



Dorset-WI NEWS

Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes



**TURN VALENTINE'S DAY GREEN
TAKE PART IN THE CLIMATE COALITION'S
'SHOW THE LOVE' CAMPAIGN**



**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
READ CAROL BROWN'S CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT
ON PAGE THREE**

RING IN THE SPRING and SPRING FLOWER FLING ZOOM EVENTS

Dorset FWI Summer Holiday Monday 2 August 2021

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Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes

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Wednesday: 10am-1pm; 2-4pm.
Thursday: 10am-1pm.

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FROM OUR FEDERATION TREASURER KATH BURT

How I wish I could tell you that we are well on the way back to some sort of normality but sadly not the case. I hope that you are all keeping safe and managing to keep contact with your WI members and friends.

The movement of the subscription date to 1st April was a welcome bonus, I hope that this will not cause a cash flow problem to any Institutes. Remember that your WI Advisor will be happy to give you any advice should you foresee a problem.

Perhaps one small positive to Covid is that the garden, I am lucky to have a large one, received so much attention, I am looking forward to some better weather, I hope that in the Spring we will be able to at least have small gatherings in gardens and again make some personal connections with our members.

My other passion is croquet unfortunately last year play could not start until later in the season, I am hopeful that this year we will manage to enjoy more time on the lawns and maybe catch up with other WI croquet players.

I have also missed, as I am sure many of you have, the skittles evenings which have always been great fun, as well as other county events giving us all an opportunity to meet and chat, can you imagine the chatter there will be when we at last can get back together.

I will be handing over the role as treasurer of the Federation later in the year, if you would like to find out more information see below.



Kath Burt

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.Com.



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.*

CLIMATE CHANGE IN ACTION

Sadly, there is stark evidence that Climate Change is happening all around us. A huge chunk of a Dorset cliff fell away just a couple of months ago, this was caused by increased rainfall which resulted in coastal erosion. There was no recompense for farmers who lost land as a result.



Building on flood plains is increasing with devastating effects on housing and livelihoods.

Baroness Brown, Head of the Climate Change Committee, says there is an urgent need to increase flood defenses. We have seen devastating fires laying waste to thousands of acres of forest – at Wareham, not just in Australia. Currently only 14% of plastics reach recycling plants and only 8% of that is recycled! And a new plastic problem is the amount of PPE ending up in the oceans.

However, despite the pandemic strides have been made in combatting climate change in many countries across the world for instance:

- Twelve major cities across the world are moving away from fossil fuels and investing in green alternatives. Hopefully London will soon be one of them! Cornwall has achieved a major coup by delivering geothermal power to the National Grid for the first time, and scientists are on the brink of turning plastics into fuel!
- The Netherlands are setting a great example with several initiatives eg: 'floating gardens' designed to catch plastic in their canals. They have also invested in many more bikes to encourage people out of their cars. Bournemouth is doing the same! And Australia is growing seaweed to feed livestock, this will vastly reduce methane emissions and so reduce carbon in the atmosphere.
- Companies are also looking to decrease the effect of their products on Climate Change:-sandwich packs are being made with a new barrier paper to replace plastic. Unilever have pledged to eliminate plastic from their range of products by 2050. Currently they are responsible for 700,000 tons of plastic every year! Major investors are cutting fossil fuels from their portfolios.

So how can we make a difference?

- Use less electricity/gas and switch to green energy, get a smart meter installed to track where you are wasting fuel, and yes I say again, use less!
- Plant trees! I know I bang on about this but it is a great way to reduce carbon. Give them as presents use them as commemoration items to celebrate memorable events. DFWI have new information on a supplier who will help with planting advice for single tree planting in urban areas – email me for information. Let's all support the One Member One Tree initiative.
- We also still need Climate Champions in every WI please volunteer it is not at all onerous.



Email me carb2home@gmail.com.

And if you have something to add to this conversation please tell me!

Carol Brown



MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Chairman: Yvonne Marsh.

