECENT EVENTS

- March 4: RNLI volunteer Sam Weller delivered an interesting, illustrated talk about RNLI, from its 19<sup>th</sup> century origins up to the modern era. Sam is an eloquent and knowledgeable speaker who engaged with everyone. He answered our questions with ease and also provided basic guidance to help us all keep safe when we are on or near the water.
- March 9: Old Newton WI Open meeting was attended by 7 ladies from Haughley: The talk by experienced gardener, Barry Gayton, focussed on his own garden, and spring flowers.
- March 26: Lunch club at the Stowmarket golf course, was arranged by organiser Chris with car shares and enjoyed by the 16 participants: A lovely venue with attentive staff.

### IMPORTANT DATES for your DIARY

1. April 30: WI Group 7 event at Old Newton
  - ⇒ Guest speaker Lucy Lewis - the UK's first female bomb disposal officer. You may have heard Lucy before, but she is well worth a 2<sup>nd</sup> listen.
  - ⇒ Tickets are £4.00 and available from Marian at the April 1 meeting.
- May 2: Community Café.
  - ⇒ If you have volunteered to help or bake, thank you VERY much.
  - ⇒ If you are not participating directly, but are around on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, please come and support us between 10.00 and 12.00.
- May 6: General Meeting
  - In response to members' requests this will be SOCIAL EVENING with optional games.
  - ⇒ The evening will be led by members Sally and Veronica
  - ⇒ You are cordially invited to come and join in the **optional FUN and GAMES** or, **if you prefer** you can just enjoy a nice, relaxed evening with a chat and refreshments with your WI friends.
  - ⇒ During refreshments time there will be cheese, fruit and a glass of prosecco OR if you prefer the usual fayre of tea/coffee with biscuits.

## **A MESSAGE from JANE – two important forms to be completed by us all**

1. **Registration form:** The legal definition of a woman is confirmed as the biological gender recorded at birth. In response, the National Federation of WIs (NFWI) have issued a new COMPULSORY registration form, for completion by all new and existing members.
2. **Photo permission form:** Local WIs must gather and keep a record of signed member photo permission forms. This is so signatories' photos may be used in WI publicity and news articles etc. NOTE: Members may withhold their permission.

### IF YOU:

- have completed/returned your forms: thank you, no further action needed.
- have yet to return your forms, please complete and give them to Jane as soon as you can.
- have not yet received your forms, they will be provided by Jane at the April meeting or by alternative means if you will not be coming to the April 1 open meeting.

*NB: Jane has a list of "who joined when" if, like me, you can't remember when that was!*

## **A TRIP to HELMINGHAM HALL**

This will be on June 18 when the gardens look especially lovely and when we can take advantage of the £10.00 per head group rate, (minimum 10 people). We aim to be at the venue when it opens at 10.00am and before other groups arrive. If you are interested, add your name to the list, which will be circulated at the April 1 Open Meeting. Friends and family are welcome to join us and if desired, we can book an early lunch in the café. See menu: <https://www.nourishsuffolk.co.uk/our-food-drink>. Payment for the trip will be due at the May 6 general meeting and we plan a car share with passengers contributing to drivers' fuel costs.

## **MAKING THE MOST of your MEMBERSHIP**

- SEFWI courses and events  
Please see your monthly MAGAZINE and make your own arrangements to meet your own personal interests and availability. Booking details are on the magazine's back page.
- NFWI learning hub: VIA.  
VIA access is quick and easy through MyWI: the exclusive NFWI Members' website.
  - ⇒ Click on: <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk> and press the Register button
  - ⇒ An email will be sent to the email address you used when you joined the WI
  - ⇒ Follow the steps outlined in the email to create a secure Digital password
  - ⇒ Once set up, you can access MyWI, the VIA learning hub and a lot more!
  - ⇒ NOTE: There is a cost for VIA "premium" courses – but other VIA offerings – and there are a lot - are FREE for WI members and many may be accessed when it suits you.
- CPR: British heart Foundation (BHF) 15minute on-line course  
CPR is a key life skill and a current news topic. The BHF course advises us what to do in an emergency. Aspects of the course are simulation-based. Be assured, when asked to dial 999 you will NOT be connected to emergency services! Why don't you give it a go!
  - ⇒ Click on: <https://bhf.org.uk>
  - ⇒ When the page opens click on "LEARN CPR" in the top right hand corner and follow the user-friendly instructions.
- FREE Food Hygiene Course  
Two members (Caroline and Chris) completed a funded on-line food hygiene course last year and this year we want to sponsor two more volunteer Members who regularly help or bake for any of our events to do a funded course. More information later.

Best wishes everyone

*Yvonne*

Yvonne Hannan, your secretary

*PS: I no longer have a landline, so please use my mobile number: 07531 774438*