

October/November 2025 Issue 18

News from Federation House
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News from the Federation Chair

Barbara Bowring Tel: 01446 737138
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Hello everyone, it's Newsletter time again, it is amazing how quickly it comes around, I hope that you are all settling into the Autumnal weather - so far not too bad, let's hope it continues that way.

Before I write any more, I have to say a great big "Thank You" to all our members who were able to come along to our Annual General Meeting on the 1st October, your participation and enthusiasm absolutely carried the day. As with any big event there was a tremendous amount of organising, background work, checking and chasing involved but when we were on that stage and looked out at all of you there to support the event, it was amazing! A number of you have contacted the office to express thanks to Beth and Richard for their hard work and I would like to endorse your comments and say "Thank You" to them both here.

I hope that you have all settled into your programme of events for the next few months, are you having a Halloween event or carving pumpkins, attending a Remembrance event, let us know what you are doing - along with a picture and we will try to include it in the Newsletter or put it on our Facebook page.

On a more sober note, some of you may already be aware it's the time of year that the Membership Subscription for 2026 is published, we have been advised by the NFWI Board of Trustees in consultation with the National Council, that the subscription fee for 2026/27 will be **£54**. This increase reflects a greater percentage increase to the WI's, meaning £2.00 to the WI's, 50p to the Federations and 50p to NFWI.

In the last Newsletter I mentioned our securing a Denman Grant and am pleased to say that work is moving on and hopefully early in the New Year we will be able to let you know more about what and when we will be able to offer new training opportunities.

As always "Thank You" to all our members for your commitment and enjoyment of all things WI.

Best Wishes *Barbara Bowring*



YOUR FEDERATION NEEDS YOU!

Federation Board of Trustee Nominations :

What does the role involve?

WE WANT YOU

Trustees are responsible for: passing on information from the NFWI to members, setting the federation's budget and overseeing its finances, attending meetings (such as Board meetings, sub-committee meetings etc.) and engaging in discussion, debate and voting, issuing an annual report and accounts and organising events and activities for members.

How do I become a Federation Trustee? A Trustee must be a member of a WI in our Federation. WIs elect Trustees at their federation's Annual Meeting. They can hold the position for up to three years at a time. Trustees can also be co-opted onto the Board at a later date.

News from Membership

Pam Dinham Tel: [REDACTED]
Email pamela790@btinternet.com

To all WIs: Following on from the great news re our grant for training opportunities, have you considered awarding a bursary in your WI, supporting the courses that are being offered by the Glamorgan Federation Project? The average cost is £30, so why not if you are able, offer one to your members or maybe even two (£60.00). It's such a great opportunity to get our members together to enjoy a new WI experience.

Pam Dinham

News from Home Economics & Craft

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

On 28 September four coaches set out for the Malvern Show. Response was very high this year as 179 members applied. Fortunately, the weather was just right for walking around the outside exhibits. There was a large variety of things to see with something to interest everyone.

Our last event of the year is on **Saturday 22nd November** at Carmel Chapel, Port Talbot. We have a Floral workshop where you will make a door wreath for the Christmas season. There will be a morning and an afternoon session, each of which will have a demonstration followed by hands on. Members will be shown how to make a wreath using floral foam and one using moss and wire. A list of items that may be purchased on the day will be sent out in advance of the course. Numbers are limited so make sure you don't miss out. The closing date is **24th October**.

Alexis James

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Note—The subscription fees will stay the same for 2026.



CONGRATULATIONS

DINAS POWYS

New Pathways Team Award

2025 for Excellence in Sexual Violence Support,



Dinas Powys Women's Institute were recently nominated by 'New Pathways' for our support in raising funds and the making of Trauma Teddies for this very worthwhile charity who for the past 30 years have been supporting victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. As a group DPWI are very aware of the innovative work that New Pathways provide on a daily basis for so many victims both adults and children and recognised how important it was to be able to support this very worthwhile charity in any way we could. The Trauma Teddies are a resource that we also share with the Fire Service along with New Pathways which are hand knitted by the members of our group, and are then given by the charity to children who are often victims or witnesses of abuse and we hope can offer a sense of comfort to a traumatised child who may have been removed from very dangerous situations. *Karin Price*

News from Combined Arts

Claire Atherton tel: [REDACTED]

* 'Do not forget the Carol Festival on Wednesday 3rd December at Margam Abbey, which will be a lovely start to the Christmas Season'.