Vice Chair Lyn Coleman & Jan Watson

Happy New Year from all of us on the M & S Team! It would be easy to say 'well, let's hope it's better than the last one' – but thinking about it we could all probably think of things that have been quite positive about last year too. How many people, for example, have been dragged kicking and screaming into the world of social networking and things like Zoom? Now we know that not everyone has the means, the desire or the know-how. The last two of those certainly applied to some of us on M & S. But with help, and particularly from the wonderful Kim, we have managed to achieve things that some of us thought were beyond us and it's a great feeling. WIs have also taken the opportunity to connect with members in new ways, doing the best they can to keep the spirit alive! The M & S Team have been meeting every month (and sometimes more than once) on Zoom to sort out any queries that have come our way, and discuss the future and how it might be. We have also had 'coffee and chats' arranged by NFWI with other WI Advisers from all over the country and it's been great to discuss issues and share ideas.

Recently, we met up with some of you at the Resolution Zoom Meeting (and feedback suggests many of you enjoyed it as much as we did), so we thought it would be good to try and meet up again just to chat about what WIs are doing, discuss ideas that people have and maybe answer any questions you and your members might have about the upcoming months until we can meet again. Do you have Zoom meetings? Have you had interesting speakers? Anyone done a Denman course on-line? Got onto MyWI? How do you keep in touch with those not on Zoom? Chatting together can really generate some good ideas.

Your WI will have had details on the recent flyer, but the first meeting will be on February 4th at 2pm, and the second on February 10th at 7pm. It is open to anyone but numbers are limited so please get in touch with the

office soon. If you all enjoy it, we will do some more!

What else do you need to do? Well, make yourself comfortable, pour the wine or tea, hit the cake tin or chocolate box and prepare for some good chatting!

Jan Watson

recipient of a book from my husband entitled 'You're on Mute'!



Join us!

Chat to WI Advisers

Thursday 4th February 2.00 to 3.30 &/or
Wednesday 10th February 7.00 to 8.30



All Dorset Members are invited to join your WI Advisers & fellow members for a chat, to answer any queries and exchange ideas.

BYO Drinks and nibbles - We're missing you!

To get on the guest list Email: Federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org

FROM OUR FEDERATION CHAIRMAN JENNY PRESTON

Happy New Year! - a little belated I know but nevertheless sincerely meant.

As we look forward we have things to be thankful for and things to be wary of. It is good news that the vaccination programme is now well under way but frustrating when we see in the news that the guidelines are not being followed in some parts of the country, when the vast majority of people are 'sticking to the rules'. I wonder whether we will be apprehensive about going about our daily lives with more freedom after so many months of restrictions once they are lifted.

I'm sure by now that you will all have heard that the National Annual Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall has been moved from 19th April to 8th June – a much more realistic date but I wonder what the uptake will be – we will have to wait and see.

Thank you to all those WIs who have sent in their resolution votes and the voting on the constitutional changes. Your cooperation is much appreciated both by us at Dorset Federation and National. By the time you read this those votes will have been sent to National and we will let you know the results as soon as we can.

Please keep your eyes open for details of events that our Events committee are arranging. Craft workshops and speakers are in the pipeline and when we are 'allowed out' there will be walks too.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible once we are able to meet up again. Until then keep well and stay safe.

Best wishes

Jenny

The Events Committee

Chairman: Margaret Bunch

Vice Chair Jo Skinner

DFWI SUMMER HOLIDAY to the 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**.

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

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

Dorset Federation **ZOOM** Events



Dorset Federation Events Team have arranged a zoom event **demonstrating the making of a decorative Spring Ring.**

This is being presented by Dena Selby on **SATURDAY 27 OF FEBRUARY** at 10.00 am.

The demonstration will be about 2 hours. The cost of this is **£10.00** and includes **all the materials you will require.** The pack of all the material needed for your Spring Ring will be sent when you book. The closing date for this event is 18 February. **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.

