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**Using WI Funds**

**WI funds belong to the charity, not the members. That means, while WI members should be consulted, it is ultimately the committee members who decide how to use WI funds. Funds should be used in a modest, justifiable and a reasonable way and serve WI purposes.**

**What can I use WI funds for?**

There are a number of uses for WI funds, which include:

* **educational bursaries** – to Denman or a local educational course
* the cost of **a day at Denman** – transport costs paid by members themselves
* paying for **specialist tutors**
* buying the **federation newsletter** for all members
* **providing refreshments** at monthly meetings
* printing the **WI’s programme**
* paying for help with washing-up or **cleaning venues** at monthly meetings
* funding **educational trips** – in place of a monthly WI meeting
* making **charitable donations** – for more information, refer to the [WI's Fundraising Guidelines](https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/wi-finances/fundraising-guidelines) (below)

**Paying for WI parties and social outings**

WI parties and social outings must be processed through the WI’s accounts. Money must be collected from members before booking and paying deposits for venues, travel, food etc. Deposits cannot be borrowed from WI funds as social events are not a justifiable use of charitable funds.

WI fundraising guidelines

 **Follow our guide to raising funds for and supporting charitable projects, causes and appeals through your WI.**

### **Need to know: WIs and charitable status**

Each WI is a charity, governed by the WI Constitution. Under these guidelines every WI can raise funds for causes that further the objects set out in the constitution, which are:

1. To advance the education of women and girls for the public benefit in all areas including:

* **political and social issues** – on a local, national and international scale
* **cultural subjects** – such as music and drama
* **agriculture, crafts, home economics, science, health** and **social welfare**

2. To promote sustainable development which meets the needs of future generations without compromising those of the present generation by:

* educating people in the **conservation of the environment**and the responsible use of natural resources
* promoting **sustainable economic growth**

3. To advance public health.

4. To advance public citizenship by promoting civic responsibility and volunteering.

### **What kind of causes can WIs support?**

WIs can support any project or cause that falls within the WI objects, for example:

* raising funds for **bursaries or scholarships** to study arts, crafts and sciences
* improving or supporting a **hall** **or other facility** that benefits the local community
* raising funds for an **events day** where women can take part in arts and craft activities, and/or attend talks and workshops on culture and citizenship
* providing facilities or equipment for a **local hospital**
* raising funds for an **appeal to rebuild a local community centre** that has been damaged by flooding

### **What kinds of causes can WIs not support?**

There are several causes and projects WIs cannot support because they do not further their charitable objects, such as:

* a project to **prevent cruelty to animals**
* a **generic appeal** to help refugees
* raising funds to**help an individual** **rebuild her house**or **pay for hospital treatment**
* an appeal to help **rehabilitate soldiers** injured in action
* an appeal to send parcels or provisions to**children abroad**

As well as falling within the objects of the WI Constitution, any cause supported by a WI must also benefit as many people as possible. WIs should not support projects or causes that only help one individual or exclude anyone.