

September 2025

South Yorkshire Federation of WIs  
News and Views

Issue 490

## Christmas CRAFT DAY

SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER

AT 10 AM - 2 PM

THE WI HUB, UNIT 6, M&M BUSINESS PARK,  
DONCASTER ROAD, KIRK SANDALL, DONCASTER DN3 1HR

COME ALONG FOR A FUN AND FESTIVE CRAFT DAY WITH A VARIETY OF  
CHRISTMAS THEMED ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING IRIS FOLDING, MAKING A  
FABRIC CHRISTMAS TREE, CHRISTMAS BOXES AND DECORATIONS.

PLEASE BRING BASIC CRAFT EQUIPMENT; STAPLER, SCISSORS ETC. IF  
YOU HAVE THEM. PLACES LIMITED TO 30.

**COST £10 TO INCLUDE ALL MATERIALS +  
TEA AND COFFEE**  
BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH

PLEASE CONTACT THE FEDERATION OFFICE TO  
BOOK A PLACE - [SOUTHYORKSFED@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SOUTHYORKSFED@GMAIL.COM) OR  
01302 579027

CLOSING DATE: 11 NOVEMBER 2025

## Federation Carol Service

Monday 8 December 2025 at 2 pm

United Reformed Church

Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2JB

*Join us for an afternoon of traditional carols and  
Festive cheer  
Followed by refreshments*

**Cost: £8**

**Closing date: 20 November 2025**



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](mailto:southyorksfed@gmail.com)

Website: [www.southyorksfedwi.org.uk](http://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
Open Day	Sat 20 Sept 11 am - 2 pm	The WI Hub, Unit 6, M&M Business Park, Doncaster Road, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster DN3 1HR		FREE
Afternoon Tea/Fashion Show	Wed 17 Sept @ 12.30 pm	Rotherham Golf Club, Doncaster Road, Thrybergh, Rotherham S65 4NU	26 Aug	£25
Federation Quiz	Fri 3 Oct	Wesley Hall, Crookes, Sheffield S10 1UD	23 Sept	£30 per team of 4
	<b>AND AT</b>	Wickersley Methodist Church, Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 1JJ	23 Sept	£30 per team of 4
Cheese and Wine Evening	Fri 7 Nov	The WI Hub, Unit 6, M&M Business Park, Doncaster Rd, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster DN3 1HR	21 Oct	£10
Christmas Craft Day	Sat 22 Nov	The WI Hub, Unit 6, M&M Business Park, Doncaster Road, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster DN3 1HR	11 Nov	£10 pay on the day
Carol Service	Mon 8 Dec	United Reformed Church, Norfolk Street, Sheffield S1 2JB	20 Nov	£8
SAVE THE DATE				
Federation Annual Meeting	Sun 19 Apr 2026	The Consort Hotel, Rotherham		
International Day	Sat 18 July 2026			
<p align="center"><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 <u>all payment</u> 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.**

### SUE DENTON - CHAIR

**suedentonwi@yahoo.com**

As I write this I'm holidaying in the Dordogne, it's extremely hot, thank goodness for a pool!

It was so nice to see so many of you at International Day in July, it does seem to be a formula many of you enjoy and the Current Affairs Team is already planning the next one. We've had some great suggestions for countries to explore.

Next up is the 110 Year Anniversary celebration, I love an afternoon tea event, so hopefully see you there. Enjoy the remainder of the summer ladies.



### ACTIVITIES & SOCIAL TEAM

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

#### Federation Quizzes - Friday 3 October

Please note that due to the restrictions at both venues, members should bring only **NON-ALCOHOLIC** drinks to consume on the night.

#### Cheese & Wine Evening - Friday 7 November

Book early - places limited to 30!!

#### Monthly Craft Workshops

We are pleased to announce monthly Craft Workshops will begin on the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 10:00 am to 2:00pm at our new offices, The WI Hub, in Doncaster.

First craft session will be on **Wednesday 8 October** with the second on **Wednesday 12 November**. 2026 dates to be announced later.

Cost: £5 to include tea/coffee and all materials. Bring your own lunch.

To book a place please contact the Federation office and pay on the day.

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



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

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

Winning £14 No 19 - Diane Thompson, Wadsley WI

Winning £14 No 44 - Val Dunn, Auckley & District WI

Winning £14 No 112 - Pauline Hallam, Greystones WI

**MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT**

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

**WI Officers Training Now on the Learning Hub.**

The new Officer Induction Modules are now live and available to book on the WI Learning Hub.

This training is for all newly appointed Officers and those already in these roles will also find it useful to refresh their knowledge. The modular training can be worked at a pace to suit you and is designed to provide the essential information needed to help you in your role as President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The modules can be accessed through the Learning Hub -

<https://learninghub.thewi.org.uk>. Select WI Roles from the menu and the WI Officer Induction.

Thank you for taking on these important roles in your WIs. We hope you find the Induction Training helpful.

