

## AFWI History Talk

### THE NEWPORT MEDIEVAL SHIP

Thursday 23 October 2025

From 2.00pm to 3.30pm

St Edyth's Church Hall, Avonleaze, Sea Mills, Bristol BS9 2HU



We are privileged to have Dr Toby Jones, curator of the Newport Medieval Ship Project, present the first of our History Talks for 2025.

The Newport Medieval Ship: 'The Fascinating Journey from Discovery to Future', is an insight into the work that has taken place on this project, since the shipwreck was discovered and raised between 2002 and 2003, and how our understanding of this 15<sup>th</sup> century merchant vessel has progressed through cleaning, digital documentation, analysis, and conservation.

Dr Toby Jones reveals the secrets behind this enigmatic vessel and explores what it can tell us about medieval life onboard and in Newport. He will also discuss plans for the reassembly and display of this unique international treasure.

Tea and Coffee will be provided at this event.

**Members:** £12.00

**Non-Members:** £14.00

**Closing Date:** Tuesday 16 September 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](mailto:office@avonfwi.org.uk) by **12.00 noon on 7 August 2025**.



## AFWI Contacts

### WI House

11 Station Road, Keynsham BS31 2BH  
0117 9864782

### General Enquiries:

[office@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto:office@avonfwi.org.uk)

### Events:

[events@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto: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:

Debbie Storey  
[federationsecretary@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto:federationsecretary@avonfwi.org.uk)

### Finance Officer:

Sarah Birch  
[finance@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto:finance@avonfwi.org.uk)

### Admin/Membership Assistant:

Belinda Hudson  
[membership@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto:membership@avonfwi.org.uk)

### Joint Chairs:

Lorna Tarr  
[lornatarr@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto:lornatarr@avonfwi.org.uk)  
Judith Massey  
[judithmassey@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto:judithmassey@avonfwi.org.uk)

### Vice Chair:

Sue Murphy  
[suemurphy@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto:suemurphy@avonfwi.org.uk)

### Federation Treasurer

Marion Hulance

### Federation Safeguarding Officer

Josie Pownall  
[josiepownall@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto:josiepownall@avonfwi.org.uk)

### 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.](#)

 [www.facebook.com/AvonFederationWI](https://www.facebook.com/AvonFederationWI)

Charity Reg. No. 1022293  
Company Reg. No. 02821499

Copyright © 2025 AFWI

## Chairs' Chatter

### NFWI Annual Meeting

I hope that all the delegates enjoyed watching the NFWI Annual Meeting. There will be a full report in the WI Life Magazine and your link delegate should send a short report to your WI. Attending an Annual Meeting, whether in person or virtually, is an experience and when it is your WI's turn to send a delegate, please volunteer to see for yourself. Next year's meeting will be another virtual Annual Meeting.

### Submitting a Resolution

Has your WI thought about a topic that would make an interesting and relevant resolution to be submitted to NFWI. If successful, this could be supported by all members in the organisation and help to bring about change. For more information, please contact WI House who can forward your correspondence to the AFWI Resolution Liaison Officer, or look for help on My WI.

### Federation Holidays

The recent holiday to the North West was a great success and enjoyed by the 50 people who went. Highlights were the Bridgewater Gardens and the Lowry Museum. The Autumn holiday is to Malta, but booking is now closed. Places are still available for the Spring 2025 holiday to the Isle of Man, but they are going fast. It is hoped to arrange another UK holiday for Autumn 2026.

### Federation Events

I hope members enjoyed the trip to Blenheim and the Quiz. Thanks to Sue Murphy for organising the trip, she even managed to provide good weather. As usual, Linda Sellars provided an excellent set of questions, some more challenging than others. Congratulations to the joint winners: Rangeworthy and Westbury Park WIs.

Forthcoming events: A Trip to Bletchley Park and the Community Choir Singing Workshop.

Meanwhile, we are always pleased to welcome members to both our Events team meetings. If you are interested, please contact WI House to arrange a suitable date.

**And finally**, on behalf of the AFWI Trustees, I wish all our members an enjoyable summer this year, whatever you are all doing.

**Judith Massey**  
**AFWI Joint Chair**

## AFWI 200 Club

Congratulations to the winner of the June 2025 £20 draw Barbara Davis (Rodway Rubies WI).



## WI Anniversaries: July 2025

**Moor Hens WI** celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this month. Congratulations from the Board of Trustees and staff at WI House.



