



Cover photo:  
Combe Martin WI  
See page 6.

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**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT**



Dear Members,

How are you finding this warm weather? I do hope you are managing to stay cool.

It was definitely cooler and extremely windy in Liverpool when we were there for the NFWI Annual Meeting a few weeks ago. It was really wonderful to be back singing 'Jerusalem' with such a large audience. The speakers were inspiring, the debate on the Resolution interesting, the whole experience uplifting and a great reminder of this great organisation – WI – to which we belong. If the chance to attend as a delegate or even as a visitor, I urge you to take the opportunity. Next year's AM will be in Cardiff, not so far to go.

This week we received at The Firs our first e mail from NFWI with 8 attachments containing the information we are asked to share with members. Previously this information we passed on and shared with WIs in printed form, however everything is now being sent to you by e mail.

We have received several complaints from WIs concerning the cost of printing. There is no need to print everything. The use of 'group e mails', set up by the Secretary enables the information to be forwarded on to every member. This gives every member access to the information which is not always possible with one printed copy at a monthly meeting.

If you need help setting up a group e mail, please contact The Firs and we will do what we can to help. Needless to say, for those members who do not use a computer, printed copies will always be available on request, a charge being made for printing and postage.

The challenge of rising costs which every WI is facing is also being experienced by the Federation. A copy of the Annual Accounts for Devon was sent to every WI, have you seen it? This gives an insight as to how your money is spent in the administration of the County. Perhaps it will go some way to answer the question 'What does the Federation do for us and what is the money spent on?'

We are continuing to receive a good number of new member enquiries. In the true spirit of WI please make these ladies welcome and value any contributions they could make to the success and future growth of your branch.

This time of year is sometimes a quieter one for WIs due to holidays. I hope if you are going away you have a wonderful time without too many hold ups or flight cancellations.

Keep cool and safe travels.

Best wishes

**Evelyn Watson**  
Devon FWI Chairman

**300+ Club winners**

June	
Number	A Member of:
1	Plymouth Hartley WI
166	Whimple WI
242	Meddon & Welcombe WI
412	Wellswood WI
386	Ottery St Mary WI

July	
Number	A Member of:
38	Ottery St Mary WI
223	Buckfastleigh WI
218	Teignmouth WI
40	Newton Abbot WI
160	Feniton & Buckerell WI

**Treasurer's tasks and tips**

If you have had a qualified report from your Financial Adviser please feel free to contact someone for help to ensure that your accounts are on track in the future. You can ask your Adviser, or make contact with Maureen Hunter or myself and we will see how best to help.

Your WI members should always vote on how to use funds if you plan to do something different.

DFWI BACS details are  
Devon Federation of Women's Institutes  
Sort code 08-92-99  
Account no 67185081

**Your views are valued, make sure you have a say.....**

As we all think of our summer holidays and time of relaxation, please could you put your minds to how you would like your Devon Federation to look in five years' time? Have you any suggestions which could improve the way the Federation operates or looks? Your views will be gratefully received by the Advisers or Federation Board members to take to a strategic planning meeting in September to shape your WI experience over the next few years. **Have your say to make a difference.**

Please submit your ideas to the Federation Secretary [federation.secretary@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:federation.secretary@devonwi.org.uk)

#### **.Training.....**

The Advisers are anxious to resume a full programme of training as soon as possible for any members interested in learning more about every aspect of the WI. We are currently planning a series of workshops for Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers in the autumn, with further topics such as Programme Planning to follow in 2023. We are looking for suitable venues across the county to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to attend in their local area rather than travel too far. Can you help? If your WI meets in a hall that has plenty of parking, good access and reliable Wi-Fi would you be willing to act as our hosts? If so, please get it touch with us at [wiadvisers@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:wiadvisers@devonwi.org.uk) and we can discuss it further.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please let us know and we will do our best to help – that's what we're here for.

