



# Dorset-WI NEWS

Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes

## **BLOW AWAY THE WINTER COBWEBS AND JOIN US ON A**

**DFWI SPRING HOLIDAY TO NORTHUMBERLAND AND HOLY ISLAND SUNDAY 2 APRIL 2023 FOR 5 DAYS**

**£530**

**(There is an additional single supplement of £99)**

Explore Alnwick Castle - Try some Fish and Chips in Seashouses

Take the Boat Trip to the Farne Islands.

Step back in time at Beamish Open Air Museum

Visit The Holy Island of Lindisfarne



### **Price includes:**

4 night stay at the Best Western Plus Gibside Hotel with Dinner and Breakfast



**Full itinerary can be obtained from County Office**

Contact our Federation Secretary, email: [federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org](mailto:federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org)

*(There has been lots of interest, 1/3 of the spaces already booked)*

## **CREATIVE WRITING COURSE**



**Eight Weeks, 10.00 am to 12 noon**

**Wednesdays, 1 March to 3 May 2023**

**(No class on April 5 or 12 due to Easter)**

**County House, 18 Crown Street West, Poundbury DT1 3DW**

Learn how to write fiction, whether you would like to be published or not. Please bring along a pen/pencil and note book.

*The tutor is Pamela Mann who gave a very successful Memoir Writing Course in the Autumn at County House.*

Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be available

**Cost per person:£80.00**

**To book a place please contact Diane our Federation Secretary, email:- [federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org](mailto:federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org)**



## **RECYCLING AND SAVING ENERGY TO SAVE THE PLANET**

When you boil the kettle for a cup of coffee, it costs about 1 unit of energy - 18p, put any water left over into a vacuum flask ready for your next hot drink. 2 cups for the price of 1!!

Turn your central heating thermostat down by 1 degree and see if you notice the difference! Could help you reduce your energy bill by up to £80 per year on average.

Electric slow cookers cost 2 - 4p per hour to run an electric oven costs 55p per hour, so if you have a slow cooker dig out the recipe book and see if you can use it more often this winter.



Did you know you can recycle empty medical blister packs? Superdrug have dedicated recycling bins so blister packs don't end up in a landfill for decades, or even centuries, to come.



**SPRING BREAK TO NORTHUMBERLAND, ASCOT, AUTUMN BREAK TO NORMANDY**

## Contact Details

### Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes

#### Write to:

DFWI, County House,  
18 Crown Street West,  
Poundbury DT1 3DW.

**Telephone:** 01305 266366

**Federation Secretary Email:**  
[federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org](mailto:federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org)

#### Office Hours

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday  
10am-13.00pm for Phone calls and  
visitors

Other times by appointment

**Thursday/Friday Office Closed**

#### Federation Chair

Jenny Preston

#### Federation Secretary

Diane Towndrow

#### Editor of Dorset WI News:

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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](mailto: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 CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

I first joined the WI when I was 28 and living in Lincolnshire, and several decades later I am enjoying life in Dorset and many WI activities with Stoborough WI, where I have been a member for 9 years. I became involved in climate change initiatives three years ago because I felt that action needed to be taken to improve our impact on our precious planet and thereby our lives and especially that of future generations. I feel privileged to have been asked to join the Board of Trustees as Climate Ambassador, and I hope that this role will provide an additional focus on complex and urgent issues in a practical way.



I was delighted to meet so many of you at our Climate Change stand at the Annual Conference and to hear your local issues. Many of the issues are common across Dorset, but it became clear that the solutions may be different depending on the needs of the local environment, facilities and knowledge available. As a result of hearing from members, I am looking at how we can all improve not just our own sustainability but that of our local communities. My aim is to share our knowledge, share our successes and see how we can overcome some of the challenges and difficulties that exist. My experience in my own WI so far has shown that our communities want to know what can be done about climate change and what they can do to improve things. One early lesson from my own group's experience is that people want to do their bit, but the information about how to do that needs to be clear and simple.

I believe that the WI has a powerful voice to engage with local councils and organisations, and the communities they serve to promote environmental sustainability in a practical way. Working and sharing experiences and knowledge together will increase our impact and make us more successful.

Here's to a more sustainable 2023 in Dorset!

