

# STROUD EVENING WI NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 09 | NOVEMBER 2025



## BRINGING BACK THE WHITE-TAILED SEA EAGLES

At our latest monthly meeting, Andrew Snow captivated us with a talk on the return of the white-tailed sea eagle to the Isle of Wight. Initially drawn to the topic out of concern for Hampshire sheep farmers, Andrew's perspective shifted as he learned more about these majestic birds. With a wingspan of 2.5 metres, sea eagles are known to soar from the Isle of Wight to Scotland—and one remarkable individual even made it to Denmark before settling with a mate to start a family.

The reintroduction programme has been active in Scotland for over 50 years, but it's still in its early stages here in Hampshire, having begun just six years ago. Andrew's enthusiasm and insights helped us appreciate the ecological significance and awe-inspiring nature of these apex predators.

For more information, visit [www.roydennis.org](http://www.roydennis.org) or follow @seaeagleengland on social media to stay updated.

## NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November

19:30-21:30

Doors open at 19:10

Refreshments Served

following our meeting

## STROUD VILLAGE HALL

Ramsdean Road

Petersfield (Stroud)

GU32 3FS

## NOVEMBER

**CPR with SaLT** in support

of our 2025 Resolution

"Bystanders Can Be

Lifesavers". Come along

and brush up on your

CPR skills.

## Walk for Peace!

On Saturday 25th October, Maija, Christine, Leah, and their families joined the annual **Beacon of Peace Charity Walk**—a heartwarming event that unites people in support of meaningful causes. Spirits were high as we set off along the Hogmoor Inclosure trail, chatting and enjoying the crisp autumn air. To our surprise, the finish line came quickly! Medals in hand, we celebrated with a delicious biryani lunch—chicken or vegetarian—capping off a day that left us feeling truly connected. We're already looking forward to next year's walk.

This year, donations dipped slightly, but we've raised **£117.50** so far. Huge thanks to Maija for her **SUPERFUNDRAISING** efforts! There's still time to contribute and help us reach our goal. We're also hopeful for another community grant, which would allow us to reinvest in local initiatives.

Scan the QR code to the right to support us →→→

## A STITCH IN TIME: PARHAM HOUSE VISIT

On 10th October, members from our WI were delighted to be joined by friends from Sheet and Hyden WIs for a special needlework tour of Parham House—a day that proved both inspiring and uplifting.

Nestled in the heart of West Sussex, Parham House offered a rich tapestry of history and craftsmanship. The needlework collection was nothing short of extraordinary, showcasing intricate embroidery and textile artistry that left us in awe. From delicate samplers to grand tapestries, each piece told a story of skill, patience, and heritage.

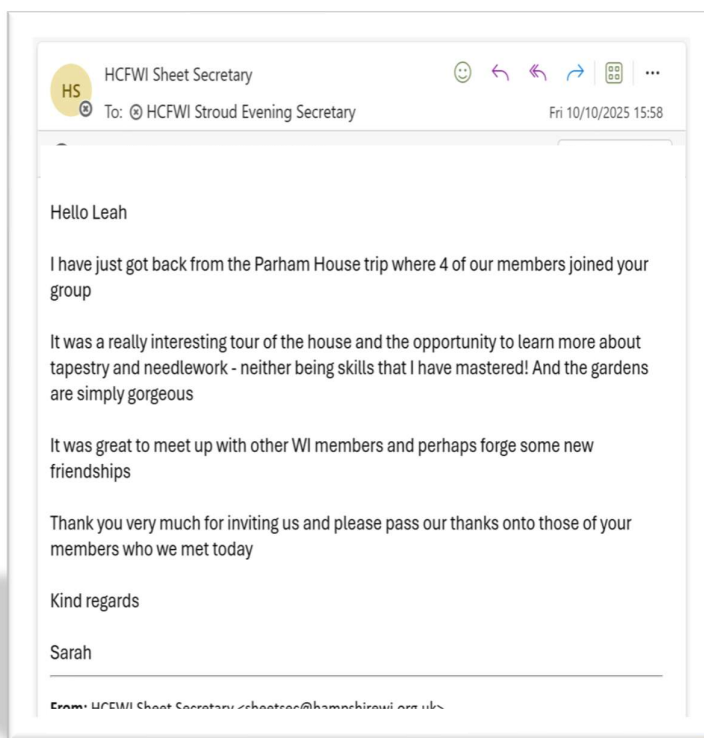
The gardens, too, were a highlight—beautifully maintained, they provided a peaceful backdrop for reflection and conversation. Many members commented on how lovely it was to share the experience with fellow WIs, strengthening bonds and sparking new friendships.

