



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

Cover photo

Maggie McLeod from
Christow WI

See page 5

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Please send items to
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*The opinions expressed in Devon WI
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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT



Dear Members,

I have just returned from walking my dog and I think I have experienced all 4 seasons in an hour!

We have been enjoying lovely dry weather but the fluctuation in temperatures means I can't put the winter woolies away yet. I can hear my Scottish father in law saying 'Ne'r cast a clout.....'!

As we reach the end of May most of you will have held your Annual Meetings. With my Adviser hat on I have been to quite a few and it's been lovely to meet some of our new members as well as the loyal ones who have supported and kept in touch over the past 2 years. My congratulations to all the new Presidents and Officers and also to those new to the Committees, I hope you will find it a rewarding experience especially with the support and cooperation of you all – the members.

Remember you are not alone. There is always help available from My WI website, The Firs and also the Advisers. The Membership Matters spot on the next pages always has good advice and there you can find the Adviser contact details if you need to get in touch.

I expect many of you will have been busy in your gardens and appreciated the rain we had this week. I'm sure the weeds grow quicker than the plants! I listened to a talk on Re Wilding last evening. When asked what re wilding meant to us, one of the answers was 'more weeds and mud!' It was most interesting, but I have to say, while I appreciated what was trying to be achieved, it does not match the gardeners' idea of a tidy garden!

Anyway, I know there are lots of Jubilee Celebrations planned, I hope the day stays fine and that everyone has a wonderful time.

Best wishes

Evelyn Watson
Devon FWI Chairman

PS. If anyone has any good suggestions for a usefulness for bindweed, I need to know!

I wonder if you can make gin from it?!

300+ Club winners

May	
Number	A Member of:
90	Frithelstock WI
62	Erme, Ivybridge WI
433	Roundswell WI
24	Lewtrenchard WI
35	West Down WI

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.

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

Treasurer's tasks and tips

Please remember that you have to keep financial records for 6 years, which includes all paperwork—invoices and receipts, bank statements, cheque stubs, financial statements etc. This is part of being a charity Trustee. If in doubt, ask your Adviser or Independent Financial examiner. If your WI suspends (closes) you have to pass all of this information to the Federation after paying all outstanding bills.

Gift Aid

In a previous issue I asked for Gift Aid information from those WIs who claim it. I now have clarification from NFWI:
On our end we need the same information that the federation needs – i.e. copies of the gift aid forms themselves. A copy of the return is helpful but not entirely necessary – the forms are the most important part. These can be electronic copies.
Please be assured you are not in breach of Data Protection by providing these. Could you copy them and email these to Federation Treasurer or by post to The Firs. Thank you.

Membership Matters.....

The Advisers are enjoying being able to come out and visit your WIs again, we have all been rather busy with Annual Meetings and thank all the WIs for their welcome to us and hospitality.

Unfortunately, there have been a number of WI Suspensions recently, it has therefore been a joy to see the opening of two new WIs in Devon.

The Advisers will be addressing the changes to groups due to Suspensions shortly and you will be informed of any changes that are required. We want to reassure you all that we are updating our teaching packs and will be offering training for Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers over the forthcoming year. The training will be advertised in DFWI News and on the DFWI website. We look forward to welcoming you to these sessions, which will assist you in performing your roles effectively and give you the opportunity to discuss issues you encounter with other officers delivering the same role.

A new WI for Sidmouth!

On the 14th April a new WI celebrated its Formation Meeting in Sidmouth. It is based at Primley United Reformed Church Hall and meets on the second Thursday of the month in the afternoon. The WI already has 65 members and has started a waiting list.

This complements the existing evening WI in Sidmouth. In the photograph Carla Scott, President and Pauline Pepper, Secretary are cutting the cake to celebrate the opening of the WI, which was shared between the members with afternoon tea.

The lovely, embroidered tablecloth originally belonged to the Core Hill WI in Sidmouth which sadly suspended several years ago and was retrieved from the WI archives and donated to the new WI by some of the ladies who had belonged to Core Hill WI.



And a new WI for Teignmouth!

Teignmouth Gems WI celebrated its Formation Meeting on 27th April. The WI will be meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10.30 am at Richard Newton Hall, Higher Buckeridge Road, Teignmouth.

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.

Logging into My WI

There have been several queries recently regarding problems logging into NFWI's member-only website, **My WI**.

