



Dorset-WI NEWS

Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes

SHOW THE LOVE

TURN FEBRUARY GREEN AND TAKE PART IN THE CLIMATE COALITION'S 'SHOW THE LOVE' CAMPAIGN AND HELP PROTECT OUR NATIVE WILDLIFE.



A once familiar sight and a sound often associated with the British summer, the turtle dove has declined by a staggering 97% since 1970 and now resides on the Global Red List for Endangered Species.



In 1950 there were an estimated 36 million hedgehogs in the UK. Sadly, reports last year suggested that had dropped to just one million in 2013, a third of levels at the start of the century.



Scottish wildcats are one of our rarest mammals. A combination of hunting and habitat loss meant they disappeared from England and Wales close to 200 years ago.



Small tortoiseshell butterfly, once one of our commonest species, in 2013 it was reported that numbers had dropped by 77% in the previous 10 years.



TURN FEBRUARY GREEN

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Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes

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Other times by appointment

Thursday/Friday Office Closed

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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

Photographs of events for the news are most welcome. 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 EVENTS CHAIRMAN

EVENTS TEAM ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING

The Events Team are now planning for 2022/23. Day courses of Feather Stitching, Quilling, Crochet and Iris Cards are to be held at DFWI County House Poundbury, in the Spring. Murder Mystery at Moreton Village Hall in April, and our trip to Chavenage House held over from 2020 hopefully will go ahead in June. We have also had a lot of interest in our 5-day holiday planned for September to Floriade.

We hope we can organise the Skittles League and Kurling afternoons, for 2022. Venues may be a problem for Skittles Teams, so can you please contact the Skittle Team captains you are playing if you have a problem.

Please email me at eventschair@dorsetwi.org or federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org if you have any hobbies/interests that you would like to run as a day course at County House or have a suggestion for an Event.

All details of Events are on page four. The booking forms can be found on the DFWI website or look for posts on DFWI Facebook page for information, or email Diane our Federation Secretary at federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org

As I write this the Omicron variant is spreading around the Country. I have my fingers crossed that we can still have our Events we are planning. We will always take measures to keep our members safe at Events and follow the Government Guide lines. If we cannot continue with face to face Events, we will plan Zoom Events.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our Events, take care and stay safe in the coming year.



Margaret Bunch

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Wednesday 2 March - FOLLOW UP CROCHET at County House

Thursday 3 March - DORSET FEATHER STITCHING at County House

Thursday 24 March - CROCHET FOR BEGINNERS at County House

Saturday 9 April - MURDER MYSTERY at Moreton Village Hall

Saturday 11 June - NFWI ANNUAL MEETING in Liverpool

Tuesday 14 June - CHAVENAGE HOUSE

Friday 29 - Sunday 31 July - CAMP BESTIVAL

Thursday 1 - Monday 5 September - FLORIADE TRIP

Thursday 27 October - DFWI ANNUAL MEETING - Poole

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

For all your information on the Dorset Federation of Womens Institutes you can check out our website.

<https://dorset.thewi.org.uk/news>

MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT TEAM

Chairman: Yvonne Marsh

Vice Chair: Liz Smith

Hi there Buddy!

Happy New Year from the **Membership and Support Team**. Not sure things are *that* much better than the beginning of last year – but let's keep our pecker up and hope we can all keep in touch through our WIs.

It's at this time of year that the M & S team plan what helpful training sessions we can put on throughout the year. We usually like to do something for Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers (I hope those who attended enjoyed the recent 'zoom' treasurers afternoon), and perhaps more importantly, for those who think they *might* be able to 'take the plunge' into becoming an officer for their WI. There may also be another way that we can help each other with these roles. When we assist a new WI to form, it is always helpful when there are experienced WI members or maybe 'dual' members from another WI who can help new committees get underway and settle in. We know that there are members who are or have been Presidents, Secretaries or Treasurers and who are very willing to support members who have not done it before – so we are thinking we would like to set up a 'buddy' list so that we could link people more easily.

This is a very informal role – a buddy might just be at the end of an e-mail or telephone, she might welcome an invite to a WI meeting to offer support if needed, or

meet up for coffee and a chat about the role she is supporting – 'buddies' themselves will decide what they will do and no one else, including us WI advisers, need be involved unless asked.

