



March 2025

## South Yorkshire Federation of WIs News and Views

Issue 485



### TREASURE TRAILS

Form a team from your WI and enter our popular competition. Teams of 4 members follow and solve clues along a walking trail. This is a great social and fun evening to meet other members and is followed by a light supper to all teams and spectators.

**START at 6 pm on MONDAY 16 JUNE**  
**Darfield Community Centre, Illsley Road, Darfield, Barnsley S73 9AL**

**AND**

**START at 6.30 pm on FRIDAY 27 June**  
**Mechanics Institute, Friars Croft, 9 Main Street, Wentworth, Rotherham S62 7TL**

Please complete the Application Form to book your place(s)  
No tickets will be issued.

**£30 per team of 4 members**  
**Spectators £8 (including supper)**

**Closing date: 20 May 2025**

#### FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING

**Wednesday 9 April 2025**

**2.30 pm - 4.30 pm**

**Tapton Hall, Shore Lane, Fulwood Road, Sheffield S10 3BU**

Arrive from 1.30 pm to browse the Stalls and catch up with old friends with a complimentary coffee/tea and biscuits.

Guest Speaker is Dame Julie Kenny DBE DL  
**Please join us to find out what is happening in your Federation**

**Each WI receives a FREE Delegate Place**

**EARLY BIRD Visitor £10 until 25.2.25**

**Visitor - £12.50**

**Closing date: 25 March 2025**

#### NFWI ANNUAL MEETING LIVE STREAM WATCH PARTY

**Wednesday 4 June 2025**

**at St Catherine's House,  
Woodfield Park, Tickhill Road, Balby,  
Doncaster DN4 8QP**

Take your seats at 10 am for the meeting starting at 10.30 am

**Lunch break approx. 12.30 pm**

**Finish approx. 4.30 pm**

This is your chance to watch a live stream, and take part in the NFWI Annual Meeting with other members whilst it is hosted on Zoom.

**£7.50 per Observer**

**FREE for Delegates**

**Closing date: 7 May 2025**



South-Yorkshire-Federation-of-Womens-Institutes



@southyorksfedwi

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**Office Hours: Tuesday-Wednesday 9.30am - 2.30pm Thursday 9.30am - 2.30pm by appointment**  
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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 Visitors - Early Bird	Delegates - Free £10 / £12.50
NFWI AM Watch Party	Wed 4 June @ 10 am	St Catherine's House, Woodfield Park, Tickhill Road, Balby, Doncaster DN4 8QP	7 May	Delegate - Free Observer - £7.50
NFWI Annual Meeting	Wed 4 June @ 10.30 am - Online		30 May	Delegate - Free Observer - £5
Treasure Trail	Mon 16 June @ 6 pm	Darfield Community Centre, Illsley Road Darfield, Barnsley S73 9AL	20 May	Team - £30 Spectator - £8
Treasure Trail	Fri 27 June @ 6.30 pm	Mechanics Institute, Friars Croft, 9 Main Street, Wentworth, Rotherham S62 7TL	20 May	Team - £30 Spectator - £8
International Day Japan	Sat 19 July @ 10 am	Dinnington Resource Centre, 131 Laughton Road, Dinnington, Sheffield S25 2PP	29 May 30 June	Early Bird - £22.50 £25
<b>SAVE THE DATE</b>				
Carol Service	Mon 8 Dec	Central United Reformed Church, Sheffield	<b><u>NO APPLICATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE CLOSING DATE</u></b>	

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

## ACTING CHAIR - ROBERTA EALES

roberta@abbeydale21.plus.com

Being new to this slot in the newsletter, I was wracking my brain for something that I could write about that was vaguely interesting and engaging, so I looked to the month of March for inspiration! Of course I came across International Women's Day (IWD) held in March and what could be more relevant to members of the WI, as the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK. IWD has been around for over 100 years, as have many of the issues still impacting on women's lives and their quest for gender parity. It grew from the women's labour and suffrage movements. The first IWD gathering occurred in 1911 but did you know that it was Lenin (leader of the Bolshevik party) that declared March 8<sup>th</sup> as the day it would be celebrated? This was to honour the role of Russian women in the 1917 revolution, as on the 8<sup>th</sup> March that year, women workers started a strike for "bread & peace", which ultimately forced the Czar to abdicate and a provisional government, led by Lenin, to take over. As a result, Lenin granted the women the right to vote.



