



North Yorkshire West Federation News

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

November/
December 2025

A festive poster for the Federation Carol Service. The background is red with white snowflakes and gold and silver Christmas ornaments. The text is in blue and black.

Federation Carol Service
On Wednesday 3rd
December 2025
From 2 pm to 4 pm
At Allhallowgate
Methodist Church, Ripon
HG4 1LG
Cost £3.50 including
refreshments and a
mince pie
Guests & children
welcome
Parking is available at Sainsbury's
car park opposite the venue

Note cost includes a charge for use of the chapel

**Collection will be donated to British Heart Foundation,
supporting the NFWI Resolution 'Bystanders Can be Lifesavers'**

Closing date 19th November. Please quote code 25F08Ca when booking. Cost includes a charge for use of the chapel.

Chairman's Notes

by Hazel Smyth web.nwyorkswi@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you for all your support at the various events this Autumn, it is great meeting so many of you.



Three main updates:

Nominations are open for the Board of Trustees, to serve from April 2026. The Federation needs at least 6 but can have up to 15 Trustees. If there are more than 15 nominations, an election will be held; less than 6 means suspension. See the nomination form for further information, or attend a Trustee meeting - contact me details below. Trustees are regular WI members just like you.

Details for July 2026 Residential Weekend "Stay, Learn and Explore" at Barnard Castle School are included in the mailing. Please confirm your interest by December. If there aren't enough members interested from our Federation, we'll offer places to others to ensure it happens.

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Hazel Web.nwyorkswi@ayhoo.co.uk 07495 362525

Bookings by Post

We have had issues over the last month of postal bookings getting lost in the post. If you are sending bookings by post can you let the office know to expect a letter— phone or email just saying booking from X WI on way for Y event is sufficient.

WI Programmes

Don't forget to send your programme for the coming year into the office via email/post so we can add to the website – potential members search via Post Code for their local WI and get direct to your WI page. Check it out via <https://yorkshire-north-west.thewi.org.uk/find-wi> and let us know of any updates required or update via the MCS record of your WI.

Please note that Helen the Federation Secretary will be on leave from 31st October to 7th November. Please contact Hazel on 07495 362525

Christmas Office Closure

The office will be closed from Friday 19th December 2025 to Tuesday 6th January 2026 – we wish Helen Smith and family a Merry Christmas and New Year.

200£ CLUB DRAW £

Congratulations to the following who have won these prizes

23— Madhatters WI—£30

221—Andrea Ainley, Wharfedale WI—£20

30—Oresome Copper Belles WI—£10

Membership Team Report

Sue Earl Armstrong sueearlarmwiadviser@gmail.com



As you will be looking to do next year's calendar, we would like to highlight the WI Learning Hub, as there you will find a host of ideas and events that your WI could use as a speaker. We will be hosting a programme planning meeting at Alma House on Saturday 15th November 1.30pm to 3.30pm and booking forms can be found in the Federation website under events and workshops.

Annual Report forms can be downloaded from the Federation website or if you require a paper copy, please get in touch with the office and Helen will send one out for you. The Annual Report form is the one that you fill in after your Annual Meeting, giving the officers' names, addresses and contact information and information about how you hold your meetings, details of your speakers and activities that you do. We really are pleased to hear what our WIs get up to; yes we know that not all WIs are alike and that is what makes our Federation so good!

You will see in the newsletter a piece for the Kathleen Bird competition. We asked Sara to help bring something inspiring to the forefront and she hasn't held back! So, it's your WI's turn to shine! A prize will be awarded at the Spring Council meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Membership Team

Activities Update

Sara Baldwin-Cole, sarabaldwincole@outlook.com



And just like that we are heading towards the end of 2025! We've had a busy year of activities, and I'm pleased that we've had a lot of members try new experiences and enjoy meeting other WI members. Even coming to Alma House for the first time has been inspiring for some. So far, we've enjoyed decoupage to watercolours, Calendar Girls walk & lunch to Pub themed talk, food demo and competition, to wire crafts and appliqué, a medical museum and gardens visit, to a 60s fashion talk and tippie as well as our annual quiz! We still have our Christmas Dabble day to look forward to as well as the Carol Service.

We have now launched our big event of next year, our July residential weekend at Barnard Castle. A chance to **Stay, Learn and Explore**, and meet new friends, enjoy a bit of ME time whilst being a little bit intrepid! Come and enjoy a weekend (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon) of talks, walks, tastings, and a few makings! All in a lovely location with two full board days and no extra costs for just £350. You have until the end of December to commit to a booking and a payment plan is offered too.