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

Dorset Federation **ZOOM** Events

Dorset Federation Events Team have arranged a zoom event **demonstrating the making of Spring Flowers.**

This is being presented by Tess Burt on **SATURDAY 20 OF MARCH** at 10.00 am.

The demonstration will be about 2 hours. The cost of this is **£10.00** and includes **all the materials you will require,** apart from glue, scissors and a ruler. The pack of all the material needed for your Spring Flowers will be sent when you book. The closing date for this event is 11 March. **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.



Due to the ongoing situation with Covid-19 the Events Committee have taken the decision to cancel the trip to Chavenage House until 2022.

The trip to the Peak District is still ongoing and we are still hoping to be able to meet up at The Magic of Christmas Floral Extravaganza in December 2021.

We will try and bring you a variety of events, craft and speakers, using Zoom. Look out for details from the Federation Secretary, on the Website, through Facebook and in the DFWI News.

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

The date for the **Annual Meeting** for 2021 is **THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER 2021.** Our speakers are Amanda Owen (The Yorkshire Shepherdess) and Dr Annie Grey.

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. Look out for further information in the months ahead.

NEW DATE NEW DATE NEW DATE

NFWI ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY 8 JUNE 2021

The **2021 NFWI Annual Meeting** will be held at the Royal Albert Hall in London on **Tuesday 8 June 2021.** More information will be available in the months ahead.

It is also the Royal Albert Hall's 150th anniversary so it is a particularly special year for us to be part of their calendar of events.

NEW DATE NEW DATE NEW DATE

The making of a Christmas Fabric Wreath.

Your DFWI Events Committee are (as my Mum would say) not backward in coming forward. So - having had to cancel virtually all of our planned events in 2020, we decided we would not be beaten - and arranged a December Zoom craft workshop.

Of course, being the WI we have a number of members who can very capably run a workshop - but doing it remotely is quite another matter. Dena Selby (president of West Lulworth WI) very gallantly stepped forward, and the planning began.

The first hurdle was advertising, since our normal channels of printed DFWI News and monthly meetings have been unavailable. So, we used email, newsletters, the website and Facebook, and we had 19 members sign up. The fabric, ribbons and wreath rings then had to be purchased, and packaged and posted out to members, - just at the time that Royal Mail was having a bit of a Pre Christmas/Covid blip!

Kim Cowling sorted out the technical side of things, so we knew we were in capable hands there.

We had a couple of practice Zooms, and Dena quickly learned how to talk to her computer screen! I should point out here, that the demonstrator cannot see the participants, so it is particularly challenging to teach without being able to see your learners!

Was it worth it? Absolutely. The whole event was so professionally presented, that as one of the participants, I still had that lovely feeling of "crafting togetherness" - despite us all being at home.

And of course, we all had a hand-made fabric wreath. As you can see, there were some fabulously flamboyant creations. Just what we needed to lift our spirits.

We are hoping to arrange a Spring Zoom craft workshop, so keep a look out for the on-line DFWI news in February.



HAVE WE FOUND OUR LONGEST SERVING MEMBER OF DFWI?



From joining the WI in April 1960, we move on 60 years and Valerie Burt is still a member of Wyke Regis WI. From dancing in the WI shows in the late 60's, early 70's at the Pavilion, Weymouth to conducting the choir at the Annual Meetings at the Lighthouse and the County Carol Services at Sherborne and Wimborne Minster. Taking part in the Scrabble, Whist and Quiz groups at Wyke Regis WI to being a member of the winning team in the Dorset Federation Quiz. The WI has given Valerie a tremendous amount of fun and friendship over the years – could she be our longest serving WI member in Dorset.

OFFICE NEWS

County Quiz

The Events Committee agreed at their recent zoom meeting to extend the deadline for the answers to be sent back to the office. They are aware that WIs had planned to hold their quiz sessions but have been delayed due to the lockdown in December and now the current one. We will not give a definite date at this time for the return of the answers as we are uncertain how long this lockdown will last. Perhaps you are able to hold your quiz session via zoom (as many WIs have successfully done) but if not, do wait until it is once again safe to meet up with four members of each team, even if it is in a garden! The Events Committee will monitor the situation carefully and keep you up to date with regard to a deadline for the answers to be returned and also, they hope, a date for the Quiz Final.

