



Cover photo

Kenton and Powderham WI

See page 5

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*The opinions expressed in Devon WI
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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT



Dear Members,

I do hope you have all had a wonderful Easter and enjoyed the eggcellent weather. How many eggs did the Easter Bunny bring? Not too many I hope!

In the village where I live, our Church was full on Easter Sunday morning. We returned to some of the traditions, the flower arrangements were stunning, and the music wonderful (I would say that as I sing in the choir!). It was a real signal of hope and that things are beginning to return to normal.

As you read this we will have had our Virtual Spring Council Meeting. I do hope that those of you who took the trouble to sign in enjoyed our speakers, Tom Heap and Helena Costiff. The Board of Trustees would have preferred to hold a face to face meeting but with all the challenges and uncertainties of COVID we feel we made the right decision at the time, hopefully next year we can return to what we are more familiar with.

In attending some Annual Meetings with my Adviser's hat on I am asked questions on what goes on at a sub Committee and Federation level. Members are always welcome to observe at any of the meetings. Would you like to be part of the County Team or join the Board of Trustees to help make a difference? The best way to effect change is to join in and work from the inside – give it some thought!

Best wishes

Evelyn Watson
Devon FWI Chairman

April	
Number	A Member of:
48	Ottery St Mary WI
209	Ashreighney WI
56	Dartington WI
151	Beer WI
170	Dawlish

300+ Club It may not be too late to join! Please contact
esme.gibbins@devonwi.org.uk for details

April 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

Jubilee celebrations

The WI can contribute to Jubilee celebrations but need to make sure you are following the rules.
The WI must strategically decide on what they want from the Jubilee celebration. It is a national event at the local which the WI can participate as membership/promotion drive. This will need to be planned properly as there will be other community interests. You can make a reasonable contribution agreed on by members to a specific activity, which aligns with the WI charitable objects, during the celebration.
If it is for the benefit of the community where the WI is located, a reasonable contribution should also be fine.
For questions email federation.treasurer@devonwi.org.uk

BACS payment

A reminder that if you wish to pay by BACS please check that you inform both the Bookkeeper and the person organising the event what your payment is for and include your WI name
BACS details are
Devon Federation of Women's Institutes
Sort code 08-92-99 Account no 67185081

Membership Matters.....



GROUPS

A few of you have contacted your Advisers, concerned about the composition of your groups. This has sometimes been the result of either Suspensions or Formations. We want to reassure you all that this will be addressed as soon as the Annual Meetings have been dealt with. In the meantime, we ask for your understanding and patience and suggest any group activities go ahead as planned with the existing WIs in your group.

A VIRTUAL WI FOR DEVON?

Would you or someone you know, be interested in joining a virtual WI?

Please ask your friends, neighbours, and family. A virtual WI works in exactly the same way as a face to face WI and enjoys the same benefits for the same subscription fee but meetings are held virtually. This can prove beneficial for women who are unable or find it difficult to attend meetings in person and affords everyone access to a wide range of friends, speakers and demonstrators from anywhere in the world. Members can, if they wish, meet in person on occasions as well. Let the Advisers know if you would like this facility in Devon: If there is enough interest we can arrange to help organise further exploration into setting this up. Contact angie.bache@devonwi.org.uk to express an interest.



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

We are inviting members to become Adviser Helpers or undertake the training to become an Adviser. For more information with no obligation to proceed please contact angie.bache@devonwi.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT from WI Advisers :- wiadvisers@devonwi.org.uk



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.

How to Reinstate a member

If, like me, you keep a copy of the MCS User Guide to hand rather than accessing it online every time you need it, you may not be aware that it was updated last September by the addition of item 18 How to Reinstate a Member. Please read it because it is important - and it corrects what I told you last month.

Last month this column gave you a completely different procedure to follow, for which I sincerely apologise, and talked about checking for duplicates; however, the need to 'Check for duplicates' only applies when creating a record for a brand new member, not when reinstating a lapsed member.

Also, those of you to whom I have sent a PDF copy of the MCS User Guide may find that it is not the latest updated version. Please view and/or download the Sept 2021 version from either the MCS or the My WI website. If the date is not apparent, check that '18 How to Reinstate a Member' is on page 45. You may also, of course, email me to send you a copy.

