

April 2022 - Year 102 - Issue 107



Cover photo

**PostMeridian WI**

See page 6

Inside this issue:

Chairman's comment	page 2
Committee roundup	page 4
Diary dates	page 8
Membership Support	Page 3
MCS	page 8
News from DFWI and NFWI	page 5
News from WIs	page 6,7
Treasurer's tasks and tips	Page 2
300+ Club winners	Page 2

**Federation Office**

The Firs, Honiton Road  
Blackhorse, Exeter, EX5 2FT  
Tel: 01392 255386

Email: enquiries@devonwi.org.uk  
Web: www.devonwi.org.uk  
Facebook: facebook.com/DevonWI

**Office Hours**

9am - 3.30pm Tuesday to Thursday  
9am - 1pm Friday

**Registered Charity 1191427**

**Federation Chairman**

Evelyn Watson  
federation.chairman@devonwi.org.uk

**Federation Treasurer**

Marie Rhodes  
federation.treasurer@devonwi.org.uk

**Federation Secretary**

Alison Taylor  
federation.secretary@devonwi.org.uk

**Bookkeeper**

bookkeeper@devonwi.org.uk

**Publisher**

Devon Federation of Women's  
Institutes  
Printed by Brightsea Print Group.

**Items for May 2022 issue by  
April 12th 2022**

**Items for June 2022 issue by  
May 10th 2022**

Please send items to  
**news@devonwi.org.uk**  
*The opinions expressed in Devon WI  
News are not necessarily those of the  
Devon Federation of Women's Institutes .*

**National Federation of Women's  
Institutes**

104 New Kings Road, London, SW6 4LY  
Tel: 0207 371 9300  
Email: hq@nfwl.org.uk  
Web: thewi.org.uk



Twinned with Powys-  
Brecknock Federation of  
Women's Institutes

**Subcommittee contact details:**

**Combined Arts**  
p.wyatt@devonwi.org.uk

**Environment and Rural Affairs**  
jackie.buften@devonwi.org.uk

**Food, Craft and Skills**  
janet.connolly@devonwi.org.uk

**Membership Support**  
wiadvisers@devonwi.org.uk

**Sport and Leisure**  
rita.nebbett@devonwi.org.uk

**International and Public Affairs**  
sue.mitchell@devonwi.org.uk

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT**



*Dear Members,*

The start of another WI year is almost upon us!

The Board of Trustees are disappointed that the Spring Council Meeting in April has to be held as a 'virtual meeting'. When planning began several months ago the Omicron strain of COVID had taken hold - we didn't have a crystal ball to advise. Even if a suitable venue which would accept a booking could be found, cost was prohibitive. The availability of an interesting speaker prepared to come difficult and most important, how many members would attend. We apologise but hope you will support the meeting as offered and hopefully a 'real' meeting will take place in the not too distant future.

Our problems fade into insignificance compared to the horrors unfolding in the Ukraine. The logistics of transporting goods to the Ukraine is problematic so the raising of funds is preferred. I know many WIs are keen to do this. Any monies raised should not go through your WI accounts. Guidance on how best to show support is available on the NFWI website.

Annual meetings are taking place in the coming months. New Committees and new officers may be needed in your WI, give it some thought, what can you do for your WI? The saying 'more hands make light work' is so true here and we all have a part to play. I'm looking forward to attending some of these meetings with my Adviser hat on.

All good wishes.

**Evelyn Watson**  
Devon FWI Chairman

March	
<u>Number</u>	<u>A Member of:</u>
238	Magnolia WI
444	Preston & Chelston WI
186	Torrington WI
66	Cadeleigh WI
99	Newcourt WI

**300+ Club** It is not too late to join!

Please contact  
esme.gibbins@devonwi.org.uk

**March winners:** *Well done to these members who receive £15 each.*

If you need to speak to anyone rather than send an email please phone The Firs who will either give you the phone number or ask someone to call you. This may not be an immediate response as permission has to be obtained.

