



Dorset-WI NEWS

Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes



CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

What can we do?

DFWI Conference to be held on SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2024

9.30am for 10am – 4pm

At Dorford Centre, Dorchester DT1 1RR



Our DFWI Conference “Creating a Sustainable Future” will help members throughout Dorset to engage with their communities in taking practical action. Come to the conference and help to build a supportive network across Dorset to help your Communities to live more sustainably. We have some informative speakers and actions will be defined and delivered by delegates.

Speakers

Neil Stevens, H2ecO Dorset—speaking on Renewable Energy – the facts and application.

Representative from Dorset Climate Action Network

Afternoon Workshops

How do we turn good intentions into action?

Facilitator led groups to explore and plan practical actions that we can take with our local communities to help us live more sustainably.

Cost: £10 or buy one at £10 and get a second half price.

Refreshments: Tea and Coffee provided, bring your own lunch.

Contact: DFWI Federation Secretary, County House, 18 Crown Street West, Poundbury, Dorset DT1 3DW.
Telephone 01305 266366 Mon to Wed 10am –1pm. Email federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org



COME AND JOIN US ON A DFWI AUTUMN BREAK TO SNOWDONIA & ISLE OF ANGLESEY HOLIDAY MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2024 FOR 5 DAYS

£530

(There is an additional single supplement of £80)

Price includes 4 night stay at The Marine Hotel, Llandudno with Dinner, Bed and Breakfast.

Visits include Portmeirion Gardens, Journey On The Snowdon Railway

Visit to The Welsh Slate Museum, Visit to Isle Of Anglesey (Llanfairpwllgwyngll, Home to the first WI) and Visit and Tour of Salt Factory

Full itinerary can be obtained from County Office

Contact our Federation Secretary,

email: federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org



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

Office Hours

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

Other times by appointment

Thursday/Friday Office Closed

Federation Chair

Yvonne Marsh

Federation Secretary

Diane Towndrow

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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 ONE OF OUR TRUSTEES

I moved to Dorset 11 years ago. My husband had moved for his job and, along with our youngest son, we moved to Crossways. My neighbour, Bridget, was the Treasurer for Crossways WI, so I asked her if I might come along. At my first meeting, we were entertained by the Waitrose team who came along with cheese and wine. Needless to say, I joined at the next meeting.

I met a group of ladies who made me very welcome. Our Secretary, Judy Whittingham, introduced me to Denman College where I was fortunate to visit many times until its closure in 2021.

When our secretary died in 2017, I felt that since the WI had given me so much, I should volunteer for the job and hopefully be able to follow in Judy's footsteps.

I have since met many interesting people and been to numerous places that I would not have otherwise have dreamt of seeing. My WI holidays have included, Buxton, Floriade, and Northumberland. I was invited to join the Events Team and my first job was to organise the picnic lunch for the visit to Ascot last year.

In September last year I was privileged to be invited by DFWI Chair, Jenny Preston, to join the Board of Trustees. I look forward to my time on the board supporting the endeavours of our team and our new Chair, Yvonne Marsh.

May I offer my encouragement to other members to become further involved in WI activities. One never knows how much one can achieve until one has the courage to say "yes, I can do that".

Lynne Avery



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2024



Thursday 22 February - TREASURERS' TRAINING at County House

Sunday 17 March - SPRING CRAFT DAY at Druitt Hall, Christchurch

Saturday 16 March - LINO PRINTING at Furzebrook Studios

Tuesday 19 March - RESOLUTION WRITING at County Office

Saturday 23 March - CLIMATE CONFERENCE (New Date)

Thursday 11 April - BEGINNERS CROCHET at County House

Tuesday 23 April - MEETING FOR NFWI AM DELEGATES at County House

Thursday 25 April - SWISS EMBROIDERY at County House

Thursday 2 May - FOLLOW UP CROCHET at County House

Wednesday 5 June - NFWI Annual Meeting at Royal Albert Hall

Saturday 29 June - PRESIDENT/SECRETARY DAY at Lytchett Matravers Village Hall

Sunday 18 August - VISIT TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Thursday 5 September - PROGRAMME PLANNING at County House

Monday 16 September (5 days) - SNOWDONIA & ISLE OF ANGLESEY HOLIDAY

Thursday 17 October - DFWI ANNUAL MEETING - Lighthouse Poole

Monday 18 November (4 days) - CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR - NORFOLK

MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT TEAM

MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT -

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO IN WI?

Our regular monthly meetings are a mainstay of WI membership. But for many there is so much more to engage with. Many institutes have a selection of extra activities, groups, sub-groups or meetings when members can develop existing interests, learn new skills, share experiences and often develop friendships.

At our Dorset Annual Meeting in Poole M&S collected a list of these ideas.

