DEVON WI NEWS

October 2025 Year 106 Issue 141 Cost 35p



Kingsbridge WI Land girls win first prize - see page 6

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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT



Dear Members

I think it's time to give you all an update on what the Trustees have been doing since our first meeting at the end of July.

In September we were delighted to elect and welcome a new Trustee, Joanne Rosser, who is Treasurer of Exetraordinary Women in Exmouth, to her first Board meeting. The skills and commitment she brings will be an asset to the Board, we are looking forward to working with her.

With 7 entirely new Trustees much of our time has been spent getting to know each other and dealing with a raft of housekeeping needed to keep the Federation functioning as a charitable organisation. We appointed the mandatory Safeguarding Trustee Officer, Sherrie Green, and by the time you read this, all members should have received a message from her on this important issue.

We have made time to discuss our priorities from the many things we would like to do and started to action them. A project team has been set up to carry out a feasibility study of The Firs. We believe we can do this ourselves at minimal cost, though it may be necessary to pay for some advice. The aim is to report on the costs, benefits and disadvantages of owning the property and to identify and evaluate the options available to us. We can then make an informed decision on what, if anything, we do next. I know there are strong views about the future of The Firs, but this is a big piece of work which will take some time to complete, so please be patient.

Another small team has been set up to update Devon News, I hope you will be able to see some changes in the next edition. I'll give further updates on our activity as we progress.

Finally, following on from last month's message, as I write this, there are 3 delightful little heads peeking out of my second house martin nest. Hopefully they will shortly be flying to sub- Saharan Africa and make a happy end to the story.

Lucy Brothwood

Devon Federation Chair



FROM THE OFFICE

Please let us know if your WI is full so that we can redirect new member enquiries to other groups in the area. Thank you.

EVENTS: Ticketing Platforms for booking events are becoming the norm—it saves time in our very busy office and you also get your tickets immediately. However, we are always happy to help and will take bookings in the old way if required - so please don't worry. Please contact the organiser at the bottom of a Flyer and not the office if that is what the instructions on the form are.
A reminder to bring milk if you are meeting at The Firs as we don't keep any supplies here.

DFWI BACS details are on the right. Please **remember to email the person you are paying and copy in Beverley our DFWI bookkeeper.**bookkeeper@devonwi.org.uk

Devon Federation of Womens Institutes
Sort code 08-92-99
Account no 67185081

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT from WI Advisers :- wiadvisers@devonwi.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS……from WI Advisers

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WI Advisers l-r: Evelyn Watson, Maureen Hunter, Anne Mellor, Pat Kirby, Liz Roberts, Jo-Ann Middleton, Sherrie Green, Lucy Brothwood and Lesley Beer.

Contact: wiadvisers@devonwi.org.uk and your enquiry will be forwarded to your WI Adviser.

Next month: We hope to issue a full list of all WIs in Devon with the name of their Adviser.

Link groups, WI groups, clusters, confused? Let us see if we can sort them out!

What is a link group? When the NFWI Annual Meeting is announced every year, each federation is given an allocation of tickets. However, there is not enough for every WI to have one. In our federation all the WIs are divided into link groups and when your WI is highlighted in this list it is your turn to send a delegate. The delegate votes on behalf of her own WI and those in her link group. After the meeting she sends a report of the event back to those WIs in her link groups.

Clusters? Clusters are what we are now calling the WIs allocated to a specific WI Adviser. Each adviser has around 20 WIs in their cluster. Your adviser is there to answer any questions you might have, attend AGMs and we also like just to be invited along to a meetings, especially if there's cake!

WI groups? This is the one I think causes the most confusion. Quite a few years ago WIs in our Federation were divided into groups based on locality and each WI took turns to host a meeting once a year and it was quite formal with minutes taken. Some groups just fell by the wayside, some WIs closed, others opened. Groups are not something the advisers organise. If you have a group in your area and you are happy with what you do that is fine. If you want to join with some local WIs and form a group, please do. The group meeting can be whatever you decide as a group you want it to be. It is a lovely chance for WIs to get together and meet other WI members.

By Lesley Beer.

Committee Information and Roundup

COMBINED ARTS COMMITTEE

I hope you are looking forward to our Carol Service at Exeter Cathedral on **Wednesday 3rd December**. The choir is now busy rehearsing but it is not too late to join in. Contact Pat Wyatt by email if you are interested. Tickets for this event will be available soon on TicketSource.

