

# Trustees Annual Report. Week St Mary Bonaventures WI

1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

A very special year, as it marks the 80<sup>th</sup> year of the founding of the WI in Week St Mary

## Trustees,

President: Sue Dickenson: Secretary: Roberta Jones: Treasurer Sue Edwards:

Other Trustees: Jenny Rea and Christine Heard. (as from the April Annual Meeting)

Changes to Trustee Roles. In August our President Sue Dickenson was involved in a serious Road Traffic Incident. With the agreement of members Christine Heard took on the Role of Vice President. She then took on the various tasks and administration normally carried out by the President.

We have all all been delighted and thankful that Sue Dickenson has been gradually able to view what has been happening at our meetings. We are hoping that in early 2026 she will be able to attend a meeting

## Membership Overview.

In April, at the end of the subscription year, a number of members left due to family commitments but new members joined keeping our numbers stable at 26.

## Monthly Meetings.

Jenny Rea has found a range of speakers for our monthly meetings. Members have forwarded suggestions including some received well by another WI. We have opened some of the meetings to members of the public, we always open our meetings to any women, who can attend three in a year. We are delighted over the years that many of these visitors have joined our WI.

**January:** Following on from a widely publicised no Meat January. AL from Trigon Farm praised the value of vegetables and introduced us to the permaculture principles, no -dig and regenerative principles.

**February:** Our attention this month turned to the coast, and a speaker from Marine Divers Life Rescue. These people rescue many stranded seals along our coast, The increase in storms and ghost netting means their expertise is being called upon more often.

**March:** Founders of OVAID spoke about Orangutans. These critically endangered species of Borneo and Sumatra.

**April:** is our Annual Meeting, where members agreed the Annual Report and Financial Statement. The New committee and President were voted in place. One of our members Sandy Smith spoke about her experience taking part in the Annual Moon Walk around London, starting at eleven in the evening and walking a marathon.

**May:** Sarah Harper from the Clovelly soap company described the development of her business. Members then each poured a candle scented with essential oils.

**June:** The theme was herbs and spices with Jane Hanscombe explaining the history of how spices reached Europe. She then discussed, with members the use of herbs in cooking and health

**July:** saw a number of members visiting Trigon Farm to tour the vegetable and flower growing areas. It was a wonderful summer evening in beautiful countryside

**September:** We invited speakers from the Bude Repair Café to explain, how they can help members and the facilities available, to follow the message Don't Throw away if it can be repaired

**October:**

Millie Gay who is a Barista trainer, gave members plenty of information to help with the choice of Coffee, even if they are buying, coffee beans, ground coffee or decaffeinated from a supermarket

**November:**

Frances Stuart, returned to talk about Lundy, the Island off of the coast of Hartland often spotted by many when travelling Northwards on the A39. Members asked that she be invited back, this time to show photos and talk about HMS Montague, and how it was wrecked in 1906 on the coast of Lundy as a result of lack of accurate navigation and lack of communication. She had been taking part in secret trials of what later became known as radio communications!

**December:**

This was our social evening with Christmas food, Mulled Wine and a female shanty group, called Figurehead.

**Birthday Event**

April 16<sup>th</sup> was our party Tea for our 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We welcomed visitors from the Grenville WI group and the Co-Chairs from CFWI. The event was organised by the entertainment group. It was a wonderful surprise for all members, with dainty cakes etc and themed decorations.

As always Fizz and a cake were also available. There was a link to 80 years ago, when Linda Cobbledick was one of the ladies to cut the cake, her grandmother had been the first President back in 1945.

**Regular Events:** The monthly outing Ladies that Lunch continued throughout the year, visiting a local restaurant on the last Friday of the Month. For a long while Sue Isherwood had made the arrangements. She stood down in the autumn for family reasons and Lesley Booker took over.

**Community Involvement:** The WI has continued to support events in the village. we arranged the Baking and Preserves competition for adults and Children as part of the Revel Celebration.

One of our members Sandy Smith organised, the Week Wander to raise money for Walk the Walk a charity uniting against Cancer. Members of the WI supported Sandy and many took part along with villagers of all ages and people from the surrounding Parishes. Over £1800 was raised and a total of 140 miles was walked around the village.

We took part in the Christmas Market run by the Parish Church and ran a stall to help with our funds.

**Grenville Group:**

In October, we organised the Group meeting. We welcomed members from Bude, Marhamchurch and Morwenstow. We were entertained by Megan who sang to us whilst Members worked in groups to produce a Limerick based on Cream Tea.

Members produced a superb tea. In the second half of the evening Megan sang popular songs everyone joined in and some members got up to dance It was a very light-hearted evening and much enjoyed by our members and Guests.

Some of our members took part in the group Carol Service hosted by Marhamchurch in December. They had arranged an interesting service, followed by a delicious tea

#### CFWI events

A number of our members attended the Cornwall Federation, Annual Council Meeting in Truro. After the important Business section members were entertained by Shanty singers. The main speaker was Pam Ayres who recited very funny monologues, for which she is famous and the laughter filled the Hall for Cornwall .

#### Communication with the Community and beyond.

Christine Heard has continued as press officer, recording the events of our WI with photographs from several members. We have seen these reports in the Parish Magazine, monthly and the local paper and several times in WI County News. During this year Sandy Smith has put eye catching adverts on the village Face Book page

#### Looking Ahead:

Jenny Rea has been organising a varied programme for 2026 and we hope to encourage more women to join us and also members of the village and beyond for or open meetings.

Recently there have been major changes within the WI, we thank our members for all their support and look forward to interesting times ahead.

Report prepared on behalf of the Trustees, by the Secretary Roberta Jones

Signed By.

Dare

Christine Heard.

Vice President