

Newsletter

September 2026



Autumn Lunch

featuring Caroline Hawley of BBC Bargain Hunt

Wednesday 21st October

Oakdale Golf Club, Harrogate

2 course lunch

Booking details, including menu, with your secretary
and on our website

Food and Flowers

featuring 'With Christmas in Mind'

cookery demonstration with Julie Clarke

& 'It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas'

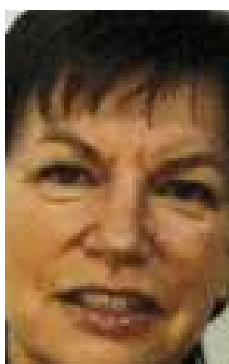
floral demonstration with Alex Gracey

Wednesday 18th November

Memorial Hall, Darley HG3 2RP

Soup and sweet lunch

Booking details with your secretary and on our
website



Federation Carol Service

Holy Trinity Church,

Skipton

Wednesday 2nd December at 2 pm

Booking details will be released in October



Chair's Notes

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

Telephone 07495 362525



We have a number of members say "if I had known that was on I would have loved to have been there, done that".

This newsletter and the booking forms which are sent to your WI each month together with an email version are produced to give you all the information required but if you don't make a meeting we update :-

- our Website - <https://yorkshire-north-west.thewi.org.uk/2026-events-and-workshops>
- our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/nywfwfwi>

If you are at a meeting and think - "I am sure she would enjoy that event or activity or I am going I wonder if a fellow member would like to go" - speak to them, tell them about it or ask them to come.

So I am asking you to read this newsletter and share - hopefully we will see you over the Autumn events.

Hazel

WI Insurance

The following query has been raised with our insurers and their response is shared with you below as reassurance.

It would be really helpful if you or the insurer could provide some guidance on "things to do and not to do" in the event of needing to make a claim or alerting you to the possibility of a claim (for example do not admit liability). This would enable us to issue some guidance to our committee members.

The insurer's response for information is :-

If an incident occurs that might lead to a claim, it needs to be reported to my office without delay. The sooner incidents are reported the sooner we can act on the Federation's behalf to help and possibly mitigate any losses. The admission or not of liability could help, however for liability claims, thorough investigations take place to establish the extent of liability so any admissions are often overturned when an investigation has concluded. Immediate reporting with full details of any incident is the most important thing.

Please note any potential claim of what ever type must be notified to Alma House as soon as possible.

Treasurer notes

by Helen Davison helendavison05@gmail.com



Do contact Alma House if you are having any issues with your accounts. Helen will pass on your contact details and issue - a problem shared is a problem halved. We will do our best to help you sort it out quickly but can't help if we don't know.

Membership Team Update

by Sue Earl Armstrong sueearlarmwiadviser@gmail.com



Annual Report Forms - We are currently looking at the annual report forms to make them more user friendly. We will be sending the revised form out with the next mailing. You will also be able to download a copy from the Federation website.

Forums - We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has attended Forums and provided feedback following the sessions. We take your comments and suggestions into account when planning future Forums, so please keep your suggestions coming and let us know if there are particular areas that you would like to see covered in the future. We are here to help you.

Officer Roles - This year we have sadly had to close some of our WIs due to not having members take on the officer roles and this is something that we really don't like having to do as we want to keep our WIs going. We would ask you to have a think about how to keep your WIs going by looking at succession planning. It is helpful to have another member shadow an officer for 6 months to get an idea of what the role entails. People often think that the roles are onerous or difficult, however, this doesn't have to be the case and as long as the minimum required tasks are done it doesn't have to be time consuming. We would like to encourage you to come along to the Forums that we run about the different officer roles so that you can see what the roles entail. It also provides an opportunity to meet with other officers and exchange ideas. If there is anything else that you think the Membership Team can do to support you or your WI please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks from Sue and the Membership Team

Activities Update

by Sara Baldwin-Cole sarabaldwincole@outlook.com



Greetings from the Activities Committee - Isn't it nice to be cool again and need a jumper! So, while we are thinking of our end of year activities and many more plans for 2027, we want to just share our thoughts on our recent inaugural residential weekend. I say this because according to the feedback we will definitely do another one, and that will be in 2028 so that we have plenty of time to explore and plan new classes and entertainment.

