

CROWTON WI REPORT JULY 2026

Our Presidents Jane and Diana welcomed everyone with news of each other and confirmed that our August Meeting would be an Afternoon tea at Abbey Wood.

We welcomed our guest speaker for the evening, Heidi from Petty Pool. Many of the members remember it as the Pettypool Campsite and Activity Centre for Girl Guiding however it's their neighbour, Petty Pool College that Heidi had come to talk to us about.

Based in Sandiway Cheshire, Petty Pool is set in 40 acres of woodland, and is a charity established in May 1981 with sheltered workshops and portacabins at the time, which moved to its current site in 1999. In 2025 it became an independent college providing education and training for young people with learning disabilities and difficulties. Busy and hectic at times the College is thriving,' there is never a quiet day at Petty Pool', Heidi told us.

The children have a huge range of difficulties and significant needs and all have an Education and Health Care Plan, EHCP. The College aims to provide every learner with an effective and enjoyable learning experience that empowers them to reach their full potential. The focus is on what young people can do and not what they can't.

Venturewood is their outdoor learning experience with links to Delamere Forest which helps young people grow and connect to nature. There is a huge range of activities. The College has students completing the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme and work for the Prince's Trust. They also have placements in local businesses.

The College is growing rapidly with three phases of planned development with Phase 3 a purpose built college building to house 200 learners. This will require them to raise several million pounds!

The College runs events on and off site including pantomimes, singing and music festivals and there is also a coffee shop. Volunteers are welcome. Petty Pool sounds like a wonderful place empowering students with special needs to reach their full potential. There is so much more to the College so it's definitely worth checking their website.

Crowton WI meets on the first Tuesday of the month at Crowton Village Hall at 7.30pm. We have a successful craft group, weekly walking group and lunch club although all the activities often involve lunch! Do try and join us. You would be very welcome.

L Bailey