Jenny Roberts, MCS Administrator : mcsinfo@devonwi.org.uk

Devon Federation website

Many of you have been asking about the Members login section of our website which is good news because it means you are looking at the website. We hope to launch this section at our Virtual Spring council but it will develop further more over the year/s ahead,

Behind the login we plan to have all forms that you may need, the magazine and any other items that are requested. We will also include the speakers book.

If there is something else that should be there please ask—do look at www.devonwi.org.uk

Committee Roundup

INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

RESOLUTIONS NEWS

A reminder that 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.

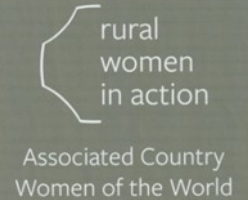
NFWI will put forward this resolution at the Annual Meeting on 11th June for every WI to vote on. The Public Affairs Team at NFWI has produced a large selection of resources available on MyWI such as briefing notes, powerpoint presentation, quiz, FAQs, discussion guide and videos. You may wish to look at this information before your WI decides on how your delegate should vote at the NFWI Annual Meeting.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD (ACWW)

In February ACWW announced wide ranging changes to their organisation and their fundraising arrangements. There will be a new logo and all promotional materials will be updated. The 'Pennies for Friendship' scheme will be discontinued from June 2022 and any donations will go into a single 'Women for Action' Fund.

Please can you forward any existing ACWW Pennies for Friendship donations to The Firs by end of May 2022.

Many thanks.



COMBINED ARTS COMMITTEE

We had a lovely day learning how to paint at Longdown Hall on 7th April. with Mike MacDonald.

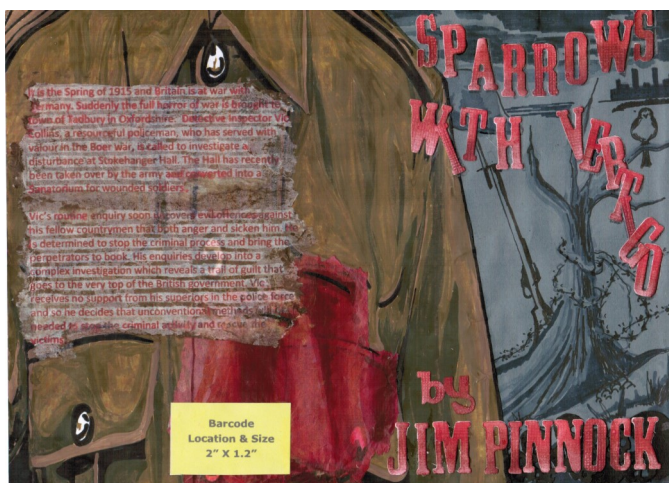
We are pleased to share the results and winning entries of the St George's Day Trophy and Radio Devon Cup Competitions for 2022 which were announced at the Virtual Spring Council meeting on 27th April 2022.

St Georges Day Trophy

Winner: Sue Mitchell (Plymouth Hartley WI) with "The Lord of the Rings".



Second Prize: Helena Clulee (Cadeleigh WI) with "Sparrows with Vertigo".



Radio Devon Cup

Winner: Margaret Siddall (Christow WI) Below is her entry.

OPEN YOUR EYES

Yes, we can look but do we really see
How a strength of wonder can be revealed?
Take snow drops peeping from their winter soil ;
Sudden sun shining on a distant field ;
Skilful birds soaring which ways with the wind.
Tread in delight through smooth untrodden snow.
Watch as rose- red streaks stripe the azure sky,
Quietly, drifting closer as they go
Slowly silently emerging as one .
Lift a stone to where a busy world thrives,
Then wonder at this secret life you find.
Now note how each fallen leaf beautifies
A spreading carpet of multicolours.
Magical sights to touch once blinkered eyes.

2nd prize was Jane Fessey (Poltimore WI)

Combined Arts run these competitions each year.

Please watch out for the 2023 competitions later this year and consider entering.

