



HAPPY NEW YEAR
2025!

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

January 2025

South Yorkshire Federation of WIs
News and Views

Issue 483

BRASS BAND CONCERT

Thursday 20 March 2025
7pm - 9pm

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

Come and enjoy an evening of music
performed by the wonderful
Dinnington Colliery Band

Sausage sandwich included
(Vegan and Gluten Free available)

Bar will be open for hot and cold
drinks

Cost: £12.50 per person
(non members welcome at no additional cost)

Closing date: 11 March 2025



South-Yorkshire-Federation-of-Womens-Institutes



@southyorksfedwi

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CHARITY REG. NO: 513917

EVENT	DATE & TIME	VENUE	CLOSING DATE	PRICE
Brass Band Concert	Thur 20 March @ 7 pm	Dinnington Resource Centre, 131 Laughton Road, Dinnington Sheffield S25 2PP	11 Mar	£12.50
Federation Annual Meeting	Wed 9 Apr @ 2.30 pm	Tapton Hall, Shore Lane, Fulwood Road, Sheffield S10 3BU	25 Mar	Delegates - Free Visitors - Early Bird £10 / £12.50
SAVE THE DATE				
NFWI Annual Meeting	Wed 4 June @ 10.30 am - Online			Delegate - Free Observer - £5
International Day	Sat 19 July			
<p align="center"><u>NO APPLICATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE CLOSING DATE</u> <u>PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO 'SYFWI' OR PAY BY BACS.</u> Send completed Application Form to Hall Cross Cottage for all payment methods by post or email.</p>				

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

Message from Federation Chairman

Hello Ladies

I hope you all had a good Christmas and I wish every one of you Best Wishes for the New Year. The Board of Trustees look forward to meeting with you all at forthcoming events we have planned for 2025.



Best wishes

Dorothy Meekins - Federation Chairman

OFFICE & FINANCE

Ingrid House: philip.house2@btopenworld.com

50/50 CLUB DRAW - CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Winning £12 No 19 - Carolyn Stones, Warmsworth WI

Winning £12 No 34 - Joyce Draycott, Chapeltown WI

Winning £12 No 107 - Carmel Taylor, Wickersley WI

CURRENT AFFAIRS & RESOLUTIONS

Susan Webster: susanj-webster@sky.com

Happy New Year from the Current Affairs and Resolutions Team!

International Day 2025 will focus on JAPAN which has afforded us a rich choice of themes to explore.

The venue on Saturday 19th July will once again be Dinnington Resource Centre as we find that it affords everything we need. The day will begin with tea and coffee and the programme to date includes Aikido (a Japanese martial art), Ikebana (the Japanese art of flower arrangement) and Kitsuke (the art of the kimono). Full details of the menu and the complete programme will be available in due course, but in the meantime, please be assured that raw fish and hot, spicy dishes **will not** feature, and dietary requirements will be catered for as in the past.

We do hope that you will support this event as it has been put together in response to feedback from South Yorkshire members who expressed a desire to return to the traditional idea of focussing on a country.

Another common theme in the feedback we received was the price of entry to the event. As members are only too painfully aware, we live in expensive times, but hopefully International Day 2025 will continue the tradition of high uptake of places, and with that in mind we have maintained this year's price of £22.50 for those who book and pay by 29th May, with an increase to £25 thereafter (which members may recall was the price commanded by International Day in years gone by).

Member's support is vital to the success of any event, and hopefully this has piqued your interest sufficiently to make a note of the date in your diary if you have not already done so.

The Carol Service was very successful, the venue was bright, warm and welcoming. Vintage Voices choir led the singing and performed 3 Christmas songs.

The collection will be shared between the choir's chosen charity, Lost Chord, a group who support dementia sufferers through music and Mental Health charities in the South Yorkshire area. We are, therefore, looking for recommendations / suggestions from our WIs for **local** mental health projects which would benefit from a donation.

Please forward any suggestions to Kirsty Bowser at southyorksfed@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Thank you to everyone who attended, £200 was raised.

We are now looking forward to events in 2025.

Cancelled Meeting

As members may or may not know, the Resolution Shortlist Meeting scheduled to take place on 2nd December was cancelled due to low numbers (13 in all). Thank you to those who registered their interest and also to those who took the time to express their disappointment.

The decision was not taken lightly, but in a nutshell, it was felt that the time expended in preparation by the team outweighed the benefit to be gleaned by WIs, particularly when there is such a wealth of information to be found in WI Life, on my WI and online generally. NFWI resources have been forwarded to the 13 members to enable them to have immediate and easy access to them.

After much discussion, South Yorkshire Federation's Current Affairs and Resolutions Team has decided to try a new approach when presenting the Resolution Shortlist. Our aim is to increase involvement and engagement with the issues raised by the resolutions.

It is appreciated that members' time is precious, and to spend chunks of that time attending meetings, either in person or via Zoom, is understandably not a priority. At the same time, though, many members feel strongly about a lot of the topics covered, and we are hoping to facilitate a way to allow for discussion of these. This will be trialled at **the end of 2025** when the following year's resolutions are announced.