Brand new members to the WI (any WI not just yours), will have been entered onto the national database from the information written on their WI Member Registration Form. The vital piece of information on the form for logging into My WI is the member's email address. Errors and typos can and do occur: the handwriting may not be clear for the MCS Rep to read or indeed she may make a typing error herself. It happens - we're all fallible.

If a member reports problems logging into My WI, then the first thing to do is check that her email address is 100% accurate in her MCS record. In any case, once her record has been created on the MCS, NFWI will send an automated email to the address first entered on the MCS, correct or not, explaining how to log into My WI. If she does not receive this email she should check her spam/junk/trash box. The next thing is to check with her WI MCS Rep that her email address has been correctly entered onto the database. If it hasn't, and the email address is corrected, NFWI will not send another automated email. In this case, the member should go to <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk> and watch the YouTube tutorial video which explains all about 'How to log in to My WI'. (Please note that NFWI does not issue passwords; we are each told what to do to create our own password.)

The NFWI is there to help us – please let them.

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

Apologies

Many of you did not receive your Devon News mailing as expected last month – this was due to an error in communication and we can only try and ensure that we do not repeat mistakes. Please phone and ask for them to be sent to you. Apologies too to Margaret Siddall who won the Radio Devon Cup. Her entry was published in last month's Devon News but should not have had capital letters at the beginning of every line and there were other errors in punctuation.

Committee Roundup

INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD (ACWW)

ACWW are introducing changes to their organisation and fundraising arrangements. Any donations will go into a single 'Women for Action' funds and Pennies for Friendship scheme will be disbanded. The links with the WI will be loosened to widen their ability to get funds from other organisations.

The guidance from NFWI (March 2022) is

There is a long association and strong relationship between Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) and the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI), although they remain two separate and independent charities with separate governance, missions, and separate charitable objects.

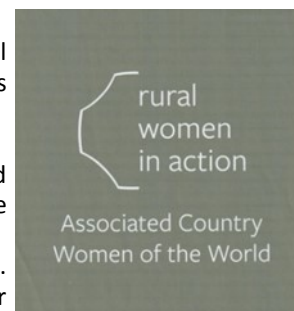
The NFWI actively encourages WIs to explore the work of ACWW and get involved if they want to.

However, as with any fundraising, campaigning activity or support to an external organisation, this is for members to decide based on what is important to them and where they want their WI to focus. Though the NFWI maintain a national relationship with ACWW, support at federation and WI level is not mandatory.

DFWI would be interested in your views about future involvement with ACWW. If you have any comments please send them to I & PA. Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS NEWS

It is time to start thinking about 2023 Resolutions! If you would like to work up a Resolution Submission and need some help - do get in touch.



COMBINED ARTS COMMITTEE

The Sketching day 7th April at Longdown was a great success. Hopefully we will be able to run a day with another Tutor next year.

By the time you read this 30 members will have enjoyed Les Miserables at Plymouth Theatre Royal on May 26th. We hope they all enjoyed it.

We are planning an Elizabethan day in November. "The two Elizabeths" We are looking for a suitable church in the north. This will be a fashion show with authentic costumes, recipes for members to bring for their packed lunches and much, much more.

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

Please make a note in your diary
The Carol Service date has changed this year to **Monday 5th December**. Only four months till Carol practise !



SPORT and LEISURE COMMITTEE

We are pleased to see the popularity of our Outdoor based events—all our walks have been oversubscribed and we are planning more this year and looking ahead to 2023. Our Archery event was oversubscribed and we are juggling things to create a 3rd session—we hope that the Archery and Axe throwing are a great success.

Sadly the same is not true for other events and we are not sure if it is because of the uncertainty around Covid or due to rising cost of living.

We have to announce that the Race Day in June and the trip to Blists Hill Victorian Village in September have had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers. If there is interest in Blists Hill we will try and arrange this in 2023 but it was offered at a very competitive price and we cannot promise that it will be the same cost next year.

Please look out for details on our committee's future events. We have plans for a walk in Topsham next April, and are investigating an event in Tiverton which could include a walk and canal trip. We are exploring a trip to Highclere Castle for 2023 and may rebook Blists Hill too.

Croquet Days in Barnstaple



Coming soon on 25th August and 8th September are our Croquet days.