This year the IWD social media hashtag is #Accelerate Action – let's speed up the rate of gender equality worldwide, as significant barriers remain. Collectively, we can accelerate action for change.

Usurping this strap line, "accelerate action", by working together as a Federation, we can accelerate the action needed to get us back on a surer financial footing but we need your help to do this. Again I ask you to please consider joining our sub-teams and the Board of Trustees.

## OFFICE & FINANCE

**Ingrid House: philip.house2@btopenworld.com**

50/50 CLUB DRAW - CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Winning £12 No 13 - Ann Hodkinson, High Green WI

Winning £12 No 15 - Barbara Kingston, High Green WI

Winning £12 No 117 - Margret Edley, Wickersley WI

## ACTIVITIES & SOCIAL

**Maureen Hall: maureen.hall45@icloud.com**

Many thanks to our members for the suggestions received in respect of local mental health charities which could benefit from a donation from our Carol Service collection. After consideration we have decided to donate the remaining £100 to Bloom Sheffield, a community garden for women whose aim is to improve mental health and wellbeing, reduce social isolation and teach and share skills.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS & RESOLUTIONS

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

Have you ever wondered what has become of all the selected Resolutions passed at NFWI Annual Meetings?

Do you feel past Resolutions are still relevant today?

Are you at a loss for ideas on how to lend your support to a particular Resolution?

Your WI Secretary will probably already have informed you that we would love to hear from as many WIs as possible which two Resolution campaigns they would like to be updated on, be they current or past. It is proposed to use your views as the basis of a new Resolutions event. The venue has yet to be fixed but will be central to all areas.

If you have not yet had your say, please urge your fellow members to join you in sending in your two choices.

## CANTLEY WITH BRANTON WI

On a very icy cold evening in January our members enjoyed a talk from Kate about Dadesley Crafting, a local community enterprise which offers a wide variety of crafting workshops and courses. Dadesley Crafting was set up to create a welcoming place to bring people together to help overcome some of the isolation felt during Covid by providing a welcoming and warm meeting place where you can leave the day to day behind and discover (or remember) just how positive the impact of crafting can be whatever form it takes, as you have some "you time". Several of our WI members already participate in some of the activities at Dadesley Crafting and thoroughly enjoy our time there. It is truly amazing just how quickly two hours can whizz by whilst you are there!

Kate brought examples of some of the many activities that are on offer. They are very varied and the programme is updated weekly on their website. It can range from metal embossing, wreath making, watercolour painting, embroidery, flower arranging and model railway crafting. All courses are very reasonably priced and include all that is needed along with light refreshments. There is also a free craft and chat session daily where you can take a craft of your own choice and enjoy meeting others whilst crafting. The group are based at St Catherine's House in Woodfield Park in Balby. All activities are suitable for beginners.

Kate followed her talk by providing a mini workshop on how to create

Suffolk puff brooches which proved very popular. Kate then went on to show us examples of how this activity could be taken further to create for example: earrings, little dolls or Christmas decorations including a gorgeous light up festive tree created with silk Suffolk puffs. It was noted that these could all be created as possible fund raising items.



Kate can be contacted on  
07591 035620 and also by email  
[info@dadesleycrafting.co.uk](mailto:info@dadesleycrafting.co.uk)



## STOCKSBRIDGE & DISTRICT WI

For their February meeting Stocksbridge and District WI had invited local artist, Alan Taylor, to be their speaker. Whilst chatting to the ladies and answering their questions Alan managed to produce this amazing watercolour painting in less than an hour! Alan is the artist in residence at Wortley Hall and runs monthly workshops there which some of our members attend and highly recommend.