Do enjoy your seasonal celebrations, I do love the preparation part of it all, and family time, then I really look forward to a January re-boot! **Sara B-C**

Images from two events in October in the West of the Federation



Images from Autumn Lunch and Gargrave Afternoon Tea



Wire Workshop at Alma House

Who knew that twiddling wire could be so satisfying and creative?

12 ladies gathered at Alma house on Sept 30th eagerly awaiting enlightenment. Tutor Rachel Hutton provided us with various colours and weights of wire, a circular frame and sketches of possible designs. A quick lesson on the basic principles then our creativity was given free rein. With interspersed more advanced instructions and help from Rachel we were able to make a variety of flowers, leaves and shapes to produce veery attractive display pieces-even if the fingers were a little sore by the end!

A most interesting and productive day, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Helen Davison, Roecliffe WI



ipon Civic
unveiling.

Federation Quiz Heats 2025

Bishop Monkton WI Quiz Heat

On the evening of Friday, 26th September our Ripon Centre team of six brave members set off for Bishop Monkton Village Hall to take part in the NY Federation Quiz. An event that our WI had not taken part in for many a year so we were stepping into the unknown. As we pulled into the Car Park, the Village Hall lights were shining and members of Bishop Monkton WI were at the door to greet us and show us to our named tables. The room was buzzing with noise and activity as members greeted old friends from other WI's, admired the fine array of raffle prizes and helped with last minute setting up.

Our Quiz Mistress introduced herself as an ex-headteacher and reassured us all that her voice would carry to each corner of the hall and we were away with a gentle starter, the multiple-choice General Knowledge Round. We swapped papers with another table to mark as we went along after each round. Who knew that a sunset on Mars was blue? Not us! We whizzed through the Literature Round with our team's Library Volunteer 'Expert'; our confidence was dashed slightly in Round 3 Food and Drink, by needing the correct country of origin of Bara Brith along with a definition. A round of TV and Film suited those with a working knowledge of the 1970's and 80's small screen. With one of our team making quick calculations as to what percentage of the questions we had got right- we felt we were doing OK.

The mouth-watering scent of supper had begun to make our tummies rumble so a chance to chat, eat and buy raffle tickets was very welcome. Our hosts had laid on a super spread of Appleton's pork pies with peas and mint sauce, tea, coffee, biscuits and mints. Delicious! Slightly stumped by trying to identify landmarks from their silhouettes, we made a brave attempt at a Geography round, were lacking in our knowledge of the WI but rallied to a good

final round of 'hidden words'. With fingers crossed that we hadn't done too badly we clapped our heat winners of SHAROW and congratulated each other for doing our best. We went home with a second place which gave us the confidence to vow to try again next year along with two of our team winning raffle prizes. A huge thank-you to Bishop Monkton WI who were really welcoming and excellent hosts. **Helen Churchill, Ripon Centre WI.**

Goldsborough WI Quiz Heat 2025

It was a great pleasure for Goldsborough to hold a quiz heat in the month that we are celebrating our WI's 90th Anniversary. After much bustle and preparation, with suitable 90th Anniversary decorations on display, Goldsborough Quiz Heat launched into action.

Eight enthusiastic quiz teams arrived, many early and some with bottles of wine to encourage the brain cells. We started on time, with considerable discussion and debate over 3 rounds. At this point three members of the Kirby Hill Team arrived in a rush, having been held up in a traffic jam on the A1. They managed to join in round 4, which was followed by a supper of sandwiches, cheese scones and various cakes plus tea and coffee.

A further 4 rounds, with minimum controversy, were followed by a well supported raffle with lots of prizes. Results were checked and our winning Team was - you have guessed it - Kirby Hill! A happy and entertaining evening was had by all and we wish Kirby Hill every success in the next round. **Susan Michael, Goldsborough WI.**



Christmas Applique Workshop on 14th October at Alma House



Once again Anne steered us through an enjoyable workshop making Christmas Snowmen aprons. She taught us how to transfer the paper patterns onto material and then arrange them into snowmen. We were shown how to applique the pieces onto the apron to stop them coming off and look decorative. Anne always ensures that we go home with a lovely piece of work. **Sheila Carr, Threshfield & Linton WI.**

Keep in touch! It is great to read what all the WIs are up to. Please send your news to nywfw124@gmail.com and we will report here in brief **with more details on the website. Please send in your **photographs** and articles to the WI office at Alma House. Because of the limitations of the number of pages, please keep your articles to 400 words or fewer. Thank you.**

Around the WIs

Sharow & District WI

We wanted to do something for 'River Action Week', but only being a small group we wondered what, exactly, we could do. The River Ure runs through the village and it was decided that we could do a litter-pick. A small village shouldn't have much litter you may think. Unfortunately we find that the occupants of vehicles travelling along the Dishforth Road (part of which runs parallel to the river) tend to finish their take-away meals and coffees just as they reach Sharow, and thoughtlessly throw the empty containers away through their windows. Wind and rain help some of the debris collect around the river bank.



