

New AFWI Events 2025

CONTEMPORARY COLLAGE WORKSHOP

Saturday 19 July 2025

10.00am to 12.30pm OR 1.30pm to 4.00pm

**Badminton Road Methodist Church,
Downend, Bristol BS16 6NU**

In this workshop you will begin by thinking about the colours, textures and shapes that make up your chosen image and plan your composition.



Collated materials such as recycled magazine and papers, will then be ripped, cut and layered into a contemporary collage of an animal or flower. You will be encouraged to be playful, adding interest to your work.

You will leave this workshop with a new-found confidence to experiment further and to continue your collaging journey, seeing the beauty in recycled materials.

Tea and Coffee will be provided and materials are included in the cost.

Members Only: £26.00

Closing Date: Monday 16 June 2025

DAY VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK

Wednesday 10 September 2025

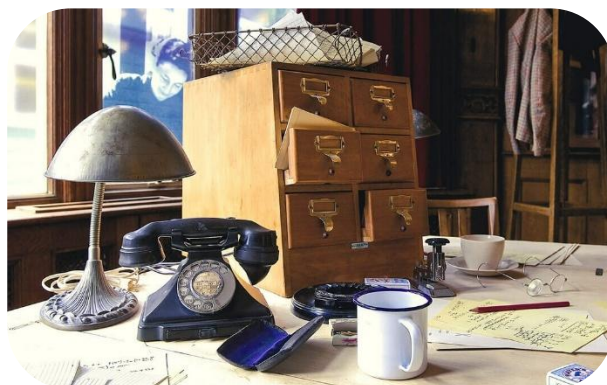
Arriving at 11.00am and leaving at 4.30pm

An early start to facilitate the time needed to explore this once top-secret home of the WWII Codebreakers, now a vibrant heritage attraction, set within the beautifully restored historic buildings of Bletchley Park. The faithfully recreated WWII rooms guide you on a journey into the past; see the museum's collections, watch immersive films, and get involved in the interactive displays, which tell the story of the once top-secret operations, the brilliant minds, and complex machines that made this vital work possible, and discover the global impact Bletchley Park had on the outcome of WWII.

On arrival we will have tea/coffee, then members can explore in their own time a free flow visit or, if there is space, there is an option to join a guided tour. There are two cafes on site, spacious grounds to explore and of course a retail experience not to be missed...

In advance of the visit members might like to visit the Bletchley Park website and watch the short video about the site:

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



Included in the cost: Tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival, the entrance fee which is an annual pass, and coach travel.

Members: £58.00

Non-Members: £60.00

Closing Date: Wednesday 23 July 2025

Coach pick-ups:

- 7.00am Keynsham (Ashton Way Car Park)
- 7.30am Tesco Eastville
- 8.00am 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

Other information...

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.

AFWI Contacts

WI House

11 Station Road, Keynsham BS31 2BH
0117 9864782

General Enquiries:

office@avonfwi.org.uk

Events:

events@avonfwi.org.uk



Office Hours:

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

Federation Secretary:

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federationsecretary@avonfwi.org.uk

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finance@avonfwi.org.uk

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Federation Treasurer

Marion Hulance

Vice Treasurer:

Josie Pownall

Editorial Copy:

Articles for Avon News must be emailed to the Federation Secretary.

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



Thank you to those of you that took time to read the NFWI Board of Trustees 2025 – 27 nominated candidates' personal statements and the WIs that voted. The elected panel of members provides overall leadership to the organisation, and whilst we may not have had a representative from this area, regardless of their federation - we are all one voice of the WI.

Worried you will miss the atmosphere of a crowd of women singing 'Jerusalem' together at this year's virtual NFWI Annual Meeting in June? There's no need to be disappointed – to share in this special experience, book early to secure your place at the 2025 AFWI Annual Meeting, which also opens with Sir Hubert Parry's iconic hymn associated with the WI.

This year's event will be held on Tuesday 23 September at BAWA in Bristol. Join us to hear all the latest announcements, enjoy some retail experience at various stalls, and listen to some great speakers, whilst catching up with friends in WIs across the Federation. Please apply through your WI Secretary (Note: each WI can send one free delegate). I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible – and using our combined voices for 'Jerusalem', wonderful!

