



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WI



The WI can be everything you want it to be
We offer all women all kinds of opportunities

The WI is the largest women's organisation in the UK. We are a dynamic group of women who love learning and are proud to be a force for good in our communities, working together to create a positive impact.

Established in 1915 to give women a voice at a time when we were meant to be seen but not heard, we see ourselves as a modern voice for women and that includes you, because together we are stronger.

Structure of the WI



**Your
local WI**

National Federation of WIs

The National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) oversees the running of the organisation.

Suffolk West Federation of WIs

Every WI in West Suffolk belongs to Suffolk West Federation of WI's (SWFWI). SWFWI oversees Suffolk West WIs and offers a range of activities that allow members to turn their interests into achievements and their concerns into campaigns.

Your WI

WIs are in towns and villages across West Suffolk. Each WI is an independent charity and follows the WI Constitution, whilst being unique in what they offer.

WIs are safe spaces filled with friendship and learning. They meet monthly and most also offer additional activities.

WIs are run by members for members. Every April, a committee and President are elected to take your WI from strength to strength so please consider joining your committee.

Campaign with the WI



The WI
campaigning for
change since
1918

PAST CAMPAIGNS



1943 Equal Pay
for Equal Work
Bures WI (SWFWI) set
the ball rolling for equality.



1954 Keep Britain Tidy
Led to the formation of the
Keep Britain Tidy group.



1972 Family Planning
Achieved free birth
control for all women.



2009 SOS Honeybee
Raising awareness of the
plight of the honey bee.



2018 Make Time
for Mental Health
Making mental health as
accepted as physical health



2024 Dental
Health Matters
Campaigning for
investment in Dentistry.



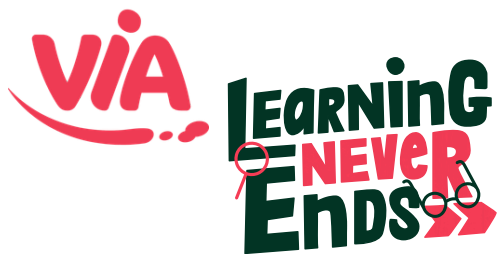
2025 Bystanders Can
Be Lifesavers
Increasing confidence
and training in CPR

The WI has a rich history in campaigning. Every campaign starts as a resolution, it's a chance for members to turn their concerns into national campaigns backed by the WI.

Every September, your WI can submit a resolution to NFWI. After an elimination process, WIs vote on the proposed resolutions in two stages. The final vote is counted at NFWI's Annual Meeting in June where the WI's next campaign is revealed!

Find out more www.swfwi.org.uk/campaign

Learning via the WI



Lifelong learning, VIA the WI.

Learning has always been part of who we are at the WI - and now it has a new digital home.

As the world evolves, so do the ways we access knowledge. VIA is the WI's new online learning platform, designed to reflect the lives, interests and needs of today's learners.

From building new skills to exploring everyday topics, VIA offers flexible, accessible courses that fit around real life - whether you're learning from home or with your WI.

Learning opens doors, builds confidence, and connects us. VIA is where that happens!

VIA is open to everyone, but as a WI member it is included as part of your membership (with members enjoying free access to most courses).

To get started, watch VIA's short introductory video here: www.swfwi.org.uk/resources/ or follow these easy, step-by-step instructions:

- Visit www.via.thewi.org.uk/
- Click on the Login tab (top right-hand of screen).
- Either click on the WI logo, or use the Login with WI button.
- If you've already activated your My WI account, you'll be prompted to enter your My WI login details.
- If you haven't accessed My WI before, enter your email then click forgotten password, and follow the instructions to continue.

Your WI Membership

SIGN UP



When you sign up, you will receive from your WI:

- Member Registration form
- EDI Inclusion Policy
- GDPR form
- Gift Aid form (optional)
- WI Programme

When you return your forms, you will pay your subscription to your WI Treasurer.

Subscriptions are renewed annually on 1 April and are divided three ways.

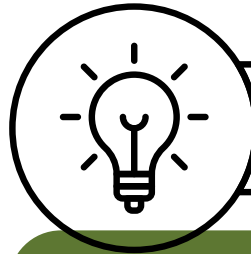
● Your WI ● SWFWI ● NFWI



Approx. 50% of your subscription is kept by your WI to contribute towards running costs.

SWFWI receives 25% for running costs including staff salaries, as well as training for WIs and the publication of The WI Hive.

NFWI receive the final 25% to cover the cost of WI Life, training, campaigning and running costs.



DID YOU KNOW?

YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF MORE THAN ONE WI.

You only pay the NFWI and SWFWI fee when joining your primary WI. At your other WI you pay the WI fee only. There is no limit on how many WIs you can join.



Our SWFWI office is based at Park Farm Business Centre in Fornham St Genevieve.

The WI office is managed by our Federation Secretary who works alongside the Board of Trustees to ensure the Federation runs smoothly.

We also use the WI office for events and WI training. We're always pleased to see you!



FIND US AT

Unit 11

Park Farm Business Centre
Fornham St Genevieve
IP28 6TS



Tuesday - Wednesday

10AM - 4PM

Thursday

10AM - 2PM



CONTACT US

fedsec@swfwi.org.uk

01284 336644

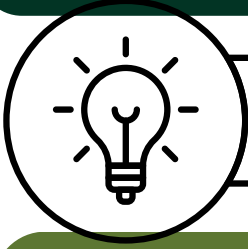
STAY UP TO DATE

Never miss the latest news and events from SWFWI. Visit

swfwi.org.uk
to subscribe
to our mailing
list today!



SWFWI Volunteers



DID YOU KNOW?

With the exception of our Federation Secretary, SWFWI is run by Suffolk West WI members who volunteer their time and skills to keep SWFWI thriving.



SWFWI TRUSTEES

Our Board of Trustees oversee the running of the Federation.

- Trustees are elected by WIs every three years.
- Additional trustees can be co-opted in anytime.
- SWFWI's Chair, Treasurer and Vice Chairs are elected annually by the Trustees.

SWFWI TEAMS

Run by dedicated WI members, our teams deliver events and workshops for Suffolk West members.

Membership Support Team

Here to support your WI.

Public Affairs

Informing members on campaigns.

Sports & Creative Leisure

Keeping members' active.

Events

Run large events like theatre trips.



BECOME A TRUSTEE OR JOIN A TEAM

To keep SWFWI thriving, we always looking for new members to join us with fresh ideas and skill sets. To get involved contact

fedsec@swfwi.org.uk

Welcome to the WI

Now you've registered with your WI, your details will be added to the Membership Communication System (MCS).

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Once you're on the MCS you'll receive the following membership perks.

My WI login

www.mywi.thewi.org.uk

Exclusively for members, it's the place to find everything you need to get the most from your membership

WI Life

The WI magazine will be delivered to your door.

VIA

www.via.thewi.org.uk/

Access to the WI's digital home for learning as part of their ongoing commitment to educate and inspire.



Your WI subscription is invaluable. The more you become involved, the greater your enjoyment and the better value your subscription is.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US

Visit our website
www.swfwi.org.uk



FOLLOW US @swfwi