

June 2025

South Yorkshire Federation of WIs News and Views

Issue 487



110 YEARS OF THE WI CELEBRATION AFTERNOON TEA/FASHION SHOW

**WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER at 12 noon
for 12.30 pm**

**Rotherham Golf Club, Doncaster Road, Thrybergh,
Rotherham S65 4NU**

Let's celebrate our great organisation and everything that the WI has achieved!!

Enjoy a delicious afternoon tea with unlimited tea and coffee followed by a Fashion Show, high street clothing at affordable prices, including Next, Monsoon, Wallis, M&S to name but a few.

Cost - £25

Closing date: 26 August 2025



TREASURE TRAILS

**Monday 16 June 2025 at 6 pm
Darfield Community Centre,
Illsley Road, Darfield, Barnsley
S73 9AL**

and

**Friday 27 June 2025 at 6.30 pm
Mechanics Institute, Friars Croft,
9 Main Street, Wentworth, Rotherham
S62 7TL**

Includes a light supper for all teams taking part and Spectators.
£30 per team (of 4 members) £8 Spectators

Closing date: 20 May 2025

INTERNATIONAL DAY JAPAN

**SATURDAY 19 JULY at 10 am - 3 pm
Dinnington Resource Centre, Laughton
Road,
Dinnington, Sheffield S25 2PP**

Come and join us for this fabulous day which includes:-

Coffee/tea on arrival

Choice of soup and a roll, followed by a choice of hot dessert with custard

Speakers:-

Aikido (a type of Japanese martial art)

Ikebana (the art of Japanese flower arranging)

Kitsuke (kimono)

Haiku (A form of Japanese poetry)

EARLY BIRD price £22.50 until 29.5.25

Thereafter - **£25**

Closing date: 30 June 2025



South-Yorkshire-Federation-of-Womens-Institutes



@southyorksfedwi

Unit 6, M&M Business Park, Doncaster Road, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster DN3 1HR Tel: 01302 579027

Office Hours: Tuesday-Wednesday 9.30am - 2.30pm Thursday 9.30am - 2.30pm by appointment

Email: southyorksfed@gmail.com

Website: www.southyorksfedwi.org.uk

CHARITY REG. NO: 513917

EVENT	DATE & TIME	VENUE	CLOSING DATE	PRICE
NFWI AM Watch Party	Wed 4 June @ 10 am 11.45 am (Observers)	Unit 6, M&M Business Park, Doncaster, Road, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster DN3 1HR	7 May	Delegate - Free Observer - £7.50
NFWI Annual Meeting	Wed 4 June @ 10 am / 11.45 am - Online (Zoom)		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
Open Days - Unit 6	Tue 22 July 11 am - 2 pm Wed 20 Aug 6pm - 8 pm Sat 20 Sept 11 am - 2 pm	Unit 6, M&M Business Park, Doncaster Road, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster DN3 1HR		FREE
Afternoon Tea/Fashion Show SAVE THE DATE Federation Quiz	Wed 17 Sept @ 12.30 pm Fri 3 Oct AND AT	Rotherham Golf Club, Doncaster Road, Thrybergh, Rotherham S65 4NU Wesley Hall, Crookes, Sheffield S10 1UD Methodist Church, Bawtry Road, Wickersley Rotherham S66 1JJ	26 Aug	£25
Carol Service	Mon 8 Dec	Central United Reformed Church, Sheffield		

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

NEW SYFWI BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2025—2027

Federation Chair - Sue Denton
Federation Treasurer - Pauline Hallam
Vice Chairs - Roberta Eales and Eileen Whatley

Trustees

Gill Atkinson Jennifer Brunskill
Sandra Crawford Maureen Hall
Ingrid House Gillian McCallum

Further details in the next issue of News and Views.

CHAIR - SUE DENTON

suedentonsw@yahoo.co.uk

Hello, allow me to introduce myself to those who don't know me. I'm Sue Denton and I'm the new Chair for SYFWI. I'm also President at Auckley WI in Doncaster. I have big shoes to fill taking over from Dorothy and I'm very grateful to Roberta for holding the fort for the last 5 months and getting the sale of Hall Cross Cottage completed so efficiently. Our priority now, as a Board, is to pursue becoming a CIO, which hopefully will be easier now we don't have a property. Work is starting on this immediately.