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

Design the Queen's Birthday Card

Using calligraphy skills, WI members are invited to submit a piece of work, on behalf of the Women's Institute, to celebrate the Queen's Birthday. Work can be presented in any Calligraphy style, using any form of writing instrument associated with the art of Calligraphy. Members are invited to be as creative as they wish, using a single or various Calligraphy techniques, colours and ink.

Crafting with the Chelsea College of Arts

Are you passionate about art and design? Chelsea College of Arts, in partnership with the NFWI, are looking for skilled and forward-thinking craftswomen of the WI to take part in a project with BA Textile Design students that will encourage skill-sharing, communication and creativity.

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. We want WIs to work together as a team and create a piece of work which proudly demonstrates the up's and down's of a year in the WI, as well as recognising the inspirational achievement made by all members that will go towards safeguarding another 100 years of the WI.

Diane Towndrow

A Tribute to Angela Lawes by Heather Bartlett

Angela Lawes, who recently died, was a very experienced WI Adviser and the Chairman of Membership and Support Committee when I was approached to train as a WI Adviser myself. She had to oversee all WI training and was a tremendous support to me throughout. She had been a VCO (Voluntary County Organiser) until NFWI decided the role was to Advise rather than Organise members, a much gentler term for the work! She had not only served in Dorset but other counties as well until she moved, with her husband, to Dorset. Her knowledge of the Womens' Institute was amazing and she was an excellent role model to us all. She was determined that our training had to be of a high standard. Which was a bit daunting for me, when she set out how I was to be observed in Lilliput on three counts, in one afternoon, following on from an M&S Meeting at Dorchester in the morning. She then considered that I was a suitable candidate and I went on to be a WI Adviser for sixteen years myself.

Angela had so many interests in the Arts and skills, especially in Crafts. She was always making or embroidering something including till recently knitting socks on four needles. She even told me that the Red Arrows team flew from and was based at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire – in fact it came up as a quiz question recently. She was well - travelled and knowledgeable as her parents moved around the world in many postings.

Gill Samways and I attended her funeral at Salisbury Crematorium on 14 December to represent DFWI and it was sad that in these times attendance at funerals had to be strictly limited. We were privileged to know Angela as a good friend to us and to Dorset Federation WI for a long time. She will be sadly missed.

CHRISTMAS ROUNDUP

WI NEWS FROM AROUND DORSET

VERWOOD WI



During the first lockdown Verwood Evening WI Committee Members, on the dates which should have been our monthly meeting, delivered afternoon teas to all our members. Since then a monthly newsletter has been compiled and delivered with contributions from some of our members. As well as any WI news this has included quizzes and puzzles, poems and a monthly recipe. As we are unable to meet up at present we feel this newsletter draws us together.

With Christmas approaching it was decided to put together a festive package for delivery. This contained, as well as the December Newsletter, a Christmas Card (made by our President) a decorative box (made by one of our members) containing chocolates and mince pies. Our picture shows our President Annette with the goodies about to be delivered.

We intend to continue with the Newsletter in the New Year until we can resume our normal meetings (hopefully not too long – vaccine progress permitted!).

Judy Weldon, Rita Kiernan

STALBRIDGE WI



Santa's Little Helpers were out and about in Stalbridge delivering Christmas goody bags to all our members.

Thanks go to Claire and Sally for decorating the WI Christmas Tree outside the Congregational Church in Station Road. Because of the current Covid conditions, the Christmas tree festival was being staged outside this year.

Stalbridge WI



SIXPENNY HANDLEY WI

Six socially distanced members of Sixpenny Handley WI joined forces with the Parish Church of St Mary's to decorate the interior for the festive season including a stunning nativity scene with life size figures of the holy family. The peaceful and serene tableau helps worshippers and visitors experience the tranquillity of this ancient Norman church situated in the beautiful Cranborne Chase.

