



# North Yorkshire West Federation News



## Membership Support Committee Offers Two Special Meetings:

**Presidents, Secretaries & Treasurers Workshop**

**on**

**Wednesday 22nd May**

**at Alma House**

**At 2pm-4pm & 6pm-8pm**



**Secondly, to welcome our New Members who have joined since April 2023.**

**A special event to visit your HQ, meet many Trustees and hear about the organisation at Alma House on Wednesday 19th June from 7.00 pm to 9.00**

**BOTH EVENTS ARE FREE TO ATTEND**

**DETAILS ARE WITH YOUR SECRETARY**

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED**

**So if you would like to join either or both events why not apply to join the Team.**

### MAY 2024

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**Office Open:**  
**Tuesday 9.00am-12.30pm, 1.00pm-4.00pm**  
**Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm, 1.00pm-4.00pm, Friday 9.00am-12.30pm, 1.00pm-3.30pm.**

The office will be closed on Monday and Wednesday  
Find us on Facebook  
NYFWFI Charity Reg. No. 1204475



You will be as surprised as I am that I have become your Chairman once again. After Spring Council and at the 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting we have to vote for the Trustees positions for the year 2024 to Spring Council 2025. Heather decided not to stand and retire with immediate effect, which was a surprise to us all, we had to accept her letter of resignation regrettably.

We must thank Heather for all she has achieved whilst on the board and for the years latterly as our very hard working Chairman during extremely difficult times with all her dedication and support to both the Federation and the membership. So from all of us all Heather thankyou.

Those of you who attended Spring Council will remember Janet Kazlauciunas who has also stepped down from the board been thanked by Heather for her hard work and contribution to the Federation, I am delighted to say Janet is still continuing on both the Activities and GYS committees.

Having lost 2 Trustees I am delighted to announce there are 3 members who have joined the board making a total of 9 Trustees, especially as the constitution states a minimum of 8.

Here is the list of Trustees as elected at the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024:

**Chairman—Julie Clarke**

**Vice Chairs—Hazel Smyth & Sue Butters**

**Treasurer—Hazel Smyth**

**Assistant Treasurer—Pam Myers**

**Sue Earl Armstrong—WI Adviser and Chair of Membership Committee**

**Sue Butters—WI Adviser and Vice Chair of Membership Committee**

**Ann Harrison—WI Adviser**

**Teresa Wilks**

**Sara Baldwin-Cole**

**Maureen Webber**

Many of us you already know but here is a brief synopsis prepared by our 3 new Trustees to introduce themselves, I'm sure you will all look forward to meeting them in the near future. Julie.

Hi I'm **Sara Baldwin-Cole** and I'm from Coverdale WI. I joined when we moved to the Dales 8 years ago, and as a result I have connected with many fabulous women in our quite remote rural community, that I would not be aware of just by living here.

I'm a big vintage fan and I sell homewares at vintage fairs as well as making lots of crafts usually using sustainable old fabrics. I've finished my career of being a homewares buyer and my grown-up children have left the nest but I'm not ready to "retire" just yet. So, involvement with the Trustees appeals because of its business nature and having been President of our WI for the last four years, I feel I do understand the various challenges we face as an organisation.



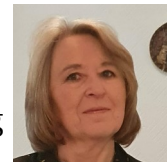
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## New Trustees continued

Hello I'm **Maureen Webber** and I come from a large Irish family. My Mother always belonged to the WI. She always came back from a meeting with lots of positive details.. Later my sisters also joined other WIs. I live in Harrogate and a friend asked me to go along to a set up meeting for a new WI- Harrogate Bloomers. I enjoyed the meeting and signed up. I helped with various bits but didn't truly get involved until our secretary had to step down because of personal reasons. I agreed to take over the role and enjoy it. Some time ago a request came from the Federation asking for individuals to consider becoming a Trustee. I had been a Trustee for various charities in Harrogate. Therefore I knew what is involved and that it was a good way to find out more about an organisation. I hope going forward that I can make a difference by helping. I have been happily married for a long time! I have a 24 year old son. I love sport and hope to cycle London100 in May.



