



July 2025

South Yorkshire Federation of WIs News and Views

Issue 488

NEW SYFWI BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2025 - 2027



SUE DENTON
CHAIR



PAULINE HALLAM
Treasurer & WI Adviser



ROBERTA EALES
Vice Chair



EILEEN WHATLEY
Vice Chair



INGRID HOUSE
Trustee & WI Adviser



MAUREEN HALL
Team Leader
Activities & Social



SANDRA CRAWFORD
Trustee



GILLIAN McCALLUM
Trustee & Climate
Ambassador



JENNIFER BRUNSKILL
Trustee



GILLIAN ATKINSON
Trustee



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**

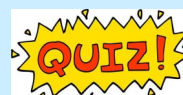
Let's celebrate our great organisation and everything that the WI has achieved!!
Enjoy a delicious afternoon tea with unlimited tea and coffee followed by a Fashion Show, high street clothing at affordable prices, including Next, Monsoon, Wallis, M&S to name but a few.

Cost - £25
Closing date: 26 August 2025



FEDERATION QUIZZES

**FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER at
7 pm**



**Wesley Hall, Crookes, Sheffield
S10 1UD**

and at

**Wickersley Methodist Church,
Bawtry Road, Wickersley,
Rotherham S66 1JJ**

Why not get a team together from your WI and enter our popular annual Quiz evening. Refreshments served - Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Running at 2 venues simultaneously
Cost - £30 per team of 4
Closing date: 23 September 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 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
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	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
	AND AT	Wickersley Methodist Church, Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 1JJ	23 Sept	£30 per team of 4
SAVE THE DATE				
Cheese and Wine Evening	Fri 7 Nov	The WI Hub, Unit 6, M&M Business Park, Doncaster Road Kirk Sandall, Doncaster DN3 1HR		
Christmas Crafts	Sat 22 Nov	The WI Hub, Unit 6, M&M Business Park, Doncaster Road, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster DN3 1HR		£10
Carol Service	Mon 8 Dec	Central United Reformed Church, Sheffield		

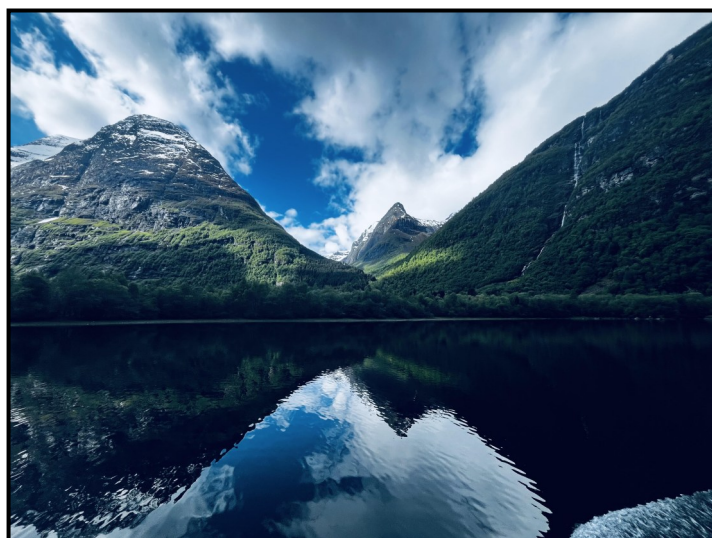
COURSE/EVENT FEES AND/OR DEPOSITS WILL NOT BE RETURNED UNLESS CANCELLED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OR RELEVANT SUB TEAM.

SUE DENTON - CHAIR

suedentonwi@yahoo.com

Hello ladies, well here I am back from the 8 night cruise I won on the WI Lottery Prize Draw in October. What a fabulous prize! We really enjoyed it and as first time cruisers it exceeded our expectations. Last month I was thrilled to be at the formation meeting for Norton Chantry WI in Sheffield. It was lovely to see so many women gathered together and excited to join a new WI. I wish them well. This month I'm hoping to meet lots of you at International Day, it's promising to be a great day and the first of our Open Days at the new office.

Here's a few photos of the cruise.



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

Hello Everyone

I think that by now you will have heard that I have taken over as Federation Treasurer from Ingrid House. I am sure you will join me in thanking Ingrid for being Federation Treasurer for many years.

We now have a Finance Sub Committee and Ingrid is part of this, so can help us by sharing her expertise.

