WARWICK INSTITUTE OF ENGAGEMENT





Annual Report

August 2025 to July 2026

Contents.



01. A Message From The Director

03. Our Vision, Commitments And Goals

05. The WIE Team

07. The WIE Fellowship and Membership

09. Partnerships

11. Public, Patient and Community Involvement

13. Building Capacity

15. Our Work With Students

17. Resonate Events

21. WIE and the Faculty of Arts

23. WIE and the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine

25. WIE and the Faculty of Social Sciences

27. WIE and the Professional Services and Technical Support

29. Engaging Across The Disciplines

31. The Collaboration and Co-Production Fund

33. The Warwick Awards for Public and Community Engagement

35. What Can WIE do for you?

37. Voices of Our Partners - What Has Working With WIE Meant To You?

A message from the Director



Hello and welcome to our fifth Annual Report. As ever, I am exceptionally proud of the work of all associated with Warwick Institute of Engagement that we're sharing here. From a busy and exciting events programme, our Resonate Festival, to a bumper crop of projects funded through our Collaboration and Co-Production and Co-Creation with Students Funds, I have been delighted to see what our work has enabled this year.

2025-26 was a big year for us in launching our Public, Patient and Community Involvement in Research at Warwick project in collaboration with colleagues from Warwick Medical School and with the guidance of expertise from around the university. Our Learning Circles also made amazing things happen from the Collaboration and Communities Learning Circle's fourth CO-LAB event, Empowerment Through Education, to the Public Engagement Pedagogies Learning Circle's creation of the Pedagogies of Engagement Handbook. As you can see for this report, WIE is so much more than the twelve of us who work for the Institute (though I couldn't wish for a better, more capable team). We rely on the hard work and dedication of those committed to public and community engagement and involvement around and outside of the university.

I want to close this introduction by offering gratitude and deep respect to Andrew Todd who stood down as our Co-Director this year following the closure of Warwick's Regional Team. Andrew helped to make WIE what it is today and he is sorely missed. I hope we can continue the good work that he started here at the Warwick Institute of Engagement.

Training

5,453 visits to our online training resources.

1350 attendances to **36** training sessions.

Events

8,621 attendees at **71** events run, shared, supported or funded and organised with **455** Warwick collaborators and **119** external organisations and artists.

Partners

216 external partners and artists have worked with us.

We have **589** Members as well as **142** Fellows.

Discover more

Awards

19 awards issued for public and community engagement to **28** individuals and teams.

Students

176 students were involved in **10** projects.

Including our Resonate programme, UG module, URSS support and the Co-Creation with Students Fund.

Funding

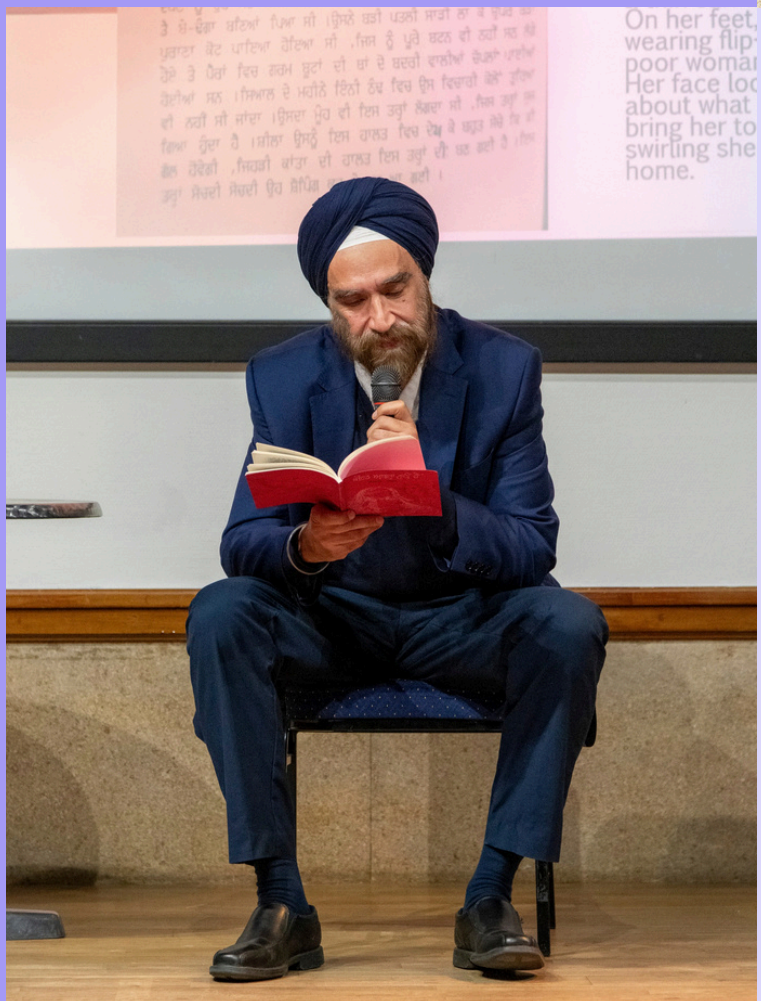
Our Collaboration and Co-Production, Events and Activities and Co-Creation with Students Funds have supported:

28 collaborative projects with **69** external organistions and artists

Our Mission, Commitments and Goals

In the last year we have continued to shape and refine our Mission, Commitments and Goals, to make sure that we can track our progress towards excellence in public and community engagement and involvement.





The mission

The Warwick Institute of Engagement empowers the University of Warwick's community to connect meaningfully with the wider world through inclusive, innovative, and impactful public and community engagement. We champion collaboration between staff, students, and communities to share knowledge, foster dialogue, and inspire change. By embedding engagement into the heart of university culture, we aim to make research and learning accessible, relevant, and transformative for all.

Our commitments and goals

From our mission are derived eight commitments. Each of these have clear goals by which we will measure our progress. Scan the code to view them in full.







