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June/July 2024

News from Federation House  
June Humphry 01639 881588

Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes  
13 Courtland Place  
Port Talbot SA13 1JJ

01639 881588  
www.theWI.org.uk/glamorgan  
E mail glamorgan@btconnect.com

Charity registration number 1206209  
Office Hours— 9am-2.30 Monday, Wednesday and Friday

As this is the last newsletter I will produce, I would like to thank all the W.Is for their cards and good wishes I have received on my retirement. I hope to see many of you at future events, which I will now be able to attend.

I would like to wish Beth all the best, and I am sure she will enjoy the job as much as I have.

With best wishes

June



### Launch of NFWI's General Election Hub 12 June 2024

Participating in the general election is a powerful way to make your voice heard and influence the direction of our country. With the general election taking place on 4 July, it is vital that women get involved and use this moment to influence policies that impact our lives.

We have launched a hub on My WI setting out lots of ways that you can get involved in the general election. Included on the hub is important information about how to campaign within charity rules during the general election.

You can find on the hub:

- ◆ How to contact your candidates about our new Dental Health Matters campaign, following the vote at last week's AM.
- ◆ The End Violence Against Women coalition manifesto and some questions you could ask candidates about their commitment to ending male violence.
- ◆ A range of ways to take action on our Climate Change campaign.
- ◆ Sources of information and guidance on how to ensure your activity stays within charity rules.

Visit the General Election hub on My WI at <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/general-election>

"Thank you", a small statement but big in meaning and we, all 91 WIs in Glamorgan Federation now have to say it to our inimitable Federation Secretary June Humphry. This is the last newsletter that June will produce and circulate to our WIs, so a few words of thanks are appropriate.

June has been our secretary for 23 years, she has worked with seven-and a bit Federation Chairs, starting with Pam Muir and finishing up with me. In that time she has effortlessly adapted to each one's different way of working and vision of the WI, arranging, organizing and overseeing countless events and activities, for not just our Federation but National Federation and all the way up to the 2015 WI Centenary Garden Party at Buckingham Palace! This I have been told by several people, was extremely trying as plans were constantly being adjusted and it was June's role to liaise with all the WIs and direct with Buckingham Palace on occasions, all taken in her stride despite the frustrations. Our Federation's 100 year anniversary in 2023, was another big organizational challenge but again, as we all know, we had a great year of activities and events.

June has always been the voice at the end of the phone when anyone in Wi has a query, wanted advice or help and if she didn't know the answer straight away she would be sure to find out. Indeed, I have been told June likes a joke and a chat when answering queries or arranging events— and that after all is what keeps us all smiling. I wonder if that throw away remark of hers 'Watch out for the book when I finish'— is more than just a joke!

Thank you June for everything you have done over the years, we all wish you well and hope you thoroughly enjoy simply being a member of your (Coychurch WI)

*Barbara Bowring, Board of Trustees and all WI members.*

### NFWI ANNUAL MEETING 5 JUNE 2024

49 members from Glamorgan travelled to London for the NFWI Annual Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall. The speakers were exceptional. The Resolution 'Dental Health Matters' was passed by the members present and online by a majority of 94%.

## News from Public Affairs

Ann White

Email [apwhite@apwhite.plus.com](mailto:apwhite@apwhite.plus.com)

### Stay Safe Keep Safe

Plans for the Autumn event are in progress, we will provide more information as soon as the venue and date are confirmed.

Living in Glamorgan we are never far from the coast or a river, so it's a good time to start planning your rivers and beaches activities.

### Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife Week of Action 11-18 September 2024

#### If you want to find out how safe it is to bathe in a nearby river you can:

- Find out more information about how to apply for inland bathing water by using the—Surfers Against Sewage's 'Wild Water' website. The website contains a useful nine step guide that provides guidance about applying for a designated bathing water.

You can also access –the Surfers Against Sewage community bathing waters toolkit [here](#).

- **Find out about sewage pollution in rivers in your area.**

You can find out about the location of combined sewage outflows (CS's) in your area by looking at the [Rivers Trust Sewage Map](#)

### Great British Beach Clean 20-29 September

The Great British Beach Clean is a week long citizen event, where hundreds of beach cleans take place up and down the UK.

