

New Year Message from The Federation Chair

Happy New Year everyone, hope you all had a pleasant festive season.

Did you know that we have 91 WI's and 3,670 members in our federation, and I would like to start the new year off by thanking you all for your contribution and feedback over the past year, your comments, thoughts and suggestions are always very welcome. The Board of Trustees appreciates feedback as it enables us to learn more about what you are looking for, what you like or dislike and what you want or need from the WI in Glamorgan Federation.

In October we held a President's coffee morning and from that we had lots of good ideas and comments, ranging from questions about membership, events and their administration, training and or support for committee roles, the Newsletter and of course the roles of the Board of Trustees.

Following your feedback, we are looking to make improvements in all these areas. Some of our key issues are to ensure we can have events/meetings across the whole area of our Federation, how in the future we can ensure a wider spread of activities/events to meet the needs of all WI's, at the same time meeting the needs of those of our members who are still working.

Whilst we are not able to get everything happening at once, over time you will see positive moves to sharing more information through our Newsletter and online. There are lots of questions and equally lots of different places to find answers and we want to encourage you to check the Glamorgan Website, the Newsletter and of course your local WI Adviser.

To start you off on the information trail here are a few of the questions that cropped up and suggestions of where to look or who to ask: -

Q Can you only limit membership if your hall can't accommodate the numbers?

A Yes but do investigate the possibility of starting a new WI.

Q Who starts up a new WI?

A A WI Adviser, contact your local Adviser or ask Membership Committee.

Q How can we recruit new members?

A Ask an Adviser, BoT member, Media or PR officer

Lots of information on NFWI website <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/Publicising-your-WI>

Q Can meeting times vary?

A Different WI's meet at different times to suit their membership, some WI's have both day and evening meetings.

Q Trips can non members go on a trip?

A As long as open to membership first then you can have non members provided they understand it is at their own risk.

Please keep your ideas and questions coming and together we can make our WI's the fun and friendly place we want it to be

News from Combined Arts

By Claire Atherton tel: [REDACTED]

Its not too late to apply for the Afternoon Tea with musical entertainment at the Hi-Tide on Wednesday 19th March (closing date 28/02).

Watch this column for future event/s for 2025 and please come and support us - we need you.

News from Membership

Pam Dinham Tel: [REDACTED]
Email pamelat790@btinternet.com

Secretaries... you will have received a list of Annual meetings your date and allocated Adviser....please contact her regarding any help you need

Presidents....all Advisers are on hand to help, any query you have regarding WI matters please be in touch with an Adviser.

Treasurer... Subscriptions for 2025-2026 will be £51

News from Shows

Myra Thomas: 01792 232662

GLAMORGAN WI SHOW JULY 5TH 2025

We are busy with the Show and have arranged for a meeting to be held at Carpenters Arms Efail Isaf Pontypridd CF38 1AR on Wednesday 12th February at 7p.m. Please come along, all very informal, and ask any questions you may have about the Show. Refreshments can be bought at the bar.

Any queries please e mail:
glamorganshow@gmail.com
The Show Committee

DONATIONS

So many of our WIs generously send financial donations to Federation House, and we are extremely grateful to receive these.

Federation House in Port Talbot.

News from PR Social Media & Website

Message from Belinda Hansford, Federation Media/PR/Web (bh.consult@btinternet.com)



Glamorgan Federation Website

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

Do take a look at the Glamorgan Website where this month you will find under Federation Events. Class titles for the Glamorgan Show can be found under Current Events in the Sidebar under Glamorgan Show 2025. Shortly there will be more information about the 2025 Glamorgan Show. If you have ideas of questions and answers we can put on the site that will help WIs, let me know at bh.consult@btinternet.com. We want to make this a one-stop shop for many of your Glamorgan Federation WI needs. Also message me if you spot any errors please!

Facebook Page – do pop over and join the Glamorgan Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1516315241969326>

As it is a private page, you will need to agree to the rules for the site and tell us of which WI you are a member. It may then be a few days till you are granted access. This is a great place to share information/photos about your recent events, along with details of any excellent speakers. Members should feel free to safely contact each other with questions. This can be a great source of ideas of meetings, trips etc

Creating Your Own Webpage on the NFWI Platform

Although some WIs have created pages elsewhere, the free NFWI platform is a great place to start sharing some basic information about your WI. A welcome note with a copy of your current programme is a great place to start. Get in touch if you want to take this further. Here is what Upper Killay have recently posted: <https://glamorgan.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/upper-killay/upper-killay-wi-information>

News from Sport & Leisure

Sandra Davidson tel: [REDACTED]
email sandradav@talktalk.net

Whist Drive.

The whist drive was held at Murton Hall on Sat 30th November. After an introduction to Whist and a few practice hands, the real competition started. Everyone had an enjoyable afternoon of playing cards and refreshments of tea and cake. The winners were for the Blues, Sharon Bowden from Swansea Central and for the Pinks, Beryl Talbot from Upper Killay. The prized wooden spoons were presented to Myra Thomas for the Blues from Upper Killay and Ceridwen Stell for the Pinks from Penclawdd.