The annual check presentation is scheduled for 5th December. Every contribution, big or small, helps us make a difference. Let's keep the momentum going and continue to support the causes that matter most to our community.



[Click here to donate](#)

This memorable outing was made possible thanks to the Denman Bursary generously donated by Rosemary Bishop. Her support enabled us to enjoy a cultural and creative day that will linger in our memories.



## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION – AFTERNOON TEA

Our December gathering has always been a cherished tradition—a time to share a festive meal and celebrate the season together. This year, with rising costs making an evening dinner less accessible for many, we explored alternative options to keep the spirit alive. While hosting our own meal at the village hall was considered, scheduling conflicts made it unfeasible.

We're delighted to announce a new plan: a Christmas Afternoon Tea at Gallery30 in Petersfield! The cost is £22.95 per person, and we'll meet from **4-6pm instead of our usual evening slot**. It promises to be a warm, joyful occasion filled with good food, laughter, and

the company of wonderful women.

As always, we'll hold our **£5 Secret Santa gift exchange**, so bring a wrapped gift to join in the fun. If you have ideas for light-hearted activities or festive games to enjoy during the tea, please share them with one of our officers—we'd love your input.

Let's make this year's celebration one to remember. We look forward to relaxing together, sharing stories, and appreciating the strength and spirit of our amazing group. See you there!

**Please bring £10 deposit to our November meeting.**

Get ready for a wonderful

## Christmas Afternoon Tea

9 December 2025 4-6PM

GALLERY30, 30 HIGH STREET, PETERSFIELD GU32 3JL

ASSORTED FINGER SANDWICHES  
PORK & CRANBERRY SAUSAGE ROLL  
MINI SWEET SCONES FILLED WITH ORANGE CURD AND CLOTTED CREAM  
MINCE PIE  
POT OF TEA OR A COFFEE

UPGRADE TO MULLED WINE OR PROSECCO FOR AN EXTRA £5

SERVED WITH TABLE LINEN, CHINA CROCKERY, SWAROVSKI CRYSTALS, XMAS NAKINS AND CRACKERS



## Details

£22.95 per person

**Please bring £10 deposit to the November Meeting  
and book your place**

The optional prosecco/mulled wine can be  
purchased on the day

£5 Secret Santa gift exchange



## JOHN LEWIS SHOPPING EVENT



Don't miss out! Book your ticket today via Eventbrite:

[Festive Shopping Evening at John Lewis, Southampton](#)

**Wednesday 12 November 2025 at 17:30-20:00**

## A CALL TO ACTION: HELP KEEP OUR WI ALIVE

At last month's meeting, we proudly unveiled our exciting 2026 speaker programme—full of inspiring guests and engaging topics. If you haven't picked up your list yet, it will be available at the next meeting. But here's the truth: without new officers and committee members, none of it can happen.

**Rosemary will be stepping down** as Treasurer in May, and **Carol will be stepping down** as President. These roles are vital to keeping our branch running smoothly. Without volunteers to step forward, we will have no choice but to cancel the speaker programme and close the branch. See pp 5-6 for description of the roles.

We know how much our WI means to so many—whether it's the monthly meetings, the socials, the friendships, or the sense of community. But it cannot continue without your help.

Please ask yourself: do we want to carry on with our WI, or let it fold?