## Membership Matters

### Membership Chair Role - VACANT

Hello Members - Good News!

We are delighted to announce a new member of the team. Please welcome **Adele Gardner, President of Clifton WI.**

I know from personal experience what a great asset to the team Adele will be and you will be hearing from Adele soon.

Surely there must be at least three other members out there somewhere who can keep Adele company and learn about the WI at the same time.

Please visit a Membership Support Team (MST) meeting, as an observer, to find out what we are up to and suggest ideas on how we can improve membership.



If your WI has not heard from or seen a WI Adviser in recent times it is because there are not enough of us and/or WIs may not have contacted MST for a long time - hence, our successful Committee Socials held in April/May.

Four free Committee Social events were held at WI House and 19 WIs took part over different weeks. The aim was to mix and mingle with committee members from other WIs, share programmes, chat and swap ideas, learning from each other. We have been asked to repeat these sessions again which we will - please let us know which days of the week and times any of your committee members would like to attend and we will do our best to work out more Committee Socials around these.

A very big thankyou to all the members who volunteered to support the WI this year by taking on the role of a link delegate, collating the votes of three to four WIs each to cast at the NFWI Annual Meeting. It's important that every WI vote is heard and can influence the whole WI movement for the future.

Thank you, and have a great summer from the Team!

**Lorna Tarr, Judith Massey, Margaret Myers,  
Anne Bennett, Adele Gardner and Donna Butcher**

## AFWI Federation Quiz May 2025

The AFWI Quiz returned to Chipping Sodbury Town Hall for this year's fun social evening, with thirty-seven teams across twenty-two WIs competing for the Federation Shield.

Congratulations to joint winners Rangeworthy WI (top LHS) and Westbury Park WI (bottom RHS).

## 2025 AFWI Skittles Tournament

Good luck to Kenn and Old Sodbury WIs competing in the final of this year's AFWI Skittles Tournament on Tuesday 22 July at Clevedon Rugby Club.



## Boosting your WI's Funds

With the costs of speakers and room hire for meetings increasing, a WI's trustees (the committee) often have a difficult job balancing the funds they have available to spend. This is particularly hard for smaller WIs, as their income from subscriptions will be less than that of larger WIs, but they incur similar costs for holding their meetings. However, there are several ways of helping this situation, and give your WI funds a boost!



Have you opened a WI Lottery to raise funds for your WI? If so, you will have seen how this can generate an impressive income. The minimum option was one ticket per week costing £1, and this was paid by direct debit of £4.24 per month from the player's bank account. This has been changed, with the Lottery organisers finding a monthly direct debit of £5 more convenient. This means the player will be paying a minimum of £60 per year, but they will receive 60 tickets over the year, thus the charge remains £1 per ticket. For each of these tickets, 40p will go to the WI, and 20p will be shared equally between the Federation and NFWI. So, for every member of a WI who signs up for the minimum spend, and remains for a year, they are generating  $60 \times 40p = £24.00$  income for their WI (£6 for the Federation and £6 for NFWI).

The WI Lottery is not solely for members, anyone can join, family and friends of a member, or even someone from your local community can choose to support your WI, and have a chance of winning the lottery, of course! So, if ten people signed up to play, the WI would receive £240 over a year (enough to cover the cost of, possibly, four speakers).

The WI Lottery is one income source; another is Gift Aid. For every member who is a taxpayer, and signs a Gift Aid form, the WI can claim 25% of her WI share of the subscription from HMRC. With this year's subscription being £25.10 for the WI share, this means £6.28 could be claimed. (this would be reduced if the WI share of the subscription has been reduced). Ten members signing Gift Aid forms and it's £62 income.

*giftaid*

Once a member has signed a Gift Aid Declaration form, this can also be used for Federation and NFWI to claim on their share of the subscription also – so the potential to help all three tiers of the WI is considerable. HMRC allows claims for the current year, plus the previous four years for new claimants, so if your WI is not currently claiming Gift Aid, and starts doing so, there will be a nice back-years payment too.

Work is involved in setting this up with HMRC, but the rewards make it worthwhile. Usually, it is the Treasurer who does this, but it doesn't have to be, it can be another committee member. If your WI is interested in pursuing this, then training could be available from AFWI. To register your interest please email [events@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto:events@avonfwi.org.uk) with your name and WI.

**Mary Berryman**

**AFWI Trustee, AFWI IFE, Treasurer Rodway Rubies WI**

## AFWI Trustee Watch Party

For this year's Virtual NFWI Annual Meeting, AFWI Trustees came together in WI House to watch the online meeting and cast their votes as Federation Representatives and link delegates.

