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News from Federation House
June Humphry 01639 881588



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Office Hours— 9am-2.30 Monday, Wednesday and Friday

June = MCS Month

The MCS (Membership Communication System) is the most important tool at all levels of the WI. Therefore, it is vitally important that the information stored there is kept up to date.

To highlight this, **June** and **October** have been designated as 'MCS month' throughout the organisation.

All WIs are encouraged to appoint an MCS Rep to take responsibility for their records, and WIs who already have an MCS Rep are asked to ensure that all their records remain accurate:

Is where and when my WI meets correct?
Are all paid-up members listed?
Are all members' details correct?
Do all members, including officers have a valid and up-to-date email address listed?
Are all lapsed members removed?
Are all officers' roles and committee positions assigned to the correct members?

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Summer stopover in Oxford. Two days one night—Saturday 19 August 2023-Sunday 20 August 2023. Join us in a fun trip to Henley on Thames and Oxford. Enjoy discovering the best Henley has to offer followed by dinner at our hotel. On Sunday stroll around Oxford or visit the Colleges and Museums. The choice is yours, maybe make time for afternoon tea before we board our coach home around 4pm.

Sounds like fun—then come along and have a great couple of days. See the flyer for more details.

2023 Not in my Name Competition

NFWI-Wales has launched a new competition for members to enter as part of its Not in my Name campaign. Established in 2012, Not in my Name aims to raise awareness about violence against women and involves WIs recruiting male ambassadors from their communities to make the White Ribbon promise to never use, excuse or remain silent about men's violence against women.

The 2023 competition is to 'Design and Make a Tote Bag' depicting the Not in my Name campaign to end violence against women.

The guidelines are available on My WI:
<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/wales/nfwi-wales-campaigns-and-projects/not-in-my-name>



We have heard today the sad news that Margaret Powell has passed away.

Our thoughts and sympathy go to her family Jane and Huw.

Margaret was a past Federation Chairman from 1990-1994 and a WI Adviser.

Many of you will remember Margaret as Chairman of 'Arts & Leisure' sub committee, involved in the Carol Festivals and Eisteddfods and the conducting of the community singing on the coach to the NFWI Annual Meetings which included 'A Pizza Hut' and the 'Wonderbra' song.

News from Sport & Leisure

Dawn Storie tel: 01656 662501 Email dawnstorie@hotmail.co.uk

The turnout for our Treasure Hunt around Swansea Marina was fantastic, despite the weather. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves along with the reward of gold at the end. Many thanks to Annie Stephenson and Margaret Price for all their hard work.

The GFWI Darts Competition takes place on Saturday 22 April 2023 and we have 8 WIs taking part, and we are looking forward to finally being able to put this event on. Good luck to all.

A note for the future, BowlsWales are looking to increase female participation and membership across the game and are interested in developing a partnership with the WI organisation. Their proposition is to hold taster sessions fully funded by BowlsWales for the block period of sessions. They are then hoping that ladies would be encouraged to carry on and join their local clubs. A flyer is to be issued asking for all those what are interested to inform Sports & Leisure via Federation House and we will then co-ordinate with BowlsWales. A single game of bowls can accumulate over 20,000 steps! It is a sport that can benefit mental wellbeing while bringing a social element into sport. We do not have any details of any sessions yet, this will all be dependent on where people are interested in having a go and numbers. Come on ladies, why not try something different.

News from Combined Arts

Claire Atherton Tel: 029 2089 0952

Unfortunately, owing to a lack of interest the lunch with local artist Nick John Rees has had to be cancelled.

However, the Murder Mystery evening will go ahead on Thursday 5 October 2023

News from ACWW

By Barbara Bowring tel: 01446 737138 Email barbara.bowring@virginmedia.com

Many thanks to Llanrhidian WI and visitors from several other local WIs, for their invitation to attend their recent meeting and talk about ACWW. I enjoyed my visit and your donation and continued support is very much appreciated. I have to say, it is the 'smartest' WI venue I have been to so far and

The views were lovely too!

WALKING NETBALL

My name is Jill Royce and I am President of Swansea Central WI.

The Federation is hoping to run taster sessions for walking netball and I have agreed to co-ordinate.