**Treasurer's tasks and tips**

**Subscriptions**

This month is the "new year" for subscriptions. Remember that any dual member will only pay the rate you have set for your WI share, so if you have discounted the full subscription for full members, you must apply the same discount to dual members.

NFWI are asking for renewals to be sent this month as they did last year. We do appreciate this is not always possible but forms have been sent via email—please ask if you haven't got them.

Every full member of your WI must pay the NFWI and DFWI share of the subscription as that is part of the constitution—you cannot subsidise that from your funds.

**Insurance**

The insurance fee is staying the same this year but if you had any new full members in 2021/2022 after you paid your insurance premium please pay 50p per new full member with your renewal premium. Please disregard if you have already made payment.

If you claim Gift Aid for your WI please send copies of your forms on to DFWI as it is possible for DFWI and NFWI to claim their portion too. If you would like more information please check on MyWI or contact me for details  
Federation treasurer

## Membership Matters.....

We have two very positive articles for you this month, regarding the benefits of being a WI member. Do take another look at the Devon Federation website, which has been updated recently and you will find details about events and other useful information. This site will be developing at pace, therefore it will be advisable to log in on a regular basis [www.devonwi.org.uk](http://www.devonwi.org.uk)

Committees are reminded that stationery requirements must now be purchased directly from NFWI [www.shop.thewi.org.uk](http://www.shop.thewi.org.uk) wherever possible.

### Blooming Good Value!

Our new subscription year begins in April and it seems a timely opportunity to celebrate the benefits of being a member of the WI. Your annual subscription offers you:



- at least 11 monthly meetings with a variety of speakers, a brief business agenda and valuable social time, often including coffee, tea and biscuits (even occasionally cake and Prosecco!);
- ten issues of Devon WI News to keep you up to date with DFWI events and opportunities;
- eight copies of WI Life delivered to your door, full of interesting articles, recipes, crafts, puzzles and updates on national campaigns;
- access to all the information and resources of My WI, the members-only website;
- a selection of workshops, demonstrations, day trips, activities and events organised by your WI and Devon Federation;
- additional clubs and interest groups such as Craft Groups, Walking Groups, Skittles, Whist, Quizzes and Lunch clubs;
- the opportunity to get involved in local and national campaigns with access to all the research and briefings, campaign tool kits and action campaigns;
- training opportunities such as becoming a WI Adviser, an Independent Financial Examiner (IFE), a WI Judge or a Climate Ambassador;
- the option to be a WI committee member, an Officer, a federation trustee or even an NFWI trustee;
- the opportunity to represent your WI as a delegate at the Annual Spring Council Meeting;
- the opportunity to represent your WI as their Link delegate at the NFWI Annual Meeting;
- the chance to put forward a resolution that could become a mandate for a national campaign that could make a real difference locally and nationally;
- the chance to learn and share skills, to take part in anything from archery to Zumba; plus, of course, all the fun and

### OH MY WI!

The 'Go To' place where you will find everything you need to get the most from your WI membership.

Here are just a few examples of what you will find.....

If you like **Craft** – check out the 'Make of the Month'

Easy to follow step by step craft projects to download, alongside skills videos to show you exactly how to create that special item.

If you like **Cookery** – choose from an array of Seasonal Recipes, Menu of the Month, view the short videos to help you hone your skills.

If you like **Sport** – Learn to Relax (we could all do with some of that!)

'How To' guides to get moving and shake up your meeting programme.

If you like **Floral Art or Gardening** – develop your floral skills or get hands on gardening advice

**How do I?** – Paint? write a Poem? Start a Book Club?.....

Feel you'd like to 'do something' about a national issue?

Catch up on the latest **Campaign News** and see where you can help make a difference.

Or use the **Campaign Calendar** to identify key dates you may want to include in your programme.

