



Cover photo  
From NFWI website  
Crafts Beautiful  
magazine project  
See page 7

### Spring Council 2023

Is coming back to Torquay!

Save the date **26th April 2023**

Guest Speaker is

**Dame Floella Benjamin**

More details will be coming out in January  
including how to book

### Federation Quiz 2023

Saturday 26th January at a venue near you  
Final on Saturday 25 March at Longdown Village hall  
Teams of up to 4 people £6 per person  
Booking details are with your secretary



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

**Items for February issue by  
January 11th 2023**

Please send items to  
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*The opinions expressed in Devon WI  
News are not necessarily those of the  
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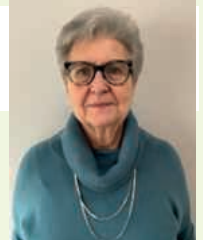
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## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT



Dear Members,

Have you ever Googled WI? There are a variety of explanations but perhaps the best one tells us that we belong to "A unique organisation shaped by the members and we are the largest independent organisation for women. It was formed to give women a voice and to be a force for good in the community."

I expect there will be raised voices following the announcement of the subscriptions being increased by £2 as from April. In view of the increase in the cost of living affecting our lives in so many ways I feel sure that this increase comes as no surprise. However I am already expecting a flurry of e mails questioning 'what do we get for our money'.

In order for any organisation to function successfully there is always a certain amount of administration, ie the NFWI office in London which supports the Federations, which in turn support their Wis. There is an office, staff and expenses for the volunteers (Advisers) to be paid for to name but a few. I could go further with explanations to justify the increase, but please ladies, think about it and don't forget, you have 11 meetings a year (at no further cost) to enjoy.

I know preparations will be well under way for your Christmas parties, and we have the Carol Service in Exeter Cathedral to look forward to on the 5<sup>th</sup> December with the Christmas Market on too. Let's hope for better weather than last year!

I had an interesting conversation on FaceTime with my 6 year old grandson, Toby. 'I'm not allowed to say The 'C' word yet Grandma, so what can we call it?' There followed a hilarious conversation trying to come up with alternatives to describe it, such as. 'that time of year when you bring a tree in side the house and put lights on it' - 'the week after my birthday' said his father. - but we decided in the end that we liked 'it's the time of year when you have parties and a man in a red suit visits and brings you a present!'

Hopefully 'the man in the red suit visits and brings you a present' and that you have a wonderful Christmas, where ever and with whoever you share it, and a Happy and healthy New Year.

All good wishes

**Evelyn Watson**  
Devon FWI Chairman

### 300+ Club winners

October	
22	Georgeham & Croyde WI
133	Haytor Vale WI
187	Kenn & Kennford WI
92	Newcourt WI
230	Tor & Tavy WI

Join in 2023 if you haven't already.

### Treasurer's tasks and tips

Remember to involve your committee in financial areas and decisions.

Take time for yourself and take a well earned break.

Remember to pay 3rd quarter affiliation fees in January.



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



**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.**

No do's, don'ts or reminders this month, just sincere thanks to all our MCS Reps for keeping Devon WI's database looking so fit and healthy. Hopefully, we'll have a busy time next year with lots of new members to add to the system. So, until 2023, I wish you all peaceful and joyous Christmas and New Year celebrations. I'm still available to help sort out any queries though, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if needs be.

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

### Workshops

The recent workshops for Presidents and Secretaries proved very popular, so popular in fact that they were oversubscribed and unfortunately some prospective attendees were disappointed. We will, however, be planning further regional workshops in the New Year, full details of which will be sent to WI Secretaries as soon as possible.

In the meantime, if you have any pressing questions or concerns, do please contact your WI Adviser.

### Groups

The consultation process with those WIs affected by the changes in the structure of their Groups is almost complete.

