



Dorset-WI NEWS

Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes

APRIL MAY BRING SHOWERS BUT IT ALSO BRINGS HOPE.

The Roadmap out of Lockdown means we can look forward to meeting up in the months ahead.



In April ...

People will be allowed to meet outside within the "rule of six".

Outdoor sport facilities will reopen.



Restaurants and pub gardens will be allowed to serve customers sitting outdoors.

... We can also visit the hairdressers!!

ZOOM EVENTS—NEEDLEFELT NECKLACE RAMBLING WITH DFWI

Dorset FWI Summer Holiday Monday 2 August 2021

Contact Details

Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes

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Monday & Friday: Office CLOSED
Tuesday: 10am-1pm; 2-4pm.
Wednesday: 10am-1pm; 2-4pm.
Thursday: 10am-1pm.

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Please send your cheque made
payable to DFWI Ltd with your order.

FROM OUR ACWW REPRESENTATIVE

When I was 14 I was asked by Mrs Morley Hewitt to join the WI. In the early 1950s it was almost a rite of passage for girls, in becoming young women, to do this. My Grandmother and Mother had been founder members of Damerham WI in Hampshire. As you will be aware, the WI is an Educational Charity set up to educate women and girls after their formal education was finished.

Today many things have changed both socially and in education over the years, with young people being considered Children up until they are eighteen. But the one thing I enjoy about the WI is the way it adapts to these changes - none more so than in this past year. Who would have thought, a year ago, that we would be having meetings by Zoom? I very much look forward to the day we can all meet again for fun and friendship. In the meantime, I have enjoyed meeting up with the members of Child Okeford WI where we learnt how to play the spoons. What a fun afternoon - the teacher being up in Derbyshire and us all over the area of East Dorset! I do hope more of our WIs learn to adapt to new ways of doing things so we can still enjoy meeting up again in whatever form it takes.



Esme Isaacs

ALTOGETHER WI

has good WI china for hire to
other WIs for events. Nominal fee
£10.

Please contact Mrs Chris Smith on
07915 404091 or
chris.smith1979@virginmedia.com



**IF YOU WOULD APPRECIATE A
GOOD OLD SING SONG WHEN
MEETINGS START AGAIN**

Please phone
David Andrews
01935 814288



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Please send in news by post to The Editor, Dorset WI News, DFWI, 18 Crown Street West, Poundbury DT1 3DW, or by Email to me at: newseditor@dorsetwi.org Do, please, look through your photographs for pictures of events for the news. You may send them by post to DFWI as above with a correctly-stamped SAE if you want them returned, or by Email attachment (as "jpgs") to the Email address above. *Please make sure you include your name, WI and details of where the scene/event is and the month it was taken.*

FROM OUR FEDERATION CHAIRMAN JENNY PRESTON



As Spring approaches we have much to look forward to. By the time you read this we will have put the clocks forward and will be experiencing the evenings getting lighter.

If everything goes according to plan we will soon be able to visit shops, hairdressers, gyms and pubs - sounds like life is starting to get back to normal.

I know that many WIs are planning to return to some form of face to face meeting in June. Obviously these will have to be socially distanced and outside. Let's just hope that the weather will allow such gatherings to take place. I understand that many village halls, where the majority of WIs meet, are not planning to reopen before September but let's hope that from September our meetings can return to the format we are used to. However, I suspect that the first such meeting for most WIs will have a party atmosphere with members being delighted at meeting longstanding friends again after such a long time.

Looking forward, the National Annual Meeting will be happening on 8th June but with a revised format – we don't have any further information at the moment but will keep you informed.

Our Annual Meeting at the Lighthouse is still planned for October 21st and our Carol Festivals at Sherborne Abbey and Wimborne Minster have been provisionally booked. We will confirm the dates as soon as we are able to.

Things are slowly getting better – hooray!

Jenny

ON BEING AN OBSERVER AT A FEDERATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

One day, a long time ago, I had said I might be interested in attending as an observer a Board of Trustees meeting. After some time I logged on to join a Zoom meeting, not very sure of what I would see, but at least I could do it from home.

I was welcomed to the meeting and was glad to see some familiar faces, either from going into the Office or from helping out at Bestival.

The meeting is chaired by Jenny Preston, our Federation Chair, who explained what was going on and invited me to join in when appropriate.

