



Cover photo

Autumn at Killerton

Sue Bury Woodbury WI

See page 3

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**Federation Office**

The Firs, Honiton Road  
Blackhorse, Exeter, EX5 2FT  
Tel: 01392 255386

Email: enquiries@devonwi.org.uk  
Web: www.devonwi.org.uk  
Facebook: facebook.com/DevonWI

**Office Hours**

9am - 3.30pm Tuesday to Thursday  
9am - 1pm Friday

**Registered Charity 1191427**

**Federation Chairman**

Evelyn Watson  
federation.chairman@devonwi.org.uk

**Federation Treasurer**

Marie Rhodes  
federation.treasurer@devonwi.org.uk

**Federation Secretary**

Alison Taylor  
federation.secretary@devonwi.org.uk

**Bookkeeper**

bookkeeper@devonwi.org.uk

**Publisher**

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**news@devonwi.org.uk**  
*The opinions expressed in Devon WI  
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**National Federation of Women's  
Institutes**

104 New Kings Road, London, SW6 4LY  
Tel: 0207 371 9300  
Email: hq@nfwl.org.uk  
Web: thewi.org.uk



Twinned with Powys-  
Brecknock Federation of  
Women's Institutes

**Subcommittee contact details:**

Combined Arts  
p.wyatt@devonwi.org.uk

Environment and Rural Affairs  
jackie.buften@devonwi.org.uk

Food, Craft and Skills  
sally.wilson@devonwi.org.uk

Membership Support  
wiadvisers@devonwi.org.uk

Sport and Leisure  
rita.nebbett@devonwi.org.uk

International and Public Affairs  
sue.mitchell@devonwi.org.uk

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT**



Dear Members,

The decision to cancel the Autumn Event which was to have been held in Bideford was not taken lightly. The Board of Trustees are acutely aware that members in the North of the County feel overlooked and that not enough events are held there, so it was with heavy hearts and for so many reasons it was a necessary decision. We look forward in the not too distant future to hold smaller gatherings in the area, so watch out for the information.

I'm sure many members voiced their feelings, I received several e mails on the subject! It's always easy to stand back and criticise without knowing the full facts and perhaps these members think that they could do better!

Well ladies, now is your chance! It is election time for the Board of Trustees! The necessary information and paperwork is with your Secretaries now. We invite anyone, who feels that they can make a difference and help Devon Federation move forward successfully, to apply, or perhaps nominate someone you know in your WI, you can even nominate yourself!!

Seriously, one or two members of The Board are standing down after many years and if we are going to deliver what members are looking for from the Federation we need to recruit some new faces with fresh ideas.

It no longer makes a difference where you live in the County, as many of our meetings are held on Zoom, thus taking away the need for constant trips to The Firs. Training is given and there are many opportunities for advancement in other areas of the organisation.

Please give it some serious thought.

I have to say I am at present away on holiday. My husband and I return every year about this time to a small barrier island on the Gulf Coast of Florida. We left London on one of the first flights out to Orlando after Hurricane Ian, not knowing what we would find or if we would ever reach our destination! After sleeping in 4 different beds in 7 nights, an emergency evacuation from one of the hotels in the middle of the night and a puncture, we finally made it to our rented house! We have had a few issues with power and internet but in the main, as at home, all the community and neighbours have pulled together to restore some sort of normality, and luckily here there is little damage to property, mainly trees. They don't have WI here – perhaps I'm missing an opportunity!

There are lots of events coming up in the next few weeks, John Lewis, Cardiff Shopping trip, Carol Service at Exeter Cathedral. Hopefully I will see lots of you then.

Best wishes

*Evelyn*

**Evelyn Watson**  
Devon FWI Chairman

**300+ Club winners**

October	
138	Whitchurch St Andrews WI
282	Feniton & Buckerell WI
157	Meddon & Welcombe WI
90	Langtree WI
303	Shebbear WI

The 300+ Club is a monthly lottery for anyone who has bought a £5 share for the year. The winners receive £15 each and on occasion there are extra draws.

**Treasurer's tasks and tips**

**Fundraising Guidelines**

NFWI have produced some new Fundraising Guidance as part of their review of all procedures in WI land. There are some changes which reflect the flexibility requested by WIs. NFWI have worked with a legal team to make a check of what is permissible under Charity Commission rules.

The revised policy opens opportunities for members to make their own decisions about the charities they support, in line with the organisation's charitable objects, including support for **national and international charities**.