SPORT and LEISURE COMMITTEE

The Moretonhampstead Walk on April 26th was oversubscribed which shows the ongoing popularity of outdoor events.

There may still be spaces on events that have closed so please check the website for any information — 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.

Congratulations to Halwill WI who won the 2021/22 Skittles competition and also th Elburton WI who came second.

We are busy planning the next Skittles competition, a John Lewis event and much more. Please let us know if you have ideas too.

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 is with your secretary.



FOOD, CRAFT AND SKILLS SUBCOMMITTEE

In addition to events run and organised by our committee we have a number of Food, Craft and Skills areas around the county who have their own programmes of events.

Some of these areas have closed due to low numbers, but those still existing are now running events and would love to see more of you attending. Below is the list of events for the **Tiverton FCS** area—if you would like to book any of these please contact: Elizabeth Gowen elizgowen@gmail.com

Event	Date	Venue	Cost
Willow Garden Sculptures – Windrush Willow	27 th May 2022	Witleigh Village Hall	£20 per person per half day session
Farm Visit to look at Robotic Milking	19 th July 2022	Loxbeare, Tiverton	TBC
Visit to St Fagans, Wales	October 2022 TBC	Transport via village coach	TBC
Chocolate Workshop	24 th November 2022	Cadeleigh Village Hall	£10pp per half day session
Knit/natter/crochet/games	26 th January 2023	Bampton Community Hall	TBC
ABM Afternoon Tea with Speaker	7 th March 2023	Cadeleigh Village Hall	TBC
Ribbon Embroidery	27 th April 2023	Bampton Community Hall	TBC

East Devon FCS area would love you to join their events too. Contact Jan Probert janetmprobert@gmail.com

We also have the **Tavistock, North by North West, Exeter** or **Dart Bay** areas and are hoping to restart **South Hams** area. If you would like to attend any of these or be involved in helping with a group please contact Jan Connolly- ja-

ENVIRONMENT and RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Our planned event Isabella StoryBicycle has been postponed to later in the year. As soon as we confirm arrangements a flyer will be sent out.

Both of our March Birdwatching cruises were enjoyed by those who went, despite the weather. Our next trip is in November and we will be in touch with those who have already requested booking prior to offering it to others.



100 Projects
for
100 Years



Centenary Year Environmental Challenge

As you will have seen in Devon News the Environment and Rural Affairs Sub-Committee would like to celebrate the centenary year of DFWI by getting 100 Environmental Projects underway in the county during 2020. We therefore invite WIs/WI Groups around the county to take part in our challenge to undertake a project, however small or large, local or wide-reaching, that contributes to protecting, improving or raising awareness about the environment we live in

This is an opportunity for WI members to showcase their commitment to protecting and improving our surroundings and the wider environment. There are numerous projects that can be undertaken and our information pack will help to get you thinking.

At the Virtual Spring Council we announced the winners of our Centenary Challenge and we will include more details next month. On the front cover of this magazine is a photo from the winners **Kenton and Powderham WI**—this is just one part of their entry.

The Covid19 pandemic certainly affected this competition. When we launched the Centenary challenge in 2019 as part of our plans for DFWI Centenary in 2020 we hoped for 100 projects for 100 years. We had 98 projects suggested and would have hoped for more as we could have promoted this throughout 2020.

However when the final entries were received we only had four completed projects, some of which are ongoing. It was a difficult choice between the top two—**Erme (Ivybridge) WI** were a close second and the other two WIs were highly commended. Congratulations to Bere Ferrers WI and Bratton Clovelly WI for their hard work too.

Devon News dates

In June and September Devon WI News will be sent out on the 5th Thursday of the month, not the 4th. This is because we have to send it to press on the 3rd Tuesday to be delivered to The Firs on the 4th Tuesday, usually ready for packing on the 4th Thursday. However in June and September this year the 4th Thursday is before the 4th Tuesday so the dates don’t work. We will remind you again.

At the **Bishopsteignton WI** 49th birthday party in March we also celebrated the 100th birthday of one of our longstanding members, Mary Overill.

Mary was born in Buckfastleigh, Devon in 1922. By the age of 20 she was working for an accountant in Totnes and it was at this stage that she was called up and joined the RAF as a WAAF.

