



# ANNUAL 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.

Entries will be displayed at the Federation Annual Meeting in April when the competition will be judged and the winner announced.

Bring your item and £2 entry fee on the day.

Let your imaginations run free and let's show the County our talents.



# Jigsaw Challenge

Saturday 21 March 2026  
10 am - 12 noon

To be held at 2 venues:-  
The WI Hub, Unit 6, M&M Business Park, Doncaster Road, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster DN3 1HR and  
Wentworth Mechanics Institute, 9 Main Street, Wentworth, Rotherham S62 7TL

Team of 3 to complete a 500 piece jigsaw puzzle in one hour.  
Tea/coffee, cake/biscuits  
£15 per team

Closing date 10.3.26  
Prize for the winner at each venue

EVENT	DATE & TIME	VENUE	CLOSING DATE	PRICE	
Jigsaw Challenge	Sat 21 March 10 am - 12 noon	The WI Hub, Unit 6, M&M Business Park, Doncaster Road, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster DN3 1HR <b>and</b> Wentworth Mechanics Institute, 9 Main Street, Wentworth, Rotherham S62 7TL	10 Mar	£15 per team of 3	
Federation Annual Meeting	Sun 19 April 11 am - 4 pm	The Consort Hotel, 8 Brampton Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham S66 9JA	31 Jan (early bird) 24 March 24 March	£28 Visitor £30 Visitor £15 Delegate	
NFWI Annual Meeting	Thur 4 June 10.30 am - 4 pm approx.	Online - Zoom Watch Party Online - Zoom Watch Party	Link Delegates Link Delegates Observers Observers	3 Mar 3 Mar 2 Jun 19 May	FREE £5 £5 £10
<b>SAVE THE DATE</b>					
Treasure Tail	Fri 29 May @ 6 pm	Kilham Hall, Kilham Lane, Branton, Doncaster DN3 3PF			
Treasure Trail	Fri 12 June @ 6 pm	Chapelton Methodist Church, Sheffield S35 1AE			
International Day	Sat 18 July	Dinnington Resource Centre, 131 Laughton Road, Dinnington, Sheffield S25 2PP			
<b><u>NO APPLICATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE CLOSING DATE</u></b> <b><u>PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO 'SYFWI' OR PAY BY BACS.</u></b>					
Send completed Application Form to the Federation Office for <b>all payment</b> methods by post or email. Payments can also be made online using <b>TICKETLAB</b>					

**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**

Spring is round the corner! We're almost there, by the end of March, thanks to the clocks going forward, sunset will be at 19.37.... I can't wait. The bulbs I planted in the autumn are starting to show which is always heartwarming. We are busy at The Hub planning for the Annual Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April. We are hoping to make it slightly different this year, slightly less formal but still showcasing what the Federation has been busy with in the past 12 months and what we have planned for the next year. I hope many of you will join us and make it an enjoyable day. Oh, and don't forget your competition entries. I am really looking forward to seeing your creations.



## CALLING ALL TREASURERS

If you are new to the role or an experienced Officer...  
Why not logon to the Training from NFWI to find out more, or as a refresher to update your knowledge?

### How to access the training module:

- Logon to [mywi.org.uk](http://mywi.org.uk)
- sign in
- go to 'WI Learning Hub' at the bottom of the page
- WI Roles Area
- WI Committee Role Area
- Officer Induction

**It should only take 30 minutes or so!**

**Enjoy**



## **OFFICE & FINANCE Pauline Hallam - paulinehallam@hotmail.co.uk**

As South Yorkshire Federation is only a small Federation with 44 WIs, the money we receive from your subscriptions (£12.55 for 2026/7) is insufficient to meet the running of the Federation. We must look for ways to increase our income as well as reducing our expenditure, which we continually review. The events that the Federation arranges are fundraising events, like your WI having a coffee morning, a quiz night etc. Thank you for supporting our fundraising events, we appreciate your support.