I'm hoping over the next few months to get out and about to meet as many of you as I can, either at the events we are organising or coming along to one of your meetings. If you have anything particularly exciting going on do let me know and I'll try to join you.

I look forward to working with you all over the next 2 years and I'll strive to do my absolute best for the Federation and the WI in general.



OFFICE & FINANCE

Pauline Hallam - paulinehallam@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you to everyone who has supported our 50/50 Club. The new draw started in May and will run until April 2026. Due to the increase in members participating this year, monthly prize money has increased!

50/50 CLUB DRAW - CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Drawn at the April Board of Trustees Meeting (2024/25 Draw)

Winning £12 No 83 - Angela Brown, Wath upon Dearne WI

Winning £12 No 84 - Ingrid House, Wath upon Dearne WI

Winning £12 No 97 - Margaret Roffe, Sprotbrough WI

Drawn at the May Board of Trustees Meeting (2025/26 Draw)

Winning £14 No 20 - Margaret Long, Wadsley WI

Winning £14 No 61 - Julie Chapman, Thurlstone & Millhouse Green WI

Winning £14 No 77 - Lynne Rowe, Chapeltown WI

CURRENT AFFAIRS & RESOLUTIONS

Susan Webster: susanj-webster@sky.com

Every month seems to have days earmarked for something, whether that something touches the lives of many or seems frivolous or trivial to the majority. Since our last newsletter dropped into our inboxes in April, we have passed through World Health Day and World Blood Cancer Day, with the more recent World Oceans Day on the 8th of June.

It has been mentioned here before that My WI has its own Campaigns Calendar and, although April's Asparagus Day (23rd like St George as it marks the start of the asparagus season apparently) and May 2nd's World Tuna Day don't feature on this, the calendar does highlight those days with links to WI Resolutions over the years.

World Oceans Day is shown as having ties to the very successful Plastic Soup campaign which received overwhelming support at the 2017 NFWI Annual Meeting, and which more recently (November last year) saw Alberto Costa MP introducing a Ten Minute Rule Bill in the House of Commons in which he advocated for mandatory filters in new washing machines, as a crucial step in tackling microplastic pollution. He even mentioned the WI in his presentation! Granted, a good seven years have passed since the adoption of our resolution, but there is clearly a process to be followed which cannot be sidestepped. It is easy to think that resolutions are swept under the carpet after the Annual Meeting, but this is not the case. As a group, the WI and other organisations with whom we work in collaboration (the Climate Coalition, Friends of the Earth, for example) raise public awareness of issues that affect many people in a bid to bring about change and improvement. It can be a time-consuming and frustrating process, but hopefully a fruitful one.

Regarding Resolutions, thank you to the WIs who have returned their requests for more information on past and current Resolutions, amongst which Plastic Soup was mentioned.

Following members' generous donations last year for the Women's Refuge, the Team has decided to ask for donations of period products this year. Items can be taken to International Day on 19th July and thereafter WIs can deposit them at our new premises until the end of September. The products can then be shared out across our region either to the Refuges or to other local places where there is a need.

Any period products will be very gratefully received, but you may be interested to know that 85% of women prefer external products to those worn internally. Refuges apparently have a preference for night time pads, and the use of menstrual cups is also increasing. Plastic free products are also available, but these are expensive. There is a rising number of reusable period underwear on the market, although of course this too is expensive. A tip from a canny shopper is to check the lower shelves on the display, avoiding those at eye level if you are looking for a bargain or a lower price. Not forgetting, too, that supermarket brand products are produced in exactly the same way as other branded products and can often be a cheaper substitute.

Whatever your product of choice, all donations will be most gratefully received. Thank you in anticipation of your generous support for women and girls.

Finally, with regard to days on the calendar, a final request to support this year's International Day – Japan – on Saturday 19th July. See you there.