There are a few spaces for the Coffee Art day in the afternoon. This is an opportunity to learn how to relate to Art using coffee as paint. We are busy deciding on the St George Trophy and the Radio Devon Cup competitions for 2026.

p.wyatt@devonwi.org.uk

ENVIRONMENT, RESOLUTIONS and CAMPAIGNS COMMITTEE

Marine Conservation Society We wanted to reach out to let you know that the official annual Great British Beach Clean is taking place from 19 September until Sunday 28th September, and we would love your WI be part of this fantastic event. The week is centred around collective citizen science efforts, with hundreds of beach clean events taking place across the UK. The litter data collected during these beach cleans drives conservation work and helps MCS campaigns for positive change for the ocean. It would be lovely to have your WI participate in this year's Great British Beach Clean.

To get involved, you can either browse the list of existing beach cleans or you can also organise your own beach clean.

The Marine conservation Society collection of beach clean videos and resources will help guide you through the process of setting up your clean and, once again, they are running free online training webinars for organisers who would like a beach clean or litter survey refresher. If you have any questions or need any support in either organising or joining a beach clean, please go tohttps://www.mcsuk.org/what-you-can-do/join-a-beach-clean/find-a-beach-clean/

jackie.bufton@devonwi.org.uk

FOOD, CRAFT AND SKILLS SUBCOMMITTEE

Jane Austen Afternoon Tea with speaker - Longdown Village Hall.

28 October 2025 (Closing date: 30 September 2025). Details wwith your Secretary or check the website.

janet.connolly@devonwi.org.uk

SPORT and LEISURE COMMITTEE

The Manor Resort Craft and Activity Event 16th – 18th March 2026

Following the success of last year's residential event we are pleased to offer it again. Inclusive prices for 2 nights:

Members: £210 (shared twin room per person); £250 (single room). **Non-members**: £240 (shared twin room per person); £290 (single room).

Prices are inclusive of all meals from lunch on Monday until breakfast on Wednesday; prices include all activities, sports and crafts and all WI exclusive activities and evening entertainment (a small charge may be payable for craft materials).

Spa treatments and bar drinks are at your own cost. Limited places are available and will be on a first come, first served basis. **Details with your Secretary now.**

Thanks to all WIs who took part in the **Yarn Bombing** to celebrate the Women's Rugby World Cup coming to Exeter. The Guildhall looked amazing!









WI in The City, Newton Abbot, Parkham, Ted-burn St Mary, Colyford, Primley, Totnes, and also Claire Holwell.

Dear All

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you so much for all your hard work for Exeter historic Guildhall's Yarn Bombing event. I hope you enjoyed crafting parts of our display as much as we are enjoying displaying them. It has been an enormous privilege for Exeter to be one of the host Cities for the Women's Rugby World Cup and our beautifully decorated Guildhall has attracted many wonderful comments for it's originality and craftsmanship. This really was a community effort and brought together crafters from all over Exeter and beyond. It was lovely to see all those working away in the Guildhall to put the work together and I and the Deputy Lord Mayor were both pleased to be able to join the group on two of those occasions. We have had many events associated with the WRWC, but our Yarn Bombing of the Guildhall has been a highlight. Once again many thanks.

Yours sincerely, The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Exeter Cllr Anne Jobson



WI tea sets are now available to buy from The Firs. You will get a cup and saucer along with a side plate - all for £5. Ideal raffle prize or just for making your own afternoon tea a more elegant occasion.

Contact: enquiries@devonwi.org.uk

300+ Club

Winning numbers and the WIs that those numbers are linked to are listed below. These winners will receive £25.

AUGUST		SEPTEMBER
34	Erme WI	372 Newton Abbot
519	Newcourt WI	380 Elburton

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Forms to be sent to: 300plusclubcoordinator@devonwi.org.uk

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DFWI Shopping Trip

CHRISTMAS MARKET 2025

This will be in **Bristol** on Wednesday 26 November. Details now with your Secretary or see TicketSource: www.ticketsource.co.uk/devon-federation-of-womens-institutes

Please contact the office if you need help.

Calling All WI MCS Representatives!