Hello I'm **Teresa Wilks** and I became a founding member of Mad Hatters WI Ripon when it was first formed. I was newly alone with not a lot to do. I became it's treasurer by default as my main background was Banking, a position that other team members are reluctant to do. I have learnt that joining the WI was the best thing for me and has given me purpose. I have joined the Board to support the existing board members and because it needs people to keep things going. Without Board Members there's no Federation. I believe in the WI and what it stands for and I hope I can bring skills that are of use going forward.



### **It's important to keep the MCS UpToDate - To all MCS Reps**

Now you know who the paid up members are for your Institute, please ensure you record them as paid up members on your MCS.

This is so important as when Hazel, our Treasurer, sends your contribution to National they compare the Active Members on our MCS with the total of money received from the Federation and last year there was a considerable difference .

This is just one of the reasons our Membership Team has been holding the range of meetings throughout the Federation, which for those members who have taken advantage have found them invaluable.

If you need any help with this don't hesitate to consult Helen the Secretary who is a fountain of all knowledge relating to MCS queries and will only be too happy to help. **Julie.**

### **Climate Change Workshop held at Bishop Monkton on Saturday 23 March 2024**

Our first speaker was James Johnson who, along with his father, runs a mixed farm (cattle, sheep and hens as well as arable land) near Ripon. James enthusiastically shared with us how, after graduating from Harper Adam Agricultural College, he'd become a convert to the benefits of regenerative farming . He explained this was helping to reduce the carbon footprint of their farm as well as lowering their overheads and yielding produce with a higher nutritional value.

Mainly by reference to the oilseed rape crop which they grow, James outlined the principles they are now following: improving soil diversity; protecting the soil and using minimal tillage; keeping living roots in the soil; and integrating livestock into the whole process.

**Continued on next page**

He reflected that they were now employing practices which would have been familiar to his grandfather when he farmed at Mallard Grange. James is someone with a can-do attitude and a positive, inspirational approach to the future of farming. He was a very inspiring speaker and his talk raised lots of animated questions from the attendees.

After a break we then heard from Ian Clare from the North Yorkshire Rotters who was accompanied by Lucy Tiffany. Ian started by explaining that they are a group of volunteers who promote home composting, the aims of “reduce, reuse and recycle” and the 'love food hate waste' campaigns at events, talks and school workshops across the county. Ian succinctly summarised the figures for waste in North Yorkshire and then moved on to the practical benefits of home composting. He outlined the varieties of composters available and their advantages and disadvantages and then gave a very helpful outline of the “green and brown items” which can be added to a composter whilst highlighting items to be avoided. He finished with some problem solving tips. It was a talk of value to all gardeners/allotments holders even those with composting experience.

Sam and Tim O'Brien were the final speakers for the afternoon. Sam started with a quiz producing a variety of items from a capacious basket and getting the audience to guess which items contained palm oil. Tim then provided a detailed explanation of where and how palm oil is produced and used. He outlined its nutritional features, explaining why it is so popular with producers of highly processed foods and the environmental and other problems which have arisen from that popularity including deforestation, issues arising from a widespread monoculture, child labour etc. He explained the palm oil sustainability certification system (RSPO), mentioning some of the queries about its effectiveness, in particular the inability of small-scale producers to access that system. Helpfully he advised what actions we can take to address this issue– read food labels, write to producers/supermarkets asking them to avoid the use of palm oil and cut down on processed food. Finally Tim explained to us his work as the net zero officer for the Yorkshire North and East District of the Methodist Church, covering three essential areas : buildings, energy and teaching. His role involves reaching out to churches – the Yorkshire North & East District has 250 buildings used annually by a quarter of a million people– and helping them to find the best pathway in their net zero journey; creating relationships with energy suppliers to negotiate tariffs and working with them and local communities to find sustainable options; and also providing support to churches in finding resources. It was really interesting to learn how the Methodist Church is prioritising environmental work which they see as a matter of social and racial justice.

