



# Dorset-WI NEWS

*Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes*

**It's not too late to join us at the  
DFWI Annual Meeting  
Thursday 12 October 2023  
at the Lighthouse in Poole.**

**Tickets still available - £15.00**

Morning speaker is **NFWI Chair Ann Jones**

Afternoon speaker is the **Reverend Kate Bottley**.

Meet team members from Events and  
Membership & Support.

Artisan area with Craft items to buy.

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



Contact Federation Secretary, email:- [federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org](mailto:federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org) for further details.

**COME AND JOIN US FOR A GRAND DAY OUT**

## **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](mailto:federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org)



## Contact Details

### Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes

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DFWI, County House,  
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Poundbury DT1 3DW.

**Telephone:** 01305 266366

**Federation Secretary Email:**  
[federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org](mailto:federationsecretary@dorsetwi.org)

#### Office Hours

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday  
10am-13.00pm for Phone calls and  
visitors

Other times by appointment  
**Thursday/Friday Office Closed**

#### Federation Chair

Jenny Preston

#### Federation Secretary

Diane Towndrow

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**Website:** [www.theWI.org.uk/dorset](http://www.theWI.org.uk/dorset)

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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](mailto: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 will be upon us and may have already happened. I hope to see many of you there at what promises to be an enjoyable, informative day. It takes a lot of organisation and a few sleepless nights but it's all worthwhile if we have a good day.

Very soon there will also be a new Federation Chairman. After four years it's time for me to stand down and hand the baton over to someone else.

I've had an enjoyable, interesting four years and together we've come through Covid, lockdowns, Zoom meetings and a revised constitution to name just a few challenges. Throughout it all the staff in the office and the Board of Trustees have supported me at every turn and I thank them for their trust, support and friendship. I must also thank the members of the Membership and Support team who provide invaluable support for us all and the members of the Events team who organise such a varied programme of trips, craft sessions and experiences. Of course I can't leave out our Comms team and the Bestival team and all the volunteers who this year helped to make a fantastic amount of money which will boost our Federation funds – money that we have certainly missed for the last three years.

So I look forward to having a little more time to enjoy all the things that the WI has to offer. For the time being I will remain as a Trustee so I'm sure there's a job for me somewhere.

I wish my successor all the luck in the world in this privileged role and I thank you for your support and friendship, long may it continue.

*Jenny*



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

# 2023/24



**Saturday 7 October - SPEAKERS AUDITIONS at Marnhull Village Hall**

**Thursday 12 October - DFWI ANNUAL MEETING**

**Wednesday 1 November - BRACELET BEADING WORKSHOP at County House**

**Saturday 4 November - PAPER CUTTING WORKSHOP at Walford Mill, Wimborne**

**Saturday 18 November - CHRISTMAS CRAFTS WORKSHOP at Carey Hall**

**Thursday 23 November - WI CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT at John Lewis, Poole**

**Tuesday 28 November - WINCHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKETS**

**Friday 1 December - CAROL FESTIVAL at Wimborne**

**Monday 4 December - CAROL FESTIVAL at Sherborne**

**Thursday 18 January - BEGINNERS CROCHET at County House**

**Tuesday 16 January (for 6 weeks) - WILLOW WORKING at D'Urberville Hall, Wool**

**Thursday 15 February - FOLLOW UP CROCHET at County House**

**Saturday 24 March 2024 - CLIMATE CONFERENCE (New Date)**

## MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT TEAM

**Chairman: Yvonne Marsh**  
**Vice Chair: Sue Hibbard**  
**Liz Smith**

### MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT PROGRAMME PLANNING

As your WI's programme is an excellent tool to attract new members as well as entertaining your current members, it was felt that a Programme Planning Workshop would be the way to go.

The workshop was held at County House on 7<sup>th</sup> September and despite it being a very warm day, 17 WI members from various Institutes attended. The workshop was led by WI Advisers Sue Hibbard and Leri Ayre.

The aim of the workshop was to identify ways to improve your WI programme and the sections in My WI and the Handbook were considered. Participants were asked what they considered their members wanted from the WI and how they were going to give it to them. This prompted a great deal of discussion and produced some varied answers.

There were several programmes gathered from other Wis and these were looked at while everyone enjoyed a welcome break with tea, coffee and delicious cakes. Well it was a WI workshop after all!!

Everyone had been asked to bring their own WI's existing programme and these were used to complete a Planning Quiz to determine if their existing programme covered all aspects of a thorough programme or if there were any areas that needed consideration.

There was much discussion on the range of possible layouts for a programme and how it could be printed or reproduced. With the aid of lots of photographs of each other's programmes all went away inspired with new ideas to develop their next programmes.

There will be lots of sample programmes to view at the Membership and Support Team stand at our Annual meeting at the Lighthouse so do come and visit us.

