

AFWI Summer Lunch

Tuesday 1 July 2025

10.30am to 3.30pm

**Saltford Golf Club, Golf Course Lane, Saltford,
Bristol BS31 3AA**

Once again, we return to this fantastic venue, Saltford Golf Club; set in 151 acres of stunning woodland with wonderful views of the countryside, ample parking and it's easy to find. This year's event is an opportunity for members to hear about the historical theatre, right on our doorstep, whilst socialising with WI friends and enjoying a two-course meal.



Our speaker, Andrew Stocker, has worked for the Bristol Old Vic Company since 1983. His vast experience and knowledge of the Company, includes 12 years working for the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, during which time he saw students: Josh O'Connor, Theo James, Billy Howell and many others through their training. In 2000, he saved the Bristol Old Vic Archive, which is now stored at the University of Bristol Theatre Collection. Currently, Andrew works at the theatre as a Duty Manager and conducts Backstage Tours on weekends.

Tea and coffee will be available on arrival, with time to purchase raffle tickets.

Members Only: £33.50 (Members are required to make their menu choices at the time of application)

Closing Date: Thursday 22 May 2025

Menu

MAIN COURSES

Pork Loin with a Sage and Apple Jus

Salmon with Watercress Sauce

Spinach & Courgette Tart

All served with Buttered Seasonal Vegetables and
New Potatoes

~

DESSERTS

Panna Cotta with Summer Berries and Shortbread
Biscuit

Apricot Tart

Ice Cream and Sorbet
Cheese and Biscuits

~

Coffee

Summer Lunch Table Arrangement

Are you Creative? Do you enjoy flower arranging or making table centrepieces?

This year we are inviting WIs attending the AFWI Summer Lunch to create a small table centrepiece, suitable for a circular table for 8/9 people, no larger than 8 inches in diameter and 6 inches high.

Thinking flowers - fresh, dried, or made from paper - in a low vase, basket or even a teacup!

It can be made from anything you have to hand – why not surprise us!

Whilst we would like to take photos of the arrangements, this is not a competition, just a lovely way to grace the tables, in true WI style.

Please let us know on the event application form if you would like to participate (one entry per WI).

AFWI Contacts

WI House

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0117 9864782

General Enquiries:

office@avonfwi.org.uk

Events:

events@avonfwi.org.uk



www.facebook.com/AvonFederationWI

Office Hours:

10.00am to 2.00pm Tuesday to Thursday
Please contact the office before visiting to arrange a suitable time.

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Articles for Avon News must be emailed to the Federation Secretary by the 28th of the month, two months prior to publication (e.g. 28 March for May issue).

AFWI reserves the right to edit copy for clarity or length, where necessary.



To enter the **AFWI Lottery**,
[click here](#).

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Chairs' Chatter

Hello Members

Welcome to the March edition of the AFWI Newsletter.

This month, I'm looking ahead to a new WI year – the lighter evenings and getting out and about to your WIs.

Have you ever considered visiting another WI? Do you know if your WI is in a WI Group? I know some of you are dual members, but did you know that most WIs welcome visitors to their monthly meetings. A fee usually applies for visiting members and non-members alike but once in a while you might like a change of scenery or an opportunity to hear a particular speaker. WI committee members are often so busy in their own WIs that they too may like a chance to relax, meet other members, and just enjoy themselves. The WI Groups often arrange specific events or trips open to members in their local WIs, a great opportunity to meet some new faces!

You can [search for a WI here](#) or ask your WI secretary for the contact email address for any of the WIs in AFWI. Why not checkout what's coming up in their programme? Let me know your thoughts and experiences of visiting another WI or a WI Group event.

Communication is key - we don't always get it right – I'm sure my brilliant ad libs have gone askew now and then! Recently, I attended a WI Learning Hub course entitled 'Conflict Management Training' – which was much more enjoyable than it sounds! Many of the members who took part thought they'd find it helpful in their day-to-day lives, especially how to protect themselves from 'other' people's negativity. In today's fast-paced world, learning online has become a powerful tool for women to grow, upskill, and unlock opportunities from the comfort of their homes. The WI Learning Hub provides free, high-quality online courses tailored to diverse needs and aspirations - pick a random one, as I did - you never know!