There are other ways that you can help. As you will have seen in the February edition of WI Life, there is the WI Lottery for £1 per week with a chance of winning a prize and helping the Federation when you nominate us as your good cause. There is also the WI Raffle with lots of prizes for £1 per ticket. The Federation receives 60% of the ticket proceeds.

<https://www.thewilottery.co.uk/support/south-yorkshire-federation-of-wis>

Other fundraising is the 50/50 Club for £10 per year. The proceeds are shared 50% to the prize money and 50% to Federation fundraising. Ask your WI Secretary about this or contact Kirsty at the WI Hub. Coming soon will be the bulb catalogues, so order your bulbs and look forward to a wonderful display of spring flowers in 2027. The Federation receives commission on the orders. As they say "Every Little Helps" so please consider these ways of helping your Federation and please come along to our events too.

## **MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT**

**Pauline Hallam - paulinehallam@hotmail.co.uk**

Do other people who use the same meeting place as your WI know that a WI meets there? Why not let them know by displaying a poster giving details of when you meet. Maybe you will attract some new members.

Does your meeting place have a newsletter, Facebook page, or website where details of your meetings can be posted? Make use of any free advertising.

Put posters in your local area and always advertise your fundraising events.

Also, look at attending local events to attract new members.

If you need any help in promoting your WI get in touch with the Membership Team.



## **CURRENT AFFAIRS & RESOLUTIONS**

**Susan Webster - susanj-webster@sky.com**

Although I am writing this at the end of January, by the time you read it March will have begun, and I am hopeful by then that everything we have in the pipeline for International Day 2026 will be well on the way to being confirmed.

As usual we have been online to research ideas and speakers and have waded through a mine of information quite often just to locate contact details. Even when these are found and a request sent there is all too often no reply or it turns out to be unsuitable for our format and outside our budget, so it is back to the drawing board. So much so this year, that we had to resort to our back up plan, changing country partway through the planning. We have also had to adapt our expectations to what is available and affordable which occasionally makes the link to the country a little tenuous. The speakers are, however, aware of our focus, and we are confident that the day will prove to be as varied, relevant and interesting as in previous years. It goes almost without saying though that the vital component is your support which we hope we can rely on as in the past and we look forward to receiving as many early bookings as possible once the details are released.



This item usually ends with a request for members to join our team. That invitation still stands, but in light of earlier comments about the time spent researching and following up contacts, it would be really helpful if there were a few more people involved in the searching online process and then following up to check whether or not that speaker would be viable. If you would prefer not to be part of the team on a regular basis, but do have a fondness for International Day, which clearly is not uncommon, why not do some research to find potential speakers for the country of your choice and let us have your findings which would give us a head start? The team really would appreciate some help and it is a way of ensuring that the event meets your expectations.

## ACTIVITIES & SOCIAL

**Sandra Crawford - sandimo8@uwclub.net**

Hello everyone, I am pleased to be back as Team Leader of Activities & Social at the Federation. I have some big shoes to fill taking over from Maureen Hall.

A reminder about the launch of the Annual Craft Competition starting this year on the 19th April, see front page for details. We are looking forward to seeing some varied crafts with the theme New Home, New Beginnings.

At the March Monthly Craft Workshop we will be making an Easter card, a personal jigsaw, of which as well as the 10" x 8", I also have a 5" x 7" and a butterfly shape that is 4" across the top wings, and a Mothers Day card and maybe another item. We usually try and make 4 items.

On the 8th April we will be creating some Mixed Media & Paint Pouring Art. If there is any particular craft or item that you would like to try or learn about, please don't hesitate to contact me. I have a wealth of materials to work with.



## GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOLIDAY 14–18 SEPTEMBER 2026

Information has been sent to WIs about a holiday which is being arranged for WI members by Gloucestershire Federation.

