



Dorset-WI NEWS

Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DORSET FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES 21 OCTOBER 2021

**MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS AND CRAFTING GALORE
WE ARE OFF ON HOLIDAY AGAIN - FLORIADE**

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Other times by appointment

Thursday/Friday Office Closed

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Diane Towndrow

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FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

You may be reading this as a printed copy passed to you by your local secretary, or passed on by a member, at a WI meeting or at home. You may be reading this electronically from a link forwarded by your secretary or from the DFWI website. Whichever way we hope you are enjoying keeping up to date with Federation activities and news from other WIs. During Covid restrictions we were unable to produce and circulate printed copies and many members were happy to receive their copies electronically. Some missed their printed copies and the opportunity to chat with others about their plans to attend events and courses.



Since the lifting of restrictions we have circulated printed copies to each WI as well as electronic copies with no charge. As we move forward WIs have been asked to order and pay for printed and/or electronic copies for their members. A printed copy will cost £4.00 per member per year while a digital copy will cost £1.00 per member per year.

Most have ordered a combination of both to suit members' preferences. We now need to consider how the federation can continue to produce this cost effectively, whilst also recognising the need to avoid wasteful use of paper. Various proposals will be discussed by the Board of Trustees so we can come to a solution which is fair to all.

Our aim is to make sure as many members as possible read and enjoy the magazine.

Leri Ayre

To all WI members,

I hope you enjoyed the Annual Meeting at the Lighthouse as much as I did. The parade of banners was amazing and we couldn't have asked for better speakers - both informative and entertaining in their different ways. Even the weather was kind to us!

If you weren't there you missed a treat!

Now we just need a Federation Treasurer!

Best wishes

Jenny

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.*

MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Chairman: *Yvonne Marsh.*

Vice Chairs: *Lyn Coleman & Jan Watson*

GOOD WITH MONEY?

TREASURERS TRAINING ON ZOOM THURSDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 2 PM



From the comfort of your own home, come and join an experienced WI Treasurer and WI Advisers for a Zoom get together to find out more about the role of the Treasurer.

Maybe you would like to know more about how to use the electronic accounts book. If you do, we can screen share this with you. Maybe you need help with the end of year accounts or have questions about how you can spend WI funds. Whatever your questions, I think we can safely say that if you have a question that needs answering then we will do our best to answer it or we will know someone who can answer it.

To book a place, please contact Diane Towndrow, Federation Secretary by email -

federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org

You will be sent the Zoom link a few days before the session.

Please note the closing date is 5th November 2021

Lyn Coleman WI Adviser

The MCS

Welcome to MCS2



This is the Membership Communication System. It is a secure online database of member's details such as address and contact details. It is used by NFWI to send out a copy of every WI Life to each member. Consequently it is important that it is kept up to date so that new members receive their WI Life and copies are not wasted by being sent to people who are no longer members.

Every WI must have a MCS representative who must keep it up to date.

WI members must be registered on the MCS with an email address so that they can access MY WI and keep up to date with the latest information about the WI. MY WI also contains interesting stories, blogs, campaigning information, crafts, cookery, competitions and activities. These are of interest to all members so access is recommended.

