

April 2026- WI Meeting Minutes

Joanna welcomed members, with a special welcome to new member **Sandy Cannon**. The meeting opened with the singing of *Jerusalem*.

Apologies were received from Janet, Lesley, Lydia, Marion M, Pam C, Shirley, and Veronica. The **March minutes** and **Risk Assessment** were available for members to view.

Matters Arising

Joanna reported that our team (7 women, 1 man, and his dog!) thoroughly enjoyed the Town Twinning Quiz Night, finishing in second place.

Our noticeboard now displays a list of upcoming Spring/Summer events, along with a copy of the CHWI poem written by last month's speaker, Claire Pasquale.

Correspondence

Debbie informed members of a change in the law, meaning that only women registered female at birth are eligible to join. She read the additional sentence now included on the registration form.

Spring bulb catalogues were offered again, but there were no orders.

Joanna reminded members about the **Suggestion & Feedback Box**.

County News

An advert has been placed for **Gerry's High Quality Fabric Giveaway** (donations welcome), taking place on **Saturday 23rd May, 1–4pm in the studio**. Several members expressed interest.

Vilma, Ann, and Veronica will assist Joanna, Susan, and Sue A with refreshments.

Sub-Committees

- **Book Club:** Meeting on Wednesday 15th April, 7:30pm at Lesley's (7 Franklin Close).
- **Gardening Club:** Congratulations to members who have enhanced the Bill Franklin memorial garden and four heath planters.

Next meeting: visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor gardens on Friday 17th April.

Joanna reminded members of the **booking policy for outings**: if you cancel, you must still pay or find a replacement.

Outings

Sign-up sheets were circulated for the following:

1. **Bluebell Woods Walk** – Saturday 25th April, 11:00am
2. **Bletchley Park Visit** – Saturday 4th July
 - Coach pick-up: 9:30am
 - Arrival: 10:45am (4-hour visit)
 - Cost: £45 per person
 - Minimum: 28 people
 - Partners/friends welcome
 - Confirmation required by 16th April
3. **Lavender Fields Tour & Cream Tea** – Tuesday 28th July, 2:00pm
 - £18 per person + travel
 - Minimum: 20 people
 - Partners/friends welcome
4. **OVO Roman Outdoor Theatre – *The Scarlet Pimpernel*** – Thursday 25th June
 - Amanda to arrange block booking for group seating

Sue Rowland also offered a **Town Twinning Canal Boat Trip** on 20th June.

Future Plans

- **St George's Day Tea** – Thursday 23rd April, 2:30pm at Susan's (£5 per person)
- **Signs of Spring (HFWI initiative) & Litter Pick** – Saturday 9th May, 2:00pm
 - Meet at the village shop
 - Bring gloves and a sack
 - Refreshments at Joanna's afterwards
- **Village Hall Summer Open Day** – Saturday 13th June, 2–5pm
 - WI promotional stall
 - "Guess the Weight of Joanna's Fruit Cake" competition
 - Volunteers needed for refreshments
- **School Summer Fair** – Saturday 27th June
 - Plants & Pies stall (expenses covered)

Next Meeting

Thursday 14th May – Resolutions/AGM and Craft & Produce Stall

Members are reminded to bring items.

- Competition: *Flowers in a Wine Glass*
- Refreshments: Isobel and Sue Rowland assisting Veronica
- Vote of Thanks (VOT): Not required

Any Other Business

Joanna announced that a new plaque for the WI Tree in the Community Park has been prepared and will be mounted on a stone. Further details to follow.

Guest Speaker

Members enjoyed a highly informative talk by **Alison Wall** on *Plague Houses and Pandemics*, including comparisons between the **Great Plague of 1665** and the **COVID-19 pandemic (2020)**.

Gerry delivered the **Vote of Thanks**.

Competition & Raffle

- Competition (*Something Spotty*): Won by Sue Rowland (mini martini glass)
- Raffle: Drawn

Joanna reminded members about the **St George's Day Tea** and the **next meeting on 14th May**.

The meeting closed with the **National Anthem**.