We are now 3 months into the new WI year, so all subs should have been paid and the Federation/NFWI share received at Federation. Unfortunately, this is not the case as some WIs have not sent their Federation/NFWI subs yet. Could you please send them as soon as possible. Thank you to all the WIs that have sent their money promptly.

Can I ask all MCS reps to ensure that membership details are up to date, that the box for this year's sub is checked and that any members who have not paid their subs are marked as inactive. I know that it is difficult to make a long-standing member inactive but they will have now had 3 meetings to pay their subs. You could contact them first but remember that your members have paid their subs to receive the benefits of WI membership and it is not fair that someone who hasn't paid is receiving the same benefits. If you have any problems with this, please contact your WI Adviser, who will be happy to help you.

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

Winning £14 No 10 - Ann Hodgkinson, High Green WI

Winning £14 No 35 - Sandra Crawford, Bawtry WI

Winning £14 No 77 - Lynne Rowe, Chapeltown WI

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

Although many WIs do not meet in August, just a reminder that donations of period products can be left at the new office premises up to the end of September. Thank you in anticipation of your generous support, and also to all those members who have purchased tickets for International Day – Japan.

Coincidentally, NFWI's Learning Hub newsletter mentioned that in Japanese culture, the traditional calendar splits the year into 72 micro seasons. Each one lasts about five days during which time the subtle changes in our lives can be focussed on, meeting a new person, a new skill we master, changes in the garden. It is a recognition that not all change is unwelcome or daunting, which can sometimes seem the case. Perhaps during the pause in August, we should take time to focus on the little things that are important to us. However you spend the late summer, may we take this opportunity to wish you an enjoyable one.

ACTIVITIES & SOCIAL TEAM**Maureen Hall: maureen.hall45@icloud.com****Annual Craft Competition**

We are introducing an annual Craft Competition. We invite WI crafters and artists to interpret the theme of 'New Home, New Beginnings' through needlework, papercraft, painting, knitting, in fact any medium.

We will be asking for a fee of £2 per entry and there will be a display at the Federation Annual Meeting in April 2026 when the competition will be judged and the winner announced.

Please let your imaginations run free and let's show the county our talents.

Christmas Craft Day

A day of Christmas themed crafts will be held in The WI Hub on Saturday 22nd November 2025. There will be a variety of activities including simple stitching, card and box making, plus others.

Cost- £10 to include all materials and tea and coffee (please bring your own packed lunch)

Time 10am -2pm

LOVERSALL WI

20 Loversall WI members had a brilliant night out at the Murder Mystery evening at Mount Pleasant Hotel, near Bawtry. A lovely meal, great entertainment and super company.



WI NETHER EDGE

Supported the small charity 'Sheffield Working Women's Opportunity Project' S.W.W.O.P. This is a small charity that provides intensive and practical support to a socially isolated group of women involved in street prostitution. Our members provided items which would support the outreach work, such as sanitary wear, chocolates, socks, hats and hygiene items. At Christmas we made gift bags for the charity to distribute. Many of our fundraising events have gone to supporting this cause, such as the cake stall at the Nether Edge festival, swishing events and a fashion show. We raised over £800 for S.W.W.O.P.



Email Fraud – Warning from a recent experience at Crosspool WI

Recently, Crosspool WI received an email apparently from a well-known company, headed with the company logo, advising us of an invoice to be paid to them at our earliest opportunity.

We had held our monthly committee meeting earlier that week, and this payment had not appeared in the Treasurer's report nor was it discussed during our meeting. Our suspicions raised, we contacted Action Fraud for advice.

Action Fraud quickly identified the email as an example of **Mandate Fraud**. This typically occurs when a fraudster emails a very large number of organisations seeking responses. Simply phoning the fraudster, or clicking on an attachment in the email, to check whether the demand is legitimate, sends an electronic signal confirming that your email is genuine and in active use. That is when the fraudster(s) really start to target you or your organisation.

Luckily, our skepticism about the email, not responding to it in any way, but immediately contacting Action Fraud, stopped the would-be fraudster from getting any further this time. We were given a crime number and advised to forward the email to report@phishing.gov.uk before deleting it and blocking the sender.

