

December 2025

## South Yorkshire Federation of WIs News and Views

Issue 493

# FEDERATION ANNUAL *Meeting*

**SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2026**

11 am - 4 pm approx.

GUEST SPEAKER

**JERYL  
STONE -  
NFWI  
CHAIR**



GUEST SPEAKER

**LIZ  
BAXTER -  
SIDE FARM  
FLOWERS**



theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

**The Consort Hotel  
8 Brampton Road  
Thurcroft  
Rotherham S66 9JA**

Join us to hear about  
YOUR Federation, what  
we have been doing and  
plans for the future!

Lunch included with all  
places booked.

Large free car park  
A variety of stalls  
and Raffle.

Please see page 4  
to find out more  
about our  
Guest Speakers.

**VISITOR - £30 INCLUDING BUFFET LUNCH AND  
COFFEE/TEA**

**EARLY BIRD - £28 IF BOOKED BY 31.1.26**

**DELEGATE - £15 PER WI**

The WI Hub, Unit 6, M&M Business Park, Doncaster Road, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster DN3 1HR

Tel: 01302 579027

Email: [southyorksfed@gmail.com](mailto:southyorksfed@gmail.com)

Website: [www.southyorksfedwi.org.uk](http://www.southyorksfedwi.org.uk)

Office Hours: Tuesday-Wednesday 9.30am - 2.30pm Thursday 9.30am - 2.30pm by appointment

CHARITY REG. NO: 513917

EVENT	DATE & TIME	VENUE	CLOSING DATE	PRICE
Carol Service	Mon 8 December	United Reformed Church, Norfolk Street, Sheffield S1 2JB	20 Nov	£8
Brass Band Concert	Fri 6 February 2026	Dinnington Resource Centre, 131 Laughton Road, Dinnington, Sheffield S25 2PP	27 Jan	£15
Federation Annual Meeting	Sun 19 April	The Consort Hotel, 8 Brampton Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham S66 9JA	31 Jan (early bird) 24 March 24 March	£28 Visitor £30 Visitor £15 Delegate
<b>SAVE THE DATE</b>				
NFWI Annual Meeting	Thur 4 June	Online - Zoom Watch Party	Link Delegates Link Delegates	3 Mar 3 Mar
		Online - Zoom Watch Party	Observers Observers	2 Jun 19 May
International Day	Sat 18 July			£5 £10

**NO APPLICATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE CLOSING DATE**  
**PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO 'SYFWI' OR PAY BY BACS.**  
 Send completed Application Form to the Federation Office for **all payment** methods by post or email.  
 Payments can also be made online using TICKETLAB for most events

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

### SUE DENTON - CHAIR

**suedentonwi@yahoo.com**

Hello! As we approach December and what's supposed to be the happiest time of the year, I wonder if we can all just take a moment to reflect. This time of year can be difficult for many people, the dark nights and cold days can mean some people find it difficult to get out and about confidently and may find themselves isolated and lonely. Not everyone has a loving family they can share Christmas with and may feel cut off from those who are surrounded by friends and loved ones. I know how loneliness feels and I wonder if we could all make a little more effort this December to include people who are alone, to check on them, invite them to join us, even just a smile and conversation with someone you see regularly in the street or at the shops can make a huge difference to them. Remember you don't have to be alone to be lonely.



That said, I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, look forwards to catching up with some of you at the Christmas Carol service on Monday 8th December.



# CALLING ALL TREASURERS

**Please remember....**

**ALL monies that are collected at WI meetings must be paid in 'gross'.**

**More reminders next month!!**



**OFFICE & FINANCE Pauline Hallam - [paulinehallam@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulinehallam@hotmail.co.uk)**

50/50 CLUB DRAW - CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Winning £14 No 10 - Ann Hodgkinson, High Green WI

Winning £14 No 86 - Carol Martin, Chapeltown WI

Winning £14 No 107 - Deborah Sortland, Wickersley WI

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS & RESOLUTIONS**

**Susan Webster: [susanj-webster@sky.com](mailto:susanj-webster@sky.com)**

As your WI Secretaries will have passed on, the shortlisted resolutions for 2026 are as follows:

- \* Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health and social inclusion.
- \* Action on women's homelessness.
- \* Every child needs a friend.
- \* Nearer to nature.
- \* Love your vulva – self checking is your best defence against vulval cancer.



Every member has the opportunity to cast a vote for their preferred one of the above and there will be further information in the WI Life magazine and resources at a later date on My WI. Individual member votes need to be sent to The WI Hub by the 6 February 2026.

For those of you who are thinking that the Bystanders Can be Lifesavers campaign seems only just to have got underway, take heart from the fact that NFWI are currently reviewing the whole resolution process so watch this space!

Meanwhile, Current Affairs and Resolution Team would like to thank you for your continued support for South Yorkshire's annual International Day and wish you a restful and happy Christmas and New Year.

## **ACTIVITIES & SOCIAL TEAM**

**Maureen Hall: [maureen.hall45@icloud.com](mailto:maureen.hall45@icloud.com)**

### Annual Craft Competition

Just a reminder about the launch of our Craft Competition. We invite WI crafters and artists to interpret the theme of 'New Home, New Beginnings' through needlework, papercraft, painting, knitting, in fact any medium.

We will be asking for a fee of £2 per entry and there will be a display at the Federation Annual Meeting on 19 April 2026 when the competition will be judged and the winner announced.

Please let your imaginations run free and let's show the county our talents.



### Monthly Craft Workshops

Please make a note of these dates for the first part of the year. All workshops run on the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 10:00 am to 2:00pm at The WI Hub, Unit 6, M&M Business Park, Doncaster Road, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster DN3 1HR.