Lorna Tarr
AFWI Joint Chair

Birthday Wishes to Avon Federation

Tween Bristol and Bath, in nearby Keynsham
Lies the home of Avon Federation
First formed in 1975
Today it's very much alive!
Run by a board of elected Trustees
A hard-working bunch of busy bees
They organise meetings, outings, talks
Group activities and summer walks.
They keep us in touch with our NHQ
Who encourage our notions and points of view
And by linking all of our WIs
We develop our learning and friendship ties
And ne'er can we say that boredom reigns
With our resolutions and keen campaigns!
So, 50 years on, this date we mark
With Birthday Wishes from Westbury Park!

Julie Hart (Westbury Park WI)

AFWI Music Events 2025

MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING

Thursday 17 July 2025

From 7.00pm to 9.15pm

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

COMMUNITY CHOIR SINGING WORKSHOP

Wednesday 17 September 2025 from 1.00pm to 4.00pm at Wick Village Hall, Manor Road, Wick, BS30 5QJ

Join us for a fun and uplifting afternoon of singing. We will be singing some of your favourite pop and rock songs to make you feel good, including a few classics.



Beth Morgan, the former Musical Director for the Bristol Military Wives Choir and the founder of the Great Day Women's Choirs across Bristol and Bath, is an enthusiastic and experienced choir leader. Beth firmly believes that singing should be accessible to all, and in the power of music to bring people together and uplift spirits.

The afternoon promises to be fun, and you will be amazed at what we will achieve. You do not have to have good singing ability, nor do you need to be able to read music. However, those of you who can sing a note or two will also be very welcome and we are sure you will learn new techniques and harmonies.

The afternoon includes a break with tea/coffee and biscuits, and there will be a raffle.

Members: £14.00

Non-Members: £16.00

Closing Date: Wednesday 23 July 2025

Membership Support Team

Chair: Vacant

Advisers: Judith Massey, Margaret Myers, and Lorna Tarr

Member Representatives: Anne Bennett and Donna Butcher

Can you replace former WI Adviser Lynn Page?

Those of us who got to know Lynn wished her well on her recent move to Somerset. Lynn will be joining a local WI so will still be a part of our WI family and keep in touch. We would like to thank Lynn for having shared her WI experience and especially for her great sense of humour.

An odd question this month - **Are you an 'Active Member'?** This means that your WI has updated the MCS (Membership Communication System) database for the new WI Year and marked you as 'paid'. The database has to be

continually updated to ensure each part of the WI organisation runs smoothly, thank you.

This month, due to the amazing number of requests to meet with Committee Members from other WIs, we are holding three more informal afternoon **Committee Socials** in WI House. We have encouraged sharing roles and tasks on a committee for a long time, however, members can glean much more useful information, tips and ideas by sharing their experiences with each other. Committee resources are plentiful and freely available via the WI Learning Hub, the 2024 WI Handbook, My WI and, of course, your WI Advisers.

Advisers are always on hand to visit your committee meetings, WI meetings, and get together for small group formal sessions - this is always freely available. Thankyou...

AFWI Environment & Craft Team

Dear Members- As promised last month, checkout the photos below from the Willow Weaving workshops held earlier this year.

The Team is busy finalising details for this year's History talks, keep a look out for the speakers, soon to be announced. Similarly, some exciting new Craft Workshops!

Meanwhile, did you spot the Visit to Bletchley Park on the front cover? Although this will be an early start, we think it is worthwhile as it is such an interesting attraction.

But before all of the above, we have an 'Outing to Blenheim Palace' in May, 'A Talk on the Life of WWII Spitfire Pilot Jackie Moggridge' by her daughter Candy in June, and a tour of 'Organic Blooms' in July.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sue, Maureen, Alex, Linda, and Ruth
AFWI Environment & Craft Team

Willow Weaving March 2025

Thirty-two members joined us at the workshops held in Cleeve Village Hall. Sarah, the tutor, was great and in addition to examples of her own work, she brought in the various Somerset grown willows that can be used for a range of willow work.



As this was such a success, we are hoping to arrange more workshops next year; for beginners and those now more experienced members who would like to develop their skills further.



Reminder: AFWI 200 Club

Join before the 30 June 2025 to take part in the AFWI Annual Meeting Grand Draw. Further information and application forms available from your WI Secretary.



WI Anniversaries: May 2025

Congratulations to Timsbury WI, celebrating its 80th Anniversary this month, from the Board of Trustees and everyone at WI House.