*Sue Hibbard WI Adviser*



### DFWI CROQUET TOURNAMENT



After a wet start we enjoyed a lovely sunny afternoons play at Winterborne Valley Croquet Club. A great day was had by all and we had six experienced players and eight novice players battling it out. In the end Annie Smith and Clare Barratt won the More Experienced Class with Hilary Green and Celia McGovern coming second. In the Novice Class Jenny Key and Tricia Hook won with Nicola Denham and Pearl Ryall coming second. We all look forward to this event again next year.

## THE EVENTS TEAM

### BRACELET BEADING WORKSHOP



Join us at County House for a Bracelet Beading Workshop

**Wednesday 1 November**

**10.00 am - 3.00 pm**

The cost of this will be **£20.00** to **include** all materials.

Tea/Coffee will be available but please bring a packed lunch

### CHRISTMAS CRAFTS Workshop

**Saturday 18 November**

**CAREY VILLAGE HALL MISTOVER ROAD,  
WAREHAM**

Our popular Christmas Crafts Workshop will be held from **10 am - 3.30 pm**. The cost will be **£25.00** per person to **include** all materials. Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own lunch.

**ITEMS TO BE MADE WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AT THE LIGHTHOUSE ON THE 12 OCTOBER**

**Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes**  
**Creating a Sustainable Future**

*What can we do?*



Climate conference planned for September has been postponed.

**NEW DATE - 23 MARCH 2024**

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

**Chairman: Margaret Bunch**

**Vice Chair: Elaine Knight**

**Dena Selby**

**John Lewis Poole**

### WI Christmas Shopping Event

**Thursday 23 November 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm**

Come and join us for an evening of Live Music, Tastings, Glass of Prosecco

Receive a **£5** gift voucher to spend on the night

**£5** pp option to bring 1 guest **£5** pp

**Please bring your ticket on the night**

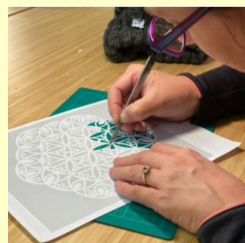
Parking is **3 hours only** on the Retail Park so please consider this when parking.

WIs please nominate a member to collect the money from your members and send it with names to:

[Lucy.brett@johnlewis.co.uk](mailto:Lucy.brett@johnlewis.co.uk)

Mobile number 07751 742013

**Contact Margaret Bunch - email [eventschair@dorsetwi.org](mailto:eventschair@dorsetwi.org) for further details**



### PAPER CUTTING WORKSHOP

**at Walford Mill, Wimborne**

**Saturday 4 November**

**10.15 am - 1.15 pm**

The cost of this will be **£38.00** to **include** all materials

### WINCHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKETS



**TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2023**

Join us for a day out to the Winchester Christmas Markets.

Coach pick up points will be **Dorchester, Blandford Forum, Wimborne and Ringwood.**

Cost: **£21.00** per person

**CLOSING DATE: TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2023**

## THE EVENTS TEAM

**COME AND JOIN US AT  
COUNTY HOUSE FOR**

**Beginners Crochet**

**Thursday 18 January 2024**

and

**Follow up Crochet**

**Thursday 15 February 2024**

**£12.00** for both sessions **or**

**£7.00** for just the Beginners Day.

Further details will be available in the November Issue  
of the News



**It's back by popular  
demand**

**Willow Working At  
D'Urbeville Hall Wool**

**Tuesday 16 January 2024 to**

**Tuesday 20 February**

**(6 weeks course of 3 hours sessions) £120**

The materials supplied will enable you to make **three**  
Baskets.

Further details will be available in the November Issue  
of the News



## WI WALKING NETBALL TOURNAMENT

On Saturday 22 July, Studland and Swanage WI Walking Netball group hosted a WI Walking Netball tournament at the Swanage School, Sports Hall. WI Walking Netball teams from Child Okeford, Lulworth and Sturminster Newton took part. This is the second time we have held a summer WI Walking Netball Tournament and we are all beginning to recognise familiar faces. After the tournament, we all enjoyed catching up over tea and cake in the local Village Hall in Herston, hosted by our Swanage WI co-hosts.



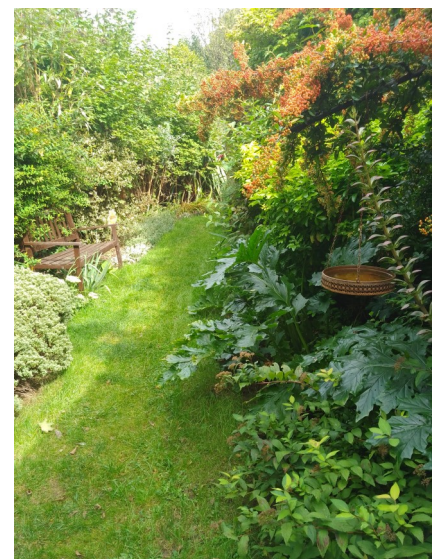
### ALTOGETHER WI

We recently assisted at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Oakdale Library Garden. Our WI was instrumental in the establishment of the garden in 2013. A previous President Jan Ayrton had secured funding from the NFWI. It was part of a project to improve local environments and much of the initial hard work (digging) was done by Jan and her WI team. The WI were awarded the Poole Achievement award in 2013 by the Mayor.

