



Dorset-WI NEWS

Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes



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Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes

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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

I'm sure that those of you who were at our Annual Meeting at the Lighthouse will agree that it was a most enjoyable day and went home better informed and entertained. You may also have visited the craft stalls and done a bit of Christmas shopping!

Tell all your fellow members and hopefully next year's meeting will be bigger and better.

A huge thank you to everyone who took or sent in knitted squares to the Annual Meeting. If you were there you will have seen the piles - we did manage to get them all home and we will keep you posted on their progress.

There are lots of events in the run up to Christmas so please book your places as soon as possible. As you will be only too well aware some events book up very quickly and it is disappointing not only to you, but also to those organisers at County House, when we have to turn down bookings. The Events team are looking at different venues to host events that we can't run at County House. If you have any ideas please send in details, we welcome any suggestions.

Coming up next month are the Resolution Shortlist Meetings where you can find out more about the resolutions that have been selected to go through to the next round of voting.

Finally, a plea for more volunteers. We are always on the lookout for willing members to join us. Why not contact Diane or myself with a view to attending a Board of Trustees meeting, a Membership and Support Team or Events Team meeting as an observer. This will give you an insight into the work we do at County House and inspire you to join us – well I have to ask!

By the time you read this I can share with you that I have been voted in as your Federation Chairman for the next year by my fellow Trustees. I am flattered and humbled in equal measure and look forward to what will be my final year in the role.

With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Jenny



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2022/23



Wednesday 23 November 2022 - THE ART OF QUILLING at County House

Thursday 24 November 2022 - CHRISTMAS CONES at County House

Wednesday 30 November 2022 - CHRISTMAS IRIS CARDS at County House

Thursday 8 December 2022 - SHELL DECOUPAGE at County House

Sunday 2 April 2023 (5 days) - SPRING HOLIDAY TO NORTHUMBERLAND

Thursday 25 May 2023 - NFWI ANNUAL CONFERENCE in Cardiff

Tuesday 20 June 2023 - TRIP TO ASCOT

Friday 22 September 2023 (6 days) - AUTUMN BREAK TO BRITTANY

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

MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT TEAM

Chairman: Yvonne Marsh

Vice Chair: Liz Smith

Independent Financial Examiners (IFE)



Congratulations to Sue Dean and Sue Hibbard for recently qualifying as Independent Financial Examiners (IFE). Sue Dean is a member of Sandford and Wareham WI and Sue Hibbard is a member of Blackdown WI. If you require someone to financially examine your WI accounts at the end of the financial year the two Sues can be contacted by email. There will be a charge of £25 plus mileage.



Sue Dean susiedean42@gmail.com

WIAdviser6@dorsetwi.org **Sue Hibbard**

Presidents and Secretaries Information Day

36 Presidents and Secretaries attended a successful day on the 17 September at Lytchett Matravers Village Hall where information was shared by the WI Advisers as well as WIs sharing some good practice with each other. Thank you to Lytchett Matravers WI for once again providing an excellent lunch.

Yvonne Marsh

DFWI ANNUAL QUIZ FINAL

The Quiz final was held at Moreton Village hall in October and after four rounds of 20 questions, with a tea and cake break, the winners were from Colehill WI. Seen here receiving the trophy from our County Chairman Jenny Preston. Well done ladies and many thanks to all who helped make the evening a great success.



DFWI ANNUAL SKITTLES FINAL

The Skittles final took place at The Three Compasses Pub in Charminster last month between Bride Valley WI and Shillingstone WI. After six exciting games Shillingstone WI once again won the Skittles Cup and can be seen here receiving the cup from our County Chairman Jenny Preston.

LOOK WHAT WE MADE

At a recent Macrame Workshop held at County House a few ladies from Dorset WIs made some lovely Macrame Pot Holders, helped by Barbara Beaves.



Earlier in the year there was a Biscornu workshop run by Dena Selby at County House. A Biscornu is a small octagonal stuffed pincushion and the one pictured was made by Susan Marnier.



THE EVENTS TEAM

Chairman: Margaret Bunch
Vice Chair: Elaine Knight

LAST CHANCE FOR CHRISTMAS CRAFTING EVENTS 2022

THE ART OF QUILLING WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2022

Join us at County House and enjoy Quilling cards with a Christmas theme.

