



North Yorkshire West Federation News

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

October 2025



All Materials
included
(...extra materials can
be purchased from the
tutors on the day)
**Bring a Packed
Lunch**

Join us for a Christmas Dabble Day!

Tuesday 4th November

Masham Town Hall, HG4 4DY

10.00am (Coffee) - Til 3.30pm

Choose two dabbles (& a reserve one) from:

Mini wreaths with
Sheila Carr

Watercolour Christmas Cards
with Gail Evans

Icicles & Snowflakes
with Pat Dunnill

Shredded Angels with
Sara Baldwin-Cole

Cost for the Day is £25

Booking Starts 1st September - Closing date 21st
October Quote Code 25A18Dabble

Remember it's not too late to book onto Christmas Food & Flowers at Darley Memorial Hall on 13th November . Booking closes 24th October. Please see your Secretary for the booking form or contact the office.

Chairman's Notes



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

Your WI monthly meetings don't happen by magic.

Your committees and officers work throughout the year to provide your programme so as we move into the Autumn when committees come up for renewal – please consider putting your “hand up” rather than “looking down” when nominations are requested.

I was a new committee member once with no experience but was supported by advice from past officer holders – it was challenging but rewarding. Help and advice is always available from Alma House too.

My tip for saving washing up for hostesses – ask members to bring their own cup/saucer/ mug and plate and then hostesses would only have the visitors ones to sort.

Enjoy your meetings, **Hazel**

Board of Trustees Meeting on 6th October 2025 at 6.00 pm Hybrid Meeting

We are aware that not everyone can attend meetings during the day therefore we are trying different times for the Board meetings to provide an opportunity for more members to attend. We hope to widen the pool of people who may consider being a Trustee in the future.

If you would like to join the meeting please contact the office either in person or via Zoom.

Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) - “Pennies for Friendship”

A reminder that currently we don't have a representative actively promoting our association with this organisation which supports rural projects around the world – if you are interested - contact Hazel Smyth. We are enclosing a Hungarian Goulash recipe from ACWW in the posted mailing.

Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers: Action Pack Launch

Whether you're looking to learn CPR, run a fundraising event, or increase local **defibrillator** knowledge, this pack gives you everything you need to get involved and make a difference. Members can download an electronic copy of the Action Pack at <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/public-affairs-and-campaigns/current-campaigns/bystanders-can-be-lifesavers/BCBL-Action-Pack-Digital.pdf>

Members can request paper copies by completing the form available on [MyWI](#) or emailing pa@nfwi.org.uk.

Learn First Aid: Free Workshop for Adults

In support of our resolution we have been advised that the British Red Cross are able to provide practical first aid training workshop, available both online and face-to-face. See this link for individual and group bookings <https://www.redcross.org.uk>.

Membership Team Report

Sue Earl Armstrong sueearlarmwiadviser@gmail.com



My WI and WI Learning Hub

I have been asked to bring to your attention all the benefits you can access on your iPad, laptop or phone. MyWI is a member information portal that gives you a host of information about the running of your WI, ongoing resolutions and what you can do to enhance your WI. The WI Learning Hub is free to all members, with subjects ranging from history, literature and crafts you can try, yoga and so much more. If you haven't accessed this yet, just go onto My WI to find out more; there is a helpful video to show you how to sign in. If you have any issues, check with your MCS rep to see if your email address is correct. If you have changed your email address, please let them know or get in touch with the office.

Forums at Alma House

We will be holding a **Social Media** forum at Alma House on **Tuesday 14th October 6.30 to 9.00 pm** - you do not have to be an officer to attend - this is for any WI member.

We are aware that some members have work or other commitments which mean they are unable to attend events during the day and as a result we are trying to be more flexible and plan events to accommodate this.

On **Saturday 15th November from 1.30 pm to 4.00pm**, we will be holding a **Programme Planning** event at Alma House, with information that will help you liven up your WI programme and help attract new members. You do not have to be an officer of your WI – this is open to any member.

Parking is available in the lower car park at Sainsburys and is a reasonable price. If you have a disability, come along with a fellow member who can drop you off at the door and collect you after the event. Although these forums are open to any member, due to Health and Safety we have limited attendance to two members per WI.