Full details of the new groupings will be notified to those concerned in January. Although not defined within the Constitution, Groups usually consist of between four and six neighbouring WIs and provide the opportunity not only to mix and mingle but also to pool resources and ideas, and to perhaps hear a more expensive speaker than an individual WI would normally be able to afford, or to fill a coach to make a day trip more financially viable. Some Groups choose to take it in turns to host an annual meeting with an element of friendly rivalry, others also organise purely social events, such as lunches, a day out, or a friendly skittles night. Groups come under the wing of the Membership Support Subcommittee for administrative purposes but tend to manage themselves, some with a Group Secretary and Group Treasurer, others with the hostess WI taking on the organisation of events each year. If your Group has yet to establish any connections, why not make contact to arrange to get together to make some plans?

### A Note for Treasurers

We are currently in the process of allocating Devon IFEs (Independent Financial Examiners) to their respective WIs and hope to be able to notify all Treasurers who their IFE will be for 2023 as soon as possible. For the sake of continuity we will try to allocate the same IFE as in the previous year, but this will not always be possible as some of our IFEs have stepped down recently. If you have not heard by the end of January, or if you have not used a Devon IFE in the past but would like to use one in future, please let Maureen Hunter, the IFE Scheme Administrator, know ([m.hunter@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:m.hunter@devonwi.org.uk)). She would also love to hear from you if you are interested in training to be a Devon IFE so do please contact her if you would like more details.

### Waiting Lists

In recent months there has been an encouraging flurry of enquiries from potential new members. This can, however, cause problems where the size and facilities of the venue restrict the maximum possible number of members and membership numbers have to be capped. Subsequently a waiting list may well be created, or prospective new members should be advised to look at other WIs in the area. Waiting lists are often quite long and reaching the top of the list may be unrealistic. In these cases the solution is to consider forming a new WI. Indeed, this has recently happened in both Sidmouth and Teignmouth. The Advisers would be only too happy to help with this so do please contact us for further advice if this situation has arisen in your own WI.

### Calling All Devon Climate Ambassadors!

Jackie Bufton, one of our Climate Ambassadors, is anxious to connect with other Climate Ambassadors to unite and support one another. Please contact her at [jackie.bufton@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:jackie.bufton@devonwi.org.uk) to discuss this further.

### Help! How do I...?

Want answers to your questions about WI? Stuck for ideas for meetings? Want to explore a new craft or activity? Need information on this year's resolutions – or last year's?

Then look no further than MyWI - the NFWI website with so much help and information for WI members. There, amongst other things, you'll find:

**The WI Handbook:** Find answers to all your queries regarding the day to running of your WI, roles of officers, being a member and much more

<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/wi-handbook>

**Resolution Shortlist 2022-23:** Discussions guide on each shortlisted resolution, ideas for presentations for your resolutions meetings, quizzes to use for your members

<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/public-affairs-and-campaigns/news-and-actions/resolution-shortlist-2022-23>

**Social Media Guide:** Want to publicise your WI and its events in your local community and further afield? Not sure how to set up a social media profile?

<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/communications-and-pr/social-media-guides>

These are just a few of the topics you can find on MyWI. To log on to MyWI you need to check with your MCS Representative that your correct email address is recorded on the MCS (Membership Communication System). For assistance in logging on to MyWI you can watch the tutorial on the sign in page or you can contact NFWI using the form highlighted in green. You can also call them on 020 7371 9300.

## Committee Roundup

### INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

#### **The resolution shortlist for the 2023 Annual Meeting is now ready.**

##### **1. Save our water – every drop matters**

As global temperatures rise, there is a risk drought will become more frequent in the UK. This will place increasing strains on the UK's water supply and endanger our natural world. The NFWI calls on government and water companies to work together to develop robust plans.

##### **2. Women to women – turning over a new leaf in the lives of women tea workers**

While in the UK we enjoy our daily cuppa, the mostly women tea workers who produce our tea struggle to access living wages, decent housing, sanitation or education for their children due to the low prices paid to producers for tea. The NFWI calls on UK tea companies and retailers to take action.

##### **3. Online gambling harm: time for action**

Online gambling has substantially increased, resulting in a growing number of people being exposed to the risks of gambling-related harms. This resolution calls on decision makers to introduce updated legislation and regulation to address these issues and for increased support to be made available to those affected by problem gambling, particularly women and children.