Gain **WI Inspiration** - Read about members who have followed their passions or achieved something special in their communities.

**Running your WI** – This is where you'll find the WI Handbook.

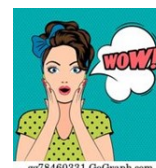
Find everything you need, from running meetings, creating a successful programme, WI finances – and so much more!

**When was the last time you checked out what the WI has on offer for you?**

**MY WI** is just one of the benefits automatically included in your annual subscription.

To sign up - just Google <https://www.thewi.org.uk/> - go to the top right hand corner – click on MY WI – where you will find a step by step guide on how to register/log on.

If you have any difficulty – contact your WI Adviser who is standing by ready to help you.



MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT from WI Advisers :- [wiadvisers@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:wiadvisers@devonwi.org.uk)



## Committee Roundup

### INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

#### RESOLUTIONS NEWS

The 2022 resolution that received the most selections i.e. 22,683 selections was:

#### **Women and Girls with ASD & ADHD - under-identified, under-diagnosed, misdiagnosed, under-supported.**

The next step is for your WI to discuss this and decide on how to vote. Your link delegate will need to know what your WI has decided because NFWI will put forward this resolution at the Annual Meeting on 11th June for every WI to vote on. There is a large selection of resources available on MyWI and the WI website to help your WI learn more about this resolution. You may wish to look at this information before your WI decides on how your delegate should vote.

#### ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD (ACWW)

I & PA Subcommittee are supporting ACWW with an ACWW Lunch at the Park Hotel, Barnstaple on Wednesday 11th May. Tickets cost £25.00 for a delicious lunch and an excellent speaker, Dr Biku Ghosh. Flyers are with your WIs and we look forward to seeing you there.

If you have been collecting Pennies for Friendship please send cheques in to the office or make a BACS payment by the end of April. A form will be with this month's Devon News.



#### COMBINED ARTS COMMITTEE

It is nearly time for our Outdoor Sketching Day with Mike McDonald, hoping we have enough participants. It may not be too late to book a space so please contact [polly.beacham@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:polly.beacham@devonwi.org.uk) if you are interested but haven't booked.

We are delighted we have 13 entries for the Radio Devon Cup and 7 for the St George's Day Trophy which will be judged soon. There will be more news next month.

Easy Tips For  
**SKETCHING**  
in the great outdoors



### ENVIRONMENT and RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

#### Stuart Line Birdwatching

Our two Birdwatching cruises went well and it is hoped to publish some photos and a write up next time. We know that some of you missed it due to Covid at the last moment—how sad. On 2nd March there were 26 different birds spotted but at the time of writing the 16th cruise is yet to happen.

We have a booking for November 23rd and will be offering places first to those who were unlucky this time. The main price is the same but pasties have gone up to £4!

#### Isabella Story Bicycle

We are just finalising arrangements for our Isabella Story Bicycle activity in May and hope that details will be with your Secretary soon. This will be an outdoor session with refreshments onsite afterwards. Please check the website and your emails for details.

#### World Water Day 2022 The theme is Groundwater—Making the Invisible Visible

Please remember to check out DevonWI website for information about this, before and on March 22nd [www.devonwi.org.uk](http://www.devonwi.org.uk)



### SPORT and LEISURE COMMITTEE

As you read this you may be looking forward to your Guided Ashburton walk. This event was so oversubscribed last year that this is the third day we have run it—with additional walks on most days. We hope all of you have enjoyed it and thank you for bearing with us.

The closing date for the Moretonhampstead Walk has passed and arrangements should be finalised. This was also oversubscribed.

There are three events we have organised that close this month— Race Day in June at Newton Abbot racecourse, Archery in June near Moretonhampstead and the trip to Blists Hill village in Shropshire at the end of September. If you haven't applied yet please ask your secretary for information.

### FOOD, CRAFT AND SKILLS SUBCOMMITTEE



Please enter!