Following the model of community groups up and down the country, we thought we could use the Federation's Facebook page to publish summaries of the shortlisted resolutions. Looking at community group pages, this approach seems to stimulate comments from users of the page and very often sparks a debate between them.

The idea is very much in its infancy, but it was felt important to let members know that the cancellation of the Shortlist Resolution meeting does not mark the end of the Current Affairs and Resolutions Team's involvement with the shortlist process. Resolutions are an integral part of the WI and we want to be have an input.

Finally, we are aware that many members may not be "on" Facebook or may have difficulties accessing anything online. That is an issue not just for this matter and is far beyond our remit. As far as access to the resolutions shortlist is concerned, however, the information will continue to be available within the pages of the WI Life magazine as well as electronically. At the moment the Team is trying to broaden the scope for discussion about the resolutions, and we welcome any comments or suggestions you may have for achieving this.

Current Affairs and Resolutions Team

HIGH LEVELS WI

The November meeting of High Levels WI had a Spanish theme to accompany the AGM. The President welcomed 30 members and 5 visitors before Jerusalem was sung. Then, as the AGM business progressed an entertainment duo arrived and performed some Salsa dancing. This was greatly enjoyed before the business continued. There was mention of outings and the Harvest Auction and the continuing donations for the local foodbanks.

The meeting was officially closed and as the evening was to celebrate Spanish culture a minute's silence was held to remember the victims of the recent flooding disaster. A delightful Tapas meal was then served by the staff of The Reindeer Inn. A quiz about some Spanish facts was available on each table. By the conclusion of the evening there was a general atmosphere of a very pleasant evening spent with friends, part of the ethos of WI.

As they left the venue members were looking forward to a return of the dancers who will hold a dance class at the start of the Christmas social evening.



ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTION SELECTION FORM 2025

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 **9 February 2025.** 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.

LOVERSALL WI

FRIDAY 7th MARCH 2025

2nd COLOSSAL QUIZ

6.30pm for 7pm prompt start

At Loversall WI Hut - DN11 9DE

Sadly, we can only accommodate 12 teams, therefore no more than two teams will be accepted from any one WI.

The first 12 applications by email will be accepted. Pie and Pea supper will be served at 6.30pm and at 7pm the Quiz will start.

At 8pm a hot drink and biscuits will be served.

At 8.15pm we shall have the second half of the Quiz, finishing if all goes well at 9.15pm.

It will be a fairly fast quiz, but hopefully it will be fun.

Tickets £28 per team of 4 to

include pie and peas

Open to all

WIs in SYFWI

Email janthreaddgold2@gmail.com to book, please

Closing date 21st February 2025

01405 785349

Cars are not permitted within the Hut Yard, and please take care, the yard is rough to walk on. Parking is available in the Farm Car Park or on the main street

STOCKSBRIDGE & DISTRICT WI

WI member, Judith Norris has continued her charity work to mark her 70th birthday. The latest challenge was to walk 31 miles in October, Judith set herself a personal target of 74 miles, in memory of her sister who would have celebrated her 74th birthday that month. In the end Judith walked a grand total of 100 miles and raised £478 for Pancreatic cancer research. Congratulations!



LOVERSALL WI

Loversall WI enjoyed a wonderful evening of festivity and food at our Christmas Carol Concert, with the Salvation Army Band, which has been playing at the last 45 (at least) Carol Concerts in our Hut. Over 60 of us enjoyed a lovely programme of carols and readings, with a tasty supper served by the Committee. We wish everyone in our Federation a Happy and Healthy 2025.



OUR ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch - 24th – 26th January

The benefits of spending time in nature are well-known; it has been found to be good for both our physical and mental health. January is often a rather dull month, an anti-climax after Christmas, so getting outside (weather permitting!) is an ideal way to blow away those January blues. The Big Garden Birdwatch offers you the opportunity to get outside and do something to help preserve our natural world.

Organized by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Big Garden Birdwatch takes place on the last weekend in January every year and is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Thousands of nature lovers take part, helping to build a picture of how our garden birds are faring. All you need to do is spend an hour watching the birds in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park between 24th and 26th January and record the birds that land. You can even take part by watching from your window! Last year the House Sparrow was the most seen bird but sadly its numbers are down by 60% compared to the first Birdwatch in 1979. The information you gather really helps the RSPB in its fight to preserve our wildlife.

For further information and details of how to send in your results on-line or by post visit the RSPB's website <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

The Climate and Nature Act

The WI has been supporting the campaign for this Act of Parliament which would put new protections for climate and wildlife into law. The Bill has its second reading in the House of Commons on 24th January and it is hoped that it will then progress to the next stage in the process of becoming law.

Show the Love

A reminder that in February, the WI will once again be joining the Climate Coalition to Show the Love for our environment. I'm sure many of you will have activities and events planned featuring the Green Heart symbol. If not, it's not too late to organize something! More on this next month.