We would love to hear from you if you are or have been a President, Secretary or Treasurer and would be happy to go on our list as a possible 'buddy' so that we will know who would be happy to link up with and help a fellow WI member. Please contact your WI adviser, or email the Federation office (federationsecretary@dfwi.org) so that we can start compiling our list!



Jan Watson. (Wladviser2@dorsetwi.org)

PUBLIC AFFAIRS- IT'S WHAT WE DO!

When I first joined the WI I enjoyed listening to interesting speakers, meeting friends and enjoying afternoon tea! But the thing that really made me cough up my subscription was the WI's involvement in campaigning about issues that affected women, their families and communities. We all know about the process that takes a resolution through its voting stages to a mandate allowing action to be taken by the organization and its members, but resolutions and votes aren't the only way that WIs get involved in Public Affairs.



The term 'public affairs' is broader than just acting on resolution outcomes. Local issues

may also come under the umbrella. Some members may find themselves becoming involved in local

councils, schools management, lunch clubs and charity shops. Over the past year, members have been sewing masks and looking out for the housebound and lonely. Individual WIs become involved in issues within their own community which may or may not be linked to WI mandates – litter picking, gardening community spaces, caring for the environment, collecting for food banks, supporting women's refuges and addressing issues around 'period poverty'. Communities get to know that this is part of what the WI is all about!

The Federation Board of Trustees is considering how it can co-ordinate, support and share news of the public affairs work of individual WIs in Dorset, and we need your thoughts as to how we could do this.

To start off, we would love you to let us know what you and/or your WI get up to. We would also like to hear from you if you have any ideas about how we can support and encourage Dorset WIs with their public affairs involvement. Contact the Federation on FederationSecretary@dorsetwi.org

We look forward to hearing from you.

Leri Ayres
DFWI Trustee

Jan Watson
Resolutions Co-ordinator

THE EVENTS TEAM

Chairman: Margaret Bunch
Vice Chair: Elaine Knight



For those who attended the *INTRODUCTION TO CROCHET* event in November we are having a

FOLLOW UP CROCHET

Come to County House on **Wednesday 2 March** and take part in our Follow up Crochet event. You will need to bring on the day the following items:-

4mm hook, or 4.5mm, 5.00mm or 5.50mm crochet hook. Double knitting wool (ie. not too fine). A pair of scissors.

The cost of this event will be **£5.00**.

It will run in the morning from 10.00 - 12.30.

CROCHET FOR BEGINNERS

A Crochet for Beginners morning is also taking place at County House on **Thursday 24 March**. You will need to bring on the day the following items:-

4mm hook, or 4.5mm, 5.00mm or 5.50mm crochet hook. Double knitting wool (ie. not too fine). A pair of scissors.

The cost of this event will be **£5.00**.

It will run in the morning from 10.00 - 12.30.

To book a place on either of these events please contact the Federation Secretary, email:- **federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org**.

Dorset Feather Stitching



Tess Burt is running a Dorset Feather Stitching day course at DFWI County House, Poundbury on **Thursday 3 March 10.00 am-4.00 pm** with an hour for lunch. Cost of this will be **£15.00 Please bring**

your own sewing kit (needles and scissors). All other material will be provided. Numbers are limited to eight people.

To book a place on this event please contact Diane our Federation Secretary, email:-

federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org or go to DFWI website to download a booking form (<https://dorset.thewi.org.uk/booking-forms>).

Nobody is above suspicion

at Moreton Village Hall
9 April
FROM 6.30 ONWARDS
(SUPPER WILL BE INCLUDED MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW)



On **Tuesday 14 June** a trip to **Chavanage House**, used as Trenwith in the Poldark series, is planned. The cost will be **£48 pp** which will include the coach trip,

guided house tour and a two course lunch. As the house is an Elizabethan building retaining many of its original features, there is no wheelchair access and there are steps and uneven floors so you will need to be careful if you are a bit unsteady on your feet.

To book a place on this event please contact Diane our Federation Secretary, email:- **federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org** or go to DFWI website to download a booking form (<https://dorset.thewi.org.uk/booking-forms>).

Closing Date;- 16 May 2022

EVENTS IN THE PIPELINE:

Dorset Button Making at County House —2022

Silk Scarf Painting at County House —2022

Afternoon Tea at Athelhampton House —Spring 2022

DFWI Annual Meeting—27 October

Scrapbooking with Liz Morris—May 2022 (New Event)

Further details of these events will follow in due course.