The Bookerie was established which comprises of a reading garden and a Rhymetime Wildlife garden. In 2014 a commemorative garden was added, which is low maintenance and a place to reflect and remember. A herb garden, children's adventure trail and a crocodile have also been added. The garden is a hidden gem in busy urban environment in Poole.

The plants were purchased locally from Chestnut Nurseries a local charity, which provides meaningful occupation in a supportive environment aiming to restore well being to people with mental illness.

*Valarie Marsden*



## BLANDFORD EVENING WI

### Fun and Fabulous Fashions.

Our first Grand Jumble Sale was held at the Corn Exchange Blandford. There were fabulous fashions, famous labels and bargains galore all helped along by Sandy's famous Bacon Butties.

There was a good steady turn out for the whole three hours of the sale which resulted in a satisfying boost to the funds of the Institute, depleted due to the lengthy covid lockdowns. Will there be another sale next year? – Watch this space!!

*Shelia Chapman*



## WYKE REGIS WI

The Institute is celebrating its centenary having had the first meeting in May 1923. A new banner has been made for Wyke Regis Women's Institute.

Each Interest Group provided an embroidered square illustrating their activity. The central panel shows a Little Tern, the Institute's logo, chosen because these rare birds nest on nearby Chesil Beach. Member Catherine Kaye embroidered the bird and she and fellow member, Penny Fielder, constructed the banner which now has pride of place in our WI Hall, Gallwey Road, Wyke Regis.

*Joyce North*



## STUDLAND WI

'Our annual 'Grockles Evening' of 'pitch 'n' putt' in Swanage followed by a 'fish 'n' chips'.

*Chrissie Neville*



### CHRISTCHURCH CENTRAL WI

Several members attended the annual meeting of the Twynham Group of WIs on the 23 June. As well as an annual meeting this is also a social event which in this case meant high tea served and competitions held.

For our meeting in August, WI members from Twynham Group were our guests and the Drama group provided a program of entertainment.

*Carole Gannicott*



### MARTINSTOWN WI

We held our garden party on a lovely sunny afternoon. The afternoon kicked off with a refreshing glass of Pimm's, followed by scones and cream baked by our committee. After a chance for a catch up natter it was outside for a spot of exercise in the way of a few fun games which gave everyone a laugh. We were very pleased Jenny Preston could come along with a few other guests from local WIs.

*Lesley Pemberton*



### BLACKDOWN WI

All fourteen members of Blackdown WI at our August meeting where we also celebrated Charlyne's 90th birthday.

We met by a beautiful pond where we could see damselflies and hear an infantile kingfisher calling to be fed. A lovely afternoon which was enjoyed by all.

*Julia Borland*



### WOOL WI

We had a lovely trip to Bennetts Water Gardens in June.



## WINTERBORNE KINGSTON WI

### Centenary Garden Party

Winterborne Kingston WI held a Centenary Garden Party in July at Abbots Court Rural Retreat, where the first committee meeting of the group was held in 1923. This historic event was shared with past and present members, representatives from other WIs in the Woodbury Hill Group, along with other supporters, who were all welcomed to the celebration with a glass of Pimm's.

Joan Nash, the current President of Winterborne Kingston WI, welcomed guests and explained the significance of the venue to the formation of Winterborne Kingston WI and invited everyone to look at a display of old photographs and archive material. Happy conversation ensued over delicious canapes and there was an opportunity for everyone to explore the beautiful walled garden at Abbots Court.

DFWI Chairman Jenny Preston brought the evening to a close with a champagne toast and Joan Nash thanked all who had been involved in the planning and organisation, generously donating their time, expertise and resources to create such a sparkling event.

**Helen Unitt-Jones**



## ALWESTON WI

Members of Alwiston together with friends and neighbours gathered in the village hall to wish our fellow member Jo Osment all the best for her move to Devon to be closer to her family. Jo has held all the officers since joining and has always supported every aspect of the institute. She moved to Alwiston when she got married to live in the house that her husband's grandparents had moved into when it was built and has continued to live there. She was involved with and supported the Church, the village school and served on several village committees. A Parish councillor and a stalwart of the WI (country) Market. We will miss her but hopefully the telephone and FaceTime will help us to keep in touch and she will welcome any visitors.

