

## AFWI Events 2026

### HISTORY TALK: 'AMY JOHNSON' THE REAL STORY WITH CANDY ADKINS

**Wednesday 21 January 2026**  
**From 2.00pm (for a 2.15pm start) to 4.00pm**

**Failand Village Hall, Oxhouse Lane, Failand, BS8 3TS**

Candy Adkins is back by popular demand following her talk on the 'Spitfire Girl' last year.

AMY JOHNSON – THE REAL STORY



Amy's life was fast, fearless and fated. She was the first woman to risk flying solo from London to Australia, followed by hair-raising, record-breaking flights from London to South Africa and then across the Atlantic to the USA.

The Americans loved her, and she landed to cheering crowds wherever she went. War broke out and she wanted to do her bit, but her pioneering life was mysteriously cut short!

What really happened when she disappeared in 1941?

There is plenty of parking at this venue.

Tea and Coffee will be provided at this event.

**Members:** £12.50

**Non-Members:** £14.50

**Closing Date:** Monday 15 December 2025

## AFWI Federation Holidays 2026

### THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE & HISTORY OF THE EAST MIDLANDS

**Departing 5 October 2026 for five days from £719**

#### Features

- 4\* hotel
- Half board accommodation
- All excursion travel & guided tours included

- Entrance fees to non-National Trust properties included
- Blue Badge guide on Days 2 to 4
- Executive coach throughout

#### What we will see

- Baddesley Clinton NT
- Cromford Mills - guided tour of the Mill Yard
- Crich Tramway Village
- Hardwick Hall & Gardens NT
- Workhouse at Southwell NT
- Framework Knitters Museum – guided tour
- National Space Centre
- Packwood House NT



#### Day 1

Enroute to our hotel we visit the National Trust's Baddesley Clinton property in Warwickshire, a romantic and atmospheric moated manor house, dating from the 15th century and little changed since 1634. The interiors reflect the house's heyday in the Elizabethan era, when it was a haven for persecuted Catholics. The peaceful gardens include fish pools and a walled garden. We continue to the 4\* Delta by Marriott Belfry Hotel on the outskirts of Nottingham for a four night stay on a half board basis.

For further information on this tour, please contact the Group Organiser, Sue Murphy: [federationholidays@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto:federationholidays@avonfwi.org.uk).

To view and share this tour online – click on **View Your Tour** at [www.tailored-travel.co.uk](http://www.tailored-travel.co.uk) and quote **afwi262**.

**Closing date:** Friday 17 April 2026 or before if the holiday is full.

## 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)

### MCS Officer/Administrator:

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

### AFWI Chair:

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

### AFWI Vice Chair(s):

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



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

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

Although the closing date for this holiday was 27 August 2025, there may still be a few places depending on whether there are flights and rooms available. Please contact Sue Murphy on the email address below.



### Notes:

- We meet at Bristol Airport for our direct scheduled EasyJet flight to the Isle of Man.
- 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)

## Chairs' Chatter

Hello Members

By the time you read this issue of Avon News we will have held our 2025 Annual Meeting. Members will have enjoyed a day hearing from some great speakers including our NFWI Chair, Jeryl Stone, sharing plans for the future of the WI.

Our potential for growth is immense, and we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. AFWI is a successful, active and enthusiastic Federation with a vision for evolution and impact. Increasing membership and with extra Federation Team members contributing to and shaping our future, together we can achieve remarkable things.

Avon Federation of WIs comprises a Board of Trustees, and Membership Support, Arts & Leisure Events, Environment & Craft Events and IFE Teams.

**Lorna Tarr and Judith Massey**  
**AFWI Joint Chairs 2024/25**

Photos of the 2025 AFWI Annual Meeting will be published in next month's issue of Avon News.

## Membership Matters

I hope you enjoyed the AFWI Annual Meeting, it is good to meet you at events like this.

### WI Resolutions 2025/26

The Women's Institute is democratic and member-led, and the resolution process is unique in putting members at the heart of decisions about our campaign activity. Every issue that we campaign on stems directly from a resolution put forward by members and adopted at the NFWI Annual Meeting. WI members have a unique opportunity to turn a concern into a national campaign every year, backed by the whole of the WI.

Between July and September, WIs and federations submitted resolutions about current issues they are concerned about to the NFWI. In October, the submitted resolutions are discussed and debated by federation and member delegates and reduced to a shortlist.

In November, shortlisted resolution resources, including videos and PowerPoint presentations will be published on My WI. The shortlisted resolutions, brief background information, and selection slips will also appear in the November issue of WI Life.

Members consider the shortlist and meet to discuss and learn more about the issues from late November 2025 to early February 2026. The deadline for WIs to submit a tally of their members' resolution selections to the Federation will be Friday 6 February 2026.

As a member, please make sure the resolution that you feel is most important is counted. The NFWI Board of Trustees finalises the resolution(s) for the 2026 Annual Meeting based on the number of selections from WI Members.



### AFWI Linking List 2026

The 2026 NFWI Annual Meeting on Thursday 4 June 2026 will be held online, streamed from the NFWI London HQ Office. Attendees from all over England, Wales, and the Islands will be able to join the meeting from their own homes or with other members at local watch parties.



