

Barbara's bit



Hello Everyone

Welcome to April and Happy Easter! The clocks have already sprung forward to BST so our meetings are now starting at the later time of 7:30pm. We are welcoming an old friend, Paul Rendell, to our meeting on the 13th to talk about "Secret Nature on Dartmoor". He is an excellent speaker and it should be a good evening.

April also brings subs renewal, which this year is £54. Lynn is all ready with her receipts so please either transfer your funds to the bank details shown on the newsletter or bring your cash or cheques on the night. This year we also have to sign the membership form as the NFWI Policies and Code of Conduct have changed. Monique did send out the forms by email or Lynn will have some hard copies on the night. This month's FCS afternoon has had to be cancelled because the speaker can't make it. May's meeting will be the Annual Meeting with the Lewdown Bell Ringers providing the entertainment.

The Tamar Group Meeting organised by Kelly and being held at Bradstone Manor is Monday 20th April. We have 18 members going so please contact Lynn asap if you haven't already signed up and would like to go. It should be a great evening of murder mystery and a light meal for only £10.

Our fundraiser is less than 3 weeks away on Saturday 24th April, where we will be serving tea and coffee and cake alongside a baked goods stall, plant table, good quality second hand items and a tombola. We'll be setting up at the hall from 9:00am.

We would really like to invite some new members to join the committee for 2026/27 so if you are interested, please speak to one of the existing committee members. We meet once a month to manage the business and a couple of times a year we go out for lunch (which we do pay for ourselves). You might even be a future star of the show at the Christmas party but we would really like to welcome your ideas so please think about it.

I would like to say a big thank you to our treasurer, Lynn, for preparing the 2025/26 accounts ready to send to the auditor. We have had a busy year including lots of fun WOW events and she has managed to keep track of all money and paperwork needed.

Finally, I am sorry to share the sad news of Audrey Hennessey's passing. Audrey was a dedicated member of WI both at Chillaton, where she held various positions and here at Lewtrenchard. She was a keen attendee at monthly Soupa Troopers and she will be missed. Her funeral will be on 16th April at Thrushelton church.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 13th

Barbara

April Meeting

Our next meeting is on **Monday April 13th, 7:30pm** in **Lewdown Victory Hall**. Our speaker is **Paul Rendell** to talk about **"Secret Nature on Dartmoor"**. Please bring an interesting item beginning with "P" and a flower of the month. Please also bring along any good quality items for sale on the second-hand table, as a fundraising activity for our Centenary celebrations.

March LWI Meeting

We welcomed our speaker Paula who cut and styled our Sarah's hair. Paula told us about her interesting background and how she had started hairdressing from a young age (when the training was much more rigorous and demanding) but dipped in and out of it whilst trying other jobs and moving around somewhat – but somehow, she always returned to it. A chance offer to buy a salon in Okehampton arose and she took on this challenge. She was able to answer varied questions from our members whilst cutting and styling Sarah's hair – which looked amazing once it was finished.



Members also voted on the next Christmas meal in January 2027; due to an increase in members and friends/partners wishing to attend, the White Hart in Bridestowe is now not of sufficient size to accommodate us (54 people potentially attend). A number of alternative venues were considered and then voted upon. The largest vote was for Trethorne Leisure (not the golf club) and a date is being agreed with them. It will be a Saturday as they cannot accommodate a Sunday.

Annual Subs for 2026/2027

Our annual subscription of £54 is now due. We all need to complete a new membership form because of recent policy changes.

Tamar Group Meeting April 20th

For those who have signed up for this, please make any bank transfer payments now and preferable before 7th April. Or cash / cheque to the monthly meeting.

Posters

It was suggested that posters about our WI and meetings are put on noticeboards in Sourton, Lydford and Bridestowe. Please let Monique know if you are able to do this, posters will be provided.

Foodbank collection

At our March meeting, we asked members to bring some Easter goodies – look at the lovely display!



This one went to Launceston Food Bank. We alternate between Okehampton and Launceston. Well done and thank you all for your generosity.

Centenary Fundraising Event

Just a reminder that this is taking place on **Saturday 25th April from 10am to 12 noon at Victory Hall**, we need to vacate the premises by 2pm. Helpers are needed for the tables – which are cake, good quality second hand, plants table and tombola. Please let a member of the committee know if you are able to help.

Please bring along low value items for the tombola – either to the April WI meeting or on the day.

LWI out and about

Walks

These are re-starting now that we have better weather. This will be on Monday 27th April and we will be walking by Meldon Reservoir. Please meet at Ruth's at 10.30am and car sharing can be arranged. Please let Jean or Lynn know if you are going.

Coffee Mornings

The March coffee morning was a lively occasion with 14 members dropping in to the Blue Lion to meet up for lots of chat, coffee and cake! Thank you to Charlie for making us all welcome and keeping the coffee coming!