So, equipment was borrowed from a very helpful lady at the North Yorkshire Council Depot and a group of volunteers set off in their high visibility jackets to tidy up and stop the rubbish from polluting our river. We spent a good few hours walking alongside the river picking up litter; met a few walkers who thanked us for what we were doing; eventually returning to base for a well deserved cup of tea. **Denise Roberts, Sharow & District WI.**

Around the WIs continued

Bainbridge WI 110th Birthday and Memorial Celebration



At Bainbridge WI celebrations took place in September when we acknowledged the 110th birthday of the first WI in the UK (Wales). We have a banner which is in the early stage of production which we launched at our Garden group Open Garden scheme visit at Jervaulx Hall. The creation of our banner was inspired by a visit to Keighley museum where there was a WI banner on display.

The cupcakes speak for themselves (with a hat tip to former president Nicola Robinson for the green and white swirly icing).



During our next craft and chat session we drafted out a few ideas. Fabric from our stash and a logo from a WI tote bag were used by Anne Izard to create the background of a banner. You'll have seen the photo of our banner with the garden group. Our plan is to add appliqué items over the next few months to represent our various groups. Some ideas are flowers for the garden group, books obviously for the book club, boots for the walking group etc. Any ideas are welcome and we'll look forward to our banner developing.



We then had our emotional drop as we all had our own way of grieving for our friend and fellow WI member Margaret. On Thursday the 18th September in the afternoon 12 of our WI members joined Margaret's family and friends at Maple Park Crematorium in Thirsk to celebrate Margaret's life.

We were all asked by her daughters to wear bright colours, which we did. Hearing about her earlier life and family stories among the welcome, poem and eulogy sparked our own memories of Margaret and her time spent with us as a committee member and with the walking, crafting, book club and at many other events. Whenever we hear The Magic of Love by Lionel Ritchie and Luciano Pavarotti it will remind us of happy times with our friend. Following on from the funeral at our monthly meeting the same evening we all showed our respect to Margaret by holding a 1 minute silence to reflect on her life. We wish miss you Margaret and your name is now in our Federation Book of Remembrance.

As we all know – life itself is a privilege, but to live life to the fullest well, that is a choice. It's a choice many of our WI members are making and joining in our many and varied activities and events. Long may it continue for us all. a combined celebration and memorial. **Sue Stokes and Rachel Newall, Bainbridge WI.**

Around the WIs continued

Burton Leonard WI On Tour



On 21st September 2025, 11 members of BLWI set off on an adventure to Cromer in Norfolk, a continuation of the 100th anniversary celebrations. The journey down to Norfolk was broken by a lunch stop in the beautiful Lincolnshire town of Stamford. The ladies admired the local architecture, the amazing independent shops and the wonderful cafes. We arrived at the hotel tired but excited for what lay ahead.

On day 1, we enjoyed a trip on the Norfolk broads and time in Wroxham marvelling at 'Roy's' retail empire. The afternoon saw us travelling on a narrow-gauge stream railway from Wroxham to Aylsham. Day 2 saw a trip to the seaside town of Sheringham. Blustery conditions made for a bracing walk on the sea front. The intrepid ladies then travelled by local bus from Sheringham to Holt, another beautiful Georgian market town. Lunch for 11 in a local café was a delight, with some, but sadly not all, of the group partaking of beautiful Cromer crab sandwiches (the café ran out of crab!!). Two hours then whizzed by as the ladies enjoyed a spot of retail therapy in Holt's wonderful independent shops, including the 'Harrods of Norfolk'. All too soon it was time to catch the bus back to Cromer. The walk back to the hotel was broken by a stop in a local hostelry to celebrate the birthday of one of the group. Day 3 saw us travelling to the royal residence of Sandringham; for many a highlight of the trip and the reason why the trip was chosen. We were not to be disappointed. Whilst access is limited to a handful of rooms, the rooms give an insight into the history of the house and a deeply personal view of the royal family. There is a plethora of photographs of the royal family through the decades (one member of the group set off an alarm trying to get a closer look at one such photo!). A touching photo of the late Queen, taken just a few months before her death, showed her sitting in an armchair in Sandringham working through her red boxes. Particular highlights of the tour were the drawing room where the royals open their presents on Christmas Eve and the dining room where Christmas lunch is eaten. One member of the group can claim to have the same fabric covering her dining chairs as the royals! The grounds were a delight and no trip to Sandringham is complete without a visit to the Church and a pose under the famous lychgate.