Gill Samways WI Adviser

DORSET FEDERATION QUIZ FINAL

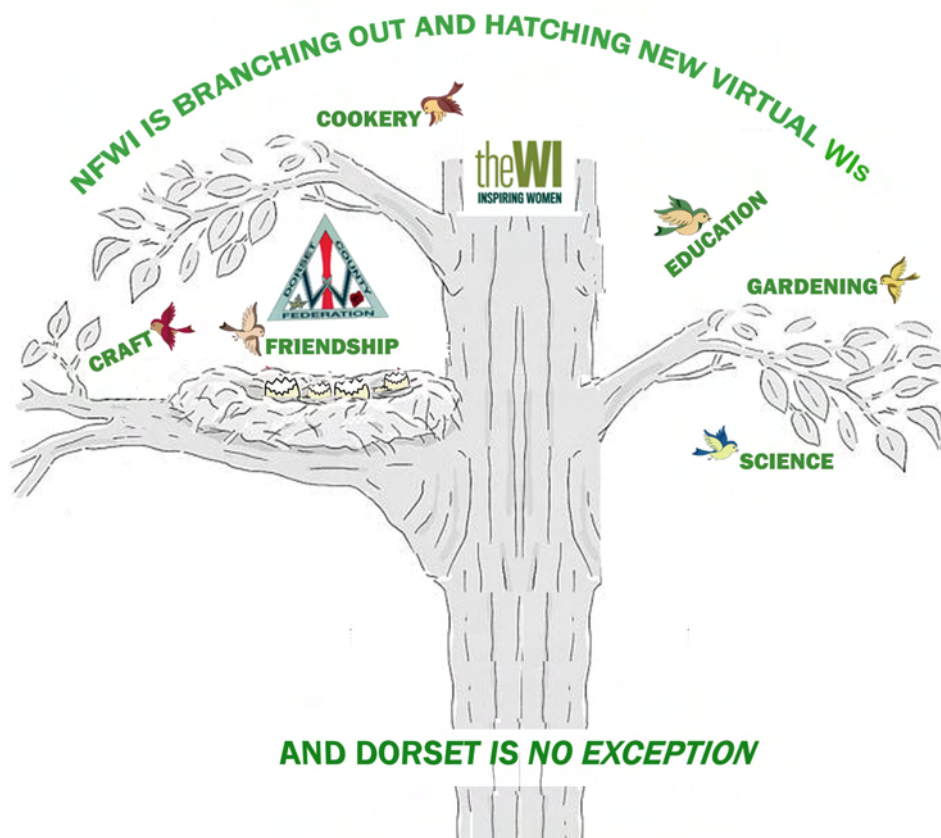
Finally the long awaited Federation Quiz final took place on Friday 8 October at Moreton Village Hall. 14 teams completed in the final. Jean Filby, the quizmaster, challenged us with some serious questions. A great night, lots of concentration and lots of fun was had by all. Congratulations to Gillingham Evening WI, shown receiving the winners cup from Federation Chairman Jenny Preston.



MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Chairman: Yvonne Marsh.

Vice Chairs: Lyn Coleman & Jan Watson



As Advisers part of our role is to encourage the formation of new WIs

How about a Virtual WI for Dorset ?

There will be a **Zoom Meeting on Thursday 18 November at 19.30** to explore whether there is any interest in this. All are welcome. So far about eight other Federations have successfully started Virtual WIs. Over lockdown Zoom has become used more widely and for some WI members a Virtual WI may be an option. A Virtual WI would suit those who cannot get to face to face meetings: perhaps there is not a WI close to where they live, or work commitments prevent them attending.

A Virtual WI is for anyone whether a current WI member or not. We are widely advertising this new venture and hope to attract ladies who are not current WI members. Perhaps those in a garrison environment who move around and this would give them the opportunity to belong to a WI and keep in touch wherever they are posted to. Or a WI member may move away and still want to keep a link to Dorset. A virtual member can live anywhere in the country or even abroad.

A Virtual WI will be run on exactly the same lines as any other WI. The newly revised Constitution allows for virtual meetings. A committee will be elected to run the WI. As Advisers we will be around to support and guide the WI. Dual membership gives anyone the chance to continue as a member at their current WI and also be a member of the Virtual WI.

To book your place on the **Zoom Meeting on 18 November** please contact Diane, our Federation Secretary, email: federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org and she will send you the joining instructions

If you have any questions please contact:

Liz Smith WIAdviser4@dorsetwi.org

Jan Watson WIAdviser2@dorsetwi.org

RESOLUTIONS TO GET YOUR TEETH INTO!

Well, here I am - fresh from 'attending' the resolution shortlist selection meeting - on zoom of course! There were over 100 attendees from the Federations, and many resolution submissions to discuss. As ever, the Public Affairs Department had worked hard looking at the submissions, doing further research and using their considerable expertise to advise us on the feasibility of each and every one. Resolutions do, of course, have to tie in with the objects of the WI under its constitution. They have to be well worded to ensure the aims are clear and unambiguous, timely and whilst they don't have to be 'unique' (they can support the work of other organisations), should not repeat work that others are doing. Most importantly, everyone at the meeting was looking for topics that would engage members – that would generate interest through speakers, lobbying and sharing of information within our communities.



