Whitley WI
Annual Report
2026

Our Committee and Members

Our new President for 2026 is Jean Waite, leading a smaller committee this year of 9 members



We started the year with 62 members, and finish the year with 59 members

Average attendance at our main meetings was 38 members

Whitley WI – 2026 Committee



December 2025 – our Christmas Party





We met at the Village Hall and enjoyed a delicious buffet prepared by our Committee. We had a very sociable evening with some informal entertainment.

January 2026
Phone Photography

Our Speaker was Marc Byron, a professional photographer who gave us tips on taking pictures using our phones

The weather was very poor so we finished early, just missed the blizzard!.



February 2026 - Our Birthday Meeting
Secrets of Handwriting

We celebrated our 88th birthday, with a beautiful cake cut by 2 or our longest serving members – Jean Pace and Jean Leicester. Thanks to Ann for making the cake





Our Speaker was Susan Ord talking to us about 'Secrets of Handwriting. A fascinating insight..

WI Resolutions 2026

The Resolutions and the Whitley vote were

1 Accessible Public toilets to promote dignity, health and social inclusion
2 Action on women's homelessness
3 Nearer to Nature
4 Love your Vulva
5 Every child needs a friend

The votes for us, and for Cheshire were for 1 followed by 2. At the annual conference the choice was also

1 Accessible Public Toilets

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March 2026
Cyber Safety

Our speaker was Philip Lawrence explaining the risks when using our phones/computers. Hopefully we are all less likely to be scammed if we follow his advice.



April 2026
Art for Everyone – Gill Adlington

Gill used her oil paints and a ‘wet-on-wet’ technique to produce a lovely waterside picture. The room was silent as everyone was engrossed in her demonstration.



We had hoped to invite her back for us to have a practical session,but she has since retired.

April 2026
Village Group Spring Lunch





This was well supported by Whitley members and guests included the new Chair of the Cheshire Federation, Ann Beckett. The event included a Bring and Buy stall – there wasn't a lot left on that at the end of the meeting!.

May 2026
David Poppitt – The History of the Christie Hospital

David, a retired Christie doctor talked about the very special atmosphere of the Christie hospital, and pointed out the difference that the advent of xrays and scans made to the treatment of cancer



May Outing 2026
Cheshire Museum of Policing



Pat organised our trip to the museum in Warrington, followed by lunch at Grill on the Square.

We had a very interesting guided tour, spread over many rooms.



June 2026
Garden Party





Thanks to Jonty for opening her lovely garden to us. It was an extremely warm day in this record breaking hot summer but there was plenty of shade. Members enjoyed delicious refreshments made by our members

June 2026 – Joint meeting with Dutton

All Things Bread with Ma Baker



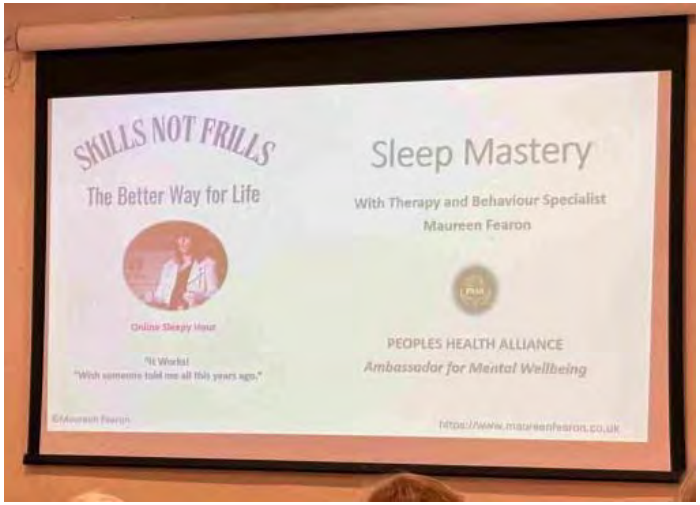


Dutton WI gave us a really warm welcome and an excellent speaker, Ma Baker (Liz Wilson). She demonstrated very vigorous bread making and had brought along different types of delicious bread for us to taste and to raffle.

July 2026

Techniques for Mastering Good Sleep





Our speaker, Maureen Fearon gave us some tips for how to get a good night's sleep – something many of us struggle with.

2026 August Outing
Tour of Lion Salt Works and meal at Antrobus Arms





Thanks to Pat for organising a very interesting guided tour of our local and very interesting museum. The displays demonstrate very well the scale and variety of processes – no mines, but lots of brine tanks!

September 2026
Norton Priory and its history



Norton Priory - Tracey Crutchley, a volunteer at the priory, brought the story of building and its 900 yrs of history to life for us. The museum displays thousands of objects discovered at the site. Beautiful gardens and walks surround the buildings.

October 2026

Adventures of a full-time poet - John Lindley

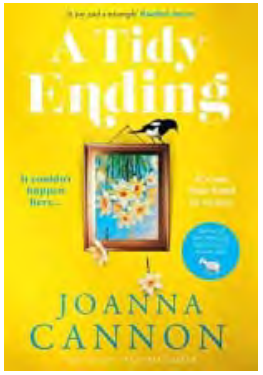
Traditionally our October meeting has been organised by a group of members. We decided to have a normal meeting this year.

Our speaker was John Lindley,
ex Poet Laureate of Cheshire.
He shared some of his poems with us which were very entertaining. Thanks and congratulations to Alison who gave the Vote of Thanks in verse – it was the first time John has had that experience!

