



# Dorset-WI NEWS

*Dorset Federation of Women's Institutes*

**Come and join us at the  
DFWI Annual Meeting  
Thursday 12 October 2023  
at the Lighthouse in Poole.**

**Tickets £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.

*(Time is running out to get your tickets)*

**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

#### Write to:

DFWI, County House,  
18 Crown Street West,  
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

#### Editor of Dorset WI News:

Isabell van Millingen **Email:**  
[newseditor@dorsetwi.org](mailto:newseditor@dorsetwi.org)

#### Website Editor:

Jane Doughty **Email:**  
[WebEditor@dorsetwi.org](mailto:WebEditor@dorsetwi.org)

**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 TREASURER

The summer began with a taste of sunshine and went on to be rather wet and windy, but I hope for you the season has been enjoyable. I certainly have enjoyed joining in the Federation Skittles League, shooting arrows and throwing axes at the taster morning organised by the Events committee and volunteering in the WI Tea tent at Camp Bestival. Although the wind and rain tested us at Camp Bestival it brought many customers into our tent and our fantastic volunteers rose to the challenge, superbly maintaining an efficient service. It would not have gone so well without the impressive cakes other members made to go along with the bacon rolls, sandwiches, and salad rolls made on site.

Now what about the coming Autumn? I am looking forward to attending the Golf Croquet, the Ann Widdecombe lunch and talk in September and the DFWI Annual Meeting at Poole in October, as well as hopefully being selected for the Federation Quiz. I am sure other WI events will fill my diary and like you I will look in the DFWI monthly newsletter and look on the DFWI website to see the upcoming opportunities to book.

Enjoy your Autumn with your WI and the Federation in anticipation of a warm and colourful season.



**Marilyn Holehouse**  
Federation Treasurer

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

# 2023



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

**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

**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

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

## MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT TEAM

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

### MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT

**SO YOU THINK YOU CAN'T BE A PRESIDENT - OR SECRETARY, OR TREASURER? YES YOU CAN!**

The Membership & Support Team (M & S) have recently hosted two events to support members who are new to these roles, those thinking they might 'have a go', and those wanting to refresh their knowledge. First up were the Treasurers, who went to County Office and met up with Sue, Lyn and Yvonne who guided them through the 'ins and outs' of being a Treasurer. Everyone has their own preferences for how they do the job, but the Team also showed participants how to use the 'on-line' system – and at least one participant was overjoyed to find out how easy it is!

The Presidents and Secretaries spent a day with members of the M & S Team at Lytchett Matravers, and enjoyed an excellent lunch prepared and served by members of Lytchett Matravers WI – after all, working through the 'highs' and 'lows' of these roles can be hungry work! There are ways to find out how to do the officers' jobs – the handbook and MyWI for example – but perhaps the best way is to share experiences, problems and solutions and we all learnt so much from

each other. The topics included sharing roles, getting new members and 'progression planning' for future Presidents and Secretaries. We have previously considered setting up a 'buddy' system for new officers and this was also something that was felt might be useful. We also logged on to MyWI to see how we can use it to find answers to questions! If you've never been there do have a go. The first page explains how you can log in.

In August, the M & S Team get together to plan what we are going to be doing to support you all over the next year. The issues and ideas that came up during these two events have given us plenty to work on. Meanwhile, you all have a WI Adviser assigned to your WI and we are always pleased to hear from you, and give you support in any way we can.

*Jan Watson*



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

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## 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 AUTUMN MEETING.**

**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**

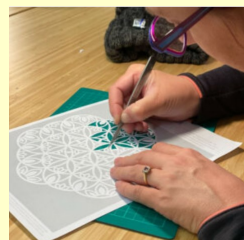
Parking is **3 hours only** on the Retail Park so please consider this when parking.

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**

### CHICKERELL MOONFLEET WI

Chickerell Moonfleet WI was set up in October 2021 and over the last few months their 'Crafties' group have been busy embroidering a banner which was presented to the President at their June meeting. The banner shows many aspects of Chickerell. The background covers the area from Portland Bill, Chesil Beach, the Fleet lagoon and the sea as well as the lovely countryside surrounding Chickerell. It incorporates the town's coat of arms and panels show the Water Gardens, the Peto garden and the Fleet Lagoon with boats, fish, fossils and even barrels as a reference to the Moonfleet novel.

**Ann Roberts**



### GAUNTS AND HOLT WI

Members and some husbands spent a morning having a very interesting guided tour around Shire Hall, Dorchester, where Ryan explained the history of the building and led us to the cells where Tolpuddle Martyrs were held, before escorting us into the dock for trial!

**Jane Garvey**



### MARNHULL WI



Tombola stall at 'Marnfest' on a slightly damp Saturday!

**Helen Chalkley**

### SOUTHWELL WI

Southwell celebrating their 63rd birthday with good food, good drinks and good friends! A small institute on Portland who enjoy local speakers and activities. We meet in St Andrew's Church in Southwell and look forward to many more happy meetings!