Every WI in the UK is represented by link delegates. The role of the link delegate is to vote on resolutions on behalf of her own WI and those within her linking group. It is also the responsibility of the link delegate to report back to each of the WIs within her group, the outcome of the resolution voting, and on the meeting in general.

WIs will be linked, having regard insofar as possible to their geographical proximity, in groups of three or four, each WI taking its turn to nominate one of its own members as a Link Delegate to represent their own and the other WIs in their Linking Group. Delegates shall have one vote for each WI represented.

The AFWI linking list for 2026 will be sent to WI secretaries this month. The list has been updated since last year, so please check to see whether it is your WI's turn to nominate a link delegate. Even if it is not your WI's turn, it is a good idea to select a possible link delegate as the WI whose turn it is may not be able to find someone and your WI may be offered the opportunity.

Please get in touch with your WI Adviser if you need help with your WI Annual Meeting or have other questions. We hope to hold more meetings for committee members in the new year.

**Adele Gardner**     [adelegardner@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto:adelegardner@avonfwi.org.uk)  
**Judith Massey**     [judithmassey@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto:judithmassey@avonfwi.org.uk)  
**Margaret Myers**     [margaretadviser@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto:margaretadviser@avonfwi.org.uk)  
**Lorna Tarr**     [lornatarr@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto:lornatarr@avonfwi.org.uk)

## AFWI 200 Club

Congratulations to the winners of the £20 draws for September and October 2025, Anne Flashman (Hewish & District WI) and Tessa Morrison (Tickenham WI).



## WIRE WORK WORKSHOP

**Tuesday 2 December 2025, from 10.00am to 12.00 noon, at the Conygre Hall, North Road, Timsbury, Nr Bath, BA2 0JQ**



Holly Berkley is a wire worker and teacher based in Somerset. With 37 years' experience in wire working and ten years in teaching, Holly has been featured in the national press, including Vogue magazine, and on live TV.

During this project we will be using hammers and miniature anvils, wire winders and pliers to make either a cushioned 'A Christmas Star Decoration' with beautiful beaten spiral accents or 'A Tree of life pendant and jewellery set', which would make a great gift or to keep for yourself.



Suitable for all abilities, all tools and materials are supplied. Refreshments will be provided.

**Members Only:** £35.00

**Closing Date:** Monday 3 November 2025

## AFWI CAROL SERVICE

**Tuesday 16 December 2025, from 2.00pm to 3.00pm, at St Mary's Church, Castle Street, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 1HQ**



The Federation's Carol Service this year will be held at St Mary's Church in Thornbury where the AFWI Choir, conducted by Jane Kern, will lead the singing, accompanied by the church organist.

There is limited parking on the road outside the church and in adjacent roads, as well as three public car parks in Thornbury. The town is also on several bus routes so please use public transport and car shares where possible.

**Members:** £7.00 **Non-Members:** £9.00

**Closing Date:** Monday 3 November 2025

## AFWI Environment & Craft Team

Dear Members

Having had a good break, I expect you are all wanting to get back to the AFWI events, with lots of things on offer from the History Talks, check out the new 'Amy Johnson' The Real Story With Candy Adkins on the front cover, to the Wire Work Workshop. Please apply through your WI Secretary.

It would be great to see members coming to observe at our planning meetings – just make contact and it can be arranged – we'd love to see you!

**Sue, Linda, Ruth and Angie**  
**AFWI Environment & Craft Events Team**



### ROLLING PINS AT THE READY!

This December, Southmead Hospital's NHS staff will be going head-to-head in a **12 Bakes of Christmas Challenge**, and we'd love WI members across Avon to get involved too!

By hosting your own festive bake sale in support of **Southmead Hospital Charity's Christmas Appeal**, you'll be helping patients who face spending Christmas in hospital, as well as the hardworking NHS staff who care for them 24/7.

#### How to take part:

1. Pick a date, time and location for your bake sale.
2. Contact Hannah (details below) to receive your *12 Bakes of Christmas* fundraising pack, complete with posters, bunting, ingredients cards and more.
3. Host your bake sale, donate the funds, and share your photos with us!

If **five or more WI groups** take part, we'll launch a **WI bake-off competition**, with two winning titles announced in a special post-event update for:

- most money raised, and
- festive favourite!

**To register your interest**, please get in touch with Hannah by **Friday, 7th November 2025:**

[hannah.jones3@nbt.nhs.uk](mailto:hannah.jones3@nbt.nhs.uk)

07920 413700

## AFWI Board of Trustees 2025/26

Following the Special Board of Trustees meeting of Wednesday 24 September 2025, please find below the Avon Federation of Women's Institutes' Officers and Trustees for 2025/26.