The cost will be **£15** per person to **include all materials**. It will run from **10.00 am - 4.00 pm**.

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



CHRISTMAS CONES

THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2022

Join us at County House and make some Christmas Cones with Linda Whatman.

The cost will be **£15** per person to **include all materials**. It will run from **10.00 am - 1.00 pm**.

Tea and coffee will be available.



DECOUPAGE SHELLS WORKSHOP

THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER 2022

10.00 am – 3.00 pm



Another exciting workshop to be run by Dena Selby, at County House. Learn the art of decoupage and decorate pretty shells for gifts – or for yourself!

Please bring on the day a small pair of scissors, a soft paint brush and if you have any special scallop or oyster shells you would like to use.

The cost will be **£15** per person. Tea and coffee will be available, but please bring a packed lunch.

NEW EVENT FOR 2023 NOT TO BE MISSED

JOIN US FOR A GRAND DAY OUT AT ASCOT



On **Tuesday 20 June 2023** we are planning a trip to Ascot.

Entering into the Queen Anne Enclosure, which is located at the heart of the action. Granting views of the Parade and Pre-Parade Rings, this is a vibrant and stylish world of colour, high fashion and incredible millinery, just a whisker away from the world's finest horses.

More details will follow but if you are interested please contact Diane at County Office:
federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org

FUTURE EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR

Ukulele and Afternoon Tea
Wimbledon Tour with Afternoon Tea
Literary Lunch
Upholstery Workshop
American Museum, Bath

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

THE EVENTS TEAM

GREAT HOLIDAYS FOR 2023

DFWI SPRING HOLIDAY TO NORTHUMBERLAND AND HOLY ISLAND

SUNDAY 2 APRIL 2023 FOR 5 DAYS

£530 (There is an additional single supplement of £99)

Explore Alnwick Castle - Fish and Chips in Seahouses - Boat Trip to the Farne Islands - Step back in time at Beamish Open Air Museum - Visit The Holy Island of Lindisfarne

Price includes:

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

Full itinerary can be obtained from County Office

Contact our Federation Secretary, email: federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org



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

Visit to Bayeux Tapestry, Calvados Tour and Tasting, British War Cemetery, Chateau de Bienassis

Full itinerary can be obtained from County Office

Contact our Federation Secretary, email: federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org



COLMER WI



Our first meeting after the summer break found us exploring the world of hats thanks to Sue Darling from Snooks Hat Shop. She gave us the history and design details of all the hats she had brought with her including Fascinators, Cloches, Bucket Hats, Foldable Hats and Fedoras. The talk ended, of course with members trying on whatever took their fancy among much laughter. Altogether a lovely evening.

Gill Smith.

MAIDEN CASTLE WI

AN EMPTY CHAIR

*Beside the cosy fireplace
There stands an empty chair
For the one who occupied it
Is now no longer there.
The handbag on the table
Dogs settled on the floor
Just waiting for their mistress
To walk in through the door.
We all will miss her presence
She's travelled her last mile
But always we'll remember
That face, that voice, that smile.*

I wrote this on September 9, after seeing the photo of the Queen meeting the new PM Liz Truss a few days before.

It was seeing the armchair by the fire, and thinking that the chair would now be empty which really got to me.

Hazel Miller.

CHICKERELL MOONFLEET WI

Our WI was set up during lockdown but has really taken off since February and now has 38 new members (is this a record?).



Our wide ranging programme has included talks by an author on Finding Fossils in the Fleet, a Bridport butcher whose family business has been trading since 1515, and by a local florist. Our activities have included Skittles, a Kurling and Cake evening, an Easter quiz/cheese and wine evening, a craft evening and a Willow Workshop. We've run a craft stall at our local village fete, had a visit to Keyneston perfume farm and had an afternoon tea at Bennett's Water Gardens. We are a very friendly group and have great hopes for our future.