## HOW SOUTH YORKSHIRE MEMBERS VOTED IN THE PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS SELECTION

1.	Let's talk about incontinence	186
2.	Bystanders can be lifesavers	203
3.	Join the repair revolution	82
4.	Eliminate landfill of medication packaging	170
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF SELECTIONS</b>		<b>641</b>

Thank you to everyone of you who selected one Resolution to take forward for further discussion and final voting at the NFWI Annual Meeting.



### CANADIAN ROOTS WI GATHERING at "Stoney Creek" - September 2025

We have been sent details from Greatdays Travel Group about a proposed holiday they are arranging for WI members.

The flyer with the details are attached with your newsletter.

To book please contact Greatdays directly  
Tel: 0161 928 9966 or  
Email: [holidays@greatdays.co.uk](mailto:holidays@greatdays.co.uk)



### QUIZ ANSWERS ALL TYPES OF BEVERAGES HOT, COLD, ALCOHOLIC & NON-ALCOHOLIC

1. Water
2. Advocaat
3. Hock
4. Punch
5. Latte
6. Port
7. Tonic Water
8. Stout
9. Chamomile Tea
10. Wine
11. Squash
12. Calvados
13. Cider
14. Herbal Tea
15. Tequila
16. Cocoa
17. Whiskey
18. Beer
19. Gin and Tonic
20. Darjeeling
21. Vodka
22. Iced Tea
23. Prosecco
24. Orangeade
25. Champagne

## OUR ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

### Heat Pump – to have or have not? One member's experience

Our gas boiler was showing signs of age, so I grasped the nettle and started the ball rolling. Three quotes, three surveys and an energy performance certificate later we chose our installer and signed the forms, thereby enabling our supplier to claim the Government grant in part payment.

People were eager to share their views, mainly forebodings it must be said, the majority of which were anecdotal. There was the question of the noise it would make. Ours stands at the back door and we can't hear it at all when the door is shut, but you can check the noise level for yourself online using one of several demonstration videos. I lost count of the number of times I was told I would be cold. I did some research and learned that Scandinavian countries have amongst the highest uptake of heat pumps in Europe, so was reassured. If a Finnish family finds they keep the cold at bay, it seemed to me we would be fine in Doncaster's microclimate.

Nevertheless, I was still apprehensive and signed the contract with my fingers crossed for a positive experience and outcome. The technology may have been around for a surprisingly long time, but it is new to me and so poses a threat, I suppose. It does seem though, that for the time being at least, heat pumps are an effective way of reducing my carbon footprint, thereby improving the environment for my grandchildren. Not to mention going some way to offsetting my guilt at not always choosing the greenest mode of transport when we visit them.

The installation took 5 days during a very cold snap in November, and did cause disruption in the home. With a three-man team going in and out, upstairs and down, this was inevitable. Did we need redecorating afterwards as people had warned? Were all my radiators changed? Despite having 50% of the radiators replaced and an additional one installed no redecorating was required.

We now have the house to ourselves once more. It is warm and we have plenty of hot water (something else several people had told me would be a thing of the past). Yes, the radiators don't get as hot as they used to, which could account for people saying they feel cold post-installation, but our house is warmer than previously. There is a thermostat in the hallway just like before, the radiators still have thermostatic valves, and we can adjust the temperature. Naturally, there is also an app for our phones, giving remote access for ease and convenience, although I do appreciate that "apps" and "ease and convenience" are not necessarily synonymous for everyone.

People now want to know what reduction there has been in our bills, even though in all my research and the quotation process I don't recall any claims of heat pumps saving you money. So far, the temperature in the house is much more constant, without any appreciable change in cost. In addition, the monthly cost of the service plan for the heat pump is a fifth of that for the old gas boiler, and we have no standing charge for the gas, as the supply was capped and the meter removed. What happens to prices in the future is anyone's guess, of course, but that is the same for all of us.

Was it worth changing to the heat pump? So far, yes. It was a big investment, literally and figuratively, but I am hoping it is one that will have a positive impact on the world my grandchildren inherit. I miss my airing cupboard (which as it is now wouldn't look amiss among the installations in a museum of modern art), but I love my grandchildren more, and the environment we leave them really matters.

