



February 2026

South Yorkshire Federation of WIs News and Views

Issue 495

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



**WE URGENTLY NEED MORE MEMBERS TO JOIN OUR
SUB TEAMS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**WITHOUT EXTRA HELP WE CANNOT MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OR
AMOUNT OF EVENTS WE CURRENTLY RUN**

- **Do you have good organisation skills? enjoy arranging events/booking speakers? There are several ways to get involved without having to attend events if you prefer not to**
- **Sub Teams meet every other month**
- **Board of Trustee meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month**
- **All meetings are Hybrid, you do not have to travel to Doncaster**

**WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR IDEAS
INTERESTED?**

CONTACT THE WI HUB 01302 579027 southyorksfed@gmail.com



[South-Yorkshire-Federation-of-Womens-Institutes](https://www.facebook.com/South-Yorkshire-Federation-of-Womens-Institutes)



[@southyorksfedwi](https://twitter.com/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-Wednesday 9.30am - 2.30pm Thursday 9.30am - 2.30pm by appointment

CHARITY REG. NO: 513917

EVENT	DATE & TIME	VENUE	CLOSING DATE	PRICE	
Brass Band Concert	Fri 6 February 2026 7 pm - 9 pm	Dinnington Resource Centre, 131 Laughton Road, Dinnington, Sheffield S25 2PP	27 Jan	£15	
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 and 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, Thurgcroft, 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
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

Here we are very much well into the New Year, although it has been cold we seem to have got off lightly with weather considering what's been thrown at this island, I have friends in the very North of Scotland, Cornwall and the Midlands and all seem to have had much more to contend with than us. Hopefully we stay as lucky.

Many people like to use the New Year to declare "New Year, new me" and if that's you and you're sticking to your resolutions then I applaud you. I'm more an advocate of "Wintering" of spending these cold, dark months resting, working on self care, reflecting and recharging. The time (for me) to become a "new me" tends to be Spring when life all around us starts to emerge anew and it inspires me do the same. During these next few weeks and months I like to surround myself with friends, doing fun activities, eating comfort foods, warming soup, hearty stews and custardy puddings.

We've already had our WI meeting as I write this and we enjoyed a social evening of board games, coffee, tea and cake and a beetle drive. It was low key but very much enjoyed by everyone. Wintering doesn't have to mean you hibernate away from everyone, get out there and mingle, wrap up warm and enjoy a walk if its bright and crisp, join in with events where you can learn something or just enjoy a new experience. I look forward to seeing some of you at the Brass Band Event at Dinnington which was a great night last year and this year promises to be better. So whether you're going great guns with healthy eating and getting fit or taking things slowly and biding your time, lets all have a great 2026.



ACTIVITIES & SOCIAL TEAM

MAKE YOUR OWN JIGSAW PUZZLE

Have you got a Drawing, Christmas or Birthday Card that your children or grandchildren made for you or just a photograph (photocopies can be used)? You can turn this into a 48 piece 10" x 8" Jigsaw Puzzle (smaller ones are also available).

We will be doing this at the Monthly Craft Workshop on Wednesday 11 March at The WI Hub from 10am - 2pm. Refreshments and cake is provided but please bring your own lunch.

Contact the office to book a place on 01302 579027 / email southyorksfed@gmail.com or with Sandra on 07928 113863 for any further information.

Dates for your Diary!

Monthly Craft Workshops will be running as follows:

Wednesday 11 February

Wednesday 11 March

Wednesday 8 April

Wednesday 13 May

Wednesday 10 June

Wednesday 8 July

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

As Spring approaches, it is time to think about the start of the new membership year. For the 2026/7 membership subscription there has been an increase of £3. Your WI will receive £2 of the increase with the Federation and NFWI receiving 50p each.

Total Subscription	WI Share	Federation Share	NFWI Share
£54.00	£27.10	£12.55	£14.35

Full members will pay £54 for the year unless their WI uses “flexibility” to reduce their share of the subs. New members joining later in the year will pay a pro-rata rate. Multi members (formerly Dual members) pay £27.10 for the year unless their WI uses “flexibility”. There is no pro-rata rate for multi members joining during the year, Subscriptions are due on the 1st April so they can be paid at the March and April meetings. Please make sure that any changes to your personal details are notified to your committee when renewing your membership, so that your MCS record can be updated.

50/50 CLUB DRAW - CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Winning £14 No 64 - Barbara Green, Thurlstone & Millhouse Green WI

Winning £14 No 85 - Rachel Marriott, Chapeltown WI

Winning £14 No 108 - Tracey Curie, Wickersley WI

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

Sian Holmes has stepped back from her role as WI Adviser. The team would like to thank her for her hard work and support. The WIs who had Sian as their Adviser should contact either Ingrid House or Pauline Hallam if they need any help.

This means that there are two Advisers and a Trainee Adviser (Sue Denton) on the team and we really need a few more people to train as advisers so we can deliver training and more support for the WIs in South Yorkshire. The WI Adviser training is online and takes about 4 hours, which you can complete at your own pace. The team will provide the practical training and support. We meet monthly on Zoom in the evening and have recently started having hybrid meetings with the IFE team.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS & RESOLUTIONS****Susan Webster: susanj-webster@sky.com**

February 4th was established as World Cancer Day in the year 2000. The previous year a group of internationally respected oncologists had met to discuss a coordinated approach to the fight against cancer. The World Summit against Cancer was the response to their global call to action against the disease, with government officials and oncologists from around the world attending the first summit in Paris on 4th February 2000.