01. Create Inspiring Experiences
02. Engage and Involve
03. Support Innovation
04. Increase Collaboration
05. Raise Ambitions
06. Engagement Futures
07. Strenghten the Field
08. Demonstrate Excellence

The WIE Team

We started this year by welcoming our Faculty Public Engagement Leads; Georgiana, James and Phil. They have been working hard within their respective faculties to support and inspire colleagues in their public engagement practice. After many faithful years of support and guidance, Andrew Todd stepped down as Co-Director due to the disbanding of the Regional Team. As a result, Jamie Ormes joined us to continue the great work he has been doing to engage our local communities within WIE. After securing funding from the Enhancing Research Culture Fund, we were able to launch a new project to coordinate our institutional approach to Public, Patient and Community Involvement. Helen Luckhurst was appointed as the project manager, which in turn created developmental opportunities within the team, allowing Kate to take the lead on our student projects and Abbie to cover event support part time. This project will be supported by HEIF from 2027 to 2030.







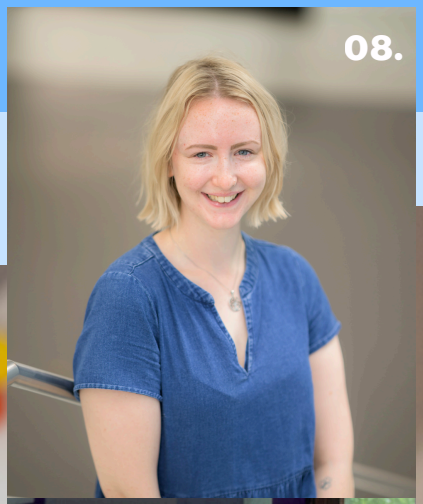






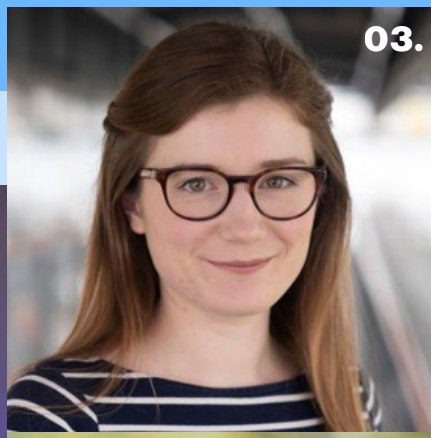
01. Abbie Roberts, Administrative Assistant / Events Coordinator
02. Dr Georgiana Mihut, Faculty Public Engagement Lead for the Faculty of Social Sciences
03. Helen Luckhurst, Patient, Public and Community Involvement Manager
04. Prof. Helen Wheatley, Academic Director
05. Dr James Hodkinson, Faculty Public Engagement Lead for the Faculty of Arts
06. Jamie Ormes, Community Partnerships Manager
07. Josh Oakes, Administrator
08. Kate Laister-Smith, Events Coordinator/ Student Engagement Officer
09. Dr Kerry Baker, Associate Director
10. Dr Laura Harford, Engagement Officer (Events Lead)
11. Naomi Kay, Engagement Manager
12. Dr Phil Jemmett, Faculty Public Engagement Lead for the Faculty of SEM.













Our Membership and Fellowship

After introducing our Membership scheme in March 2025, we have seen a growing interest from students and members of the public in our activities. This was reflected in our Membership numbers growing almost threefold since the last report.

Our Fellowship scheme remains popular and now offers more focussed involvement and benefits ranging from funding for personal development, support with promotion cases as well as career progression, among other schemes.

Discover more





154
Fellows

- 67 Fellows
- 55 Honorary Fellows
- 23 Senior Fellows
- 9 Regional Fellows



589
Members

- 333 Warwick Staff
- 178 Warwick Students
- 71 External Members
- 5 Other



Learning Circles

Our Learning Circles opened up their doors in 2025-26, with events, meetings and projects open to all our WIE Fellows and Members and coordinated by a set of Steering Groups made up of Fellows. Highlights have included the Co-Production and Communities fourth successful run of CO-LAB. This year's theme was Empowerment through Education and featured panels of staff, students and community partners discussing projects which bring Warwick and our local communities closer together, empowering both students and the communities they work with.

Our Pedagogies of Engagement Learning Circle has been busy working with people from departments across Warwick to create a *Practical Guide to Embedding Public and Community Engagement in the Higher Education Curriculum.* They also hosted a training session for staff thinking about embedding engaged pedagogy in their modules. And our International Learning Circle have launched a guest speaker series exploring what engagement looks like at universities around the globe.

We'd particularly like to thank our Evaluation Learning Circle who have chosen to end after five years. During this period they've supported toolkits, training, and one to one advice for people thinking about the evaluation of their public engagement activities

You can explore the work all of our Learning Circles are doing on our website by scanning the QR code on this page and if you've got an idea for a new one we welcome that too.



Partnerships

Working with our Regional Fellows

Our Regional Fellows have been selected from across Coventry and Warwickshire to help us build and strengthen links to communities and organisations in the region. They work with us to shape the strategic vision for WIE and our meetings with them enable us to understand how that vision resonates with campaigns and projects outside the HE sector. We hugely benefit from the expertise and knowledge they feed into the Institute, and we've been lucky to work on projects with a number of our Regional Fellows 2025-26. This year, for example, we worked with Hardish Virk on a number of events (including a Resonate Late at the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum and at our Summer Festival on campus) to raise the profile of his exhibition Stories That Made Us: Roots, Resilience, Representation and to connect its focus on the stories of South Asian communities in Coventry to work being done by colleagues around the university.





View the Exhibition



House of MASH

Visitors to Resonate may be familiar with the joyful presence of House of MASH at our Summer Festivals. This year, we had the opportunity to work with the local circus organisation in a whole new way – celebrating research from the University as part of a community led mini-musical! Inspired by the curiosity of their youth circus, the team debuted 'The Quest of Velvatina Stinger', which responded to research on 'Nature's Engineers' from the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine. Through song, dance, circus and a "Did you know?" show, anyone in the audience could join in with this innovative mash-up of arts and science.



Local Libraries

2026 is the National Year of Reading so we've been delighted to continue our collaborations with local libraries. From celebrating stories in community spaces to connecting on campus, we had the privilege of working with both Coventry and Warwickshire Libraries across a number of events – including the launch of our first ever under-fives programme at the Summer Festival supported by the Coventry Central Library Team.