We are compiling a supplement to send out to each WI with reports on all the activities and photos etc. to obviously entice some more attendees. But looking at the feedback information it is clear that it was Value for Money - as 97% said it was either 5* or 4* worth the cost, and that the split payment plan was a great help. And that is all thanks to our help with a small grant from the Denman fund. And when asked "Would you come again?" 97% said yes! Of which 39% said they'd come straight back next year! We feel it achieved the aim to explore new experiences, make new friends, feel part of a like-minded group, and have some "you" time! And we have definitely noted areas to improve which we can do using different parts of the same superb location.

In the meantime, we have a few places left on the soap making two days at Alma House, and we have the Autumn lunch and Food and Flowers to look forward to. This will be the last Food and Flowers in this format due to increasing costs to stage the event (with all the technology involved) and sadly the reducing numbers of attendees. And good luck to all the Quiz teams.... whoever said the WI was not competitive??? **Sara Baldwin-Cole**

Great Yorkshire Show 2026

Thank you to the GYS committee team both catering and exhibition members, WI catering volunteers, WI cleaning volunteers, WI & supporters, Exhibition Stewards, setting up and packing down, transport volunteers - everyone contributed to a very successful show.

The café proved as popular as ever with queues on all days and the Food to Go team were kept busy too, reflected in the very good financial results currently being finalised. This despite the issues encountered with access to internet and card payment systems on each day – we reverted to cash and kept going in true WI tradition, even being complemented on our mental arithmetic skills.

The yarn bomb truly demonstrated members ingenuity and skills of execution to provide scenery, animals, characters and implements which stimulated conversation and broadened the public's appreciation of what members do. The "one I made earlier" demonstrated the wide variety of interests, crafts and skills of members. We will be arranging to send the blanket backgrounds to charities over the Autumn.

There was no traditional thank you party for volunteers after the show due to the GYS committee's other commitments – **but be assured all your efforts were very much appreciated by the team and Trustees.**

Hazel Smyth, Federation Chair.

Pictures of the exhibition area







Around the WIs



Giggleswick WI

Giggleswick WI joined in the Yarn Bomb preparation with knitted squares being sorted into rows which were then delivered to members for sewing up. Photos show members sewing the squares together, the finished squares and the figure which were displayed at the show.



Follifoot WI - Report on Great Yorkshire Show

"We need someone on the pot wash" was the call as I walked into the NYWFWI Pavilion at this year's Great Yorkshire Show, and on seeing the tables of WI members already slicing, spreading and compiling salads and sandwiches, what could I do but shout "Here, if you've got a pair of Marigolds" and walk over to the sinks and draining boards.

Not just a pair, but a whole box of lovely rubber gloves sat under the sink, along with boxes of tea towels and a vat of washing up liquid. Before too long, I was joined by one lovely lady to help dry up and then another, and soon we were a team with a system and were racing through the coffee and tea mugs, plates and teapots that were constantly being returned from the Pavilions dining area, washed, dried and relayed back to the serving area where another team were selling the sandwiches, salads, cakes and delicious fresh scones to the never ending queue.

It was a very, very busy scene, both in the public view and behind the scenes in the kitchens, but well organised and good fun. It was super to talk to members of other WIs, not that there was much opportunity for chatting, but the shared camaraderie and satisfaction of seeing so many people enjoying the fresh breakfasts, lunches and afternoon teas on offer in The WI Pavilion was palpable.

I'd always felt a little guilty about not volunteering for the WI at the show in the past, but having done so, will definitely be volunteering again, as long as there's a pair of Marigolds!