Throughout the event we were treated to excellent cakes with our hot drinks and had the opportunity to look round various display tables and to participate in the raffle which had appropriate environment -friendly prizes! There were a number of beautiful craft items on display on the theme of the environment including a crocheted temperature blanket created by Heather (Harrogate Rascals WI and Killinghall WI) which recorded, via a colour code, the temperature on each day in 2023. Helpfully Ian and Tiffany from North Yorkshire Rotters had laid out a wide selection of leaflets on composters, information on avoiding food waste and recipe cards. Janet Kazlaucius and her team are to be congratulated on an interesting and well organised event.

**Liz Whapples, Burton Leonard WI.**



Membership Communication System (MCS) - we have been holding workshops for MCS representatives to help them carry out their roles. The reason this is so important - as you are aware National has launched the new members award. For this to be correct we need all MCS reps to upkeep their records to show how many members they have, who has paid, are they dual members and have new members been added. Also, if, sadly, a member may have moved away or lost interest they need to be removed. If you have any problems please contact the office so we can help you do this.

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Alma house we are holding a Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers workshop - this is in the afternoon from 2-4 pm and then in evening from 6 -8 pm. Light refreshments will be available. The closing date is 1<sup>st</sup> May. This workshop and future workshops will be free of charge.

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June we are holding a New Members Evening - this is for new members who joined from April 2023 to the present day. It takes place from 7-9 pm at Alma House. Light refreshments will be available and there is no charge. Closing date is 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

Can we please ask if you have had a really good speaker please can you let Anne Harrison know who it was please, her email is [anneandmauriceharrison@btinternet.com](mailto:anneandmauriceharrison@btinternet.com) and her phone number is 01969 663381 mobile 07792 348223.

Thank you from the team Sue Butters, Anne Harrison, Moira George, Angela Turnbull and Sue Earl Armstrong. If you would be interested in joining the team please get in touch with Sue Earl Armstrong on 07928 714593

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WI Learning Hub - <https://learninghub.thewi.org.uk/> - EXPLORE



A reminder that **your subscription includes access to all the free courses** from Live Courses to Access Anytime from hobbies to personal development – new cookery are coming soon. – One the best ways to know what is available next week is to sign up for the weekly newsletter sent out on a Saturday or view the Calendar – courses listed to June.

Projects and Activities could be your speaker for free or fill in when speaker doesn't turn up. Now Includes a section on **Food Standards Agency** advice.

**You need to be signed up to My WI to access this information.**

**Log on at <https://www.thewi.org.uk> and at the bottom of the page click on My WI.**

## SPRING COUNCIL MEETING Wednesday 10 April 2024

146 ladies attended the NYFWFI Spring Council on Wednesday, 10 April at Hampsthwaite Village Hall and what a treat we had in store. Following morning coffee the business was swiftly and efficiently dealt with and Hazel Smyth was a star! How she works through all the accounting and legal rigmarole is truly impressive and then she doubled up as the in-house photographer! We are very fortunate with our trustees and secretary Helen. They are a byword for friendly efficiency. The morning speaker was Ruth Packwood who gave a detailed presentation on Hope at Home for survivors of modern slavery. This charity provides safe homes for the survivors which can be with a family, or a couple for a month to six months to help them get on their feet and deal with obligatory paperwork and officialdom. Ruth illustrated her presentation with interviews from some of the survivors who are often hidden in plain sight. One of the most shocking statistics was that the biggest ethnic group of survivors is British. We didn't see that coming. This being NYFWFI lunch was, of course, delicious and all dietary needs catered for. Smart staff in black and white striped waistcoats served a cold buffet and a selection of dainty, delectable desserts. And so to the afternoon and the Presentation of Awards and Certificates. It's always impressive to learn how many WIs and individual members have given so much service over so many years. Julie rushed up and down the hall distributing the awards with Photographer Hazel hot on her heels camera in hand. Would be interesting to know their step count! After a serious and sobering morning presentation we were hugely entertained by the Voice of the Balls and Strictly Come Dancing, Alan Dedicoat. Alan took us down memory lane with tales of his career and people he worked with such as Terry Wogan, Jill Dando and Sarah Kennedy. The laughter flowed and the banter crackled, particularly with Heather Stoney! A whole range of questions followed and were answered fully and humorously. What a fun gentleman. We left having been thoroughly brought up to date with all Federation activities, educated about survivors of modern slavery, dined extremely well and delightfully entertained in the afternoon. We also made new friends, met old ones and saw the wider picture of the WI. It made me very proud to be a member. **Ann Green, Roeclyffe WI.**