What soon becomes clear is that these meetings are the monthly summary and reporting place for a lot of work carried by various individuals and committees. This is the pivot point between individual members and their WI committees and the National Federation. Whilst listening to both they have to tread a fine line to make sure the needs of members are met whilst still working within our Constitution. Not an easy job in the best of times, but in these frequently changing times even more challenging.

Planning for the future is a key feature of this meeting, from the Annual Meeting, to the County Newsletter, the Carol Services, recruiting a new Treasurer to Training for Officers and new ideas are always welcomed.

Every member of the board brings their own strengths and ideas and collectively they reach a consensus. They very clearly work as a team, supporting each other to run a Federation of which we should all be proud.

Leri Ayre

(Treasurer Broadmayne and West Knighton)

CAN YOU HELP—ARE YOU INTERESTED

FEDERATION TREASURER

Have you ever considered offering help with the County Finances? We will be looking to appoint a Federation Treasurer later in the year, this can be an extremely interesting and rewarding volunteer role which provides vital support to the Federation and Institutes.

There will be ample support available, we will run a zoom session for any interested parties, no obligation, to give you an opportunity to ask questions and find out more about the role, it would have been good to sit around a table with a nice cup of coffee but I do not think this will be possible in the current climate.

The Federation employs a Finance Officer who deals with the day to day business and is very supportive and helpful to the Treasurer. If you are interested or would like further information please call the office or email the current treasurer on Federationtreasurer@dorsetwi.org.



CLIMATE CHANGE IN ACTION

Water is a major topic currently: too much where there is flooding and too little in drought areas! Oceans are polluted and sea creatures are dying in huge numbers. And we are threatened too, we need to really care about what is happening. Of course, here in Dorset, we have a vested interest in our sea and beaches and many of us volunteer to keep the sand free of litter. But we have to do more for our world, for the sake of our children and grandchildren otherwise they will inherit the results of our neglect. Exaggeration? Not a bit of it!

European trawlers are denuding the ocean using huge nets which they dispose of in the sea, causing injury and death to thousands of sea animals and fish. You will have seen photos on social media of whales, dolphins and seals damaged by these thoughtless actions. At last rules are being changed – there are plans to install CCTV cameras on board so that the bad behaviour can be monitored.



Time for Ocean Rescue!

SKY have joined with WWF to make a major impact on this serious problem. SKY has invested £25m in alternatives to plastic across its corporate estate, removing 300 tons of plastic. WWF has protected 400km of ocean. The campaign 'Pass on Plastic' has 47.8m supporters! People are taking notice and with our numbers of members we can make a difference!! <https://www.skyoceanrescue.com/how-to-passonplastic>

Single Use Swaps

1 bamboo toothbrush = 4 plastic toothbrushes

1 reusable bag = 170 plastic bags

1 reusable water bottle = 167 plastic bottles

1 reusable cup = 500 plastic cups.

I found these numbers astounding and it strengthened my resolve to do better!

Tell me what you are doing to reduce your plastic usage: carb2home@gmail.com

There's a petition to MPs asking for a commitment to an Ocean Strategy by 2030 we can make this happen please sign the petition.

Carol Brown (Climate Ambassador)

Gift Aid Scheme

If you are eligible I would encourage you to consider signing a gift aid declaration, at no extra cost to you it could benefit your WI and ultimately the Federation and National.

A few reminders regarding the scheme.

- a) A member can gift aid their subscription provided they will have paid more tax than the total tax reclaims on all gift aid declarations completed by them.
- b) Once a declaration has been completed by a member you do not have to complete a form each year. (It is the responsibility of the member to inform the treasurer if their circumstances change).
- c) New members or existing members wishing to join the scheme do need to complete a declaration.
- d) If a WI has taken advantage of the subscription flexibility and reduced the Institute share of the subscription, the treasurer can only make a claim on the reduced amount. If the subscription has been waived then no claim can be made. Existing declarations will cover reduced amounts.
- e) If a member has paid the WI more than the subscription set by them any excess can be gift aided but a 'Charity Gift Aid Declaration- single donation' will need to be completed. Template forms were attached to the 2021/22 budget.

Please remember that your Institute does not have to make a claim if they feel it is not worth the trouble. The Federation can still benefit simply by submitting any declarations completed by members to the office.

