



Cover photo  
Georgeham & Croyde WI  
See page 6

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

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**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT**



Dear Members,

Happy New Year! I hope you all managed to enjoy Christmas with family and loved ones and that you managed to keep the winter cold and flu bugs at bay.

It seems a long time ago now but I trust those of you who attended the Carol Service at Exeter Cathedral at the beginning of December found it to be as uplifting and enjoyable as I did, a lovely start to the festive season.

Now, do you make New Year Resolutions? Mine are usually about losing weight, taking more exercise etc. This year my aim is 'to make a difference', in my community and also in my WI.

We have come through almost 3 years of uncertainty and now is the time for recovery. We WI members can be a force to reckon with – Be bold, be inspiring!

Please take time to read through this copy of Devon News. Lots of information on events the subcommittees are busy arranging and the workshops being run by the Advisers in various locations.

If the rain stops, and I reach the top of the list for cataract surgery and then can drive. I look forward to meeting you soon!

All good wishes

**Evelyn Watson**  
Devon FWI Chairman

**300+ Club winners**

Join in 2023 if you haven't already.

December	
<b>152</b>	Erme, Ivybridge WI
<b>324</b>	Ilsham WI
<b>75</b>	Wellswood Afternoon WI
<b>291</b>	Honiton Evening WI
<b>136</b>	Cullompton WI

January	
<b>255</b>	Parke WI
<b>172</b>	West Down WI
<b>73</b>	Tiverton & Bampton WI
<b>325</b>	Mortehoe WI
<b>89</b>	Thurlestone & West Buckland WI

With apologies the results last month should have been headed November.

**Treasurer's tasks and tips**

The message below won't be welcome for many of you but it is essential to follow the guidance.

Rebecca Francis from NFWI has written to say:  
We have received a lot of communication in the past couple of weeks regarding forms sent from banks to some WIs to fulfil anti-money laundering legislation and certify tax residency, among other things. We want to stipulate that it is **very important that WIs fill in and return these forms should they receive them.**

It is of course important for WIs to first verify that the form is legitimately from their bank. It is very unlikely it wouldn't be, but it is best practice to either Google the return address to check that the address they want the form returned the form to is legitimate or to call the bank to check it is legitimate.

If WIs have any specific queries about filling out these forms that cannot be answered by their bank, we are happy to help to the best of our knowledge and you can feel free to direct WIs to me if they have queries you are unable to answer. Unfortunately, we cannot tell WIs who are technically separate charitable entities point-by-point how to fill out a legal document in any formal way or issue anything which could be understood as blanket tax advice as forms may differ between banks, but we are happy to help with specific queries. Additionally, please feel free to let me know if you have any questions.

If you need help please contact Rebecca directly. [r.francis@nfwi.org.uk](mailto:r.francis@nfwi.org.uk)



## Important notice to all WI Members -

Now is the time to be looking ahead and preparing for your Annual Meetings and the election of the new committee. Why not consider joining your committee this year and be part of the team that takes your WI forward? Have a chat to your existing committee members to learn more about what this involves.

An Adviser visit request form has been sent to your WI Secretary and should be returned by the end of February. **Please contact your Adviser as soon as possible if you envisage any difficulties in recruiting a full committee and filling the officer roles.**

## Officers' Workshops

A reminder that there are workshops arranged for those already in post or those wanting to know more about the roles of President, Secretary and Treasurer at various locations in the county. Please check the Devon Federation website <https://www.devonwi.org.uk> for up to date availability or contact the Membership Support team at [wiadvisers@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:wiadvisers@devonwi.org.uk)

All workshops are priced at £5 per person which should be funded through your WI.

### A FOND FAREWELL AND AN INVITATION



The photo shows Cynthia and Sylvia enjoying their farewell lunch at Exeter Golf Club in December. This now means that we are down to a team of six - Angie Bache (Chair), Pat Kirby, Maureen Hunter, Evelyn Watson, Sarah Shorthouse and Jane Jury, plus Liz Roberts, our trainee Adviser. With 161 WIs in Devon it means each Adviser has had to increase her workload, but we certainly don't intend that this will in anyway reduce the level of support we offer. We always enjoy hearing from our WIs so please continue to contact us for information and advice if you have any problems or concerns, or indeed to share your successes and celebrations.