Our next coffee morning at The Blue Lion will be on Thursday 16th April. Do try and join us, just drop in between 10.30am and 12 noon. You will be most welcome.

Please let me know at the next meeting if you plan to come.

Mary E



Cinema Tuesday 24th March

Following a recommendation from several others at the coffee morning (who had already seen it), an impromptu trip to Okehampton cinema to watch Mother's Pride took place on March 24th.

Social Skittles

Fun skittles on Saturday 14th March saw just 6 of us playing, but we had a great time and we finished a bit earlier – which was quite nice as some of us managed to catch the beginning of the Ireland v Scotland rugby match.

Fun skittles will be played on the second Saturday of the month, unfortunately there was not enough interest this month and so there is **no session** on April 11th. The next one will be on May 9th, if there are sufficient numbers. Hire of the alley is £12 per session and we play from 11am to 2pm, we take our own lunch. Keep Kym in the loop if you fancy playing and keep an eye on WhatsApp WOW in case Kym has to cancel the session if numbers are too low. Many thanks and see you next month.

Monique

Food, Craft and Skills



Lynn, Jean and Barbara went to FCS on Thursday 19th March, it was iced floral decorating on cupcakes with Glenys. Aren't they impressive?

The April FCS has had to be cancelled due to the speaker being unavailable.

Toby's Garden festival – 1st and 2nd May

The WI has supported the Garden Festival for the last few years and there is a discount code to use when booking tickets online as a sign of gratitude for the WI support. This code is **WI2026** and provides a 10% discount. Every group that books tickets will be added into the "hat" to win a talk by Toby Buckland at a group – last year, it was Parkham WI.

The theme of this year's festival is Discovery and there is a line up of entertaining speakers, specialist nurseries, rural crafts and West Country Food. Highlights are:

- 1) Garden Design and Advice from Arit Anderson (Gardeners' World) and Chris Hull (Garden Rescue), there is also a Gardening clinic for trouble shooting and advice.
- 2) The seed and soil lab – take along a soil sample from your own garden for microscopic analysis and perfect plant matches; a festival first.
- 3) Rural Skills and Making - The Devon Rural Skills Trust will be demonstrating traditional skills such as willow-work, hedging and dry-stone walling. Plus visit the Makers Marquee to learn how to start your own "pocket meadow" wildlife project in your own community.
- 4) Food and Drink – enjoy the best West Country Food and Fair with artisan bakers, brewers and more
- 5) Cars and Canines - enjoy a display of vintage vehicles and a series of competitions for doggy visitors, in collaboration with Woofstock.

Children and dogs on leads are free.

See <https://tobygardenfest.co.uk> for more information.

Lewtrenchard WI Centenary Celebrations



Our centenary year starts from 1st May 2027, with our actual centenary date being 1st November 2027.

Each month, we will have an update in this newsletter on how things are progressing, and will bring any big decisions to our WI meetings for members to vote on.

LWI Centenary Plans

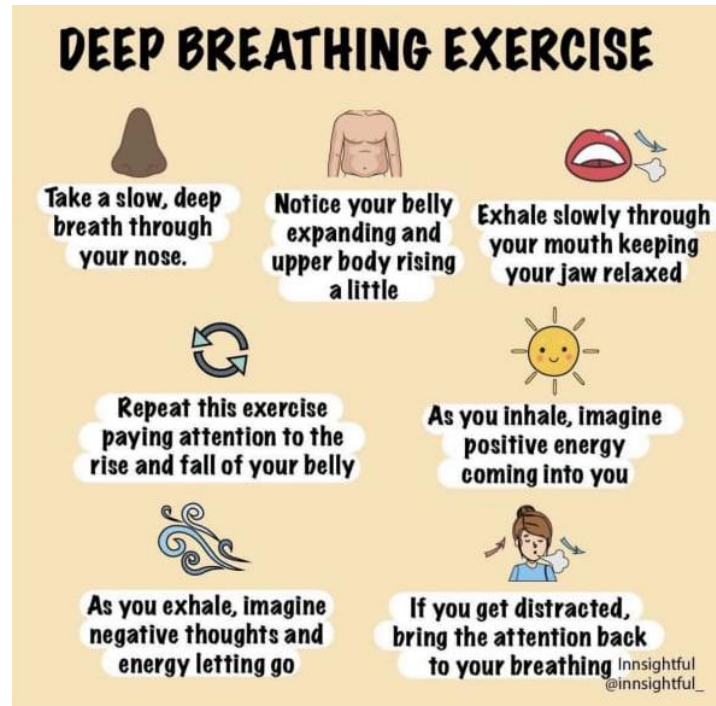
- Celebration afternoon tea – several venues are being looked at for availability and price. Remembering how we managed to transform the Victory Hall so beautifully for the TGM Elizabethan evening we have also discussed having a catered tea there
- Speaker – we have confirmed the speaker for the 1st November 2027
- Bunting - plans are progressing including purchasing the fabric, planning kits for each triangle that members can either meet up to create and complete or take away and make in their own time
- Cake – similar to the 90th cake members are invited to meet up to create icing decorations
- Flower festival – holding another festival at St Peters Lewtrenchard and inviting members, other WI's and the public to submit arrangements
- Cookbook – we have had initial discussions with the printers about reproducing or printing a revamped version of the cookbook we produced for the NFWI centenary
- Fundraising – the hall is booked ready to welcome people to our coffee morning on 25th April this year. We've also sold Lewtrenchard WI lottery tickets to 5 people which equates to approximately £100 additional income over 12 months AND we have already had a winner of 3 free tickets in the next draw. If you are interested in a chance to win there are details on how to sign up the clipboard table or just ask one of the committee for help
- Gift for the village – the suggestion for a lasting gift to commemorate the centenary is some equipment in the new playground that can be enjoyed by adults and children. We have asked for quotes from several companies and are talking to the Parish Council
- Lasting legacy – we have had a suggestion to plant daffodils in the verges where there are gaps