The Federation has recently benefitted from Gift Aid claims amounting to £1800, this is a welcome boost to our Income and I thank all the members who are part of the scheme.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office or me federationtreasurer@dorsetwi.org if you have any queries.

Kath Burt

MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Chairman: Yvonne Marsh.

Vice Chair Lyn Coleman & Jan Watson

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Every WI has a meeting once a year which is called their Annual Meeting. It is a constitutional requirement that each WI holds an Annual Meeting every year.

The Annual Meeting is an opportunity for each WI to look back at the previous year and look forward to the coming year.

Looking back is covered in two documents: the Committee's Annual Report which is written by the Secretary and the Financial Report which is compiled for the committee by the Treasurer. These reports should be circulated to all members ahead of the meeting or if an actual meeting is held the reports can be read out to the members. This year things may be different: even if a WI has not held any meetings for the last 12 months the Annual Report can still comment on how the members have kept in touch with each other – phone calls, visits and walks (socially distanced), newsletters and meeting bags to name a few. The Annual Report as well as WI records and minutes are always an interesting read when looking back at the social history of an era. Lockdown will provide some interesting reading. The introduction of Zoom meetings too.

The Financial Report may not record many payments during the past year. If this is the case and there are less than about 10 entries, instead of having the accounts examined by an official auditor, an Adviser can check the Financial Statement and all the necessary paperwork – but bear in mind that the WI will be responsible for getting things to and from the Adviser. A copy of the examined Financial Statement should be sent in to the County Office in June or by July at the latest. These will then be checked by the WI Advisers and any queries can then be raised.

Looking forward takes place at the Annual Meeting. Normally this is held so that members can attend in person.

The WI Constitution has now been changed to allow Annual Meetings to take place in various forms – even virtually at a Zoom meeting. In this case it is essential that all members are kept in touch and receive both the documents mentioned above. The documents should be emailed or posted to members. This then gives time for members to ask any questions or make any comments.

For a virtual Annual Meeting, the Advisers suggest that Committees and Presidents are nominated ahead and if there needs to be an election then the nominated Adviser for the WI should be involved. Voting can take place by phoning, texting or emailing the Adviser ahead or in a secret poll at a zoom meeting.

Your DFWI Advisers have put together some "Guidelines for Virtual Annual Meetings" Diane has recently sent this document out to all WIs.

It is also available on the DFWI website: <https://dorset.thewi.org.uk/news>

or on 365 Sharepoint [click here](#)

or ask your WI Adviser for a copy.

This is a new situation for all WIs and some WIs will choose to do things differently this year.

If your WI prefers to wait until a later date to hold their Annual Meeting this is another option and this enables members to meet as usual, in person. In which case please let Diane in the office know about this temporary change of month so that the Board of Trustees can be informed. This is a courtesy. This should be documented by your WI too.

Your Advisers are here to help so do contact them to answer any questions. The Advisers are all looking forward to the day when they can attend your meetings again. They have enjoyed meeting some of you at the recent "Meet and Chat" sessions on Zoom and more sessions are being planned for May. Dates to be announced nearer the time.

Liz Smith
WI Adviser

MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Chairman: *Yvonne Marsh.*

Vice Chair *Lyn Coleman & Jan Watson*

THE RESOLUTION 20/21

Well, the 'results are in', and the resolution that has been adopted and will be voted on in the summer is:

'A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of Ovarian Cancer'

This resolution attracted nearly half of all the votes cast (30,240 out of 66,312).

This topic, I am sure, will resonate with members. Many of us will know someone who has suffered from ovarian cancer, and it has been shown that sometimes symptoms can be mistaken for something else, or not felt by the woman involved to be serious enough to bother anyone with. The resolution calls for raising awareness not just among women so they can recognise when it is important to get help, but also among healthcare professionals. Signs of this condition can indeed be 'subtle' and it may be very difficult to differentiate between this and other possible causes of signs and symptoms.

It is a timely topic – I have heard a couple of references to the subject from different organisations on the radio over the past couple of months.

WI members are in a unique position when it comes to raising awareness – even when normal activities are curtailed. We can discuss it with women friends, relatives, daughters etc. We can publicise it in our local magazines and when we are able to meet again, we can have 'open' meetings with expert speakers – and I know our WIs will think of innovative ways of raising awareness if it is given a mandate.