We are hoping to recruit more Advisers to join the team so do let us know if this might interest you and we can tell you more about the training programme and what the role involves. If you are unable to commit to the full training, but are interested in helping support our WIs, why not think instead of applying to become a WI Adviser Helper? This role would involve accompanying Advisers to assist at meetings, events and workshops, and learning more about our work. Please contact Angie for further information and an application form ([angie.bache@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:angie.bache@devonwi.org.uk)).

## No Speaker, No Problem

Although incidence of covid has lessened, the rise of flu and other winter bugs has led to some speakers having to pull out at the last minute through their own or family illness. As Advisers we are heartened to hear how WIs are managing these last minute "no shows". Activities such as handbag bingo, quizzes, bingo, a beetle drive, a board game evening, blind taste-testing, mindfulness colouring, and simple crafts have all served to entertain the members. Many of these can be thought about beforehand and kept on file or stored in a WI cupboard ready for use when needed. What do you do? If you let us know your ideas, we can collate the best of these and share them with you so you always have a contingency plan in place.



**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.**

Hello everyone. I'm afraid it's plea time again from me to all our MCS Reps AND Treasurers because there is a discrepancy between Devon's total members shown on the MCS compared to affiliation fees received at The Firs. The total members on the MCS is 350 more which, averaged out between our 161 WIs, comes to an average of at least two surplus members per WI. However, this is an average number and won't apply to those WIs whose MCS is up to date and 100% accurate. Please check now that you are one of those WIs.

So, the plea this month is to request each MCS Rep to liaise with her Treasurer to make sure that the MCS list of members agrees completely with the list of paid-up members, the affiliation fees for whom have been sent to The Firs. If this is not the case, please ask your Treasurer to contact Bev, our Bookkeeper, without delay on 01392 255386 or by email at

[bookkeeper@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:bookkeeper@devonwi.org.uk)

As always, please don't forget that I'm available to help you with any MCS query.

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

DFWI BACS details are on the right. Please remember to email the person you are paying and copy in the bookkeeper. [bookkeeper@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:bookkeeper@devonwi.org.uk)

Devon Federation of Women's Institutes  
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## Committee Roundup

### INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Thank you!

The resolution votes from the WIs have been returned to DFWI and our results passed on to NFWI . All the votes from each Federation will now be compiled and the resolution with the most votes will go forward to the 2023 Annual Meeting.

One of the following topics could become the WI Campaign for 2023/24

1. Save our water – every drop matters
2. Women to women – turning over a new leaf in the lives of women tea workers
3. Online gambling harm: time for action
4. Clean rivers for people and wildlife

If you would like to find out more information there will be updates in My Life magazine and MyWI website.

### COMBINED ARTS COMMITTEE

Welcome to 2023.

Thanks to everybody who helped to make the Carol Service 5<sup>th</sup> December such a success. More than 600 of you came along on the day.

After the success of our "2 Elizabeth's of York" Tudor Fashion Show in November, we hope to rerun this event possibly in Newton Abbot in the spring.

I would also like to have a half day for all singers to encourage you all to sing at the next Carol Service.

This is your last chance to send us an entry for the St George's Day Trophy and the Radio Devon Cup competitions. Closing date for both is 24<sup>th</sup> February. Details are with your secretary and on the DFWI website.

### SPORT and LEISURE COMMITTEE

Another Tavistock walk has been arranged for March 29<sup>th</sup> with Paul Rendell. Priority will be given to those WI 's who we were not able to be accommodated in September.

Please contact me by email ( [margaretq20@gmail.com](mailto:margaretq20@gmail.com) ) to see if we have spaces left.

### FOOD, CRAFT AND SKILLS SUBCOMMITTEE

By the time you read this the County Quiz should have taken place. 98 teams entered which means 388 members in 8 village halls around the County. The final will be held in March.

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

Thank you to all WIs who have responded regarding the challenge for CHSW—and please note it isn't too late to join in. Some WIs have pledged several items but just one item will make a difference. I hope I have listed all WIs who have enquired—even if you cannot take part in the end.

