



WELCOME

NEW MEMBER

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dear new WI member, by joining the WI, you've just taken the first step in a new adventure!

CFWI is run by women, for women.

Our aim is to be bold and inspiring, to enhance and enrich our members' lives, to allow them to widen their friendship circles and to provide them with a voice and the confidence to influence local and national issues.

With its long history of campaigning, the WI is recognised as an important voice by both national and local government.

We recognise that our members have a wide range of skills and experiences and aim to give our members the opportunity and knowledge that will encourage them to get involved and have their say.

Our wide variety of events ranges from guided walking tours, sociable buffet lunches, cream teas, flower arranging, study days, camping weekends, fiendish quizzes, birdwatching and fashion shows and with opportunities to gain new skills such as embroidery and sugar craft. Almost anything is possible and members are encouraged to send us their suggestions to consider for future events.

Our motto is: The WI is what you make it.

Whether you're interested in making new friends, campaigning on an issue that's important to you, gaining self-confidence or simply enjoying a favourite craft with like-minded women, the WI has something to offer you.

We welcome women of all backgrounds and create a safe and supportive environment in which they can thrive. We are committed to ensuring all members are treated fairly and equally whatever their background or individual circumstances. If you think you might find it easier to attend our events with an interpreter, carer or personal assistant for accessibility reasons, you are welcome to do so.

Enjoy your WI and remember it is your WI.

The more you put into it, the more you'll get out of it.

I'm always here if you'd like to make suggestions, tell us what we could do better or just have a WI chat.



Helen Kestle

Chair, Cornwall Federation of Women's Institutes

HOW YOUR FEDERATION WORKS

Every WI belongs to a Federation and is supported by the Board of Trustees, the Sub-committees and Advisers.

Opportunities and involvement in the Federation also help you to develop new skills and give you the chance to influence the future direction of the WI.

The Federation Board of Trustees is elected by WI members every two years. The Chairman is elected by Board members annually and all members have special responsibilities in the running of the Federation and in managing its finances. All are Trustees under Charity Law and Directors under Company Law - and are volunteers!

Reporting to the Board of Trustees are six Sub-committees with defined responsibilities.

The Membership Support Sub-committee is a team of WI Advisers. Their responsibilities include working with WIs to further the work of the WI in Cornwall and they are committed to the aims of the organisation. The Advisers help members make the most of their subscription by signposting the range of opportunities available to them. This is achieved by offering guidance, support and friendship as required.

Training sessions are organised for WI officers and committee members from time to time. Encouraging women to become members and promoting the WI are important parts of the Advisers' work.

The Floral Art and Gardening Sub-committee arranges events which are designed to inspire and encourage both novices and experienced gardeners. For example, those interested in flower arranging are urged to have a go, with an eye on maximising the use of garden and hedgerow flowers. The events are always great fun and often attended by members who just enjoy getting together!

The Arts and Leisure Sub-committee arranges events held throughout the county, inviting members to join in a range of fun activities which exercise both the mind and body. These can include walks, boat trips and quizzes as well as events focusing on singing, acting, dancing, art and photography.

The Exhibitions Sub-committee works mainly behind the scenes, where it is responsible for the planning and setting up for CFWI events including The Royal Cornwall, Stithians Show and the Annual Council Meeting. Although a small group, the members of this sub-committee have great fun and helpers are always welcome.

The Environment and Public Affairs Sub Committee gets involved in issues involving the world we live in,

including sustainability, conservation, agriculture and fisheries. The sub-committee also arranges talks, workshops, days out and demonstrations, included guided farm and townwalks. It works in partnership with other organisations including The Eden Project, Clean Cornwall, Cornwall Plastic Pollution Coalition and Cornwall Wildlife Trust. It also helps to promote national WI resolutions and campaigns and encourages WI members to become involved. The WI Climate Ambassadors in Cornwall are affiliated to this sub-committee and they work to support members who are passionate about the climate and would like to take local community action on environmental matters.

The Cookery and Craft Sub-committee runs cookery and craft demonstrations across the county. Cookery events are held at different venues and seasonally planned with new ideas and recipes. Also, 'four corner days' are organised where members can try out different crafts such as patchwork and quilting. The committee welcomes suggestions from WI members for both cookery and craft.

LEARN THE WI JARGON

NFWI – The National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) is a national charity set up to represent some 220,000 WI members across the UK. The NFWI represents and provides guidance and support to Federations and plays a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, as well as campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities.

The Annual Meeting of the National Federation Women's Institutes is held each year in June and alternates between the Royal Albert Hall in London and other venues around the country. Groups of WIs link together to send one delegate to represent them at the Annual Meeting and to vote on resolutions.

Resolutions – Every year WI members have the chance to put forward issues as 'resolutions' that they would like to see taken up by the NFWI on their behalf. Shortlisted resolutions are voted on by the members. In the past such campaigns have included Equal Pay, Breast Cancer Screening and Organ Donation.

Delegate – A representative who votes on behalf of your WI. One delegate is chosen from among several WIs to vote at the Annual Meeting each year. Your local WI will also appoint a delegate to vote on their behalf at the Annual Council Meeting.

Denman at Home - Information is currently being sought by NFWI about WI members' learning preferences, so that they can create a new, inclusive and accessible educational Denman Trust model that fits with the needs of all WI members and continues to develop and evolve in the future.

CFWI - The Cornwall Federation of Women's Institutes. Often referred to as 'County'.

CFWI Annual Council Meeting - The Annual Council Meeting is held in October, usually at the Hall for Cornwall in Truro. This popular event is well attended and brings WI members together from all over Cornwall and is an opportunity to meet women from other WIs and to hear some excellent speakers.

County News - The CFWI's member newsletter, published 10 times a year and containing information about local events within the Federation and also nationally. This is received from your WI and is also available digitally on the CFWI website.

The Royal Cornwall Show - CFWI has a marquee at the Royal Cornwall Show and this event attracts members and visitors to the competitions and floral displays, as well as the 'tea tent' in true WI style!

Monthly draw - The CFWI 200+ Club is open to WI members and their families. The subscription is £10 per share per year and 50% of the money received, after expenses, is allocated to 10 regular draws. Do have a go, you might be a winner!

Subscription - This is the annual fee you pay to become a member of the WI. A portion of the subscription is paid to NFWI, a portion to CFWI and the remainder retained by your WI.

WI Life - The national magazine of which you will receive eight copies a year.

MyWI - An online resource for all WI information, including training, public affairs and communications

ACWW - Associated Country Women of the World - connects and supports women in communities worldwide.

Our Federation representative visits WIs in Cornwall, gives talks and helps with fundraising and allocating donations to our chosen projects. Through membership in and support of ACWW by NFWI, all WI members are affiliate members of ACWW.

WHERE ARE WE LOCATED AND WHAT GOES ON THERE?

Chy Noweth an Conteth was purpose built for the CFWI and opened in 2003. Based at Threemilestone, Truro, it is used for WI events, workshops and Board and Sub-committee meetings. The spacious building and parking are also available for hire by outside groups and organisations.

You will also find 'The WI Shop' at Chy Noweth, selling gifts and stationery that have been ethically sourced and often produced locally. The WI Shop has 'days out' with items and goods taken to various WI functions, including the Annual Council Meeting. As a service to members, items are usually priced lower than can be purchased elsewhere. Please visit whenever you can, you are always welcome.

Chy Noweth an Conteth
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Cornwall Federation of Women's Institutes -CFWI

Monday to Thursday (closed Fridays)
9.30am - 4.30pm



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