Voting this year will be a little different (as will the Annual Meeting). Where possible, an 'on-line' means will be used (although arrangements can be made where that is not possible). The vote this time is for WIs to decide whether they support the resolution or not. There will, of course, be further information about the topic (and the process) in WI Life, but MyWI has a great deal of information including notes, power-point presentations and a quiz – you may like to use any or all of these during an on-line meeting if your WI has them.

Meanwhile, the whole resolution process will be getting underway again in September. Please do get in touch if you have an issue you think would make a good resolution!

Jan Watson. (Resolution Co-ordinator)

PS While you are on MyWI, take a look at the list of WI mandates from 1918 to the present. A sometimes amusing, but also a salutary read - some things never really change!



DFWI ANNUAL MEETING THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER 2021 At The Lighthouse Theatre, Poole

Come and join us at our Annual Meeting.

Our speakers are **Amanda Owen** (The Yorkshire Shepherdess) and **Dr Annie Grey**.



Coaches will be available for WI members leaving from Bridport, Weymouth and Dorchester. Look out for further details in the months ahead. We shall also have a **Parade of WI Banners** during the meeting, so for any WIs who do not have a banner you have time to make one, it's a wonderful visual link to each WI.





MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE! — DFWI CAROL FESTIVALS.

Carol singing has a very long history! It was all to do with making merry – dancing and singing, and not necessarily in churches! Homes, pubs, streets all provided a place for a carol or two; and, it wasn't just Christmas – there are carols for spring, summer, Easter and all sorts.

Over the years, there cannot have been many times that our relish of belting out a good tune has been curtailed – the Puritans come to mind here! Thankfully, the DFWI Carol Festivals were not due to take place in 2020, but many of us I am sure missed so many opportunities we normally have for a good sing. When I did get the chance (recording carols for our Church carol service), I opened my mouth and a strange wheeze came forth! It took another 5 verses before my vocal chords remembered what they were meant to do. So this year, I hope I shall back in good voice ready for December because 2021 is Carol Festival year. They are due to take place at Wimborne on Friday 3 December, and Sherborne on Monday 6 December and secretaries will have probably got forms about this by now.

As usual, we are looking for singers who would like to form a choir at either or both venues. We will get music out to those of you who are interested in the summer, and nearer the time I hope to organise one practice so you can feel confident about the chosen carols.

Don't worry if you still feel, at the moment, that you are not sure. Please send your name in anyway to Diane, our Federation Secretary at FederationSecretary@dorsetwi.org so that we know there are enough of you out there who want to be in the choirs- it won't matter if things change for you, we will quite understand; - but I am really looking forward to meeting up with singing friends and belting out a good tune. Please apply for an application form to join the choir.

Jan Watson

Ring in the Spring

On Saturday 27th February DFWI Events Committee held their 2nd virtual Craft workshop. Dena Seby stepped up to give her second virtual workshop. Kits were assembled and posted out to members. Elaine Knight, Dena and Margaret Bunch had a practice Zoom meeting and decided this time to run the workshop with Dena's sons help.

Dena, Elaine Simon and I signed in early and got set up, we then let the members in, and introductions were made, great to have members from across Dorset. Dena soon got the ladies started on the rings, firstly covering the ring with a blanket stitch, then stitching and weaving in the middle finishing off with French Knots and beads to make the Spring Flowers. As you can see from the photos lovely " Spring Flowers in a Ring "to wear as a broach.

A delightful morning with lovely Dorset WI members, Events Committee pleased with another successful Craft workshop, my thanks to Dena, Elaine and Simon.

Zoom is a new experience to all of us on the committee, learning all the time, "waiting room, chat room, spotlight" are phases I had never connected with using my laptop before Summer 2020. Looking forward to our next virtual workshop run by Tess Burt and Kath Burt making paper "Spring Flowers"

Margaret Bunch



The Events Committee

Chairman: Margaret Bunch

Vice Chair Jo Skinner

CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS FRIDAY 30 APRIL

**DFWI SUMMER HOLIDAY
to
INTERNATIONAL
GILBERT AND SULLIVAN
FESTIVAL**

**at BUXTON
in the Peak District
2nd August 2021 for
4 days**



MONDAY 2 AUGUST 2021 TO THURSDAY 5 AUGUST

£370 (There is an additional single supplement of £60.00)

Trip Highlights: Tickets For The Gondoliers - Visit to Leamington Spa -
A Full Day Exploring Historic Buxton -
A Full Day excursion to Chatsworth House - Visit to the town of Bakewell -
2 Course Lunch on the journey home.

Price includes: 3 nights stay at The Palace Hotel with Dinner and Breakfast - Visits to Leamington Spa and Bakewell - Entrance Tickets to Chatsworth House - Tickets in the Stalls for The Gondoliers - 2 Course Lunch on our journey home.

Full itinerary can be obtained from County Office.

Non-refundable deposit of £50.00 payable when booking (unless cancelled by DFWI)

Remainder of monies is due **end of May**

Closing date for bookings is Friday 30 April.

(Don't leave it too late, Firm bookings are being received for this holiday)

Open to all WI members, friends, husbands and partners,

Booking Form available from Federation Secretary—email: federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org



SAVE THE DATE

NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers Day – 5 July 2021

Afternoon Tea Time

Help celebrate the efforts of NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers over the last year while we have been in a pandemic. The WI has been asked to design a cake for this celebration and they will share the recipe on My WI so we can all have a piece during our own Afternoon Teas on 5 July.

See more details in <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/Membership-and-Engagement-Team-Update-Jan-2021.pdf> (Page 3).

Dorset Federation ZOOM Events



Dorset Federation Events Team have arranged a Zoom event **demonstrating the making of Needlefelt Necklace.**

Make your own stylised felt necklace. Over **two** Zoom sessions we shall make a colourful necklace using the wet felt process. In the first session we will make the wet felted beads and discuss placements of beads. The second session will comprise putting the necklace together and attaching a clasp. (We will try to accommodate your requested colours as far as supplies let us. The colours are in various tones of blues, greens, yellow, oranges, turquoise, red and purples.)

This is being presented by Dena Selby over two sessions, **SATURDAY 17 APRIL AND SATURDAY 24 April** at 10.00 am. The demonstration will be about 2 hours. The cost of this is **£15.00** and includes **all the materials you will require.** The pack of all the material needed for your Needlefelt Necklace

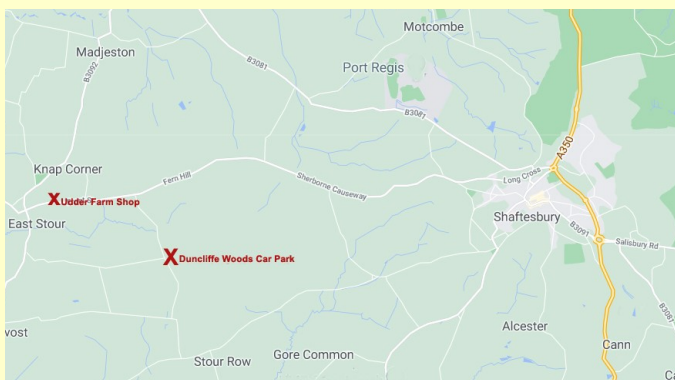
will be sent when you book. The closing date for this event is **Friday 8 April. Please leave enough time for DFWI to send out your package.** On booking you will also be sent an email link to the Zoom event.

To book a place on this event please contact the Federation Secretary, email:- federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org

Please note that the link for any zoom event is for your personal use only and should not be shared with any other party.

On **THURSDAY 20 MAY** Dorset Federation Events are leading a **ramble at Duncliffe Woods, near Shaftesbury.** Meet at the car park for the woods at 10.30 am. We will be in the open air and will follow current government guidelines. You may wish to bring a picnic with you.

Udders Farm Shop, which is 2 minutes away, serves refreshments.



If you are coming could you please contact Margaret Bunch (email: eventschair@dorsetwi.org) so that she may make up a Track and Trace list.

On **TUESDAY 15 JUNE** Dorset Federation Events are leading a **ramble at Bowleaze Cove.** Meet at the entrance to the Riviera Hotel 10.30 am. On street parking is available nearby. We will be in the open air and will follow current government guidelines.

If you are coming could you please contact Jo Skinner (email: jo.bowleaze@gmail.com) so that she may make up a Track and Trace list.



All booking forms and details of Zoom events can be obtained from the Federation Secretary, email: federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org.

