STROUD EVENING WI
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 18 | AUGUST 2026



AND EVENING WITH SPINNAKER SHANTY

Our July gathering was a special OPEN Meeting, giving members the chance to welcome friends and family for an evening of music, history, and lively storytelling with the Spinnaker Shanty. The group originally came together to support an event aboard HMS *Victory* in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, and their enthusiasm for traditional sea-shanties has grown into a wonderfully engaging programme they now share with audiences across the region.

Throughout the evening, the performers blended songs with fascinating insights into the origins of shanty singing—how sailors used rhythm and repetition to coordinate work, lift spirits, and build camaraderie at sea. Their knowledge of maritime history added richness to every tune, and their easy humour made the session feel relaxed and inclusive.

Guests were invited to join in using the song sheets provided, and many did so with gusto. The room quickly filled with voices, laughter, and the unmistakable energy that comes from singing together. It was a joy to see members and visitors alike taking part, whether belting out a chorus or simply tapping along. (cont'd P2)

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday **11th August**

19:30-21:30

Doors open at 19:10

Refreshments Served following our meeting.

STROUD VILLAGE HALL

Ramsdean Road

Petersfield (Stroud)

AUGUST

OPEN MEETING

A Conspiracy History of the World *with Andy Thomas*, who tells the remarkable story of conspiracy theory, as seen through the eyes of those who challenge the establishment version of events

NEW WI SUPPORTER

We are delighted to welcome **Dame Sarah Mullally**, *the first female Archbishop of Canterbury* (and the 106th leader of the Church of England) as an official Supporter of the WI. The Women's Institute is a religiously neutral organisation, but we are incredibly honoured by the Archbishop pledging her admiration and personal support in joining our movement.

Archbishop Dame Sarah said:

"The National Federation of Women's Institutes has a long history of supporting, connecting and empowering its members. For over 100 years, women of all ages and backgrounds have helped tackle pressing issues in our society, from social isolation to community cohesion. Where there are Women's Institutes, individual lives can be changed through friendship and fellowship, and communities transformed. These principles are as relevant today as when the WI was first founded, and I look forward to supporting the organisation in its work."

AN EVENING WITH SPINNAKER SHANTY (cont'd)

The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, and we look forward to welcoming the Spinnaker Shanty again in the future.





SEPTEMBER 16 IS WI DAY!

This year is extra special as the WI marks **111 years of sisterhood**, empowerment, community action, and creating positive change.

To celebrate in style, the WI are picking purple for this year's WI Day parties. Why? Purple was the colour of the Suffragettes, and in colour therapy it symbolises loyalty, creativity, and wisdom – values that are very WI!

We encourage members to wear their favourite shades of purple and bring lilac and violet into your decorations, crafts, food, and drinks to max out the fun!

We are looking into an afternoon tea to celebrate either on the day or around that day. We hope you will be able to join us, please mark you diary!

ANNUAL MEETING MEET UP IN HULL!

Do you want to go to the annual meeting next year? Let us know! Register your interest for a WI picnic in a designated green space in Hull City Centre on Wednesday 2 June 2027. Further details will be shared in due course but please note this get together will take the form of a late afternoon bring-your-own picnic with an opportunity to meet and socialise with other WI members. Link to register your interest - 2027 Annual Meeting member meet-up 2 June – Fill in form

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

August

4 – Committee- 7 ★ @1800

11 – "A Conspiracy History of the World" with Andy Thomas **OPEN MEETING**

September

1 – Committee- 7 ★ @1800

8 – Wine tasting and cheese pairing

October

6 - Committee- 7 ★ @1800

November

3 – Committee- 7 ★ @1800

10 – Charity Fashion Show

11 – John Lewis Shopping Evening @1730

26 – Orchestra Teas @1430 - 1645

HAMPSHIRE NEWS

Good news! As requested by some members, we will again supply a limited number of copies of the Hampshire News, starting in September. As mentioned in our July meeting, we will be purchasing 5 copies per month of the Hampshire News, available on a first come, first served basis. Please consider sharing with other members. This will be on a trial basis to ensure


Volunteers
WANTED
for Christmas Craft
Dabble Day!
We're looking for volunteers
to demonstrate their favourite
Christmas craft at our Dabble Day!
DATE:
Saturday, 14 November 2026
VENUE:
WI House, Eastleigh
DEMONSTRATION TIME:
30–45 minutes per session
Whether you enjoy paper crafts,
festive decorations, knitting, sewing,
wreath making, or any other
Christmas craft,
we'd love to hear from you!
For more information or to volunteer,
please contact
melodymorgan@hampshirewi.org.uk
by end of August 2026
theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN