



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

April 2026

South Yorkshire Federation of WIs News and Views

Issue 497



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INSPIRING WOMEN

Treasure Trails

Form a team from your WI and enter our popular competition.

Teams of 4 are invited to solve clues along a walking trail.

A great fun social evening and a chance to meet other members

FRIDAY 29 MAY at 6.30pm

Kilham Hall

Kilham Lane

Branton

Doncaster DN3 3PF

AND

AT

FRIDAY 12 JUNE at 6pm

Methodist Church

1 Nether Ley Avenue

Chapelton

Sheffield S35 1AE

£35 PER TEAM

Includes a light supper

Closing date: 19 May 2026



South-Yorkshire-Federation-of-Womens-Institutes



@southyorksfedwi

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

Tel: 01302 579027

Email: southyorksfed@gmail.com

Website: www.southyorksfedwi.org.uk

Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9.30am - 2.30pm

CHARITY REG. NO: 513917

EVENT	DATE & TIME	VENUE	CLOSING DATE	PRICE	
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	
Treasure Tail	Fri 29 May @ 6.30 pm	Kilham Hall, Kilham Lane, Branton, Doncaster DN3 3PF	19 May	£35 per Team of 4	
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
Treasure Trail	Fri 12 June @ 6 pm	Methodist Church, 1 Nether Ley Avenue, Chapelton, Sheffield S35 1AE	19 May	£35 per Team of 4	
SAVE THE DATE International Day	Sat 18 July	Dinnington Resource Centre, 131 Laughton Road, Dinnington, Sheffield S25 2PP			

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

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**

As I write this the sun is shining... not sure how long it's set to last but boy doesn't it lift your spirits? The bulbs are all coming into flower at The Hub following our gardening session last year, which is lovely to see.

April 1st sees the beginning of the new subscription year, I hope you will reflect on what your membership gives you on a monthly basis and feel it provides value for money. This year WIs get to keep more of the fees with £27.10 of the £54 staying with your own WI. SYFWI receive £12.55 and NFWI £14.35. Since we will only receive 50p more per member this year than last year, we are going to have to rely even more heavily on our fundraising events and would ask that you all try your best to support them where you can. The Bulb Scheme, 50/50 Club, WI Lottery, Craft Days, are all ways you can help us to help you.

I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Federation Annual Meeting, we've also got The Jigsaw Challenge, The Treasure Trails, International Day all coming up, so plenty of opportunities to get together and have fun, meeting and mingling with members from other WIs throughout the region. One of the things I enjoy most about the WI is the feeling of belonging... to something very local but also to the wider community.

As the days lengthen I am hoping to get out to more WIs, I've stayed pretty close to home during these long dark nights, visiting Dunsville, Misson and Tickhill and venturing out to Nether Edge WI. As always I was made to feel very welcome, thank you ladies.

The Thursday groups are going to take me a while as I have my own meeting and committee meeting on Thursdays and also a three year old grandson for a sleepover every week now, so it will take some juggling but you know what they say "if you want something doing ask a busy person" not sure when this busy person will fit it all in but I'll try my best.

See you soon.



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

**50/50 CLUB DRAW
CONGRATULATIONS!!!!**

Winning £14 No 43 - Amanda Saville, Auckley WI
 Winning £14 No 94 - Wendy Richards, Wath upon Dearne WI
 Winning £14 No 108 - Tracey Curle, Wickersley WI



CURRENT AFFAIRS & RESOLUTIONS

Susan Webster - susanj-webster@sky.com

I hope this finds you full of the joys of spring and that everyone has been able to enjoy at least a little bit of sunshine recently, topping up levels of Vitamin D! From about late March or early April to the end of September, most people should be able to make all the vitamin D they need from sunlight, so says the NHS. Probably less of an authority on medical matters, my Dad used to tell me that your health was the most important thing – beating wealth and helping ensure happiness. Maybe a simplistic point, but with increasing age and aches, I can see he had a point!



April 7th is World Health Day. This year's theme is "Together for Science", celebrating the power of scientific collaboration to protect the health of people, animals, plants, and the planet. Previous newsletter items have mentioned the WI's perennial interest in health-related matters in our Resolutions. The WI's new learning hub ViA offers a wide variety of courses which focus on different aspects of healthy lifestyles. There are exercise videos, courses exploring the impact of social and cultural factors on women's health, whilst others focus on specific aspects such as heart health or the science behind obesity. It really is worth browsing <https://via.thewi.org.uk/> to see what is on offer – and much of it is free to members.