Look out for

Afternoon Tea at Athelhampton House—Summer 2021

The Magic of Christmas Floral Extravaganza—December 2021

OFFICE NEWS

County Quiz

With the easing of lockdown and the opportunity of meeting in gardens the Events Committee agreed at their recent zoom meeting to put a closing date of 30th April on entries for the 2020 quiz to be sent to the office. Hopefully we soon be able to give a date and venue for the long awaited Quiz Final.

Full details of the following events can be obtained from Federation Secretary
email: federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org.

Elizabeth Bell Challenge 2021/2022

Running from January – December 2021, WIs are invited to compose a record demonstrating how their members have worked together to engage and support one another throughout the year; offering opportunities that have united their members, as well as successfully marketing the WI to increase their membership.

Lady Denman Cup Competition 2021



“Let me show you what a woman can do!”

Artemisia Gentileschi, Self Portrait as Saint Catherine of Alexandria, about 1615-17. @The National Gallery

Using no more than 500 words, WI members are invited to submit a piece of writing, fact or fiction, in any style (story, poem etc.) based on the above painting by Artemisia Gentileschi.

Closing date of **Friday 30 July 2021** for members to submit their entry to their federation office.

Diane Towndrow

Denman Update

As we look forward to a return to normality, we will miss some of the institutions and facilities that we enjoyed before the pandemic arrived. Denman College was one of the casualties, but all is not lost and its function to contribute to the educational objectives of the WI has already begun with Denman at Home. This is just one part of the contribution to continue making the wide range of courses, previously delivered by the college, accessible to all Members.

The NFWI have yet to complete the Charity Commission process and for the sale of the college property to complete. When this has been finalised the money from the sale will be held in the restricted Denman College Trust Fund and be used to finance the educational opportunities for Members. This takes time and at the present moment is taking longer than in the past with access to facilities and personnel limited by the work from home rule. In the meantime, the NFWI team are working tirelessly to build a model that fulfils the charitable objectives and the aspirations of the Members. A consultation will be carried out with Members, on the new educational model, at the earliest opportunity, as the aim is to have a model that is accessible to all Members across England, Wales and the Channel Isles as soon as possible after funds become available.

In the meantime, I appreciate we all want to resume our quality of life, but we will have to have patience. We will have an opportunity to shape this new model in the consultation and I encourage you to take part in person or through me. For those of you that are able I would recommend looking on the Denman website to explore the Denman at Home courses or sign up for the weekly email update. My email the week of writing this included some ideas to engage my mind and develop new skills. I pick out 4 as a sample of what is on offer for this week, the selection changes from week to week, but will always cover a wide range of subjects and crafts.

Marilyn Holehouse (Denman Ambassador)

Email: DenmanAmbassador@dorsetwi.org or contact the Office and your correspondence will be forwarded to me.



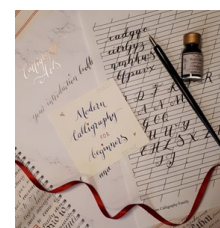
A Very British Meteorite



Decluttering Is There Only One Way



My Favourite Poem



Modern Calligraphy for Beginners

WI NEWS FROM AROUND DORSET

STALBRIDGE WI

The Editor of the Dorset News would like to apologise to Stalbridge WI, in particular Shelagh Orchard, who after a request, submitted the following article for our Christmas Roundup, which was overlooked when putting the News together.

Father Christmas in Stalbridge.

There was a knock at the door just before Christmas and there stood one of Father Christmas's elves, a member of our Committee. She handed me a festive goody bag and explained that all members were being given this "Christmas stocking" as we hadn't been able to hold meetings for most of this year – and this was the Committee's way of showing us that we hadn't been forgotten! Well, I thanked the elf for the lovely gift and promised not to peek until the 25th. When the time came, I retrieved the bag from under the tree and was immediately transported back to many, many moons ago and the great excitement of opening my stocking. I put in my hand and pulled out some chocolate coins, soap, hand cream, tissues, a pair of socks and a homemade Christmas face mask, amongst other things! Had I really stopped believing in the man with the white beard and red suit? I certainly changed my mind this Christmas Day!



Shelagh Orchard

CHIDEOCK WI

With Easter upon us members have been busy designing and making Easter Bonnets. Although these couldn't be displayed in our usual way, members sent in photographs to be shared and appreciated. We continue to support



Nurses by making comfort and seat belt cushions. A new delivery will be made before Easter.