Our crime report to Action Fraud has added to data that will help detect patterns of activity and may even identify perpetrators to shut frauds down. But with over 41 million online frauds already reported to Action Fraud ([Action Fraud](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk), 2 June 2025), fraudsters only need to 'get lucky' a few times to cash in on their initial investment in buying up people's contact details.

www.actionfraud.police.uk and www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-emails-websites-phishing provide information about how to spot, (hopefully) avoid, and report frauds, scams and cybercrime if you are suspicious of an email, text, or website, or think you might have been a victim of this type of crime.

WADSLEY WI

Gill Wilkinson, who has recently raised £70,000 for Support Dogs. Derek, in the photo, attends meetings as part of his training. Last week he slept soundly as we all roared with laughter at a very lively presentation by the bestselling author, Millie Johnson. Over the years, Gill has looked after many Support dogs.



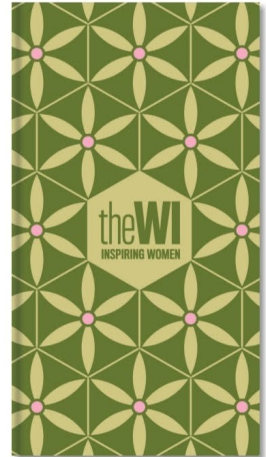
OFFICIAL 2026 NFWI WI DIARY

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.)



THE WI ON ECCLESALL ROAD

Held a very successful Plant and Cake sale on Saturday 17th May. We made just over £1,720 for our charity 'Golddigger'. It was our 4th year of doing it and our most successful.



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!

SPEAKER RECOMMENDATIONS

From Loversall WI:

At our May meeting we had Paul Whittaker OBE to entertain us. He is profoundly deaf and fought to study music, eventually being the first profoundly deaf student to gain a degree in music. He is a brilliant entertainer and his signed interpretation of music is very moving. Some may remember seeing him at a South Yorkshire Spring Council Meeting about 20 years ago at the Earl of Doncaster Hotel. He remembers being there. If any WI wants to book him (around £80).

Text only: 07760 897540

From Norton WI:

Last night our speaker was Sam Lloyd - a contact that had been forwarded to all WIs from the Federation office.

We invited Sam to speak at our May meeting - a lovely lady and a great speaker, explaining all about the Tropic skincare range, and inviting questions throughout the evening. She brought a range of testers for us to try and was keen to ensure our members didn't buy products not suitable for their skin - no hard sell. Sam brought a number of products to sell during the evening but took orders for products not held in stock with only a 3-5 day delivery time.

Sam also offers free wellness sessions which comprise of skincare advice, guided facials, hand scrubs, trials of all products - looking at small groups for this one but one which a few of our ladies are going to book in groups of approximately 4.

All in all a thoroughly enjoyable evening for all and a FREE event.

Sam Lloyd

Email: samlloyd.tropic@outlook.com

Tel: 07794866415



OUR ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

On Wednesday 9th July the WI will be taking part in a Mass Lobby of Parliament. This is when lots of people meet with their MPs on the same day to have conversations on issues they care about. WI members will be among thousands of people from all over the UK going to Westminster to talk to their MPs about health, nature, communities, climate and the future. They will be asking their MPs to back action to create a greener, fairer future where people and nature can thrive together.

It is a great opportunity to make your voice heard. You don't have to be a campaigner or have all the facts and figures at your fingertips. If you care about the world around you and future generations, you can tell your MP why it matters to you. There may be a local issue that you'd like them to get involved with – telling your personal story is very effective.

If you are interested in joining the Mass Lobby, you will find more information and how to sign up on MyWI or you can email NFWI Public Affairs at pa@nfwl.org.uk.

As a Climate Ambassador, I will be representing SYFWI and meeting my MP on the big day – why don't you come and join me?

**ACT
NOW
CHANGE
FOREVER**

**TOGETHER FOR PEOPLE
CLIMATE AND NATURE**

KEVIN LENNOX—SPEAKER THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD

I offer 9 talks on exciting places I have visited:-

New Zealand - South and North Islands
Western Canada including the Rockies National Parks
California including Yosemite National Park
The Sun kissed Channel Islands
Switzerland – Mountains and Lakes
Swiss Riviera – Lake Geneva
Lake Constance, Germany
The Royal Borough of Greenwich

My talks cover:

Stunning scenery, majestic mountains & dramatic coastlines
Exotic wildlife, history, culture and lots of quirky bits

Images that will make you wish you were there!

Cost - £50 - £55