2025 AFWI Annual Meeting

Tuesday 23 September 2025 from 10.15am to 3.30pm at BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RF (for Sat Nav)

This is AFWI's 50th Anniversary year and we are delighted to welcome Jeryl Stone, NFWI Chair. The WI is the largest women's organisation in the UK, founded in the times of the Suffragettes, now in its 110th Year. An incredible past – but what does Jeryl foresee for the WI members of the future?



Also, a big welcome to a local very inspiring woman Becky Barnes. Becky is a personal stylist with a passion for helping women look and feel their absolute best without it, literally, costing the earth by making more conscious, sustainable choices and having fun at the same time.



We are particularly excited and thrilled to introduce Ann Widdecombe this year. Ann really needs no introduction to the WI. Ann's varied career in politics, TV, radio and as an author means she will have a wealth of unique stories and anecdotes to share with members. We can't wait!

Please Note: At this venue, you can only eat and drink food which you have bought from BAWA. Please use this application form to pre-order sandwiches at a cost of £2.75. Tea and Coffee will also be available to purchase during the lunch break.

Members Only: £21 (Note: each WI can send one free delegate)

Closing Date: Thursday 7 August 2025

2025 AFWI Chairman's Rose Bowl

WIs are invited to nominate a WI member who has, whilst a member, gone 'above and beyond' for their WI, demonstrating outstanding skills, commitment, leadership or initiative. The member may also be involved with the local community.

The winner will be announced at the 2025 AFWI Annual Meeting on Tuesday 23 September 2025.

Guidelines for submission:

- The application should be written in 12 Point font, up to 500 words, on an A4 sheet of paper.
- The word count should be included as a footnote, with the name of the nominated member and the WI they attend.
- Please email your word-processed entries to office@avonfwi.org.uk by **12.00 noon on 7 August 2025**.



AFWI Federation Holiday April 2026

THE HISTORY & VINTAGE RAILWAYS OF THE ISLE OF MAN

Departing 27th April 2026 for five days from £1,219 (Valid passport/suitable ID required)

We meet at Bristol Airport for our direct flight to the Isle of Man. On arrival we are met by a Blue Badge guide and transfer by coach to Douglas. On arrival we visit the Manx Museum. We then continue to the 3* Ramsey Park Hotel, Ramsey, where we stay for four nights on a half board basis.

Other visits during our stay include the Manx Electric Railway, the Great Laxey Wheel, Snaefell Mountain Railway, Peel Castle and Cathedral, the House of Manannan, Cregneash Village Folk Museum, Castletown, Castle Rushen, horse drawn tramway and steam train excursions, and Tynwald (the Isle of Man Parliament).

Note: Where entry is not included, those with National Trust or English Heritage membership can get in free.

Closing Date: Wednesday 27 August 2025

For further information go to www.tailored-travel.co.uk, click on **View Your Tour** and quote **afwi261**, the link is also available on the Avon Federation WIs Facebook page.

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

AFWI Events Diary 2025

Event	Date	Venue	Price Closing Date
'SPITFIRE GIRL' - A TALK ON THE LIFE OF WWII SPITFIRE PILOT JACKIE MOGGRIDGE	Thursday 12 June 2025 2.00pm (for a 2.15pm start) to 4.30pm	Failand Village Hall, Oxhouse Lane, Failand BS8 3TS	Members: £12.50 Non-Members: £14.50 Closing Date: Thursday 8 May 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
CONTEMPORARY COLLAGE WORKSHOP	Saturday 19 July 2025 From 10.00am to 12.30pm or 1.30pm to 4.00pm	Badminton Road Methodist Church, Downend, Bristol BS16 6NU	Members Only: £26.00 Closing Date: Monday 16 June 2025
DAY VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK	Wednesday 10 September 2025 Coach pick-ups: 7.00am Keynsham (Ashton Way Car Park) 7.30am Tesco Eastville 8.00am Almondsbury Bus Stop (A38 lay-by BS32 4AA) - First Bus: C57 T1 South Glos Lynx (Bristol to Thornbury) - What3Words///registry.freshest.magpie	If you are meeting the coach at Almondsbury, the Almondsbury Inn & Lounge, 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: £58.00 Non-Members: £60.00 Closing Date: Wednesday 23 July 2025
COMMUNITY CHOIR SINGING WORKSHOP	Wednesday 17 September 2025 From 1.00pm to 4.00pm	Wick Village Hall, Manor Road, Wick, BS30 5QJ	Members: £14.00 Non-Members: £16.00 Closing Date: Wednesday 23 July 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)	Members Only: £21 (One free delegate per WI) Closing Date: Thursday 7 August 2025

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.