Fundraising for centenary celebrations

The current balance of ringfenced funds is **£537.10**. A budget is being prepared for the above items, so that we can see how much money we need to raise in total.

Exercise of the month

Thanks, as ever, to Jean for this month's exercise.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY. . .

1. ~~Social Skittles—Saturday 11th April 11am to 2pm at Treburley Social Club~~ **CANCELLED**
2. Lewtrenchard WI Meeting – Monday 13th April 7.30pm at Lewdown Victory Hall. Please bring along your decorated sash.
3. Lewtrenchard WI Coffee Morning – Thursday 16th April from 10.30am, the Blue Lion Inn.
4. Tamar Group meeting at Kelly - Monday 20th April; a murder mystery evening at Bradstone Manor.
5. Lewtrenchard WI Centenary Fundraiser – Saturday 25th April 10am -12pm at Lewdown Victory Hall.
6. Toby's garden festival – Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd May at Powderham Castle
7. NFWI Virtual Annual meeting – Thursday 4th June 10.30am – 4.30pm.
8. DFWI Virtual Annual Meeting – Wednesday 1st July, time TBC.
9. Women's Health Awareness Day – Wednesday 15th July 10.00am to 3.00pm.
10. HATS The Railway Children – September date TBC.
11. Pocket Meadows Meeting – date TBC.
12. Devon FWI Lake District Holiday – date TBC.
13. Lewtrenchard WI Centenary Celebration – 1st November 2027.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK THE CLIPBOARDS TO SIGN UP FOR OTHER EVENTS
HAPPENING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

BACS Details: Please pay Lynn for any outstanding tickets/trips

A/C Name: **Lewtrenchard Womens Institute** Sort code: **090152** Account number: **53734509**

Ref: NAME/EVENT e.g. YOURNAME VICAR

Photographs at meetings/social event

We sometimes take photographs at our meetings and may share them with local newspapers, National and Devon Federation. Members who **do not wish** to be photographed must come forward and advise one of the officers otherwise we assume your consent. Thank you.

TGM 2026 Competition rules – revised

Kelly Women's Institute Group Challenge 20th April

1. Giggle Cake to set recipe – Jean will be our representative.
2. Dried Flower Arrangement Competition – Karen will be our representative.

3. Design and Create a Suffragette Sash – please bring to the April LWI meeting

Objective:

Design and make a decorative sash inspired by the Women's Suffragette Movement, using the traditional Suffragette colours and imagery.

Your sash should celebrate the campaign for women's right to vote and reflect the spirit of empowerment and equality.

Materials Provided

You will be given a three lengths of material to create your sash.

You may also use the following decorative items to enhance your design:

- Fabric paints
- Embroidery threads or wool
- Attachments and embellishments (e.g. buttons, beads, ribbons)
- Plaiting materials (to create braids or trims)

****please see further down for more information about the sash**

Suffragette Colours and Their Meanings

Purple - Dignity and loyalty

White - Purity and honesty

Green - Hope and new beginnings

Additional information about the sash:

You can use a single colour or a mixture as long as the length of sash is kept. So you could plait the 3 colours together to make one sash and then decorate with embellishments or join 2 colours to make the sash and use the remainder of the material to make the decoration. It would be good to use all three colours but how you put them together is really up to you.

If you are interested in putting forward a sash on behalf of Lewtrenchard WI, please speak to Monique or Barbara because of the practicalities of preparing this item being slightly tricky.