It is hoped that this change will be welcomed by our WIs and help enhance the good we can all do across the organisation, supporting national and international causes. Please note that any charities supported by WIs, whether local, national or international, **must still fit with the WI's charitable objects**. This does mean that support for animal charities for instance is still not permissible.

The new guidance is available on MyWI and in the members login section on the DFWI website..

If you are struggling as a Treasurer please ask for help as soon as you can. We are here to help!

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

### Training for Presidents and Secretaries

Presidents and Secretaries training has commenced across the county and will continue over the next few months. Details will be posted on the website ([devonwi.org.uk](http://devonwi.org.uk)) and flyers will be sent out to WIs as new dates are arranged.

### **Thank you for your combined 44 years' service to WI members.....**

Sadly, at the end of November Cynthia Somerfield and Sylvia West, Advisers will be stepping down from their roles, both are extremely well known and respected in the Devon Federation.



**Cynthia** has helped WIs as an Adviser for the last 35 years across Devon during which time she was involved with the formation of 32 WIs. She also served on the Federation Board for six years, two of those as Assistant County Treasurer.

Cynthia was the first Combined Arts Chairman and served on that committee for 12 years, arranging fourteen European WI holidays specialising in Art and Music.

She is our go to person as Advisers when we need pearls of wisdom over difficult issues and procedures and is indeed the font of knowledge on all things relating to WI. She served as Membership Support Chairman for four years. Cynthia has trained up new Advisers and actively participated in her own WIs, of Cofton, and Kenton and Powderham.

She also arranged the very first WI Carol Service in Exeter Cathedral 30 years ago and has taken part as Choir leader and singer ever since. She has helped at many Federation and National WI events, including the NFWI Music Committee and National WI Choir Competition. In fact, there is little that Cynthia has not done over the years. We will miss her terribly but wish her well in her retirement.

Cynthia says:- I couldn't have done this without the help of my husband and the support and friendship of WI members throughout the county, my heartfelt thanks to you all. I am so glad I moved to this wonderful county. It really has been "Devon, Glorious Devon".

For the time being the WIs that were looked after by Cynthia will be served by Maureen Hunter. You can contact her by email. [m.hunter@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:m.hunter@devonwi.org.uk)



**Sylvia**, has been an Adviser for the last 9 years in the North of Devon. She has served in the position of MSC Vice Chair and Training Officer. Her infectious smile and desire to help and promote WIs will I know have been witnessed by so many of you in the north of the county. Sylvia is stepping down as an Adviser to pursue new ventures. We will miss her and send her our best wishes for the future.

The WIs that were looked after by Sylvia will be served by Jane Jury. You can contact her by email [jane.jury@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:jane.jury@devonwi.org.uk)

### **Groups.....**

Due to the closure of many WIs, some groups have become rather depleted in numbers. The Advisers are looking at groups and offering alternative options to amalgamate other WIs to make the group bigger and the experience more fulfilling for all those concerned. If you are approached by your Adviser, you do have the option to decline their suggestion if you wish, no one is forcing changes on to you.

### **START OF MY JOURNEY AS A WI ADVISER by Liz Roberts**

I joined the WI six years ago and for four of those years I served on the committee as the president of Newton Abbot WI. Time to "turn the reins" onto someone else. I stepped down this year and with encouragement from Maureen Hunter and others I applied to join the team of WI Advisers.

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October I started my journey to become an Adviser. I attended the introductory webinar and met our trainers and fellow "students".

Wow! Lots of information 'thrown at us' and I felt a little overwhelmed but ready to commit to this new venture. So, watch this space for updates of my journey.

### **Completion of my WI Adviser training by Jane Jury**

The Class of 2021 seems so long ago now, but it was an excellent training course with professional and thoroughly committed tutors. It was different for the tutors as well as due to the pandemic the course was totally online, with no residential visits. We all weathered the new digital era and took on board a comprehensive package of learning to help and give advice to our WIs. I gained a clear and precise knowledge of all matters in the constitution and I am now able to meet and greet members, give advice on procedure for officers and committees, and help all my Devon WIs fulfil the remit of educating and helping women whilst having fun and companionship.

I made some lovely friends in training and we will be meeting each year at the National Annual Meeting, and can say without a doubt, the WI Adviser training was well worth every minute spent to be able to fulfil this very much needed service for the members.

The **front cover photo** is from Devon Federation's 2023 calendar—available soon from The Firs at £7 per copy. If you haven't ordered one yet make contact to see if we have any left in stock. There isn't room for all photos in this edition. However the one on the right from Gill Nicks of BOW WI was an easy pick for the Trustees.