**Mary Morris**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2023



**SKITTLES - ALL GAMES TO BE PLAYED AND RESULTS IN BY 31 MARCH**

**Sunday 2 April (5 days) - SPRING HOLIDAY TO NORTHUMBERLAND**

**Saturday 22 April - SPRING CRAFTS at Christchurch**

**Wednesday 1 March - CREATIVE WRITING at County House (8 week course)**

**Thursday 11 May - LITERARY AFTERNOON TEA at Athelhampton**

**Thursday 25 May - NFWI ANNUAL CONFERENCE in Cardiff**

**Tuesday 20 June - TRIP TO ASCOT**

**Friday 22 September (6 days) - AUTUMN BREAK TO BRITTANY**

**Thursday 12 October - DFWI ANNUAL MEETING (AMENDED DATE)**

All booking forms and details of events can be obtained from Diane our Federation Secretary, email: [federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org](mailto:federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org)

## MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT TEAM

### Membership and Support

It is the beginning of a new year and we know many of you are planning your Programme for the year. The WI Advisers are also considering their plans for the year and our main objective is to support the WIs in Dorset, so below we share our ideas with you.

Treasurers Training (1 on zoom and 1 in the office at Poundbury.

President/Secretary Information Sharing days

Programme Planning

Resolution Writing

The History and 3 tiers of the WI

New Members get together.

**If there is anything else you would find interesting please let us know.**

The Advisers are also available by phone or email all year round for support and advice and if you require an Adviser to attend your Annual Meeting please contact her or Diane in the office

*Yvonne Marsh*

**Chairman: Yvonne Marsh**

**Vice Chair: Sue Hibbard**

**Liz Smith**

### Planting a tree for the Jubilee



What a year of contrasts this has been. In September we mourned the loss of Queen Elizabeth 11 whilst in June we celebrated her 70 years of service to the country and many of you marked this in your WIs. At Federation level, the Board of Trustees felt that planting a tree on behalf of Dorset Federation would be an appropriate way to celebrate the life of service given by the Queen who was a long term WI member. The Board has been in contact with the Duchy of Cornwall with a view to planting a tree at Poundbury and have been given permission to do so in Woodlands Crescent. The cost (to include the tree, plaque including our DFWI logo and continuing maintenance of the tree by the Duchy) is estimated at about £480. The Board is mindful of the financial restraints affecting the Federation at the moment, but feel that the event should not go unmarked. We have received some generous donations in recent months and feel minded to use some of this money for the project. However, if your WI would also like to send a small donation towards the cost it would be gratefully received and acknowledged. If you had hoped to plant a tree in your community but were unable to secure a location, perhaps you feel you could become a part of this project.

*Jenny Preston*

### SAVE THE DATE FOR A GREAT DAY AT

#### The DFWI Annual Meeting

**This will take place on Thursday 12 October 2023 at the Lighthouse in Poole.**



Our afternoon speaker is the Reverend Kate Bottley. Originally from Sheffield, the Reverend Kate Bottley is a priest in north Nottinghamshire. She is passionate about bringing stories of faith and belief to the widest audience possible.

### TALBOT VILLAGE WI ladies with some of the blankets from the Annual Meeting Challenge.

We have delivered in excess of 145 blankets to the Ukrainian Relief Depot in Bournemouth and there are more to go. We also delivered two boxes of unwanted jewellery to Heart Research UK.



Heart Research UK t: 0113 234 7474  
Suite 12D w: heartresearch.org.uk  
Joseph's Well e: info@heartresearch.org.uk  
Leeds  
LS3 1AB

FAQ: Diane  
Dorset FWI  
County House  
18 Crown Street West  
POUNDBURY  
Dorset  
DT1 3DW

15<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Diane

I am writing to thank you and the Dorset FWI for your donation for the Treasure Your Heart campaign. Thanks to your generosity, we can continue in our mission to reduce the number of people developing and dying from heart disease, while improving and extending the lives of those affected.

A huge **THANK YOU** from Diane, our Federation Secretary, for all the cards WI members sent to her after her recent hip operation. She is now back in the office.





## THE EVENTS TEAM

**Chairman: Margaret Bunch**  
**Vice Chair: Elaine Knight**  
**Dena Selby**

### JOIN US FOR A GRAND DAY OUT AT ASCOT



On **Tuesday 20 June 2023** we are off to Ascot. Entering into the Queen Anne Enclosure, which is located at the heart of the action. Granting views of the Parade and Pre-Parade Rings, this is a vibrant and stylish world of colour, high fashion and incredible millinery, just a whisker away from the world's finest horses.

The cost of this will be **£120**. This will include your coach travel, entry ticket and a picnic lunch (please bring your own drink). **Spaces are limited to 50 people and bookings are required by the end of February.**

*We have already had many enquires so to avoid disappointment book early.*

### DFWI AUTUMN BREAK TO NORMANDY AND BRITTANY COAST

**FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2023 FOR 6 DAYS**

**£880**

**(There is an additional single supplement of £125)**

Explore the historic walled city of Saint Malo, Walk the streets of Mont St Michel, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Learn how Calvados is made and sample some on a tour of the factory. Visit Dinan a medieval town dating back to 13th Century.

