

Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo WI

Newsletter

November 28th 2022



Hello everyone

For those of a nervous disposition, I won't go into the exact number of shopping days 'til Christmas but let's say we're racing towards the final furlong. Shops and supermarkets are putting their cheeriest seasonal songs on Repeat, TV ads remind us to Shop Early For Christmas, and Santa's Grottos are quickly becoming the only Go-To destinations for the grandchildren....Help! I don't know about you but this year I have joined the "Let's put it all off for now" camp - hoping it will all just blow over like fairy dust while I'm deep under the duvet and well into my copy of Bleak House. Fat

chance of that though - Christmas Is Coming and goose is off the menu but I'm still reluctantly meal planning, resolvedly gift listing, and resolutely steaming the odd Christmas pud. Oh well, only another tummy-tum shopping days 'til Christmas and it will all be over for another year - Hallelujah.

Wishing you all a Very Happy, Relaxed and Peaceful Advent 🍷👶🎄

Now on to other things:

Our speaker for November's meeting was Christopher Stephens who imparted his wide knowledge of robins in a tour de force of songs, cards, and verses - a memorably entertaining and interactive experience. I can't say I learned much more about robins other than, unsurprisingly, they feature heavily in seasonal songs, cards and verses - but it was fun.

Our Forthcoming Events:

Our next event is the Christmas lunch party on Wednesday, December 7th from 12.30 pm with Rosemary Griggs, an Elizabethan lady who will talk about a Tudor Christmas. It's a bring-and-share lunch so please bring a side plate with your choice of savoury to be shared with friends. We will be providing Prosecco, soft drinks, mince and fruit pies. The choir will be leading the carols as usual and there will be a raffle.

This year we are introducing a short questionnaire asking for everyone's ideas about future fundraising. As you know, our funds were heavily hit by lockdown and we are currently running at a deficit. Therefore successful fundraising must be a priority for next year and we hope members will be supportive of the plans to return our funds to a healthy balance. Your thoughts and recommendations will be welcomed.

On 10th January - Peter Edwards (who gave us a fabulous talk on Vivaldi last year) is returning, this time to talk about Milan and The Italian Job, (the Michael Caine version) filmed in Milan in 1969. A must-do evening. See the film first if possible.

Our website is making further progress with the expertise of Lesley Dempsey and it is hoped to formally launch it in the New Year with a coffee morning and overview of the site. It is already up and running online. Go to thewi.online (the password for members is Puslinch). Please use it for book reviews, previous minutes, forthcoming events, newsletters, and more.

Unfortunately, next year, the committee will have to consider group members' contributions towards their meetings as our WI is having to subsidise hall

rental costs and this may not be sustainable in the future with our increasing overheads. Also, we will be organising a rota for next year from those who are able to help Nan with the drinks trolley at monthly meetings. We are also thinking about providing a car service to bring those who are unable, due to infirmity, to get to our monthly meetings. Please let Cathy know if you would like to take up the offer of help to get to and from our meetings.

Yealm Group carol service this year will **not** be held at St Mary's church in Brixton as previously noted but at **St Mary and All Saints Church in Plymstock. 5 Cobb Lane, Plymstock PL9 9BQ on Tuesday 13th December from 2.30 pm.** Hosted by Elburton WI, mince pies and refreshments will be served after the service. Please let Cathy or me know if you need to car share from The Green.

DFWI Forthcoming Events:

Christmas market trip to Cardiff - Tuesday 29th November. Four members are going.

DFWI Carol Service, Exeter Cathedral, Monday 5th December. All tickets have now been received and should be exchanged for orders of service at the main door. The congregation should be in their seats for 2 pm and the service starts at 2.15pm. As usual, our choir will be joining those from W.I.'s across Devon for the service. Exeter Christmas market will be open on the green outside the Cathedral, weather permitting.

Devon Federation Quiz - 28th January 2023. Teams of four at Sparkwell Hall. 2 pm - 4.30pm. Quiz final Saturday 25th March at Longdown Village Hall 2 pm - 4.30 pm. £6 per person to include refreshments. Closing date 7th January. Application form - see me or the noticeboard.

Radio Devon Cup Writing Competition. A short entry of 26 words. Each word to begin with the next letter of the alphabet. eg A Boy Came. For details see me or the noticeboard. Closing date 24th February.

Pashy Pops - After lunch entertainment. Covering music from the 1940s to now in every genre. Two dates - 23rd January at Longdon Village Hall. Monday 30th January at Rattery Village Hall. 12noon for 12.30 pm lunch. (Tomato soup, Chicken casserole, Black Forest gateau). £20 per head. Closing date: 6th January. For details - see me or the noticeboard.

St George's Day Trophy Competition 2023. Winter photographs no larger than A4 taken between 1st November and 1st February. Not necessarily this

year's work but must be the owner's own work in colour, B&W, or sepia. Cost £5. Closing date 24th February. For details see me or the noticeboard.

DFWI Spring Council meeting at Torquay RICC 26th April Closing date TBC
NFWI Annual meeting Cardiff 25th May 2023. Closing date TBC

A current list of DFWI visits and events is available on the back cover of the monthly Devon WI News, and available on the noticeboard at each meeting, and Devon WI News is emailed each month to all members as well as in hard copy at our meetings.

DFWI events etc can also be reached at <https://www.devonwi.org.uk> and NFWI at <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/welcome-to-my-wi>

Groups:

Choir: Meets each Wednesday under the direction of Joyce from 2.15 pm in the WIC hall and is practising for the DFWI Carol Concert on December 5th at Exeter Cathedral. New members with a good singing voice are always welcome. We will start again in the New Year.

Book Group: Judith writes: We are now reading Educated by Tara Westover for our next meeting on January 12th, 2023. Details of the books we have read over the past couple of years can be found on the Book Group page on our WI's excellent website thewi.online (password Puslinch). Do take a look and perhaps add your comments for others to read.

Craft Group: The Craft Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of most months from 2 - 4 pm. If you would like more information please contact Lesley Dempsey at 873403. WI members are very welcome to just turn up at our next meeting.

Angela has posted this about the wildflower patches outside Dillons:

We visited the circles around the trees at Dillons that we had sown with wildflower seed in Spring 2020 with the help of a grant from the WI. We were favorably surprised by the number of species that had established themselves, a few more than the last survey including many cyclamens. We had failed to cut the circles in late summer as previously. The following was decided: Cut and rake circles as soon as the weather is dry. Wendy will provide plugs of bluebells in the green and enchanter's nightshade (in the spring) Cyclamen - Angela will try and cultivate some from her garden

The group also looked at the tree/hedge planting that we did with the garden society last year. One hazel in the copse had died. Otherwise, most of the plants had survived well despite the drought - including the hedge which did not get watered at all. Some work is needed to stop brambles from taking over in one area, also tie up one or two plants and restate some. It was agreed to do this at the same time and to ask the garden society if they'd like to help.

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That's all for now so, looking forward to seeing those who are able to come to the Christmas lunch party on December 7th, and to those unable to join us, we wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, and Peaceful New Year.

With the warmest compliments of the season

Pat