Updated Constitution

In the latest WI Life, pages 37-39 there is a useful update on the biggest changes to the Constitution, which is helpful as it summarises the main points and what that means for you and the WI. Don't forget, you can get more information on MyWI.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Sue Earl- Armstrong, Sue Butters, Niki Rutland and Hazel Smyth
Membership team

Membership Contact System(MCS) Updates

Have you moved, stopped having a landline and only use a mobile phone, changed email address you want to use for WI – let your MCS rep know so your details can be updated.

MCS reps please ensure that the "tick" to show paid 2025 subs is correct as un-ticked members may not receive WI Life magazine or access MyWI or WI Learning Hub.

Activities Update

Sara Baldwin-Cole, sarabaldwincole@outlook.com



Well, what a year so far... there have been some super well attended Federation organised events, so much so that we've had to add in some extra dates (wire flowers workshop)...and we are so pleased to see a lot of new attendees getting involved and enjoying meeting up with other institutes.

As I write this, I'm reading some lovely positive feedback from the group that went to Leeds yesterday for the Thackray Museum of Medicine and a "retail therapy" trip to White Rose. Having institutes scattered all over a wide geographical area (over 2000 square miles) does create a few logistical challenges for our events, especially when we arrange transport, but the satisfaction of not having a stressful drive or parking costs does add to the grand day out feeling of an organised trip.

We still have places for Food and Flowers at Darley, the Gargrave afternoon talk and competition, our Christmas Dabble in Masham and our Federation Carol Service in Ripon is open for booking...yes I've said the C word! So, in the meantime do enjoy the onset of Autumn, it's so nice to wear jumpers again! **Toodle Pip, Sara B-C**



Bainbridge WI
invites you to a

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Local handmade crafts and cakes
Saturday, 8th November 2025
Bainbridge Village Hall
10.00am – 4.00pm

Come and buy your Christmas gifts, decorations
and so much more!
Linger a while – refreshments on sale

Free entry and a free cup of mulled wine

www.bainbridgewi.com bainbridgewi@gmail.com
Facebook: Bainbridge WI- Inspiring Women



**Alma House - Ripon Civic Society
Green Plaque**

Friday 19 Sept saw the unveiling by John Parker, Chair of Trustees, of Alma House and Ripon Civic Society of a green plaque telling the history of Alma House. We entertained them to tea and cake in the WI Office after the unveiling.

What's on In Your Federation—don't forget to book your place!

NOVEMBER



Tuesday 4th

Christmas Dabble Day at Masham Town Hall, 10.00 am to 3.30 pm, cost £25 including materials. Booking Form is with your Secretary. Closing date 21st October.

Thursday 13th

Christmas Food & Flowers at Darley Memorial Hall, 10.00 am to 3.30 pm, cost £32.50 including lunch. Booking Form is with your Secretary. Closing date 24th October.

DECEMBER



Wednesday 3rd

Federation Carol Service at Allhallowgate Methodist Church from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Cost £3.50, including refreshments and mince pies. Guests and children welcome. Booking form is in the mailing. Booking start date 1st October, closing date 19th November.

Please note, the Fused Glass Workshop which was planned for November has been cancelled. Apologies for any disappointment.

Federation Day Trip to Thackray Museum and White Rose Shopping Centre on 6th September 2025

The day began early from Ingleton with our 1st passenger, then on to Leyburn and then on to Bedale and then picked up several WI groups, starting in Leyburn and then on to Bedale and Ripon. It was a fabulous little black mini coach with blacked out windows and plush seats; we were like a group of WI Celebrities.

It gets better because the Museum was only open to us and so we had plenty of access to everything. Of course we started with cake, tea and coffee and then explored the museum which was over 2 floors with lots to see. One of our members was a retired nurse and midwife, so she was able to share her knowledge with us when we were looking at some of the surgical instruments. We had a laugh with the shape shifting mirrors - well I did and we had just the right time there without feeling rushed.

Back on our celebrity bus and off to the White Rose Shopping centre. There were lots of shops and a fabulous large M&S you could spend all day in. We had lunch there, which involved technical skills with buttons - you can't get away from technology! Then just enough time to browse and a few treats for some of us. Well I bought a new dress and my friend bought black sparkly ankle boots. Oo la la! It was a fantastic day out.

