

Barbara's bit

Hello Everyone

Well, the October meeting is the last to start at 7:30pm before the clocks change later in the month so autumn is truly here. After such a dry summer it won't be long until the trees have lost all their leaves. We welcome Nick Clyburn talking about his life in the RAF to our open meeting. Don't forget to invite friends and family to come long. Interesting item will be another tough one – "X" but members have so far managed some innovative items. Don't forget to send Monique your potato challenge results so we can announce the winner in October.

Our September meeting was slightly chaotic but very enjoyable. Thanks to Alex for coming to update us about the village shop and even possible return of the post office. They have worked very hard to get this far and we wish them luck with progressing the project, whether its commercial or the village run shop. We also enjoyed meeting the well-behaved barn owl Nina and her keepers Graham and Jamie. Lots of you were even brave enough to have a hold.

Margaret D, Audrey, Monique and I had a great day out at the DFWI members day at Torquay. Jeryl Stone (NFWI Chair) was the morning speaker telling us about the strategy and direction for the WI going forward. After a delicious buffet lunch we had Andrew Hughes, talking about the amazing projects he manages on his Backswood farm in the Exe Valley. Then it was over to Judi Spiers, a Plymouth girl, who made it big on national TV and is now spearheading Boom Radio. She was so entertaining and happy to answer some interesting questions from the floor.

Our centenary planning meetings kick off again this month. The centenary celebration suddenly feels much closer! We are looking for members to help with



the fundraising applications, treasurer's role and organising various events.

Please let Monique know if you would like to join in and help to make it a year to remember. The zip lining challenge managed to raise £1400 towards the centenary fund and our gift to the village.

Our next fundraising event will be the soup lunch at the hall Saturday November 7th. As well as the delicious homemade soups we will have the baked goods table, a tombola, bric-a-brac, crafts and tables available for a few vendors so if you know anyone who would be interested, please let us know. Please sign up to be involved and bring any items you have for the tables.

The Food Craft and Skills workshop from Lynn's Willow has already sold out for October. Thanks to Sue for organising this and advising everyone of times at Stowford Hall. On November 19th we have Ben McManigan, the mad potter, (<https://www.facebook.com/BenMcManiganCeramics>) coming to do Raku fired pottery. Monique saw his winning stall at the Launceston show and said his work is lovely. Spaces are limited to 12 so please sign up if you are interested.

With Remembrance commemorations coming in November thanks to Lynn for her beautiful poppy banner she created for Stowford. We also hope to add to our banner here in Lewdown. Ruth has invited us to come to Highlands and sew Thursday 8th October and Tuesday 13th both at 2:30 so if you are available, please let Lynn know.

See you soon

Barbara

September LWI Meeting

We had a great evening, entertained by Graham and Jamie from "Owl show and tell", with Nina, their wonderful European Barn Owl. Graham rescued her from Tamar Otter and Wildlife Park (where he worked until its closure) after her parents abandoned the nest - she was the sole survivor of the 4 eggs in the nest. Graham has been looking after her for 9 years, at the Wildlife Park and then he was allowed to continue to look after her following its closure, due to the very close bond that they have.

We learned a lot about the different owls you see in the UK, including very useful information about their calls, photos to enable easier identification, details about how and when they hunt and the numbers of owls in the wild in the UK (tawny owls are the most populous, snowy owls the least). One of the many useful snippets of information Graham passed on is that owls with dark eyes hunt at night, yellow-eyed owls hunt in the day and orange-eyed owls hunt at dawn and dusk.

As you can see below, many of us wanted to hold Nina and she very patiently allowed this (no doubt helped by the little treats fed to her by Graham). It was a fabulous experience! Jamie kindly judged the "interesting item" and we all voted on flower of the month. It was great to see so many entries.

We also celebrated Julia and Nigel's upcoming 50th anniversary with a special card and gift.





WI Day

This was on September 16th and was extra special as it marked 111 years of sisterhood, empowerment, community action and creating positive change. WIs were encouraged to celebrate the day in some way with a party, using the selected colour of purple as a theme. Purple was the colour of the Suffragettes and in colour therapy it symbolises loyalty, creativity and wisdom – values that are very WI!

We all wore purple to our September meeting, what a great sight it was to see so many shades of purple. Well done everyone for making the effort.



Special Dates!

Happy birthday to our newest member Anne Lamb, who celebrates a special birthday on 9th October. We hope you have a great day.

We have some lovely photos from Julia and Nigel, celebrating their 50th anniversary and also their wedding day. They haven't aged a bit and still have the same wonderful smiles. Thank you for letting me share these with everyone.



My wonderful husband took me to Hotel Endsleigh for a fabulous afternoon tea (plus a walk round their impressive gardens to work up an appetite!) on my birthday in September – here is a photo of the sweet section. All impressive, even more so as half were gluten free!