A happy and healthy Easter to all.

RESOLUTION SHORTLIST 2026 HOW SOUTH YORKSHIRE MEMBERS VOTED

Title of resolution	Number of selections
Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health, and social inclusion	284
Action on women's homelessness	174
Nearer to Nature	43
Love Your Vulva – Self checking is your best defence against vulval cancer	37
Every child needs a friend	142
TOTAL NUMBER OF SELECTIONS	680

Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote and select one of the Shortlisted Resolutions to take forward for further discussion and final voting at the NFWI Annual Meeting.



TREASURERS' CORNER

Reminder..... a signed WI Member Registration Form **MUST** accompany members' subscription, to confirm that they are eligible to join the WI.

ACTIVITIES & SOCIAL

Sandra Crawford - sandimo8@uwclub.net

Well time is going so quickly, another month has flown by! Just a little update on the Craft Workshop which are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month. In **April** we are doing Mixed Media Art, using odd bits and bobs, paper clips, hair grips, fruit netting, screws, old broken jewellery. Anything at all can be made into a unique piece of art. Once glued in place, they are painted with black Plasticote and then highlighted using various coloured gilding waxes. In **May** we will be doing Stencil Art and Pressed Flower picture/card.

If you have a friend who is not a member, they would be welcome to come along with you for a small extra charge. Please email or telephone The WI Hub to book a place on any of the Craft Workshops so that we have an idea of numbers.

Email: southyorksfed@gmail.com or Tel: 01302 579027 and pay on the day (£10 for members and £12 non members).

If you're going to the Federation Annual Meeting, drop by and see me. I will have samples of some of the crafts that we do and you can ask questions.

Don't forget our competition, 'New Home, New Beginnings' I look forward to seeing all the entries and hope you are on with your project.



DARFIELD WI

We had a great meeting night on Tuesday when we were given CPR and Abdominal Thrust First Aid training by two wonderful Volunteer Nurses Louise and Catherine based in Sheffield. They are part of St. Matthews Parish Nursing Project and have full time careers in Nursing, they give up their spare time to do talks and demos for any local groups for a donation to the community project run by St. Matthews Church. We would definitely recommend them to other WIs as it's very important that anyone can help in such life threatening situations and though it's a very serious subject, they made the whole evening very relaxed and fun. Photos show our members Pam doing CPR and Jane assisting on a choking scenario.



HIGH LEVELS WI

At their February meeting High Levels WI members combined their enjoyment of crafting with the national organisation's commitment to the campaign Dental Health matters. Jayne, the President, demonstrated how a small rectangle of fabric and a length of ribbon could be transformed into a bag to contain dental products. At previous meetings the concept had been discussed and members arrived with needles, pins, cotton thread and scissors.

Jayne produced approximately 40 pieces of material, cut to an appropriate size and ribbons to thread and make a draw string fastening. Members had been asked to donate toothbrushes, toothpaste and anything else felt suitable. Amid a gentle murmur of concentration the activity began. As needles were threaded and colours chosen, conversations developed and a wonderful social evening ensued with refreshments available as convenient. By the evening ended 35 bags were made to contain the items donated. It was agreed to send the bags to Phoenix WoMen's Aid centre in Doncaster, a charity which supports victims and survivors of domestic abuse and violence.

Prior to the active part of the evening, business had been conducted and members informed of the details of the Fashion Show to be held on April 15th at the Reindeer Inn. The event will begin at 7pm and tickets costing £5 (cash) are available from Jayne Dance or via any WI member. Keep an eye open for the posters. Entry includes light refreshments. There will be a good raffle with a variety of prizes and of course the opportunity to enhance your spring and summer wardrobes at a very reasonable price, and you may have chance to identify the models!! Purchases can be made using cash or card.



FEDERATION BULB SCHEME

We are delighted to inform you that we will again be running the popular Bulb Scheme! This allows members to purchase good quality Spring Bulbs at a special discounted rate.

Each member has received a digital copy of the catalogue with their emailed copy of this newsletter and WI Secretaries will be given an Order Form and a couple of catalogues for members to look at, so that they can collate all orders from their WI.

Please place your order with your WI Secretary/Bulb Co-ordinator and orders will be sent to WIs for distribution in the Autumn.

Please place your order by 29 May 2026.
Our Federation receives commission on the orders we place.

Thank you in advance for your support.