Groups have continued to function via the inevitable 'Zoom'. The Craft Group has flourished with individual and shared projects; ideas and materials are always available. We have introduced 'virtual' coffee mornings enabling members to keep in touch. The Book Group recently discussed the Booker Prize Winning Novel 'Shuggie Bain' by Douglas Stewart. This is a heart wrenching, thought provoking but beautifully written book. It prompted much discussion.

Lynn Hartmann

SANDFORD AND WAREHAM WI

Following on from the success of Sandford and Wareham's Christmas raffle, we decided to hold an Easter raffle. Once again members have been very generous with their donations, mainly of the chocolate variety and this has enabled us to put together five prizes. During the past year, we have held two zoom meetings a month, one is a games night and the other is a meeting with a speaker.

Our Easter raffle will be drawn at our games evening on 6 April, when we will be playing scattergories.

Rosemary Hargrave



CHRISTCHURCH CENTRAL WI

It seems unbelievable that it's a year since we held our last local WI meeting. Christchurch Central WI's committee has still been able to meet up, mainly via Zoom, and is now hopeful that normality will soon be restored. Looking back over 2019-20 it's fantastic to see what we were up to and what we are aiming to achieve again. Each month saw book club, coffee, walk, and lunch social events. The project club worked on many crafts and the CCWI choir combined for a Christmas festival with WIs across Dorset and sang at Wimborne Minster. The theatre group was very enjoyable although short lived and our own thespians produced drama group performances of the highest standard. Members attended both NFWI and DFWI annual meetings. The summer was celebrated with both an open-top bus trip to Swanage for a fish and chip lunch, a stroll on the beach followed by an ice-cream and a 'Mad Hatters Tea Party' at the Red House Museum. September saw an outing to Compton Acres, a huge success helped by the glorious weather. The Remembrance Day Parade was well attended with Jacquie Russell (President) laying a wreath and Christchurch Food Bank were the recipients of an impressive collection of Christmas goodies.

The December meeting included a bazaar, festive cheer and entertainment provided by the Drama Group including the drollest Cinderella Pantomime ever seen. Some members attended the Christmas Spectacular at The Regent Centre and the festival season ended with the CCWI Christmas Party held in January 2020 at the Lord Bute.

Members attended events from other WIs including Highcliffe, Highcliffe Amberwood, Talbot Village and a Christmas party hosted by the Christchurch Belles. Of special interest to members old and new was a display of photos from CCWI archives that were available for perusal at one meeting. CCWI was delighted that a photo of the sparkling Christmas themed Mason jars was included in the WI section of Crafts Beautiful Magazine. On top of all this the monthly meetings were enlivened by a variety of speakers covering as wide a range of subjects from the history of knitting, Oregon Trail quilts, an update from Africa and the history of handbags and not to forget our chance of improving the future by voting on resolutions. No wonder we can't wait to get back together. There's no doubt that C-19 has kept us on our toes: newsletters, phone calls, birthday cards, socially distanced outdoor events when allowed, zoom meetings and quizzes by Zoom have kept us ticking over but aren't as good as the real thing. Here's to everyone getting the jab and getting back to business as soon as possible.

Carole Gannicott

BRAIN TEASER

(Answers in the Dorset News Website <https://dorsetwi-news.weebly.com>)

Wish You Were Here

Across

3. Is one of the most famous monuments in Paris, standing at the western end of the Champs-Élysées. (3, 2, 8)
4. A wrought iron lattice tower on the Champ de Mars in Paris, France. (6, 5)
5. A colossal neoclassical sculpture on Liberty Island in New York Harbor in New York City. (6, 2, 7)
6. Also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre, is an oval amphitheatre in the centre of the city of Rome, Italy. (9)
7. An ivory-white marble mausoleum on the south bank of the Yamuna river in the Indian city of Agra. (3, 5)
9. Is the campanile, or freestanding bell tower, of the cathedral of the Italian city of Pisa. (7, 5, 2, 4)
10. A combined bascule and suspension bridge in London built between 1886 and 1894. (5, 6)

Down

1. A multi-venue performing arts centre in Sydney, Australia. (6, 5, 5)
2. A prehistoric monument in Wiltshire, England, 2 miles west of Amesbury and 8 miles north of Salisbury. (10)
8. The nickname for the Great Bell of the clock at the north end of the Palace of Westminster in London. (3, 3)