The WI
campaigning for
change since
1918

I am sure some of us look at the shortlist when it appears and think there is nothing there of interest to us and our WIs. Looking back we might long for the days of 'Keep Britain Tidy' and 'SOS Honey Bees' where we could really get hands on! The answer to that lies with us. There must be things that we want to be better, problems that are not being tackled. Why not consider developing a resolution in your WI? You've got until next September to do it, so please get in touch and hopefully, if things allow, we can get together as we did before the pandemic and share ideas and tactics for getting a resolution from Dorset considered at next years resolution shortlist meeting.

Jan Watson

Resolutions Co-ordinator

They're back! **The RESOLUTION SHORTLIST MEETINGS** will take place on

Monday November 22nd	Loders Village Hall	2pm
Tuesday November 23rd	Child Okeford Village Hall	2pm
Wednesday November 24th	Lytchett Matravers Village Hall	2pm

Do come and join us for an afternoon of discussion and debate about the forthcoming resolution shortlist, and enjoy a cuppa and a biscuit (or perhaps even cake!)

Cost **£3** per ticket

ACWW - A DEFINING MOMENT

The Association of Country Women of the World was founded in 1929, and membership spans 82 countries. Since 1947 we have passed 180 policy resolutions. The National Federation passed a resolution in 1935 that WIs would support the work of ACWW and Pennies for Friendship was started to help fund the organisation. Rural women are the backbone of their families, of communities, of



Pennies for Friendship

of nations, and of global food systems. In many countries they bear the burden of conflict, go unheard in legislation and remain unprotected and unsupported, ACWW exists to change all this. In her speech to the recent United Nations Women's Conference, the World President Magdie de Kock concluded by saying "*today I recommit ACWW to amplifying the voices of indigenous women, of old women, of rural women, of young women and all those in non-urban communities who cannot be heard above the din of chaos or are silenced by global inaction*".

We are incredibly proud of our diverse network of women's organisations globally and the women who lead development projects we have supported over the past 50 years.

Esme Isaacs

The Events Committee

Chairman: Margaret Bunch

Vice Chair: Jo Skinner



CHRISTMAS CRAFTS WORKSHOP

On **Saturday 6 November** a Christmas Crafts Workshop will be held at **Carey Hall, Wareham 10.00 am - 15.00 pm** There will be five different crafts to choose from and some of the craft items were on display at the Annual Meeting in October. The cost is **£20 pp** and you will need to provide your own packed lunch. Coffee, tea and other refreshments will be available all day.

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE

Please contact the Federation Secretary email federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org to book a place.

CHRISTMAS FABRIC WREATH



Join us at County House on **Saturday 11 December** to make your own **Christmas Fabric Wreath**. All material will be provided at a cost of **£15 pp**. If there is enough interest an afternoon session will be run.

Morning 10.00 - 12.30 and Afternoon 13.30 - 16.00

To book a place on this event please contact the Federation Secretary, email:-
federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org.

INTRODUCTION TO CROCHET

Come to County House on **Thursday 18 November** and take part in our **Introduction to Crochet Class**. You will need to bring on the day the following items:-
4mm hook, or 4.5mm, 5.00mm or 5.50mm crochet hook. Double knitting wool (ie. not too fine). A pair of scissors.

The cost of this event will be **£5 pp**.

It will run in the morning from 10.00 - 12.30 pm.

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

federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org.

CLOSING DATE: MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2021



IRIS CARDS

Join us at County House on **Wednesday 24 November** and enjoy the art of making **Iris Cards**. Cost of this will be **£8 pp** and all material will be provided.

It will run in the morning from 10.00 - 12.30 pm

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

federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org.

CLOSING DATE: MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2021



SHOW THE LOVE

Come to County House on **Saturday 29 January** and Show the Love by making some **Green Hearts**. Cost of this will be **£15 pp** and all material will be provided.

It will run in the morning from 10.00 - 12.30 pm

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

federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org.



The Events Committee

Chairman: Margaret Bunch

Vice Chair: Jo Skinner

Back by popular demand.

Emily Broomhead, a Nationally Accredited Flower Arranging Demonstrator, is coming to Wimborne on **Wednesday 8 December** at **2pm**. She will demonstrate "*The Magic of Christmas*".

Emily is both talented and entertaining, and will give us an afternoon of flowery fun in the lead up to Christmas. (This event was to have been held in December 2020, so fingers crossed for this year!)

Book your tickets now, at a cost of just **£12**, and you will obviously not be charged if national restrictions require us to cancel.