##### **4. Clean rivers for people and wildlife**

Water quality in our rivers is shameful. Legally, designated bathing waters must be regularly monitored for pollution. The NFWI urges its members, the wider public, local authorities and Government to make, support and promote applications for official designated bathing sites on appropriate stretches of rivers in their area.

##### **Next Stage**

Now each WI member has the chance to consider the four resolutions on the shortlist, and select the one they would most like to go forward for further discussion and voting at the Annual Meeting in 2023.

In the November edition of WI Life you will find the key points for members to consider for each resolution. We recommend that WIs hold discussions to explore them in more depth.

You can access more resources at <https://www.thewi.org.uk/s/resolutions>

All member selections must arrive with DFWI by 14 February 2023.

*Happy Christmas and Good wishes for 2023!*

*We are making a New Year Resolution to do more Campaigning - hope you can join US!*



### COMBINED ARTS COMMITTEE

Well what a lovely day we had at the Elizabeths of York event. It was so well organised by Jane Jury, Chris Towle and Catherine Bowness. All the costumes were authentic with the Great Torrington School as models and the committee also dressed in costume. We hope to have this event again in the South of Devon next year. We hope everyone who went enjoyed it too.

The Radio Devon Cup and St George's Day Trophy competitions are with your secretaries. As the closing date is in February 2023, there is plenty of time to send us an entry over Christmas. The Radio Devon Cup is in the form of a story of 26 words from each letter of the alphabet in consecutive order. The St George's Day Trophy competition is winter photographs no larger than A4.

We hope to meet some of you at the Carol concert in Exeter in December or at an event in 2023.

Best wishes from us all.



### SPORT and LEISURE COMMITTEE

The John Lewis event went well although numbers were down on previous years, All attendees got a voucher to spend and were able to sample goods, have a massage, just browse or watch a fashion display. It is exclusive for the WI and guests so if you haven't been why not try it next year?



Here are a selection of photos from the event.

Please note an error on one of the dates for Beauty and Pampering Days— Thursday 2nd March not Wednesday 1st March. We hope to see you at some events next year—let us know if you have ideas for an event too.

**FOOD, CRAFT AND SKILLS SUBCOMMITTEE**

If you haven't already booked your place for lunch and entertainment by the Pashy Pops it isn't too late. We hope to see many of you at our two lunches either on Monday 23rd January at Longdown or Monday 30th January at Rattery .

We are busy organising a day for the FCS area committees and have other ideas in the pipeline.

The FCS Committee wish all members Best wishes for Christmas and a peaceful New Year

**ENVIRONMENT and RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

By the time you read this our 3rd Birdwatching cruise has take place. Some have asked to go in March so if you haven't been and want to please register your interest and we will go ahead. Proposed date is Saturday March 4th. Cost £11 per person, pasties available at £4 per person. Contact pam.harvey@devonwi.org.uk

With the recent news of difficulties within the egg production industry due to increases in costs and the terrible Avian Flu, the supermarkets may not be the way forward. Is it time to consider buying eggs directly from producers? Well, this would certainly cut down on how far the eggs have to travel and would support our local farmers by buying directly without them losing out to a middle man. If you know of a local egg producer that offers direct to public sales could you provide details about them to your own WI members.

Christmas is also coming so let's talk trees for a minute. If you can source UK grown trees (Christmas Tree Farms) then you will be helping local producers again, and reducing the carbon footprint of bringing so many trees from places such as Norway. Every year there are millions of trees to be disposed of after Christmas. In 2020 it was approximately 8 million Christmas trees. if not reused or recycled, trees can end up in landfill which is costly to both the environment and the taxpayer, with the cost of landfilling eight million trees being around £22 million. (source Gov.UK) So what can we do?. Plant them if there is a root ball, check your local council collection and recycling service, drop your tree off at a recycling centre where it can be turned into chippings for paths or turned into soil – or my favourite see if a local zoo or wildlife centre needs some for the animals to eat or play with. There are also now organisations that do treecycling (yes it's real) around the country – the trees are often used to build effective flood barriers.



