



Dorset-WI NEWS

Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes

PUBLIC AFFAIRS



For over 100 years the WI has been involved in campaigns and issues that matter to you.

From food waste and climate change to dementia care and the plight of the honey bee

Our Federation is now looking to set up a committee to ensure we have a voice on important issues. Can you help?

(See Page 4 for further details)

RESOLUTIONS 2020/2021

The Resolution Shortlist is now out for 2020/2021.

It's time now for WI members to discuss and vote on the issues.

(See Page 3 for further details)



Join the Zoom Resolution Shortlist meeting arranged by Membership & Support on Monday 16 November, 2-4pm.

Dorset Federation **ZOOM** Events

have arrived see **PAGE 6** for details of the first two zoom events being hosted by the Events Team.

Contact Details

Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes

Write to:

DFWI, County House,
18 Crown Street West,
Poundbury, DT1 3DW.

Telephone: 01305 266366

Federation Secretary Email:
federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org

General enquiries Email:
reception@dorsetwi.org

Office Hours

Monday & Friday: Office CLOSED
Tuesday: 10am-1pm; 2-4pm.
Wednesday: 10am-1pm; 2-4pm.
Thursday: 10am-1pm.

Federation Chair

Jenny Preston

Federation Secretary

Diane Towndrow

Editor of Dorset WI News:

Isabell van Millingen **Email:**
newseditor@dorsetwi.org

Website Editor:

Jane Doughty **Email:**
WebEditor@dorsetwi.org
Website: www.theWI.org.uk/dorset

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Please send your cheque made payable to DFWI Ltd with your order.

FROM OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBER TESS BURT

After many years on the Board of Trustees I feel that the time has come for me to retire and hopefully encourage some younger members to join and experience the running of the Womens Institute at County level.

It has been many enjoyable years and I hope that I have made a useful contribution in that time. Moving premises was a large interesting project which will not happen again, hopefully for many years, the County is now on a sound footing with a modern spacious office.

This is not the last of me as I am still a member of the Events Committee and I sincerely hope that there will be an opportunity in the future to run some craft workshops for our members.



Tess Burt

Also retiring at this time is Liz Beeson, who was editor of the News and a member of the Events Committee for many years. Jenny Preston and the rest of the Board of Trustees thanked both of them for all they have done over the years and for their help and friendship, they will both be greatly missed.

FROM OUR FEDERATION CHAIRMAN JENNY PRESTON

By the time you read this the clocks will have gone back and Autumn will be well and truly here. Whilst not enjoying the evenings drawing in and the afternoons ending earlier I take great delight in seeing the rich Autumn colours as the leaves change and drop making a beautiful carpet on the grass. It's enough to make me forget briefly the state the country is in with Covid 19. We are lucky here in Dorset to be in a relatively low risk area although things seem to change on an almost daily basis and the restrictions ever more complicated and difficult to remember.

However, there is much to look forward to. The Events Committee are starting to arrange events via Zoom so do keep your eyes open for details in all the usual channels.

Our wonderful team of WI Advisers are available to help with queries about anything WI, they are a mine of information and can't wait until the time they are able to come out and visit your meetings.

Just before I finish can I give My WI (<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/>) a plug. My WI is an online facility and we each have a unique password which enables us to access it - your MCS representative will be able to help if you've forgotten yours (or never knew you had one!) My WI contains lots of information about all sorts of areas of life as a WI member. Give it a go – you may just be surprised at what you find.

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.*

RESOLUTION ROUNDUP

Well, the shortlist for Resolutions 20/21 is now out, and some of you may have booked onto our Zoom meeting to discuss them prior to deciding which one you want to vote for. It's an interesting mix of topics, and they were chosen from over 60 submissions. You may wonder how on earth we end up with a shortlist. In October, 105 resolution co-ordinators and members joined a zoom meeting and each and every one was discussed. NFWI staff put in a huge amount of work prior to the meeting researching the topics, checking the wording and whether the resolution would meet the objects of the WI. They then split the submissions into groups - probable, possible, and least possible. No matter what group they are in, they will be discussed, and a vote taken. The most popular ones, according to the vote, are discussed again before a final vote is taken. It was a long day, but very well organised by NFWI - and the voting system was simple and quick.