Public, Patient and Community Involvement

This year, through a strategic partnership with Warwick's Research Culture initiative, we have collaborated with colleagues from Warwick Medical School on a project to develop support for PPCI in research at Warwick. Helen Luckhurst in the WIE team has been seconded as the project's PPCI Manager, working with our Academic Director, Helen Wheatley, and colleagues from the WMS: Sophie Staniszewska, Felicity Boardman (also representing the Warwick Interdisciplinary Spotlight on Health) and Kirstie Haywood. Kirstie supports the project as Deputy PVC for Research (Research Culture) and Director of the National Centre for Research Culture. PPCI has been identified as a strategic research culture priority at the University of Warwick with funding provided through Research England's Enhancing Research Culture Fund (ERCF).





For us, PPCI means working with members of the public, patients and communities as partners in research, rather than doing research to, about or for them. They are viewed as an equal part of the team, working with researchers. This is different from being a research participant in a study, from whom data is collected. PPCI can take different forms across subject areas, countries and research contexts, and may be described using different terminology: for example, coproduction and/or working with experts by experience. Involvement may take place at different stages of the research process, use different approaches, and have different aims. While approaches vary, at its heart, PPCI is about researchers and members of the public working in partnership to cocreate, inform and support research in ways that are ethical, rigorous and meaningful to the people and communities who will benefit.

Outcomes

In stage one of the project (January-September 2026), the team:

- met with colleagues from ten other institutions to understand models of best practice;
- ran workshops at the Institute of Advanced Study and the WIE conference to understand current experiences of PPCI and the support needed to improve on these;
- consulted a steering group of staff, public contributors and colleagues from other organisations to identify priorities for improving support for PPCI at Warwick and plan a route to change;
- established the detailed requirements and functions of a database for connecting researchers with public contributors and community organisations, to be launched if long-term funding is secured.





We are happy to report that the project has been funded for a further four years and we will report back on our progress in next year's annual report.

Building Capacity

The Training Programme

Our building capacity programme runs throughout the year with a series of skills focussed masterclasses led by external experts, rehearsal sessions with the team for those taking part in Resonate events, general training sessions for departments, online resources for people to access in their own time via the WIE Skills Festival, and our annual WIE Conference. The majority of our activity is open to all staff and students, as well as the wider membership - with some extra masterclasses put on just for students. This year, our programme included the following masterclasses:

- Hands on Engagement, Social Media for Researchers, and Impact through Engagement by Dr Jamie Gallagher,
- Storytelling for Research with Matt from Duncan Yellowlees Training,
- Presentation Skills, Personal Branding, and Podcasting for Engagement by Dr Anna Ploszajski,
- Engagement with Sensitive Topics and How to Create Public Engagement Posters by Hana Ayoob,
- Evaluation of Public Engagement by Dr Ellie King,
- Engaging Through Collections by Lily Crowther,
- An Introduction to Public Engagement with Sarah Cosgriff.
- For the first time, A practical introduction to Citizen Science with Sophia Collins.

A huge thanks to all our wonderful, specialist trainers who make the content of the programme so excellent.



An attendee at ‘Hands on Engagement’

This session was absolutely wonderful. The roundtable structure really allowed for excellent idea sharing and teamwork. The activity where we had to design an activity has made me feel very empowered - immediately after leaving the session, I couldn't resist doing a bit of brainstorming! It is also worth adding that the session really benefited from being in-person - I don't think I would have had so many positive interactions and had this "aha" moment if the event had been online.”



The WIE Conference

The theme for the 2026 conference was *Impacts from Engagement* - exploring impact from public engagement for the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework and beyond. For example, we examined the impacts of public engagement for our community partners, for students and regional partners. The day was a fascinating exploration of public engagement with a mix of practical sessions, opportunities to listen and learn, and spaces to share thoughts and perspectives. Our conference is always free to attend and open to all Warwick staff and students, as well as all Members of WIE including community members and university partners. If you missed last years, make sure you sign up to join us for 2027! Running on Thursday 22 April the day will explore public engagement at Warwick and beyond, with threads through the day to connect you and your work to WIE.

"This was my first WIE Conference and I couldn't have been more impressed. I had such a good day and met so many lovely people from Warwick and our local community. I don't generally like networking but I felt completely at ease yesterday (it was like everyone had made a pact to be welcoming to one another!). The sessions were interesting, thought provoking, and well organised. I really loved hearing about all the amazing activities going on between the University and the local/regional community. Really fantastic.

An attendee at the conference



Our work with Students

Public Engagement Module

Public Engagement (IL217/317) is an interdisciplinary module, which has been historically based in the Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning (IATL), led by colleagues from Warwick Institute of Engagement (WIE) and Professor Katherine Astbury in the School for Modern Languages and Cultures. The module teaches students about different types of public engagement and explores the skills they need to meaningfully engage with others. One way we encourage them to do this is through working in groups to design and deliver a hands-on public engagement activity to communicate a piece of research. The research themes are preselected, and groups can choose which they would like to respond to. They present the activities at a Student Showcase event that the WIE team organise at a pop-up shop in Leamington Spa in 2025. The audience is mostly families and students are asked to aim their activities at 12-year-olds. This year we had 12 fantastic students from Economics, Life Sciences, Maths, English, Classics and Applied Linguistics. Their activities helped communicate research about the suffragettes, planet formations, and university prestige effect.

"[The students] have made a huge positive impact to the wider project. They have provided me with incredible versatile engagement activities that I can use in multiple settings. Their unique approach and ideas have also opened my mind to the future possibilities of the engagement project and how we can approach audiences. [...] The students have shown me how my wider project could really work well when supported with additional input and resources.

A Co-creation with Students Project Lead

A student enrolled on our Public Engagement module

Studying public engagement allowed me to express my creativity and test my understanding of the discipline in ways different from simply writing essays. I've been thinking of pursuing a career as a political risk analyst, and for that, it will be important that I am able to explain complex, discipline-specific issues to people with no prior knowledge of them. This is exactly what public engagement prepares you for."