It is a 5 day holiday staying at the Hatton Court Hotel, Upton St Leonards, GL4 8DE on the edge of Gloucester. It is half board accommodation, with full English breakfast and a three-course dinner taken in a private dining room. All rooms are ensuite. It includes a full itinerary, visiting many places of interest and all travel during the holiday will be by coach which is included in the price. Car parking is available at the hotel. Cost is £520 per person sharing a twin/double room or £699 for a single room (limited availability).

National Trust members discount £35.

Single rooms available, please contact Liz at Gloucestershire Federation: [liz.goldie27@gmail.com](mailto:liz.goldie27@gmail.com) or [admin@gfwi.org.uk](mailto:admin@gfwi.org.uk)

If you are interested please contact your WI Secretary or The WI Hub for an application form to book.

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



## REMINDER - DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR DELEGATE SUBMISSIONS TO THE NFWI ANNUAL MEETING - THURSDAY 4 JUNE 2026

We hope that by now you have been able to read through the information sent with the November 2025 issue of News & Views.

The NFWI Annual Meeting will be held again on Zoom. If it is your WI's turn to put forward a Link Delegate, please ensure you have sent your completed form to The WI Hub by **3 March**. It is a most enjoyable and interesting experience which you can do from home or join us at The WI Hub in Doncaster for a Watch Party, where you will have help and support with setting up your device and be able to join other members. A buffet lunch will be served which Delegates will receive at a discounted rate of just £5! You may want to ask the other WIs in the group which you are representing to contribute towards the cost which will work out at £1.25 per WI! Link Delegates will represent and vote on behalf of the 3 other WIs in their group and tickets for Link Delegates are free!

**Observers** - you can watch the meeting from home and purchase a ticket online for £5.

Alternatively, why not join us here at The WI Hub. Watch with other members and enjoy the friendship and comradery of the WI! For £10, tea/coffee will be available throughout the day, plus a delicious buffet lunch will be served. It was a great atmosphere at the meeting held last year, so please don't be on your own, come and enjoy the fun! An application form has been sent to your WI or you can download it from our website [www.southyorksfedwi.org.uk](http://www.southyorksfedwi.org.uk) and print one at home and pay by BACS or cheque. OR please book through our online ticket platform TICKETLAB!

Closing date for Observers to join the Watch Party at the WI Hub is 19 May. Observers to watch online at home is 2 June.





We all know plastic waste is a real problem, whether it's in our streets, our countryside or our seas. More plastic is being produced now than ever before. As consumers we can help by recycling and trying to reduce the amount of plastic we use. However, this problem really needs effective action from government and businesses to be resolved. This is where The Big Plastic Count comes in and you can help. For one week from 9 – 15 March, thousands of people from households, schools and communities across the country will take part in the UK's biggest people-powered investigation into household plastic waste.

By taking part in The Big Plastic Count, you'll help gather important evidence to show the true scale of the crisis – and to tell the government we need them to produce less plastic. Since the last campaign, the UK has elected a new government – one that says it's serious about tackling plastic waste. This is our chance to put their promise to the test.

All you need to do is sign up at [Home | The Big Plastic Count](#) and you will receive an email with all the instructions you need. Then count all the plastic packaging you throw away for one week, from 9 to 15 March. When you're done, submit your count on the Big Plastic Count website. They will send you your plastic profile – showing what happens to your waste after you bin it. You'll also see the national results, and find out whether the government is serious about tackling the plastics crisis. The Big Plastic Count will use your information to help them put pressure on the government to act.

### **Fair Green Future**

If you're interested in learning more about this new WI campaign, NFWI Public Affairs are offering a series of four webinars starting on Friday 27 February at 12 noon and continuing in March, April and May. To register your interest, email [pa@nfwf.org.uk](mailto:pa@nfwf.org.uk). Apologies if you are not in time to register for the February webinar – this information was not received in time for last month's News and Views. However, you should be able to catch up as these webinars are usually recorded.

