



*Happy New Year!*



## ATTLEBOROUGH WI

### Newsletter January/February 2026

#### **Members' Meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Hilda welcomed members to our first meeting of the year. It was nice to see a few visitors (some of them return visitors): Melanie, Rachel, Ronnie, Aunty Pam and Ali. And there were several apologies, from Ruth, Chris F, Bev, Margaret L and Margaret A, Tilly and Kathleen.

It was going to be a busy afternoon, so without any further ado, Hilda introduced our speaker, Chris Brown, Chief Executive Solicitor with Foster Solicitors. His talk was entitled "A Case for Defence".

Chris had us all enthralled with his fascinating talk about his work, including the successful appeal against a man's conviction for murder. Chris was happy to answer a few questions from members at the end of his talk.

Refreshments were then served, with the help of Maggie, Debbie and Rosemary, and there were some delicious home made cakes. After a short break, we then moved on to discussion of the five proposed WI Resolutions for this year. Each resolution was briefly outlined for members, before we voted on the one which we, individually, wanted to see taken forward as a national campaign for 2026. The resolution which gained most points (13) was "Action on Women's Homelessness". This result will be sent to Federation Office. The National Board of Trustees will look at the selected resolutions and will decide which should go forward; this will be published in WI Life. Final voting on the Resolution(s) will take place at our May meeting.

The record of our meeting in November was approved by members, and there were no matters arising. All agreed that our Christmas Lunch at The Crown was really enjoyable – good food and good company! Genevieve then read out the latest correspondence – upcoming events are detailed overleaf. Clare Pollock introduced herself as our new Treasurer (Ann will be on hand to help if needed). Clare announced that membership subscriptions for WI will be due by the March meeting. The new fees are £54 (up from £51 last year). But she was delighted to say that as this is our 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Year, it has been agreed that our subs will be subsidised and the fee due will be £50 (ie cheaper than last year!).

Details of upcoming events and dates of meetings for our Sub Groups are overleaf. Members were also informed that our April meeting has been moved to 29<sup>th</sup> April as the Federation Annual Meeting takes place on 22<sup>nd</sup> April

There were six lucky winners of our raffle, and a grand total of 9 entries for the competition "Your Favourite Crime Writer in Ten Words". Clare was delighted to win with her entry on C J Sansom. For thought for the month, Hilda read out a lovely poem on Hugs and Genevieve had a short thought: "May your troubles last as long as your New Year's Resolutions". The meeting ended at 3.45pm.

### Resolution Voting (for information)

1. Accessible public toilet facilities: 10 votes
2. Action on Women's homelessness: 13 votes
3. Nearer to Nature: 0 votes
4. Love your Vulva: 3 votes
5. Every child needs a friend: 5 votes

### Outings (Betty)

24<sup>th</sup> February: Carousel. Meet at Queen's Square bus stop at 5.55pm.

Betty is currently working on other outings for us over the year!

Please also let Betty have a photos you take at any of our activities and sub groups for our 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Scrapbook

### Our Sub Groups

#### Craft (Ruth)

Next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> February. BYO work and Show & Tell of recently completed work

#### Book Club (Clare)

Next meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> February. Book "Island of Missing Trees" by Elif Shafak

#### Walk 'n Talk (Chris)

Next meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> February: Lynford Arboretum. Meet at Sainsbury's at 10am

#### Cookery (Hilda)

16<sup>th</sup> February: Mushroom Theme with demos. £3 entry.

#### Singing (Genevieve)

9<sup>th</sup> February at Kate's

### Future Events

**18<sup>th</sup> February:** Coffee Morning at Black Door Eatery

**March:** Book Fair at the Town Hall. Dates to be confirmed

**16<sup>th</sup> April:** Guiltcross Meeting in Old Buckenham Town Hall. Speaker will be Matt Squance talking about Drag and the Power of Make-up. £2 entry fee

**18<sup>th</sup> April:** Spring Fair at St Mary's

**22<sup>nd</sup> April:** Federation Annual meeting at Theatre Royal. Headline Speaker: Author Joanne Harris. Contact Genevieve for observer tickets.

**6<sup>th</sup> May:** CPR Training for Attleborough WI with East Anglian Air Ambulance in the Town Hall.

### Upcoming Federation Events

**12<sup>th</sup> February:** Learn about the WI Learning Hub (was Denman, soon to be called VIA), 1030 to 1230, ES House

**19<sup>th</sup> March:** Get Comfortable Online, 1030 to 1230, ES House

**10<sup>th</sup> March:** Auditions Day, 10am to 4pm. Southery Village Hall, Downham Market

**11th and 12<sup>th</sup> April:** Centenary Salver Competition, Honingham Village Hall (**Note: Attleborough WI will have an entry for this competition – do come and see us there**)

**20<sup>th</sup> April:** Resolutions Meeting, ES House

Further information and tickets may be found here: <https://norfolk.thewi.org.uk/news>

### Our Next Meeting: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

Our speaker will be from Ladies in Pigs (re-scheduled from last year). We will learn about versatile and wholesome pork. The competition will be three home-made sausage rolls

