

AFWI Events Diary 2025

Event	Date	Venue	Price Closing Date
TALK: 'SPITFIRE GIRL'	Thursday 12 June 2025 2.00pm (for a 2.15pm start) to 4.30pm	Failand Village Hall, Oxhouse Lane, Failand BS8 3TS	CLOSED
AFWI SUMMER LUNCH	Tuesday 1 July 2025 From 10.30am to 3.30pm	Saltford Golf Club, Golf Course Lane, Bristol BS31 3AA	CLOSED
TALK & TOUR ORGANIC BLOOMS	Friday 11th July 2025 From 10.00am prompt to 12.00 noon	Organic Blooms, The Former Allotment, Latteridge Hill, Latteridge, BS37 9TS	CLOSED
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 STOP PRESS: Closing Date Extended: Monday 16 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)	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
HISTORY TALK: THE NEWPORT MEDIEVAL SHIP	Thursday 23 October 2025 From 2.00pm to 3.30pm	St Edyth's Church, Avonleaze, Sea Mills, Bristol BS9 2HU	Date for Diary Pending Application Forms
SPEAKERS DAY	Thursday 13 November 2025 10.15am for a 10.30start to 3.30pm	Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, 57-59 Broad Street, Chipping Sodbury BA37 6AD	Date for Diary Pending Application Forms

AFWI Contacts

WI House

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0117 9864782

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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.

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

Dear Members

VACANCIES for 'Volunteers'

Everyone Welcome to the Federation Teams



After the last months as joint chair this is a plea from me and Judith.

Avon Federation is going through a particularly busy and challenging time which will continue even more as time goes on due to Federation's own success.

The dedication and voluntary hard work of all Federation Teams: two Events Teams, the Membership Team, and the Independent Finance Examiner Committee are truly commendable. Their efforts are crucial in keeping the WI Movement thriving for the next 110 years – OK this may be an exaggeration but -

With the changes to the WI Constitution and the NFWI Annual Meeting having been virtual this year, it's understandable that everyone is still working hard to ensure the success of the Federation and your own marvellous WIs.

It's important to recognize and appreciate the few members who willingly give their time and have joined Federation Teams.



Members' involvement can make a significant difference and help alleviate the struggles we have due to too few members helping.

If you have any specific skills or interests, please consider visiting one of the Teams or consider becoming a Federation Friend with ad hoc tasks and help that way without longer term commitment.

If there's anything, in particular, you'd like assistance with or if you have any questions, or views please feel free to let me or Judith know!

Have a great summer.

Lorna Tarr
AFWI Joint Chair

AFWI 200 Club

Congratulations to the winners of the April and May 2025 draws, winning £20 each: Chris Gough (Chipping Sodbury WI) and Gwenda Coles (Frenchay Afternoon WI).



Membership Matters

Hello Members

Are you passionate about the WI - would you like to open new WIs - meet lots of members - plan ahead - are you a people person - love to be involved?

We have to attract more members to help the Federation as soon as possible - if you join us, you will learn lots about our wonderful WI movement, meet lots of other members and have your say in whatever is best for all our members, including yourself.

There is lots of potential to make a difference on this particular team, however, there are not enough of us - although we are pretty wonderful it has to be said!

Retaining membership in a WI can indeed be challenging, but there are several strategies that have proven effective...

Personal Touch: Direct contact, such as a phone call or a card, can make members feel valued and appreciated. This personal touch often encourages them to re-join.

Addressing Concerns: Understanding and addressing specific reasons why members may not re-join is crucial. If members feel the WI is too 'clicky' or they don't feel valued, these issues could be addressed to create a more inclusive environment.

How are we helping WIs...

Committee Socials: Members from different WIs shared information and experiences which has been very successful and will take back to their WIs. These events foster a sense of community and provide valuable insights too.

Resources: The WI Learning Hub, My WI, the WI Constitution, the WI Handbook 2024 are part of subscriptions for each member. Engaging with these resources help members feel more connected and informed about the WI.