The Co-Creation with Students Fund

Launched in 2025-26, the fund enabled 14 students to work alongside staff on seven public engagement projects, creating new engagement activities and materials while gaining paid, hands-on experience. Demand was exceptionally high, with 163 student applications received. Staff reported that co-creators made a significant contribution to project development, with 100% rating their experience positively. Students highlighted gains in professionalism, problem-solving and communication skills, while 86% said they were more likely to engage in public engagement activities in the future. The scheme successfully expanded opportunities for meaningful student involvement in public engagement across the University.

What are people saying?

79% students said that the role met or exceeded their expectations.

100% staff rated their experience as good or excellent.



> As a Psychology student interested in research, the role gave me valuable insight into how research can be communicated and applied beyond academic settings. The experience has shown me the importance of making research accessible and is something I hope to incorporate into my future career."
>
> **A student Co-Creator**

Discover more



Student Showcase: Supporting URSS Students to do Public Engagement

In December 2025, The Resonate programme popped-up at Royal Priors Shopping Centre in Leamington Spa so that undergraduate students could share research and practise their public engagement skills with members of the local community. The 171 members of the public that attended the event were able to speak to undergraduates doing our Public Engagement module and students that completed Undergraduate Research Support Scheme (URSS) projects in Summer 2025.

Each year, URSS students are encouraged to do some public engagement based on their research project. Many students choose to access our online Skills Festival and produce digital public engagement materials. In 2025, 7 URSS students joined us for the Student Showcase. These students attended masterclasses and support sessions with the WIE team to prepare for the event.

Resonate Events

It's been another exciting year for the Resonate Programme - exploring new places and topics, as well as strengthening partnerships and diving deeper into some of our favourite subjects.



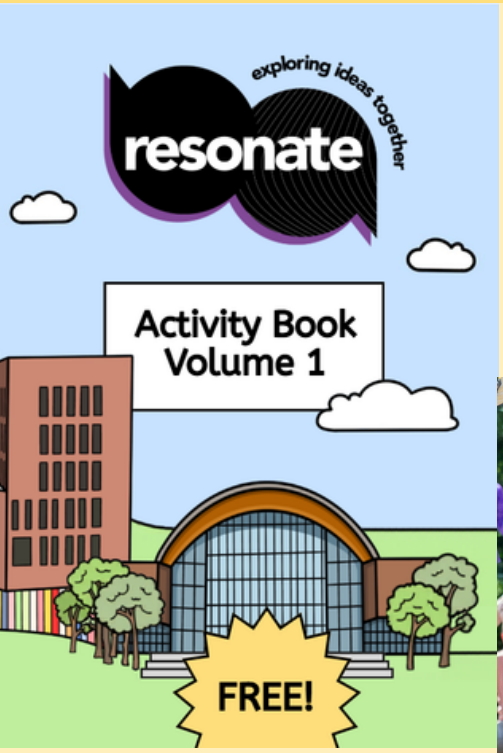


This year we were able to bring some new initiatives into the programme. Our biggest ever Summer Festival featured our first Social Story created to help inform attendees of what to expect so as to reduce anxiety. Additionally, we collaborated with Warwick Arts Centre for our first under-5's programming.

It was also an opportunity to launch the Resonate Activity Book - from colouring to cross words, this resource showcases 18 teams and individuals and the importance of their roles in the work we do as a university. These have been shared with hundreds of people over the summer, and create a space to keep the curiosity and conversations going long after joining us at an event.

These additions were built from our Resonate Pledge – our commitment to keep improving the experience of our events thanks to the feedback we receive from our Resonate Community. Find out more about what we've been working on, and our plans for next year.

Read the Resonate pledge



Did you know?

We had 7,503 attendees at 43 events run, shared or supported by Resonate. We worked with nearly 300 (282) students and staff to deliver activity at our events, with a quarter of these accessing our training programme (72), including our highest ever number of Resonate Rehearsals.



What are people saying?

"Just a huge thanks to the WIE team for the opportunity to get involved and share my passion for my research with a new audience."

A Resonate facilitator

"Amazing range of events, feels like the University went above and beyond to cater for all interests."

Attendee at a Resonate Day Out event

95% of attendees at our events describe it giving them a positive feeling about the University of Warwick.

81% of attendees at our events describe the event giving them a positive feeling about their community.



"It was great and resonated with my own experiences. Well done and thank you.
The content was well thought out and I enjoyed the varied topics. It gave me a lot to think about and some different perspectives to consider. Enjoyed the event setting."

Attendee at one of our Resonate Lates

Exploring Sustainability Through Arts, Culture and Community

In April 2026, we returned to 1 Mill Street in Leamington Spa to host an evening of talks, where four researchers from the University of Warwick examined sustainability through the lens of arts, culture and community. The event highlighted that sustainability is not only an environmental issue, but a social and cultural one. It encouraged thoughtful discussions about how people and culture can contribute to a world where both communities and the planet can thrive as one. The event, Stories of Sustainability, included a poetry reading on community energy shortages in Africa, an examination of sustainability in the film and TV sector, and how culture is a driver of sustainable cities.

We learned that meaningful progress towards a sustainable future requires sustained collaboration between researchers, policymakers, industries, local communities, with people and culture playing a central role in creating positive change.



Science Night!
At Cheylesmore Community Centre

This year we had the opportunity to build on our Lates programme in some creative new ways. Science Night! at Cheylesmore Community Centre was a collaboration between Resonate, the University's interdisciplinary Research Spotlights and the Community Centre team which took place in February 2026. We worked with Stephen Salalila, the centre's Marketing Officer, to ensure the programming would meet their needs and reach our intended audience: local teenagers.

Guided by the centre, we curated an evening centred around STEM activities, which all had a link to at least one of the Research Spotlights.

On the night, we had 145 attendees, with the majority coming directly from the area closest to the Community Centre. There were 17 activities across three halls, with collaboration from Physics, WMG, Engineering, WMS, Life Sciences, Widening Participation, Psychology, E-Sports and Report & Support. There were over 40 Warwick facilitators, including activity led by postgraduates, academic, technical and professional services staff.