I'm always encouraging members to join the Federation as a Trustee, Adviser, IFE, or as a Member Representative of one of the Event Teams. I recently attended both the Arts & Leisure and Environment & Craft Team meetings as an observer. As you can imagine, lots of thinking, exploring, planning, and budgeting goes into arranging the fabulous events they organise.



However, providing a wide variety of quality events that also represent value for money is only possible if we have enough interest from members; occasionally it has been necessary to cancel events because of the lack of take-up. If you've enjoyed attending an AFWI event, please go back to your WIs and share the experience. Encourage other members to attend and book as early as possible so we can confirm venue bookings and avoid cancelling future events.

Want to find out more? Members are welcome to attend meetings as observers in person or online. Contact the Office for further information.

Lorna Tarr
AFWI Joint Chair

AFWI 200 Club

Congratulations to the winners of the January and February £20 prize draws: Marion Hulance (Kenn WI) and Sondra Short (Tickenham WI).

AFWI Events July 2025

ORGANIC BLOOMS: BRITISH CUT FLOWERS WITH A DIFFERENCE
Friday 11 July 2025 from 10.00am to 12.00 noon at Organic Blooms, The Former Allotment, Latteridge Hill, Latteridge, BS37 9TS

Following last year's successful visit to Organic Blooms, here's another wonderful opportunity to visit this organic cut flower farm near Bristol at a different time of year. Organic Blooms grow and sell beautiful seasonal British cut flowers sustainably and without the use of artificial chemicals.

This trip consists of a tour of the fields showing the growing flowers, a demonstration of a hand tied bouquet, which will be presented to a member, and light refreshments.



There will also an opportunity to buy flowers and plants.

Note: Please wear enclosed suitable footwear for walking outside and ensure you arrive for a 10.00am prompt start.

Members: £16.00

Non-Members: £18.00

Closing Date: Tuesday 20 May 2025

MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING
Thursday 17 July 2025 from 7.00pm to 9.15pm at the Zion United Church, Upper Chapel Lane, Woodend Road, Frampton Cotterell, Bristol BS36 2HY

Enjoy a summer evening listening to a selection of music and singing from local performers.



The Apollo Wind Band will be playing an entertaining mix of musical and film scores whilst The Songbirds diverse repertoire includes popular songs from the sixties, seventies and eighties, showcasing two-, three-, and four-part harmonies. Refreshments are also included at this event.



Members: £16.00

Non-Members: £18.00

Closing Date: Wednesday 4 June 2025

Membership Matters

Hello Members - all 3,670 of us!

A new WI Year is about to begin - excited?

A new WI challenge - can we get this figure over 4,000 in 2025?

The more members we have the more women in Avon are part of a unique women's group - the largest women's organisation the UK.

More members mean more diversity, experiences to share, friends to make and, potentially, more committee and team members!

We would love to increase our membership to over 4,000; by that we mean increasing member numbers, where you can, by pro-actively using PR and posters, keeping your social media and websites pages up-to-date, and inviting friends and neighbours to visit a WI and find out for themselves what fabulous opportunities the WI offers for enriching women's lives everywhere.

New WIs

There's a lot of potential to open new WIs around the Federation - let us know about venues nearby - we have proved that having WIs near to each other - at different times of the day - actually **increase** numbers for all the WIs in the area! Incredible - word spreads!

Federation Friends

Can you help us by marketing the WI? Be a Federation Friend and contact us to help put together a Marketing Day or similar to help our WIs, Thank you.

Membership Support Team Observers

Thank you to members who have visited the team as observers; we hope you learnt a lot and enjoyed it as much as we did. We will continue to invite

members to join us either at WI House or virtually at a time to suit yourselves.

The WI Learning Hub: Start Learning Today!

This is a wonderful free resource for all members - inspiring courses and talks at a time that suits you. Please tell us what you've enjoyed most and what you would recommend to other members?
<https://learninghub.thewi.org.uk/>

My WI

Another 'must see' resource - My WI keeps us all up to date with essential WI information. Would you like us to have a look at this one with you - let us know.

<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/>

National Federation Women's Institutes

All things WI - pass this link to your friends so they can subscribe to the WI's monthly newsletter which includes WI stories, campaign highlights, recipes, a sneak peak of WI Life magazine and more.