* **Federation Quiz—extended closing date 31st October**

Enclosures this month

1. Fashion Show with Afternoon Tea at The Heronston, Bridgend
2. Fashion Show with Lunch at Norton House Hotel, Swansea.
3. Board of Trustees—Nominations.
4. Newsletter subscription multiple copy order form.
5. Rosebowl and Brecon Cup Guidance

SPEAKERS CORNER.. Just a few more ideas for your programme...

⇒ 'Armchair Yoga' - Sue Smith—Contact telephone number 07813737121

Wales Conference - Aberystwyth

Wednesday 25
March 2026



The speakers at the conference will be as follows:

Pam Beedan, NFWI Vice-Chair

Julie Starling, Clinical Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Manager for Wales

Ann Jones, High Sheriff of Dyfed

Dame Elan Clos Stephens, Non-Executive Director of the BBC Board since 2017 and past interim Chair of the BBC, Electoral Commissioner for Wales and Pro-Chancellor of Aberystwyth University

National Library of Wales (name to be confirmed)

The Conference will be an all day event and will start at 10.45am and finish at 4pm with a break for lunch.

Ceredigion are the host federation and they will be offering lunchtime craft activities/demonstrations (30 minute sessions) free of charge and delegates will also have an opportunity to have a go at CPR with Save a Life Cymru.

The cost for a ticket for the Conference is £15 per person and there will also be an opportunity to pre-order a packed lunch for £7.50 (check for dietary requirements).

You can order your tickets from GFWI office, by cheque payable to Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes, or by BACs transfer

Dates for your Diary

Upcoming Events	Venue	<u>Date</u>	<u>Closing date</u>
Federation Quiz	Hi-Tide Inn, Porthcawl	Thursday 13th November	31st October 2025
Christmas Floral Workshop	Carmel Chapel, Port Talbot	Saturday 22nd November 2025	Friday 24th October 2025
Let's Celebrate Christmas	Aberavon Hotel, Aberavon	Monday 1st December 2025	Closed
Christmas Carol Service	Margam Abbey	Wednesday 3rd December 2025	Friday 24th October
Fashion Show and Afternoon Tea	The Heronston Hotel, Bridgend.	March, 10th, 11th & 12th 2026	Friday 30th January
NFWI Conference	Aberystwyth National Library of Wales	Wednesday 25th & 26th March 2026	January 29th 2026
Fashion Show with Lunch	Norton House Hotel, Swansea	April 21st, 22nd & 23rd 2026	Friday 13th March



Merthyr Mawr WI - Happy 95th Birthday!

Merthyr Mawr WI was founded in October 1930 in

Merthyr Mawr village,

Bridgend – Happy 95th birthday! 30 members

celebrated this milestone by

enjoying a history display of their WI, followed by an interesting talk from BBC Journalist Huw Thomas on his life as a business journalist and his new book – *Charles, The King and Wales*. High Tea was served by 'hostesses' (a nod to the 1930s term) including a delicious celebratory cake. The cake was cut by Olga Woolfenden and Thelma Powell, the longest-serving members, who have been members of Merthyr Mawr WI for over 40 years. The evening ended in song, with a wonderful performance by Bridgend based Choirs for Good, who, along with members, raised money for Dementia UK through a raffle and generous donations. We look forward to celebrating our 100th birthday



Macmillan Coffee morning Event Friday 26 September. Birchgrove Swansea WI held a Macmillan coffee morning on Friday 26 September in Birchgrove Rugby Club and would like to thank all who supported us and especially Birchgrove Rugby Club for their generous donation and use of the Club Lounge. Despite us being one of the relatively small WI's, we all rallied round and we raised £415 pounds.

Culverhouse Cross WI



Culverhouse Cross WI celebrated 110 years of the WI with afternoon tea sharing memories and looking at old photo albums. Members and friends enjoyed sharing memories of events celebrated in the past and of those who were no longer with us. It was a lovely afternoon and reminded us that, in this digital age, we also needed to keep paper copies of photos to share with future generations.

Patricia Stowell

Please send all articles/contributions for

THE BACK PAGE to Beth Morgan ,

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**Deadline for all newsletter items to be in by the
2nd Monday of the month**