#### Didn't we have a lorra, lorra laughs the day we went to Liverpool!

Despite the loooong coach trip to get there (10 hours!!) DFWI members were suitably impressed by the juxtaposition of our hotel to the iconic landmark Liver building and the river Mersey which afforded us a (Liver) bird's eye view as we ate breakfast the following morning. Some of us were lucky enough to experience the same view from our hotel rooms!

Following the last two years of disruption this year's meeting would be the first time that proceedings would be conducted in a hybrid format with delegates and observers attending the actual meeting or via a live streaming on the internet and although the actual attendees were fewer in number than previous years it didn't seem to dampen the enthusiasm especially when singing Jerusalem or the national anthems. The business of the day has been well documented on the MyWI website and in WI Life magazine and we hope that you have received the accounts from your WI delegates too.

Although, as Ann Jones stated in her address, this format of hybrid annual meetings will now, almost certainly, remain with us for the foreseeable future in order to enhance the accessibility to more members, there is still nothing to compare to the atmosphere of hundreds of WI members from all over the countries of Wales and England as well as the islands coming together to celebrate the unique camaraderie that is the WI. Ann Jones also exhorted us to go out and ask other women we meet who are not members "why are they not members?" in order for us to understand and alter perceptions and myths that may be inhibiting women from joining.

Why not try this in your own communities and see if you can increase your membership by changing the way your WI is perceived?

This year's resolution concerning women and girls and the diagnosis and treatment of ADHD and autism was discussed with many poignant and well thought out points of view from both professional representatives and members from around the country. It was passed with 96% majority and the afternoon continued with our main speaker, Sarah Clarke OBE, aka Black Rod, talking about her career both in Westminster and at the LTA, Wimbledon.

NFWI are eager to hear from any members who have constructive ideas and comments as to how they think future annual meetings might be made more relevant and inclusive to the membership so please do get in touch with Pam Keane [pam.keane@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:pam.keane@devonwi.org.uk) who is collating these and will forward them to NFWI for their attention. To further quote Ann – "our door is always open" so do please get in touch.

Next year's NFWI annual meeting will be held in Cardiff. Hot off the press the date is **25 May 2023**.



**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.**

This is a request-cum-reminder asking MCS Reps to make sure that the Positions list on their WI's MCS database record is up-to-date, especially the Officers: President, Secretary and Treasurer. Many officers changed at WI Annual Meetings and Secretaries have kindly let the office know of these directly; however, in 50% of these cases recently the changes had not been recorded on the MCS.

Would Secretaries and MCS Reps please get together on this. It may be, of course, that the MCS Rep role changed hands and the new incumbent is unaware of the requirement to keep the Positions page current. If any MCS Rep is uncertain how to make these changes, then please email [mcsinfo@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:mcsinfo@devonwi.org.uk) and I'll explain. 'Positions' is covered in the MCS User Guide but, unfortunately, the simplest way to effect an update is not illustrated.

Thanks for everything you're all doing, especially during subscription renewals and Annual Meetings which are the busiest times in the MCS calendar.

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

# Committee Roundup

## INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

### RESOLUTIONS NEWS

The 2021/22 resolution:

**'Women and Girls with ASD & ADHD - under-identified, under-diagnosed, misdiagnosed, under-supported'** was confirmed at the Annual Meeting with a majority of 96.5%.

This means the resolution is now an NFWI mandate and will form the basis of a national WI campaign which all members are invited to work on. The Public Affairs Team at NFWI will produce a full campaign action pack with ideas and resources that you can use to take the campaign forward. It will be available on My WI shortly.

### Resolution Submissions

2<sup>nd</sup> September is the closing date for next year's resolutions to be submitted to DFWI. The resolutions need to be signed off by Federation Resolutions Co-ordinator before being passed to NFWI.



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

In May the International and Public Affairs Subcommittee held an ACWW Lunch for 60 members.

It was a wonderful day with an excellent speaker Dr Biku Ghosh who talked to us about the maternity and obstetrics schemes he has introduced in developing countries. It was an interesting and thought provoking topic that challenged our perceptions about health care across the world. The delicious lunch was held in the luxurious surroundings of the Park Hotel, Barnstaple and it was a delight to meet so many of our members.