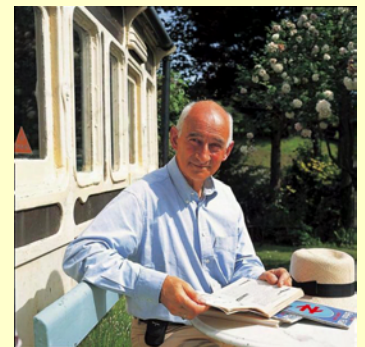
Open to members and non-members alike.

Please contact the Federation Secretary email federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org to book a place.



Paul Atterbury at the Crown

By popular demand we have arranged for Paul Atterbury to entertain us once again with a talk entitled 'Every Picture tells a Story - Victorian Narrative Painting', which will be followed by a lunch at the Crown Hotel Blandford. This will be on **Tuesday 22 February 2022**. At a cost of **£38.00** for a two course lunch this is an event not to be missed.



Please contact the Federation Secretary email federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org for details.



DFWI Skittles

We have had enough interest to restart the Skittles League in January.

Entry Forms, with payment of **£10.00** per team, to be in to County Office no later than **17 December**.

Details of teams and dates etc will be issued in January.

KURLING

Would your WI like to enter the Kurling League in February?

Like the Skittles we now have enough interest to restart the Kurling League.

Entry Forms, with payment of **£20.00** per team, to be in to County Office no later than **17 December**.

Details of teams, dates and venues to be confirmed but we shall try and have the venues spread throughout the county.



Booking Forms for these two events are now available. Please contact the Federation Secretary email: federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org

DFWI CAROL FESTIVALS 2021

Come and join us at our carol festivals at **Wimborne Minster** on **Friday 3 December**, and **Sherborne Abbey** on **Monday 6 December**.

Due to restrictions on numbers entry will be by programme only and the cost is £3.00. They will be available from the Federation Secretary email: federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org

DFWI SUMMER HOLIDAY TO FLORIADÉ IN THE NETHERLANDS

THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2022 TO MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2022

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

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



Price includes:

4 nights stay at the Carlton President Hotel with Dinner B & B

Entrance to the Floriade including a cable car ride.

Canal Cruise on the Amsterdam Canals.

Entrance ticket with a seat at the Zundert Flower Parade

Full itinerary can be obtained from County Office.

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

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

EVENTS IN THE PIPELINE:

Dorset Feather Stitching—2022

**Quilling and Dorset Button Making
at County House —2022**

Silk Scarf Painting at County House—2022

Afternoon Tea at Athelhampton House—Spring 2022

**Chavenage House - 14 June (WI members who
booked for the 2020 event will have priority)**

Further details of these events will follow in due
course.

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

ARE YOU CRAFTY

Dorset Federation Events Team would love
to hear from anyone who has a particular
skill/craft that they could share with others
through workshops at County House

We have room at County House for
workshops of up to 12 people in a safe
environment, sanitised and with lots of
fresh air. We would love to hear from you,

contact Margaret Bunch our Events

Chairman: - email

eventschair@dorsetwi.org.

**The NFWI Annual Meeting for 2022
will be held on
Saturday 11 June in Liverpool.**



WI NEWS FROM AROUND DORSET

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

CHIDEOCK WI

THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK

With a little help from our friends, Chideock WI supported the Great Big Green Week by planting a tree in the village cemetery, ahead of the major international conference, COP26, which will be held later this year. Planting a *Sorbus scalaris* (Mountain Ash) was an easy choice because it is truly a good “all-rounder”, providing flowers in the Spring, beautiful red berries, with good Autumn colour and is easy to grow on our clay soil.

Our members were also encouraged to read “Wilding” by Isabella Tree and “No-one is Too Small to Make a difference” by Greta Thunberg.

Small steps to big changes!



#ShowTheLove

ST CATHERINE'S HILL WI

Policing in Christchurch in the 1960s was the subject of a very interesting talk to members of the St Catherine's Hill Christchurch Women's Institute at their October meeting. Mr Andy Varney, who had been a Police Constable at this time, illustrated his talk with humorous anecdotes of his experiences together with many scenes of the borough and the surrounding area at that time with colourful slides. Barbara Ford, our secretary, thanked Mr Varney for his very interesting talk. President, Jill Dunston welcomed everyone to the meeting and was sorry to report that one of our members, Pam Tublin, had died. Members were then asked for their suggestions of local charities to which the WI could help in the coming year.