News from Home Economics & Craft

Alexis James Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: alexisjames3@hotmail.com

The Committee would like to wish everyone a Happy and healthy New Year and thank you for supporting our events in 2024.

Unfortunately our last event of the year, the Dabble Day, was cancelled as it was due to take place on the worst day of the Storm. It has been rescheduled and will be reported on next month.

A Staging and Interpretation day has been arranged for Thursday 27 March. If you have entered, or are planning to enter, a cooperative in one of our competitions the day will be invaluable. A judge will take you through how you can improve or enhance your displays. The charge is per WI and up to four members of each WI can attend. The format of the day will include some hands on sessions.

The Rosebowl/ Brecon Cup has a new venue this year. It will be held on Tuesday 29 April at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl. We look forward to numerous entries, especially in the cooperative category.

Looking forward to the Autumn a visit to the Malvern Show is being planned once more as it is always well supported.

Our last event of the year will be a Christmas workshop.

We hope to meet many more of you throughout the year.

Birchgrove Swansea WI

During our November meeting we held a collection for our local charity, Birchgrove Foodbank. This raised £200 and this sum was added to the £100 raised from the Silent Auction we held in the Summer, making a total of £300. This was then used by the Foodbank to purchase Smyths Toys vouchers for the children.

Here is our President Anne Ellis handing over the cheque for £300 to our member and local Foodbank volunteer Alson VanHeeswuk.



Lynda Dyer

Enclosures this month

- 1 Rosebowl and Brecon Cup Rules
- 2 Annuals form for WIs to give to Advisers.
- 3 Rosebowl and Brecon Cup Flyer/

Dates for your Diary

Upcoming Events	Venue	Date	Closing date
Afternoon Tea with Music	The Hi-Tide Inn, Porthcawl	Wednesday 19th March 2025	28th February 2025
Staging & Interpretation Day	Carmel Chapel	Thursday 27th March 2025	TBC
NFWI Wales Conference	Llanelli	April 16th 2025	Form online
Chepstow Races	Chepstow Race Course	Monday 16th June 2025	To be announced

Barry WI



Alzheimer's awareness talk.

Karen Penny came to see us to talk about her tremendous walk around Great Britain. She slept outside in her tent except for a few nights. She was on a mission to raise awareness of the condition which affects many people in the world. Karen told us many tales of kindness and hospitality while walking every day into parts of Britain she had never been to and of her frugal way of keeping herself fed and dry and warm. She is planning on another expedition next year. She introduced her dog to us at the meeting who gained a lot of attention from the ladies.

On another occasion 18th November where we welcomed the donation of lots of food etc for the local food bank, we welcomed Benedict from Maggie's Care. Founded by a lady called Maggie Keswick Jencks the first Care Centre was opened in 1996 in Edinburgh just a short while after she herself had passed away. Benedict talked us through the origin of the care centre and explained how the centre is supportive to patients and their families. They provide counsellors such as psychologists and benefits advisors as well as a fund raising team to help people who are in the situation where help is needed in many ways including emotional help and putting people in the right direction in times of need. A very thoughtful afternoon.

Diane Baker

Rhiwbina WI



Rhiwbina WI visited Abertillery and Tredegar on what turned out to be a lovely sunny October day. The first stop was at Six Bells to see the Guardian of the Valleys statue, which had been erected to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Six Bells mining disaster in 1960. 45 men lost their lives in the disaster, which is the worst loss of life in a mining incident since the second world war.

We were all very impressed with the way that from a distance the statue appeared see through, but closer up, standing at over 20metres on its plinth, it appeared solid.

Peterston WI



Peterston WI - Park Run "Takeover"

Members of Peterston WI stepped up to volunteer as marshalls for their local Park Run, in what organisers believe to be the first volunteer "takeover" by a WI!

After hearing from a recent guest speaker about the benefits and success of Park Runs across the UK and around the world, and how each Saturday morning run relies on a few vital volunteers, Peterston WI members were happy to take on the challenge of being the first WI group to volunteer as marshalls for the Trelai Park Run in west Cardiff.

We chose the last Saturday in September as our first date to volunteer, and were rewarded with a gloriously sunny autumn morning, and lots of grateful runners/walkers. It was a lovely way to start the weekend, and we have already followed up by sending another team of volunteers to the last run in November!

We hope we can continue to support this fantastic local event into 2025, and would encourage other WIs to find out if they can help at a Park Run near them.

Cwmafan WI



Cwmafan WI again made teas at the Richard Burton 10k run. Stephen Kinnock MP and their own WI member Jill, took part with 3,000 others on a fine Sunday which showed off the Afan Valley at its best. *Liz*

Please send all articles/contributions for
THE BACK PAGE to Beth Morgan ,
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or Email: glamorgan@btinternet.com