It is not too late to design a hand crafted card to be sent from Devon Federation to Her Majesty the Queen to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee 2022. Card size A5 - this can be any medium other than digital

If your design is also inside the card, please leave enough room for the message from the Federation  
Closing date 21st April 2022

#### Tatton Park Flower Show

A reminder that the closing date for applications for the Tatton Park Flower Show is 6 May 2022.

Details were in last month's magazine and are also on the flyer with your secretary.

Cost includes travel, accommodation and entry to the show.

**DEVON FEDERATION HOLIDAY 2022****10-14 November 2022**

Following the success of last year's holiday to Norfolk, this year the holiday is to Northumberland. Full details are not available as I write but the cost will be £399 per person with a single supplement of £122. The cost covers travel, bed breakfast and evening meal for the holiday and entry to all attractions. The flyer will be with your secretary soon.

**News from NFWI****Huxley Cup 2022**

This year, the Huxley Cup Competition, supported by the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds), invites WIs to design a small community space for wellbeing and wildlife. The wildlife aspect of the entry should focus specifically on the theme of:

**Our Fabulous Flying Friends**

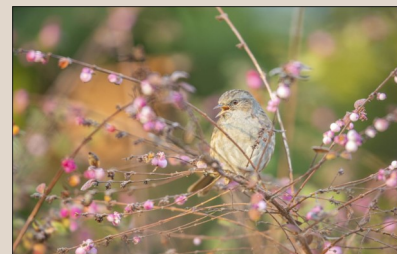
*Think about birds, bees, butterflies, moths, and bats!*

**What are we looking for?**

The planned space must be accessible and enjoyed by the community. It can be linked to a health care setting (e.g., GP surgery, hospice), or community garden (e.g., community hall), or transforming a grass verge or area in community which has frequent pedestrians passing by (e.g., Village green, car park area, local park flower bed or cycle path).

Designs should be bold and inspiring; the judges will be looking for your idea to be colourful, engaging, and inclusive. Think about growing your own plants, plant sharing, upcycling, re-using, and recycling.

Entries must be sent to NFWI by 19 August 2022. For further details ask the office or look on our website.

**The WI recruitment award 2022/23**

The WI recruitment award scheme that has been live in Wales for some time is now being extended to England and the Islands. A similar award ran around our centenary in England the Islands but we now want to revisit this and make it a yearly award along with the Wales award.

All WIs will have the **chance to win £200 each subscription year**. These funds are to be used in line with the WI charitable objects and to the benefit of all members, for example towards speakers for meetings or an educational trip.

This scheme will be live from the start of the new subscription year in April 2022 until March 2023 and will run every year thereafter.

For WIs in England and the Islands, there are three categories:

- WIs with 24 members or under
- WIs with 25 to 50 members
- WIs with 51 members and over

The WI from each category who has increased their membership by the highest percentage in comparison to the previous subscription year will win.

**Lady Denman Cup Competition** Closing date is 29 July 2022. See last month's magazine or look on the website.

**What do we get for our affiliation fees?**

On page 3 there are some points from the Advisers about the benefits of WI membership and activities or information available to you. The comment many of us hear is that WIs don't know what they get for their affiliation fees.

The simple answer is that you get the opportunities to do a lot and to learn a lot but how much you benefit is up to you.

Your WI pays affiliation fees that enables Devon Federation to provide Advisers to open new WIs, to help with problems., to answer questions and sadly, to help close WIs when there are no officers. Your fees enable the Federation to plan and run events that all members can apply for—bringing together members from different WIs.

Your fees may help to book speakers that would be beyond the capability of an individual WI.

"But ....." We may not run events you want, we may not use the most effective ways to communicate, we may not have an Adviser available for you as soon as you'd like.

How can that change? We all get out of the WI what we put into it. There are fewer and fewer Advisers and committee members planning for you or helping you—just as your own WI needs helpers so do we. If you want Devon Federation to change you may find it easier from the inside rather than being an onlooker and complaining. Get in touch and see what you can do.