## COMBINED ARTS COMMITTEE

It is time to start rehearsals for the Carol Service at Exeter Cathedral on 5<sup>th</sup> December. The Booklets are with Jo in The Firs. Please contact me if you would like to sing and I will find you a choir to sing with. Vouchers for the service are also on sale now with your secretaries.

We have booked a rehearsal with Matthew Cann on 19<sup>th</sup> November 10.30-12.30am at the Christow Community Hall EX6 7WA for all choir members.

Please put Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, St Michael's Church, Torrington, in your Diary. We are holding "Elizabeths of York" Fashion show, Celebrate Tudor style with additional entertainment from 12 noon. Flyers will be with your secretaries.

Any queries please contact me Pat Wyatt. Email. p.wyatt@devonwi.org.uk

We would welcome anyone interested in "the Arts" to come and join our committee. We have five meetings a year. Please contact Pat Wyatt.

## SPORT and LEISURE COMMITTEE

Information on our John Lewis event on 1st November is with your Secretary/

Our Archery event was a huge success and those who went on the original date and the extra added had a great time. The members who went were hugely impressed that DFWI had done something a little bit different and also liked the fact that it was on a Saturday. Let us know if you'd like events at the weekend too. Below are some photos for the event. Plans are afoot to run this again in the future.



Contact details are on page 2. These are usually email addresses.

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.

**FOOD, CRAFT AND SKILLS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Please look out for details of our Christmas Craft Taster Day to be held at Longdown Village Hall on Tuesday 8th November. Ask your WI Secretary for more details. Last month we featured the programme for East Devon FCS area and this month we have **Exeter FCS Area**. Remember there are other areas and some have featured in previous editions of Devon News.

Exeter Area Food Craft & Skills		Fraturdays.	10.00 am to 2pm	Clyst St George Village Hall.
2022		2023		
September 9th	Workshop	January 6th	Workshop.	
September 23rd	Braids & cords	January 20th	Ribbon Dress card.	
October 14th	Gift bag & gift box	February 10th	Cooking	
October 28th	Knitted lavender Doll	February 17th.	Painting on glass	
November 11th	Poppy key ring	March 10th.	AGM. Fabric Heart. Please bring a plate of food.	
November 25th.	Christmas pudding card	March 24th	Workshop.	
December 9th	Christmas wreath	April 14th.	Fabric pouch.	
December 16th.	Gift wrapped parcel & Holly brooch. Christmas party please bring a plate of food.	April 28th.	Card making & stamping.	
		May 12th.	To be arranged. Please bring a plate of food	
Contact Marion Jones marionjones105@googlemail.com if interested in attending				

**ENVIRONMENT and RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**The Great Big Green Week** is the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. It was set up by The Climate Coalition (TCC) last year and a massive 5000 events happened all around the country. The WI (as you may know) are part of TCC. It takes place between 24<sup>th</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> October this year. Will your WI be taking part in the celebration? Let us know if you have plans. Plans do not need to be huge as we all know often little things can make a difference – maybe a litter pick, or a nature walk, or something relating to recycling or waste? A craft or art event. If you are unsure what you could do then TCC have provided an A-Z idea list and there may be something on that to inspire you. We can let you have that list or you can download it yourself from [Resources - Great Big Green Week](#) where you will find other useful and free resources.



You can also add your event to the TCC event map or we can do that for you. Either way please let us know your plans so that we can all share in the Devon WIs acknowledgement and celebration of this important issue.

Photos would be great and we can feature some events in Devon News later in the year, but please remember to have consent of anyone in the photos.

You can contact [Jackie.bufton@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:Jackie.bufton@devonwi.org.uk) with ideas or questions.



If there is something you would like to see featured on the website please let us know.

If you have sent something in to Devon News and it has not appeared please get in touch as it may have been overlooked. However it could also be down to lack of space—please bear with us as we are all volunteers.