Please remember to contact your WI Adviser if you need any help with running your WI.  
WI Adviser Team



**CURRENT AFFAIRS & RESOLUTIONS**

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

Although it seems a long time ago now, a big thank you all members who attended International Day in July and participated so enthusiastically. In the words of one attendee: "Today has been wonderful. Aikido, flowers, kimono and crumble. Not forgetting haiku and great company."

It would appear from feedback we have received that focussing on a country as the theme for this event is very popular – indeed, we have received suggestions already of countries for next year. The date for next year's event has been fixed as Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July. In the past we have varied the month, but this weekend, falling as it does at the end of the school year/beginning of the school holidays, seemed to cause difficulties for the fewest members.

This year we requested donations of period products. Once again, we witnessed members' generosity, and we will be able to deliver sizeable contributions to refuges in our region. Thank you to all individuals and WIs who contributed; based on last year's reactions, we are sure they will be very gratefully received.

There have been a couple of queries regarding NFWI's dental health washbags crafting project, details of which appeared in the July/August edition of WI Life magazine (page 45). The intention is for either individuals or WIs to create toilet bags for dental care essentials and to take these to local foodbanks, hygiene banks, shelters, and women's refuges in order to address the reduction in the amount of these products being received due to their cost. There is no central collection for the finished washbags, and it is up to individuals to decide where they would like to donate them. Unfortunately, the WI Hub is not able to collect them, but food and hygiene banks often have collection points in larger local supermarkets for your convenience.

Crafting, contributing to the community and support for women are well-known attributes of WI members, but following this year's International Day, the skill of haiku writing can be added to the list, at least in South Yorkshire Federation! There are several examples in the newsletter to give you a flavour of the day. Please see over page.





### LOVERSALL WI

Loversall WI members applauded warmly when their lovely, hard working President, Sue Hodge was presented with flowers and Prosecco by friend and colleague Ann Jones, to celebrate her recent 80th Birthday.



### HIGH LEVELS WI

Some of our members enjoying a trip to Wentworth Woodhouse to visit the RHS Show. It followed one or two meetings with educational, but serious topics.



### South Yorkshire's Budding Haiku Writers

At our recent and very successful International Day we were introduced to the haiku, a Japanese poem of seventeen syllables, written in three lines containing five, seven and five syllables. Traditionally they evoke images of the natural world, but our members were asked to create them around our day's event. Here is a selection to recreate the day for everyone and to showcase the inventiveness and talent of our members:

Dinnington Social  
Learning all about Japan  
Ladies together.

#### **(Kimono)**

Folds of fabric worn  
Art in material form  
Time consuming dress.

Kimonos, oh wow!  
Origami in silk cloth  
An art to put on.

So many layers  
Exquisite silk and pattern  
A kimono worn.

Kimono, oh wow!  
A puzzle of long length cloth  
A beautiful end.

Kimonos galore  
Beautifully tied behind –  
I need a dresser!

Miso soup for lunch  
Noodles, mushrooms, peppers – nice!  
Would have it again.

Women together  
Inspiring one another  
What could be better?

#### **(Ikebana)**

A few flowers here  
Add a few green leaves there too  
Create a work of art.

Arranged so calmly  
Flowers asymmetrical  
Beautiful display.

Plant life placed with skill  
Enhancing space with art form  
Designed to please all.

Japanese flowers  
Ikebana Arrangements  
Style, grace and beauty.

This day is perfect  
The speakers are really good –  
Liking this haiku!

Women's Institute  
Friendship, tea, crafting, baking.  
Oh, Jerusalem!



## BREAD & ROSES WI

At Bread and Roses WI, Sheffield we celebrated our 10th (tin) anniversary at our annual summer picnic. We shared our food, enjoyed a beautiful cake created by members Vicki, Vicki and Fatima and played Tin Can alley and other Tin games. Members also donated tins to S6 Foodbank, Nether Edge. Our bright new WI banner crafted with input from all our members made its debut. Unfortunately, one of the wettest July days this year (again) sent us indoors, but we still had fun. Here's to our next ten years!!



## DOROTHY MEEKINS FEDERATION CHAIR 2012 - 2024

Members expressed a desire for Dorothy to receive a more permanent acknowledgment of her service to the Federation and so Ingrid House (Trustee & former Federation Treasurer) was delighted to present her, on behalf of SYFWI members, a small plaque and planter to thank her for her 12 years of leadership as Federation Chair and even longer service to the Federation. The rest of your generous donations were given to Dorothy for her to buy plants for her garden. We wish her well in her retirement.



## HARTHILL WITH WOODALL WI

### 70 Years of Friendship!

Harthill with Woodall WI has been bringing women together since 1955 – for carnivals, days out, shared meals, and lifelong companionship.

For seven decades, Harthill with Woodall WI has been a place for laughter, learning, and lasting friendships. We've taken part in community events, supported local causes, enjoyed coffee together and the odd glass of fizz!

Here's to our past, our present, and our bright future.

### Happy Birthday to Us!



### ONLINE TICKET SALES FOR FEDERATION EVENTS

As a Federation we want to ensure that we are accommodating and meeting the needs for as many members as possible. Therefore, we will be introducing the option of members being able to purchase tickets for our events online using TICKETLAB.



