

Volume 14 issue 5
June/July 2023

News from Federation House
June Humphry 01639 881588



2025 GFWI CALENDAR

The theme for the 2024 calendar is 'Glorious Landscapes in Glamorgan'.

Closing date for entries in Friday 4 February 2024

2024 CALENDAR

Congratulations to the following members who have had a photograph printed in the 2024 calendar:

Nora Williams, Sker WI
Gloria Jones, Port Talbot WI
Liz Knowles, Cwmafan WI
Megan Bhullar, Pencoed WI
Cynthia Sidey, Sker WI
Pam Jones, Caerphilly WI
Jane Patten, Whitchurch WI
June Parker, Tycoch & Sketty WI
Mary Taylor, Cimla WI
Teg Curnell, Tonteg WI
Val Bird, Parkmill WI
Lyn Firkin, Tycoch & Sketty WI

A complimentary calendar will be sent to the winners.

CHAIRMAN'S EXTREME CENTENARY CHALLENGE

This was a wonderful day, the sun shone and I was told there were amazing views from the top of the trees.

17 WI members met in Margam Park to take part in the Chairman's 'Go Ape' challenge. After an induction of how to use the equipment to keep them safe while travelling through the trees, the member were then allowed onto the first section of the course.

There were 5 sections to complete, each gaining in difficulty. They had to walk on ropes, swinging platforms and then swing down into a cargo net, which they had to climb. The most enjoyable part was when they zip wired to the ground to reach the starting point for the next section.

The staff at the 'Go Ape' Centre were full of admiration for our ladies as everyone completed the course, (usually they have 1 or 2 people drop out after the first section). Congratulations to all the members who took part, photographs can be found on our Facebook page.

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Charity registration number 232102
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NFWI ANNUAL MEETING 25.5.23

70 members from Glamorgan Federation attended the meeting at St David's Hall, Cardiff on Thursday 25 May. The meeting was very successful. There were arguments for and against the resolution—and it was passed by the members present and online by a majority of 84%.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY— GLAMORGAN EXPERIENCE 2024

On the 4 and 5 April 2024 we are holding a Glamorgan Experience at Blanco's Hotel, Port Talbot.

The Experience will be in the same format as the previous event, it will include an overnight stay at Blanco's.

We are in the process of finalising the courses, which will be, Water Colours for Beginners, Stain Glass, Felting Craft (to be confirmed), Walking History of Margam and Port Talbot and Gin Tasting.

Further details and application form will be in the next mailing.

News from Sport & Leisure

Margaret Price tel:
email margaretpri46@hotmail.com

The Whist Drive was held on 20 May at Ystradowen Village Hall. It was well attended and cards were played in between lots of Conversations. A very happy afternoon. Congratulations to the winners:

Margaret Murphy, Margam WI for the Blues and Natalie Biddlecombe Creigiau WI for the Pinks.

News from Public Affairs

Carolyn Davies tel: 07745 003614
Email carolynhd@hotmail.co.uk

Keep Wales Tidy's Local Places for Nature scheme is back! Hundreds of free garden packages are available for community groups and organisations in Wales. To find out more, please visit the Keep Wales Tidy website – <https://keepwalestidy.cymru/our-work/conservation/nature/>

INFORMATION FOR TREASURERS

Please note that the bank will not accept any cheques that have been altered, also, please put on the back of the cheque the event/workshop etc for which the cheque is intended.

Could you please also remember to use the GFWI stamp.

Many thanks for your co-operation

FLOWER FESTIVAL 17-19 August 2023

Refreshments are being provided in the Abbots Kitchen. If you would like to make a group booking for refreshments please contact Myra Thomas 01792 232662 or email myraethomas@gmail.com

DENMAN TRUST

The proceeds from the sale of Denman College are held in permanent endowment. NFWI have been working hard behind the scenes to develop a new model that works for members today, a model which is inclusive, flexible and accessible to all WI members. The fundamental vision of the new model is one that offers free nationally available online education to WI members, supported by a fundraising and commercial strategy making education more convenient and accessible for all. The online Denman at Home offer will continue as it is today, but with no costs for WI members, allowing members to access these courses whenever and as often as they wish. In addition, to support the continuation of in-person education, but not fixed in one physical location, we will offer national grants to federations, along with expertise and support from our national team, to regionally expand the WI's educational network based on the needs identified by members locally and in a way that can be accessed without significant travel or personal expense.

NFWI will soon be completing the final stage of the Charity Commission Consultation, which includes a Public Notice of the intention to use part of the permanent endowment fund, and the details of where you can share your feedback. The proposal is that they release £2.75m of the proceeds of the sale to fund this new educational model. This will leave the remaining funds (£4m) in permanent endowment accruing interest and ensuring a sustainable future for the Denman Trust.