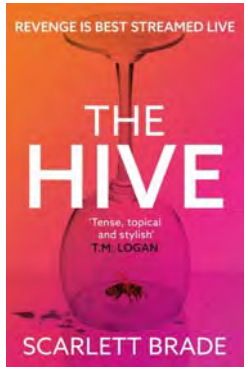


Book Club

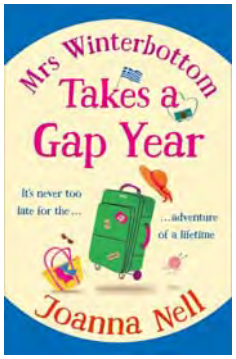
Thanks to Helen Carey for organising this group. Come along on a Monday morning to discuss our book of the month, and other books members have read.



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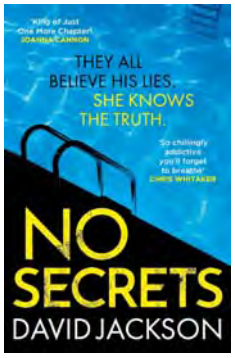
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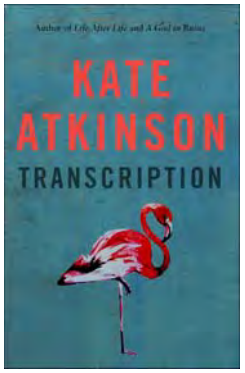
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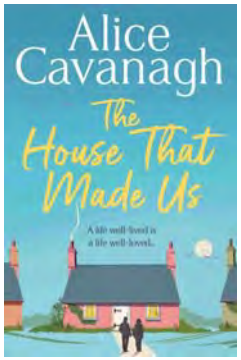
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Scores out of 10 are given for each book, borrowed from the library



Bowling and Darts Group



Thanks to Ann Tolson for organising these groups.

Darts – our members do enjoy their weekly practice sessions during the wiinter months. We entered the CFWI competition, but didn't reach the final this year

Bowls – we entered 2 teams in the CFWI competition. Our teams played well but didn't get through to the semi final stage

The Adelaide Hough WI Bowling trophy was won by **Ann Brock** this year.



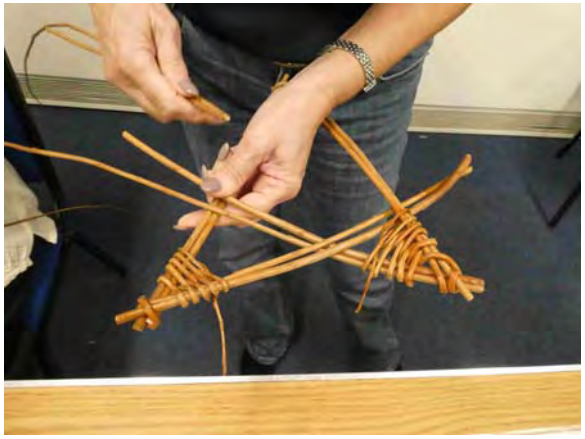
Craft Group





Thanks to Annette for organising this group.







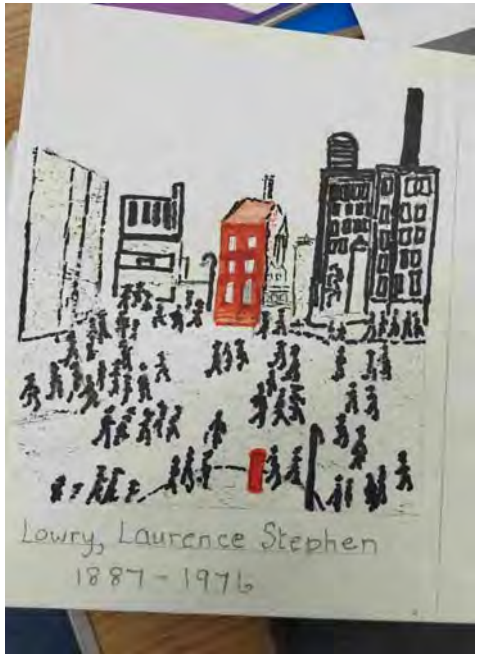
A busy year - Gift Boxes, Christmas Wreaths, Paper flowers, Crystallising Primroses, Button Cards, Scarecrows, Willow woven stars and an Afternoon Tea

Art Group









Thanks to Jean Waite and Susan Lynch for organising this group

Different ideas - Christmas cards, Squirrels, visit to the Lady Lever Art Gallery, Paint and Sip, Fruit/veg, Lowry, Outdoor painting at Walton Gardens, Beach scenes

Walking Group





Thanks to Ann O'Brien for organising this group.

Walking, talking and lunching – a great way to get to know people better. Walks around Neumann's flash, Sutton Weaver, Marbury Park, Little Budworth, Delamere Forest, Whitegate Way





Baking Beauties Group





Thanks to Jonty and Chris for organising this group.

Lots of different ideas, It's fun to share and discuss successes and failures!

Halloween, Christmas Bakes, 4oz fat and flour baking with vegetables,choux pastry, strawberries, pastry, autumn bakes.



National, County and Group Events

National Federation (NFWI) have a national voice including the annual Resolutions. They run the Learning Hub, a really good way to learn lots of new skills on line. Free to WI members

Cheshire Federation -CFWI organise lots of activities during the year which our members can join including Spring and Autumn meetings, Literary lunch and different courses. Pat Sharp is and advisor and organises the annual Literary Lunch

Village Group organise Spring and Autumn events included earlier in this report, and the annual Christmas Carol concert. Melanie Barber is their President.

Whitley WI
Looking forward to 2027

Your committee have lots planned already for next year, and hope you will try some new activities with us



Thanks to our fantastic members for your enthusiasm and support