The **WI Advisers** are always available by email/phone to answer questions, support members, visit or set up specific sessions for anything we are asked for - please let us know.

Judith Massey	judithmassey@avonfwi.org.uk	07854 689730
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Lorna Tarr	lornatarr@avonfwi.org.uk	07702 453827

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.



Refreshments are also included at this event.

Members: £16.00

Non-Members: £18.00

Extended Closing Date: Monday 16 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 with 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.



You do not have to have good singing ability, nor do you need to be able to read music.

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

AFWI Environment & Craft Team

Dear Members- this month I'm pleased to give you an update on some more events. The first of this year's History Talks is on 23 October, at a new venue in the Federation, where we will be hearing about the Newport Medieval Shipwreck, from Dr Toby Jones, the curator of the project. Another date for your diaries, Thursday 13 November, for the ever popular 'Speakers Day' – this year it is the turn of the Environment & Craft Team to deliver the event, which will be at Chipping Sodbury Town Hall – last year it was in Portishead, so as you can see, we are moving it about in the Federation – look out for the booking form.

Whilst we still have the Contemporary Collage Workshop to look forward to on the 19 July, we are also thinking of having a Jewellery Making Workshop in the first week of December – so please email us to let us know if you would like us to put this on – it could be a Christmas decoration or a gift?

And, I have just come back from a 'fact finding' visit to Bletchley Park in preparation for the visit on the 10 September – this was well worth the time, as I now have a better understanding of the site and what members can focus on when we are there. I also took some photographs to 'whet your appetite'.

Now, I must share my disappointment – only 30 of us went on the outing to Blenheim Palace – so what have we got wrong, is it the cost, too many of you have already been on a visit, or something else? Please get in contact to let us know, as we need your feedback. If it is the cost, coaches and entrance fees have increased but this is across the board. That said, Blenheim was in fact a great day out, checkout the photos below.

However, some good news I would also like to share with you, as we welcome Angie Marsh (Bromley Heath WI), as a new member to the team.

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

Outing to Blenheim Palace May 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 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



Discover the beauty of using recycled materials to create a contemporary collage of an animal or a flower with, Mixed Media Artist, Emma Dennehy.

Materials are included in the cost.

Tea and Coffee will be provided.

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.

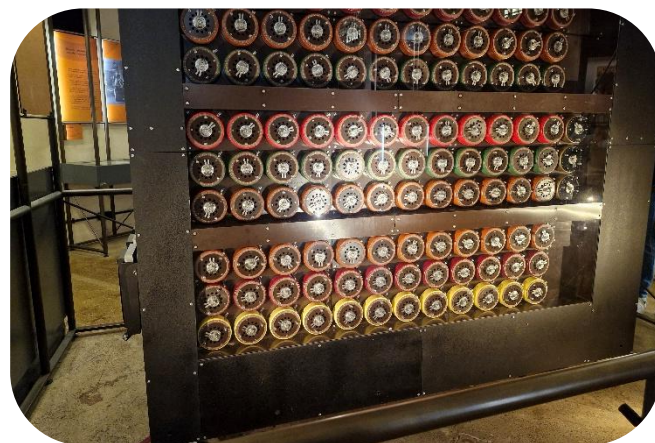
On arrival we will have tea/coffee, then members can explore in their own time a free flow visit or, if there is space, there is an option to join a guided

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 Federation Holidays

THE HISTORIC HOUSES & HERITAGE OF THE NORTH WEST & RHS GARDEN BRIDGEWATER (APRIL 2025)

Nearly 50 members and friends ventured North for the most recent Federation holiday, staying at the 4* Park Royal Hoel in Stretton.



We enjoyed great weather, had a well-informed Blue Badge Guide, and a good coach driver.

We went to many interesting places, including, the regenerated area of Salford Quays, where we visited the Lowry Museum and the Imperial War Museum, and then on to the National Trust's Denham Massey.

On another day we visited RHS Garden Bridgewater where we had a guided tour – led by very knowledgeable volunteers – this is a great site to visit and well worth a revisit at some point.

