



Dorset-WI NEWS

Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes

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



D **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**
2023

SO MANY DATES TO REMEMBER



Saturday 24 June - President/Secretary Information Sharing Day 10am-3pm Lytchett Matravers Village Hall

Saturday 24 June - PATCHWORK CUSHION COVER - County House

Monday 3 July - ARCHERY AND AXE THROWING at Tolpuddle

Thursday 13 July - DRIED FLOWER RING at County House

Friday 28 July - STONE CARVING WORKSHOP - Burngate Stone Centre, Swanage

Thursday 7 September - Programme Planning Sharing afternoon 2-4 pm Federation Office

Monday 4 September and Sunday 10 September - CROQUET TOURNAMENT at Winterborne Stickland

Thursday 14 September - CREAM TEA AND CAKE with UKULELE REBELS at Lytchett Matravers Hall

Saturday 16 September - CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE at Dorford Centre, Dorchester 9.30 - 4.00pm

Tuesday 19 September - LUNCH WITH ANN WIDDECOMBE at Crown Hotel, Blandford Forum

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

Friday 29 September - DFWI QUIZ FINAL at Moreton Village Hall

Saturday 7 October - SPEAKERS AUDITIONS at Marnhull Village Hall

Thursday 12 October - DFWI ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday 1 November - BRACELET BEADING WORKSHOP at County House - Details to follow

Saturday 4 November - PAPER CUTTING WORKSHOP at Wimborne - Details to follow

Friday 1 and Monday 4 December - CAROL FESTIVAL at Wimborne and Sherborne

AUTUMN BREAK TO BRITTANY: LUNCH WITH ANN WIDDECOMBE: ANNUAL MEETING

Contact Details

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 FEDERATION CHAIRMAN

By the time you read this the Annual Meeting at Cardiff will have come and gone. For those of us attending in person it will have been a long, tiring day but enjoyable and informative. I would encourage you to attend if you get the opportunity – it's just not the same on-line. I believe that the meeting for 2024 will be at the Royal Albert Hall, always a special venue.

Talking of Annual Meetings, I do hope that you are applying for tickets to our own Annual Meeting at the Lighthouse on October 12. This meeting takes lots of organising and we have two excellent speakers in **Ann Jones**, our National Chair and the **Reverend Kate Bottley**, a most entertaining, laugh out loud kind of speaker. Tickets are on sale now, a bargain at £15. This is sure to be a popular event so don't leave it too late and risk disappointment. We can only continue with these meetings if you, our members, support them.

Those of us who went on the recent holiday to Northumberland all agree that it was most enjoyable due, in no small part, to the excellent organisation and planning by Diane Towndrow and Margaret Bunch. We would love some photographs for our display at the Lighthouse so if you took lots (and I know many of you did) please send some in to the office as we would love to show those at the Lighthouse what they missed. The next holiday is to Normandy and Brittany in September, full details are available from the office.

As many of you are holding your Annual Meetings please ensure that the necessary paperwork is sent in to the office as soon as possible after the meeting. Your WI Adviser is available should you be unsure of anything.

Finally a huge 'thank you' to everyone who baked, delivered and/or served cakes for the service at Sherborne Abbey to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. They were well received with many compliments.

I look forward to seeing you on 12 October.

Jenny Preston



DFWI CAROL FESTIVALS 2023

Wimborne Minster on Friday 1 December, and
Sherborne Abbey on Monday 4 December.

Come and join us at our carol festivals

The cost for the programme is **£4.00 in advance** and **£5.00 on the day** and they will be available from the Federation Secretary

email: federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org

DORSET FEDERATION QUIZ

Quiz packs with the questions are now available from County Office for this year's quiz. Price **£8.00** per WI. Entries to be returned by **1st September**.

The final will be held at Moreton Village Hall on the **29th September**.

DORSET FEDERATION CROQUET TOURNAMENT

The Annual Croquet Tournament will be held this year in **mid September** at Winterborne Stickland. Usual practice on the evening of **Monday 4 September** and the Tournament the following **Sunday 10 September**. Cost will be **£12.00 pp**.

Please contact Diane our Federation Secretary, email:-
federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org for further details of these events.

MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT TEAM

Chairman: Yvonne Marsh
Vice Chair: Sue Hibbard
Liz Smith

MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT

At this time of year following Annual Meetings WI members are possibly seeing new committee members and Officers so we thought we would like to introduce to you two members of our team Leri Ayers who has just completed her WI Adviser Training and Shelley Jeffries who has joined us as a WI Adviser Helper.