Health issues have long been a source of material for WI Resolutions, and cancer and its earlier diagnosis have been very much on the WI's radar. Consultant physician at St Bart's Hospital London commented in 1951 on the “unique and unrivalled opportunity” of our organisation to help in cancer education which he believed would help put an end to the “fear and ignorance” surrounding the disease and in turn lead to earlier diagnosis.

The provision of facilities for routine smear tests for cervical cancer was the WI's focus in 1964, with members being informed about and encouraged to ask for the test. Once again in 2019 our 5 Minutes That Matter campaign sought to raise women's awareness of the importance of taking up the invitation to attend what have now become routine cervical screenings offered to women.

In 1975 the WI began informing members of the importance of breast examination and lobbying the government to set up screening clinics. The national breast screening programme was eventually introduced in 1988, saving around 1300 lives every year.

These are just a few examples of the impact WI Resolutions have on women's lives and wellbeing. Whatever Resolution is ultimately chosen for the current year, it will no doubt be afforded the same unerring support of members. The results of the voting for our Federation will be published in a future edition of this newsletter.



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.

BARNSELY PHOENIX WI

After the success of our Christmas Post Box Toppers we were asked to do an Easter/Spring topper for our local Barnsley Hospital. The photo shows our efforts to date and thought it might inspire other WIs, we just need the spring weather now!



WATH UPON DEARNE WI

The new Wath WI Christmas tree in the library complete with crafted decorations made by some of the members.



HIGH LEVELS WI

High Levels WI Christmas meeting had a very cheery seasonal atmosphere. Members arrived wearing Christmas themed attire and some wore party clothes. Actually, some members had already enjoyed celebrating a birthday and the membership heartily sang Happy Birthday to the celebrant. After a brief resume of business two ladies, Gail and Bronwen of "Isle Craft It" were introduced. They had prepared tables with the necessities for the evening which included scissors, a ruler, pens, pencils, scoring instruments and printed instructions on how to make a cracker. There was also a sheet of cracker jokes and hats and snaps to be placed inside the crackers. Gail then demonstrated how to make a square cracker, but she did tell us a cylindrical one would be easier. As the demonstration finished members helped themselves to papers of their choice and set about making their own crackers (with varying degrees of success)! Gail and Bronwen were on hand to help and show individuals how to make crackers of different sizes. The activity was great fun and members were encouraged to take as much as they needed to continue making more crackers at home.

Delicious festive nibbles, produced by the committee, were enjoyed and carols were sung before the Secret Santa gifts were distributed and members ventured into the night wishing friends Happy Christmas.



WENTWORTH WI

Wentworth WI held a Celebration Carol Concert once again during December at Harley Mission. Approximately 60 WI members together with family and friends attended and had an enjoyable afternoon singing carols and listening to bible readings and light hearted Christmas related ones. Money from the sale of programmes together with cash collected on the day, a total of just over £250, has been donated to Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice.



LOVERSALL WI

FRIDAY 6th MARCH 2026

3rd COLOSSAL QUIZ

6.30pm Supper - 7pm prompt start of Quiz

At Loversall WI Hut - DN11 9DE

Tickets £30 per team of 4

Open to all WI's in SYFWI

Email janthreadgold2@gmail.com to book, please

Closing date 21st February 2026

Please note: 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

Show The Love

Every year, in February, the WI takes part in Show The Love in order to raise awareness for protecting people, climate and nature.

We know that climate change is already having an impact on the things we love such as our children, our grandchildren, wildlife, trees, beaches and bees. We need investment in renewable technologies, reduction of the use of fossil fuels and insulation in our homes. This would create jobs, keep homes warm and help to lower fuel bills. The green heart is a powerful symbol that can be used to get your message across. It lends itself to a form of activism called craftivism. This means using craft as a 'gentle protest', a way of starting conversations and engaging with people which fits very well with the WI.

We can use our craftivism to show our politicians that people want to see action for climate and nature. You could make a green heart (out of paper, wool, felt, material) and send it to your MP, telling them what you love and why you want it to be protected. Another way to use green hearts is to create a display in your community, try some yarn bombing or make letter box toppers! If you're not into sewing or knitting, perhaps you could make green heart cakes or biscuits for your WI meeting and use that as a way to get people thinking about the environment and having discussions.

However you decide to Show The Love, do let us know and send in photos and/or articles for News and Views and our social media.



#ShowTheLove



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



JOIN IN WITH THE 50/50 CLUB

MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO MAKE DONATIONS IN THE SUM OF £10 PER NUMBER

GRAND PRIZE
£100

SMALLER MONTHLY CASH PRIZES AND GRAND PRIZE DRAW ONCE A YEAR

CONTACT YOUR WI SECRETARY OR COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.SOUTHYORKSFEDWI.ORG.UK AND SEND ALONG WITH YOUR DONATION TO THE WI HUB



FEDERATION ANNUAL Meeting

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

The Consort Hotel
8 Brampton Road
Thurcroft
Rotherham S66 9JA

SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2026
11 am - 4 pm approx.

GUEST SPEAKER
JERYL STONE - NFWI CHAIR

GUEST SPEAKER
LIZ BAXTER - SIDE FARM FLOWERS

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.

VISITOR - £30 INCLUDING BUFFET LUNCH AND COFFEE/TEA
EARLY BIRD - £28 IF BOOKED BY 31.1.26
DELEGATE - £15 PER WI