

STROUD EVENING WI NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 10 | DECEMBER 2025

Saving Lives Together



NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 13TH January

19:30-21:30

Doors open at 19:10

Refreshments Served
following our meeting

STROUD VILLAGE HALL

Ramsdean Road

Petersfield (Stroud)

GU32 3FS

BYSTANDERS CAN BE LIFESAVERS

At our last WI meeting, members discovered just how vital bystanders can be in an emergency. **SalT** (Saving Lives Together) joined us to deliver practical CPR training, showing that ordinary people can make an extraordinary difference.

The trainers explained why every second counts when someone collapses, and how quick, confident action can save a life. We learned the correct rhythm and depth of chest compressions, and how to stay calm under pressure.

Then it was our turn. Members practiced on training mannequins, counting compressions, checking technique, and encouraging one another. The mix of concentration and laughter made the session both memorable and reassuring.

By the end, many felt more prepared to step forward if ever faced with a real emergency. Thanks to **SalT**, we left with new skills, greater confidence, and the knowledge that any one of us could be a lifesaver.

JANUARY

Vote on 2026 Resolutions

& "Dressing your curves"

with Kerrie Ellis

See p 2 for this year's
shortlisted resolutions

2026 RESOLUTIONS

In January, we will be voting on which shortlisted resolution to put forward for 2026. Please take time to review the options below. They are also published in the November/December issue of *WI Life* for your reference.

The shortlisted resolutions are:

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **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.

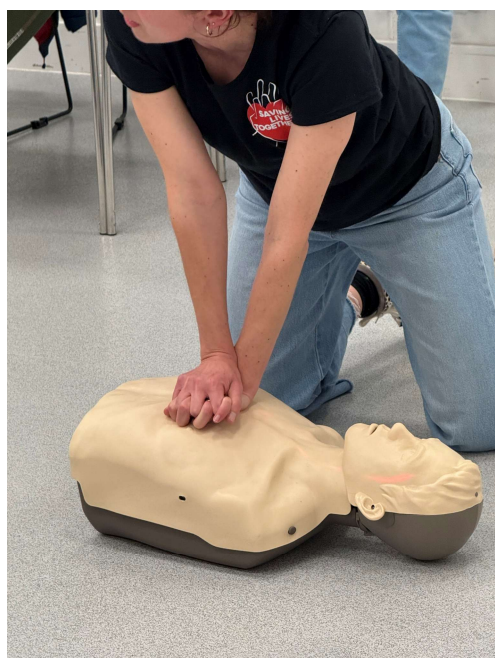
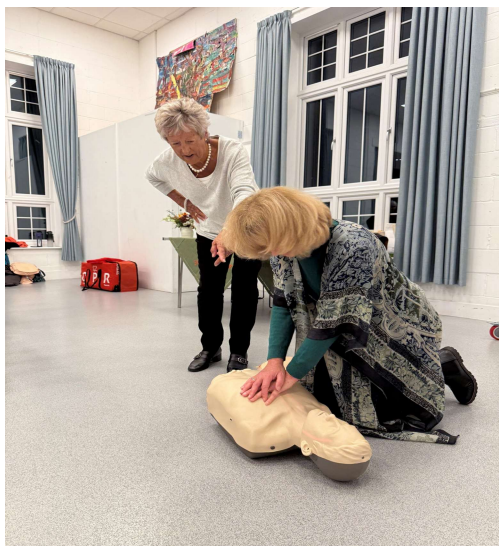
1. **Nearer to Nature**

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.

5. **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.



Bystanders (cont'd)**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION –
AFTERNOON TEA**

We are very much looking forward to our annual holiday get together. Many of our members will be gathering at Gallery30 in Petersfield for a holiday Afternoon Tea this year instead of our normal evening meal.

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 ~£5 Secret Santa gift for a bit of fun!

ORCHESTRA TEA

Thanks to the generosity of our members, we once again provided a delightful afternoon tea for the Petersfield Orchestra. Homemade scones, cakes, fruit, and sandwiches were shared, along with plenty of good cheer, as our volunteers supported the 64 talented players. The musicians were full of gratitude, with comments like, *"It's the only reason I come to these!"* and *"Fabulous as always!"* echoing around the room. Beyond the treats, it was a chance to enjoy each other's company, strengthen friendships, and give back to the community. A simple gesture, but one that brought joy to everyone involved. **We could not do this without you!**



JOHN LEWIS SHOPPING EVENT

Carol and Leah joined the annual WI trip to John Lewis in Southampton this year, and what a lively evening it was! From the moment we arrived, we were greeted with a glass of prosecco—or a comforting tea or coffee—before setting off to explore the store.

Waitrose treated us to irresistible samples: rich cakes, crackers with chutney, zingy lemon custard pies, and refreshing gin with lemonade. More gins were dotted around the shop, making it a true tasting adventure.

Entertainment was everywhere: game demos, Cricut crafts, a mini fashion show from Phase Eight and Hobbs, and even the chance to try a “non-surgical facelift.” With so much happening, the two and a half hours flew by far too quickly.

Of course, we still managed a little shopping spree, happily spending our £10 vouchers. A sparkling evening of laughter, treats, and fun—definitely one to remember!

KEEP OUR WI ALIVE – ACT NOW!

We hope you've seen the fantastic program we've lined up for 2026! But without new officers and committee members, it cannot go ahead.

Rosemary and Carol will step down as Treasurer and President in May—two essential roles. If no one steps forward, we'll be forced to cancel the program and close the branch. Full role descriptions are on pages 5–6.

Our WI means so much: monthly meetings, socials, friendships, and community. But it cannot continue without your help.

Please consider: do we carry on, or let it fold? If you value what we've built, now is the time to act.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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.