Consider contacting your Local Authority to notify them of your intentions and ask for litter picks, yellow vests and appropriate waste collection bags etc. and find out where they will pick up and dispose of/ recycle what you have collected.

We would love to hear about your Clean Rivers and Beaches activities, please send us the details with a photo.

## News from Home Economics & Craft

By Gloria Jones tel: [REDACTED]

Email [pontyglojones@gmail.com](mailto:pontyglojones@gmail.com)

We will all be looking forward to events following the Summer break and Sunday 29 September will be our first—The Malvern Autumn Show—one of our most popular trips. The flyer has gone out to your WI secretaries and the closing date is 13 July 2024. Don't miss the opportunity to visit this show— it's well worth it.

Our committee would like to wish Upper Killay WI and Margaret Maguire the very best at the Royal Welsh Show in July, they will be representing Glamorgan Federation in the Rosebowl and Brecon Cup competitions. If you are visiting the Royal Welsh Show go along and see if they have been successful.

## News from Sport & Leisure

Sandra Davidson tel: [REDACTED]

email [sandradav@talktalk.net](mailto:sandradav@talktalk.net)

The Annual Whist Drive was held on Saturday 1 June. It was a high scoring afternoon but the winners were Lynn Mulcahy from Bont Faen WI for the Blues and Glenys Fussell from Barry WI for the pinks. The delighted winners of the wooden spoons were Una Gallagher for the Blues and Val Williams for the Pinks, both from Pencoed WI. It was a lovely afternoon with plenty of chatting going on before and after the hands were played.

Two taster sessions for outdoor bowling have been arranged for July:

14 July (Sunday) 2-4.30pm Clyne Valley Ladies Club, Dunvant Park SA2 7UL

31 July (Wednesday) 5-7.30pm Victoria Park, Swansea SA1 1LY

Both sessions are free to members. These are taster sessions with coaching being done by a member of the respective clubs both male and female. You can attend both sessions.

They request that you wear a smooth soled shoe and comfortable clothing. Sunscreen and hats if the sun deems to show itself!

Please contact Jill Royce :

[jill.royce4@gmail.com](mailto:jill.royce4@gmail.com)

[REDACTED]

## Enclosures this month

- 1 WI Directory
- 2 Q1 Subs form

### News from Media/PR& Website

Belinda Hansford:

Email [bh.consult@btinternet.com](mailto:bh.consult@btinternet.com)

Out of the 91 WIs in Glamorgan Federation, 12 have created their own personalized websites that you can click to from the WI website—with excellent information.

At the moment, there are only 2 WIs who have pages using the NFWI platform (which is free to use).

Bont Faen WI have created several pages using the free platform – take a look:

<https://glamorgan.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/bont-faen/about-us>

Bont-Fen's website would be quite ambitious to create in one go, but it would be great to see more WIs creating a page or two on the free platform. This is what I have done for our WI:

<https://glamorgan.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/thre-crosses/three-crosses-wi-information>

The thing is to start small—with a welcoming message long with your current programme. It doesn't need to be complicated but will provide a bit more information to attract new members and for your own members to access.

If anyone wants to get started, then I am happy to help. Whilst the software itself is not complicated if you have never used one before it can seem a bit mystifying. It works in a certain way, but once you get the idea you will fly along.

If there are any WIs with experience who can offer help to others do let me know. My contact details are above

Enclosed with this mailing a quarter 1 subs form,  
please pass this form onto your WI Treasurer.

Diary dates—2024			Closing date
Table top games and Afternoon Tea £12	All Hallows Church Hall, Miskin	Saturday 13 July 2024	14 June 2024
Court & Castle Holiday £199	Windsor & Hampton Court Palace	Friday 19-20 July 2024	23 February 2024
An evening with an Author £21	Hi Tide Inn, Porthcawl	Wednesday 11 September 2024	26 July 2024
Malvern Flower Show £35	Malvern	Sunday 29 September 2024	13 July 2024
Federation Quiz £10	Hi Tide Inn, Porthcawl	Tuesday 22 October 2024	27 September 2024
Craft Fayre £20	The Orangery, Margam Park	Saturday 16 November 2024	9 October 2024

## THE BACK PAGE



In April our guest speaker Cathrin Vaughan, Accomplished with star of the show, Buffy, spoke about 'Pets a Therapy'. Cathrin told us how Buffy was rescued from the most horrendous conditions and placed in an RSPA centre where Cathrin volunteered.