Leri Ayers

From Red Tape to Pink Elastic -why I became a WI Adviser

I first joined the WI to get to know people as we moved into a new area. I was made welcome and soon got more involved and begun to see the wider picture of what the WI is about. Attending county training events soon showed me what the WI can achieve.

I volunteered for Camp Bestival and witnessed first-hand the friendship and hard work of a dedicated team of volunteers (not to mention the bacon rolls and the cake mountain) but also the respect in which we are held by a wide cross section of the public.

Attending the Annual meetings in Cardiff, Bournemouth and Liverpool gave an insight into the power and influence of the WI. Together we can make change happen.

But frustration with why can't we do this or why do we have to do this pushed me to find out more and then came the training to become an Adviser. This opened up a fascinating study into constitutions, handbooks and answered the question why, and working with a group of people from across the country we explored how we can support local WIs to develop, respond to change and



attract new members. Finally completing my Adviser training I shall be out and about visiting WIs and delivering training across the county.

Hope to see many of you in the coming months.

Shelley Jefferies

My journey in WI

It started in 2018 when I joined Martinstown WI.

I enjoyed my first evening so much, I was made so welcome and really liked the sound of their programme that I paid my membership on the first visit.

I stayed with Martinstown until 2022 and only left then as I had worked hard in trying to open a WI nearer to where I lived in Chickerell.

Our group in Chickerell had its first meeting in October 2021 and everyone was so positive that our adviser Jan signed members up in November. We then closed again for 2 months due to covid restrictions but have since gone from strength to strength and now have 30 plus members.

We have had a very successful 18 months, enjoying many activities and adventures and making great friends.

Now things are settling I am looking to go back to Martinstown as a dual member.

Following a President's/Secretary's Workshop I asked to observe a Membership and Support Meeting, I attended two further meetings and then was invited to join them as a WI Adviser Helper so another journey begins.

I am really looking forward to the future.

Yvonne Marsh



SPRING CRAFTS AT CHRISTCHURCH



WI members enjoyed a Craft Workshop at the Druitt Hall in Christchurch. Many thanks to Christchurch Belles WI Craft members for running this workshop, all the members who attended made some lovely items.

Margaret Bunch

THE EVENTS TEAM

INTRODUCTION TO MAKING A PATCHWORK CUSHION COVER

Saturday 24 June

Join us at County House and learn the techniques of making a Star Patchwork Cushion Cover

(This will be lead by Nava Young a contemporary quilter and a member of the Quilters Guild)

This will be a half day course **10.00 am - 13.00 pm**

Limit of 8 participants



The cost of this will be **£18.00** to include all materials.

Tea/Coffee will be available.

(Please bring a 'hand' sewing kit.)

STONE CARVING WORKSHOP

Extended Version of
our



Have a Go Course which was run last Autumn.

This is a 3 hour session with set designs to practice the relief carving skill. Members will have time to complete their work and add background tooling as illustrated. The work can be carried out from a seated position.

Date: Friday 28 July 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Cost : £60.00 per person to include all materials

The Burngate Purbeck Stone Centre has 2 studios with wood burners and teas/coffees are available.

**Burngate Purbeck Stone Centre,
Kingston Road, Langton Matravers,
Swanage BH19 3BE**

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>).

FUTURE EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR

Craft Workshops at County House and Wimborne (2023) - Christmas Craft (2023) - Speakers Auditions (Autumn 2023) - American Museum, Bath (2023) Wimbledon Tour with Afternoon Tea (2024)

Chairman: Margaret Bunch

Vice Chair: Elaine Knight

Dena Selby

ARCHERY AND AXE THROWING

Medieval Axe Throwing and Archery, learn these ancient skills in a beautiful woodland setting. Will you end up being the 'golden arrow'.



Tolpuddle on Monday 3 July at 10.00 am

The 2.5 hour sessions will be split, half the group start on Archery whilst the other half start on Axe Throwing, then swap so that everyone gets to have a really good amount of time on each activity. There may be a fun competition to win the 'golden arrow' trophy for the highest score on each activity

The cost of this will be **£28**.

LUNCH WITH ANN WIDDECOMBE CROWN HOTEL, BLANDFORD FORUM

Tuesday 19 September 11.15 am



Ann Widdecombe - Ann has given many talks to WIs and is aware the WI is a non-political organisation her talk entitled - 'Ann Widdecombe Her Life and Times' promises to be entertaining and informative.

Come and join us for a 2-course lunch at the Crown Hotel, Blandford Forum and listen to her interesting talk.

The cost per person is **£40**. Arrival time **11.15 am**, with talk at **12 noon**, lunch at **1 pm**. (Coffee can be purchased on arrival.) There will also be the opportunity to buy her books and get them signed.