All photos in the calendar are by WI members. Thanks to everyone who contributed. We are sorry that not all photos make it into the calendar.

Next year's theme is "Made in Devon". Please send in your photos.



## Committee Roundup

### INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

#### RESOLUTIONS NEWS

NFWI is in Stage 3 of the Resolutions' cycle from November to February 2023. The proposed resolutions have been debated and shortlisted. They will be announced shortly and then Federations and WIs will be able to discuss the options in preparation for the vote to decide the topic for the 2022/23 campaign.

#### CAMPAIGN NEWS

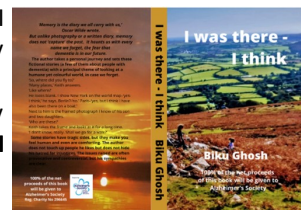
'**Women and Girls with ASD & ADHD - under-identified, under-diagnosed, misdiagnosed, under-supported**' is the latest Campaign. A **Campaign Toolkit** is available from NFWI Public Affairs Department if you require more information.

The WI is also supporting the **Warm This Winter** campaign and lobbying the government for more financial support on energy bills for the most vulnerable, including an increase in home insulation and development of green energy. There is more information in the WI magazine WI Life ( P24 October 2022).

#### HEALTH

There is great concern from all our members about the **Cost of Living Crisis**. NFWI has set up My WI **Cost of Living Hub** at MyWI which lists useful advice and resources to share with others. Your WI may also wish to consider if there is anything locally that you could do to help.

Dementia and Alzheimer's is a worrying subject for many people so we are pleased to bring a book by Biku Ghosh to your attention. Dr Ghosh, our inspiring speaker at the ACWW lunch in May has written '**I was there - I think**'. It is available on Amazon and all proceeds go to Alzheimer's Society.



### COMBINED ARTS COMMITTEE

#### Carol Service Exeter Cathedral

We are really looking forward to the Carol Service in Exeter Cathedral on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December . The Cathedral will be open for members to change their Vouchers for the Order of Service Booklet, and to find their seats, from 1.15pm. The Service starts at 2.15pm and finishes around 3.30pm .

The Bishop of Crediton The Venerable Jackie Searle will be taking the service .

There will also be the Christmas Market on the Cathedral Green for all your shopping, weather permitting.

### SPORT and LEISURE COMMITTEE

#### Tavistock Walk

Two walks took place in Tavistock on the 21 September and once again we were blessed with beautiful weather. Paul Rendell, our guide for the day, took us on a very informative walk around this ancient town and gave an insight into its colourful history. This was one of the first three Stannary towns in Devon in medieval times and many of the people who lived in the town were employed in the copper and tin industries which were mined in the Dartmoor area.

The walk was oversubscribed and we have organised another one for the 29 March 2023 when priority will be given to the W I s who we were unable to accommodate in September.



Thanks to Jane Forrow for the photos.

### ENVIRONMENT and RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

We are busy finalising the 3rd Birdwatching Cruise and sad that some who wished to go cannot make this date, If you would like us to arrange this again in March 2023 please make contact and we will see what is possible. Hopefully some of the intrepid birdwatchers may send in photos, The most seen earlier in the year was 26 species—will this one match it?

Recycle Week 2022 took place from 17th to 23rd October. Did you or your WI join in? Should we create something special for recycle Week 2023 or for the Great Big Green Week? Please let Jackie Bufton know your thoughts - contact details on page 2.



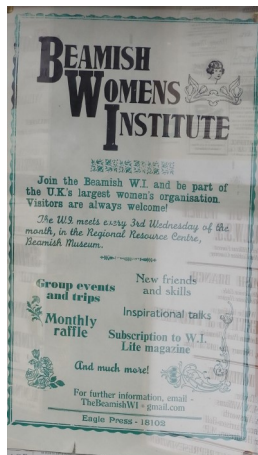
**FOOD, CRAFT AND SKILLS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Our Christmas Craft Taster day will be taking place soon. We are now getting excited about our Themed Lunches in January 2023. These are at Longdown and at Rattery. The entertainment will be provided by The Pashy Pops who may sing a variety of songs from the 1940s to the present day. The flyer is with your WI secretary. Booking closes on January 6th. You can see a little of the Pashy Pops on YouTube, The photo on the right is from the Pashy Pops when they were at Uffculme WI's 100th birthday celebrations.