Details and booking forms are with your WI secretary



Guided Walks in Tavistock are planned for 21st September and details will be with your secretary in June. The cost will be £6 per person.

Skittles

The winter Skittles competition 2022-3 information is with your WI secretary. Your team may have to travel further afield to meet their opponents as we have fewer WIs competing than in the past.



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. Book by 30 June 2022



FOOD, CRAFT AND SKILLS SUBCOMMITTEE

The cover photo was the winner in our competition for a card to send to the Queen on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee. The standard of entries was amazing and the decision was a tough one. The Board of Trustees found the choice very hard. The entries included a wide variety of media from watercolour to stitching and decoupage. All entries can be seen on DFWI website. Thanks to all of you.

Last month we featured the programme for **Tiverton FCS** area and this month we have **East Devon** Area.

Meetings held at Baptist Church, Kilmington EX13 7RF 10.30-3.30 unless stated. Contact Jan Probert to book or for more details janetmprobert@gmail.com		
July 4 th	A Patchwork Wall hanging	Grace Essex
August 1 st	Catch up day and Bring and Buy sale	
September 5 th	Make a crochet article	Heather Nicholls
October 3 rd	Indian Breads	Mina Fountain of Khushi Kitchens
	Mainly practical day, numbers limited to 10 but observers welcome	
November 7 th	Icing your Christmas Cake	Terie Monks
December 5 th	Crafts for Christmas	Various
January 9 th 2023	A Patchwork Project	Lesley McGowan Lock
February 6 th 2023	TBA	
March 6 th 2023	am - Silk Painting 2 pm- Annual meeting	
April 3 rd 2023	Edible Easter Animals	Terie Monks
May 8 th 2023	Decorating Fabrics	Lesley McGowan Lock
June 5 th 2023	Summer Picnic Food	

Remember there are also 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 See page 2

ENVIRONMENT and RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

In last month's edition we announced the winners and entrants in our Centenary Challenge and we are delighted to be able to say that all four WIs will receive a small cash prize to use to further their efforts or to provide something for their WI. Jackie Bufton the E&RA chair will be in touch to arrange a visit to each WI. Other members of the committee hope to see the projects at a later date.

World Environment Day is on June 5th every year and this year the focus is on "Beat Plastic Pollution" - it ties in with the NFWI Campaign on Plastics.

There are several themes for the week of 6th to 12th June which are related to this committee's role — Garden Wildlife Week, National Bike Week and Growing for Wellbeing Week. If you, or your WI, do anything which links with these themes please let us know.

It would also be wonderful to have your thoughts on ideas for our website for Plastic Free July or any special events in the months ahead.

News from Devon Federation of WIs

Devon News dates



In last month's Devon news we wrote that the July issue would be sent on the 5th Thursday in June. However the eagle

eyed among you will see that this issue is June and July—the next issue will be sent at the end of July to cover August and September. The change in dates is due to the Editor's holiday and no volunteers to fill the gap.



Our Devon website

<https://www.devonwi.org.uk/> Our website has been running since last year and it was hoped to make the members section live after our Virtual Spring council meeting. Many of you have requested login details which is encouraging. We have some content loaded including policies, NFWI information and relevant forms but there is a glitch in logging in which our website designers are investigating. As soon as this is sorted we will send you the login details. Please bear with us. We welcome your feedback and ideas of other things to include.

Spring Council meeting

We held our second (and hopefully last) Virtual Spring Council meeting on 27th April and it was an enjoyable morning despite a low turnout. Feedback from those who did log in has been positive. Tom Heap made us aware of a range of environmental projects and Helena Costiff had us in stitches with her matter of fact approach to pelvic floor problems and solutions complete with visual aids. Exciting news is that we have booked the RICC in Torquay for a face to face meeting in April 2023. Speakers to be found!

Sparkwell WI and friends and family spent a lovely afternoon visiting The Garden House at Buckland Monachorum for the Snowdrop Festival. They did a tour of the garden, then had afternoon tea and a very interesting and informative talk on the different varieties of snowdrop and the history of how the garden was started. They all enjoyed the day. The Snowdrop Festival is so called because the garden is full of many different varieties of snowdrop. There are well over a thousand, although not all of them are grown in this garden. There are many rare varieties, and they are very expensive to buy. There were some on sale, one in particular was a single bulb priced at £75. Several people in the UK have collections worth thousands of pounds. They had never realized just how many varieties there were.



