



North Yorkshire West Federation News



February 2024

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North Yorkshire West Federation

Spring Council 2024

At Hampsthwaite Memorial Hall HG3 2EJ

Wednesday 10th April

Ticket prices: Delegates: £27.50

Visitors £32.50

Prices include 2 course lunch, morning coffee on arrival and hot drink after lunch

Morning speakers— Ruth Packwood from Hope at Home—safe homes for survivors of slavery.

Afternoon Speaker –Alan Dediccoat, “The Voice of the Balls” and “Strictly Come Dancing”.



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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

NYWFWI Charity Reg. No. 1204475



As I write this report I am surrounded by white fields, northerly winds and outside temperatures of minus 7, and during the day bright sunshine, but amongst all this the spring bulbs are fighting conditions for survival.

This is very similar to the Federation, we are struggling to obtain more trustees, we are not the only federation to be undergoing this problem. I do appreciate that members are having to work longer because of the pension status or looking after grandchildren plus various other reasons which makes spare time limited, please if anyone does have time to spare and you would like to help the Federation progress into 2025 please email me on hjstoney48@gmail.com with your contact details and I will get in touch to answer any questions you may have.

I am pleased to inform you that as a result of the collection at the Federation carol service, we have raised an amazing total of £519.04—thank you to all who gave so generously, this is split between the Skipton Holy Trinity Church and Dementia Forward in four of our area branches.

As the bulbs spring into flower, the Federation has spring thoughts. There are various events planned, I do hope that they interest you, if they do not appeal, please let me know, then we can try to plan events that appeal.

I do hope to meet with you at the Spring Council Meeting on Wednesday April 10th, full details on the front cover of this newsletter, with all the information regarding other events on the back cover.

Best Wishes and please stay safe, if you know of anyone living on their own, please check on them to make sure that they are safe also. **Heather.**

200 Club

Please note that there was no 200 Club draw in January, there will be a double draw in February

Keep in touch!

It is great to read what all the WIs are up to. Please send your news to nywfw@btconnect.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.

Activities Committee Update by [Julie Clarke, j-a-clarke@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:j-a-clarke@hotmail.co.uk)



There is not much to report this month, except the following:

A quick reminder - do not forget the Nora Worth Competition - “make what you like from a 100g ball of wool” - full details in the September newsletter or can be found on our website, www.thewi.org.uk/northyorkshirewest. **The closing date is Friday 1st March when entries MUST be at Alma House.** The award will be presented at Spring Council on 10th April. Good luck with your entry.

Apologies but unfortunately we have had to cancel the Fashion Show as we only received 37 bookings and we had to guarantee three months prior to the event to the organisers that we would get 75 bookings, in order to avoid cancellation fees which we cannot afford.

Please note that the entry form for GYS exhibits will be in next month’s mailing together with the set recipe for the Tea Loaf.

Please note for the Log Cabin Patchwork Workshop run by Ann Starkey on 5th March, members are allowed to use Alma House Car Park as they will be bringing their sewing machines with them.

There will be more information to come in the March newsletter. **Julie**

Public Affairs—Janet Kazlauciusas—janet.kazlauciusas@gmail.com



Hello. Can you knit, sew, crochet or craft a green heart for the February Show the Love and Great Big Green Week campaigns? Send them to your MPs or wear them yourself to generate conversations and get involved in the climate campaign this spring. Download and sign the open letter for community groups to call on party leaders to commit to conversations with the UK public on how they plan to meet our commitments for action, from all corners of the UK, to tackle climate and nature crises. Use this link to download the letter https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/community-open-letter/?SQF_ORGANISATION=133.

I hope you all voted for the resolutions in January, this is the first round of voting and the results have been sent back to National who will now collate them and then send out the final voting selection for each WI to vote on and send back. The final selected resolution will then be voted on at the Annual Meeting in June. We will be holding a hybrid meeting at Alma House/Zoom on the 16th April for all delegates and members to attend to learn what goes on at the annual meeting and how to vote. Keep an eye on Federation News for further details on how to apply.

Public Affairs Report continued

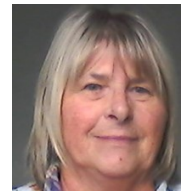
The Great Big Green Week this year is on the 8-16th June. Watch out for or organise your own actions, celebrations, workshops etc to spread the word on how much you care about climate and nature and encourage others to get involved.

Have you booked your tickets to my next Climate Workshop to be held on the 23rd March at Bishop Monkton village hall from 12.30 pm? I hope to see you there. Check out Federation News for more details on page 8.

Please note that National will not be organising a WI presence on the Million Women Rise march to be held on the 9th March in London.

Further information on all things climate change can be found on the My WI website, this is the link to it: <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk>. **Janet.**

Membership Support Team Report—Sue Earl Armstrong— sueearlarmwiadviser@gmail.com



As we look forward to more daylight and getting out and about, if you have done or seen something that you think other WIs might enjoy please let the office know and we can put this on our website for other WIs to see.

