theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

NEWS DEVON WI

APRIL 2026

Kenn & Kennford WI enjoy a glass mosaic workshop with tutor Tracy Johnson, focusing so hard that she could hear a pin drop!



CRAFTING, MEMORIES & SHARING SMILES

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theWI INSPIRING WOMEN | Devon

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRS




A Spring Message from Your Chairs
Although this is a shorter update, we will also be sending a mid-month email so you won't have quite as long to wait for news and updates!

A big WI welcome to **Sarah Ford**, our new Bookkeeper, who will be working in the office on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays**. As many of you know, **Bev has now retired**, and we are delighted to have Sarah joining us. She is also a WI member, so please do say hello and get to know her when you speak to her by phone, email, or in person.

We currently have a booked appointment to view The Firs, and we will share more information about this in our mid-month communications.

Thank you for all your feedback on **Devon News**—it is greatly appreciated. Work on the new website is well underway.

Your Treasurer, along with the Chairs, have attended the **NFWI on-line Council Meeting on Sunday 15 March**, 11:00 -16:30. Information will be released in due course.

Finally, thank you for all your correspondence. We are sorry if we haven't responded as quickly or as fully as you would have liked—we truly are doing our best, and we will get there. 🙂

DEVON RESOLUTIONS

A BIG THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FROM LIZ

Title of resolution	Number of selections
Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health, and social inclusion	1454
Action on women's homelessness	774
Nearer to Nature	192
Love Your Vulva – Self checking is your best defence against vulval cancer	239
Every child needs a friend	388
TOTAL NUMBER OF SELECTIONS	**3047**

liz.roberts@devonwi.org.uk | https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/public-affairs-and-campaigns/news-and-actions/resolution-selection-results-announcement

The NFWI Board of Trustees has agreed to put forward the top two resolutions to the Annual Meeting in June.

DEVON FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES ANNUAL MEETING

ONLINE DELEGATE TICKETS | **WED 1ST JULY 2026** | **ONLINE VIA ZOOM 10.30AM START**

TICKET REGISTRATION LINK

To follow shortly.

Please note that voting attendees (WI Link Delegates), will each require a Wi-Fi enabled device i.e. a smart phone, iPad or laptop in order to place votes during the meeting.

DFWI BACS details are below. **Please remember to email the person you are paying and copy in Sarah Ford our new DFWI bookkeeper.** bookkeeper@devonwi.org.uk
Devon Federation of Womens Institutes DFWI **Sort code 08-92-99** **Account no 67185081**

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES ANNUAL MEETING

ONLINE OBSERVER TICKETS	THURS 4TH JUNE 2026	ONLINE VIA ZOOM 10.30AM START 4.30PM FINISH

Observer tickets are available on a donation basis, with individual tickets being set at **£5** and larger group tickets set at **£20** (plus small booking fee) *(these donations will be used to offset significant production meeting costs incurred)*

As the meeting is online, participation can be for the whole day or what suits your schedule, even get together with WI friends, to listen to the inspiring speakers Registration is directly through the booking platform Eventbrite - for members only,

TICKET REGISTRATION LINK

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nfwi-annual-meeting-2026-observer-tickets-registration-1541107226199?aff=oddtdtcreator

This is registration only - no tickets will be issued – a confirmation of registration will initially be emailed and the Zoom link will be sent out in the weeks leading up to the event

Latest date for registration: 19th May 2026

Watch parties are encouraged - members can arrange to meet as a WI or Group, to watch the online meeting together (no limit on numbers) at a venue or elsewhere.

Please note that voting attendees (WI Link Delegates), will each require a Wi-Fi enabled device i.e. a smart phone, iPad or laptop in order to place votes during the meeting.

Every watch party that includes voting attendees (Delegates) must appoint a lead contact who will liaise with the NFWI on the morning of the event; this is to ensure all constitutional requirements are met and to report the number of voters in attendance.

A digital party pack including important technical information will be emailed to all those registered for group tickets NFWI Events Team will contact all registered attendees with further information.

Please note that updates to information and speakers can be found on the NFWI website. A meeting agenda will be sent to all WIs in the NFWI March NFWI mailing.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



Annual Meetings Made Easy
Many WIs will be holding their Annual Meetings in April and May. You will recall that we are recommending that from 2027 these meetings are held in March. The Annual Meeting is the most important meeting in the WI year, when members reflect on the past and plan for the future. It is two meetings in one, as the normal monthly business takes place before the actual Annual Meeting business.