Discover more

The Faculty of Arts and WIE

26 Fellows

12 Fellows
8 Honorary Fellows
6 Senior Fellows

20 Awardees

11 WAPCE nominees, 2 winners, 3 highly commended
4 Collaboration and Co-Production grants
11 Other awards

35 Students

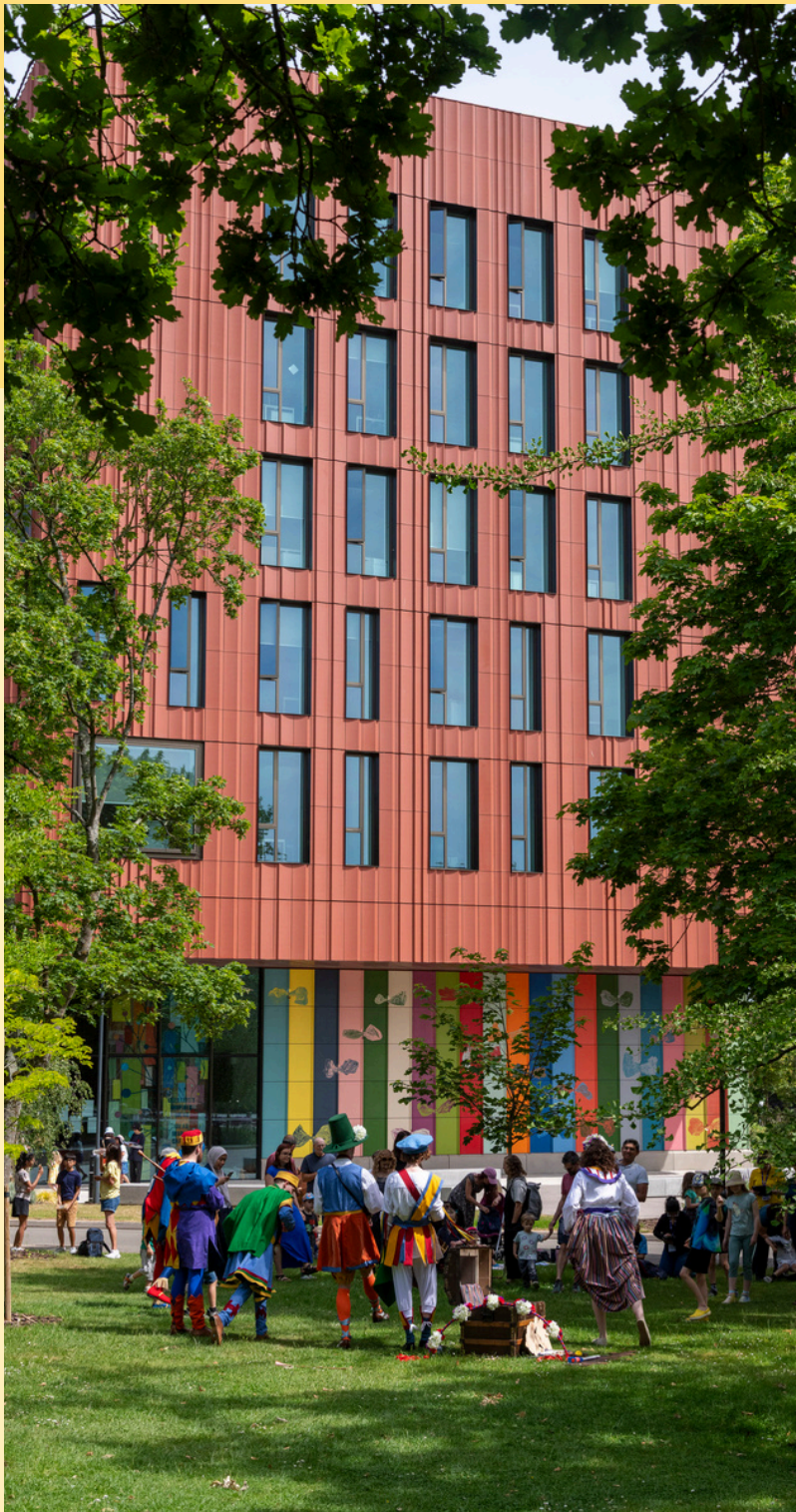
2 Enrolled on our Public Engagement module
22 Resonate Facilitators
5 Supported with the PE element of their URSS projects
6 Appointed Co-Creators

40 Event Support

18 Staff
22 Students

172 Training Attendees

85 Staff
87 Students



Stories of Engagement



Changing History, Changing Perspectives: Revealing the Forgotten Brethren of the Lord Leycester Hospital

Funded by WIE's Collaboration and Co-Production Fund, the More Than Almsmen: *Brotherhood and Belonging at the Lord Leycester Hospital, 1571–1700* project, led by Dr Naomi Pullen, with PhD researcher Angus Crawford, and its resulting exhibition transformed public understanding of this historic site. Research identified some 114 of the Hospital's often-overlooked 'brethren', investigating who these men were, where they came from, how they gained admission and what life was like within the alms-house. The project revealed the importance of patronage networks, particularly connections to the Dudley and Sidney families, challenging assumptions about the Hospital's predominantly military identity. As volunteer-manager Jodie McCarthy observed "The exhibition has changed the way we think about presenting the Lord Leycester's history."

From Poetry to Practice: Engaging Communities Through Soil and Language

Led by SMLC's Dr Ariane Demeure-Ahearne, *Simply Soil* brought together language, poetry, environmental awareness and public engagement through a collaboration with French poet Lou Sarabadzic, UK poet Matt Black and Warwick student co-creators Harriet Pickering and Laura Cole. The project co-created an English translation of Sarabadzic's poetic manifesto *Seul le Sol*, which informed bilingual workshops and resources including games, trails, flashcards and language activities exploring soil and its ecosystems. These materials supported workshops with families in Warwickshire libraries, informed a travelling exhibition connecting local landscapes with wider European perspectives and resulted in legacy resources with lasting value for Ariane's wider work. WIE's Kate Laister-Smith noted how students had been able to work on a "a real world project" connecting academic translation skills, external partners and environmental needs.



