



HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926-2022



Cover photo

HM Queen Elizabeth II
at the NFWI Centenary
Annual meeting at the
Royal Albert Hall
2015

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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,

We have lost one of our truly inspiring members – Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

We are saddened by her death but give thanks for her life, for all she has done and all she has given. We look both backwards and forwards, what a moment of history we are living through.

Despite the sunshine, with the drop in temperature Autumn has definitely arrived and the nights are getting darker earlier. Wasn't it a relief to see some rain and how amazing that the brown dry patch in front of my house is now green again, it's like a rebirth!

September is often the month when WIs really pick up after the holiday season and it's lovely to meet up again and catch up with some members we haven't seen for several weeks.

The sub committees are busy planning events for the future. All the information on what is coming is sent to your Secretary and also keep an eye on our website devonwi.org.uk. These events take time to organise so please support them, it's very disheartening if they have to be cancelled. If you have any ideas then please let us know.

Do you have a 'bucket list'? One of my wishes was to attend a large pop concert, and thanks to my youngest son it came true. As a Christmas present he took me to Wembley Stadium to see the band Coldplay! I have to say I was a little worried that I would be the oldest there! I needn't have worried! It was amazing - 90,000 people all singing along, almost like singing Jerusalem at the WI Annual Meeting! One of my other wishes is to go to The Oval to watch a Test Match, I wonder if I drop a few hints! We can always dream, I hope some of yours come true too.

Best wishes

Evelyn Watson
Devon FWI Chairman

300+ Club winners

August	
Number	A Member of:
335	Mortehoe WI
16	Broadclyst WI
170	Dawlish WI
54	Salcombe WI
276	Sidford WI

September	
Number	A Member of:
129	Cranbrook & Rockbeare WI
118	Kelly WI
292	Newton Abbot WI
49	Bideford WI
182	Sir Joshua Reynolds 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

It is the end of Quarter 2 in the WI Financial year so if you have had any new members this year and have not yet paid their affiliation fees to DFWI and NFWI now is the time to do so. All WIs are also required to pay £16 pooling of fares to NFWI for the year. Thanks to all Treasurers who have paid promptly.

If you are having difficulties paying please discuss these with your Adviser or contact me. It is also helpful to keep our Bookkeeper in the loop so that she doesn't spend extra time chasing you. Her email address is on this page.

If you cannot email please phone the office and ask them to arrange a call from one of us.



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

Training for Presidents and Secretaries

If you are new to your position as a President or Secretary on your WI committee this is an opportunity to receive training to help you in your new role. There will also be an opportunity to meet other Presidents and Secretaries. If you are experienced in your role, we would still encourage you to book a place as we will be covering recent updates. Information regarding a series of workshops starting in October is available on the DFWI website (www.devonwi.org.uk). Flyers with further details will be sent to each WI shortly.

We've done our homework!

Have you ever wondered what happens to those Annual Reports and Financial Statements that are presented for adoption by your committee at your Annual Meetings? They come to us, your Advisers, and they become our 'Homework' for August when we go through them all one by one, learning more about your events and activities during the previous year, and noting any speakers you particularly recommend, or any byelaws or change of officers. The Financial Statements give a valuable insight into your fundraising efforts, and how those funds are being spent to benefit your members. The accounts will have been examined, ideally by one of our team of Federation independent financial examiners (IFEs). This is to ensure not only that they balance, but also that all expenditure is in accordance with the requirements of the WI Constitution and the Charity Commission. At present we have a team of only 15 IFEs, but with 160 WIs throughout the county we would really like to recruit a few more to be able to offer their services to all WIs. If you think this might interest you, do please contact our IFE Coordinator Maureen Hunter (m.hunter@devonwi.org.uk) for further details of the training available.

The WI is here to inspire you.....

As Advisers we are so heartened to see WIs getting back to some sort of normal with a full programme of speakers and additional activities. Where a WI doesn't have enough for a lively subgroup they have been buddying up with a neighbouring WI. Several WIs have arranged a walk together, or a coffee/lunch together.

