



Happy New Year

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

January 2024

Issue 471

South Yorkshire Federation of WIs News and Views

THE WI LEARNING HUB

You will have seen from the latest edition of WI Life, that phase 1 of the new WI educational model – The WI Learning Hub, is to be launched on Wednesday 24th January. £2.75 million of the proceeds of the sale of Denman College will fund this new education model. The first phase will provide online, flexible learning, accessible to all members, ensuring the legacy of Denman lives on and which meets the WI charitable object of advancing the education of women. The majority of these courses will be free and will be delivered in a range of formats.



In addition, later on, national grants are to be offered to Federations which will expand the WI's educational network regionally, meaning education can be accessed more easily at a local level, without significant travel or personal expense. SYFWI would therefore like to know what new skills YOU would like to learn once we have access to these Federation grants. Could it be that you want to expand your knowledge of creative crafts, the environment and nature, cookery/food, I.T./online safety/exploring the internet, exercise and wellbeing, history/family history – the list could go on! Please let us know by emailing the Federation office with your requests so that we are more prepared for when further detail is announced.

southyorksfed@gmail.com

Obviously this will create challenges for the Federation to find suitable venues, tutors, topics which larger numbers are interested in etc., but we look forward to trying to meet your educational needs. Engage with us and NFWI on this new and exciting educational pathway.



Federation Chairman
Dorothy Meekins



South-Yorkshire-Federation-of-Womens-Institutes



@southyorksfedwi

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CHARITY REG. NO: 513917

Hello fellow WI members

As we begin the new year the Board of Trustees and Team Leaders (previously known as Sub Committee Chairmen) are looking at how some of the events planned by the Federation could be streamlined to make it fairer for all WIs. We still plan to hold the Federation Annual Meetings in all of the 4 areas on a rotational basis i.e. Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield.

As many of our WIs are unable to host the Federation Quiz in their own meeting venue, mainly due to its size, finding an alternative suitable venue in the area can prove quite difficult, not to say expensive. We are looking at using 4 venues—one in each area on a regular basis so it should become fairer for all WIs to participate in and members to find. This year it will be the turn of WIs in Doncaster and Barnsley to host the Quiz.

The Treasure Trail will continue as in previous years with WIs hosting and planning the trails with Sheffield and Rotherham showing us all place of interest in their locality. This gives all WIs the opportunity to take part in a Federation event every year and it would be lovely to see more members taking part.

Please may we dispel the rumour that if you win either the Quiz or Treasure Trail that you are expected to host it the next time it comes to your area.

Best wishes

Dorothy Meekins - Federation Chairman

OFFICE & FINANCE

Ingrid House: philip.house2@btopenworld.com

50/50 CLUB DRAW - CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Winning £13 No 34 - Gill Denby, Norton WI

Winning £13 No 74 - Ingrid House, Wath upon Dearne WI

Winning £13 No 99 - Gwen Shakespeare, Wentworth WI

CURRENT AFFAIRS & RESOLUTIONS

Roberta Eales: roberta@abbeydale21.plus.com

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Zoom for the presentation of the Shortlisted Resolutions for 2024. The 4 resolutions presented were:

Dental health matters

Impacts of poor housing conditions

Say “no” to gambling advertising

Improving outcomes for women in the criminal justice system

The technology was most co-operative on the whole and allowed for a more detailed explanation of each Resolution to be given, with time for any questions from our guests. Even though at the time of writing it has not yet been possible to upload the transcript to the Federation’s website, we are exploring ways of making this happen. In the meantime, the basis for the team’s presentations can be found on My WI, and also in the December issue of WI Life. Everyone agreed that each of this year’s Shortlisted Resolutions is more than worthy of consideration and it is going to be a difficult choice which will make for a lively discussion in individual WI meetings. Make sure your voice is heard by submitting your decision before the February deadline.

The team would like to thank you for supporting our events this year and we wish everyone a peaceful and healthy 2024.

AUCKLEY & DISTRICT WI

On Saturday 21st October Auckley and District WI hosted a Race Night with a pie and pea supper to raise funds. We were very well supported by friends, families and locals. We served up 55 pies despite some issues with the cooker, our secretary Diane Hughes to the rescue and we smashed our fundraising goal.



A great raffle with prizes supplied by lots of local businesses and members.

Back in February we decided to take on the challenge of designing and supplying Auckley's Remembrance Day tribute. The ladies of Auckley and District WI set to making knitted, crocheted and felt poppies and we had some help from a lady in the village. 400+ poppies were then displayed on the village green. We've had some lovely feedback on how nice it looks and how appreciated it is as we remember our armed forces. It was an honour to be able to mark the occasion.

CANTLEY WITH BRANTON WI

To all South Yorkshire WIs

A very happy and healthy New Year 2024 to our fellow WI members from Cantley with Branton WI, seen here getting into the Christmas spirit in the run up to Christmas 2023.



GOLDTHORPE & DISTRICT WI

A group of our ladies who looked around Sheffield Christmas Market before enjoying an Italian Lunch then attending the Federation Christmas Celebration.



WATH UPON DEARNE WI

Ladies from Wath WI enjoying a Winter afternoon tea at the Old Moor Tavern, Broomhill.



L-R Wendy Richards, Sue Blease, Linda Bleasley, Ingrid House, Heather Coggan and Sandra Cornthwaite with their knitted Christmas tree in the library as part of the Wath Christmas Lights event on 1st December.



