

The Women's Institute Courses and Learning

Education and personal development are central to the Women's Institute and members are encouraged to develop new skills and build confidence. Courses are available either at Denman College or can be tailored to suit the individual's or federation's needs and delivered around the country.



Training Opportunities

Open College Network (OCN) courses.

Open College Network is a national system for giving credit for learning achievements in adult education. They are not a qualification in themselves but provide a record of learning that is nationally recognised at colleges and adult education centres. The NFWI offers over 28 courses ranging from aromatherapy, embroidery, cookery, healthy living plus training courses such as judges training, training the trainers and public speaking.

City & Guilds courses. NFWI/Denman College is a registered centre for City & Guilds. City & Guilds courses enable a member to obtain a nationally recognised qualification in their subject. Courses are offered over 12 months to 2 years depending on the subject and between 120-200 hours of structured teaching is required. Courses are currently offered in Hand Embroidery, Machine Embroidery, Patchwork & Quilting and Goldwork.

NFWI Certificates. Certificates can be taken in various craft subjects and in Staging and Interpretation. The commitment of time varies with each subject and the way in which the certificate is offered. Some are tutor led and others are worked independently. All subjects require a comprehensive notebook to be compiled.

NFWI General Craft Certificate.

This certificate is offered to members who have some knowledge across lots of crafts. The certificate is made up of 4 modules and each module covers a different category with a working notebook. It is offered either tutor led or members can work independently. NFWI Certificates and General Craft Certificate should be completed within a 2 year period.

Action Packs. These are skills-based packs available for members to hire and work together in a group without a tutor on a variety of subjects from aromatherapy to patchwork.

Denman College



Denman College is the NFWI's residential adult education centre. A listed Georgian manor house set in 17 acres of beautiful grounds, the college was opened in 1948. Denman College is open to WI members and non-members alike, and offers a programme of over 500 courses each year.

The college facilities include a purpose-built Teaching Centre, with an IT-suite, specially equipped workshops and a cookery school. The residential accommodation includes 70 bedrooms, dining room, shop, and licensed bar.

For 60 years the college has been valued by women for its unique combination of learning and hospitality: offering high quality teaching in a comfortable, welcoming and safe environment. Students regularly remark on the friendly and inclusive atmosphere of the college, which is especially important for those visiting for the first time or on their own.

Courses

The Denman College programme reflects the diversity of the WI membership, and caters for all interests, traditional and contemporary. Courses range from aromatherapy, history, music, cookery and painting to interior design, textiles, jewellery and digital photography.

The majority of courses are residential, from weekends (2 nights) to 4 nights in duration. The residential experience adds something very special to courses, offering more sustained contact time with tutors, and the opportunity to socialise with other students over meals and in the evenings.

As well as residential courses, the college offers a programme of other courses. Day Schools and Taster Days are a good way to try out a new skill or pursue an interest for a shorter period, particularly in practical subjects like

cookery. Day Visits are popular with WIs, offering members the chance to visit the college and see its facilities first-hand. Many students move on from these shorter activities to attending residential courses, once they've sampled 'the Denman experience'.

The college also offers other activities throughout the year: from talks and demonstrations to 'themed' days, special events like the annual New Year House Party, and presentations by outside organisations.

Many of Denman College courses are accredited through the Open College Network and the NFWI partnership with Abingdon and Witney College.

Full details of all Denman College courses and activities can be found on the NFWI website www.theWI.org.uk/training, where you can also book online.