These resolutions are topical and relevant and I know many members like to have a resolution that they can

really get involved in. 'Raising awareness' can sometimes sound a bit vague, but WIs do have some really bright ideas to engage the wider public in becoming aware of the important work that the WI does. At our Zoom meeting, we hope that members will have discussed how relevant they feel each one of these could be to their own WI's work and programme. That might be worth thinking about when you make your own decision. Just in case you missed it, the shortlist is

1. **A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer**
2. **Stop women dying prematurely from coronary heart disease (CHD)**
3. **Racism and discrimination**
4. **Now's the time to act! Protect your nature space to create wildlife-friendly communities**
5. **Stop the destruction of peat bogs to tackle climate change**

Jan Watson (Resolutions co-ordinator)

RESOLUTIONS → CAMPAIGNS → ACTION

The Great Dorset Pants Fence



Brought to you by the Blandford Evening WI and based at Gorcombe Extreme Sports, this is a way to commemorate anyone who has been lost from your life through Cervical Cancer or Prostate Cancer.

As we know – “Don't Fear the Smear” is our campaign to encourage all women to have the smear test.

This Pants Fence is a fun way to put forward that message and to remind and encourage all women to go for the test..... and..... so that the Gentlemen are not left out, to get the men in your life to go for their tests too.

Based on the fundraising phenomenon in New Zealand called the Cardrona Bra Fence the fence idea was adapted by the ladies of Blandford Evening WI as their fundraising project for 2020 because they could not hold their usual November event in the Corn Exchange due to the Covid19 outbreak.

Any monies raised this year by the Fence will be on behalf of the Dorset Cancer Care Foundation.

So, whether they are plain and practical, fancy and frivolous or slinky and sexy get out your pants along with a donation and hang them with pride on the Great Dorset Pants Fence and say ---



Knickers to Cervical Cancer.....and.....Pants to Prostate Cancer

---with the ladies of Blandford Evening WI.

Due to Storm Alex it was a seriously soggy Saturday morning when the instigators and sponsors of the Fence gathered to raise the banner at Gorcombe Farm.

Due to the Restrictions, it was a limited affair with Blandford Evening WI being represented by the

Treasurer, Sheila Chapman, dripping in her waterproof, a hardy Phil Meaden, boss of Gorcombe Extreme Sports, soaking in shorts, while the sponsors, Danielle from Cheap Printing Dorset and Neil Middleditch from Baillie House Warehouse were rain lashed in their company jackets. And Nikki Davies-Thomas, the Lady from Dorset Cancer Care Foundation was up to the top of her wellies in water.

But fun was had by all --- Honest. All is ready – the Fence needs You to hang those pants with pride!

Sheila Chapman

MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Chairman: *Yvonne Marsh.*

Vice Chair *Lyn Coleman & Jan Watson*

November 2020

Dear Members

When face to face WI meetings stopped in March, I must admit that I didn't believe we would still be unable to meet all these months on.

Indeed, when the M & S Committee asked you to complete the recent questionnaire we sent out, we were eager to read about your plans for re-opening, albeit on a smaller scale for some. We know how much many of you were looking forward to experiencing that special camaraderie that so many WI members enjoy.

How do we know that? Well, it's thanks to your WI having completed and returned the questionnaire. The committee are very grateful to all the WIs who managed to do this. We have been really interested to read your answers and comments.

One thing has shone through and that is the effort that so many WIs have made to try to stay in touch with their members. Socially distanced (of course) garden parties, park meetings and walks, delivery of cakes (lucky WI members), written notes and cards, texts and Zoom meetings are just a few of the ways you have shared with us. We all want our WIs to thrive

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Dorset Federation

and continue, and many WIs provide a caring community for their members. It seems to me that the pandemic has highlighted this benefit of being a member.

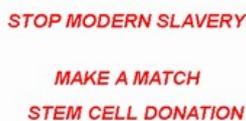
The information that you sent us has now been collated and forwarded to the Board of Trustees, the Comms Team and the DFWI News Editor. I should just add here that the Comms Team are always happy to help with any digital set up for WIs so please do contact them should you decide to give Zoom a go or think you might like to set up a Facebook page.

Nobody can predict when we might be able to meet again in our usual venues and like everyone else we await further guidance with interest. However, we hope that as many of you as possible will continue to try to stay in touch by whatever means you can. Members matter so thank you once again for your help in providing a snap shot of membership activity and interests.