A chance to see the Bayeux Tapestry.



#### Price includes:

5 night stay at the Mercure Balmoral Hotel with Dinner and Breakfast

**Full itinerary can be obtained from County Office**

**To book a place on any events being run by Dorset Federation please contact Federation Secretary, email:- [federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org](mailto:federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org) OR GO TO DFWI website to download a booking form (<https://dorset.thewi.org.uk/booking-forms>).**

### Paul Atterbury at Athelhampton

OVER 60 members of the Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes, including some from our own Milborne St Andrew WI, attended a talk given by Paul Atterbury at Athelhampton House. This was followed by a very enjoyable lunch and get-together, including raffle. Well-known from the BBC Antiques Roadshow, Paul Atterbury has been an antiques expert since 1979, specialising in Art, Architectural design and Decorative Arts of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

The theme of Paul's talk was William Morris and the Arts and Crafts Movement, who he was, what he did and the impact on our modern lives. Morris is undoubtedly one of the most familiar names in interior design, a radical Victorian designer and craftsman, who, along with his friends from University, John Ruskin, Edward Burne-Jones and others, (the Birmingham set) were major contributors to the revival of traditional British textile arts and methods of production.

Of particular interest to the audience, Paul explained how much of what Morris did was the forerunner of a new era, opening up personal choice and possibilities, the beginning of modern design, the democratisation of the market. Today we are the inheritors of those attitudes. As Morris once said, '*Have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful*'.



**Pat Bull**  
**Milborne St Andrew WI**

## THE EVENTS TEAM

### SPRING CRAFTS WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 22 APRIL 2023 10.00 am - 3.30 pm.

DRUITT HALL,

High Street, Christchurch BH23 1AJ



Our Spring Craft Workshop will be held in the East of the County at the **Druitt Hall** in **Christchurch**, a few minutes walk from the train station.

The cost will be **£20** per person to **include** materials. Up to **five** different and exciting crafts will be available to make, and you can book **two** of these crafts, **one** for a morning session, the **other** in the afternoon.

Tea and coffee will be available, but please bring a packed lunch.



Contact our Federation Secretary, email: [federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org](mailto:federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org), for a booking form.

### LITERARY AFTERNOON TEA

Athelhampton

Thursday 11 May 13.30pm



Louise Morrish is a Librarian whose debut novel won the 2019 Penguin Random House First Novel Competition. She finds inspiration for her stories in the real-life adventures of women in the past, whom history has forgotten.

Join us for Afternoon Tea at Athelhampton and hear about her novel *Operation Moonlight*.

The cost of this will be **£35.00**.

Contact our Federation Secretary, email: [federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org](mailto:federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org), for a booking form.

### FUTURE EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR

*Wimbledon Tour with Afternoon Tea*  
*Axe Throwing*  
*Willow Weaving Workshop*  
*Ukulele Rebels*  
*American Museum, Bath*

### IRIS CARD MAKING, QUILLING AND CHRISTMAS CONES



A busy time at County House as WI members prepared for Christmas by making cards and decorations. Many thanks to the tutors, **Val Marsden** (Iris Cards), **Tess Burt** (Christmas Cones) and **Kath Burt** (Quilling).

Look out for more Crafting Events in the Spring.



### WELL WHAT A FUN EVENING AT JOHN LEWIS

Nearly 300 members of the WI from all over the county and the Live, Love and Laugh Ladies Club were entertained by a Ukulele group and the Anglo dance group. Some lucky ladies enjoyed a very relaxing hand massage and not surprisingly the cocktail tasting was very popular. During the evening various demonstrations took place including a beautiful Christmas table. It was a most enjoyable evening and something different.

*Val Marsden*





## BLANDFORD EVENING WI

### The Search for the Sewers.

This embroidered Panel was displayed on the wall in Blandford Town Council Offices for many years. When the frame was removed to fit it in the Archives, a piece of paper was found pasted to the back saying the panel had been made and presented to the then Borough Council by Blandford WI in 1972.

Blandford Evening WI are researching records to try to find out who was involved in the Panel's construction. Searches at the County History Centre has revealed that the Panel was made for a National Women's Institute competition entitled "Green and Pleasant Land" and it did in fact win first prize before being displayed at the Ideal Home Exhibition. On return to Blandford it was presented to the Borough Council on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1972. Blandford Evening WI would be grateful if anyone in Blandford or the surrounding area who can remember it being made. The search is on for the names of these industrious, talented ladies who produced such an outstanding piece of social history.