We are possibly looking at dates in September/October 2023. A venue in West Glamorgan has already been approached and are agreeable to hosting sessions. I would very much like to hear from any President in the North or South of Glamorgan who may think that taster sessions would be of interest in their area. There is a limited budget. Any WI who has benefitted from this scheme previously are not eligible. For further information please contact me by email swansecentralwi@gmail.com

CLIMATE CORNER

Martine Brown, Climate Ambassador Email martinefionabrown@gmail.com



A huge THANK YOU! to everyone that contributed to this years 'Show the Love' centenary quilt. We have managed to make three incredible quilts (as well as some gorgeous bunting for the squares which either turned up after the deadline or were too intricate to sew into the quilt).

We would love as many members as possible to come and view them now that they are almost complete. The quilts will be on display in the Senedd Cardiff Bay on Thursday 8 June from 11am to 2pm. All of the Assembly Members will have been invited along so this is a wonderful opportunity for you to have an informal chat with them and tell them what you would like them to focus on (with regard to climate action). If you are planning to come along to the Senedd, please can you email martinefionabrown@gmail.com so that we can give them an idea of numbers.

After this the quilts will then move to the Place to Eat in John Lewis, Cardiff for the Great Big Green week. John Lewis are kindly hosting an event for us on the evening of Thursday 15 June (more details to follow).

Please come along and support the event, especially if you made a square!

Enclosures this month

1 Christmas Miscellany 23.11.23

2023 GLAMORGAN FEDERATION CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1.1.23-31.12.23—Centenary Walk Challenge
11.5.23—River Cruise Holiday
17/19.8.23—Flower Festival, Margam Abbey
2.9.23—Thanksgiving Service, Llandaff Cathedral
23.11.23—Christmas Miscellany



Sue Trusler a local artist based in Whitchurch shared her experience of buying a narrow boat and the pleasures of taking up painting.

A wonderful and inspirational speaker talking about how buying a narrow boat after her retirement, led to a whole new career and hobby. Sue first picked up a paintbrush after being unable to find anyone to paint the specific roses and symbols found in traditional barge painting. From this she embraced all sorts of painting and art, attending sketching classes and finding success in having articles printed in art magazines, mainly through her positive attitude in 'just having a go and seeing what will happen'. Sue's book 'Time to Start Your Art' sets out to help others do the same, she also has a book to help children get started in mixing colours and making marks. To display her artwork Sue brought along some cards (now sold at a shop in Penarth) and barge ware items which is black with colourful flowers as decoration on ordinary items such as teapots and jugs.

Lorraine Hughes, Eglwys Newydd WI

America & Canada

We hope you have seen the information re the trip to America and Canada planned for September 2024, if not, ask your secretary or contact June at Federation House for the details.

This is exactly the same trip and with the same travel company that was planned back in the 'COVID' days. A minimum of 40

members is required to make this amazing trip happen, so what better way than to share with other WI members.

Dawn, the company representative will be at the Glamorgan Show on Saturday 8 July at the Aberavon Beach Hotel with further information and to answer any questions.

Contact June in the office by 2 June just to show your interest.

Diary dates—2023			Closing date
Annual Council meeting £10	Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot	Monday 24 April 2023	
Whist Competition £5	Ystradowen Village Hall	Saturday 20 May 2023	5 May 2023
Go Ape	Margam Park	Saturday 27 May 2023	
Guided Walk of Gloucester £29	Gloucester	Tuesday 13 June 2023	8 May 2023
Chepstow Races £85	Chepstow Race Course	Monday 26 June 2023	28 April 2023
Garden Party £5	Margam Park	Wednesday 12 July 2023	2 June 2023
Malvern Show £33	Malvern Showground	Sunday 24 September 2023	28 July 2023
Christmas Miscellany	Hi Tide Inn, Porthcawl	Thursday 23 November 2023	30 June 2023

THE BACK PAGE

On Wednesday 22 February Upper Killay WI held our 75th Birthday Party at Langland Bay Golf Club. To mark this occasion, we have put 'pen to paper' to let you know some of our memories. Upper Killay WI was formed on 1 March 1948 with Mrs Edwards as the President and 40 women from the village signed up. The membership at that time was limited to the boundary of Upper Killay and meetings were held in an old hut/hall by the Common, on the edge of Gower. Our longest serving member of 50 years, Beryl, joined in March 1973. She recalls joining with a friend who lived opposite her and, at the time they were meeting in the local Primary School. The Primary School would not allow them to use the kitchen, so they had to take their own mugs to the meetings and go to the staff room to make a cup of tea.