The WI Handbook (https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/running-your-wi/members-resources/wi-handbook) contains a wealth of helpful advice on how to prepare for and run an Annual Meeting.

Your WI Adviser or independent tellers from a neighbouring WI should be invited to attend to conduct the elections of the Committee and President. It is especially important that you request the attendance of your WI Adviser if there are any concerns about recruiting a full committee and all three officers. The nominal fee for attendance by a WI Adviser is £12.

As part of her preparation for the Annual Meeting the Secretary will draw up the Committee's Annual Report in the form of a summary of the past year. This should include such things as an increase or decrease in membership, average attendance at monthly meetings and attendance at DFWI or NFWI events. Members also like to hear of activities, outings, clubs and social events. It is better to avoid simply listing the speakers month by month, but to mention any that were particularly memorable.

Adoption of the report is proposed by the President, no seconder is required. Members vote by a show of hands. The independently-examined Financial Statement of Accounts is presented by the Treasurer, who proposes their adoption. A seconder is required. Members vote by a show of hands.

The President's Address is the chance for the President to thank her fellow officers, committee and the members themselves for their loyalty and support throughout the year.

Review of Byelaws and Decisions
Decisions are made when a WI is formed and include the name of the WI, the date, time and place of the meeting, the number of Vice-Presidents and the month of the Annual Meeting. If a WI wishes to change any of these original decisions it is at the Annual Meeting that this should be proposed, passed by a majority vote and recorded. WIs should also make, repeal or amend any byelaws at the Annual Meeting. These byelaws may, for example, restrict the tenure of office or the length of service for committee members, or set a cap on membership. These should be reviewed each year as some may be out of date or no longer relevant.

ST GEORGE'S DAY TROPHY

This years competition was a birthday card for a child aged 4 to 12 years in any medium that must fit inside an A5 envelope.

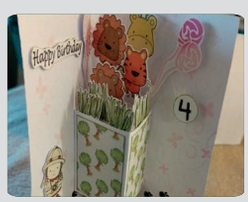
1st Paula Williams, Preston and Chelston WI - ***The Box Card***

2nd Lindsey Dempsey, Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo WI - ***Fairies with lovely verse inside***

3rd Janet Bates, Dawlish WI - ***Phoebe***







HALDON FOREST PARK SAUNA FEB 2026

Haldon Forest Park is a location that has something for all the family. A group from Extraordinary WI decided to enjoy a truly off grid experience, a Sauna in a secluded location within the forest and with fantastic views.

A private session was booked (up to 8 people) this coincided with the first sunny Sunday afternoon of 2026, how lucky were we! It was mild and the views were fantastic although a little muddy in the area around the sauna due to continuous rain so far this year but the intrepid ladies of Exmouth were not put off.

A small amount of free parking is available at the site, which is helpful as it is about a 10-minute walk from the main carpark. After the Sauna everyone sat at the firepit, relaxed with a weak herbal tea and took in the view.



EVENTS

WOMAN'S HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

Members of the Sub-committee ERC have been busy organising a **Woman's Health Awareness Day**. To be held at Longdown Village Hall, on Wednesday 15th July 2026, from 10 am to 3pm. The cost is £8 for the day and £9 for visitors. There will be refreshments but you'll need to bring your own lunch.

There will be a variety of speakers on topics such as Breast Care Awareness, CPR and using a Defibrillator, Health and Nutrition and Dental care. Alongside the speakers you will be able to find out more on Smear Tests; Bowel Health; Menopause; Incontinence; Bone Care, and also Blood Pressure.

Come along for an informative and interesting day.

Please email **jackie.bufton@devonwi.org.uk** for more information.



60 YEARS AT SOUTH MOLTON WI FOR IVY YEABSLEY

There was a very special celebration and presentation at the February meeting of South Milton WI. President Marion Brice was full of **congratulations** for long-term member Ivy Yeabsley who has clocked up an incredible 60 years as a continuous member of this WI! Ivy was presented with a custom-painted mug and a slate featuring some of the WI's national resolutions. The photo shows Ivy cutting the delicious cake made in her honour for us all to share.