**Update on A Challenge for all WIs in Devon**

Since setting the challenge in October we have received expressions of interest or firm commitments from around 30 WIs in the county. Some WIs are arranging a meeting to make goods, some are going to donate items already made. We have heard about macrame pot holders, a picnic quilt and knitted items. Those WIs who have made contact are listed below—if your WI isn't listed, and should be, please let me know.

The challenge wasn't set by the hospice but was a chance conversation when St Marychurch WI were at a Fundraisinfg Day for another charity and were selling thei own craft goods. Henrietta came to the stall, we got chatting and the germ of an idea was there.

Many of you have said that you support or have supported the hospice already. Perhaps your WI hasn't had a chance to discuss it or "isn't crafty" - not al WIs are. However there may be a member who knits or crochets or makes cards—all items are welcomed. While we have arranged that mot items will be collected from The Firs I know this is a long way for some of you to travel. I wonder if we could have a drop off point in four areas , closer to your WIs and we could them arrange to collect them before 6th March. Your efforts could help the Hospice and be a great advertisement for the WI in Devon.

30 WIs will make a difference—but if every WI was to take part there would be around 160!!

Please consider signing up. If your WI could act as a hub for your area let me know. [news@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:news@devonwi.org.uk)

Finally, from Henrietta *"I am so happy having the WI onboard! Really looking forward seeing all the beautiful crafted items 😊"*

- Ashprington WI
- Combe Martin WI
- Dawlish WI
- Kingsbridge WI
- Newton Abbot WI
- Puddington and Black Dog WI
- Sidford WI
- Sir Joshua Reynolds WI
- Woodbury WI

The WIs on the left had already expressed interest. Below are those who made contact this month	
Axe River WI	Newcourt WI
Barnstaple Bloomers WI	North Bovey Belles WI
Beer WI	Parkham WI
Brimley WI	Pinhoe WI
Clovelly WI	Salcombe WI
Cofton WI	Shaldon & Ringmore WI
Galmpton & Churston WI	Shebbear WI
Highweek WI	Sidmouth WI
Instow & Yelland WI	St Marychurch WI
Kenn and Kennford WI	Stokenham Evening WI
Lifton WI	Yealmpton & Brixton WI



## News from WIs

At their October meeting **Hartland WI** had ladies to demonstrate and teach some Belly Dancing. Linda Hull and her friend Annette, who came from Bude, firstly showed everyone a couple of dances before a few of the WI members donned the belly dancing hip belts and had a go. There was a lot of "shaking it all about", which was surprisingly difficult but looked quite impressive. They then danced with scarves in pairs and as a group. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the audience thought it was great fun. Below are a few photos of the event.



**Brimley WI** spent an evening doing a litter pick along the streets of Bovey Tracey as part of the RHS South West in Bloom competition. The town was awarded Gold in the Pennant category, and looked wonderful all summer.



Several members of **Uplowman WI** spent a lovely evening with fellow member Clare Norman arranging autumn coloured flowers using a pumpkin. Here are some of the finished arrangements.



Members of **Ashprington WI** got very wet on two occasions. In one they were swimming on Dartmoor and in the other were planting bulbs given in memory of Sheila Johnson a founder member of their WI who died recently.



**St Marychurch WI** are pleased to become a Dementia Friendly WI. In July their speaker was Norman (Norms) McNamara the founder of the Purple Angel Dementia Campaign. As they meet in the evening Norms was unable to attend in person but prepared a presentation that was projected to the WI members. You couldn't hear a pin drop (which is very unusual) as all were engrossed. After the meeting they voted to continue to raise awareness and all members were emailed a copy of Norms' booklet A Helping Hand Dementia Guide. Those not on email were sent a physical copy. During the tea break in the October meeting members completed the questions at the back of the booklet. All answers were given to Norms and he awarded them a certificate as Purple Angel Ambassadors. Members were also asked to vote on whether the raffle proceeds that night could be given to Norms for his MP3 project. All were in favour and they were pleased to raise £50.