Any information can be left on Blandford Evening WI Facebook page or with the Secretary on 01258 269294

*Sheila Chapman*



## CHARMINSTER WI

### Members saved the day!

Two of our committee members are brilliant fabric artists and volunteered to give the evening's talk when, due to Covid, our speaker cancelled.

Maureen Rhodes (our secretary) makes lovely patchwork quilts, wall and door hangings and other decorated fabric items. When travelling overseas to countries such as New Zealand and South Africa, Maureen purchases local fabric and makes it into a quilt reminiscent of whichever country the fabric came from.



Judy Bird makes pictures using tiny strips of fabric and other materials. Many are Dorset scenes and we were astonished at the detail. Like Maureen, her work is a mix of machine and hand sewing and Judy described in detail how a picture is produced.

Afterwards members spent a long time examining the quilts, books and pictures brought by Judy and Maureen and one member told me that she probably enjoyed their talk more than the speaker who had to cancel.

*Judy Thompson*



## WEYBAY WI

A Memory Quilt - our speaker's journey with her husband who had MND. Sally Scragg talked about how she made a Memory Quilt and the reason behind the different fabrics. The quilt was beautifully made and Sally explained how it helped her to cope with MND. We held a raffle to which Sally donated a beautiful Christmas Cushion as the star prize. The raffle raised £400 which was presented to the MND local Support Advisor.

*Sheila Vogwell*





## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS WITH THE WI IN DORSET

### WIMBORNE MINSTER WI

We were entertained by Bonny Sartin of the "Yetties" who gave an amusing and factual talk on "Dorset Smugglers". Our Christmas raffle monies going to the Salvation Army Christmas appeal. A collection was also passed on to The Wimborne Food Bank.

*Jill Haywood*

Linda and Denise with Bonny Sartin of the Yetties



### CHILD OKEFORD WI

Our Craft club have made 130 stockings and filled them with goodies for delivery to Blandford Food Bank.

*Liv Shonfield*



### MARNHULL WI

22 ladies from Marnhull WI enjoying a pre Christmas lunch at The Virginia Ash in Henstridge

*Helen Chalkley*



### CHRISTCHURCH CENTRAL WI

It's Christmas! Celebrations at Christchurch Central WI. Our long awaited Panto was a huge success. It was Snow White but not as you know it! Elvis (our President) and his hobby horse made an appearance. We all had a great time and laughed so much. This Panto was written and produced by one of our members.

The Bazaar was overflowing with beautiful, festive handmade goods from our members!

Our members contributed to our yearly collection of Christmas children's sweets and chocolates for our local food bank.

*Susan Bailey*

### WOOL WI



The winner of one of our Christmas Hampers. The raffle was in aid of MacMillian Cancer Research and raised over £200.

*Isabell vM*



### LYTCHETT MATRAVERS WI

At the LMWI Christmas meeting we were a bit thin on the ground due to the cold weather and illness but Jan Watson soon got us singing Christmas carols lustily! We had a quiz & a seasonal afternoon tea .....oh yes, there was sherry too HO HO HO !

*Tina Evans*





### BLANDFORD EVENING WI

The Ladies of Blandford Evening WI gathered in the Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion at 7.00pm on a particularly cold evening recently for their Annual Christmas party.

The entertainment for the evening was provided by The Landgirls, a duo of singers who performed 1940's and wartime songs. A 1940's dress theme was the order of the night with overalls, trousers and turbans being the most favoured outfit.

All had found it difficult to master the art of tying a turban!

*Sheila Chapman*



### ABSOLUTELY WI

On the 1st November at Parley Memorial Hall, Absolutely WI and Colehill WI joined forces and mixed teams for a kurling evening.

It was very successful and everyone thought it would be a good idea to try to do this more often and perhaps with some new members who may care to join us.

*Sue Frampton*



## DORSET WI WALKING NETBALL NEWS



Child Okeford WI Walking Netball team hosted and organised a mini Dorset WI Walking Netball Festival held at Sturfit Community Sports Centre, Sturminster Newton, on Sunday 27th November 2022. Four WI teams from across Dorset took part.

Congratulations to Sturcrazy (Sturminster Marshall Eve WI) on winning a closely fought competition.

The new "Fair Play" award (voted for by each team) went to newcomers Sandford & Wareham with Stoborough WI.

Thanks to Swanage & Studland and Child Okeford players for helping out teams who need extra players.

Hopefully, Lulworth Fossils will join us next time.

It was great fun, lots of giggles, some great goals and competitive play. It was so good to see how much our Dorset teams have improved since our summer festival in July 2022.

Thanks to Child Okeford WI for much needed refreshments and a great raffle draw.

*Gaynor Waring*

*Child Okeford WI & Dorset Walking Netball Ambassador*