The WI is what you make it, your WI members should enjoy their monthly meetings with a speaker, refreshments, and social activity, try to have a variety of additional activities such as lunch clubs, book clubs, coffee and a walk and craft clubs. Liaise with neighbouring WIs to give a wider choice and consult your WI members to identify what their interests are, encourage members to suggest ideas to their committee, perhaps have a suggestion box. It is important for all members to be involved in the decisions regarding WI activities. **Is your WI all you want it to be?**

Make sure you advertise your upcoming meeting so that visitors can come from the local community, they may even join!



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.

For those of you who may remember, or have kept a copy of, the Data Protection for MCS Representatives dated 2017, please note that this is NO LONGER CURRENT. NFWI have now superseded this document with the MCS Code of Conduct V1.4 July 2022. This can be viewed and/or downloaded from the link at the bottom of the MCS home page.

On another matter, there have been queries recently about WI monthly meeting details not being accurate on the WI's national and federation websites. This very important information can be edited by each MCS Rep on her WI's 'Basic Details'. This is the first page of each WI's database record and is headed: 'WI's Details – Name of WI'. Any edits to this page should be automatically (but not immediately) effected on the national website – and don't forget that this information on the national website is replicated on Devon's website. If any edit is not reflected in these websites in a timely manner, please let me know so I can follow up the matter with NFWI.

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

Devon Federation website

DFWI website has been live since November last year—have you looked at it yet? <https://www.devonwi.org.uk/> Some of you have been asking for access to the Members Login section but were told this was not ready. Unfortunately there was a glitch that the website designers had to sort for us—but that is now fixed! If you would like access to this area which includes forms and policies please ask the office.

If you have content to include in the website, think there is something missing, would like to help keep it updated or want to feature your WI please get in touch. Contact the office or news@devonwi.org.uk



Committee Roundup

INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

CAMPAIGN NEWS

The resolution 'Women and Girls with ASD & ADHD - under-identified, under-diagnosed, misdiagnosed, under-supported' has been confirmed as the 2021/22 Campaign.

The NFWI Public Affairs Team has produced a **Campaign Toolkit** and every WI is invited to register their interest to receive the Toolkit by contacting Public Affairs Department at NFWI on 020 7371 9300 or email pa@nfwl.org.uk

Public Affairs Department are also hosting 2 webinars for WI members on Friday 21st October & Friday 11th November. Members will have the chance to find out more about ADHD and how it impacts women and girls. To register complete the form available on the News pages of MyWI or visit <http://mywi.org.uk/adhd-awareness>

RESOLUTIONS NEWS

The next round of resolutions will be shortlisted in October in preparation for the 2022/23 campaign.

Do you feel this cycle of resolutions/campaigns is realistic? IPA Subcommittee would be interested in your views.

ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD (ACWW)

Since the changes at ACWW it is now the decision of each WIs to decide if and how they wish to support this charity. In future ACWW will be seen as any other charity and therefore subject to the WI fundraising policy. There is no longer any Pennies for Friendship campaign. To find out about the link between ACWW and NFWI you can follow this link https://www.thewi.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/574849/ACWW-Guidance-2022.pdf

COMBINED ARTS COMMITTEE



Combined Arts had our first meeting with a complete committee in September.

The Elizabeths of York fashion show is at Torrington on 9th November costing £10, flyer is with Secretaries.

We are including authentic recipes with the tickets for members to try. There is a prize for the best entry.

DFWI COMBINED ARTS SUB-COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

"THE ELIZABETHS OF YORK"

WEDNESDAY 9th NOVEMBER, 2022, AT ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH IN GREAT TORRINGTON, CHURCH WALK, NORTH DEVON, EX38 8BN.

"The Elizabeths of York" is an afternoon exploring the lives of Tudor women from 1483-1603 with a tribute to Queen Elizabeth I, Born Princess Elizabeth of York. Experience a fashion show of authentic Tudor costumes, dancing, recipes and music in the ancient church.

Authentic Tudor Packed Lunch Competition.
Please bring a packed lunch, with a Tudor food item included, to enter the competition. A Tudor recipe sheet will be available with your tickets. The competition will be judged at luncheon with a prize for the best culinary effort.