Pat Kirby has offered to collect things from "Up north" She wrote *I will collect items from North Devon and bring them down. They will need to let me know when items are ready and I will arrange a pickup point.* [pat.kirby@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:pat.kirby@devonwi.org.uk)

Sidford WI have offered to act as a hub for East Devon WIs

Cofton WI have arranged a talk by Henrietta about CHSW and will be giving her items at that meeting.

All items need to be at The Firs by **March 6th** unless you have made other arrangements. Some WIs are taking them to the hospice directly—but please check this is ok rather than just turning up. If you are struggling with how to get your items to The Firs please make contact and we will see if we can help [news@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:news@devonwi.org.uk)

Remember you can see the items for sale at Westpoint between March 30th and April 1st at Craft4Crafters



Registered Charity No. 1003314

Ashprington WI	Axe River WI	Newcourt WI	Applefore WI
Combe Martin WI	Barnstaple Bloomers WI	North Bovey Belles WI	Brixham WI
Dawlish WI	Beer WI	Parkham WI	Cornwood WI
Kingsbridge WI	Brimley WI	Pinhoe WI	East Devon FCS group
Newton Abbot WI	Clovelly WI	Salcombe WI	Fremington Evening WI
Puddington and Black Dog WI	Cofton WI	Shaldon & Ringmore WI	Ipplepen WI
Sidford WI	Galmpton & Churston WI	Shebbear WI	Tiverton and Bampton WI
Sir Joshua Reynolds WI	Highweek WI	Sidmouth WI	
Woodbury WI	Instow & Yelland WI	St Marychurch WI	If your WI isn't listed you can still
	Kenn and Kennford WI	Stokenham Evening WI	join in as an individual.
	Lifton WI	Yealmpton & Brixton WI	Apologies if I have missed any WI
			or group.

**Seasonal challenges answers**

	5
	6
	3
	4



Answers

$3 \text{ snowmen} + 3 \text{ snowmen} + 3 \text{ snowmen} = 27$   
 $3 \text{ snowmen} + 3 \text{ snowflakes} + 3 \text{ snowflakes} = 21$   
 $3 \text{ holly leaves} - 3 \text{ snowflakes} = 3$   
 $3 \text{ holly leaves} + 3 \text{ snowmen} \times 3 \text{ snowflakes} = 33$

**Chairman's Rose Bowl**

If you haven't yet done so please consider nominating a WI member who has gone the extra mile for your WI or 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 and celebrate these special people. Your secretary should have details.

**Dingbats answers**

- 1 Last Christmas
- 2 Reindeer
- 3 Walking in a Winter Wonderland
- 4 Little Donkey
- 5 Wrapping Paper
- 6 Kissing under the mistletoe
- 7 O Holy Night
- 8 Wish upon a star
- 9 Rocking around the Christmas tree
- 10 Snowman
- 11 Festive Season
- 12 3 Wise Men

**Christmas Cryptogram**

Quotation  
 Unless we make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won't make it 'white.' Bing Crosby

We hope you enjoyed these. How many did you get right?

**Spring Council returns to Torquay.**



Come and hear Floella Benjamin talk to DFWI. Learn about our Strategic Plan. Be inspired by new WIs. Meet friends. 26 April 2023 Book through your WI.

Dear Members,  
 I have been searching for a book for several years now and as it is not published any more I wondered if by any chance a member had it in their bookcase? It is called The Young Market Gardener, by Ethelind Fearon published by Lutterworth in 1953. My husband read it when he was a young lad and would dearly love to see it again.



My email is [r.cleveland187@gmail.com](mailto:r.cleveland187@gmail.com).

from Margaret Cleveland  
 President of Exbourne, Sampford Courtenay & Jacobstowe WI.

Following their success as runners-up in the rewilding competition in 2020 Erme WI have continued with their project. On the coldest day so far in December, with the temperature at zero, Erme WI members planted over 100 willow whips at the local park which will form a woven hedge around a new orchard.



During the summer members took willow cuttings and rooted them ready for the planting day.



**Bradninch WI** decorated their Thatched bus shelter this Christmas with a Santa Claus theme. It was complete with Santa sat on a chair with elves and presents. They have been told it is their best ever. It certainly makes a good photo opportunity for locals and visitors alike.