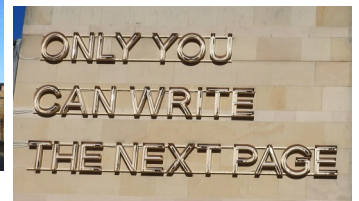


**DFWI Holiday to Northumberland.**

On Monday 10th October a coachload of Devon WI members (and some friends or husbands) set off to Northumberland for a four night stay. On route we collected a few Somerset WI members as we had spaces to fill. We had a fantastic, fun filled and friendly week and the weather was so kind to us. For some the highlight was a day at Beamish Museum where we could ride trams or old buses, reminisce in the 1950s village or explore the 1900 houses or the pit village. Most of us left saying we needed to visit again to see things we had missed. Others preferred our day at Alnwick Castle which gave us a lovely tour of the castle and an opportunity to explore the grounds too. Some of our party used the lift and were told that Queen Elizabeth II had used it when she visited Alnwick in 1912. Our final day before our return home was exploring Durham followed by retail therapy in Gateshead. The coach was fabulous, our driver was very entertaining (even if we groaned at his jokes) and the hotel was comfortable. Our breakfast buffet was a sight to see and we were provided with a substantial evening meal too. Friday came very quickly for us all to head home—with many different suggestions for next year's holiday. If you haven't thought about going before please consider it—it was a great opportunity to meet people from different WIs and to explore somewhere new.



Random photos from Beamish, Alnwick Castle and Durham cathedral and the Angel of the North.



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

Last month we set the challenge: What if every WI in Devon could make one item for the Hospice to sell? Children's Hospice South West have a free stall at Westpoint at the end of March 2023. We plan to arrange collection from The Firs by 6th March 2023 so that is the deadline. Thank you to those WIs who have registered their intent to take part in this challenge—those we have heard from are listed on the right. If you think you should be there please let me know by email [news@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:news@devonwi.org.uk) or phone The Firs. It would be incredible if all Devon WIs took part.

- 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

You can find out more about the Hospice on their website <https://www.chsw.org.uk/> You can also ask them to come and talk to your WI about their work. Talks are free but donations are welcome. Contact Henrietta Olsson by email [henrietta.olsson@chsw.org.uk](mailto:henrietta.olsson@chsw.org.uk) or phone 01271 325270



**Sparkwell WI; 85th Birthday celebration**

On 3rd August, Sparkwell WI celebrated its 85th birthday. 36 members attended, one past member, and friends from Erme, Cornwood and Plymouth City WIs.

Inaugurated on 4th August 1937, when the world was a very different place, they heard of their history from Heather Harvey, who has been a continuous member since 1950. Heather has held various roles in the branch including President. She brought to life the various decades and their challenges and achievements in a talk that was clearly much appreciated by all.

After a game, a raffle and competitions they ended the afternoon with a poem from Patsy Wilson and songs from Mike Hodge, Sparkwell Church choir master Mike led singing of 'Mud, mud' and also entertained with Victoria Wood, Flanders and Swan and Peter Skellern numbers, one which he personalised to Sparkwell WI.

The buffet tea include a delicious birthday cake, cut by Heather Harvey.



A meeting with a different type of entertainment

**Exbourne, Sampford Courtenay & Jacobstowe WI's** September meeting was held whilst still in mourning for Her Majesty. The speaker was on Water Colours of Dartmoor Landscapes and he painted a picture during the meeting.

It's great to have Combe Martin Carnival taking place again. The week of events gives locals and visitors the chance to get together and enjoy themselves. As part of the celebrations a flower festival took place in the Church of St Peter ad Vincula. Members Linda Dovell & Pam Norman created a beautiful display on behalf of **Combe Martin WI**.



**Kingsbridge WI** were thrilled when their stand at the Kingsbridge Show on 3rd September won 1st prize!

The ladies wanted to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee .... little did they know what was about to happen.

Their new President, Kathy Grills, had worked hard to make the knitted crown tea cosy and the whole display was carefully coordinated by the team.



In September **ASHBURTON WI** were hosts to Melissa Green who is the General Secretary of the WI.

This was an opportunity for Ashburton WI members to express their thoughts about the Women's Institute as a national organization. Discussions covered topics such as the basic structure of the organisation and communication channels, flexible fees, resolutions, my WI and the digi divide.

Lunch time provided an opportunity for informal conversation between Melissa and all members and for Melissa to learn about the various facets of Ashburton WI.