## News from WIs

### Who enjoys an AGM?

Traditionally an AGM is pretty routine - the official business gets done, appropriate votes are received and the visiting Adviser is thanked. The members sit with either bored or interested faces, the refreshments are served and everyone goes home, feeling that they've done their duty and thankful that it's over for another year.

Not so at Newcourt Community Centre on 17<sup>th</sup> May. The hall was buzzing with chatter as Maureen, our Adviser arrived, together with her colleagues Liz from Newton Abbot and Val from Teignmouth. They weren't the only non-members of Newcourt WI that night, because we also welcomed five ladies who had visited us for the first time in April plus one on her (free) initial visit. The meeting duly progressed according to the set Agenda, interspersed with witty asides from the President and other members to keep the meeting relaxed and the business less arduous.

Once the official business was completed it was time for a chat, and gosh....did we chat? We broke up into small groups for getting-to-know-you conversations, which really added to the friendly atmosphere. By the end of the meeting all five second-time visitors had paid their subscriptions and had been welcomed into the fold; the sixth promised to return in June. Is this a record? We must be doing something right!

**Kenn and Kennford WI** were blessed with good weather when they went out on St. George's Day on a walk from Postbridge to Bellever Tor.

They had a lovely Dartmoor guide called Richard who gave them lots of fascinating information on the moor and its history.

The walk was organised by the Dartmoor Pony Trust.



**Roundswell WI** very much enjoyed a visit from representatives from South West Blood bikes at their May meeting.

These marvellous people are all volunteers who give their time as couriers, serving local communities and saving the NHS thousands of pounds every year.

A recent example benefitting someone in North Devon was that the dialysis unit at Roundswell urgently needed something from Exeter. That would have cost £250 had a taxi been sent for it but a Blood Biker collected it free of charge. The saving meant the dialysis unit was able to hire nurses for 2 extra shifts!

Roundswell WI Ladies raised over £277 for the Blood Bikes at their meeting.

The photo shows the blood bikers with their President Lyn and one of their members astride the bike!



**Combe Martin WI** members took part in The Hunting of the Earl of Rone which is an annual custom, unique to the village of Combe Martin on the coast of North Devon taking place each year over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, at the end of May.

Over the four days of the weekend, the Grenadiers, Hobby Horse, Fool and Villagers hunt, each day, through the village for the 'Earl of Rone', finally finding him on the Monday night.

The Hunting of the Earl of Rone is one of over 500 unique calendar customs that take place at various times of year throughout England. Banned in 1837, for licentiousness and drunken behaviour, the Hunting of the Earl of Rone revival came back to the village in 1974 and returned to its proper time, under the Earl of Rone Council, in 1978.

For more information:- <https://earl-of-rone.org.uk/>

See "The Hunting of the Earl of Rone", by Tom Brown. "An account of the Ascension Day custom of The Hunting of the Earl of Rone in Combe Martin, North Devon, with an exploration of the associated history."

The cover Photo shows:- Members Jan James, Steph Woodbury with Grenadier Franc Antoniazzi (not in picture Grenadier Terry Irwin, husband of Rita).

This is a wonderful event bringing together villagers, locals and visitors of all ages from near and far.

Rita Irwin and fellow members Lyn, Jenny, Fran and Linda Hatherley of Combe Martin WI, helped to prepare lunches for the children taking part in the procession on Saturday.



**Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Galore**

Many WIs have helped their local communities to celebrate the unique occasion of Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee from hosting Garden Parties or Coffee mornings to helping at community events or just celebrating at your own WIs. Below are a small selection of the photos sent in to commemorate this occasion, with apologies if your WI photo is not included—we would have needed to use every page. However we will try to add even more to the website in the next few weeks so please take a look. We have heard of competitions, cards to the Queen, singing, dances and lots of community spirit. Thanks to Kingskerswell WI, Chudleigh WI, Newton Abbot WI, Cullompton WI, Yealmpton & Brixton WI, Sidford WI, Kenn & Kennford WI, Thorverton WI, Hartland WI, Tiverton & Bampton WI and any WI I may have omitted for your submissions. If you have photos to add please send them in.