Let's make communication sparkle across Devon!

We're giving the Members Communication System (MCS) a little TLC — and we need your help to make it shine!
If you're the MCS rep for your WI, now's the perfect time to check that your group's details are up to date, and update them. That means:

- ⇒ **Correct email addresses**
- ⇒ **Accurate contact numbers**
- ⇒ **Current postal addresses**
- ⇒ **Current 2025 -2026 tick on member page - member has paid !**

Why does it matter? Because when the information is right, everyone stays in the loop — from event invites to important updates, it all flows smoothly!
Deadline for updates: 7th November 2025
Let's aim to have everything checked and confirmed by then.

If you spot any hiccups or need a hand, please email Lindsay or Ali at :mcsinfo@devonwi.org.uk
Just a gentle reminder — Lindsay and Ali work part-time, so replies might take a little longer than usual, however super-efficient. Your patience is appreciated!
Together, we can keep Devon's WI network strong, connected, and ready for all the exciting things ahead!

By Jo-Ann Middleton

News From WIs around the County

Cover picture: **Kingsbridge WI** as Land Girls bringing the harvest in.
During Kingsbridge Fair week the WI joined the Carnival procession as Land Girls, and won not only the best in their class, but also the best local entry. Well done!

Dawlish WI had a fabulous day at Dawlish Carnival on Sunday 10th August selling cake and our well known Tombola. We had couple of returning holiday makers who made it just in time to buy WI Cake as they enjoyed it so much last year! This was Dawlish WI's second major baking session in 3 weeks, although for Cars on the Lawn rain did stop play in the early afternoon. Would like to say our mixing bowls can go away for a bit but we have several more events over the next couple of months.



More WI news

Combe Martin WI took part in the Combe Martin Flower festival in St. Peter's ad Vincla. Joan created the display based on this year's theme of "A North Devon Summer". Items donated from members were included in the beautiful arrangement.



Blessed with some glorious weather, August 12th saw eleven intrepid members of **Bow WI**. set forth from Copplestone Station and travel to Paignton for the annual summer outing. From here they exchanged regular train for the Steam train, passing Goodrington and Broadsands beaches then heading inland towards the Dart Estuary and on to Kingswear before crossing over to Dartmouth on the ferry. Once in Dartmouth they had time to have a wander around the shops, take a leisurely lunch and of course enjoy a delicious ice cream over-looking the Dart. Thankfully everything ran like clockwork, even though it was rather hot on the train back from Paignton- the free water bottles given out by GWR were greatly appreciated.



Dates for your Diary		
Activity	**Date**	**Closing date (if relevant)**
Kwerky Krafts Coffee Art workshop Teign Valley Hall (CA)	14 October 2025	Contact organiser
Jane Austen Afternoon Tea with speaker, Longdown	28 October 2025	30 September 2025
Christmas Shopping Trip Bristol	26 November 2025	Go to TicketSource
Exeter Cathedral Carol Service	3 December 2025	TicketSource
Manor Resort Craft and Activity Event	16th-18th March 2026	Book asap –limited places

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,** or contact The Firs .

If the closing date has passed please make contact to see if there are any spaces left.

Please note that **we do not give refunds** for events booked, unless we have to cancel, as we may have to refuse other applications and can incur booking charges. If you book and cannot go please try to sell on your space to others in yours or neighbouring WIs.

Some events should be booked through your WI while others may be individual bookings, For instance holidays or overnight stays will be by individuals. Online bookings will usually be personal too although a group of members may book together.

More WI news



Our very own Bovey WOMBLES, recently joined our Town Mayor, who is also a member of **Brimley WI** for Litter picking ready for Bovey in Bloom. Our members were helping Bovey Tracey look it's best before judging!



Magnolia WI had Ann Widdicombe speak to their meeting in July talking about her life after she retired from Parliament. She was very amusing and entertaining.

Celebrations continue for **Ashprington WI** as they celebrate their 60th year!
Winning the very generous bursary from **Ashburton WI** meant that 13 members had a fabulous day out exploring the River Dart by River Steamer in June.

A very scrumptious cake washed down with Prosecco was consumed by all in July. Then more recently, although their Boule tournament had to be cancelled due to rain it didn't dampen spirits and was quickly replaced with a quizz , Pimm's and a cream tea!