Open 12.30-2.00
All guests will be served with your packed lunch.
Raffle at luncheon.
Entertainment 13.00 hours.
Carriage/home 13.30 hours.

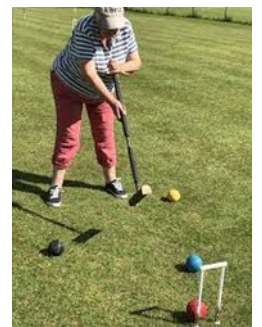
£10.00 per ticket

There is still time if you would like to sing at the Carol Service on Monday 5 December. Please contact Pat Wyatt.

SPORT and LEISURE COMMITTEE

Barnstaple Croquet Day

A very successful Croquet day took place in beautiful sunshine in August when 22 ladies, some of whom had never played Croquet before, enjoyed a full day of inter-active games which were organised by the members of the Barnstaple Croquet club who make the day interesting and competitive. An exciting final took place with two pairs vying for first place. After a very close match the winners were Debbie Scott (Bideford Quays W I) and Sue Barlow Shebbear W I) with runners up Amanda Gratton and Linda Elliot (Bideford Quays W I). The day ended with a delicious tea provided by the Croquet club. As I write this our second day has had to be postponed because of rain but we are hoping to hold that later in the month. We hope to share photos in a future edition of Devon News.



Our Tavistock Walk was oversubscribed and it wasn't possible to confirm another this year. However we will be organising this event again in Spring 2023.

There may still be availability for the John Lewis event in November. Please contact Rita to check (details on page 2). If you haven't been before you have missed a great evening. Here is a blog about a previous one. <https://www.otter-vale.co.uk/wine-chutney-waitrose-john-lewis-and-devon-federation-of-womens-institutes/>

Further to Membership Matter on page 3 North Devon Presidents and Secretaries Workshop to be held on Friday 14th October, 2022 from 10am - 1pm, at the Sea Cadet Centre in Bideford. Please contact Jane Jury on jane.jury@devonwi.org.uk to book your place.

Contact details are on page 2. These are usually email addresses. If you need to speak to anyone rather than send an email please phone The Firs who will either give you the phone number or ask someone to call you. This may not be an immediate response as permission has to be obtained.

FOOD, CRAFT AND SKILLS SUBCOMMITTEE

Christmas Craft Taster Day

Come along and enjoy a day of fun (and natter) whilst making two decorative items for Christmas from several different options, to include :- Cards, Biscuit decorations, Confectionery, Hydrangea wreaths, Patchwork Christmas Trees / Birds
There may be a small cost for materials depending on your choice.



At
Longdown Village Hall on Tuesday 8th November

Arrive 10:00am for coffee and biscuits

Bring own Lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided

Cost: £15: 00 per head

The closing date for our Craft Taster Day is 15th October. Please book through your WI.

Check your local Food Craft and Skills Areas for other events that may be happening.

The photos are not direct examples but we hope to see the results.



ENVIRONMENT and RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

If your WI took part in the Great Big Green Week please let me know. It would be lovely to see the range of activities from WIs across the Federation.

You can contact Jackie.buften@devonwi.org.uk with information.

The next Birdwatching cruise is on November 23rd.

Please book with your secretary. All WIs who pre registered will be given priority.

theWI **Devon WI - Environment & Rural Affairs**
Bird Watching Trip on the River Exe with Stuart Line Cruises from Exmouth

£11.00 per person, family and friends welcome



This Guided Bird Watching Cruise is ideal for anyone who would like to see the many thousands of birds that migrate to the area during the autumn and winter months. Suitable for beginners and beneficial to experts the cruise will have a full commentary throughout from two experienced ornithologists. You will discover and learn all about the species, habitat and behaviours of the thousands of birds on the Exe Estuary and East Devon Coast.

A Challenge for all WIs in Devon



Many WIs have craft groups or members who love crafting. At a recent local event we were chatting to representatives from Children's Hospice South West who will give a free talk to any group who wishes to book them. We had craft items for sale and were told that the Hospice have been given a stall at a craft event in Westpoint in 2023. While this will be a way to raise their profile we thought it would be wonderful if they could raise funds too by selling handmade items and the idea of this challenge was born.