Throughout the trip, BLWI lived up to its motto of 'friendship, fun and laughter'. A great time was had by all and the trip encapsulated all that is great about the WI. **Anne Townsend, Burton Leonard WI.**

Around the WIs continued

GOLDSBOROUGH WI CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY

The members of Goldsbrough WI got a bit dressed up for their celebration party at Goldsbrough Hall in September. The atmosphere was lively with chatter and enjoying our cream tea but we also thought about the spirited women in Goldsbrough and Flaxby who, in 1935, started this WI branch. What were their lives like and what motivated them to start this Institute?

Prior to our annual meeting in October our longest standing member Brenda Clayton got together with Sue Michael to produce a beautiful celebration cake. The cake was eaten with a glass of bubbly whilst members browsed a table of memorabilia from our initial constitution to our most recent scrap book and lots between. We are proud to be part of a continuous 90 years of lively, caring and enthusiastic women supporting each other and their community in the Goldsbrough area. **Nicky Wynn, Goldsbrough WI.**



Initial constitution 1935



Goldsborough WI celebrating 90 years.



Table decoration at Goldsbrough Hall made by Lynn Ogden



Nicky Wynn, President, Brenda Clayton (60 years a member), Angela Booth (40 years a member) cutting the cake



Tables of memorabilia

Three B's WI—110 Year Anniversary Celebrations

We had a wonderful evening with food and drink from the 1910s along with people in costume and music too. **Jen Firth, Three B's WI.**



NORAH WORTH ANNUAL CRAFT AWARD

This year we are inviting you all to join in this competition which will be seen and judged by YOU, the attendees at

Spring Council at Tennants

On Wednesday 22nd April 2026

The theme is

A CRAFTED ITEM MADE WITH WOOL



This gives you a wide choice and can include knitting, crochet, felted items, tapestry etc. etc.*

And as we have the Chair of National Federation of WIs,



Jeryl Stone attending our Spring Council

we'd love to see **many** entries PLEASE!!

We will ask you to advise what entries you are submitting in advance (nearer the time), and an entry can be submitted even if the maker is not attending the event. Entries will ideally be brought along on the day and will need to be clearly labelled with an **attached** luggage tag with your name and WI on one side, and blank on the reverse so that we can give it a number for the voting.

So, get your needles out and start Knitting, Stitching & Pricking!

*We do ask that the item has not been submitted to any previous Federation competitions.



Kathleen Bird Trophy 2026

Kathleen Bird was a keen member of Preston-under-Scar WI and very active on the NYFWWI membership committee and was also a WI Advisor. She was an avid promoter of the WI, and she donated the trophy to encourage others to do the same.

So, for the 2026 trophy we want you to show us...

What interesting things have you done to promote YOUR WI?

Please share with us any information* about activities, events, ways of advertising your meetings, embracing social media, local news reports, or just daft fun that you've had which got, or you plan to, get YOUR WI noticed!

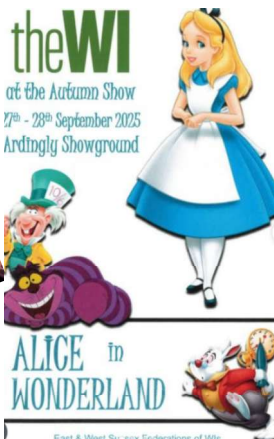
We hope to inspire all our WIs to wave the WI flag and ultimately encourage more membership!

So, get your thinking caps on!

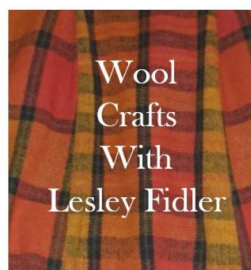
We will send out the entry forms and more information in January.

The Trophy will be awarded at Spring Council

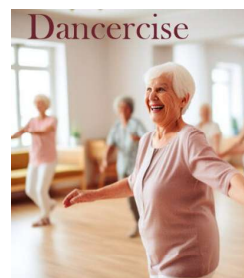
*We are happy to receive a report with images, video clips, copies of posters, press clippings etc etc....



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Some
NYWFWI
Activities
to look forward
to in 2026!



Join us for our NYWFWI
Weekend Residential
Friday 10th to Sunday 12th July 2026

STAY...**LEARN & EXPLORE**

Held at Barnard Castle Boarding School in the centre of Barnard Castle
come and enjoy a weekend of activities. Cost is just £350 all in, for two
days of full board, and all activities & materials are included too!
Stay in accessible single rooms with fabulous facilities.



Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/nywfw>



North Yorkshire West Federation now has a new Instagram account <https://www.instagram.com/northyorkshirewestfederationwi/?g=5>

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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.

Closed 31st October to 7th November and from Friday 19th December 2025 to Tuesday 6th January 2026