**Julie Mayell**



### NOT JUST WI

On a particularly miserable Saturday afternoon a group of members got together to make tote bags for the War on Want food bank scheme. The bags were made from a variety of bits of material, old duvet covers, curtains and some beautiful material bought in charity shops. We set up a production line, cutting, sewing and pressing the bags, despite sewing machines getting jammed and scissors becoming blunt we made quite a few, for the food bank. The idea is that the bags are filled with food, taken home then returned for the next donation keeping waste to a minimum. The bags looked very smart and are much stronger than plastic bags. Wimborne Town is aiming to be Plastic free, the bags we made are destined for the Food Bank, over 300 have already been issued and a further 200 have been distributed to independent shops by Barbara Beaves with the help of her teams of little elves.



### WYKE REGIS WI

Many WI Dorset members will remember Valerie Burt who many times conducted the DFWI County Carol Festival choirs at both Wimborne and Sherborne. Valerie sadly died at the end of July. She will be greatly missed by Wyke Regis WI members, especially the Choir, which she conducted up to the week before she died. Valerie joined our WI in 1960. A singer from her early days in the Institute, she conducted the choir from the mid 1970's when they took part in National singing competitions and local Music Festivals, as well as producing three shows a year in our WI Hall. A very active member of the institute over the years, she organised a memorable summer fete in the 70's and participated in many of the Interest Groups. The choir will sing a favourite piece of Valerie's at her funeral, "Say it with a Song".

*Jill Pearce*



### WIMBORNE MINSTER WI

Our June meeting took place in a Member's beautiful garden. Refreshments were provided by the committee. Our founder member Mrs Wendy Lacey gave musical entertainment to make the party complete on a lovely sunny day.

*Jill Haywood*



### SHILLINGSTONE WI celebrate their Centenary

Members gathered in the Portman Hall, Shillingstone to celebrate this amazing milestone. A Vintage tea with an incredible array of cakes and sandwiches awaited them, served on vintage china and set out beneath strings of bunting.

Speeches were made by the current President, Mrs. Mary Crabb and a former President, Mrs Vicky Thomas with congratulations being given by the County Chair, Mrs Jenny Preston. Formalities over, the wonderful sound of Jazz filled the hall, played by the New Orleans Joys, a local duo.

A beautiful cake had been baked by member Mrs Celia Paulley and iced by her daughter. This was cut by the longest current serving member Mrs Pam Glanville and the recently joined Mrs Daphne Garrett.

Members had the chance to look at old records and scrap books with a plea to identify those present at the 30<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parties.

A wonderful time was had by all! An afternoon to remember!

**Caroline Salt**



### LYTCHETT MATRAVERS WI

We celebrated the King's Coronation with a street style party, lovely afternoon tea and great fun it was too. The speaker was David Parker who was one of those involved with setting up The Princes Trust with the then Prince Charles.

We also decided as a celebration of the coronation we would collect toiletries and small donation gift cards to be sent to Paragon, a charity running a women's refuge in Dorset and also working with women in the community. Our members were very generous to this worthy charity for women less fortunate.

**Tina Evans**



### STUDLAND WI

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Studland WI held their annual BBQ. For the first time this was held at Studland Cricket Pavilion which provided a beautiful setting for a very enjoyable event. Following a welcome drink of Pimms, we held our usual meeting outdoors before recording the event with a photograph taken in front of Old Harry Rocks. Mike Cheeseman and Mark Elliot kindly cooked sausages and chicken for our ladies, with members supplying a wide variety of



salads, with strawberries, meringues and cream for dessert. It was lovely to be able to make the most of the fine weather we have been having lately whilst at the same time making the most of this iconic location.

**Chrissie**

## SUMMER FUN WITH THE EVENTS TEAM

### AXE THROWING AND ARCHERY DAY AT INSIGHT ACTIVITIES TOLPUDDLE



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 28 ladies enjoyed a morning of Axe Throwing and Archery. The ladies were divided into two groups. Axe Throwing was harder than it looked but the ladies did manage to get some Axes on the targets. Rosemary Duke from MartinsTown WI won the Axe Throwing. The Archery was enjoyed by all, Elaine Knight from Lulworth WI won the first round and Karen Corney won the second round. The three top ladies from each round had a final round and Karen Corney was the winner.



### OUT AND ABOUT AT ASCOT

Ladies enjoying a picnic and glass of wine before the serious business of betting, winning and losing at Ascot!

*Margaret Bunch*

### WINTERBORNE KINGSTON WI



On April 21<sup>st</sup> this year, on what would have been Her Majesty the Queen's 97<sup>th</sup> Birthday, members gathered around the Liquid Amber tree that we purchased and planted to commemorate her Platinum Jubilee. Frances Langley, our President in 2022, installed a plaque designating the tree as part of the Queen's Jubilees Canopy.

We were saddened when the Queen's death followed so swiftly on from the magnificent celebrations and are now considering a way to commemorate her life in another village setting.

*Sandie Walters*