The Faculty of Social Sciences and WIE



31 Fellows

16 Fellows
12 Honorary Fellows
3 Senior Fellows

21 Awardees

16 WAPCE nominees, 7 winners, 3 highly commended
8 Collaboration and Co-Production grants
3 Other awards

28 Students

8 Enrolled onour Public Engagement module
14 Resonate Facilitators
3 Supported with the PE element of their URSS projects
3 Appointed Co-Creators

34 Event Support

12 Staff
14 Students
8 Other

314 Training Attendees

167 Staff
147 Students

Stories of Engagement



Amplifying Young Voices: Creating Democratic Spaces Through Spoken Word Poetry

WIE supported the Collaboration and Co-Production fund project *Creating Democratic Spaces through Spoken Word Poetry* between Karen Simecek (Philosophy) and Lisa Mead (Apples and Snakes).

The project empowered young people to express their experiences and perspectives through spoken word poetry, creating meaningful opportunities for creative engagement, confidence-building, and civic participation. Working in partnership with *House Project Coventry* and professional poets, participants co-produced two original poems exploring topics important to them. The project strengthened community partnerships, amplified young people's voices, and demonstrated the potential of poetry as a tool for social dialogue and democratic engagement.

Voices of Sanctuary: Empowering Young Asylum Seekers Through Poetry and Creative Expression

The project *Hearing the Voices of Young Asylum Seekers* led by Jai Mackenzie (Applied Linguistics) and Joy Robinson (Birmingham Community Hosting Network) was funded by our Collaboration and Co-Production Fund and empowered 16 young sanctuary seekers to share their experiences through poetry.



This strengthened confidence, self-expression, and language skills. The project offered six supportive and creative workshops hosted by the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. The project, which involves collaboration between researchers, artists, charities, and cultural organisations, has created lasting partnerships and a platform for young voices. Building on the success of this project, Jai is currently working with Birmingham Community Hosting Network on a follow-up funding application.



The Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine and WIE

113 Students
2 Enrolled to our Public Engagement module
22 Resonate Facilitators
5 Supported with the PE element of their URSS projects
6 Co-creators

180 Event Support
33 Staff
102 Students
3 Other

48 Fellows
27 Fellows
12 Honorary Fellows
9 Senior Fellows

13 Awardees
5 WAPCE nominees, 1 winner, 1 highly commended
3 Collaboration and Co-Production grants
8 Other awards

571 Training Attendees
332 Staff
239 Students

Stories of Engagement

From Lab to Life: Making Engineering Research Relatable and Accessible

In SEM, technicians are vital to every success. John Gallagher is a technician in WMG where he prepares section samples, items sliced up into thin pieces, to examine their internal structure and understand how they might crack in the future. He brought this lab equipment to the public, with research samples and relatable materials like rubber ducks. The combination of cutting-edge with relatability is exemplary engagement. John explained: "I wanted to help people find their pathway, pass on my knowledge, and help them with practical work. I received support from [WIE] through training and help preparing for audiences. It developed my own confidence communicating technical information. You do not need complicated explanations; the best way to engage someone is to make the subject relatable and enjoyable."

Empowering Communities Through Health Champions: Co-Producing Health Knowledge for Social Good.

Kate Owen developed the Health Champions project which works with students and external partners. Collaboration and Co-Production funding supported work with Mohamad Alobeid (Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre) while Co-Creation with Students funding supported student co-creators in making workbooks to train refugees and migrants, building their knowledge and confidence of healthcare. Medical students did health checks and family-friendly health education activities. The programme empowered members of refugee and migrant communities to become Health Champions. Kate reported funding "enabled the project to be more successful than without Kezia Davies and Barbara Pitruzzella, demonstrating the value of collaboration between external partners and the university for social good."



From Demonstrator to Designer: Crafting Research Engagement

While a postgraduate researcher in Chemistry, Callum Crockford has progressed from supporting the delivery of existing engagement activities through to developing their own, linked to their own research. Callum attended training sessions hosted by WIE, came up with several ideas for activities, and refined them down to a single research-linked activity that could be delivered at the Resonate Festival. Callum's experiences have contributed to a Postgraduate Certificate in Transferable Skills.

Professional Services, Technical Support and WIE

36 Fellows

8 Fellows
23 Honorary Fellows
5 Senior Fellows

21 Awardees

11 WAPCE nominees, 3 winners, 3 highly commended
4 Collaboration and Co-Production grants
11 Other awards

13 Event Support

11 Staff
1 Student
1Other

188 Training Attendees

182 Staff
2 Student
4 Other



Stories of Engagement



Embedding Sustainability Across Engagement Activities

This year we particularly wanted to highlight and celebrate our collaboration with Warwick's Sustainability team. Whether its coming along to co-run an activity on their collaborative crayfish project (with Molly Williams from Life Sciences) at our Live Labs event or presenting their Sustainable Event Toolkit at this year's WIE Conference, the Sustainability team always look for opportunities to take their work out to the wider community. Ongoing collaboration with this team has inspired us to track how WIE's wider programme is working toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

Behind Every Great Event: Recognising the Staff Who Make Engagement Possible

Across all our events and activities, we are privileged to be supported by a number of professional services teams, but we also have individuals from across the university who support our events in leadership and management roles. We'd like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank two members of staff who have been supporting WIE and Resonate from the very start - Emily Robinson-Killick and Michelle Watson frequently support our weekend and evening events, taking on roles such as location management and ambassador logistics as well as providing essential support for event setup and take down. Having the help of skilled and knowledgeable staff like Emily and Michelle is vital to the delivery of engaging events with increased activity and audience numbers.





Engaging across the disciplines

Championing Interdisciplinary Collaboration

WIE has worked collaboratively throughout the year to support interdisciplinary collaboration across the university. The design of our events programme is inherently interdisciplinary, and we also work in partnership with other departments in the university that promote cross-faculty collaboration. Our Learning Circles are all interdisciplinary, meaning that colleagues can really benefit from learning about public engagement and involvement practices situated in other disciplines. This has also led to interdisciplinary events like CO-LAB: Empowerment Through Education, collaboration with WIHEA on promotions training for all, and the production of the joint WIE-WIHEA Public Engagement Pedagogies Learning Circle's A Practical Guide to Embedding Public and Community Engagement in the Higher Education Curriculum which will be launched later this year and looks across the whole of the Warwick curriculum.