Those who attended Spring Council will remember that our morning speaker, Ruth Packwood, promised to send further details of the Hope at Home service and for those who did not here are the details of the information that Ruth provided us with. This certainly made us aware of the different categories of slavery and the needs this causes in the UK:

We have an online Discover Hosting video which explains more about the process and you watch hear hosts talk about their experiences of hosting with us: <https://www.hopeathome.org.uk/hosting-information>


If anyone has a spare bedroom and feels that they could help a survivor, the link to our online application form is here: <https://www.hopeathome.org.uk/apply-to-host>

Just 50p per day helps a survivor stay in a safe home and access the essentials they need to survive and rebuild so, if anyone would like to donate to us, they can do so here: <https://www.hopeathome.org.uk/room-sponsor/>. Best wishes and thank you again for all your support, Ruth Packwood, **Hosting Coordinator**




## Events

### MAY



**Wednesday 22nd**—Presidents, Secretaries & Treasurers Meeting, 2.00 pm—4.00 pm and 6.00 pm—8.00 pm at Alma House. There is no charge for this meeting. Closing date 1st May. Booking form is with your secretary. 

### JUNE



**Wednesday 19th**— New Members Meeting, 7.00 pm—9.00 pm at Alma House. Light refreshments will be served. There is no charge for this meeting. Booking form is with your secretary. Closing date 22nd May. 



**Tuesday 25th June**—Axe Throwing & Archery, 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm at Bilton Hall Action Centre. Places are strictly limited. Cost £37.50, closing date 14th June. Booking form is with your Secretary.

**Tuesday 25th June**—Returners Watercolours with Gail, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm at Alma House, cost £12 plus £5 for materials, closing date 14th June. Booking form is with your Secretary.   


**Friday 28th June**—Beginners Watercolours with Gail, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm at Gargrave Village Hall, cost £15 plus £5 for materials, closing date 14th June. Booking form is with your Secretary.   


### JULY

**Tuesday 9th July—Friday 12th July**—Great Yorkshire Show, Booking forms for Catering Assistants and Stewards are with your Secretary. Start date 1st April, closing date 14th June.   


**Friday 26th**—History Wardrobe with Lucy Adlington at Masham Town Hall, doors open 1.30 pm, event runs from 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm. Cost £20 to include cream tea. Closing date 1st July. Booking form in the mailing.   


### *200 Club Results*

Congratulations to the following,  
who have won these prizes in April:

£100—225—Andrea Ainley, Askwith with Weston WI

£50—177—Scriven WI

£25—102 Rylstone WI

**Come and enjoy the fun of helping in the WI Pavilion!**



**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

Join us as one of the catering team behind the scenes in the jolly busy Kitchen, out-front serving or even as a Steward engaging with the hundreds (I'm not joking) of visitors.

It's a great experience, hectic, convivial & fun!

And - You get free entry to visit the show too!

Application forms are with your WI



Closing Date 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024



## Also why not join in the 2024 GYS Heritage & History competition?

Categories range from needlecraft, paper-crafts, photography and baking.

Details on [yorkshire-north-west.thewi.org.uk/latest-news](http://yorkshire-north-west.thewi.org.uk/latest-news)

and with your WI Secretary

Closing Date for entries Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June