Contact our Federation Secretary, email: federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org, for a booking form.

THE EVENTS TEAM

CREAM TEA AND CAKE with the UKULELE REBELS

Join us on **Thursday 14 September** at Lytchett Matravers Hall and listen to the Ukulele Rebels while enjoying Cream Tea and Cake.

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Tickets £12.00

Contact our Federation Secretary, email: federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org, for a booking form.



DRIED FLOWER RING

Join us at County House and make a lovely Dried Flower Ring

on **Thursday 13 July**

This will be half day course
10.00 - 13.00

The cost of this will be **£15.00** to include all materials.

Tea/Coffee will be available



Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes
Creating a Sustainable Future
What can we do?

Saturday 16th September 2023
Dorford Centre, Dorchester DT1 1RR
9.30 am for 10 am to 4 pm.

Morning Speakers

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

Julie Hatcher, Marine Biologist speaking on Protecting our Seas and Rivers – for us and wildlife.

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 Monday to Wednesday 10am –1pm. Email dorsetfwi@uwclub.net



Camp Bestival

28 – 30 July 2023 at Lulworth Castle

It is not too late to sign up to help us in our Tea Tent at Camp Bestival, on 28th, 29th or 30th July. Please contact Jane Doughty on janeannedoughty@hotmail.com if you can help.

We would also love you to bake some cakes for us please. If you wish we can pay **£4 (note the increase)** towards the cost of a family size cake or a dozen cup cakes.

We store them in the freezer at County Office, so please contact Diane, County Secretary dorsetfwi@uwclub.net, if you are able to help with this mammoth task. Many thanks.



Elaine Knight

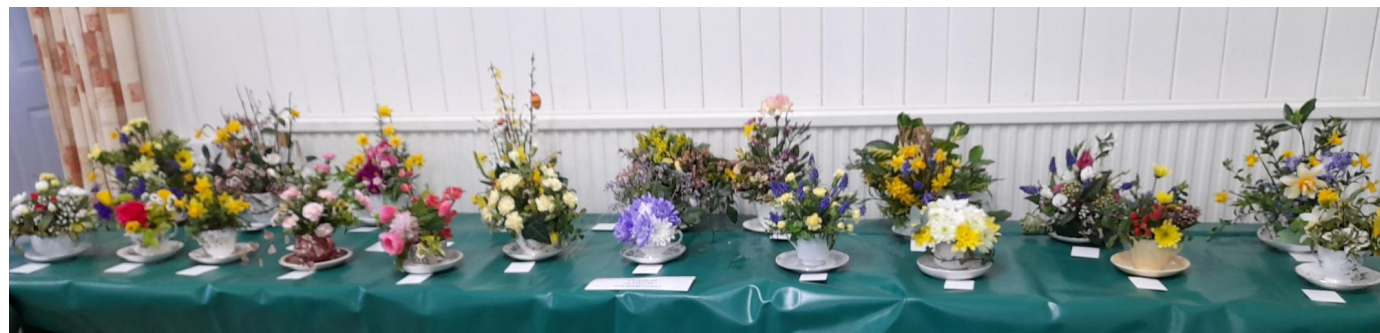
WEST MOORS WI



For more years than most of the members of West Moors WI can remember they have taken part in the local Horticultural Society show. This year the theme for the flower arrangement was 'In a tea cup' and following guidance from Doreen, a WI member, 24 members entered and we were all so proud of the display. The arrangements were judged by an accredited judge for Dorset & Guernsey NFAS who commented on several of the individual displays as well as the winners. The winner was **Sue Blandford**, second **Ruby Sanderson** and third **Eileen Tuffin**. The winner was presented with a silver cake stand that had been presented to the Horticultural Society for the WI entries by Rev Charles Hall many years ago.

Thanks for a magnificent and colourful display was received by the Show Coordinator. Well done to all.

Yvonne Marsh



STOUR VALLEY GROUP

Memories of a Happy Childhood.

The bi-annual gathering of the Stour Valley Group of WIs met at The Exchange, Sturminster Newton this month, consisting of Blandford Evening WI (current Group Leaders) Shillingstone, Stalbridge, Marnhull and Sturminster Newton.



The speaker, Tapriha Juett, herself a member of Sturminster WI, gave a lively talk on growing up in happy, peaceful, multi-racial Uganda before the country descended into the darkness of the Idi Armin era.

The buffet supper was excellent and at the end of the evening as the raffle was being drawn, the remaining food items were added as bonus prizes. Waste not want not!!