<https://www.thewi.org.uk/>

WI Advisers: We are here for You!

We are always on hand to answer questions by email, telephone or in person - please contact us directly with any queries - this is, literally, why we are here.

If you would like help accessing any of the resources above - as a committee or a smaller group of officers - let us know!

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Margaret Myers

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Lorna Tarr

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Stop Press! Resolution selection results announcement!

The 2024/25 Resolution selection results are in! Between November and February, every WI member had the chance to have their say on the shortlist and the resolution they would like to see go forward to the Annual Meeting in June. The results of the 2025 resolution shortlist selection are:

2024/25 resolutions		Selections received to date	Percentages*
1	Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers	32,667	36.2%
2	Eliminate landfill of medication packaging	20,844	23.1%
3	Join the repair revolution	10,633	11.8%
4	Let's talk about incontinence	26,168	29%
Total selections received		90,312	

The NFWI Board of Trustees has agreed to put forward the top resolution 'Bystanders Can be Lifesavers' to the Annual Meeting in June.

The wording of the resolution is as follows:

There are over 30,000 out of hospital cardiac arrests a year in the UK and less than one in ten people survive. Women have a lower chance of surviving than men. Early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillating can more than double the chances of survival. We call on WI members to work together to increase public confidence and training in the delivery of CPR and to work with local organisations to help to improve access to defibrillators in their communities to give every person the best chance of surviving a cardiac arrest.



Next steps – voting

WIs should now consider how they wish their delegate to vote on the resolution at the NFWI Annual Meeting on 4 June 2025. All WIs get one vote on the resolution – for or against.

WIs may choose to give their link delegate discretion to decide how to vote after hearing the speakers and the debate at the Annual Meeting. Please ensure your WI makes it clear to your link delegate whether you are granting her discretion.

Federation Representatives and WI link delegates will cast their votes electronically via Electionbuddy during the relevant voting sessions. Further details and how to access the voting links will be shared in the lead up to the event. No votes may be cast before or after the meeting.



WIs and federations are also encouraged to hold discussion events to allow members to consider

how they wish their delegate to vote. The NFWI will also be hosting a discussion event. Please see below for further details.

You will shortly find a selection of resources to help you learn more about the resolution on My WI:

<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/public-affairs-and-campaigns/resolutions>

- Detailed briefing notes about the resolution
- A PowerPoint presentation on the topic
- A quiz to test your knowledge
- A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document about the resolutions process
- A discussion guide with ideas about how to discuss the resolution in your WI

NFWI Resolution Webinar

To support members in learning more about the resolution that will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting, the NFWI will be hosting a webinar on Tuesday 22 April 2025 at 12noon. They are currently finalising the arrangements for the event so we will be in touch again with full details.

Whilst a supplementary opportunity to meetings and events organised by the Federation and your own WIs, we would encourage you to consider registering for this event to help you decide how you wish your delegate to vote.

Members who wish to join can register their interest [via MyWI](#).



Details on how to join the event will be shared with registered attendees closer to the time, and a recording of the event will be available on My WI shortly after the event for members to access.

If you have any questions about the NFWI Annual Meeting resolution or the resolutions process, please contact the NFWI Public Affairs Department via email (pa@nfwl.org.uk) or phone (020 7371 9300).

Environment & Craft Team

Following a recent team meeting, we have been planning more interesting events and activities for you to take part in during 2025. For those of you who missed out on the Organic Blooms event in 2024, we have another opportunity to visit the organic cut flower farm, this time in July (see page 3); an outing to Bletchley Park in September/October; more Craft Workshops and, of course, the popular History Talks – so keep looking out for all of this in the coming months!

We do try to hold events in different parts of the Federation, however, when looking for suitable venues as well as location we have to consider capacity, availability, car parking and access by public transport, access to technology, use of a kitchen and/or whether we have to use the venue's caterers, if there's a stage, and of course costs. So, please let me know if you have any new ideas for venues to hold the events.

Meanwhile, don't forget our outing to Blenheim Palace (see below).