Sue



If you are celebrating your birthday or a special anniversary and have any photos of the day that you'd like to share with us all in the newsletter, please send to suejervis44@gmail.com.

October LWI Meeting

Our next meeting is on Monday 12th October from 7.30pm at the Lewdown Victory Hall. It is an open meeting, so please do invite family and friends to come along. The entry charge for visitors is £5, which includes refreshments; members entry is free. Our speaker is Squadron Leader Nick Clyburn, a former RAF officer and air traffic controller, who has over 40 years of experience in military and civilian air traffic management.

It is interesting item beginning with X and the usual flower of the month.

Reminder on important dates!

Autumn soup fundraiser – Saturday 7th November 2026

Following the successful event held last year, we've decided to hold another one on Saturday November 7th, from 12 noon until 2pm. Please invite your family and friends to this. We will be asking for contributions of soup and baked goods at the October meeting, as well as items for the other stalls which Barbara mentioned above (tombola, bric-a-brac etc.). If you know anyone who would like a table for selling items, please do let any of the committee know as we do have a few tables available.

VVIP date - Centenary celebration – Monday 1st November 2027

Our centenary celebration at Lewtrenchard Manor.

LWI out and about Fundraising zipwire

Five members and one non-member took to the skies on Sunday 13th September in our sponsored Zip Wire flight to raise funds for our centenary – AND WE DID IT!! We were very sad to hear that Jean just wasn't fit enough to take part so Frankie (my daughter and maker of the special cards) stepped in at the last minute. Frankie was coming to watch us in support and wasn't at all sure about stepping in, but was glad to have given it a go. The staff at Hangloose were super helpful and patient and it was all over in a flash!



LEWTRENCHARD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026

We want to do it again! Why not give it a go? It really is a great experience. Come on, if Margaret P can do it.....

At the time of going to press, we have smashed our fundraising target and currently stand at £1400! It's not too late to sponsor us www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lewtrenchard-wi

Monique

Walks

These have been parked until the Spring.

Coffee Mornings

Eight members and two brave husbands came along to the coffee morning on 17th September, returning to the Blue Lion Inn after the summer break. As always, the coffee, cake and conversation was great. We were delighted to hear of the safe arrival of Charlie and Nicky's first grandchild (a baby girl – many congratulations). We presented them with a card from all of us.

The next coffee morning is on Thursday 15th October at the Blue Lion Inn from 10.30am.

Monique

Social Skittles



Ten took part in the fun skittles, we had a great time and some interesting results. All in all, we had a great time. Well done to Cath, Audrey and Di for their respective winning positions.

MON	1	5	4	2	6	3	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
TUE	1	5	4	2	6	3	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
WED	1	5	4	2	6	3	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
THUR	1	5	4	2	6	3	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
FRI	1	5	4	2	6	3	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
SAT	1	5	4	2	6	3	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
SUN	1	5	4	2	6	3	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100



Cindy very kindly gave us a donation for the zipwire challenge we were doing the next day.

The next session was planned for Saturday 10th October but there were not sufficient numbers so this has been cancelled. The next one will be in November so please let Kym know if you are able to attend that one.

Monique

Food, Craft and Skills

We met up at Lamerton hall for chat and crafting, as well as discussing the programme for the coming year. Thank you to those who have signed up for Christmas willow-craft on October 15th, at Stowford Parish hall; we have 2 sessions (10am and 1.30pm) and there is one spare space in the afternoon if anyone who hasn't currently signed up would like to attend, or if anyone has a friend they would like to bring along.

As Barbara mentioned above, we have Raku fired pottery lined up for the November session, with spaces limited to 12; please do sign up at our October meeting if you would like to attend this. This will take place at Lamerton village hall.

DFWI Members Day

Audrey, Monique, Barbara and Margaret D attended the DFWI members day in Torquay at the end of September, and had a very enjoyable day with some excellent speakers (plus delicious food!) The bunting for all the WIs was on display and below is a photo showing our lovely one being displayed.



Lewtrenchard WI Centenary Celebrations



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

Work on the celebration and the related items is taking a pause over the busy summer months, and will re-commence in October (just after this goes to press, so we can provide an update in the next newsletter and also at our next meeting on Monday); whether these will all progress depends upon our fund-raising abilities, although some of them are intended to assist in raising funds.