What does your institute offer? What would you like to do?

These are some ideas

WALKING; BOOKS; CURRENT AFFAIRS; CRAFT; BOARD GAMES; GARDENING; THEATRE VISITS; GREEN ACTIVITY GROUP; COFFEE SHOP; SKITTLES; WALKING NETBALL; FUND RAISING; CLIMATE ACTION; ALLOTMENT; COOKING; KURLING; CINEMA; POETRY WRITING; GARDEN VISITS; SUPPER CLUB;

Talk to your committee if you would like to explore setting up such a group.

We would love to hear about your ideas and see some more photographs.

Leri Ayre



Chairman: Liz Smith
Vice Chair: Sue Hibbard
Leri Ayre



DFWI Annual Meeting
17 October 2024
Lighthouse Theatre Poole

Following a lot of discussion and listening to you as members, the Board of Trustees of DFWI have decided to go ahead with the Annual Meeting (AM) 2024 at the Lighthouse especially as it is accessible and the facilities in Poole are good. **However, we do need your help.** Since the COVID Pandemic the cost of putting the AM on has increased and the numbers attending have fallen. The last two years we have lost between £2,000 and £3,000 and we obviously cannot continue doing this as we are a charity and run on a very tight budget.

We will have to put the cost up to £20 (if budgets allow and members agree, WIs can subsidise this cost) so we are sharing this and the date with you now.

We are looking at putting an exciting programme together and will share this with you as soon as we can. However, if you have attended and enjoyed yourself, tell your members how good it is to meet up with other WI members, visit the excellent craft stalls and see what the Federation does on your behalf.

So please encourage your members to attend to make this event a success and to enable us to continue in the future.

Thank you
Yvonne Marsh
Chairman DFWI

MAKE A DIFFERENCE – WRITE A RESOLUTION!

Is there an issue or problem that affects the lives of women, their families and communities that you feel strongly about? Do you want to see change? The WI has a long history of making a difference through the public affairs mandates that started off as the idea of a member. As well as 'national' resolutions voted on at the NFWI Annual Meeting, a resolution could be about an issue that is local to Dorset and this would be voted on at the DFWI Annual Meeting. The Federation wants to encourage members to get writing and will help as much as possible. A resolution writing workshop is planned for 19 March 2024 from 10 am to 12.30 pm at the DFWI Office. We'll help each other shape our ideas, do the necessary research and begin to develop writing techniques that lead to a persuasive argument. There'll also be coffee and cake to help us along!

Jan Watson.

Submit a resolution theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

A resolution is a call to action on a current social or political issue. Any WI or federation can submit a resolution. You don't need to be an expert on the issue:

- Choose an issue that you are passionate about
- Read our Resolution Submission Guidance
- Carry out some research on why the issue is important
- Be specific about what you want to change
- Call on a particular body or organisation (such as the Government) to do something

Your chance to create change

THE EVENTS TEAM

Chairman: Margaret Bunch
Vice Chair: Lynne Avery
Dena Selby

COME AND JOIN US AT COUNTY HOUSE FOR A SWISS EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP

Thursday 25 April

10am – 3pm



The cost will be **£20** and all material will be provided. Coffee/teas will be provided but please bring your own lunch.

COME AND JOIN US AT COUNTY HOUSE FOR CROCHET WORKSHOPS

Beginners Crochet Thursday 11 April

Follow Up Crochet Thursday 2 May

We are delighted that Brenda Down will again be tutor for these popular workshops.

The cost will be **£7** for the beginners' workshop or **£12** for both.

Please bring crochet hook number 4 **OR** 4.5, double knit wool and a pair of scissors.

Coffee/teas will be provided.



SPRING CRAFTS SUNDAY 17 MARCH 2024 10am – 3pm

DRUITT HALL, HIGH STREET, CHRISTCHURCH
 BH23 1AJ

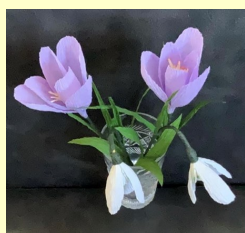
Following on from the successful Spring Crafts last year, we are delighted to advise that a further one has been arranged. The cost is **£25** per person. Tea/coffee and cakes will be provided but please bring your own lunch.

See below for the proposed crafts that you will be able to choose. The organisers would like attendees to indicate preferences of the potential crafts in advance by email. Where possible we hope to allow attendees their first and second choices. If one of the crafts is chosen by less than 5 attendees we may not be able to run the craft. Gaining this information in advance will allow us to plan the day and purchase the required materials.

CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2024



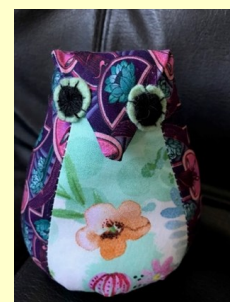
**TREE OF LIFE
 CREATED ON A
 HOOP FROM
 WIRE AND
 BEADS**



**CREPE PAPER
 CROCUS
 AND SNOWDROP**



**GREETINGS CARD,
 HAND SEWN WITH
 THREAD**



**OWL DOORSTOP, FABRIC
 AND INVOLVES HAND
 SEWING BACKSTITCH
 ALONG STRAIGHT SEAMS**

COME AND JOIN US FOR A VISIT TO



**Buckingham
 Palace on
 Sunday 18
 August,
 Further details to
 follow.**

To book a place on any events being run by Dorset Federation please contact Federation Secretary, email:-

federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org

OR GO TO DFWI website to download a booking form (<https://dorset.thewi.org.uk/booking-forms>).

When paying for events by BACS, in the reference section put the **event you are booking**. Your name is not needed as this comes automatically from your bank when they notify the payment on our system.

Thank you.

CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR BREAK TO THURSFORD, NORFOLK MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER

The Events Team are organising a Pre Christmas Break to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular. More details will follow but to give you a taster copy or click on the link below.

<https://www.thursford.com/christmas-spectacular/#video>

POSSIBLE FUTURE EVENTS

WINE TASTING AT LANGHAM WINES

VISIT TO THE SECRET GARDEN IN WAREHAM

PADDLE BOARDING AT WEYMOUTH

KNITTING AND STITCHING AT ALEXANDRA PALACE

LITERARY LUNCH WITH CHRISTINA CORNWELL

WIMBLEDON TOUR

Look out for further details in the months ahead.

NORDIC WALKING FIT

The start of the year always seems to be a good time to think about new activities and getting fitter might be your 2024 resolution.

Nordic walking is a great group activity that is sociable and fun with the benefit of getting fitter. Learning Nordic walking with a qualified instructor makes a big difference and ensures you get the maximum benefit from it.

Swanage WI has formed a Nordic walking group and for safety reasons we ask our members to complete a technique course if they wish to join the group.

Lynne Martin, Nordic walking instructor, gives a special rate to WI groups. The first session is always free of charge and there is no obligation to continue with the three follow on sessions for which there is a very reasonable fee. Lynne provides the poles for the course and so there is nothing you need except walking shoes or boots and a waterproof coat.

If your WI members would like to try Nordic walking then I suggest having a look at Lynne's website: www.nordicwalkingfit.co.uk and you can contact Lynne by emailing lynne@nordicwalkingfit.co.uk

Lyn Coleman
Swanage WI Secretary



COULD YOU BE OUR NEXT TREASURER?



The present Treasurer ends her term of office in **October 2024**, and we need a member to join the Board and take on this role.

As a Board member the Treasurer works closely with the Federation Finance Manager to oversee the finances of the Federation. She reports to the Board, who have collective responsibility for all financial matters and helps them reach financial decisions that serve the interests of all Dorset WI members, now and in the future.

You will not be alone - there will be ample support from within the Federation and you will experience new friendships with fellow Board members and staff. This is a vital officer role in the Federation and an opportunity to use personal skills and develop new ones. The role also has its rewards in the satisfaction of supporting WI members and the new WI experiences it brings.

Is this a role you could fill and support the Federation in their work in supporting the WI in Dorset? Further details can be obtained from the office or any Trustee, it could lead to a rewarding experience for you.

Marilyn Holehouse
Federation Treasurer

WHAT A JOYFUL NOISE!

A big, big thank you to all the ladies who sang in the choir at the Carol Festivals in December. You sang beautifully and it was an absolute joy to direct you. It certainly started my Christmas season off in the best way. We should all also thank the ladies who read some lovely pieces of poetry and prose, and of course everyone who turned up to sing the carols – indeed a joyful noise.

Some people have asked if we can sing more often, and there are a few ideas under discussion so watch out for more information in the spring!

Jan Watson.



WI members from Gillingham Evening who enjoyed the Joyful Noise

ASHLEY HEATH WI

The Ashley Heath Belles gave their first Choir performance at All Saints Church Christmas Fayre on 16 November 2023. The Choir members so enjoyed it and luckily so did all attending the Fayre and we have been invited back to perform at the Spring Fayre on 4 May 2024. We have also been invited to Moors Manor Care Home to sing at their Christmas Party – let the bookings roll in!

Geraldine Bowles



GILLINGHAM EVENING WI

On the 12 November Elizabeth Pinkney and Linda Anderson took part in the Parade down the High Street, and laid the WI wreath at the War Memorial

Linda Anderson



MARTINSTOWN WI

On a dry sunny day we took a trip out to Kingston Maurward. We had to have a go at tree hugging along that lovely avenue of trees. We were also surprised how many flowers were still out in bloom in the beautiful walled garden. After a spot of light refreshment we took a wander around the animal park and a browse in the shop. Well worth a visit .