Ann Roberts



TARRANT GUNVILLE WI

75th Anniversary Lunch

Tarrant Gunville is a very small village in North Dorset. Our WI was formed in 1947 by Mrs Bradshaw, the Vicar's wife. This was shortly after the war, during a time when our economy was in disarray, the nation owed huge amounts of money and rationing had become even more stringent. Even bread was rationed. It was a year that saw one of the worst and most sustained times of sub zero temperatures and heavy snowfall from January to March followed by severe flooding in many parts the country. The new Tarrant Gunville WI must have been a source of comfort and support during those very difficult times.



We had a delicious lunch to celebrate our anniversary which was prepared and served by volunteers. Standing on the left is our President, Mrs Gilly Hescroff, who made the lovely cake. Seated on the left is Mrs Valerie Miller, who has been a member of TGWI for over 50 years and is the daughter of one of the founder members. Next to her is Mrs Ella Smith who has been a member for about 60 years.

Tarrant Gunville WI currently has 34 Members and they live in a wide variety of local villages from Stourpaine, through the Tarrant valley and Pimperne to Spetisbury.

Katie Robinson

CHRISTCHURCH CENTRAL WI

Our members have been very busy for the last few months knitting a variety of colourful squares to make into blankets to help Ukraine families keep warm this winter. We have so many to take to the Dorset Federation collection point.

Susan Bailey



GAULTS AND HOLT WI

As Armistice Day approaches, we at the WI realised that nothing was ever done to acknowledge or commemorate this occasion in our village. With this in mind, a "Tommy" has been purchased and the WI decided to make a poppy collage to form an appropriate background for him. This will be displayed in the centre of the village, close to the hall where we meet.

All members contributed to making poppies, to their own abilities, some cut out felt or fabric, some knitted or crocheted and several learnt to knit or crochet for the first time and were proud of their achievements.

Carol Griffiths (President)



SWANAGE WI

AT THE PLANET PURBECK FESTIVAL 2022

The second Planet Purbeck Festival took place in September and was a celebration of our land, sea and community. The Isle of Purbeck is a very special place and this was a chance for Swanage WI to play a small part in helping to keep Purbeck litter free and beautiful.



Along with other organizations, we had a stall outside the Mowlem Theatre on Saturday, 24 September.

Pedestrian traffic is high there so we were able to engage with many visitors to our

stall.

Our stall was beautifully decorated to engage attention and I applaud the artistic talent of one of my fellow members. I am also taking this opportunity to thank all who donated items and who volunteered on the day. I think I can say we had the coldest spot in Swanage that day.

What was the aim:

To reduce waste and landfill by collecting and repurposing items with a view to benefiting others.

We were not collecting items from the public, but telling people about our collections and, hopefully, encouraging others either as individuals or groups to do the same. However, we did emphasize that it is always advisable to check with a charity first to ensure items were still needed.

All of the items we have been collecting are household ones, possibly collecting dust and cluttering up space and no expenses have been incurred as all items are either dropped off locally or sent Freepost.

We have been collecting:

Bras – Money is raised for the charity Against Breast Cancer and the bras are sold to support small businesses across African Countries. There are many

Bra banks around the UK.

Pens for kids – supplying pens and pencils to countries whose children find it hard to source these.

Aluminium drinks cans – Crushed, rinsed cans are sold on to raise money for the purchase of refuse bags used by Litter Free Purbeck. Local volunteer, Frank Roberts, recently won a BBC Solent Make A Difference Award for his environmental work. I can't think of a better thing to do with a used, empty can.

Unwanted, unloved and broken, jewellery and watches. Costume jewellery and beads are also acceptable for the Treasure Your Heart Appeal run by Heart Research UK. The items go to auction and much needed funds are raised. The items are simply popped in an envelope supplied by the Treasure Your Heart Appeal and sent to them Freepost.

So what did we achieve:

Hopefully, we did encourage somebody to do something to benefit somebody else. We gave out approximately 50 Freepost envelopes for Treasure Your Heart.

We networked with other organizations and got to know our neighbours.

We had a fun day being with our friends from Swanage WI, met

members from other local WIs and joined with our local community for a common purpose.

The WI has sustainability written into the Constitution

and it was our chance to showcase our efforts. It was also an opportunity to let the community know about Swanage WI. The remark "you have completely changed my perception of The WI as I never imagined you did this sort of thing" was one I will treasure.



Lyn Coleman, Swanage WI Secretary

And finally from the Board of Trustees and all at County House

