

Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo W1

Newsletter

September 25th 2023



Hello everyone

And greetings from a sunny Weston Super Mare! Well, to be honest - it's not quite as sunny as the photo might suggest - that was taken in Corfu last year but who cares? It's of me and a bike and so that's a good honest two out of three. Let me explain about the Weston Super Mare bit...

Right now I'm actually on my way up to John O'Groats from Lands End. "What on earth?!!" I hear you say - well, not *actually*, more like *virtually* and on my nice comfy exercise bike at that. And I'm very proud of myself - I started off a month ago, since when I've cycled 185 miles and I only have another 765 miles to go! Of course, I don't ride *every* day - or even half days - that would just be silly. No, if there's a nice spa hotel en route with a steam room and nail bar, I take a day or two off and treat myself to an all-inclusive. The scenery's been amazing! I've cycled through virtual rocky deserts, high mountain passes, glassy ice fields, and almost impenetrable jungles, I've wobbled a bit past shark-infested waters and joined the occasional Great Railway Journey too - and all from the comfort of our lounge.

I can definitely recommend it - I've seen the most amazing things and never got lost! There's no need for luggage, I'll never get wet and the scenery's constantly changing - courtesy of the TV remote. It takes me no time at all to get home either - as I'm there already! I'm hoping to get to Bristol Zoo in another 26 miles and then keep peddling north to the Highlands. If I'm not at our next meeting I'll still be pushing north - it's John O'Groats or bust!

Now on to other items...

September 19th's speaker was Ann-Marie Foxley who talked most persuasively about the health benefits of Aloe Vera with samples of the various coloured liquids, pastilles, and creams to try. She was very enthusiastic about its healing properties and her energy and enthusiasm were impressive. However, she didn't extend to selling any of the products although we were unsure whether this was her primary aim or whether she just came to speak and demonstrate.

Our next meeting is on October 17th from 2pm-4pm - our first afternoon meeting of the autumn. The speaker will be Ursula Myers, talking about the lost fishing village of Hallsands. Do bring a friend if you'd like - they're always welcome! This date is after the closing dates for applications for the John Lewis shopping event (6.10.23) and the Bath Christmas Market (13.10.23). Please contact me meanwhile if you wish to go to either or both.

Haytor Vale WI, near Bovey Tracy, is closing and using its remaining funds to provide four successful Devon WIs with £250 each for an educational workshop or to go towards transport for an educational visit for their members. This is a rare opportunity for our WI to consider a use for such a bursary. Lesley has proposed a book-binding course at Port Elliot, St Germans. It provides a two-hour workshop for £25, i.e. a full grant for ten members, or of £12.50 or some smaller subsidy for more members to attend. Attendees are shown how to make, bind and cover their own notebooks. It is a strong contender for our application. Members are asked to consider any popular alternatives as the closing date for applications is not until 31st October and we shall be applying.

Magic Night with Kristien Harris 18/11/23 with raffle: Bring your own supper and drinks, and be entertained by our favourite conjurer. All tickets sold. A second night is being considered for the general public and for those members who didn't manage to get tickets.

We need your kind donations for our raffle please - unwanted gifts, bottles of wine, chocolates, plants, toiletries, fruit hamper, fruit scone/cream tea hamper for instance. Please give your items to Carrie (who is running the raffle) in advance. Thank you.

Christmas Party - 19th December - This year it looks like we'll be lunching at the Yacht Club which can provide us with a tasty two-course Christmas lunch for £20 or less and is keen to have our business. The hill down there will require a car shuttle service and local parking but this shouldn't be difficult to arrange.

DFWI Events:

- John Lewis event. Exeter. 7 November 2023 6.15pm - 9pm. £9. Closing date: 6/10/23
- Christmas Craft Day - Longdown Village Hall. 13/11/23. Closing date: 20/10/23 £20.
- Christmas Market trip to Bath 30th November. Closing date: 13/10/23. £25
- Carol concert Exeter Cathedral 6 December 2023. 2.15 pm. £5. Closing date: 6/12/23

A current list of DFWI visits and events is available on the back cover of the monthly Devon WI News.

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

Denman at home is at <https://www.denman.org.uk/at-home/> all online courses are now free of charge.

Please let me know if you are not receiving your copy of WI Life and Devon WI News which are sent out online monthly and are also available in hard copy.

Our website, with all our news and events, is at the wi.online. It's kindly managed by Lesley Dempsey.

Groups and Visits:

Book Group - Judith sent this message from Malta...

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 16th at our usual time of 3 pm. We'll be discussing Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. The Guardian quotes " that rare beast; a polished, funny, thought-provoking story wearing its research lightly but confidently and with sentences so stylishly turned it's hard to believe it's a debut "

Craft Group - Lesley has emailed all members to say this group has been renamed Craft and Conversation. It is open to all WI members at £1.50 per session for room rental and tea. The next meeting is on Tuesday 10th October from 2-4 pm in the small meeting room WIC hall. Angela will demonstrate silk scarf drying on Tuesday 24th October - contact Angela for more details.

The choir meets weekly on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm - 3.30pm and is rehearsing for the Exeter Cathedral carol service on December 6th. No choir meeting on 27/9/23. £1 pp for hall rental.

Visits - Jackie left a detailed list of many potential visits with their distances from Newton & Noss on each table at the last meeting for members to choose their favourites from which she will short-list some future trips.

That's all for this month so it's back on the saddle for me and off into the wild blue yonder of North Somerset. Wish me luck!

Bye for now

Pat