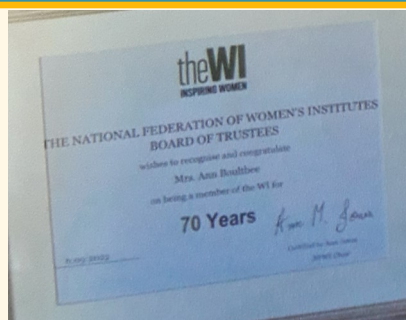
After lunch Melissa gave a short presentation about WI the past, present and future and throughout she pointed out the importance of looking to the future and making the WI an attractive organization for women of all ages and generations.

Melissa is seated second left in the front row. Also in the photo is Maureen Hunter, WI Adviser.



**Cofton WI** wanted to share this photo of Mrs. Ann Boulton, who is a member and past President of Cofton W. I.

She is holding the certificate she received from the NFWI. This was to acknowledge an amazing 70 years membership of the W.I. The certificate was presented to Ann on the occasion of her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday.



News in brief from several WIs  
**Wellwood WI** organised a coach trip to Padstow and invited local WIs to join them.

**Newton Abbot WI** presented the Maternity Ward, Torbay Hospital with 45 rainbow angel blankets and 8 tiny hats for recently bereaved parents.

**Post Meridian WI** heard about the role of the Town Crier from Les Ellis, aka Les the Fez.

Uplowman Flower Show.

**Uplowman WI** say it was another incredible Flower & Produce Show held on 17th September. It made for an impressive display of beautiful flowers, baked items, preserves, crafts, photos, fruit and vegetables and lots more with excellent children's entries.



Next year the show reverts to its normal July slot so keep an eye out for the categories in the new year.

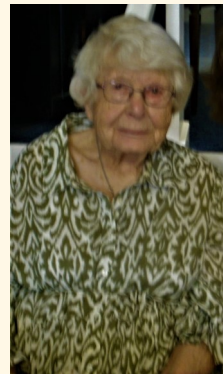
These are only a selection of the entries in the show—there were many more!



**Exbourne, Sampford Courtenay & Jacobstowe WI**

were thrilled to help celebrate Kath Neno's 100th Birthday at a WI party in Exbourne earlier this year. Kath is their longest serving member, having joined at the age of 16 in 1938. She has held all of the offices and has seen many members come and go. The members wanted to thank her very much for all her hard work over the years making sure their WI survives for them all to enjoy today. Amongst various handiwork she has excelled herself in floral art, Craft Workers Certificate in dressmaking and produced a wonderful book of knitting finishes which we proudly possess in our archives. She loves gardening and knows everything there is to know about plants. Kath is a local girl and was born on a farm in Exbourne.

Kath lives life to the full and is still incredibly independent, living alone. Her secret to reaching 100 is "eating plenty of fruit and vegetables!"



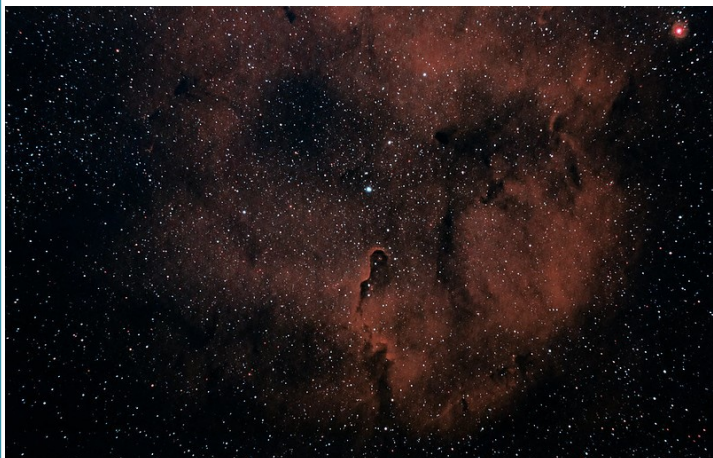
**Clayhanger WI** had an exclusive speaker at their October meeting. In keeping with Dark Skies month, they welcomed a local resident of Clayhanger, Geoff Vago, who recently took up astrophotography in lockdown. He gave a talk about his new hobby accompanied by photos which he took in his back garden using a telescope with a camera attached.

He began with a brief history which included Pickering and his 'computer'. Pickering's computer seemed to actually consist of a group of women who did the lion's share of the work, mapping photographic plates and what they could see in the night sky. The WI were surprised to find out that Clayhanger is categorised as a Bortle level 4 with official Dark Skies being a level 3 such as Exmoor. It seems that despite having no street lights, they still have some light pollution from Taunton.