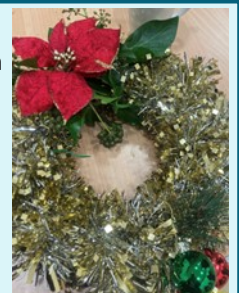
Bradninch WI's bus shelter appeared on the Federation website when it was launched - the display changes with the seasons. It is a great advertisement and must be a real talking point.

**South Molton Sisters WI** are a new WI but they are finding their feet and increasing membership month by month.

In November they had a wreath making workshop led by one of their members and also a button Christmas tree making session.

The button trees were made as they were invited to take part in the Christmas tree festival held by

the parish church in South Molton every year. The tree was also decorated with WI baubles. The tree was much admired by visitors to the festival





## News from WIs

The ladies of **Sidmouth WI** produced a bright display for their Winter Fayre in November 2022. The weather was wet but the hall was busy with a great atmosphere. Over £1000.00 was raised of which a donation was made to the charity 'Balloons' which supports local bereaved children and their families.



In November one of the ladies local to **Hartland WI** showed them "felting". The WI thought it was great fun and the results weren't bad. There was a few pricked fingers but overall it was very much enjoyed. Below are a couple of photos showing the busy ladies and the end results.



The ladies of **Bideford W.I** spent 2 very enjoyable Mondays at craft, making these lovely Xmas trees from milk bottle tops, packed with wadding & covered with material.



**Exbourne, Sampford Courtenay & Jacobstowe WI** were invited to perform at Exbourne's Christmas Concert, held in the Village Hall on 2nd December. It was an evening of talented performances and lots of fun, finishing up with Community Carol Singing. The WI's production was *Widecombe Fair* which was produced by one of our members, Maggie Brady, and was assisted on the piano by another member Margaret Weeks.

Bill Brewer, Jan Stewer, Peter Gurney, Peter Davy, Dan'l Whiddon, Harry Hawk and Uncle Tom Copley and all!



**Georgeham & Croyde WI** are proud that the ladies from their sewing group finally finished their banner for the DFWI 2020 celebration. As you can see on the **front cover** it has scenes from both the villages with Lundy Island in the distance. A picture of true Devon life!

"Fun, Friendship and Food" were all in evidence as **Kingsbridge WI** celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday in December. The Hall was festive with floral table decorations made by Jackie Case, who first joined as a teenager in the 60's. A most enjoyable

**Appledore WI** members started their 2023 meeting with a history of Belly Dancing and learning some moves, a fascinating afternoon.



2-course meal was prepared and served by the Committee. It was followed by an exciting game which provided everyone with a number of wrapped goodies to take home in their Commemorative Shopping bag.





**New community bench honours late Queen and a poignant historic moment for village**

A new bench has been installed in the village of Landkey to celebrate our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and replaces a bench that was originally purchased in 1971 for community use by the **Landkey Women's Institute**. As the new bench, funded by Landkey Parish Council, was installed it seemed history was repeating itself as a photo emerged from 1971 of the presentation of the bench. In the photo Landkey Parish Councillor, Dick Joy can be seen admiring the new bench, together with members from the Landkey Women's Institute including current member, Joyce Adams. Joyce, now 97 years old, along with other Landkey WI members joined Chair of Landkey Parish Council, Richard Halliday at the presentation of the new bench. Richard said, "It is great to be joined by members of the Landkey WI today as we present the new bench to the community. After 51 years the bench had significant wear and tear and was not fit for purpose. We are delighted to fund and present this new bench to the community on behalf of the Landkey WI to help mark our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee."

Secretary of the Landkey WI, Hazel Price, added, "We would like to thank Landkey Parish Council for replacing the bench and honouring the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year for our village. It's fantastic that Joyce was part of the first presentation back in 1971 and now again, 51 years later, is part of another piece of village history.

Photos:

The black and white photo from 1971 shows the then new bench being admired by Dick Joy, a Landkey Parish Councillor, along with members of the Landkey WI.

The colour photo, 51 years later, shows the replacement bench funded by Landkey Parish Council to celebrate our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee with current members of the W.I.

They are, from left to right:

Val Searle, Jenny Plater, Cynthia Shaddick, Margaret Perryman, Joyce Adams (seated), Hazel Price and Richard Halliday, Chair of the Parish Council. Joyce Adams, aged 97, can also be found in the 1971 photo.