Cathrin worked with Buffy at the RSPA centre and eventually adopted her. At first Buffy was terrified of people and had never been in a home. With lots of patience, time and kindness Cathrin was able to rehabilitate Buffy.

Cathrin was always interested in the charity 'Pets as Therapy' and thought Buffy had the perfect temperament for this work. Buffy passed all the training with flying colours.

Cathrin and Buffy now work in schools and a hospice with positive results.

*Penclawdd WI*



A huge thank you to all poppy contributors.

A new addition in Nottage village.

*Cynthia Sidey, Sker WI*

For our monthly Wednesday social event in April we visited the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery to see the Swansea Open 2024. We thoroughly enjoyed looking at and discussing the various merits of a wide variety of paintings, embroideries, pottery, sculpture, woodcraft on show, many of which were outstanding. Swansea certainly has a very vibrant art culture. The visit was followed by a wonderful lunch at HQ Urban Kitchen, a purpose drive enterprise, tucked away in the Old Swansea Police Station. Here we saw another exhibition of a print workshop they had recently held.

*Penclawdd WI*

On 9 April a large group of Whitchurch WI members boarded the coach to take them to Paul Kimer's Music Palace, in Ynys Hir. This is a museum in a converted chapel, that collects and celebrates the cinema organ that used to accompany silent films.

A group of gentlemen looked after the WI ladies, with most of the presentation being given by Ben Snowdon. He explained the history of the Music Palace, described the various organs on display and entertained us with a range of musical pieces on several of the organs. We were amazed by the size and range of pipes, glockenspiels, percussion instruments, foley equipment and more, hidden behind and alongside the display screen. Two large organs took it in turns to be centre stage, rising up and gliding down on lifts.

During the interval, we were given a delicious crem tea, served by the gentlemen which was something of a novelty for a group of women. The afternoon visit ended with a sing-along. Everyone agreed that it was a splendid outing and that the Music Palace is a gem, hidden in the heart of Rhondda Valley. Paul Kinner's Music Palace (former Saron Chapel) South Street, Ynyshir, Porth CF39 0EG <https://www.pktc.co.uk/>

*Nor'dzn Pama, Whitchurch WI*



Born to dance and sing. Rachel Williams who won a scholarship to a Performing Arts Boarding School in Tring entertained us for nearly an hour regaling us with her success in show business. From Salem Baptist in South Wales where she won

applause for her hymn singing to joining the Bluebell Girls in Paris. She was signed on by Miss Bluebell who employed tall girls in the Lido. Not long after she progressed to the Moulin Rouge also in Paris, made famous by Toulouse Lautrec the famous painter of Vaudeville acts and especially the Can Can troupe. She soon learned the tricks of the trade with excelling at little details to be the star of the show. She demonstrated to us the walk 1 2 3 4 5 look, pick up microphone and smile. Time went on and she returned to the UK. She had been harking after the role of Cassandra in the musical CATS. This when eventually achieved was the highlight of her career which lasted for 3 years.

*Diane Baker, Barry WI*

In May we enjoyed a fun evening with Keith Millward who spoke about 'Life in Musical Theatre'.

His career began in 1964 with pantomimes and operettas in Dunvant, Three Crosses and Gowerton. After attending Aberystwyth University, he joined Swansea Amateurs and to get us all into a joyful mood, we joined in with his rendition of 'Happiness'.

As a member of Black Mountain Voices he worked in America, where he recorded as a soloist and has had 5 major tours, performed at the Rugby World Cup, appeared on The Des O'Conner show with Shirley Bassey, and recently made a recording with Steve Balsamo for the Joseph Smyle Foundation. He has also rubbed shoulders with Bryn Terfel, Catherine Zeta Jones along with Radio Tiroed, Radio Cardiff and Hospital radio.

As producer and Director of Moonlight Company he is very proud that the derelict Prince of Wales Theatre, now being restored, will host one of Keith's shows, the first show there for 41 years.

To end we also sang 'Any Dream Will Do' from Joseph which found us all swaying and laughing more than we had for a long time!!

*Penclawdd WI*