Jan Gibb





ST. CATHERINE'S HILL WI

Unable to do our normal fund raising activities we decided to donate the refund we received for a bursary at Denman to a local respite hospital. We then asked The Water Lily Project, a local charity that supports women who have been the victims of abuse and domestic violence, if there was anything they could use for Christmas. The suggestions came back of toiletries for their clients and craft items which could be sold at their Christmas Fair. The request went out to members and the donations were collected and delivered to the charity. The fair raised over £1300 and we were pleased that we were able to make some small contribution to this total. The photograph shows a small portion of the goods that were collected.

Ann Price

STURMINSTER MARSHALL EVENING WI

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S REFUGE 2020

Last year we, raised over £2,200 for the Women's Refuge. Thanks to the efforts of member Jane Champion, who raised £1300 through plant sales from her garden wall, all supplied from her own garden and greenhouse and supplemented by donations of plants from members of the WI.

Local farmers Debbie, Gary and Ben Miller very kindly allowed us to run two cake sales alongside their Church Farm shop enterprise, when a further £800 was raised. The sale in December was



Heather Trenchard (President) and Debi Peacock (Secretary) with just some of the fabulous cakes and preserves donated.

extremely successful, with cakes being made and donated not only by our members but

some lovely ladies who had heard about our project and kindly donated cakes for sale. Thank you to all the bakers and buyers, it has made a huge difference to the lives of people who need our compassion and support. We were also most fortunate to be given £180 by a generous member of the public.

We may have had our usual activities curtailed due to the pandemic but it didn't stop us doing what the WI does best, pulling together and making a difference to peoples live's.

Gladys Quick



Grace Wales and Nicola Whitmarsh holding two of the lovely donated cakes.

MAIDEN CASTLE WI

A big thank you to Ann and the "Committee Elves" of Maiden Castle WI, for our goody bags. They gave each one of us a bag containing 24 items to be opened one a day until Christmas.

We are very appreciative of the work and thought that has gone into them. Even the bags they came in were hand-made by one of the crafty elves, so even when we opened all the gifts we still have a lovely bag to use.

Once again, a very big thank you, and let's hope we can resume our meetings sometime this year.

Hazel Miller



CHARMINSTER WI

How to pack Christmas into one small Bag!

For Charminster WI the idea that we should not all get together to celebrate before Christmas, was a real sadness! Throughout the summer we had met via *Zoom*, done carefully distanced walks together, the book club had met in gardens large enough for distancing and we had had two wonderful distanced picnics on a small island at the bottom on one lucky member's garden. We had shared details of our lockdown projects, of our reading and even of our difficulties. Once bad weather confined us to *Zoom*, the committee felt we had to do something to make this Christmas special for us.

After much discussion we decided to make little bags in a colourful rose-sprigged material as well as

constructing delightful little Christmas tree angle ornaments. Everyone did something, researching sources of goodies so we could support local small businesses, designing beautiful labels, making and labelling little jars of jam and chutney, making lino cut Christmas cards. The crowning ingredient in our Christmas party plans was a quarter bottle of Prosecco.

Everything was distributed before our planned Christmas *Zoom* meeting and each bag had a label suggesting waiting to open the bag until the meeting and having a glass on hand while we *Zoomed*.

So it really did feel like a party! The vast majority *Zoomed* and we all raised our glasses to a real party next year. A happy hour was spent opening the bags, doing the alphabetical quiz and reading aloud some of the Christmas poems, some funny, some thoughtful, enclosed in each card.

Members were delighted and touched. There was a great rush of beautiful messages of thanks, as for some people it clearly meant a great deal to be remembered in this way. It was especially touching that one or two who didn't actually manage to *Zoom*, nonetheless said that they had felt cheered and supported. We felt we really had managed to package Christmas in our rose covered bags!