We will have had our first MCS workshop before this goes to press, and we have another on 29th February in Gargrave and at Bedale on the 19th April. I know these are afternoon events and if you need any help with MCs please contact the office we are more than happy to help. If anyone out there wishes to come along to one of our meetings to see what we do, maybe you have ideas that you would like to put forward. We are always open to suggestions.

We are flexible with times if you are working, we can do evening meetings or via zoom.

Just to let you know our Kathleen bird competition, in the December newsletter in my piece it said an article, senior moment this was meant to be a poster.

Thank you from the team - Angela, Jean, Moira, Sue Butters and myself. **Sue**

Don't forget our Kathleen Bird competition entries to be in by the 16th March 2024. At the Spring Council meeting on the 10th April 2024 these will be judged by your fellow members on the day. Good luck. Recruitment is the theme using inspiring text and ideas to make a poster for you own WI to get more members, I know a lot of you are doing this perhaps your ideas can be helpful to others



Events

FEBRUARY

Thursday 15th—Dabble Day at Embsay with Eastby Village Institute, 10.30 am for coffee, 10.45am to 3.30 pm. Cost £20.00. Closing date 31st January 2024.



Thursday 29th—Membership Communication System (MCS)- Your Opportunity To Voice Your Issues at Gargrave Village Hall, 1.30-3.30 pm. Cost £7.50 per member -MCS rep. Closing date 22nd February. Fee to be paid by your WI.



MARCH

Tuesday 5th—Log Cabin Patchwork at Alma House with Anne Starkey, 10.00am for coffee 10.30 am to 3.30 pm. Cost £20.00. Closing date 20th February.



Tuesday 12th—Cookery Demonstration by Julie Clarke “With Easter In Mind” at Arkendale Community Hall, doors open at 1.30 pm for coffee, 2.00 pm—4.00 pm. Cost £15. Closing date 27th February 2024.



Saturday 16th—Not Home-made but Handmade Workshop with Lesley Fidler at Alma House, 10.00 am for coffee, 10.30 am to 3.30 pm. Cost £20. Closing date 29th February.



Saturday 23rd—Climate Change Half Day at Bishop Monkton Village Hall, 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm. Cost £10, closing date 8th March.



APRIL

Wednesday 10th—Spring Council Meeting at Hampsthwaite Memorial Hall. Cost—Delegates £27.50, Visitors £32.50. Please see front page for more details.



Friday 19th—Membership Communication System (MCS) - Your Opportunity to Voice Your Issues at Bedale Hall drawing room, 2.00pm-4.30pm, Cost £7.50 per MCS Rep. Closing date 3rd April 2024. Fee to be paid by your WI.



Treasurer’s Report by Hazel Smyth, Federation Treasurer

Subscriptions

Please can you forward to the office any subscriptions paid in January for new members (January to March) as soon as possible, as National are keen to reconcile numbers by the end of March, and any other 23-24 subscriptions you have not paid over previously. Subscriptions 2024-25 due on 1st April 2024, please forward to the office any receipts in April by 30th April 2024.

Gift Aid Forms

A Gift Aid Declaration form covers **all future and the previous 4 years** subscriptions, therefore it is only new member/gift aid donators who need to complete the 2024 forms.

WI Members – remember to tell your Gift Aid Co-ordinator if your tax payments fall and therefore Gift Aid claims need to stop.

Treasurer's Report continued

WI Insurance

The WI Insurance renewal cost for 2024 remains at £21 per WI– renewal and payment details enclosed in the mailing. Our insurer for 2024 is NFU Mutual.

200 Club

Thank you for all the new/renewals - if you missed/forgot to purchase a new ticket/renew an existing one there are 11 draws left so you can still join just forward the payment of £10. **Please note there was no 200 Club draw in January, there will be a double draw in February.**

The WI Learning Hub – accessible as part of your WI Subscription

The WI Learning Hub set up by the Denman Trust is now available offering at <https://www.denman.org.uk/>:

Free courses accessible any time at zero cost - for email novices, wonder about buying/booking /searching the internet, documents and spreadsheets.

In depth Study courses – history and literature courses which take part of over an extended where you can become part of a group.

Live Courses – covering Craft, Environment and Nature, Food and Lifestyle, Talks and Interests, Business and training. **Hazel.**

AROUND THE WIS

Farnley Estate WI

Farnley Estate WI held its first meeting of the New Year on 10 January. It was a special meeting when the presidency of the group was handed from Susan Kerridge to Diane Hanline. Susan presided over Farnley Estate WI admirably for 4 years which included the difficult Covid years when members were brought together with Zoom meetings and an eagerly awaited monthly newsletter which Susan organised. It contained contributions from members about nature, poems and daily life. She was thanked for all her efforts and presented with a gift token.