**Wembury Bay WI.** did the catering for the Tea Dance held as part of the village Jubilee celebrations. 60 people enjoyed a traditional afternoon tea including sandwiches, cakes and lots of cups of tea. The event concluded with the playing of Jerusalem and Land of Hope and Glory with guests joining in heartily with singing and waving anything red, white and blue. The event went down so well people are asking if it can be an annual event.



**Bishopsteignton WI** have been busy crafting. A great team effort by knitters and non knitters who helped to sew and finish the project. The photo shows their knitted corgis along with Her Majesty and some knitted crowns. The crowns contain a Terry's chocolate orange which were sold to raise funds.



**Lifton WI** were shown how to decoupage flower pots at their July meeting by Susan Swanepoel who is one of their members. Even the least crafty members were able to produce a lovely decorated pot as shown in these photos.



**Jean Grant 1935 - 2022**

It is with great sadness we pass on the news that Jean Grant, a life-long member of **Withycombe Raleigh W.I.** passed away at the end of May after a short illness. A staunch supporter of Devon Federation, serving on the Executive and also Environment and Rural Affairs Committee. She served several terms as the President of her WI and also as treasurer and was involved in many of the groups, including Drama, Discussion and the Estuary Group. Jean started up the Sunday Singles Lunch group and was a keen supporter of Exmouth Country Market. Those of you who knew Jean know that she was always willing to help others and get involved organizing many events and will be missed by us all.

Jean attended many Federation run events to help in any way she could and for many years led the teams of volunteers who sort and pack Devon News each month at the office to send to all WIs.

Dates for your diary

Activity	Date	Closing date (if relevant)
Croquet Days at Barnstaple	25 August and 8 September	TBC
Tavistock Guided Walk £6	21 September 2022	TBC
Northumberland Holiday	10th-14th October 2022	30 June 2022
Autumn Event at Bideford	26 October 2022	TBC
John Lewis event—Exeter	1 November 2022	TBC
Christmas Craft Taster Day	8 November 2022	TBC
Birdwatching Cruise	23 November 2022	TBC
Christmas market trip to Cardiff	Tuesday 29th November 2022	TBC
DFWI Carol concert	Monday 5th December 2022	TBC
County Quiz	28 January 2023	TBC
DFWI Spring Council Meeting at Torquay RICC	26th April 2023	TBC
NFWI Annual Meeting Cardiff	25th May 2023	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, look on our website [devonwi.org.uk](http://devonwi.org.uk), contact Jo at The Firs .

More news from WIs around the county.



A small group of **Poltimore WI** ladies had a wonderful evening at Hotter Shoes, Exeter. We were greeted by two members of staff, with an assortment of 'nibbles' and a glass of Processco or juice. We then had our feet measured and were able to try on as many shoes as we liked. The staff were so helpful and we all left with new shoes, a very useful canvas bag a notebook and a spring in our steps!!! A most enjoyable evening.

**Bere Ferrers WI** have been involved in several community and local events over the past few months.

In May they were invited to have a stand at the Community Wellbeing Event. They were one of 23 volunteering groups invited by West Devon Community and Voluntary Services to showcase who they were and what they did in the community. Sheila Gay had knitted corgis' which she labelled and left them around the building for people to find.



Carnival capers

At the end of May they took part

in the local carnival. The Theme was "Music through the Queens Reign". They chose ABBA's Dancing Queen. The float was dressed in Red, white and blue paper flowers and balloons, crowns and corgis.



They had 6 dancing queens dressed in suitable dancing attire, with wigs and crowns who also wore sandwich boards displaying enlarged playing cards of the four queens .

They won a first prize of £30 so came away well pleased with themselves.



**Totnes WI** had a great June Monthly Meeting evening led by one of their Committee - Katie Porkess. Katie had spent much of her childhood in India and gave a fascinating account of the different types and traditions of saris. After her talk, Katie let members try on some of the many saris she had brought to the meeting. They also had some lovely Indian snacks and nibbles to enjoy. Here's a photo of some of them wearing the gorgeous saris.