HYDRANGEA GROUP PAINTING

Here is a photo of our latest foray into acrylic painting hydrangeas, even if someone thought they were painting hyacinths! Ha ha! Some members were slightly sceptical but I'm sure you would agree, they all turned out brilliantly. Well done ladies.
Preston & Chelston WI



LOVE IS IN THE AIR AT LEWTRENCHARD WI

Displaying their 'Show the Love' - Green hearts campaign, members setting up their display.





CHINESE NEW YEAR AT NEWCOURT WI

As well as being Shrove Tuesday on 17th Feb, it was also the start of Chinese New Year celebrations around the world. It also happened to be the date of our monthly meeting and we're lucky enough to have a Chinese member, Theresa. She invited several of her friends to come along to entertain, educate and stimulate us with their music, interesting talk and delicious snacks.

You will see from the below photos that we weren't all as graceful as our visitors, but we certainly had a really lively, happy evening.





ELBURTON WI'S FEDERATION QUIZ

As you may be aware, Elburton W.I. hosted the Federation Quiz on Saturday 28th February. There were 13 teams including one from Elburton W.I. Everyone commented on the lovely and varied cakes that our members provided. A selection of photos of the home-cooked cakes are included here.





SCRABBLE GOLD FOR

D 2 I 1 A 1 N 1 A 1

Alphington WI's treasurer 92yr old Diana Beasley was recently on Spotlight TV for winning a national Scrabble competition.

CROTCHET POPPIES

Newton Abbot WI were delighted to support the appeal for knitted/crochet poppies, to go to Normandy and decorate Standing with Giants. We sent 146, produced by a handful of our members.



RADIO DEVON CUP

Members were asked to submit a short story of not more than 500 words with the title "Childhood Memories" - we are hoping to feature the winning story on the website.

1st No. 11 - Marilyn Mills, Whimple WI - ***Lost sister***

2nd No. 17 - Jan Gray, North Tawton WI - ***Granny's statue***

3rd No. 3 - Trudie Headford, Totnes WI - ***New Bike***

ANITA'S 50TH YEAR AT WI

At our members February meeting we celebrated Anita Donne's 50th year as a W.I. member. Anita was presented with a NFWI certificate celebrating her 50 years and a bunch of flowers by president Annette Silsbury. During her time in the W.I. Anita has been Secretary, Treasurer and President and is still a member of Cornwood W.I's committee. We wish Anita many more years of W.I. membership.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EVENT/COMPETITION	DATE	BOOKING DETAILS
Pocket Meadows	Barnstaple Library 10 April 10:00 - 3:00pm Liverton Village Hall 17 April 10:00 - 3:00pm	Liverton Village Hall & Barnstaple Library **jackie.bufton@devonwi.org.uk** See flyers with your secretaires & Website Including WORDsearch.
Event / Competition Working Together - Programme Planning Pilot	Tuesday 21st April 2:00pm - 4:00pm	Flyer with your Secretaries Ashburton Town Hall **Speakers@devonwi.org.uk**
National Federation of WI Annual Meeting	Thursday 4 June 2026 10:30am - 4:30pm	See page 2 Deadline 19 May '26
Devon Federation Online Meeting	Wednesday 1 July 2026	See page 1
Health Day Awareness	Wednesday 15 July 2026 10:00am - 3:00pm	See flyer for more details
Devon Federation Annual Event Members Day	Late September early October 2026	Plymouth - More information coming soon
Devon Federation Holiday to the Lake District	Thursday 15th - Monday 19th October 2026	Booking forms and flyers with your Secretaries **janet.connolly@devonwi.org.uk**
Carol Service Exeter	Wednesday 2 December 2026 - Time TBC	Exeter Cathedral
Next Board Meeting	15 April 2026	The Firs

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 office. 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.

300+ CLUB WINNERS
APRIL – £25 EACH

56 Elburton
288 Lewtrenchard

SMILE FOR THE CAMERA!

We're on the hunt for high-resolution photos with people centralised, those submitted will have a chance to go on a cover page of the newsletter.

YOUR IT DOCTOR – HERE TO HELP

Personal, patient, and jargon-free support for everything from email problems to setting up on new devices.
it.support@devonwi.org.uk