TICKHILL WI

WI members with their tree at the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church - relieved that the lights came on!



TICKHILL WI

Starting Christmas as we mean to go on.



ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTION **SELECTION FORM 2024**

Look out for the Shortlist which is published in the November/December issue of WI Life along with a Selection Form. Please take a moment to read through all of the Resolutions put forward this year and then complete the Form. It can be sent directly to the Federation office and we will accept it by post or by email, just take a photo or scan your Form and send to:-

southyorksfed@gmail.com.

WIs - you can collect the total number of votes for each Resolution from your members and email the results or Forms can be collectively posted to the Federation office.

Please get involved with these worthwhile causes, this is your opportunity to really make a difference!

Please return your Selection Form to the Federation office by **11 February 2024.**

Any forms returned after this date will not be counted. If you have mislaid or not received your copy of WI Life, please contact the Federation office for a duplicate form.

CATHERINE WATSON **HIGH LEVELS WI**

Catherine Watson sadly passed away on 21st November 2023. Catherine and her family moved into the area in 1971 and initially lived near Crowle. Her new neighbour, Lucy Barker, invited her to join the local WI – High Levels. Catherine made new friends very quickly and was soon on the Committee and in due course became a Trustee of the South Yorkshire Federation and thoroughly enjoyed chairing the Combined Arts Committee.

She was an active member of the Vermuyden Choir, always loved performing and reciting poetry – her Pam Ayres poem recitals were priceless. Throughout the 1990s, Marty Ward and Catherine led numerous visits to Romania with other SYFWI members to train and assist the women in crafts, and how to run meetings and committees. Romanians never had the chance to learn such things under the Ceausescu regime. Catherine organised and ran the Centenary Celebration of the WI at Hatfield Church in 2015. She was Secretary of High Levels for over 20 years, took over as President after Lucy Barker and remained on the High Levels Committee until last year. Cath's commitment, knowledge, sense of humour and friendship will be very sadly missed by all who knew her. A Celebration of Life service is to be held for Catherine at Hatfield Church on Saturday 20th January at 11.30 am.



LOVERSALL WI

FRIDAY 1ST MARCH 2024

COLOSSAL QUIZ

6.30pm for 7pm prompt start

At Loversall WI Hut - DN11 9DE

Serving a portion of PIE 'n' PEAS

Tickets £25 per team of 4

Open to all WIs in

SYFWI

Email janthreadgold2@gmail.com to book please

Closing date 19th February 2024

01405 785349

**Please be aware that parking is on Loversall main street
Cars are not permitted within the Hut Yard.**

WEATHER QUIZ ANSWERS



1. Cyclone
2. Drought
3. Fog
4. Chinook
5. Climate
6. Gusty
7. Forecast
8. Tempest
9. Snow storm
10. Front
11. Thunder
12. Sirocco
13. Thaw
14. Rainbow
15. El Nino
16. Drizzle
17. Barometer
18. Breeze
19. Tornado
20. Lightning
21. Hurricane
22. Isobar
23. Tsunami
24. Sunshine
25. Avalanche
26. Temperature
27. Indian Summer
28. Atmosphere
29. Anemometer
30. Come rain or shine

CLIMATE CHANGE CORNER

New Year's Resolutions

At this time of year, we often look back over what has happened in the past year and make plans and resolutions for the year ahead.

Those of us who are interested in environmental matters look back on a year that was officially the hottest on record.

We experienced heatwaves, wildfires and flooding. Our seas and rivers are polluted with sewage, numbers of wildlife are rapidly decreasing and air pollution causes deaths and serious illness. We are not looking after our planet and these are some of the consequences.

Our response to these problems might be 'what can I do about it?' and certainly some issues need government action to deal with them. However, if we make small changes to our behaviour and live in a way that respects our environment, we can make a difference. Some call it living more gently on the Earth.

Over the next few months, I will share some ideas you could try on the journey towards reducing your impact on the environment. You may already do some of these things, some may not be possible for you but I hope you will find something to try.

So, if you make any New Year's resolutions this January, maybe you could include one to help you live more gently on our Earth.

After all, as the saying goes, 'there is no Planet B'.

EVENT	DATE & TIME	VENUE	CLOSING DATE	PRICE
Officers Training Workshop	Sat 24 Feb 2024 @ 10 am	Hall Cross Cottage, 5 Albion Place, South Parade, Doncaster DN1 2EG	20 Feb	£10 per WI
Officers Training Workshop	Sat 23 March @ 10 am	Burton Street Foundation, 57 Burton Street, Hillsborough, Sheffield S6 2HH	19 Mar	£10 per WI
Federation Annual Meeting	Sat 20 April @ 11 am	The Fairway, Barnsley S75 4LS	2 April	Free - Delegate Save 10% if booked before 31.1.24 £25 - Visitor
NFWI AM 2024	Tue/Wed 4&5 June	Royal Albert Hall, London	14 Dec 2023	£79 (B&B) single supplement £50
SAVE THE DATE				
International Day	Sat 22 June 2024	Dinnington Resource Centre		
Federation Quizzes	Fri 4 Oct 2024			

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO 'SYFWI' OR PAY BY BACS. Send completed Application for tickets to Hall Cross Cottage by post or email.

COURSE/EVENT FEES AND/OR DEPOSITS WILL NOT BE RETURNED UNLESS CANCELLED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OR RELEVANT SUB TEAM.