Jan Mackaness





Around the WIs

Spofforth WI

For our Summer Outing this year 18 of our members (and our travelling companion, Rosie Rabbit) visited Yorkshire Lavender near Terrington where we were welcomed by the sight - and scent - of fields of lavender. Head Gardener, Julia spoke to us about the different varieties and their uses and benefits - toiletries, culinary, herbal, sleep aid, healing and antiseptic properties, ease of propagation, sun loving and, if you pick the correct variety, drought resistant and hardy! A timely recommendation for a plant with the current hot weather and drought! We then enjoyed a lovely picnic lunch provided by the venue, in the comfort of their large teepee. After, we had time to wander around the fields - and to visit both the nursery and shop. Our members left very relaxed in a haze of Lavender! It was a 'Grand Day Out'!

Sandra Dewey



Austwick WI

Austwick WI have had a busy summer with walks, visits and workshops as well as their usual monthly meetings.

In June, Patrick Grant gave a talk about his life and how he started his Community Clothing business, Julia Chapman introduced us to her new book venture and we had a day in Malham with a 'hands on' experience painting pottery.

In July we had a Summer Garden Party, a visit to Leighton Hall and a walk around the nature reserve at Malham.

Sue Dewhirst, President



Around the WIs

We've recently found ourselves inundated with articles for inclusion in the newsletter which is great news! Whilst we do still want to hear from you, we now ask that you limit articles to a maximum of 250 words.





Around the WIs

Nidd Valley Group of WIs - Ripley Show Report

Once again, the Nidd Valley group of WI's have had a successful and enjoyable year participating at the Ripley Show. Bilton, Birstwith, Hampswaite and Killinghall WIs are the present regular contributors at the show which is always situated in the large marquee alongside all other competition entries.

This year we invited Sarah Haynes "the bee lady" and her husband Steve, who aims to inform and educate people with the tales of caring for her hives as well as providing samples of their honey, and Lucy Watson, one of our local sheep farmers, who utilises her wool in a range of ways and entertained visitors with demonstrations and facilitation of another of her creative crafts.

We had the WI information board available to illustrate and showcase the opportunities and events within our local WI communities, highlighting the campaigns that the groups are engaged with and provided an activities table with a range of crafts to occupy children attending the event.

Heather Hart, one of our Killinghall members brought her array of climate blankets to illustrate our changing climate, this always attracts a curious crowd. The comparisons of her blankets between the 3 years of her project are an interesting and thought-provoking experience.



The entries of produce and craft were of their usual high standard giving the judges a tough task at times to award marks. Bilton WI were awarded the Margaret Dodsworth cup for a knitted item and the Handicraft Cup, Birstwith WI were awarded the Powell Cup for a computer generated poster. Hampswaite WI received the Marjorie Jones Cup for their flower display and the Betty Swales Produce Salver giving them overall top points and earning them the Eva Houseman Cup which was received by Hazel Jackson.



Gill Clarkson, Nidd Valley Group President.



Glasshouses WI

Welcomes guests and partners to a Ballroom Dance evening.

Professional dancers from White Diamond Dance Studios, will be offering us all a chance to learn or perfect our dancing skills with experienced teachers.

Join us on October 14th in Broadbelt Hall Glasshouses, starting at 7pm.

Cost £5 per person, with tea and cake included.

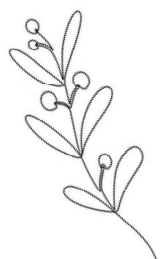
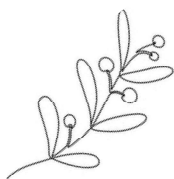
Book your place early, for an unmissable evening.