**Wednesday 14 January**

**Wednesday 11 February**

**Wednesday 11 March**

Cost: £5 to include tea/coffee and all materials. Bring your own lunch.

Free Parking.

To book a place please contact the Federation office and pay on the day.

Email: [southyorksfed@gmail.com](mailto:southyorksfed@gmail.com) or Tel: 01302 579027.



## FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING - SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2026 INTRODUCING OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

We are delighted that our NFWI Chair Jeryl Stone will be one of our guest speakers.

Jeryl was elected to the NFWI Board in June 2017 and as NFWI Chair in June 2024. Before that, she served as NFWI Hon. Treasurer (2021 – 2024). Jeryl sits on all committees ex officio and is an elected Director of the WI Enterprises Board.



Our afternoon guest speaker is Liz Baxter from Side Farm Flowers who are located in Thurcroft. They are a husband and wife team - Liz and Andy, who love growing really beautiful, sustainable, natural, scented British flowers, herbs and foliage (and their own fruit and veg!)

As the flowers are homegrown they are super fresh, have a fabulous, consistent high quality and are a world apart from the usual supermarket offerings. They pick

their flowers daily and condition them overnight, they don't spend days in crates or flying half way across the world and they aren't laced with pesticides, dyes and preservatives so they are better for you and the planet.



### THE WI ON ECCLESALL ROAD

15 members visited Wentworth Woodhouse on Friday 5 September to take the 'Duties and Delights' tour. It was fascinating and we all learned a lot about the Fitzwilliam family, especially how they had difficulty producing heirs!! Members then had lunch and enjoyed the grounds. It was a great day out.



In September we had a celebration for the 110th Anniversary of the WI. We enjoyed this delicious cake made by our member Rachel Welton.





### THE WI ON ECCLESALL ROAD

Ladies having a CPR update from Simon Munster of St John's Ambulance. We enjoyed a demonstration, a couple of short videos and was able to have a go on the resus doll if we wanted. Simon also went over how to use a defibrillator if one was available. St John's are currently looking for new volunteers if anyone is interested.



### LOVERSALL WI

#### October Harvest Supper and Auction

A couple of photos from our brilliant Harvest Supper in October. Cooked and served by Linda, followed by an Auction of goods by Pat, donated by members. We own our own Hut, which needs constant maintenance, (recently we have had a lot of work done to it), so, thank you to our members, you are the best for the amount of support you give to keep it in good order.





### THE WI ON ECCLESALL ROAD

We are taking part in the Sheffield Cathedral Christmas Tree festival this year and have been busy making fabric hearts to decorate our tree, in order to support the WI National Campaign 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers'.

Please come along and have a look if you're in Sheffield from 2nd December and if you think we are the 'best dressed tree' please vote for us! If we win the £250 prize, it will all go to our charity The Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind.





THE WI HUB

## Christmas Open Hours

Tuesday 16 Dec	9.30 am - 2.30 pm
Wednesday 17 Dec	9.30 am - 2.30 pm
Thursday 18 Dec	9.30 am - 2.30 pm
Tuesday 23 Dec	CLOSED
Wednesday 24 Dec	CLOSED
Tuesday 30 Dec	9.30 am - 2.30 pm
Wednesday 31 Dec	CLOSED
Tuesday 6 Jan	9.30 am - 2.30 pm

### BARNSELY OPALS WI

Barnsley Opals WI were honoured to welcome the Mayor of Barnsley and members of the Royal British Legion to The Glass Works for the unveiling of our stunning 14-metre cascade of over 3,000 hand-crafted poppies.

This incredible display has been lovingly created by members of BOWI along with their friends, families, and local community groups - a true symbol of remembrance, creativity, and community spirit.

The Cascade made the BBC News website, local radio and became an internet sensation on all the local social media forums. A fabulous testament to the WI's commitment to the annual Remembrance Commemorations.

Sarah Dunn, of the institute's committee, said Remembrance was an important time and they wanted something for the wider community to have as a "mark of respect for our fallen soldiers and all those who have served".

The poppies were originally displayed in 2024 at St Mary's Church to commemorate Remembrance Day. This year an extra 1,000 flowers have been added to the cascade.

"When we started creating the installation we wanted it to be a way to bring people together to create something we could be proud of and to display in our local area," said Ms Dunn. The poppy is a symbol of remembrance and hope for a peaceful future. BOWI's poppy cascade subscribes to these sentiments and pays tribute to all those who paid the ultimate price.





## BARNSELY PHOENIX WI

Photos from our recent trip to attach Post Box Toppers to post boxes at Barnsley Hospital NHS Trust and some local supermarkets.



## ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTION SELECTION FORM 2026

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 **6 February 2026**.  
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.

## DINNINGTON BRASS BAND CONCERT

**FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2026**

**7pm - 9pm**

**Dinnington Resource Centre,  
Laughton Road, Dinnington,  
Sheffield S25 2PP**

**Come and enjoy an evening of music  
performed by the wonderful  
Dinnington Colliery Band  
+ Music Quiz**

**Sausage sandwich included  
(Vegan and Gluten Free available)**

**Bar will be open for hot and cold  
drinks**

**Cost: £15 per person**

**(non members welcome at no additional cost)**

**Tickets also available from Dinnington Colliery  
Band and Dinnington Resource Centre**

**Closing date: 27 January 2025**

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

# Christmas

## CAROL SERVICE

### Monday 8 December 2025

United Reformed Church, Norfolk Street,  
Sheffield S1 2JB

### 2 pm - 3 pm

Join us for an afternoon of traditional Carols and festive  
cheer.  
Followed by refreshments  
Cost: £8  
Closing date: 20 November 2025