Over the years our WI has organized and participated in many community events. We organized and ran the village summer fayres contributing many stalls and games. The summer fayres were held in the local school grounds. We participated in the village carnivals and dressing our floats certainly provided a challenge! It goes without saying though that the teas at these events was the domain of the WI and we had plenty of volunteers. Our WI continued to meet at the School until 1980 when we changed the meetings to a cozier venue, the vestry of a local Church and we are still there now. We have, as a group, enjoyed many short breaks away such as London, Swindon, and the Eden Project and, for our 50th anniversary we went to Bruges. There have been many changes over the years but one thing that does not change is birthday parties!! We thoroughly enjoyed our 75th birthday party. Many of us wore something green to support our 'Show the Love' environment campaign. We had a lovely 3 course meal followed by sketches, jokes, games, and speeches. Our President kindly made us a delicious fruit cake that was beautifully decorated by one of our longest serving members. The cake was displayed on a linen tablecloth that was brought along by another of our longer serving members. Her mother had embroidered the tablecloth many years ago with a beautiful WI logo (see picture below). We took our banner with us and another of our members made a bunting of green hearts to decorate our food table. The room looked lovely, and we had a great time. We are now looking forward to many more years as above!



Upper Killay WI



Rhiwbina WIs visit to the BBC Studios in Cardiff. It was a really informative visit and enjoyable day.

Rupert Moon was standing in for Wynne Evans, he saw us as he was leaving the building and offered to take a selfie.



Janet Jones, Rhiwbina WI

Cwm Brombil Ladies have been busy since the beginning of the year, firstly with the 'Green Hearts project' and then designing and making panels to hang in Margam Abbey as part of their 875th Anniversary. These panels will be blessed in our Social Link evening and Concert with Neath Port Talbot Cancer Challenge Choir on 10 May.

At the end of February, in our Inspiring meeting, we went to Margam Abbey where Mother Ruth was tasked with an afternoon entitled 'so you think you can't sing'. We ended up singing a variety of Welsh hymns and songs and then to the Parish Hall for Welsh cakes and Bara Brith to celebrate St David's Day.

Before our General March Meeting where Eryl Ring talked on life in the Iron ages, we were delighted to welcome Wendy Knight on her bike along with members of Port Talbot WI to hand over the GFWI baton of friendship which has started its journey around the Glamorgan WIs as part of the Glamorgan Centenary year.

Mari Goldsworthy, Cwm Brombil Ladies WI



Treorchy WI members enjoyed a lovely St David's Day supper. Members of the committee served and looked after them all evening. Thanks to the committee for all their hard work in making this such an enjoyable evening. Members were also entertained by Gabriel whose choice of songs for the evening were appreciated by all. Gabriel is the Choir mistress of the local choir 'ONE VOICE'. Our thanks go out to her for a most enjoyable evening.



Treorchy WI have been very busy making these floral displays of Easter. They will be put in Treorchy Library for the community to appreciate. Thanks to our brilliant craft teacher Mrs Enid Thomas.

Milwyn Pearce, Treorchy WI

In March we had another very local speaker in Monica Dennis, from St Hilary. Monica shared the Cutting Edge (CE) Textile group's latest project, 'The International Women's Day Quilt'. There are at least 35 women who feature on the unique quilt. Each CE member, who designed and sewed a block, on the collaborative quilt, chose a Welsh person who had inspired them. Monica gave us biographical information on each of the women she focused on. Some were women from the past; Betty Campbell MBE, Cranogwen Sarah Jane Rees, Margaret Haig Thomas, Laura Ashley and some women were from the present: Baroness Tanni Grey Thompson, Baroness Illora Finlay, Rhian Mannings MBE, Sue Kent (Gardens with her feet and is a member of the BBC Gardener's World team). Finally, Gill Clay. We were very pleased to have Gill Clay attending and she in turn was very delighted to be included in the Inspirational Women of Wales on the Quilt. The quilt is now being exhibited around Wales and beyond. A fascinating talk. Gill clay has recently been honoured with the highest UK Scouting Award—The Silver Wolf.

Caroline Neudegg & Liz Lock, St Hilary WI.