The question of how Leeds City Council came to own one of the biggest parks in Europe, Roundhay Park, was also answered at the meeting. Henrietta Ryott, a WI member and the great, great granddaughter of Sir John Barran, gave an interesting talk about her ancestor and his life as a major Leeds clothing manufacturer in the nineteenth century. At its height his firm employed 3000 people. He was also mayor of Leeds and an MP for both Leeds and then Otley. Perhaps his **greatest** accolade, however, was his pivotal role in helping Leeds Council secure Roundhay Park for the citizens of Leeds. The talk was enhanced by two beautifully illustrated books presented to Sir John Barran at the end of his career by his staff and books about industrial Leeds with paintings of Leeds scenes. Members of Roundhay WI were welcomed to the meeting and were equally fascinated to hear about the origins of the park on their doorstep. Paula Scriven, Committee member.



Spofforth WI

Who would guess that premature babies and their mothers in the Neonatal unit at Leeds General Infirmary benefit from Spofforth WI (North Yorkshire), knitting group? This past year they have been knitting heart bonding squares which are knitted in pairs, one is placed with the baby in the incubator, and one is given to the mother to 'wear'. The squares are then swapped so mother and baby get to know each other's scent, thus helping with the bonding process whilst they are apart. The neonatal nurse in the unit is very grateful to the knitters as the mothers love these squares and are very appreciative of them. The knitting group also knit hearts in pairs, which are given to the bereaved at St James' Hospital, Leeds. One is for the family to keep and the other goes with the person who has passed away. This started during Covid and has continued as the families find it comforting. The Group has, for many years, also knitted squares, which are sewn together to make very colourful blankets. These are given to different organisations such as the homeless and as a comforter for those in need. Our most recent blankets and other knitted items such as hats and scarves, are being sent to Ukraine. We meet once a month for knitting, tea and biscuits and a chat - a great way to spend an afternoon! Sandra Dewey, Secretary, Spofforth WI.



Skipton Dalesway WI

Skipton with Stirton and Thorlby WI in December 2023 would have celebrated 60 years in the WI. Earlier in 2023 because they were diminishing in numbers they merged with Skipton Dalesway WI. At our monthly meeting in December we marked the occasion, when one of our members Sharon Webster made a lovely celebration cake. Rosa Procter, one of the founding members of Skipton with Stirton and Thorlby WI was able to join us in the evening and cut the cake. The evening concluded with entertainment from the Skipton Ukulele Club and a Christmas buffet provided by the members. An enjoyable celebration was had by all. Janet Harris, Secretary, Skipton Dalesway WI.



Sharow & District WI

Our January meeting began with an excellent talk by Bridget Taylor-Connor entitled 'The Bells of St. John's'. The St. John's referred to is our village church in Sharow that has recently had its bells and bell tower cleaned and refurbished so that the bells, which have been silent for some time, can now ring out. However, the talk was far more than just the story of Sharow and of how the bells and tower were cleaned and restored, and how the bell ringers were found. Bridget went into great detail about how the bells are rung, about the travelling bell ringers, and the different parts of a bell. Her talk was both interesting and fun - even including a game of 'what can you find in the sack?' all objects pertaining to bell ringing, which we then had to guess, or explain to other members. Work is still going on in St. John's bell tower, as is Bridget's 'Appeal for a peal'. She asked me to mention that she is willing to visit other WIs for a donation to her appeal. Contact: bellringing@sharow.church. Denise, President, Sharow WI.



**Membership Communication System (MCS) - Your Opportunity to
Voice Your Issues and Problems**

**Gargrave Village Hall Annexe on 29th February 2024 from 1.30pm-
3.30pm**

Bedale Hall on 19th April 2024 from 2.00pm-4.30pm

**Price £7.50 per MCS Representative from each WI - fee to be paid
by your WI**

Please see Events on page 5 for closing dates

Booking forms are with your Secretary

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP

23RD MARCH 2024

12.30 PM TO 3.30 PM

COST £10 The price includes Tea/Coffee biscuits.

BISHOP MONKTON VILLAGE HALL HG3 3TN.



COME ALONG TO OUR SECOND CLIMATE EVENT AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CLIMATE ISSUES. THE SPEAKERS ARE JAMES JOHNSON A LOCAL FARMER, THE ROTTERS DISCUSSING COMPOSTING, SAM O'BRIEN TALKING ABOUT FOOD AND TIM O'BRIEN TALKING ABOUT ENERGY AND PEOPLE. **BOOKING CLOSING DATE 8TH MARCH 2024. BOOKING FORM IS WITH YOUR SECRETARY.**

BACK BY SPECIAL REQUEST

**COOKERY DEMONSTRATION WITH EASTER IN MIND WITH JULIE
CLARKE**

On 12th March 2024, doors open at 1.30pm until 4.00pm

At Arkendale Community Hall, Arkendale, cost £15

Closing date 27th February

Booking form is with your Secretary