**AFWI Chair:** Sue Murphy (Westbury-on-Trym and Westbury Park WIs)

**AFWI Vice Chairs:** Lorna Tarr (Westbury Park, Clifton, and Skylarks Virtual WIs) and Judith Massey (Timsbury WI)

**AFWI Treasurer:**  
Marion Hulance (Kenn and Skylarks WIs)

**Other Trustees:**  
Mary Berryman (Rodway Rubies and Chipping Sodbury WIs)  
Kim Hanner (Moor Hens WI)  
Josie Pownall (Timsbury WI)  
Ruth Smith (Rodway Rubies WI)

**For information:** WI Advisers, Team Chairs, and other appointed representatives of the Federation may attend Board of Trustees meetings by invitation. Trustees should also invite Team Chairs to be co-opted members of the Board for one year if they are not already a Trustee.

## Federation Appointments 2025/26

Below are various roles held by the Trustees which, as you can see, are several per Trustee due to the small size of the Board.

**AFWI Representatives to act on behalf of AFWI's Membership of NFWI and attend meetings of the National Council 2025/26:**  
Sue Murphy and Marion Hulance.

**ACWW Representative:** Ruth Smith

**AFWI Holiday Organiser:** Susan Murphy

**AFWI Health & Safety Officers:** Sue Murphy and Ruth Smith

**AFWI Resolutions Coordinator:** Josie Pownall

**AFWI Safeguarding Officer:** Josie Pownall

## OTHER FEDERATION APPOINTMENTS

**AFWI Archivist:** Linda Sellars (Frenchay Afternoon and Rodway Rubies WIs)

**AFWI Choir Leader and Carol Service Coordinator 2025:** Jane Kern (Harbourside WI) and Ann Glass (Lansdown WI) respectively.

## AFWI Teams

We are always looking for new member representatives to join our AFWI teams, if interested, please get in touch.

## AFWI PRESS AND PUBLICITY TEAM

**Trustees:** Mary Berryman, Kim Hanner and Lorna Tarr

**AFWI Newsletter Editor:** Debbie Storey (Federation Secretary)

## EVENTS TEAMS

**Arts & Leisure Events Team Chair:**  
Josie Pownall (Trustee)

**Environment & Craft Events Team Chair:**  
Lorna Tarr (Trustee)

## MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT TEAM (MST)

**MST Chair and WI Adviser:** Judith Massey (Trustee)

**Other WI Advisers:**  
Adele Gardner (Clifton WI)  
Margaret Myers (Wrington WI)  
Lorna Tarr (Trustee)

**Member Representatives:**  
Ann Bennett (Stanton Drew WI)  
Donna Butcher (Abbots Leigh and Winterbourne Down WIs)  
Kim Hanner (Trustee)

## Office Closed

Members wishing to visit WI House are requested to ring the office to make an appointment; this is principally to ensure the office is open and an appropriate member of staff is available to speak to them and not in a meeting, on leave, or working from home. We appreciate there is nothing more frustrating than to travel to Keynsham, struggle to find WI House and/or parking, and then find there is no one here who can help, for example, finance matters which require the particular attention of the AFWI Finance Officer.



Similarly, if a WI wishes to collect specific documents and/or drop off Financial Accounts or archiving, we prefer to arrange a time when we know there are no meetings in WI House, to ensure the visitor has our full attention and reduce challenges in respect to the accommodation and/or other demands from Trustees and/or members in meetings, on training, etc. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**Debbie Storey (AFWI Federation Secretary)**

# AFWI Events Diary 2024/25

Event	Date	Venue	Price Closing Date
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	CLOSED
HISTORY TALK: THE WOMEN WHO BUILT BRISTOL – VOL 3	Wednesday 29 October 2025 from 2.00pm to 3.30pm	Cleeve Village Hall, Main Road, Cleeve, Bristol, BS49 4PF (A370)	CLOSED
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	Members: £17.00 Non-Members: £19.00 Closing Date: Monday 6 October 2025
HISTORY & HERITAGE OF BRISTOL TOUR	Tuesday 18 November 2025 From 11.00am to 3.30pm	Tours of The Wills Memorial Building Tower and Bristol Cathedral	CLOSED
WIRE WORK WORKSHOP	Tuesday 2 December 2025 From 10.00am to 12.00 noon	The Conygre Hall, North Road, Timsbury, Nr Bath BA2 0JQ	Members Only: £35.00 Closing Date: Monday 3 November 2025
AFWI CAROL SERVICE	Tuesday 16 December 2025 From 2.00pm to 3.00pm	St Mary's Thornbury, Castle Street, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 1HQ	Members: £7.00 Non-Members: £9.00 Closing Date: Monday 3 November 2025
HISTORY TALK: 'AMY JOHNSON' THE REAL STORY WITH CANDY ADKINS	Wednesday 21 January 2026 From 2.00pm (for a 2.15pm start) to 4.00pm	Failand Village Hall, Oxhouse Lane, Failand, BS8 3TS	Members: £12.50 Non-Members: £14.50 Closing Date: Monday 15 December 2025

## The small print:

- Members, please apply through your WI Secretary. Please let us know if you have any access 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.**
- **The Federation reserves the right to close the event before the closing date if there is excessive demand.**
- 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.

## Volunteer Readers for The AFWI Carol Service

If you would like to read at this year's AFWI Carol Service, on Tuesday 16 December 2025, please contact WI House: [office@avonfwi.org.uk](mailto:office@avonfwi.org.uk) by **Monday 3 November 2025** and we will forward your details to the organisers.