What if every WI in Devon could make one item for the Hospice to sell? Some may choose to make more but that is a bonus. We will be talking to the Hospice to firm arrangements and will provide more details next month but it would be lovely to have an indication of how many WIs are willing to take part. Please email news@devonwi.org.uk to register your interest or phone The Firs. At present if every WI signed up there could be 160 items for sale.

You can find out more about the Hospice on their website <https://www.chsw.org.uk/>

Supporting
children's hospice
SOUTH WEST
Registered Charity No. 1003314

Devon Federation needs you

Many WI members ask "What do we get from the Federation?" or "Why don't the Federation do x or y?" but very few volunteer to help at any level. The Federation needs your ideas and help—we need Advisers, subcommittee members and new Trustees. At the moment there are few people covering all these roles and we can be stretched too thin. If you could offer a few hours once a month or every other month we'd love to hear from you. Board of Trustee elections are due next year and we need people to stand. Make contact and ask what's involved or come and meet us.

Contact the Federation Chairman or Federation Secretary to get more information. Contact details are on page 2.

News from WIs

This edition of Devon News is bittersweet as many of you had written to share your Platinum Jubilee celebrations and tributes to Queen Elizabeth II and this has been overshadowed by the news of her death on 8th September. This is our opportunity to reflect and celebrate her life of service and devotion to our country and the Commonwealth. Farewell to a fellow WI member.

In an earlier edition we printed the card that had been chosen to represent Devon Federation to congratulate Her Majesty on her Platinum Jubilee. Like some other WIs in Devon we received thanks from the Queen..



To: The Devon Federation of Women's Institutes

The Queen wishes me to thank you for the lovely hand-painted card you sent on the occasion of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

The Queen greatly appreciates your kind message and your thoughtfulness in writing as you did in this historic year.

On behalf of **Sparkwell WI**, one of our longstanding members Pat Philp, who is a whizz with cards, submitted an entry to the DFWI competition. Pat didn't win, but it was suggested she send her card to the Queen. This was done and Pat also told Her Majesty about our branch, our activities etc.

On 8th July, one of Her Majesty's ladies-in-waiting wrote to Pat as follows:

To The Members of Sparkwell Women's Institute

The Queen wishes me to thank you for the lovely handmade card you sent on the occasion of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

The Queen greatly appreciates your kind message and your thoughtfulness in writing as you did in this historic year'

One for the archives. Well done Pat.



We don't know which WI Vivien belongs to but thanks for this insight for us all to share.

Vivien Watt
1 h · 📷

On Wednesday I took the train to London and joined the Lying in State queue at Blackfriars Bridge at 20.25hrs. The only time I had been to Westminster Hall before was on a WI visit arranged by Dr Sarah Wollaston some years ago. At 01.45 hrs I turned into the Hall at the top of the stairs. The lighting was bright after the street and the colours of the uniforms vivid against the pale stone walls. I was struck by just how high the coffin was placed. The queue moved slowly down and I took a moment to turn and bow my head to our wonderful monarch Queen Elizabeth II. I was wearing my WI brooch. As we left by the opposite door an official quietly thanked us for coming. In the distance there was a drum beating and for the next hour I watched soldiers from different regiments rehearsing for the funeral. A truly momentous night.

Tiverton and Bampton WI celebrated The Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a Cream Tea Garden Party. A Crown competition in any medium took place and was won by Mary Baker with a crochet crown on a cushion.



Bradinch WI were the calendar girls in their local pageant for the jubilee weekend. They used a long banner and props to hide their modesty. They certainly received much applause from the crowd.



An historic moment

Amidst the sadness of mourning for the Queen, some of the Board of Trustees, committee members and Advisers were surprised to be invited to witness the proclamation of the accession of King Charles III at Longdown Village Hall.



St Marychurch WI President was in London when the news broke that the Queen had died and added flowers for the WI to the many left by others.



Uffculme WI celebrated their centenary earlier this year and had a wonderful evening with entertainment by the Pashy Pops.