NEW OFFICE - OPEN DAYS

We would like to invite you to attend one of our Open Days.
Please feel free to drop in for coffee/tea and cake, a chat and a look around our new Headquarters.

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

No need to book, just turn up. We would love to see you!

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



BARNSELEY OPALS WI

Wow! What a May meeting!

Barnsley Opals welcomed 40 members and visitors to our session with the wonderful gourmet chocolatiers Jo and Tony from Chocolates by Design. Jo and Tony make the most spectacular handmade and handpainted chocolates.

Jo told us all about how she got into making chocolate and how it went from a side hustle to her main business. In the run up to Christmas Jo and Tony were making 2000 chocolates a day! They even moved house to one where they could have a dedicated chocolate kitchen.

Jo's passion is the flavour and the design of the chocolates. New flavours take months to be developed and go through chocolate tester panels (where can we sign up!) for honest feedback. They love to mix fruit flavours with more unusual ones, often something savoury (including cheese for a French cheese producer).

Members enjoyed a taste test of high street chocolate versus the chocolate couverture (chocolate buttons that chocolatiers melt to make their products), the difference was huge! Dairy Milk now only contains 23% cocoa solids, to be classed as chocolate in the EU it needs to meet 25%. So Dairy Milk can no longer be sold as chocolate. Jo and Tony only use the best quality chocolate and ingredients, they are passionate about sustainability. Their chocolate is sourced from Casa Luker in Colombia a business that invests in the local community and economy.

The highlight of the evening was Jo and Tony guiding members through tasting their wonderful handmade chocolates, we got to sample creme brûlée, raspberry, lilac and lychee and lemon thyme. All their chocolates are gluten free and suitable for coeliacs, they also offer a range of vegan chocolates too.

If you'd like to find out more about Jo and Tony's fabulous award winning chocolate you can check out their website and social media too. Jo and Tony sell online via their website and Etsy.

<https://www.chocolatesbydesign.co.uk>

<https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/ChocolatesbyDesignGB>

BOWI would recommend them as speakers in a heartbeat.





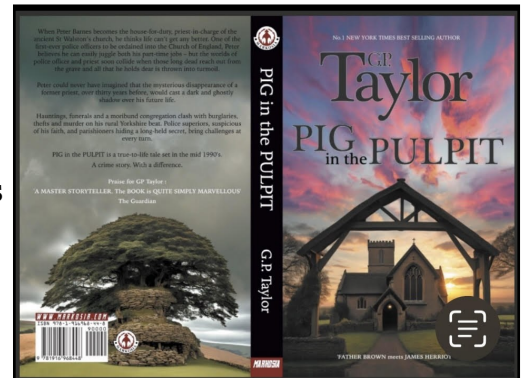
STOCKSBRIDGE & DISTRICT WI

We had 2 visitors at our March meeting. Andrew Baker gave a very informative presentation about gun dogs but the real star of the show was his beautiful dog, Ada. She was impeccably behaved and enjoyed lots of attention from our ladies.



WOODSETTS WI

Woodsetts WI had an entertaining evening with Graham Taylor - no. 1 best selling New York Times author and film writer. His hilarious stories about balancing being a North Yorkshire police officer and becoming a vicar certainly brought laughter to us all! We could only imagine him convening a funeral service whilst knowing many of the congregation through their criminal pasts! He is a very engaging person! Graham was referred through the Federation. We had a great turn out and four visitors too!



WI NETHER EDGE

'Our environment matters'



Members of Women's Institute Nether Edge (WINE) took part in the annual 'Great British Spring Clean'. We managed to pick up 8 bags of litter around the Nether Edge shops. This is our second year of supporting this great campaign and some members continue to support litter picks in their own areas during the year.



DARFIELD WI

We've had a busy week at Darfield. Last Friday two teams entered the Loversall Colossal Quiz and the Dollies team retained the title by winning again. We all had a fantastic time and would like to thank the ladies at Loversall for organising a great event. Tonight we had our AGM and we included an early Easter Bonnet Parade, with half our members taking part, there were some wonderful creations. The winners were Esme, whose Bonnet had a full birds nest with colourful eggs and Simone who had hand knitted a Scandinavian style hat incorporating flowers, chicks, eggs and a whole row of lights. They were chosen by our guests for the evening, the manager and deputy manager from Thornhill Nursing Home. They were



there to accept a cheque from ourselves as our nominated charity for the past year. The money raised will be able to pay for several music days for the residents and as they are very local to our group we look forward to some of their ladies joining us.