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

THE EVENTS TEAM



DFWI SUMMER HOLIDAY TO FLORIADIE IN THE NETHERLANDS

THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2022
TO MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2022

£625 (There is an additional single supplement of £120)

Trip Highlights: Amsterdam Canal Cruise - Zundert Flower Parade - A Full Day at Floriade

Price includes:

4 nights stay at the Carlton President Hotel with Dinner B & B Entrance to the Floriade including a cable car ride. Canal Cruise on the Amsterdam Canals.

Entrance ticket with a seat at the Zundert Flower Parade

Full itinerary can be obtained from County Office.

For more information contact **our Federation Secretary, email: federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org.**

For more details of Floriade you can visit their website - <https://floriade.com/en/about-floriade/> which will give you more information on Floriade itself.

(Deposit to be paid by 29 April)



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

I'm sure that many of you will be involved with celebrations within your own communities for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. Please take and send in plenty of photographs so that we can see how you have celebrated this wonderful occasion.

The Federation Trustees feel that we should mark the date and would welcome any suggestions or ideas that you may have. We have one or two ideas but would like to hear from you as you may suggest things we haven't thought of.

Please send your ideas in to the office or email me direct on: federationchairman@dorsetwi.org to arrive no later than **Monday 28th February.**

So get your thinking caps on and get in touch!

Jenny Preston, Federation Chairman

CAN YOU HELP

DORSET FEDERATION NEWS IS LOOKING FOR A CARTOONIST/ARTIST TO HELP WITH THE PRODUCTION OF THE NEWS. CONTACT THE NEWS EDITOR AT newseditor@dorsetwi.org FOR MORE INFORMATION.



CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING



AT COUNTY HOUSE



CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AT CAREY HALL

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS WI HURRAH! AT LAST... THE 2020 CELEBRATION.



At long last we were able to celebrate our Centenary Anniversary. So on a mild November afternoon Lytchett Matravers WI had its day!

Many of our members donned their finery, as well as their mask, and celebrated in style with a delicious afternoon tea. Our afternoon teas are quite a tradition with our ladies, so it was 'just the ticket'!



There was much chattering and laughter as friends met and made the most of face-to-face contact that we have all come to value so much.

There were many highlights for us all to remember. We welcomed three past presidents who, unfortunately, can no longer join our monthly meetings. One past president has a long history with the group and is mentioned, according to our archives, as far back as the early sixties.



We gave out congratulatory certificates to members who had been associated with WI from 15 years to 50 years. Two of our talented ladies made gorgeous flower arrangements for the tables, which one lucky member sitting at each table took home.

One of the items which caused a lot of interest was our 'Centenary Book' which shows a record of our experiences, fun and activities during the pandemic.



We had members who knitted blankets for an orphanage in Kenya, others who were involved in the delivery of commemorative pens and cake to members on what should have been our centenary week, whilst others joined in with the NFWI 'Twist Festival' challenge, with far too much wine in their glasses! A varied picture of life during 'lockdown'.

Oh! We must not forget our waitresses...our 'baby sister' Not Just WI, who celebrated their 10th birthday this month. They donned black outfits, white lace pinnies and lace 'French maid' type headbands to serve our tea with panache!

An afternoon to remember...yes, for all sorts of reasons, but mainly that our WI is still around despite all the difficulties that the century has put upon it. Long may the friendship, fun, hard work at times and the fellowship, which belonging to our WI gives us, continue for another century!

Jackie Cannings



MILTON ON STOUR WI LADIES MARK THEIR CENTENARY

We joined forces just before Christmas to celebrate our centenary year with plenty of cake, of course! Combining a festive afternoon with a scrumptious buffet, and fruit punch along with a huge celebration chocolate cake made by member Ann Perry.

WEST MOORS WI CELEBRATES 100 YEARS.

West Moors Women's Institute held a Christmas lunch on Thursday 2 December 2021 to celebrate the centenary of their formation in December 1921

Around 50 members and guests from local WI groups joined together in West Moors Memorial Hall to mark the occasion.

The meeting started with the traditional singing of Jerusalem. Then Joyce Williams, the longest standing member, unveiled a certificate and plaque which users of the hall will be able to read.

Attendees tucked into a delicious 'bring and share' lunch, with roast meat, salads, quiches, sandwiches and other delicacies. This was followed by an equally tasty dessert course of trifle, cheesecake and scones. The food however took second place to friendship and chatting between members and guests.