At our Christmas party we celebrated our 75th birthday. The craft group had been very busy making a new banner which was revealed at the party. During the festivities members were asked to decorate a couple of cup cakes so instead of just one person making the birthday cake everyone contributed to making a lovely 75. Food and drink went down very well and of course it wouldn't be a party without a game .



Lesley Pemberton



WINTERBORNE KINGSTON WI



Members of the Winterborne Kingston WI got into the party mood to celebrate 100 years of their group on November 8 2023. The very first meeting of the Winterborne Kingston WI was held on November 7 1923, in the Reading Room which stood roughly on the spot where the village hall stands today. The party dress code was to wear a period costume of choice from any of the last ten decades. The members sang 'Jerusalem' and marked the historic occasion by reading the minutes of the original meeting in 1923. Glasses were charged with fizz and Joan Nash, the President, gave a birthday toast and cut a beautiful

cake which was made and iced by Helen Andrews. Everyone sang Happy Birthday to all the Winterborne Kingston WI members, past and present, and set their sights on another 100 years of 'Inspiring Women'!

Helen Unitt-Jones



ST CATHERINES HILL WI

Christmas celebrations began early for members of the institute who enjoyed their annual party in the hall on the hill on December 5. The hall abounded in Christmas decorations as did the tables set out for members to enjoy with gifts and tasty starters before the tea was served by the hard working committee. Guests were welcomed by the president, Gill Dunstan, and they included members of other women's institutes - Christchurch Central, Christchurch Belles and the Amberwood. Musical accompaniment to all the afternoon's events was provided by Mark Busell - much appreciated by the party-goers. A topical quiz reflecting all aspects of the Christmas season was prepared and posed by Carol Gardiner. This was followed by a "Pass the parcel" game with a prize for each table. At the end of the party members were able to raid the Secret Santa sacks - each member taking home a present to end a very enjoyable social afternoon. In the new year members will be looking forward to their annual lunch this time to be held in the Carpenters Arms Bransgore. In November many members took part in staging the annual craft fair. It was very well attended providing craft goods, cakes, jewellery, and refreshments. The total raised was over £400. Charities to benefit will be the RNLI and the Listening Ear.

SANDFORD AND WAREHAM WI

We held a Christmas wreath and table decoration workshop, and every one was impressed at how easy these



were to make and took home some fantastic Christmas Wreaths and Table Decorations. Our second Christmas event was a meal at the Duke of Wellington which many of our ladies attended. Food was fantastic with the Duke providing magnificent hampers for 2 lucky ladies.

Sue Dean

SHILLINGSTONE WI



We had once again, joined the National two weeks of campaigning to Stop Violence against Women. Several Members tied a wide white ribbon round a tree at the end of the village. The tree was planted by the WI to commemorate the Millenium. Usually, we tie one small ribbon for each member but felt they would become soggy with all the rain. We were joined by our local Advisor Liz Smith.

Members also donated the most amazing amount of toiletries to go towards filling Christmas Hampers for the residents at the North Dorset Refuge.

Caroline Salt



NOT JUST WI

In December we took part in the Christmas Festival at St Mary's Church in the village. The theme was exhibits around Christmas songs. We chose the song "When Santa got stuck up the chimney". The event was supported by various organisations from the Village and was held the weekend of 15-16 December.

Special thanks have to go to members Debbie Crumpler and Bonnie Randall who were instrumental in putting this together.

It was lovely to see children kneeling down to try and see all of Santa.

Jan Reynolds



WEST MOORS WI

West Moors WI started December with decorating their Christmas Tree to be part of the display in St Martins Church in the village. At the December meeting they had a wonderful buffet lunch put together by the Committee. In-house entertainment followed with the members in groups given a bag of goodies

(Marshmallows and spaghetti) to build a tower and a 3d item which was judged by their Treasurer Penny with much fun and laughter.



This was followed with a great raffle with lots of prizes the first being a Hamper. The following week 20 members enjoyed a superb Christmas Lunch at the Stocks at Colehill many thanks to Sue for arranging.

Yvonne Marsh

WYKE REGIS WI

Celebrating Christmas at their December meeting, our members enjoyed a Christmas Quiz, musical entertainment from Ann and Norman Stagles and tea and mince pies.

A craft competition was judged by the number of coins members placed in front of each entry, the money being donated to

Fortuneswell Cancer Care, the Institute's charity for this year. Three members tied for first place: Angie Fentiman, Penny Fielder and Jill Pearce.



Joyce North