Juliet Austen



WEST LULWORTH WI

West Lulworth 100th Anniversary - Tree Planting

The West Lulworth WI were determined to end their celebratory year on a positive note, by planting a tree in the grounds of the village hall that has been used for the last 100 years for the WI meetings.

After long deliberation and with help and guidance from our local nursery (Holme Garden) who have close connections to the charity 'Trees for Dorset' a 9ft beech tree was selected.

A break in a somewhat wet December gave us a chance to plant.

Obviously, a tree of this size has a large root ball. Two of our members husband's gallantly agreed to dig the hole and position the tree for us.

A chilly bright Saturday morning saw a few of the committee gather at a social distance. Our Chairperson, Dena Selby, armed with a newly polished spade negotiated the steep bank. After a few suitable words she replaced the last mounds of soil and turf around the base of the tree. As I am sure many of you gardeners would know the surrounding area has to be firmly tamped down. Dena did this part of her job with great enthusiasm, whilst muttering under her breath something about 'Goodbye to 2020'!

A commemorative plaque is being commissioned and all being well this will be positioned next to the tree later this year, when all our members can gather and celebrate our anniversary.



Gillian Coxhead

CHILD OKEFORD WI

The WI Christmas Zoom celebration, 14 December, seems such a long time ago. When planning the programme we had hoped that 'by Christmas Covid would have been under control and we could have had our usual celebration' but as a back up plan we would book a speaker that we hoped would be entertaining - so glad we did! We started the meeting with a very talented speaker, Sarah Slater, whose topic was "Sex secret, scandals and salacious gossip of the Royal Court" Sarah is a guide at Hampton Court Palace. She gave us a very interesting talk and I imagine her guided tour of the Palace would be equally amusing and informative.

After the speaker (and business), we announced the winners of the Bean Challenge a little scheme we created to keep our members busy during the first lock down. We had delivered Christmas Greeting Bags to all members on the week end before the meeting and the ladies who won

prizes in the bean challenge, each received an envelope with instructions 'not to open but to bring to the meeting on 14th'. The Christmas Bag also contained, along with other goodies, the materials and instructions for everyone to make a felt reindeer decoration.

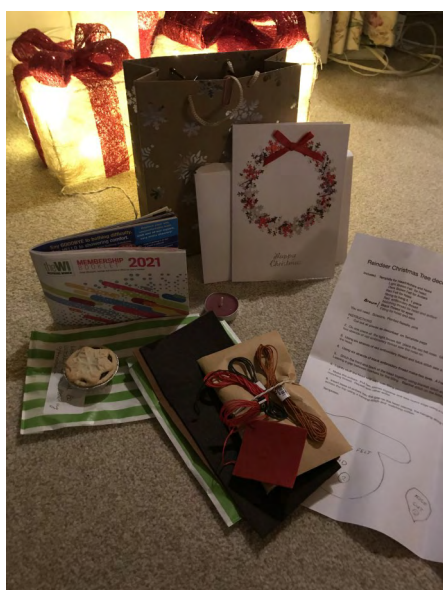
Our Christmas Celebrations would not have been complete without some special Christmas entertainment - with the help of Vanessa Dawson we had a Zoom version of A "Lockdown" Panto and a Covid version of the Twelve Days of Christmas, it was great fun.

We ended the afternoon with the opportunity for people to make a cup of tea and take part in a chat.

Pam Morris



CHILD OKEFORD WI
ZOOM LOCKDOWN
PANTOMINE PLAYERS



CHRISTCHURCH BELLES WI

Thanks to all the Belles who made wreaths. These were delivered to Christchurch Foodbank along with the donation of gifts and face masks.

Janet Rix



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

CHIDEOCK WI

At the end of a year like no other, Chideock WI has continued to reach out to its members. Rather than 'Twelve Days of Christmas' we have summarised this into 'Twelve Months of Achievement 2020'.

Lynne Hartmann

CHIDEOCK WI

TWELVE MONTHS of ACHIEVEMENTS 2020

JANUARY

We made Green Climate Awareness hearts

Began our sewing efforts for the MacMillan Nurses - mastectomy comfort cushions, drainage bags and car seatbelt pads.