NOTE: If you are going on one of the Federation Outings and you have indicated Almondsbury as your 'pick-up' point, please be aware that the Hotel is now called the Almondsbury Inn & Lounge, BS32 4AA. If you leave your car in their car park, the charge is £5.00, which you should pay at the hotel reception desk and provide your car's registration number. Can I also ask that where possible to car share, as there is a limited allocation of spaces for the Federation in the car park.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sue Murphy
Chair Environment & Craft Team

OUTING TO BLENHEIM PALACE

Thursday 8 May 2025

Arriving at 11.00am and leaving at 4.30pm

Spend a day exploring 300 years of History at Blenheim Palace – the home of the Dukes of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. Blenheim Palace is an UNESCO World Heritage Site, boasting a long and diverse history. The visit will give you access to the grounds, gardens and the Palace.



You can do a self-guided tour or join a guided tour which start at 12.00 and 2.00pm, meeting in the Great Hall. If members prefer to do a self-guided tour they can, if they wish, download an app for an Audio Tour. If you decide to do this, please remember to bring your headphones!

There are a range of cafés and restaurants on the site, a shop and of course there is the Churchill Exhibition and much more for members to explore during the day.

Members: £56.00

Non-Members: £58.00

Closing Date: Monday 7 April 2025

Coach pick-ups:

- 8.00am Keynsham (Ashton Way Car Park)
- 8.30am Tesco Eastville
- 9.00am Almondsbury Bus Stop (A38 lay-by):
 - Almondsbury Depot, Bristol BS32 4AA
 - First Bus: C57 T1 South Glos Lynx (Bristol to Thornbury)
 - Plus Code: HC2J+33 Bristol

What3Words:///registry.freshest.magpie

2025 AFWI FEDERATION QUIZ

Wednesday 14 May 2025

7.00pm prompt to 10.00pm

Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, Broad Street, Chipping Sodbury BS37 6AD

It's time to get quizzical! Gather your team(s) together for a fun social night and see if you can beat your fellow WIs.

We have a break in the middle of the Quiz for refreshments and to give you an opportunity to purchase your raffle tickets, which will be drawn whilst your scores are being counted. Please note, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, has its own Cash Bar – therefore, **you are not permitted to bring your own alcohol.**

Members Only: £19 per team (four members per team)

Closing Date: Thursday 10 April 2025

AFWI Federation Holiday April 2025

THE HISTORY & HERITAGE OF MALTA
Departing 10 October 2025 for six days
from £1,549, staying at the Victoria Hotel
in Sliema

On day 5 of the holiday, we'll visit the Church of St Mary in Mosta. Built in 1860, the church is renowned for its dome which is the third largest in Europe. We will then continue to Mdina, the ancient capital city of Malta, locally known as the 'Silent City'. Our guided tour takes in the defence bastions dating back to the 9th century and St Peter and St Paul's Cathedral. Finally, we visit the Palazzo Falson Historic House Museum, the former home of Captain Olof Frederick Gollcher, the son of a prosperous shipping merchant of Swedish descent. Gollcher was an artist, scholar and philanthropist, but also a discerning collector of objets d'art and historical objects. Palazzo Falson was not only his home, but also a setting



for his works of art and antiques. A farewell dinner is included in our hotel this evening.

If you are thinking of booking, then please contact me a.s.a.p. For further information go to www.tailored-travel.co.uk, click on **View Your Tour** and quote **afwi252**, the link is also available on the Avon Federation WIs Facebook page.

Sue Murphy
AFWI Group Organiser
federationholidays@avonfwi.org.uk

WI News

Banwell WI recently invited Esther from Weston Hospicecare, at Uphill, to share information about the wonderful services and activities available for patients and their families. The WI was proud to present a cheque for £500 raised over last year's fundrasing events.



Above, three founding members of **Bradley Stoke WI** cut the ceremonial cake which was shared among members as part of the WIs 20th Birthday celebrations in December 2024.



On a beautiful February morning, seven members from **Portbury WI** took to the Portishead Sculpture Trail, taking in lunch at one of the popular cafes overlooking the marina. What a great way to spend a day!