SPEAKER RECOMMENDATIONS

From Wath upon Dearne WI:

We would like to recommend a guest speaker for other WIs.

Jean Collingwood from Lost Chord came to us and we enjoyed a very informative and enlightening talk about the work of Lost Chord.

Lost Chord is a diverse team of musicians and volunteers who enrich lives in bustling memory cafes to serene care homes. Stimulating memory, elevate mood and reduce anxiety offering hope and joy. They also form choirs, foster support networks, bolster self-assurance and diminish social isolation.

Jean would like to spread the word on their work as widely as possible.

Jean Collingwood

Chief Executive Lost Chord UK

Email: jean@lost-chord.org.uk

Tel: 0300 131 7889

Mobile: 07936 877250

From High Levels WI:

At High Levels we were well entertained by Chris Ceaser, a photographer who gave a talk accompanied by his photos on Venice. He asked if we could advertise his talks on landscape photography. He is Chris Ceaser Photography, Ryton Studios, Scrooby, Nr Bawtry, Doncaster DN10 6AE.

We would recommend him but his normal talk is apparently 2 hours long. It may be that some WIs would need to negotiate a shortened talk.

Email: info@chrisceaser.co.uk

Website: www.chrisceaser.co.uk

Tel: 07920 044094



Saturday 7th June
3.30pm-5.30pm
Auckley Parish Centre
Main Street Auckley
DN9 3HH

Auckley WI

invite you to a

Cream Tea

With Harmonix Choir

Tickets £8 per person
Contact Diane Hughes
01302 770465

Raising funds for
Auckley WI and
Doncaster Support
Group for Parkinsons
UK.

HELP!

Do you recognise any of these cloths? If so, please get in touch and tell us which WI they are from please. Thank you in advance.



BARNESLEY PHOENIX WI

Following the success of the poppies post box topper, Barnsley Hospital asked if we could do another depicting volunteers for the Hospital Charity Service - they were delighted with the results as shown.



THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

OUR ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

This month, the WI will be joining in with the Great Big Green Week from 7 – 15 June. The theme this year is 'Let's Swap Together For Good' and the idea is to hold events in your community to encourage people to make swaps that will help to protect and restore nature, lessen the impact of climate change and strengthen communities. It hopes to demonstrate to our politicians that they need to step up and play their part.

There are lots of ways you and your WI can take part in Great Big Green Week. Swaps could be swapping knowledge and skills, holding plant swaps, book swaps or clothes swaps, swapping to using public transport instead of your car for a journey, swapping to a meat-free meal once a week or swapping to try and use less plastic. Whatever you decide to do, let your politicians know that you care about the environment and that you want them to bring in policies that protect it.

Don't forget to let us know about your swaps for Great Big Green Week and send in photos so we can feature them in News and Views.

ANSWERS QUIZ - ENGLISH COUNTIES

1. Dorset
2. Wiltshire
3. Somerset
4. Buckinghamshire
5. Bristol
6. Derbyshire
7. Merseyside
8. Lincolnshire
9. Worcestershire
10. Hertfordshire
11. Cumbria
12. Lancashire
13. West Midlands
14. Kent
15. Tyne and Wear
16. Norfolk
17. Leicestershire
18. Cheshire
19. Suffolk
20. Northumberland
21. Co Durham
22. South Yorkshire
23. Oxfordshire
24. Isle of Wight
25. Surrey
26. Devon
27. Rutland
28. Shropshire
29. Greater Manchester
30. City of London



LOVERSALL WI

Loversall members enjoyed the Annual Meeting at Sheffield, a really interesting presentation about Wentworth Woodhouse, and looking forward to a new exciting future for SYFWI with all the changes taking place.



OFFICIAL 2026 NFWI WI DIARY

We are now ready to take 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.)