FEBRUARY

Produced artwork for Village Hall



MARCH

Began knitting trauma teddies which are now with the Royal Voluntary Services for re-homing.

Members donated groceries to Cupboard Love, Bridport Food Bank.

APRIL

We drew on our WI skills and resources to make scrubs, wash bags and mask bands as part of our effort to help the NHS during the Coronavirus pandemic

MAY

After several weeks of manic sewing and co-ordinating throughout May and June, we completed our sewing.

Launched our e- Newsletter

To stay in touch with members.

JUNE

Faced with communication challenges we designed and went live with our own website

Started a new Gardening Group

JULY

Teas in the Garden commenced within the Rule of 6 restrictions while the weather was fine.

AUGUST

Our Book Group and Craft Group met in gardens observing government guidelines and *Teas in Gardens* continued.

SEPTEMBER

The newly-formed Gardening Group continued with socially-distanced garden visits under the NGS.

Made new WI noticeboard for Village Hall.

OCTOBER

We donated a bench to the village, dedicated to Pam Fuller.

Delivered our MacMillan sewing for cancer patients.

NOVEMBER



Donated 100 Christmas grocery bags to Bridport Food Bank

DECEMBER

Christmas Goody Bags were delivered to members together with the Christmas Bumper issue of our newsletter.





WI Walking Netball Virtual sessions on Zoom by Gaynor Waring

Child Okeford WI and Walking Netball Host

I have been taking part in the WI Walking Netball session on Zoom since April. Little did I think I would still be doing these sessions nearly 10 months later in yet another lockdown.

These virtual sessions have been a life saver for me. It helps me do some much needed exercise, boosts my mental energy and enables me to forge new friendships across the WI Walking Netball family.

As a WI Walking Netball Host for Child Okeford WI, I have been joining in these weekly sessions with over 50 other WI Walking Netballers from across England. Some are old hands at Walking Netball and others are new. It's a happy, chatty group spanning all age ranges, abilities and experience.

We really do laugh, giggle and wiggle at every session.

We are led by a great group of England Netball County coordinators. They take turns to lead us through gentle warm ups to music, followed by varied netball activities, using a soft ball or rolled up socks, that promote hand eye co-ordination, balance and ball skills.

You do everything at your pace and level all in the comfort of your home.

We also do simple core exercises, using a chair, and we finish with a cool down, some mindfulness exercises then grab a hot drink and settle back for a chat and catch up. It is great to hear what other WI members are getting up to across England. We share ideas, support each other and are kept up to speed on England Netball developments.

Helen Neal from NFWI, who is our WI lead on Walking Netball, is at the sessions and along with Nicole Flaherty, the England Netball Walking Netball coordinator. They provide us with up to date information, guidance and help. This unique partnership between NFWI and England Netball is proudly viewed, by both organisations, as one of their most successful initiatives and one they intend to continue.

Did you know :

49 out of 69 WI Federations across England are involved in Walking Netball

150 WI's have engaged in this programme

Over 400 WI's have shown an interest

There are 228 trained Walking Netball Hosts!

I do the Thursday morning session, and it is something I really look forward. You do not have to be a member of a current Dorset WI Walking Netball group to join in, any WI member is welcome. It's free and it's fun.

There are two sessions: You can do both or just one, whatever suits

Monday evenings: 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Thursday mornings: 10.30am – 11.30am

All you will need to do, is to download the Zoom App onto your laptop or tablet/ ipad

After that, all you need to do is enter the Meeting ID and Password details and it will connect you through.

To get the joining instructions just email

Nicole Flaherty at

What you need:

Wear comfortable clothes and footwear

Bottle of water/drink

Equipment required:

A netball (if you have one) or any kind of ball.

If not, then a pair of socks or a cushion.

A chair

2 tins of food e.g Baked beans

WInetball@englandnetball.co.uk

See you there...give us a wave...and have a giggle and a wiggle.