Sheila Chapman

BROADMAYNE & WEST KNIGHTON WI

For our April meeting we were visited by Hilary Green, a now retired, Dorchester-based Vet. We know Hilary well as she also happens to be the current President at Crossways WI. A couple of our members are dual members with that WI so we are bonded! Hilary's talk ran parallel with animals and humans under the heading of Births, Marriages and Deaths. Some hilarious stories as one would expect, but also some thought-provoking themes too. Hilary was somewhat of a pioneer, choosing this as a profession, and in the same way that some other occupations were male dominated in the past, hearing how a woman became an accepted and respected veterinary surgeon was heartening.

Jan O'Mara



ST CATHERINE'S HILL WI

The importance of Hengistbury Head to the town of Christchurch was emphasised in a very enjoyable talk to members at their March meeting. The speaker, Steve Roberts, traced the history of the Head from the Bronze Age to the Present Day with numerous photographs, charts and facts. He also discussed the plant and the wild life of the area. He was thanked for his interesting talk by secretary Barbara Ford.

Mair Bridger

BLANDFORD EVENING WI

To celebrate with the Costume Museum their re-opening for the visitor season after their winter re-organization and deep clean, the ladies of Blandford Evening WI gathered in the Tea Room of Lime Tree House for their monthly Coffee Morning.

The coffee was hot, the tea was strong and the cakes were fresh and plentiful as the ladies chatted, enjoying the comfort and atmosphere of this little hidden gem of Blandford.

A number of the WI ladies volunteer at the Costume Museum and a visit is to be arranged soon for the rest of the members to view the new displays for this year and appreciate the lovely old house built by the Bastard Brothers (the Builder and Architect who rebuilt Blandford after the Great Fire) for their seven sisters.



Sheila Chapman

STALBRIDGE WI

Fish and Chip Babies

Stalbridge WI and friends have been busy knitting these bright outfits. 'Fish and Chip Babies' are so called

because they are sent home wrapped in newspaper, being too poor to afford clothing. These outfits will be sent to Kenya, to help families there. Dark bright colours were chosen as water for washing is scarce. They have now knitted fifty outfits, but intend to keep on knitting.



Tanis Lang



WALKING NETBALL

Child Okeford WI Walking Netball team (with members from Sturminster Newton, Marnhull and Saffron Waldon/ Iwerne Minster WI) had a Coronation themed training session in readiness for the big weekend: red, white or blue clothing was the theme! Plus some tiaras!! well ..this is Dorset! Good fun was had, always lots of laughter with this great bunch of North Dorset WI walking netballers!

Gaynor Waring



MILLION WOMEN RISE MARCH

No more violence against women and girls



On 4 March WI members from all over the UK attended the Million Women Rise march in London, showing our solidarity and support to survivors of abuse. NFWI hosted a pre-march panel discussion around the topic of domestic abuse which was hosted by NFWI Chair, Ann Jones. The discussion included an incredible panel of expert speakers who highlighted the epidemic of violence against women and the efforts to end it. The panel consisted of Lizzy Dobres from Women's Aid and Hannah Siddiqui of Southall Black Sisters. The keynote speech was delivered by Anneliese Dodds, Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities, and Chair of the Labour Party. Following the speeches WI members were invited to ask questions and many also spoke about their personal and professional experience.

Two **Beaminster Committee members** were proud to represent our WI at the march: Ann Porter and Jean Mitchison.

Jane Doughty

The DFWI Annual Meeting - Thursday 12 October 2023 at the Lighthouse in Poole.

Join us at our Annual Meeting—Tickets £15.00



Our morning speaker is **NFWI Chair Ann Jones** - Active in the WI since she was 25 and Chair of the Federations of Wales Committee from 2013 and elected as NFWI Chair in June 2021.

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



Come and meet team members from Events and Membership & Support. There will also be an Artisan area with Craft items to buy.

Coaches will be available for WI members leaving from Bridport, Weymouth and Dorchester (Coach Fare will be **£15.00 pp**).

Contact Federation Secretary, email:- federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org for further details.

(There is already a demand for tickets due to the popularity of these speakers so to avoid disappointment order yours soon.)

COME JOIN US FOR A GRAND DAY OUT

WE CAN ONLY CONTINUE WITH THIS FORMAT OF ANNUAL MEETING IF YOU OUR MEMBERS SUPPORT IT.

DORSET FEDERATION SPRING BREAK TO NORTHUMBERLAND

A trip enjoyed by many members despite the lengthy travel, a visit to Alnwick Castle, Farne Islands and Beamish Museum in most glorious sunshine, puffins and seals in abundance, the excursion to Holy Island and Lindisfarne Priory was fascinating.



ALNWICK CASTLE



FARNE ISLANDS



TRAM AT BEAMISH LIVING MUSEUM



LINDISFARNE PRIORY