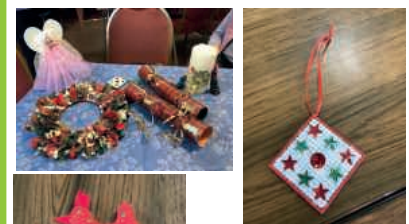
[www.purpleangel-global.com](http://www.purpleangel-global.com)

**Teignmouth WI's** Bright Sparks (their craft group) had another busy session recently making more angels and trees for their Craft Fayre on 19 November.



Thanks to Teignmouth WI and Brixham WI for letting me poach from social media this month.

**Brixham WI** had a fabulous craft Dabble Day when 20 members had a creative and sociable day together.



More photos are on their Facebook page or website

<http://brixham-wi.blogspot.com/>

The Fountain at Kingsteignton is once again dressed with poppies, knitted, crocheted, and made with satin or felt, in honour of the fallen. Purple poppies also mark those animals lost in conflict.

**Post Meridian W.I.** are pleased to mark their respect at this time of Remembrance and hope their display will encourage people to make their donation in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

## News from DFWI and NFWI

### NFWI Annual Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 St. David's Hall, Cardiff

Delegate /Link letters should have been received by all WIs and I look forward to hearing from the first named WI on each list as soon as possible as the closing date for ticket application has been brought forward to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 by NFWI. There is a small allocation of Visitors tickets this year so it will be on a first come first served basis, the cost being £22 for the ticket and £25 for travel (Total £47.00). If you would like a ticket please contact me as soon as possible on: [pam.keane@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:pam.keane@devonwi.org.uk) or telephone : 01404 371534. Many thanks for your co-operation. Delegates and visitors can also join in via a virtual link. For visitors the cost for this is £5.  
 Advance notice: The NFWI Annual meeting in 2024 is on 5 June at the Royal Albert Hall.

Pam Keane (Annual Meeting Organiser for DFWI)

### Speakers List update

By now all WIs in the County should have received a questionnaire seeking their views and suggestions about our Speakers List. Some have already been returned to us, and the information those WIs have provided is proving vital in determining our way forward. It is clear that many would welcome the return of Speakers Days where we audition new people for inclusion and recommendation. Costs of individual speakers and the matter of travel expenses is another issue affecting almost all who have replied, If you have not yet returned your WI's questionnaire, we would appreciate WIs giving a little time to do so. Your voices and views count, and will help us make informed decisions and choices for 2023 and beyond.  
 Thanks to all those WIs who have sent in their responses so far. We look forward to hearing from more of you.

[roz.matterface@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:roz.matterface@devonwi.org.uk)

### Have Your Say

As part of our Strategic Planning we want to improve our communication with all of you. Arriving with your secretary with this issue of Devon News is a questionnaire which can be filled in by the WI, by small groups or by individual WI members. All views are welcomed. Please complete and return the survey—it may be a task to fill an hour in that time between Christmas and the New Year.

### Data Protection review and Email changes

As part of our policy and procedures review we want to ensure that we comply with Data Protection legislation. This has meant a serious look at all we do. In the past we have had many volunteers helping out with a range of tasks including filing and sending letters. This has been accepted practice for many years but means we are not using robust procedures. In view of this we have had to inform volunteers that these activities cannot continue. We realise that this may seem harsh, but have had advice and agreement from NFWI regarding our decision.

Another focus is looking at email contact. It can be easy to create a Data breach unintentionally if we forget to BCC emails and this is a real concern when we are using personal email addresses, As a result we are working with a partner firm, Absolute Technology, and are creating generic emails for each WI which will be our preferred form of contact in the future. This will also give all WIs access to Microsoft programs and enable easy sharing of key documents. Please be assured we will provide help and support for people in making this change.

### Chairman's Rose Bowl

Please watch out for the flyer coming soon to let you know how you can nominate a WI member who has gone the extra mile for your WI or for the local community. The shortlisted nominees will all feature in Devon News and the winner will be awarded the Chairman's Rose Bowl at Spring Council in April 2023. We want to hear about these special people.