For her first posting she was sent to Plymouth RAF station at Mount Wise then on to St Eval in Cornwall working for Sqn Ldr Shackleton, son of the famous explorer. From there she was posted to the Air Ministry in the War Office in Whitehall. She worked as a typist for the Cypher Office which dealt with secret messages from various war centres. On VE day she joined the thousands who assembled outside Buckingham Palace to cheer the Royal Family. After Mary married in 1945 she lived in Paignton and in 1955 moved with her husband and two daughters to Barnstaple. In Barnstaple she joined the Townswomen's Guild, where she took on roles of both President and Secretary. In 1981 she moved to Cornworthy, but with no WI in place there she joined Ashprington WI in the next village. However, she and many others could see the benefits of having a WI in the local community, so along with the support of the villagers, she helped in the establishment of a new WI in Cornworthy. She served as President and Secretary over her 28 years in the village. During her time in both Barnstaple and Cornworthy she was a delegate at National meetings in the Albert Hall representing the TWG and the WI. As an active member, she has attended and enjoyed a number of courses at Denman College.

On moving to Bishopsteignton in 2009 at the age of 87 she enthusiastically joined the WI there and has been instrumental in encouraging ladies in the village to come along to meetings. Mary has led a very full life and we are very proud to have her as one of our members.



Venice James, President of Bishopsteignton WI (left) and Mary Overill, receiving her birthday card and gifts

Cornworthy WI also wished to celebrate Mary: Mary Overill was a founder member in 1985, she was president & secretary for many years. She ran the craft group and was an active member of the walking group. She left Cornworthy WI in 2009 to move nearer her daughters. She celebrated her 100 birthday at The Watermans Arms with several of her WI friends & family.

At **Chudleigh WI** Annual Meeting in April they presented several long-standing members with certificates to mark their loyalty. Between them they represent 260 years of WI membership – Stella Fernyhough holds the record of 75 years of membership!



Well done to all their members.

Can your WI match any of these achievements?



Bradninch WI have sent us this photo of the local bus shelter which they have recently finished redecorating. The picture also shows Jenny Richards their President. The theme for this spring is Down on the farm. It is greatly appreciated by the young and old of their little town.

Bradninch WI have several photos on our website too.



Members of **Highweek WI** met earlier this year to learn about CPR and how to use a defibrillator. We discovered that CPR is surprisingly hard work, but were relieved to find that using the defibrillator is very straightforward. The sessions were courtesy of Heartstart, part of the British Heart Foundation, and everyone agreed they were well worth doing, especially as the village is about to receive two defibrillators – one of them as a result of our involvement!



Thanks again to all who have submitted articles to Devon News. My challenge this month is to those WIs who have never appeared in Devon News— please submit something or let us know why you don't. news@devonwi.org.uk

When choosing photos to send in, take another look and think "if this was not **my** WI, would I want to see it?" Please inspire each other!



Bideford WI visited SS Freshspring to present them with some goods they had crafted to help raise funds. They were surprised in turn with a visit from "Laurel and Hardy".



SS Freshspring is a historic steamship, recognised as being a vessel of National Importance. Built in 1946, she is the last of 14 Fresh Class water carriers. Currently berthed at Bideford, as a static exhibit, the aim of the Steamship Freshspring Trust is to return the ship to operation, preserving the past to inspire knowledge for the future. It is open on Saturdays for visits.

At their February craft evening **Post Meridien WI** enjoyed some "floating flower fun" with Jackie Bufton. The components for their pressed flower pictures had been painstakingly prepared for each member and they set to under Jackie's careful instruction. Some ladies had brought pressed flowers from their own garden, whilst others were able to choose from the varied selection of flower heads and leaves on offer.



Following the return to group meetings late last year, the ladies of **Newton Abbot WI** have been participating in a second meeting each month devoted to sharing and teaching each other their respective craft skills. And what a lot of talent they have! Fabric flowers for brooches and headdresses, paper flowers (Kusudama), flower arranging, suffolk puffs, knitting, sewing and quilting and decoupage with many more ideas to come. As the HobbyNatters group has grown even members who do not normally participate in homemade crafts have joined in the preparations forming a little production line for items to be made for selling at future craft shows. It's amazing how much can be made whilst enjoying a natter!