On another day we visited Quarry Bank Mill and Styal Estate, which is a restored Georgian cotton mill; here we were given an insight into the workings of the mill and what the child workers endured in the 1830s.

Some disappointment, during the visit to the Anderton Boat Lift as it wasn't working but luckily some of us went on a boat trip instead.

Then on our way home we visited the Black Country Living Museum offering a glimpse into 300 years of history and the working environment in those days.



THE HISTORY & VINTAGE RAILWAYS OF THE ISLE OF MAN

Departing 27th April 2026 for five days from £1,219

For this holiday we meet at Bristol Airport for our direct flight to the Isle of Man.



Having just looked on the website for the Ramsey Park Hotel, I thought I would share some of the details of where we will be staying.



Situated in Ramsey, the second largest town on the Isle of Man, Ramsey Park Hotel offers a host of activities in the surrounding area, such as sailing, horse riding and jogging trails. Just 300 metres from the coastline of the Irish Sea, the hotel also offers free Wi-Fi and on-site parking. A 32-inch flat-screen TV is provided in each Ramsey Park room, as well as an ensuite bathroom and hospitality tray.



Douglas, the capital of the Isle of Man, is a 25-minute drive away and features high street shops, sandy beaches and a variety of cafes and restaurants.

It looks a good location with super views.

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

Email: federationholidays@avonfwi.org.uk

Closing Date: Wednesday 27 August 2025

For further information go to www.tailored-travel.co.uk, click on **View Your Tour** and quote **afwi261**.

Remember to make sure you have a valid passport with at least 6 months left on your passport or suitable ID for this trip.

Update: I have already received a number of bookings, so if you intend to join the holiday, I suggest you send in your form to avoid disappointment.

Sue Murphy
AFWI Group Organiser

Avon Federation of Women's Institutes presents

The History & Vintage Railways of the Isle of Man

5 days from £1,219 Departing 27th April 2026

tailored travel
Inspiring Group Tours

FEATURES

- Half board accommodation
- All excursions travel & guided tours included
- Entrance fee to Torvald included
- Direct airfares from Bristol
- Private coach on the Isle of Man
- Blue Badge guide on Days 1 to 3
- Train & taxi tickets included

WHAT WE WILL SEE

- Manx Museum
- Ramsey
- Manx Electric Railway
- Great Laxey Wheel
- Douglas Mountain Railway
- Horse-drawn tramway excursion
- Peel Castle
- Peel Cathedral
- House of Manxmen
- Douglas Village Folk Museum
- Castletown
- Castle Rushen
- Steam train excursion from Castletown to Douglas
- Torvald (the Isle of Man Parliament) - guided tour entrance fee included

ACCOMMODATION

We stay four nights in a half board basis at the 37 Ramsey Park Hotel. Some rooms have a view over Douglas Harbour and the sea. The hotel includes a restaurant and bar, 30 rooms and air conditioning, satellite TV, telephone, and tea & coffee making facilities.

EXTRAS TO YOUR TOUR

- Insurance (including Covid cover) £26
- Single room supplement £176
- Gratuities
- Entrance fees (except the ones included above) to provide you're part of this tour's share to National Trust & English Heritage members
- Lunches
- Cost of any churches or cathedrals visited

FLYING (extra may be added to charge. Price based on low season. Minimum numbers required. Normal working conditions apply.)

For more information on this tour contact your Group Organiser

Susan Murphy
Tel: 0117 986 4782 (W.I. Home Office)
Email: federationholidays@avonfwi.org.uk

W.I. House, 11 Station Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2EH

View and share this tour online - click on View Your Tour at www.tailored-travel.co.uk and quote afwi261

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!



There will also be input from a local Charity (TBC).

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

Booking AFWI Events

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.

We are aware that some members can be disappointed when we have to run a ballot for oversubscribed events, and WIs receive less spaces than requested. Therefore, we are considering returning to a 'first come first serve' system as we think it will be fairer.

What do you think? PLEASE let us know.