These are a selection of photos of the day. On the right is a banner showing different snowdrops and above is a cropped section to show you the difference in some varieties.

Kenton and Powderham WI featured on the front cover of Devon News last month as winners of the E&RA Centenary Challenge.



As part of the DFWI Centenary Challenge, members of Kenton and Powderham WI planted hundreds of tete-a-tete daffodils along the verge on the main road through Kenton.

They put on a spectacular show throughout February and March for everyone in the village and those driving past to enjoy.

Money for the bulbs and also the planting of a lavender garden was raised by sales of their WI booklet of "100 Handy Hints to Help the Environment", which they produced in 2020.

theWI
KENTON AND POWDERHAM WI
100 HANDY HINTS
TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT



£2



Wellswood WI (Torquay) have marked the Queens Platinum Jubilee by crowning the Wellswood Village Post box.

Pictured left are Geeta Lloyd (President) and the Designer Maureen Freer.



This photo shows a few members of the 'Handi HEWI Group' who have recently got together to make a couple of knitted and crocheted blankets which are to be donated to the local old people's home in Honiton. The Group of 16 ladies are part of **Honiton Evening WI**, who meet once a month in a member's home to have fun and swap ideas. Everyone is free to choose what they would like to work on but in September 2021 the group decided to join forces and make these blankets.



Bratton Clovelly WI are pleased with the success of their project for the Platinum Jubilee. The choice of Rowan, Wild Cherry and Crab Apple, 2 year old saplings, were purchased along with guards and support canes. More than 70 have been planted around the parish of Bratton Clovelly, in private gardens, at the local primary school, the four entry roads to the village and at the Parish Paying Field. At least one tree for each year of the Queen's reign, with some over for future years and as replacements. All are thriving at present. Further celebrations are planned for June for the Platinum Jubilee.



Shaldon and Ringmore WI had a fabulous time Ten Pin bowling in Torquay. Thanks to the use of a frame even those who had some difficulties could join in. The picture on the left shows Chris Butcher who had just celebrated her 90th birthday.

They are already looking forward to the next session.



South Milton WI were pleased to invite Andy and Amanda from Lloyd Maunder Butcher to their WI meeting on 21st April. They demonstrated how to make special meatballs in puff pastry and then WI members were invited to have a go. Various delicious cheeses and sausages were also passed around for tasting. The finished products were included in the raffle at the end of the evening.



This photo is of 'a clutch of cute corgis' knitted by Sheila Pillar, one of the members of Wembury Bay WI



Instow and Yelland WI and Bideford Quays WI join together for craft club....In April they made gift bags.

Post Meridian WI had a stall at the Ram Fair in Kingsteignton. Their stalls were bursting with all manner of preserves, cakes, craft items, lucky dip jars and more. All goods were provided by their members and even the poor weather did not dampen the day.



Dates for your diary		
Activity	Date	Closing date (if relevant)
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
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
Birdwatching Cruise	23 November 2022	TBC
John Lewis event—Exeter	3 November 2022	TBC
Christmas market trip to Cardiff	Tuesday 29th November 2022	TBC
DFWI Carol concert	Monday 5th December 2022	TBC
Topsham Guided Walk	19th or 26th April 2023	TBC
DFWI Spring Council Meeting at Torquay RICC	19th or 26th April 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, 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.



Halwill WI and **Elburton WI** are pictured with the shield and cup as winners and runners up of the 2021-2 Skittles competition.

A few reminders about being a WI member, or a Committee member_:

The committee make recommendations but the members should all make decisions.

Everyone in the WI has the chance to vote for the President—this is at your Annual meeting.

If you want a printed copy of Devon News rather than just the email version you can ask your WI to order some (it works out cheaper than printing at home or getting your WI to print it, especially when you factor in time). If your WI cannot afford to pay for it members can pay their WI the 25p per copy.

All committee members are responsible for the WI funds—so check out the Treasurer's tips each month.

Your WI should be told about all of the Federation events (shown in the diary /dates list) each month. If your WI doesn't have the information please let the office know.

Finally for now

If you want a WI diary you can order these through your WI—but make sure you do this before the closing date of 8th July.

Please let your Secretary know if you are interested in going to the Cardiff Christmas market as soon as you can.