And, like many members, they took the opportunity to share a buffet lunch during the break.

Checkout the Summer Issue of the new 'AFWI Around & About Your WIs!' to see what members from Hewish and District WI got up to at their Watch Party!



## AFWI Federation Holiday April 2025

### THE HISTORY & VINTAGE RAILWAYS OF THE ISLE OF MAN

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

#### Day 1

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

#### Day 2

Our Blue Badge guide meets us at our hotel this morning and accompanies us throughout the day. We firstly enjoy some time at leisure in Ramsey. We then enjoy a scenic excursion from Ramsey to Laxey on the Manx Electric Railway, one of Britain's longest vintage narrow gauge railways. At Laxey, we explore the Great Laxey Wheel. Dating back to 1854 and known locally as 'Lady Isabella' after the wife of the island's governor at that time, it is the largest water wheel in the world and was designed by Robert Casement to pump water from the mineshafts. We then board the Snaefell Mountain Railway up to the summit of Snaefell.



#### Day 3



We firstly enjoy a ride on the Douglas Horse Trams with our Blue Badge guide. The trams were first introduced in 1876 to take advantage of the booming tourist trade in Victorian times and to this day still carry tourists and locals along the promenades. We then visit Peel, one of the world's smallest cathedral cities with just 3,800 residents. On arrival we see the remains of Peel Castle, occupying the important site of St Patrick's Isle at Peel. The castle's curtain wall encircles the ruins of many buildings which are a testimony to the site's religious and secular

importance in Manx history. We then have some free time to explore the narrow lanes leading from the working harbour with their specialist and antique shops. This afternoon we visit Peel Cathedral, consecrated in 1980. Our day concludes with a visit to The House of Manannan heritage visitor centre, where, the Island's mythological sea god, Manannan, welcomes you to his fascinating Kingdom.



#### Day 4



Our full day with our Blue Badge guide begins at the Cregneash Village Folk Museum which provides a living, working illustration of the traditional customs, crafts and skills which characterised the Manx crofter's way of life. After free time for lunch at the old Manx capital of Castletown, we explore Castle Rushen. Guarding the entrance to Silverburn River and one of England's best preserved medieval fortresses, the castle was taken by Robert the Bruce in 1313 who occupied the Isle of Man briefly whilst attempting to invade Ireland. The Castletown

Steam Railway, opened in 1874 and still running with its original locomotives and the longest line of its type in Britain, takes us from Castletown to Douglas.



#### Day 5

With our Blue Badge guide this morning, and subject to availability, we enjoy a guided tour at Tynwald, the Parliament of the Isle of Man. Tynwald is of Norse origin and over 1,000 years old, and is thus the oldest parliament in the world. We then transfer to the airport for our direct scheduled easyJet flight back to Bristol.

#### Notes:

- **Where entry is not included**, those with National Trust or English Heritage membership can get in free.
- **Please remember** to make sure you have a valid passport with at least 6 months left on your passport or suitable ID for this trip.
- **For further information** go to [www.tailored-travel.co.uk](http://www.tailored-travel.co.uk), click on View Your Tour and quote afwi261.
- **Email:** [federationholidays@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto:federationholidays@avonfwi.org.uk)
- **Closing Date:** Wednesday 27 August 2025

**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

# AFWI Events Diary 2025

Event	Date	Venue	Price Closing Date
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 OVER SUBSCRIBED
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	CLOSED
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	CANCELLED UNDER SUBSCRIBED
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 MEDIÉVAL SHIP	Thursday 23 October 2025 From 2.00pm to 3.30pm	St Edyth's Church, Avonleaze, Sea Mills, Bristol BS9 2HU	Members: £12.00 Non-Members: £14.00 Closing Date: Tuesday 16 September 2025
PUBLIC AFFAIRS 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 Form
HISTORY & HERITAGE OF BRISTOL	Tuesday 18 November 2025 From 11.00am to 3.30pm	Tours of The Wills Memorial Building Tower and Bristol Cathedral	Date for Diary Pending Application Form
AFWI CAROL SERVICE	Tuesday 16 December 2025 From 2.00pm to 3.00pm	St Mary's Thornbury, Castle Street, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 1HQ	Date for Diary Pending Application Form

## The small print:

- Members, please apply through your WI Secretary. 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](mailto: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.