**Events and Refunds.** Please note when booking events we cannot give refunds unless **we** have to cancel them. If we were to refund one WI member who could not attend for valid reasons we would have to refund everyone who becomes unable to go. We could then find ourselves in the situation where DFWI was having to subsidise the trip and we cost them to make sure we break even. It is a balancing act when planning as we do not know if we will have sufficient take up. It is your responsibility to sell your places on.

### NFWI competitions 2022

The results for the Lady Denman Cup and Huxley Cup have been announced and are available to see on our website. Congratulations to Primley WI (a new WI in Sidmouth) for winning the Huxley Cup. They will be presented with the award at the Annual meeting in Cardiff.

Front cover photo is from NFWI  
 Craft Beautiful projects:

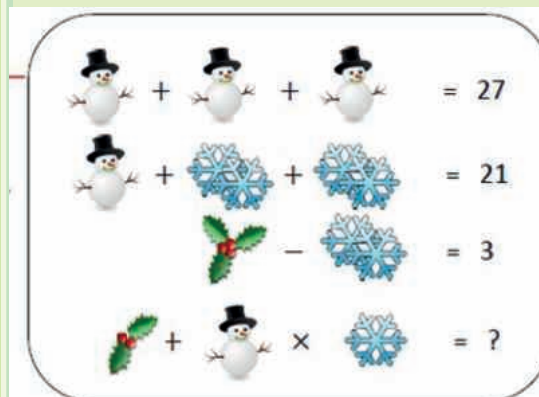
<https://www.thewi.org.uk/education-and-training/education/activities/get-creative/crafts-beautiful-projects>

You can find more craft ideas on MyWI

If you or your WI would like to feature on our cover please send photos to [news@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:news@devonwi.org.uk)

### Seasonal challenges.

Can you solve these? Answers available next issue More on the back page



				19
				18
				14
				24
20	18	18	19	

Can you work out the value of each picture? Hat, Stocking, Penguin, Gingerbread man

Dates for your diary

Activity	Date	Closing date (if relevant)
Themed Lunch with Pashy Pops	Monday 23 January 2023 or Monday 30 January 2023	6 January 2023
County Quiz	28 January 2023	7 January 2023
Beauty and Pampering Days at Exeter College	Tuesday 21 February 2023 <b>Thursday 2 March 2023 *</b> Friday 10 March 2023 Monday 13 March 2023 Friday 24 March 2023 Wednesday 29 March 2023	20 January 2023
* Please note corrected date		
Birdwatching Cruise with StuartLine	Saturday 4 March 2023	TBC
Whist Day	18 March 2023	27 January 2023
St George's Day Trophy (photographs)	Awarded at Spring Council	24 February 2023
Radio Devon Cup (writing)	Awarded at Spring Council	24 February 2023
Skittles Final	22 April 2023	Closed
DFWI Spring Council Meeting at Torquay RICC	26 April 2023	TBC
NFWI Annual Meeting Cardiff	25 May 2023	January 2023
NFWI Annual meeting Royal Albert Hall	5 June 2024	TBA

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), or contact Jo at The Firs .

More puzzles—answers next issue (I won't forget this time)

# Christmas Dingbats

Can you identify the Christmas Dingbats below?

1

Christmas  
Christmas  
Christmas  
→ Christmas

2

deer deer deer deer  
deer deer

3

Winter Wonderland

4

donkey  
→ donkey

5

KANYE WEST

6

XXX

7

NIGHT

8

WISH

9

10

S

11

CCCCCCCC  
FESTIVE

12

YYY MEN

### Christmas cryptogram

A well known Christmas song is the inspiration for this quotation.

BOXYCC DY AGHY TZFNCWAGC GO LTTGCNLO WL CZGFY LBF PXYCCNOJC,

GXX WZY COLD NO GXGCHG DLO'W AGHY NW "DZWNWY"

PNOU TFLCPM (1904-1977)

In any cryptogram one letter of the alphabet is replaced with another. If A=Z in the puzzle it will work for every A but that does not mean that Z=A