News from Home Economics & Craft

By Gloria Jones tel: 01639 881212
Email pontyglojones@gmail.com

The closing date for the Malvern Autumn trip is now 14 July 2023—so please send your applications in plenty of time. If it is oversubscribed a draw will take place. I look forward to meeting you on the day. It is always a very popular trip.

Our sub-committee are promising an exciting second half of the year with a Dabble Day and Winter Hanging Basket/trough making. Flyers will be with your secretaries soon.

NFWI-WALES PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONFERENCES—REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

NFWI-Wales will be holding regional conference in September 2023 focusing on WI campaigns:

19 September—The Halliwell Centre, Carmarthen

21 September—Bangor University, Bangor

The conference will be an opportunity to update you on the campaigns in Wales and nationally, to hear from external speakers on key campaigns/themes, and for you to take part in Q&A sessions and roundtable discussions. They will include a panel debate on women's health as well as focusing on modern slavery in Wales and the new campaign 'clean rivers for people and wildlife'.

The conference fee is £12. Tea/coffee on arrival and a buffet lunch will be provided.

If you would like to receive further information about the events, please register your interest by completing a form on My WI:

<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/wales/nfwi-wales-news/nfwi-wales-public-affairs-conferences-september-2023>

Enclosures this month

- 1 2024 Calendar Order Form
- 2 2025 Calendar Photograph entries
- 3 Bowls Wales application form
- 4 Federation Quiz
- 5 Flower Festival poster

2023 GLAMORGAN FEDRATION CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1.1.23-31.12.23—Centenary Walk Challenge

CENTENARY RIVER CRUISE

On the 11 May 2023 in the early hours of the morning, members of Glamorgan Federation travelled from home to Dover to catch the Chunnel. They were taken by coach to Cologne to catch the boat which would take them on their cruise down the river Moselle. After checking into our cabins, we all met for afternoon tea, and our journey began. Below are comments by the members.

A wonderful cruise with very informative tours. We were very fortunate with the weather, excellent food, and plenty of local wine, both at lunch time and evening meals. The company was great, lots of fun, laughter, and dancing. Mr Edward aka 'Morgan the Organ' was a talented pianist and encouraged everyone to join in dancing and singing.

'Annoyed when waiter took my food—nearly cried. (He did bring it back thought he had given her the wrong meal). Fantastic guides—especially locals who gave historic information, great company, I wanted to do a river cruise for so long, great opportunity'.

'The seven ladies who came on the river cruise to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Glamorgan Federation had a marvellous holiday. Our Chairman Carol Atkinson put a great deal of work into organising the event, and every part of the holiday was excellent. The ladies were the life and soul of the cruise. The staff were very grateful to them, for sampling the wines of the Moselle and getting everyone up on the dance floor. The waiters and social staff were particularly impressed by them. We are all looking forward to the next trip'

'Why didn't I know how wonderful the scenery and serenity of the Moselle was before now. The trip along the river and the quaintness and friendliness of all the places we visited was truly amazing. A warm welcome was extended at every town we stopped. The local guides told us about the history and individual stories of each one. Life on board was very comfortable. With plenty of time to relax and enjoy the scenery, drink wine, and eat way too much delicious food. The staff and holiday representatives went out of their way to make our time on board enjoyable. Thanks to Carol for organising and arranging this celebration holiday. I for one am very glad to have been part of it'.



We celebrated our Centenary with a cake made by the head chef, it was delicious (see photograph). I would like to thank all the ladies who came on the holiday and making it such an enjoyable and successful one. We will never forget the strawberry incident.

Diary dates—2023			Closing date
Garden Party £5	Margam Park	Wednesday 12 July 2023	2 June 2023
Centenary Commemorative Service	Llandaff Cathedral	Saturday 2 September 2023	7 July 2023
Malvern Show £33	Malvern Showground	Sunday 24 September 2023	28 July 2023
Federation Quiz £10	Hi Tide, Porthcawl	Tuesday 24 October 2023	29 September 2023
Christmas Miscellany	Hi Tide Inn, Porthcawl	Thursday 23 November 2023	30 June 2023

THE BACK PAGE



Cwmafan WI is 20 this year and as part of our celebrations we have made a table display in our library to show what our WI does.

There are entries for the Glamorgan Show, teddies for the Ukraine, our WI Life Magazines as well as photographs of events, visits and speakers.

We hope that this will encourage new members, so there are cards with contact details about meetings and teddy bear patterns to take away.