Westward Ho! WI were unable to book a speaker for their August meeting, so their committee decided to try something new. They held a card making session and despite members saying that they were not craft inclined or no good at this sort of thing they spent a wonderful afternoon making Washi tape cards, a very simple but beautiful way to make cards, a great deal of laughter and fun was had by all. This was helped along with the tasty limoncello cake baked by their secretary and made with the limoncello bought on her recent holiday in Sorrento.



For a number of years several members of **Kingsbridge WI** have been planting and maintaining "The Boat", which is situated in a prominent part of the Town. It is entered in the "In Your Neighbourhood" Section of the "In Bloom" competition. Some of the members are pictured with the boat for the recent judging.



Exbourne, Sampford Courtenay & Jacobstowe WI enjoyed their Summer outing to the War Horse Valley Country Farm Park at Parsonage Farm, Iddesleigh, the place that inspired Michael Morpurgo to write War Horse. They experienced a WWI frontline trench with the sounds of shell and gun fire and viewed the WWI and War Horse Exhibitions. There are many animals on the farm including Alpacas, ponies and miniature goats. The WI were treated to a wonderful Devonshire Cream Tea in the farm house garden before being taken on a trailer ride from which the farm was viewed in comfort.



Chawleigh WI won the Silver Cup for the Best Dressed Stall at Chulmleigh Old Fair Craft Market on 27 July. Their "theme" was 1926 - the year of the Queen's birth - and laminated photographs of the Royal Family, news items, and other famous people of the era, surrounded their Stall.



The stall had lots of home-made cakes, pasties and preserves, and a popular bottle tombola.



Sir Joshua Reynolds (Plympton) WI presented Senior Sister Nicky Crosbie from the South West Haematology Unit a cheque for the Plymouth and District Leukaemia Fund at their annual meeting in May.

Nicky gave them a very interesting talk about the past, present and future of the work that has been enabled and supported by the fund.

The Plymouth and District Leukaemia Fund was established in 1983 with the aim of raising money to provide comprehensive care locally for people with leukaemia and other blood disorders. This was at a time when most patients would have had to travel to London for treatment, often being hundreds of miles away from their families.

One of their members was having to travel with her son to London for treatment. The family and the consultant at that time believed that this had to change and so PDLF was created to ensure care could be provided much closer to home.

The money presented was raised from small donations, a speaker who donated his fee, a raffle, and prize money from entering a local quiz.



Dates for your diary		
Activity	Date	Closing date (if relevant)
Autumn Event at Bideford	26 October 2022	23 September 2022
John Lewis event—Exeter	1 November 2022	23 September 2022
Christmas Craft Taster Day	8 November 2022	15 October 2022
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	2 September 2022
DFWI Carol concert	Monday 5th December 2022	7 October 2022
County Quiz	28 January 2023	TBC
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, 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.

Making the most of the sunny weather, a number of **Post Meridian WI** members took a walk along the Stover Canal path, which leads to the inevitable tea gardens. The canal itself was opened in 1792 to serve the local ball clay industry until it closed some 150 years later. It runs for almost 2 miles from Jetty Marsh to Ventiford Basin. Over intervening years it had become derelict, but in 1999 the Stover Canal Society was formed, their mission being to restore and preserve the canal. On the walk there is much evidence of the hard work carried out, and many points of interest relating to the canal's history. It is a very rural and pretty walk, with the promise of a lovely cuppa before the return journey.



St Marychurch WI and **Shaldon & Ringmore WI** have sent in photographs from their craft group activities. All members who took part had a good time. Dot painting, mosaic coasters and decorated bags have been tried recently.



Apologies and Help please

Many WIs sent in photographs of their Jubilee celebrations or monthly meetings which show groups of members sitting in gardens or halls having a lovely time. These are personal to the WIs and will be a wonderful contribution to their archives. However they will not be of general interest to our readers.

We need articles for Devon News that may inspire others and give suggestions of something to try. Please keep sending articles in but also understand that they may not get printed. If you do send things in please do not send PDFs. If in doubt do email me to see if I can open it. Thanks to all of you.