**Colebrooke WI** are proud to have completed the DFWI E&RA Centenary Challenge, albeit two years late due to the COVID-19 Pandemic lockdowns and restrictions. They have planted a holly tree in the Amenity Area at Colebrooke on 12/11/2022 where residents and visitors will be able to enjoy the tree.

Members also decided the tree will be in memory of Agnes Burrow who passed away in April 2022, and was a founder member of their WI when it was formed in 1968. The tree will also be in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth II.

Below are 2 photographs of the tree planting.

The Group photo is of Colebrooke WI members and Agnes' daughter, Jenni Pitts (3rd from the right). The other photo is of Valerie Pennington (President), Andrea Armstrong (Secretary) and Janice Palmer (Treasurer) planting the tree.



In 2022 **Musbury and Whitford WI** celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a lunch.

They also received congratulations from Anne Jones at NFWI.



A member of **Uplowman WI** enjoyed the Birdwatching trip arranged by the E&RA committee. Lots of avocets were spotted on the River Exe.



**Sidmouth WI** took to the stage to celebrate their 10th Birthday in November 2022, with a murder mystery play set at a WI meeting in 1955.

The play had been specially written for the members to perform, some of the cast had never been on the stage before.

To add to the mystery the 'entertainment' was not known to any of the members or the guests from other WI's and was a complete surprise to them.

There was plenty of food and refreshments which of course included a Birthday cake cut by their second president Kathleen Berry (was she using the murder weapon!) It was a very memorable evening and will long be remembered.





Dates for your diary		
Activity	Date	Closing date (if relevant)
Beauty and Pampering Days at Exeter College  * Please note corrected date	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	Closed
Meet the Board at Barnstaple	2 February 2023	Closed
Whist Day	18 March 2023	27 January 2023
Tavistock Walk	29 March 2023	TBC
St George's Day Trophy (photographs)	Awarded at Spring Council	24 February 2023
Radio Devon Cup (writing)	Awarded at Spring Council	24 February 2023
Molly Nosworthy Trophy	Awarded at Spring Council	
Chairman's Rose Bowl	Awarded at Spring Council	
DFWI Spring Council Meeting at Torquay RICC	26 April 2023	31 March 2023
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 .

**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.

Passengers alighting at the bus stop in the centre of Whitchurch were greeted with a stunning sight over the Remembrance weekend – a cascade of 600 poppies across a bench knitted by the members of **Whitchurch WI** and their friends and family.

The poppy tribute to the fallen of all wars was the brainchild of outgoing WI branch president Marion Cauldwell, as she came to the end of five years in the role and members got together at their craft group and at home to complete the poppies in time for Remembrance.

The poppies were put in place over the bench, which belongs to the WI, on the Wednesday and left in place until Monday for people to enjoy the many shades of red. Pictured with their handiwork on Armistice Day are, left to right, Chris Grummitt, president Margaret Hamer, secretary Kay Harrison and Marion Caudwell.



In December **Cofton W.I** held their annual Christmas Lunch at the Mount Pleasant Inn Dawlish Warren. The food and the company were so enjoyable. What made the afternoon complete was Paul and Sheila coming for tea and mince pies. Sheila is one of their members and is a frail dementia sufferer. Paul her husband is her sole carer, and it was such a pleasure to see him smiling.

As you will see in the attached photo, Sheila has Teddy her constant source of comfort. His red scarf was knitted for him by member Eileen and was his Christmas present. Cofton WI have worked hard to include Sheila and welcome Paul to their meetings. Paul asked that this photo be submitted.



**Ipplepen WI** held a fair and coffee morning to which they invited members of the DFWI Board of Trustees. The fair had many stalls including some with bags made by the WI as part of the war on plastic.



At their Christmas coffee morning **Sidford WI** entertained members and their guests with Christmas Carols and songs, sung by their choir and coffee and mince pies were enjoyed by all. They were joined by Nicola Clark of the Children's Bereavement Charity Balloons and WI ladies had knitted a selection of soft toys which will be given to the children. They have supported the charity for some time and members enjoy spending time together knitting the toys.