Contact pamelalupton23@gmail.com





Join us
for our annual
CRAFT DABBLE DAY



**Thursday 5th
November**
10am to 4pm

Gargrave Village Hall, BD23 3RD



Choose two crafts from
a selection of four



£30 All materials
are included*

Sugar Craft Christmas Figures with Ann Kent
Crystal Drop Angels with Sara Baldwin-Cole
Knitted Seasonal Corsage with Lesley Fidler
Crepe Paper Seasonal Flowers with Sheila Carr

No experience needed.

Packed lunch required.

*You may need to bring some items and small tools
(eg scissors) - you will be advised on confirmation of booking.



Booking closes 17th October

Quote booking code 26A11DABB

Booking link: <https://forms.gle/Qy4SiBB6B3ee43Y6>

The online booking system will confirm receipt of your booking



NOTICEBOARD



Included in your membership

Don't forget that included in your membership fee, you have access to VIA Learning at via.thewi.org.uk

You will find flexible online courses you can join live or sometimes on 'catch up'. There is a huge variety of courses, including craft, languages, history, cookery demonstrations, the list just goes on.

And the best bit is they are mostly free to WI members!

Lost Property

Some items were left behind at the Yorkshire Show. If you lost something please get in touch with the office and hopefully we can reunite you.



Coming soon

There will be a special supplement next month covering the weekend at Barnard Castle in July.

Speakers List

This has recently been updated on the Federation website. If you know of any speakers that are willing to be added to the list please let the office have details.

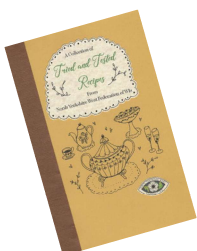
Attention MCS reps

Please check the correct details for your members are recorded on MCS. I recently sent emails to some new members but a few bounced back due to the MCS holding incorrect emails. Thank you, Helen, Federation Secretary

WI Diary



There will be no 2027 diary orders via Federation but diaries can be purchased direct from:
<https://shop.thewi.org.uk/>



Don't forget the Federation Cookery Book is still available to purchase. It would make a fabulous Christmas present! Booking form is in the September mailing for WIs to bulk buy, detailing how to purchase to raise funds for your WI.



NYWFWI EVENTS AT A GLANCE

EVENT	DETAILS	BOOKING CLOSES
Climate Change Presentation hosted by Ripon Belles WI 09/09/2026 - 7pm to 9pm	Alma House - Free to all WI members	Places still available - contact the office
Federation Quiz Final 16/10/2026	Alma House - teams will be notified via their WI secretary	n/a
Autumn Lunch 21/10/2026 12 noon for 12.30 pm	Oakdale Golf Club, Harrogate	7/10/2026
Soap Making Workshop with Rachel Hutton 27/10/26 & 28/10/26 10.30am to 3.30pm	Alma House	16/10/2026
Dabble Day 5/11/2026 10am to 4pm	Gargrave Village Hall	17/10/2026
Programme Planning Forum 14/11/26 10.30am to 1.30pm	Alma House	30/10/26
Food & Flowers 18/11/2026 10am to 3.45pm	Darley Memorial Hall	06/11/2026
Federation Carol Service 2/12/2026	Holy Trinity Church, Skipton	Details in October newsletter

Roadworks - access to Alma House

There are Gas Works planned resulting in closure of Low St Agnesgate from 24 August for 4 weeks. Alma House will be accessible by sign posted diversion routes.

WINNERS OF 200 CLUB DRAW

Congratulations to the winners of the August draw.

230 - Cononley WI - £30

107 - Carol Holden, Kirby Hill WI - £20

232 Christine Cope, Scriven WI - £10

The Federation Treasurer will be in touch about your prize

**If you have any Safeguarding issues, please contact
the office on 01765 606339**

Roadworks - access to Alma House

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Office closure dates

There are currently no planned closure dates



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



North Yorkshire West Federation has a new Instagram account
[https:// www.instagram.com/northyorkshirewestfederationwi/?g=5](https://www.instagram.com/northyorkshirewestfederationwi/?g=5)

Office Opening Times

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.

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