Supporting Warwick's Interdisciplinary Research Spotlights

We have been delighted to see the activity of Warwick's interdisciplinary Research Spotlights build momentum this year and continue to look for ways to highlight excellence and opportunities for public collaboration in these six areas. This year we worked with the Spotlights team on an event called 'Science Night!' at Cheylesmore Community Centre that featured research and researchers representing all of the Spotlights. In this table we have indicated how these themes were represented in our events programme for 2025-26.



Find out more about the Research Spotlights

Resonate Events	Spotlight Themes					
	Sustainability	Health	Business & Manufacturing	Society & Culture	Digital	Bahaviour
Resnate Late: What Does it Mean to Get Older?		●	●	●		●
Live Labs #1	●	●	●		●	●
Resonate Roadshow/Student Showcase	●			●		●
Live Labs #2	●	●	●		●	●
Science Night! At Cheylesmore Community Centre	●	●	●	●	●	●
Resonate Late: Stories of Sustainability	●		●	●		
Resonate Late: Roots, Resilience, Representation				●		
Resonate Summer Festival	●	●	●	●	●	●
Resonate Activity Book	●	●	●	●	●	●

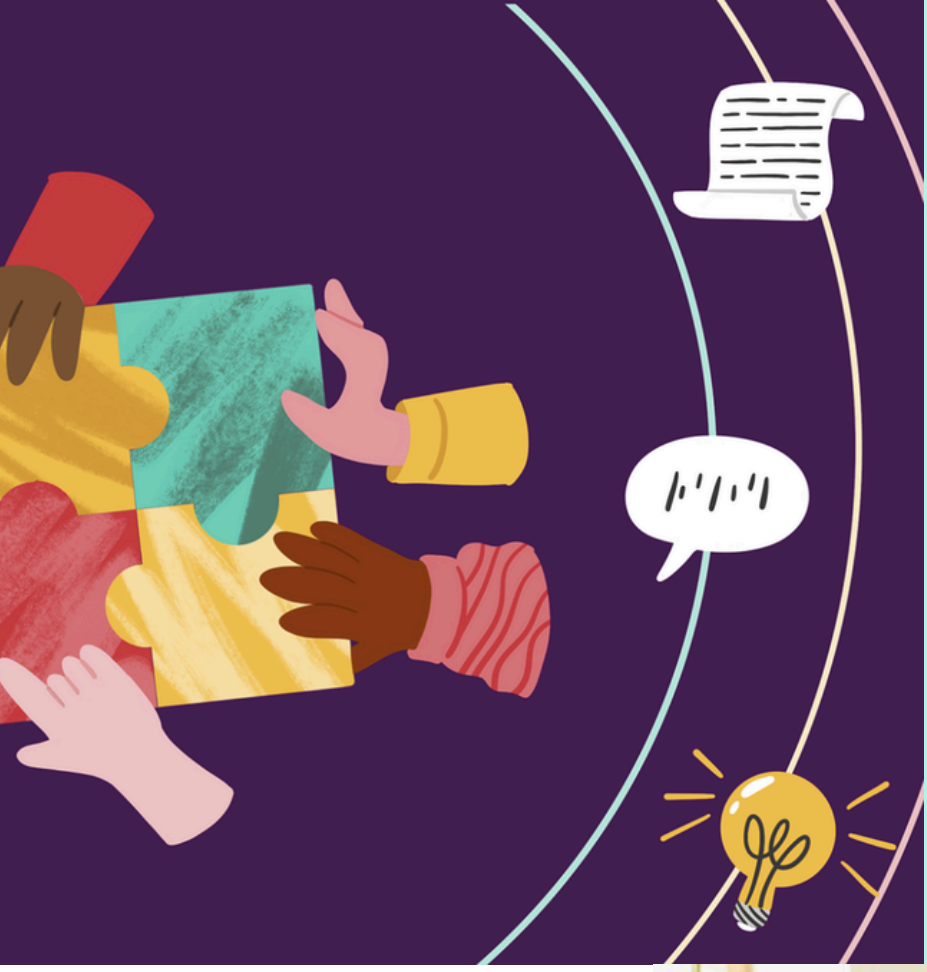
The Collaboration and Co-Production Fund

A core aim of our mission is to support staff and students to engage with the wider world. One of the ways we do this is through our Collaboration and Co-Production Fund. Awards of up to £3,000 are made to help current staff and students to develop ongoing collaborative relationships with local, national and international partners, groups or organisations.





This year we commissioned David Wilkinson of the organisation Research Toolkit to undertake an evaluation of the first five years of our Collaboration and Co-Production fund. David found that these awards have created space for academics and external partners to experiment, establish relationships and develop innovative approaches to co-production. In a significant number of cases, these collaborations have been strengthened and continued beyond the original funding period, securing further support, funding and resources.



David concludes the report by saying:

Taken across 64 distinct projects over five year [...] the fund should no longer be understood simply as a collection of relatively small public engagement awards... Relatively modest awards create the time, permission and resources needed for academics and external partners to try something together. In some cases the immediate activity is itself the principal benefit. In others, the first project establishes trust, provides evidence that an approach works, changes how people think about collaboration and creates the foundation for something considerably larger."

Read the full report

In many cases, the projects influenced changes to academic and partner practice, with some activity becoming embedded within Warwick's education and engagement infrastructure. We've seen a myriad of exhibitions, online resources, performances, academic papers and policy documents grow out of the scheme. There are more exciting things in the pipeline and further work to do to really get to grips with what this scheme has enabled for Warwick and the partner organisations which have been engaged through this scheme.



Warwick Awards for Public and Community Engagement

The Warwick Awards for Public and Community Engagement (WAPCE) recognise the vital contributions Warwick staff and students make to engaging and involving the public in all that we do. They show how we are strengthening the role we play in the region and creating moments of exciting interaction with Warwick research for members of the public, how we work in partnership with communities locally, nationally and internationally, and demonstrate the impact that Warwick staff and students have on social mobility and on engaging underrepresented groups in higher education.





As is now our custom, we celebrated the awardees of this year's WAPCE's at the WIE Summer Celebration; a lovely occasion where we gather Members, Fellows, families and friends as well as partners from across the region to network and see the winners get their trophies.