The suggestions so far are:

- A gift for the village – we would present a lasting gift to commemorate the centenary by providing some equipment in the new playground that can be enjoyed by adults and children.
- Lasting legacy – the planting of daffodils in the verges where there are currently gaps. Photographs were taken in the spring to identify those areas where bulbs would be needed.
- Centenary Bunting – Bunting to celebrate our centenary will be created, with any member able to take one of the kits we're preparing and make up that letter/number, personalising it as they wish.
- Celebratory Cake – similar to the 90th celebration, members are invited to meet up to create icing decorations. This cake will be presented and eaten at the celebration event.
- Flower festival – we would plan to hold another festival at St Peter's Church, Lewtrenchard and invite members, other WIs and the public to submit their arrangements. A way of promoting our local WIs but also to raise Centenary funds.
- 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. A nice keepsake but we would hope to raise funds from their wider sale for the Centenary legacy items.
- Calendar – a new idea we are investigating is producing a 2028 calendar, using content submitted by members. We are in the very early stages of research into this. Again, this would be a lovely keepsake whilst hoping to raise funds for the centenary.
- Celebration afternoon tea - to be held at Lewtrenchard Manor on 1st November 2027.

Fundraising – we have so far raised over £2,000 with more events planned.

National and Devon Federation news

Below are some snippets from recent communications from the National and Devon Federations.

National

No More Violence Against Women campaign

Between 6th and 13th October, the WI is taking part on the Women & Girls Match Fund with Big Give to raise funds for our No More Violence Against Women campaign, which gives us the incredible opportunity to double every pound donated. To do this, share the relevant WI pages to your own social media page, or those of our [WI](#).

WI Diary 2027

This is now available to order through the online shop.

Devon

DFWI office arrangements

You will have seen Monique's email with a questionnaire from Devon FWI regarding their future office arrangements following the sale of The Firs. Please do make sure your views are heard and return this to them by 23rd October.

Pocket Meadows

We have been provided with an update from Jackie Bufton, the project lead for Devon WI Pocket Meadows project and I provide excerpts from this update; please let me know if you would like to see the full text.

Thank you to everyone who visited the Devon WI Pocket Meadows stand at Members' Day. The enthusiasm and support shown throughout the day was truly encouraging and a reminder of just how far the project has come. The project has now reached 120 WIs, with more than 500 members taking part and 350 Pocket Meadow locations recorded on our interactive map.

As we approach the autumn sowing season, there is still plenty of time to establish a Pocket Meadow for next year. This year, alongside our main seed mix, we also have a limited number of specialist seed mixes available for specific conditions and interests. If you would like seeds, advice on choosing the most suitable mix or further information please do get in touch.

Judy and Monique are our contacts with Jackie so please do contact either of them if you would like further information. Jackie has also produced a sowing guide for the likely tricky planting conditions we are going to have this year with El Nino.

DFWI Christmas Carol Service

You will hopefully have seen Monique's email about this, where DFWI have provided details of offers available in Exeter on the day, if you wish to make an extended visit. There is an offer from Hotter shoes, as well as for various restaurants.

LEWTRENCHARD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY. . .

1. Thursday 8th October – **Poppy display sewing** – from 2.30pm at Ruth's (Highlands).
2. Monday 12th October – **Lewtrenchard WI meeting** – 7.30pm, The Victory Hall, Lewdown.
3. Tuesday 13th October – **Poppy display sewing** – from 2.30pm at Ruth's (Highlands).
4. Wednesday 14th October – **Lezant WI meeting** – “Cornwall Blood Bikes” - 2pm, Trebulet Hall.
5. Thursday 15th October to Monday 19th October - **Devon FWI Lake District Holiday**
6. Thursday 15th October - **Lewtrenchard WI Coffee Morning** – from 10.30am, The Blue Lion, Lewdown.
7. Thursday 15th October – **Food, Craft and Skills willow workshop** – 10am and 1.30pm, Stowford Parish hall.
8. Saturday 7th November – **Lewtrenchard WI Autumn Soup Fundraiser** – noon until 2pm, The Victory Hall, Lewdown.
9. Monday 9th November – **Lewtrenchard WI meeting** – 7pm, The Victory Hall, Lewdown.
10. Wednesday 11th November – **Lezant WI** – “Christmas Crafting” – 2pm, Trebulet Hall.
11. Thursday 12th November – **Food, Craft and Skills Raku fired pottery workshop** – 2pm, Lamerton village hall.
12. Wednesday 2nd December - **Carol concert** – Exeter cathedral, time to be confirmed.
13. Tuesday 27th April 2027 – **Tamar Group Meeting** – 6pm, Lamerton Village Hall
14. Wednesday 2nd June and Thursday 3rd June 2027 – **NFWI pre-event picnic and conference** – Hull.
15. **Monday 1st November 2027 - Lewtrenchard WI Centenary Celebration** – 2.30pm at Lewtrenchard Manor.

**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

Newsletter items:

Please continue to send me any photos/articles/holiday photos plus suggestions of what you would like including in the newsletter to suejervis44@gmail.com

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.