Best wishes to all of you

Lyn Coleman on behalf of the M & S Committee

PUBLIC AFFAIRS



This is an integral and important aspect of the WI that has been missing recently from our Federation. Esme Isaacs has volunteered to head a new committee so that we all have a voice on important issues. She is looking for others to join her!

Carol Brown has already volunteered -how about you? Do you have opinions on some of the major issues we are faced with? Are you willing to work with a committee to stage interesting debates and events about current affairs?

If so please contact Esme Isaacs by email: esme@esme-isaacs.co.uk.

Carol Brown

The Events Committee

Chairman: Margaret Bunch

Vice Chair Jean Filby

**DFWI SUMMER HOLIDAY
to
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 return 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.

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



Buxton



Bakewell



Chatsworth



Leamington Spa



The Palace Hotel

Dorset Federation **ZOOM** Events



Dorset Federation Events Team have arranged a zoom event **celebrating the Japanese art of flower arranging, Ikebana, presented by Kinu Barsley.**

This is on **SATURDAY 21 OF NOVEMBER** at 10.30 am. The talk will be between 1 – 11/2 hours, the cost of this is **£5.00**. On booking you will 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.

Dorset Federation Events Team have arranged a zoom event **demonstrating the making of a Christmas Fabric Wreath.**

This is being presented by Dena Selby on **SATURDAY 5 OF DECEMBER** at 10.30 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 the Wreath will be sent to you when you book, you may use any additional Christmas materials, bells, bobbles or sparkle ribbon that you have but **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.



Using Zoom is not as hard as it seems. If you have children, grandchildren or a helpful neighbour or friend who can set up the Zoom App on your computer then you are more than half way there. Once you have the App it is very easy to join a meeting (and some meetings, including Dorset Federation, you can join without the app using your browser of choice e.g. Google etc. You can also call in but beware as it could be expensive calling in).

The meeting host sends out an email link to all participants:

Ivan is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Ivan's Zoom Meeting

Time: Oct 12, 2020 03:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75805053385?pwd=Q2pWUS9kTmFmcS9BeWI1d0c0S0JMdz09>

Meeting ID: 758 0505 3385

Passcode: tV6Myf

You have **2 options**, you can just click on the link, highlighted in blue, and it will ask you if you wish to join the zoom meeting and that will then take you into the meeting room, it **may** ask you to submit a PASSCODE, this is highlighted in red. OR you can run the Zoom app and JOIN the meeting where you will need to type in the Meeting ID and the PASSCODE. That's it, you can now ZOOM

If you wish to know more about zoom Dorset Federation have produced a document DFWI ZOOM PARTICIPANT. This can be obtained from the Comms Team – email: commsteam@dorsetwi.org



On **THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER** Dorset Federation Events are leading a **ramble at Ringstead Bay**. We plan on walking down to St Catherine by the Sea Chapel which has a lovely area to sit out in. Meet at the National Trust car park at the top of the hill at 10.30. We will be in the open air and socially distanced following government guidelines. You may wish to bring a picnic with you, hot drink may be welcome. Following government guidelines we will be limited to individual groups of 6 people. (Socially distanced and not mingling at any time) If you are coming could you please email Isabell (newseditor@dorsetwi.org) so that she can make up a Track and Trace list.

CHAVENAGE HOUSE: The trip to Chavenage House has been rescheduled for **TUESDAY 8 JUNE 2021**.



WI members who booked for this year's trip will have priority.

BLenheim PALACE: We hope to arrange the Blenheim Palace trip for **AUTUMN 2021**.



Rose Garden at Litton Cheney and

Paddle Boarding at Poole Park details to follow.

The Magic of Christmas Floral Extravaganza: this has been rescheduled for **DECEMBER 2021**.

OFFICE NEWS

COUNTY QUIZ QUESTIONS—now available to be posted out to WIs. Please send in your request to County Office, together with a payment of £6.50 (this covers however many teams you wish to enter) and please also send a large stamped addressed envelope. The closing date for the answers to be returned to the office is **21 January 2021**.

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

Diane Towndrow

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.

CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN

We are still looking for you to send in your handmade Christmas cards, to inspire us all. Send them to Newseditor@dorsetwi.org and we shall put them in the 'showcase'



WI NEWS FROM AROUND DORSET

BLANDFORD EVENING WI

Blandford Evening WI managed to have two Gatherings in the Garden before the "Rule of Six" was imposed. A Picnic in August and a Fish and Chip Supper in September were enjoyed by the ladies as they sat at socially distanced tables set about the Woodhouse Gardens in Blandford. This was the first time members had been able to get together since their March meeting which occurred just before Lockdown came into effect.

It was a great pleasure to just chat with friends



not seen for a while. "Les Girls" were brought up to date on what had been going on behind the scenes – the masks, scrubs, and bags being made by various members, the volunteers roles taken on by others, the development of the twinning with a WI in New Zealand and the progress of the Pants Fence project.

It was with great sadness that the ladies returned home as the light faded in the Gardens and the evening autumn chill set in. But, as is the way of resilient, resourceful WI women, plans were already being made for keeping in contact by phone, Zoom, in classes and out of doors while being safe and legal.

Sheila Chapman

WYKE REGIS WI

One of our members, Jenni Fleming, suggested that members could each make a patchwork square to be incorporated into a tablecloth, as a reminder of these difficult times. Instructions were sent out via our monthly Newsletter, post and delivered by hand. Here is the result.

THE FINISHED CLOTH



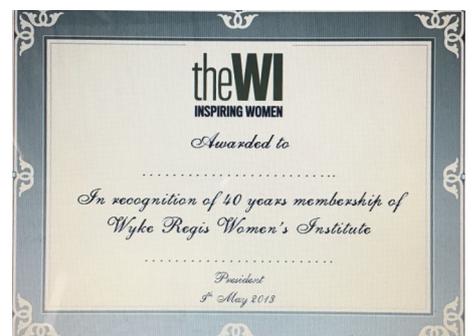
We are so proud of Jenni, who stitched all the squares on to the cloth and all members who made a square.

I should add that Jenni has also, during this time, built a shed for her allotment, keeping members informed of progress in the monthly Newsletter.



Following the news that NFWI have produced certificates for long term members we thought you might be interested to see that Wyke Regis WI has been presenting 40 and 50 year certificates to eligible members since at least 2013.

Jill Pearce



WOOL WI



On Wednesday 7th October Wool WI met for their monthly ramble at Moreton on a beautiful warm sunny day.

We took the path over the Frome – two of us spotted a Kingfisher- and up into the heathland. We were unable to do a circular walk as one of the paths was still under water from the heavy rain.

However, we did find a tyre swing attached to a large tree and two of our group could not refrain from giving it a go !!!!!

Our walks coordinator was presented with a certificate as she has been a member of Wool WI for over **FORTY** years!!

Coffee was enjoyed outside socially distancing at the Dovecote in Moreton we had actually walked 3 miles and had a lot of chatter and laughs

Gill Webb.

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



**NFWI ANNUAL MEETING
MONDAY
19 APRIL 2021**

The **2021 NFWI Annual Meeting** will be held at the Royal Albert Hall in London on **Monday 19 April 2021**. More information will be available in the months ahead.

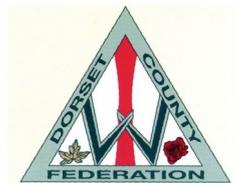
Next year is also the Royal Albert Hall's 150th anniversary so it is a particularly special year for us to be part of their calendar of events.



BRAIN TEASER

(Answers in the Dorset News Website <https://dorsetfwi-news.weebly.com>)

How 'Hardy' are you?



- When was Thomas Hardy born?
 - 1839
 - 1840
 - 1845
- Where was he born?
 - Dorchester
 - Lower Bockhampton
 - Upper Bockhampton
- He was the youngest of 4 children
TRUE FALSE
- What was his first published work
 - Under the Greenwood Tree
 - Far from the Madding Crowd
 - Desperate Remedies
- What musical instrument did Thomas Hardy play?
 - Piano
 - Violin
 - Flute
- With whom did he serve his apprenticeship with?
 - Arthur Blomfield
 - G.R. Crickmay
 - John Hicks
- Where did he meet his first wife, Emma Lavinia Gifford?
 - Dorchester
 - Devon
 - Cornwall
- Far from the Madding Crowd is set in which fictional county?
- What is the name of the 2 volumes that make up The Dynasts?
- Where is Hardy's body buried?
 - Stinsford Church
 - Wimborne Minster
 - Westminster Abbey