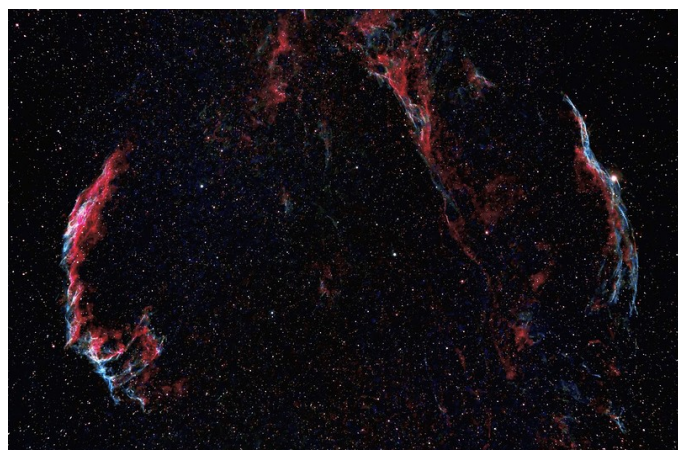
The WI were astonished that the speaker had not been following astrophotography seriously for very long as it seemed at odds with the extraordinary images he had managed to obtain from his back garden. He brought the equipment he used with him and explained how it worked and how images were then stacked to provide the detail we then saw. When talking of light years and space one really has to take a leap of faith as the figures and distance are a little mind blowing. It is probably better at this stage to let his photos do the talking!



Andromeda



Elephant Trunk Nebula. *Most ladies thought this looked like a woman emerging through the mist.*



Veil Nebula

Dates for your diary		
Activity	Date	Closing date (if relevant)
John Lewis event—Exeter	1 November 2022	Check availability
Christmas Craft Taster Day	8 November 2022	Check availability
Elizabeths of York	9 November 2022	19 October 2022
Birdwatching Cruise	23 November 2022	18 October 2022
Christmas market trip to Cardiff	Tuesday 29th November 2022	Check availability
DFWI Carol concert	Monday 5th December 2022	Check availability
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
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	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), or contact Jo at The Firs .

Please check the Events page on the Devon WI website where you can click and download application forms for events.

#### Apologies

Last month there was a link to an article that did not work. It was for guidance about ACWW. If you copy and paste this below it should take you to the article.

[https://www.thewi.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/574849/ACWW-Guidance-2022.pdf](https://www.thewi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/574849/ACWW-Guidance-2022.pdf)

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.

#### Devon Federation updates.

Your Board of Trustees is working on a 5 year Strategic Plan and welcome ideas and suggestions from any of you. Even more welcome would be some extra hands to help put plans into practice—if you think the Federation should do more, tell us, or step up to make change from within.

Please look out for a chance to meet some of the Board of Trustees in North Devon next February—this is hot off the press and just in the planning stages. More info next month.

#### NFWI Annual Meeting 2023 in Cardiff

will be a day visit for any delegates and visitors. As soon as we know the cost of visitor tickets we will let you know. Coach costs for visitors will be £25.

The Annual meeting will also be virtual so you can watch from home or with your WI.

#### Speakers List information

A volunteer team are reviewing our Speakers list practices and need to know what you want. A questionnaire is with your WI Secretary—please return it. Any suggestions or questions please contact [roz.matterface@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:roz.matterface@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.**

**Dual members:** It seems that some MCS Reps believe they do not have the authority to add a Dual member to their WI's database record. This is not the case. If the Dual member has Full membership at another WI in Devon, then she can be entered as a Dual member by the MCS Rep of the second WI. This is explained in the MCS User Guide updated Sept 2021: see Item 4 How to Add a Dual Member on pages 9-11. This user guide is available to view and/or download from the MCS (top right of the screen) and within the My WI website at <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/mcs-reps> (or by entering 'MCS user guide' in the website search box).

However, there are two scenarios where I need to be involved:

- if someone is already a member at two WIs and switches her Full and Dual memberships, as was often the case during last April's membership renewals;
- if someone retains her membership at a WI within another federation.

As always, thanks for your diligence, and please don't hesitate to get in touch with any queries: [mcsinfo@devonwi.org.uk](mailto:mcsinfo@devonwi.org.uk). I'm here to help: *Jenny Roberts, Federation MCS Administrator.*