We need gardeners, committee members, Board members in the future, Advisers, or people with ideas to suggest new things to try or new places to use for favourite activities.

We need to work together—please Help us to Help you!

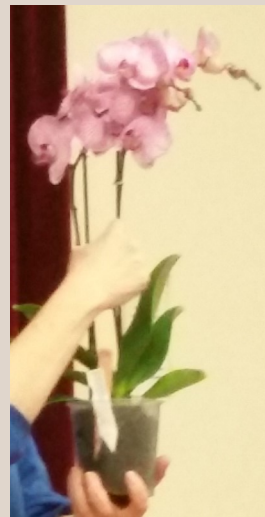




**Post Meridian WI** (front cover too) were pleased to welcome Sara Rittershausen of Orchid Paradise to their WI meeting in March. Sara's grandfather established the nursery and it became a family business.

The WI also had a link with the family as Sara's mother had been their founder President in 1970.

Sara talked about different varieties and orchid care and inspired the members so much that their social group planned to visit the Café attached to the nursery which they were told was a good place to consider their choices.



### A Proper WI Wedding

Totnes Treasurer, Kate Taylor, recently married at Follaton House in Totnes. Kate has been a member of **Totnes WI** for 10 years and was a past President. The ceremony was truly a Totnes WI affair: Kate's bouquet was made by one of their members (also a past president); the "chauffeurs" for the day were WI members. What's more - the wedding was conducted by Registrar, Christine Roffey who is Totnes WI current President and her husband, also one of Devon's Registration Officers. And, to welcome the newly married couple, Totnes WI members held aloft their bunting!

You may have seen a more detailed article in WI Life



**Magnolia WI** had a lovely evening when Chris Woodward gave a talk on the history of the music hall and they then joined in with the singing of music hall songs. Their competition was for a musical style hat. The photo is of some of the members wearing their hats.



**Tor and Tavy WI** celebrated their 10th Anniversary by hosting local WIs to a quiz evening where they were served food, drink and a celebratory cake. A very enjoyable evening. Here's to the next 10 years!



**Diptford W.I.** were delighted to join in celebrations with Joan Burton to mark 50 years in the W.I. Prosecco and cake were enjoyed by all.

**Erme WI** Ivybridge were challenged by their president to complete a knitted blanket for the Ukranian refugees in just 4 days. Not only was the blanket on route in record time but a second one was nearly completed. The project is now continuing.





**A Ten Year Celebratory Project.**

In July 2011 **Preston and Chelston WI** was founded. In 2020, the Treasurer, Pam Fraser, had an idea to celebrate the forthcoming 10 year anniversary of the group, which now had a membership of 55 people.

The idea was to make a tablecloth comprised of many panels. Each panel was to be made by a member. The dimensions and instructions were sent out to all everyone. Each person was to make a panel in embroidery, or paint or appliqué. The panel was to contain the name of the person, the date on which they joined the Preston and Chelston WI, as well as something with which they could be identified; for example, a hobby or occupation.



This was sent out initially as a lockdown project, and then, as the panels were collected, they were stitched together by committee members.

The plan was to finally unveil the cloth at the October meeting of 2021.

The unveiling was a huge success with 24 panels displayed, and room for many more.

The cloth will be used for parties and celebrations as

soon as the group can meet properly again.

In the meantime a justifiably proud president, Sue McLeod, and other committee and ordinary members stand by the finished article.



**Newton Abbot WI** ladies rose to the challenge when they were asked to knit woolly hats (using the traffic light system of green, orange and red) for the premature babies in the Special Care Baby Unit at Torbay Hospital. 226 hats have now been knitted and gratefully received. The local Police also appreciated the 17 "Bobby Buddies" donated to comfort upset young children at Police attended incidents. The WI members are now concentrating their knitting efforts on making many more.