Next children from neighbouring St Mary's school visited the event and sang a selection of carols and other Christmas songs from the stage.

After this there was a cake cutting ceremony, a quiz and more chatting. The afternoon rounded up with a raffle.

Sheila Davies, West Moors Women's Institute President, said

"We were really pleased we could celebrate our centenary with a party like this. It hasn't been the centenary year we were expecting but we hope to hold more open events in 2022. New members are always welcome and we've had several women join in the months since we reopened."

Penny Gaines



CHRISTCHURCH CENTRAL WI



Christchurch Central WI held their final meeting of the year on Wednesday 1 December at Druitt Hall Christchurch and it was a Christmas celebration. The meeting included a Christmas Craft Table and festive treats for refreshments. Festive treats were also on everyone's mind as the donation of chocolates, biscuits, cakes and sweets for Christchurch Food Bank testifies. The goodies filled three large bin bags and a carrier bag and were gratefully received by the Food Bank.

The highlight of the meeting however was the Drama Group's Programme of Entertainment comprising both funny and thought-provoking

songs, prose and poems culminating in an amusing and very droll Aladdin pantomime. The meeting closed with everyone getting into the Christmas spirit by singing Carols and Christmas songs.

Christchurch Central WI meets every month on the first Wednesday of the month at Druitt Hall Christchurch commencing at 10am. More details can be found on Facebook.

Carole Gannicott



TALBOT VILLAGE WI

'OUR BANNER'

Talbot Village WI is a combination of the former Cemetery Junction and Wallisdown WIs. When it was announced by County that the Banners would be presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting at the Lighthouse Theatre in Poole, I suggested to our 'Needlewoman, Maureen Winn, that we make our own.

The planning and preparation provided a wonderful project during lockdown and with the help of other members our Banner, representing all the aspects of our WI life, was created.

As the current President I felt I would like to have the honour of carrying it at the Annual Meeting, and as there were no other volunteers, at the age of 86 it would be another challenge, but I am a WI member and challenges are what we do. However, I hadn't bargained on 'steps'. I was fine on a level or sloping surface – I had walked around our Church Hall to practice – but I didn't realise that the aisles at the Lighthouse are 'stepped'. Mature age, controlling a banner, steps and an arthritic knee are not a good combination, but I was determined to do my best. Over the years I have been moved by the sound of hundreds of female voices singing Jerusalem, and JERUSALEM was the piece of work I had chosen to represent on our Banner. So to stand with the other Banner bearers in front of the stage, listening to the beautiful sound was awesome. As were all the Banners. Each one an individual piece of art, and what they represent of the past and present to each Institute.

This was in many ways a 'Once in a Lifetime' experience for me. It was a struggle to cope with the steps I must admit, but the whole experience is one I will always treasure.



Barbara Sparling

STOUR POWER WI

On a very bright and sunny morning on Tuesday 9 November 2021 nine intrepid members of Stour Power WI set off from Watery Lane, Throop accompanied by James, Countryside Warden for Stour Valley and one of his volunteers. Armed with saplings (purchased from the Woodland Trust) and spades we set off across two fields, one occupied by some very nose and noisy cows to the top of the hill overlooking the nature reserve. Unfortunately the area where the planting was to take place had not been cleared so it was a daunting task to plant our 155 saplings! Entering into the task and with much pushing, shoving and digging our task was accomplished also helped by Margaret's husband – and a great deal of mooing and bellowing from the cows. We had a great morning tiring but satisfying and with the sun shining throughout.

Diana Payne



(L – R Diana Payne (President) Pat Taylor, Gill Birkett, Margaret Hutchings, Helen Brown, Pat Tomlin, Liz Doe (Vice President), and Gloria Wilkie)

COLEHILL WI

Getting ready for our Christmas party. Our Stitchcraft Group made the little Christmas trees and round vine wreaths for our tables.

Yvonne Warner



SHILLINGSTONE WI

We have knitted over the last two year poppies to display behind the memorial during Remembrance Week. This year a sewing party got them ready to hang and they shone in the sunshine behind the



war memorial.

We have once again joined the National two weeks of campaigning to Stop Violence against Women by hanging a white ribbon for each WI member on the tree planted by the WI to commemorate the Millennium.

Caroline Salt



CHIDEOCK WI Chideock Christmas Lunch!

(Complete with Santa and his elf)