Liz Knowles, Cwmafan WI

Colwinston & Llysworney WI celebrate 60 years

The 60th Anniversary of the WI was celebrated with a dinner in Colwinston Village Hall. Members past and present attended with Joan Thomas, a Founder member from 1963, a special guest. Everyone was greeted with a glass of prosecco and canapes that President Myf Edwards and the committee had prepared along with all the food for the 2 course meal, with most of the ingredients from the Farmers Market. After eating, talking and several glasses of wine, a quiz was held along with a game devised by Jan Eagan. This resulted in much hilarity. Current members had embroidered their names for a banner which Sue Thomas had stitched together and she unveiled this at the dinner. Thanks for a wonderful evening were given by Jan Eagan and past president Liz Stone.



The photos show everyone gathered in front of the 60th balloons and Sue Thomas with the new banner.

Kath Jones, Colwinston & Llysworney WI

VISIT TO GOWER



On 17 May, 16 ladies from Southerndown WI went on a trip to the Gower. After a 'comfort break' at the Gower Heritage Centre (worth another visit sometime)

we went on to Port Eynon and the Gower Gin Company. Much has been said about the Glamorgan Federation Centenary gin and the visit was organized with this in mind. After a very informative and entertaining talk about the history of gin we were able to taste 3 of the 'botanical' gins produced by Sian and Andrew at their distillery. Of course, our own WI gin was one of them and the gin drinkers amongst us agreed it was very palatable. We were proud to know that our special anniversary is marked in this way and a queue formed to buy and bring some home! We then went on to Rhossili to take in a view of the magnificent bay and Worms Head. After a splendid lunch we left for home after a great day out with beautiful weather and great company. WI at its best!

Chris Harrison, Southerndown WI



What a lovely day we had yesterday, 31 May. Thirty of us travelled to Street, Clarke's Village for our morning coffee and some retail therapy of course! We then visited 'Rich's Cider Farm

in Watchfield, a family business, where George took us through all the process of producing Cider, made with Somerset apples from their own orchard, there was free sampling to try before buying! The Carvery meal we had in the Ciderpress restaurant was excellent, in fact, simply the best. We can definitely recommend this venue.

Pam Jones, Caerphilly WI

Silver Anniversary of Coity WI

Coity members have enjoyed a busy spring with speakers on car maintenance, bee-keeping and the work of the Citizen's Advice Bureau. Our craft group has been learning to make Yoyos and plant pots in sessions with Teri, who is also the lunch club organizer. The lunch club is very popular and to date this year the ladies have lunched at PocoPoco & Zia Nina in Bridgend. The coffee morning devotees have found a lovely new venue at Aroma in Bridgend. Excellent coffee and a welcoming environment.

The first outing this year for the strolling group was a walk up the river at Glanrhyd to Aberkenfig where we had a lovely welcome and coffee at Coffi Fach Kitchen. Our next walk was up the Garw Valley to Parc Calon where we found the Garw Valley Café which has the most beautiful views. Future walks will include Porthcawl boardwalk and around Southerndown. Members went to the Pantomime in Porthcawl at the beginning of the year, followed by a trip to the New Theatre in Cardiff in March to see the Exotic Marigold Hotel. We also managed to fit in a visit to the BBC studios, which was very popular. We have marked our 25th Anniversary with a trip to the Oxwich Bay Hotel in June for afternoon tea.



Coity WI has had 3 Presidents, our founding President Jean Rees and the next President Mary Poland joined our current President Lyn Griffiths at the tea where they helped to cut the anniversary cake. We were able to have a stroll on the beach before coming home as the weather and the location was so lovely. We look forward to keeping up the pace for the rest of the anniversary year with lots of interesting speakers and outings and coffee shops.



Linda Jones, Coity WI

The WI meeting on 11 April featured a talk by Gwerfyl Gardner titled 'A Certain School', a reference to Cowbridge Free School. Gwerfyl explained the history of education in Wales and specifically in Cowbridge. The Free School was founded in 1608 making it one of the oldest in Wales. It was free to the sons of poor burgesses, with fees paid by those who could afford it! After occupying various buildings around Cowbridge, by the mid 1800s the main school is recognisable as the one still in existence in the 1980s (now apartments) along with the Old Hall. In 1890 the Girls School was founded, the first high school for girls in England and Wales. Gwerfyl ended her presentation by reflecting on the future of the primary schools in Cowbridge. The guest speaker on 13 June was local author Gareth Thomas. Gareth talked about his life growing up as a non-Welsh speaker in the 1950s in Caernarfon. His child's eye view of the world and experiences were the background for his first novel 'A Welsh Dawn, politics, life and love in 1950s Wales'. This was a period of enormous change both socially and politically, and much of that political change appears to have been orchestrated in North West Wales.

Liz Loch, St Hilary WI