
CHWI Meeting Minutes – March 2026

Joanna welcomed members to the birthday meeting, with a special greeting to visitors Simmy, Kit, and Sandy. The Institute celebrated its **73rd anniversary**.

Members sang *Jerusalem* and remained standing for a minute's silence in memory of Ruth Herman.

Apologies were received from Di, Iris, Lydia, Marion M, Sarah, Shirley, and Sue C.

The **February minutes** and **Risk Assessment** were available for members to view.

Matters Arising

Joanna reminded members to ensure they had collected a copy of the *Tips & Hints* leaflet compiled from last year's suggestions.

She thanked Judy and Lesley for hosting the *Chain Reaction Cheese & Wine Evening*, which was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Both were given a well-deserved round of applause for their generosity.

Correspondence

Debbie:

- Shared Pat Pauley's amusing reply regarding the Competition Cup and photographs.
- Read a thank-you card from Verso Care Food Bank for the seven bags of donated items.
- Reported that welcome letters had been delivered to occupied homes at Colney Manor, which had already resulted in a new visitor, Simmy, attending the meeting.
- Distributed Spring Bulb catalogues and information about a Health Screening Day at County House.
- Reminded members that subscriptions (£54) are due next month.
- Explained that, due to changes in the law, membership is restricted to women registered female at birth.
- Confirmed that the top national WI resolutions matched those voted for locally:
Accessible Public Toilets and **Action on Women's Homelessness**.

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

County News

Joanna highlighted Amanda's report (p.9) and asked for interest in a lavender field tour with cream tea (p.5). Seven members expressed interest.

Sub-Committees & Activities

- **Book Club:** Wednesday 15th April, 7:30pm at Lesley's, 7 Franklin Close
- **Gardening Club:** Wednesday 25th March, 2:00pm in the studio
 - Members asked to sign a volunteer form for the Bill Franklin Memorial Garden
- **Outings:**
 - Approx. 15 members interested in a trip to Bletchley Park (£45, 9:00am–2:00pm, date TBC)
 - Bluebell woods visit: Saturday 25th April (time TBC)

- **Town Twinning Quiz (Saturday):** WI team – Joanna, Pam R, Elizabeth, Janet, Pam C (plus friend), Tom, and Gerry
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Future Plans

- Craft & Produce Stall (May) – members to prepare items
 - Chain Reaction St George's Day Tea – Thursday 23rd April, 2:30pm at Susan's
 - Thanks to Jackie for volunteering to provide plain/fruit scones
 - Village Hall Open Day – Saturday 13th June, 2:00–5:00pm
 - “Guess the Weight of Joanna's Fruit Cake” competition
 - School Summer Fair – Saturday 27th June
 - Planned *Plants & Pies* stall (expenses claimable)
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Next Meeting

9th April: Speaker – Alison Wall on *Plague Houses & Pandemics*

- VOT: Gerry
 - Competition: *Something Spotty!*
 - Refreshments: Anne and Vilma assisting Monica
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Any Other Business

- Members were asked to promote Gerry's *High Quality Fabric Sale* (donations welcome):
Saturday 23rd May, 1:00–4:00pm in the studio
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Meeting Close

Members enjoyed an excellent buffet followed by entertainment from Clare Pasquale, whose humorous verses covered topics such as food and drink, changing room experiences, and brain fog. She also performed a specially written piece about CHWI, along with a popular poem titled *Men's Mid-life Crisis*.

Joanna gave the vote of thanks.

Mavis cut the birthday cake made by Sue A.

- **Competition Winner (Funny Card):** Sue Rowland
- **Raffle:** Drawn

Joanna reminded members about the Quiz Night and the next meeting on 9th April. The meeting closed with the National Anthem.