Sparkwell WI, Kenton & Powderham WI and Bratton Clovelly WI all sent in articles for this issue of Devon News but due to space and other problems they are not included. I plan to include all of these next issue with relevant photographs. My apologies.

St Marychurch WI are sad to announce the sudden death in March of their President Lis Bachus. Lis supported all of the WI subgroups and stepped up during lockdown to make sure that all members were contacted by someone and made personal calls to many. She will be missed by all.



Dates for your diary		
Activity	Date	Closing date (if relevant)
ACWW Lunch	11 May 2022	11 April 2022
NFWI Annual Meeting Liverpool	11 June 2022	Details online
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
Christmas market trip	TBC	TBC
DFWI Carol concert	Monday 5th December 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 or phone 01392 255386. If Jo doesn't know the answer she'll find out who does.

Devon WI Newsletter Post Bunting Weekend Event Thank You



Members of the Devon WI and the Devon Young Farmers set to raise up to £10,000 for the Addington Fund via the sales of the World's Longest Knitted Bunting.

Here at the Addington Fund we want to give a HUGE thank you to Rosamund and Lynda from the Erme Ivybridge WI, and Sandra and Rosemary from the East Budleigh WI for helping us achieve our target of cutting and bagging up five kilometres worth of the fourteen kilometre long World's Longest Knitted Bunting on Saturday 2nd to Sunday 3rd April, with the help of the amazing Devon Young Farmers.

If all 500 bags are sold in the local farm shops and on the Addington Fund website, this could raise up to £10,000! Which is an astonishing amount of money for our charity.

Fundraising events like these are vital for us to help continue supporting the farming community as and when they need us, so the time and effort from volunteers to help is invaluable and we truly appreciate all your support.

You can purchase some of our perfectly packaged bunting from Darts Farm Shop & Greendale Farm Shop in Exeter and / or from Strawberry Fields Farm Shop in Lifton.

Some of the bags of bunting will be available to buy online via our Addington Fund shop on our website by the end of April.

Thank you to everyone at the Devon Women's Institute for supporting the Addington Fund.



NFWI News

Please remember that your WI must vote on the proposed resolution (see I&PA Committee on page 4) and let your Link delegate know how to vote at the National Annual Meeting in June. You can choose to vote for or against, or to give your delegate discretion, —which means that they can choose how to vote depending on the presentations on the day.

The speakers for the meeting have now been announced as below

Sarah Clarke OBE – Black Rod

Sarah Clarke OBE is a British administrator. Since 13 February 2018, she has served as the first female Black Rod in the 650-year history of the role. She is also the first woman to hold the posts of Serjeant-at-Arms for the House of Lords, Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain and to be appointed an Officer of the Order of the Garter. As well as the key ceremonial role of banging on the Commons door at the State Opening of Parliament, Black Rod controls access to the House of Lords.

Sarah Clarke has previously worked in senior roles at four Olympic Games (including London 2012), the London Marathon and UK Sport. She also previously ran the Wimbledon tennis Championships.

Helen Clarke - Prime Minister of New Zealand (1999 - 2008)

Helen Clark served three successive terms as Prime Minister of New Zealand between 1999 and 2008. She was the second female to hold the position. During her time as Prime Minister, she led on many governmental issues and policies. She led policy on a wide range of economic, social, environmental, and cultural issues.

In 2009, she became the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator until 2017 and she was the first woman to lead the organisation. Helen was the Chair of the United Nations Development Group. This Group includes all the Heads of all UN funds, programmes and departments working on development issues.

In 2019, Helen Clark became patron of The Helen Clark Foundation.

Representatives from Scottish Women's Institutes & Federation of Women's Institutes Northern Ireland

This year we are delighted to announce that we will be joined by Anne Kerr, President of Scottish Women's Institutes and Margaret Broome, Federation Chairman of Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland.

This will be an exciting opportunity to learn about the Women's Institutes in Scotland and Northern Ireland and extend our hands of friendship.