This in no way replaces our current system of completing an application form and either paying by cheque or BACS, it is just another option and a choice for those members who may prefer to book this way.

As with all online ticket platforms there will be an unavoidable booking fee which is 20p + 6% of the ticket price. (i.e. if the ticket is £1 you will pay £1.26 at the checkout.) We have carefully looked at all online ticket platforms and TICKETLAB seems to provide the most cost effective option.

Should an event have to be cancelled you will receive a refund but **the booking fee is NOT refundable.**

Please look out for further details and information coming soon on how to book on our Facebook page/Website and in future issues of News and Views.



## OUR ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

### Act Now, Change Forever Mass Lobby of Parliament

On 9<sup>th</sup> July, I took part in the mass lobby of Parliament organised by the Climate Coalition.

Below is a picture of some of the 5000 people of all ages and backgrounds who came together on the day to call on the government to take action on climate and nature. You can see representatives of the WI holding up placards towards the back.

My MP, Lee Pitcher (Doncaster East and the Isle of Axholme), agreed to meet me in his office in Portcullis House. I was feeling a bit nervous as I queued to go through the strict security check before being allowed into the building but I'd prepared by joining an NFWI zoom meeting and had all my notes ready. I was welcomed by one of his team and taken up to the office. After friendly introductions, I explained my concerns about the climate and nature crises and the lack of urgent government action to tackle these problems. My three main asks were:

- Cut bills, back UK jobs and secure a greener fairer future for all
- Restore nature to create a safer, healthier environment
- Deliver vital funding to communities hardest hit by climate change here and around the world

Mr Pitcher listened carefully and we had a good discussion. With his background in working in the water industry, he was sympathetic to the issues raised and explained the government's plans for the future. We talked for about an hour and before I left, I gave him a knitted green heart and showed him my climate scarf – he actually asked if I could knit one for him!

After the meeting, I went to the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, near the Houses of Parliament, where there were talks to listen to and lots of stalls run by organisations which are members of the Climate Coalition, such as RSPB, WaterAid, Natonal Trust, Christian Aid and, of course, the WI.

It was very inspiring to meet and talk to so many different people who'd all come together with the same aim – to show how much they care about climate and nature. I came away feeling that I had made my voice heard and also feeling more hopeful about the future.



# OPEN DAYS



Tuesday 22 July - 11 am - 2 pm  
Wednesday 20 August - 6 pm - 8 pm  
Saturday 20 September - 11 am - 2 pm



You are invited to attend one of our Open Days.  
Please drop in for coffee/tea and cake, meet some of  
our team and have a look around our new  
Headquarters.  
No need to book, just turn up.  
We would love to see you!



## OFFICIAL 2026 NFWI WI DIARY

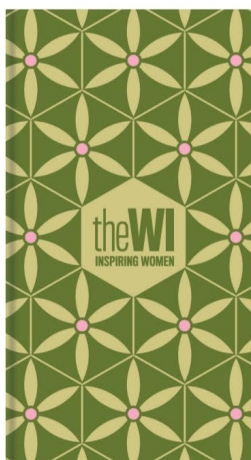
We are now taking orders for the 2026 WI Diary.  
For the first time ever the diary cover will have a  
print rather than a solid cover.

The cover is completely  
recyclable, making the diary  
entirely recyclable with the  
exception of the ribbon.

Please order via your  
WI Secretary.

Closing date is  
**5 September 2025.**

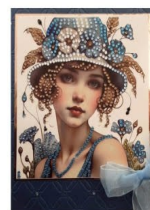
The cost is **£7** (the same price  
as the last 2 years.)



## Chapeltown WI



**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN



**Morning Session:**  
Teddy Bear Felting  
Christmas Bunting  
Diamond Art Card  
Flavoured Bread



**Afternoon Session:**  
Teddy Bear Felting  
Christmas Bunting  
Christmas Cards  
Heart Decoration

## Craft Making Day - All Welcome

**Make it and Take it Away**



Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025 10am – 4pm  
Chapeltown Methodist Church  
Nether Ley Avenue, Chapeltown, Sheffield, S35 1AE

You can choose to do the all day Teddy Bear workshop  
Or the all day Christmas Bunting (own Sewing Machine needed)  
10.00am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 4pm  
Or One from the Morning  
And One from the Afternoon

**Morning Session – 10am – 12.30pm**

1. Diamond Art Card Making
2. Flavoured Bread

**Afternoon Session – 1.30pm – 4pm**

1. Two Christmas Cards
2. Heart Decoration

Refreshments available all day at £3 per session

Contact – Susan 07913842020  
or  
Contact - Lynn 07846292673  
for more details



**Walkley Orchids  
Womens Institute**

Hints, tips,  
quizzes

**It's all about clutter!**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 7.15pm  
St Mary's Church Hall, S6 3RX

Our Speaker

Gillian Booth, Professional Organiser  
(trained by Dilly herself!)

Tickets £5.00 from walkleyorchidswi@gmail.com



All Women Welcome



**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

How to  
deal with  
clutter