Meet the winners

Each one is beautifully hand crafted by Stephen Williams, the University's glassblower and his assistant Daisy Ashworth. It has become somewhat of a tradition to round off the event with a visit from the ice cream van. Don't miss out next year; make sure you sign up early!



What can WIE do for you?

Develop skills

Public Engagement Masterclasses

Attend free skills-based training sessions with expert facilitators, covering topics like presentation skills, creating infographics, evaluation methods, and developing hands-on activities.

Skills Festival

Access to online learning resources and templates which make planning, delivering, and evaluating public engagement easier, as well as advice and support on funding, publishing, and teaching about engagement.





Build connections

Become a Member of WIE

Receive regular email updates about upcoming events and opportunities and get stuck in with our Learning Circles

Become a WIE Fellow

Help drive forward public engagement at Warwick as a Fellow. You will join Learning Circles discussing key issues in public engagement, support others to develop their engagement practice, and network with people across and outside the University.

Connect with PE practitioners

Through WIE Connections you can request a chat with a volunteer from our pool of public engagement practitioners to help build understanding, shape your ideas or simply get some advice.

Connect with communities

If you are looking to build a relationship with a community we have expertise in the team to support you, and can often facilitate introductions to partners we are already working with.

A platform to share knowlegde

We run a programme of events on campus and around the region for people of all ages and backgrounds. Come and put your skills and ideas into practice and share knowledge. Students participating can earn points towards the Warwick Award.





Support & recognition

Feedback on research grant applications

WIE can advise on building engagement into your research project or read and comment on grant applications featuring public engagement.

Support your pomotion

We run workshops and provide guidance for staff looking to develop the Impact, Outreach and Engagement part of their promotion application.

Apply for the Warwick Awards for Public and Community Engagement

Get recognised for the vital work you are doing to engage the public.

Fund your ideas

Access a number of grants to support your projects. Starting at £200 and up to £3000.

The Collaboration and Co-Production Fund

Seed funding to build and strengthen relationships with external community partners, giving you a solid foundation to access further funding bids.

The Co-Creation with Students Fund

Staff can apply for funding to employ two students as co-creators in the development of public engagement projects or modules.

The Events and Activities Fund

We offer small grants to support people to run their own public engagement activities outside of our Resonate programme.

What has WIE done for you?

We asked a few of the people who have interacted with the work of the Institute to tell us what it has meant to them...

> **“WIE demonstrates that when connection, curiosity, and creativity are put at the heart of public engagement, anything is possible.”**



“WIE has provided a space and support system for me to step out of my shell and be brave and confident in ways I never thought possible, whether through presenting my own work or applying for opportunities with their support. WIE demonstrates that when connection, curiosity, and creativity are put at the heart of public engagement, anything is possible.

Art Dobber, Graduate Management Trainee. Resonate Facilitator.



“The IL217 Public Engagement was such a unique module to take since it created a environment for me to engage and think with people from different degrees with personalities. I find it's rare for that type of academic space to exist in a university classroom as it's so often people end up interacting only with people studying similar subject areas. This module intentionally broke that standard which made it a really engaging and memorable module compared to others I've taken."

Liam Miesner, second year Life Sciences student enrolled on our Public Engagement module.



"Being a Regional Fellow has led to collaborations that I genuinely don't think would have happened otherwise. It has given me a direct connection into the University and given colleagues at Warwick a route into the creative and cultural sector across Warwick District.

Through the Fellowship I've developed new partnerships, brought university activity into our venues, and helped it reach different audiences. I've also been able to connect local artists, creatives, and organisations with people and projects at Warwick, while bringing a local authority and cultural sector perspective into the University.

For me, that's the real value of the programme. It brings together people who might not otherwise meet and gives those relationships time to develop. Some lead to something straight away and others take longer, but without the Fellowship many of those conversations simply wouldn't happen."

Johnathan Branson,
Warwick District Council,
Regional Fellow.

"We LOVE coming to resonate and hope it runs for many years to come!"

An attendee at a Resonate Day Out event.

"Working with WIE allowed me to share my passion for scientific communication and learning with the next generation of science enthusiasts! The co-creator experience is extremely valuable as a means of developing your capacity to connect with the public as a researcher and to see the amazing impact this outreach does for the community."

Ellen Mann
Student Co-Creator.



"The support from the team both before and during both WIE events I have attended have been excellent. The organisation and communication has made the whole event [seamless], meaning I could focus on the activities, without having to worry about the set up, or things missing etc. I have thoroughly enjoyed being involved this year and look forward to more events in the future."

A Resonate facilitator.





"Working with WIE has been invaluable in turning conversations with young people into lasting partnerships. The Collaboration and Co-Production Fund gave us the space to build on our relationship with Action Family Network and to start a new one with The Cyber Helpline, bringing researchers, community and charity expertise together around young people's experiences of online scams. The support has helped us co-produce materials with young people and parents, and to plan how they can reach wider audiences. Together with two WIE Public Engagement Research Assistants, we developed these materials into resources to help young people and the general public cultivate their digital literacy."

Michaela Gummerum, Psychology.
Awarded a Collaboration and Co-Production grant and a Co-Creation with Students grant.

"Working with Warwick Institute of Engagement & researchers to develop our show has been transformative, bringing incredible knowledge into our community organisation and letting learning flow through everyone involved. It has given real substance to our creativity and enriched our live performance in ways we couldn't have achieved alone."

Joe Fearn, Founder and Director of House of MASH. WIE Partner.



(It's) provided numerous ideas for alternative ways for me to build engagement with my research.



"So well organised, plenty to do and explore, food was great, performers were brilliant its really made me think. Since attending the event I've been listening to a podcast recommended by the lady talking about philosophy and plan to sign up the online French course suggested in the linguistics area. It's really opened my thinking, thank you."

An attendee at a Resonate Day Out event.

"For me, the WIE has enabled me to share my research passion and outcomes to a much wider and varied audience than academic audiences alone, through public engagement events such as Science Night and the Resonate Festival. Further, the personal development masterclass events I've attended through the WIE such as *Podcasting for Engagement* and *Engagement through Collections* have facilitated building interdisciplinary networks across institutions and provided numerous ideas for alternative ways for me to build engagement with my research."

Tom White, PGR, Psychology.
Attendee at our training.

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