AFWI Events Diary 2024/25

Event	Date	Venue	Price Closing Date
A TALK BY AUTHOR, EMILY KOCH: "DOES THE '90S COUNT AS HISTORY?"	Thursday 24 April 2025 From 2.30pm to 4.30pm	Community Space at St Helens Church, Alveston, BS35 3QT	Members: £12.50 Non-Members: £14.50 Closing Date: Tuesday 18 March 2025
OUTING TO BLENHEIM PALACE	Thursday 8 May 2025 Arriving at 11.00am and leaving at 4.30pm Coach pick-ups: 8.00am Keynsham 8.30am Tesco Eastville 9.00am Almondsbury: - Bus Stop (A38 lay-by) - Almondsbury Depot, Bristol BS32 4AA - Plus Code: HC2J+33 Bristol - What3Words///registry.freshest.magpie - First Bus: C57 T1 South Glos Lynx (Bristol to Thornbury)	If you are meeting the coach at Almondsbury, the Almondsbury Inn & Lounge (formerly Almondsbury Interchange Hotel) at 6 Gloucester Road, BS32 4AA, has kindly agreed to allow us to use their car park. Please pay £5 at the Reception Desk and provide your car's registration number.	Members: £56.00 Non-Members: £58.00 Closing Date: Monday 7 April 2025
2025 AFWI FEDERATION QUIZ	Wednesday 14 May 2025 From 7.00pm prompt to 10.00pm	Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, Broad Street, Chipping Sodbury BS37 6AD	Members Only: £19 per team (four members per team) Closing Date: Thursday 10 April 2025
AFWI SUMMER LUNCH	Tuesday 1 July 2025 From 10.30am to 3.30pm	Saltford Golf Club, Golf Course Lane, Bristol BS31 3AA	Members Only: £33.50 Closing Date: Thursday 22 May 2025
ORGANIC BLOOMS: BRITISH CUT FLOWERS WITH A DIFFERENCE	Friday 11th July 2025 From 10.00am prompt to 12.00 noon	Organic Blooms, The Former Allotment, Latteridge Hill, Latteridge, BS37 9TS	Members: £16.00 Non-Members: £18.00 Closing Date: Tuesday 20 May 2025
MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING	Thursday 17 July 2025 From 7.00pm to 9.15pm	Zion United Church, Upper Chapel Lane, Woodend Road, Frampton Cotterell, Bristol BS36 2HY	Members: £16.00 Non-Members: £18.00 Closing Date: Wednesday 4 June 2025
2025 AFWI ANNUAL MEETING	Tuesday 23 September 2025 From 10.15am to 3.30pm	BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RF (for Sat Nav)	Date for Diary Pending Application Form

The small print:

- Members, please apply through your WI Secretary. We recommend WIs collect payment for events on confirmation of places. Please let us know if you have any requirements in respect of accessing an event.
- WI secretaries, please collate your members' applications and email to events@avonfwi.org.uk or send the application form to WI House. **Event applications need to arrive in WI House by 12.00 noon on the closing date.**
- We will send an invoice to your WI Treasurer after places have been allocated. WIs are encouraged to collate invoices as appropriate and use BACS transfer. Treasurers, please note: a 50p surcharge per cheque paid to the Federation.
- Please indicate if in the event of a ballot you will accept fewer places. If not completed, we will assume you will withdraw.
- Please note places cancelled after an event's closing date will not be refunded.**
- We no longer issue tickets. We will email confirmation of the places allocated to the contact named on the application form. If the contact is unable to provide an email address, they will need to provide a SAE. Event organisers will have a list of the members expected at events.
- Please note that AFWI event organisers will be taking photos at events to be used in AFWI printed and online publicity. If you would prefer not to be photographed, please let the photographer know.

Coach Disclaimer:

- Passengers cannot request extra stops to those arranged by AFWI.
- AFWI gives its advice on journey times in good faith but does not guarantee the completion of any journey at a specific time and will not be liable for loss or inconvenience caused by breakdown or other delay.
- AFWI will not accept liability for damage to or loss of passengers' property on the vehicle.
- AFWI reserves the right to leave behind any persons not at the specified place of pick up at the time stated, with no liability.
- AFWI representatives may remove passengers from the vehicle if their conduct is in breach of statutory regulations. AFWI reserves the right to refuse to carry any persons who are causing discomfort to other passengers.