If you value what we've built together, now is the time to act. *Your branch needs you.*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Nov

4 – Committee – 7 ★ @ 1800

11 – Bystanders can be Lifesavers, CPR with SaLT

12 – John Lewis Event – Southampton @1730

20 – Orchestra Teas – Festival Hall @ 1430

30 – Christmas Market – Stroud Village Hall @1100

### Dec

6 – Giant Charity Christmas Market – Festival Hall @ 0800-1500

9 – Christmas Afternoon Tea – 1600-1800 @Gallery30, Petersfield

### Jan

6 – Committee - 7 ★ @ 1800

13 – Resolutions Discussion + Dressing Your Curves with Kerrie Ellis

### Feb

3 – Committee - 7 ★ @ 1800

10 – The Power of Autism Assistance Dogs

### Mar

3 – Committee - 7 ★ @ 1800

10 – Women of the SOE with author Louise Moorish

24 – Spring Council Meeting – Southampton

### Apr

7 – Committee - 7 ★ @ 1800

14 – Growing Old Disgracefully with ex-vicar Jill Bentall

### May

5 – Committee - 7 ★ @ 1800

12 – AGM, The Balloon Man with Rob Discoll, **£200 Denman Bursary Draw**



## WI TREASURER

**The Treasurer is a guide and adviser to the Committee and maintains the actual accounts. Find out more about the role.**

The Committee as a whole is responsible for the financial wellbeing of the WI and for administering the funds of the WI in consultation with the WI members. The Treasurer presents recommendations from the Committee to members at the WI meeting.

### **How to appoint the Treasurer**

The Committee appoints the Treasurer at the first meeting after the Annual Meeting, to look after the financial affairs of the WI.

Under the [WI Constitution](#) WIs 'may combine the offices of Treasurer and Secretary or the offices of Treasurer and Vice President if the Federation Board of Trustees consents. No other office may be combined'.

### **What does the role involve?**

A Treasurer's main responsibilities are to:

- be aware of the WI Constitution & Rules
- advise on financial planning
- set and monitor their WI's budget – find out more about this below
- open a bank account in the name of the WI – more on this below
- keep the accounts up to date
- collect the annual subscriptions and pay these and all other monies into the bank
- make sure any other obligatory payments are paid – such as membership fees to the federation, pooling of fares for NFWI Annual General Meetings and delegates' expenses
- pay all bills and issue receipts
- ensure that all money collected is paid into the bank promptly and draw out money required to pay out (petty cash)
- check current account balance – should this be excessive, open a deposit account which pays interest

The Treasurer should prepare a statement at the year-end for inspection by an independent examiner. [Your federation](#) may be able to provide you with an independent examiner.

The Treasurer must present the independently examined accounts to the Committee and then to the members at the Annual Meeting, accompanied by the Bank Statements.

## WI PRESIDENT

As the leader of her WI, the President should be enthusiastic, decisive and approachable. She should be interested in her members' views and suggestions to develop a diverse and engaged WI.

### What does the role involve?

A President's main responsibilities are to:

- have a copy of and be familiar with [the WI Constitution](#)
- ensure the constitution and rules of the NFWI, her federation and her own WI are observed
- co-ordinate the affairs of her WI
- develop a range of interests and activities to keep members engaged and make sure her WI thrives
- chair WI meetings, the Annual Meeting and Committee meetings – for further guidance [download our checklist for chairing meetings](#)
- oversee the work of fellow officers, Committee members, Sub-Committees and working groups
- ensure the financial accounts of her WI are accurate and show monthly bank statements to the Committee
- represent her WI within and outside the organisation and encourage good relations with the wider public
- [promote her WI](#) and its activities to encourage the recruitment of new members

### Things to consider

Your members are your WI, so it's important to keep in close contact with them. Try to involve all your members so that they all actively participate in meetings – even if that only means making a new friend or chatting over a cup of tea.

It can be helpful to attend Federation and NFWI events to broaden your horizons and get inspiration. You could even take other members with you.