Wanted: Articles to appear in Devon News

All WIs have a story to tell - many of you probably keep a scrapbook or photo album of memorable events. Please share some of them to inspire other WIs. Photos of groups at lunch or sitting watching a speaker are unlikely to appear as they generally appeal to your members only. However it is not impossible to find something to show us. I challenge all Wis to submit one article in the year ahead.

If you cannot think of anything to submit perhaps you can ask a question or set a challenge for other WIs.

What would you like to see in Devon News?



Dates for your diary		
Activity	Date	Closing date (if relevant)
Treasurers Training Workshops see inside and on website	28 April	
Art Day	7 April 2022	28 March 2022 * Contact re availability
Moretonhampstead Walk	26 April 2022	5 March 2022
Spring Council meeting	27 April 2022	22 April 2022
ACWW Lunch	11 May 2022	11 April 2022
Isabella StoryBicycle and others	May 2022 TBC	TBC
NFWI Annual Meeting Liverpool	11 June 2022	Details with your WI
Archery Day	18 June 2022	30 April 2022
Devon County Show	30 June—2 July 2022	N/A
Race Day at Newton Abbot	11th July 2022	20 April 2022
Tatton Park Flower Show	22nd -24th July 2022	6 May 2022
Blists Hill visit	30 Sep—1 Oct 2022	30 April 2022
Northumberland Holiday	10th-14th October 2022	Individual applications
Birdwatching Cruise	23 November 2022	TBC

The list above shows all events that we know about to date. For information on a specific event see elsewhere in this Devon News, contact the relevant committee or contact Jo at The Firs [enquiries@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@devonwi.org.uk) or phone 01392 255386. If Jo doesn't know the answer she'll find out who does.



**The Membership Communication System (MCS) is the most important tool at all levels of the WI.**  
Therefore it is important that the information stored there is accurate.

### 'Find a WI'

• Now that everyone is able to 'Find a WI' on either our own Devon website or on the national WI website, there are a few anomalies creeping out of the woodwork concerning the accuracy of venue information and meeting times.

**Would you all please find your own WI on one of the websites and if information is not correct then your MCS Rep is able to put things right on your WI's MCS Basic Details page. Doing that will also make sure that your WI's pin on the map is where it should be.**

This is so very important if for no other reason than it's what non-member visitors to the websites see when they are seeking a convenient WI in their area. If your WI displays incorrect information you may lose the interest of a possible new member.

### 'Check for duplicates'

• You don't need reminding that subscription renewals is a busy time of year. If, during the pandemic, you had to 'remove' anyone from the MCS because she did not renew her membership and this year she rejoins, it is important to 'Check for duplicates' when in the 'Create new member' page. Her name will pop up ready for you to select. Job done!

*Jenny Roberts, Federation MCS Administrator : [mcsinfo@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:mcsinfo@devonwi.org.uk)*

### DFWI website

Have you looked at the new Devon website yet?  
[www.devonwi.org.uk](http://www.devonwi.org.uk)

Your WI can feature on there to tell prospective new members about yourself. Send in information that you wish to tell everyone. At the Spring Council meeting we will be launching the members only area—what do you want included in there?

### Gardening team wanted

DFWI are looking for a team of WI volunteers to take on the challenge of the garden at The Firs. If you as individuals, or your WI group are interested in working with like minded people to plan and work collaboratively in the garden please send an email to [enquiries@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@devonwi.org.uk) with the subject Garden. We will arrange a meeting to discuss this and see how we can go forward.

Perhaps you don't have a garden but like gardening, maybe you live nearby and have time to fill each week. If you have other suggestions about the way forward please share these too.



### Use your postage stamps!

New style postage stamps featuring a barcode will be the only way forward from January 2023. If you have stamps at home without the barcode you have until 31 January 2023 to use them.

If you think you won't use them you have from 31 March 2022 until March 2023 to swap them for new ones. Forms and details will be available online.