Mair Bridger

SWANAGE WI

A NEW WI NEEDS A BANNER

On 24th February 2021 a banner competition was launched. Members were invited to design a banner that would represent Swanage WI. Four designs were submitted and members were invited to vote by secret ballot for their design choice.

The design chosen by members had easily recognisable local images including a Swan, Old Harry Rocks and ammonites. The date of the formation of the group in 2020 was acknowledged and a rainbow included as thanks and recognition of all of those in the NHS for their work during 2020.

The first meeting was held in The 1859 Pier Cafe where we introduced each other and explored what skills the group had in crafting. These skills included wet felting, embroidery, stump work, quilting, appliqué, beadwork, and both hand and machine sewing.

The cost of making the banner was kept to a minimum by recycling resources that we all had at home.

We discussed changes that we might make to the colours on the design with the consent of the designer who was in the group. These changes included adding WI to the original design and rather than the text being white, the group decided to include the colours of the LGBT community to make the banner all inclusive.

A pattern in black and white was made and at the next meeting the members took different pieces to work on using different techniques. We then met a month later and shared what we had created. We had seven meetings in total during the year and met at various places including one member's home, The Shark Cafe and The Grand Hotel in Swanage.

The group members have really enjoyed creating the banner, especially as it was the first social event that many of the group had been to following the confines of lockdown. It has been enjoyable chatting over tea coffee and cake and learning new crafting skills.

One of the members had an idea for the finials on the pole that supports the banner, to be shaped like swans. A volunteer at the Greengage Community Allotment Project who whittles wood crafted two swans for the group which he kindly donated and a member's husband made the pole for the banner to hang on.

The group have now decided to meet as a sewing and craft group to learn about and share more skills, and continue to develop more projects to benefit Swanage WI.

Thanks go to all of those involved and particularly The Grand Hotel who gave us refreshments, The Greengage Project for the swans and Brendan who made the pole for the banner.

Lynn Coleman



GAUNTS AND HOLT WI

The ladies of Gaunts and Holt WI have made an early start to their Christmas preparations. Despite some members claiming that they were hopeless at any type of craft, all successfully achieved a beautiful Christmas tree card, using the iris folding technique. The activity was led by one of our members and unlike most gatherings of ladies, there was great concentration and very little chatting, until they turned over their card and admired one another's completed tree.

Jane Garvey



BROADMAYNE & WEST KNIGHTON WI

For our October meeting we welcomed once again Dr Francis Burroughes who has been a Conductor and Director of various Operatic Societies over the years. Showing photographs and playing music, he relayed several hilarious tales from that world. He spent some time with the Chipping Norton Operatic Society, who once used a donkey to come onto the stage as part of the performance, this was much more highly thought of than the Dramatic Society who when putting on a version of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' used a couple of actors for the part of Daisy the Cow. One performance of the 'Merry Widow' was halted whilst the local Fire Service were conducting an exercise and set off the fire alarm. This was about the only time the entire one-hundred-and-ten-piece orchestra was watching him conduct all at the same time, as they managed to stop together, and when the alarm had finished ringing, they picked up the piece and carried on. Quite a feat.

During a performance with the Bridport Operatic Society at the Electric Palace, unbelievably, six furniture lorries were needed to deliver the costumes for a performance of 'Perchance to Dream'. The anecdotes around wigs and dry ice were very amusing.

The meeting also showed, in a slide show, the results of the lockdown sunflower challenge. Some members had more success than others, from those that expired at a few feet to those reaching up to 14 feet.



Jan O'Mara

CAN YOU SPARE A COUPLE OF HOURS A MONTH



**WI MEMBERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE
DORSET FEDERATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EVENTS COMMITTEE,
MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT COMMITTEE
COMMS AND SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM**

CONTACT DIANE AT COUNTY OFFICE ON 01305 266366 OR EMAIL federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org AND
COME AS AN OBSERVER TO ONE OF OUR MEETINGS

AND FINALLY



*From the Dorset Federation and all at County House
we wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy
and Joyful New Year.*

2022



**BANNER PARADE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE DORSET FEDERATION OF WOMENS
INSTITUTES**