Pammie Day - Richmond WI

Around the WIs

Follifoot WI

This August the ladies of the Follifoot WI invited Yorkshire Ballet Institute Principal, Lucy Emery, to come and give us a masterclass.

With village hall chairs acting as our barre, we took our places down the hall and followed Lucy's instructions through some easy exercises and positions. Through 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions, bending our knees into plié and stretching legs into tendu, watching Lucy like hawks and trying hard to keep hands and arms in their appropriate 'bras' positions, an elegant oval shape in front or moving overhead. The concentration in the hall was palpable and time flew until we were finally doing gentle stretches to unwind.

Having only heard Lucy's gentle instructions, music and the swish of feet across the floor for a while, the hubbub after the class was amazing as everyone applauded Lucy and said how much they'd enjoyed it. For some members it awoke childhood ballet memories and for others it was a first experience, but everyone thought it was something they'd like to do again.

Jan Mackaness, Follifoot WI.



Melsonby WI—80th Birthday Celebration

Melsonby WI had an exciting week celebrating their 80th birthday since their establishment in 1945. On Sunday Reverend Caroline Pinchbeck led a service, including the dedication of a wall hanging, with hymns and readings selected by WI members. Over the past year most of the members have contributed to embroidering the items on the hanging which shows the range of activities in the church and village. Instead of their normal meeting, a birthday party was held in the church, with most members wearing a very individual selection of glamorous hats. They were joined by Hazel Smyth (Chair of NYWFWI), Julie Clarke (former Chair) and Helen Smith (Secretary of NYWFWI), former members of Melsonby WI and representatives from Richmond, Swale and Oresome Copper Belles WIs. Everyone was welcomed by Valerie Cook (President of Melsonby WI) and enjoyed good food and drink and a special cake which was made by Lesley Wilson and cut by Norma Ditchburn, who has been a member for 36 years. There was a great deal of reminiscing and chatting over a rolling photographic display of historic and more recent events in the WI's history, a board of memories and WI artefacts.

Judith Stansfield, Melsonby WI



200£ CLUB DRAW £

Congratulations to the following who have won these prizes

130—Pam Myers, Richmond WI £30

156 Lesley Manser, Ripon Centre WI £20

192—Nicola Bowden, Threshfield & Linton WI

Around the WIs continued

Glasshouses WI

Glasshouses WI advertised in the Federation Newsletter that Baker Mike was going to be their guest providing an evening of baking with Bero Recipes He was going to demonstrate six bakes, whilst chatting through the history of the recipes. What a fun evening it was, which epitomised two of the WI values - Fun and Friendship. Members came from Hellifield, Harrogate, Hampsthwaite, Grewelthorpe and Summerbridge



Baker Mike was a wonderful raconteur who kept us entertained with how he learnt his baking skills alongside his mother. He explained how recipes had changed over the years but did come back in popularity - a bit like fashion. There were many grimaces when he talked about baking with lard! The recipes were from post war books which are still in the more up to date copies, they included raspberry buns & coffee kisses.

He was extremely well prepared and organised, recipes were pre-weighed. When ready for baking these were passed to the president and secretary to bake (I don't think this is in their job description!), the biggest challenge was the use of an industrial oven on what was the hottest evening of the year. They were magnificent and lived to tell the tale

At the end of the demonstration, in true WI fashion tea was served and all attendees sampled all the bakes.

Baker Mike had asked in advance for members to bring any copies of Bero recipe books- prizes were given to various categories which included, the oldest- over 100 years, the most well used- judged by the state of the pages! Congratulations must go to Glasshouses WI, it was a brilliant evening, lots of laughter and baking – WI necessities all for £5. Well done and a huge thank you from all the attendees.



Heather Stoney Summerbridge WI

Bainbridge WI

Bainbridge WI have begun celebrating the first WI in the UK. Our garden group made an Open garden scheme visit to Jervaulx Hall. All agreed it was a wonderful afternoon with many acres to stroll around among woods, beautiful trees, flowers and vegetables plus sculptures to admire around every hedge or corner. Here we are after enjoying some delicious cakes and a cups of tea or coffee. We're all looking forward to our monthly meeting when we're looking forward to celebrating with as many members as possible sharing themed cup cakes and Prosecco:) There's more celebrating to come and we'll be adding appliques for each of our groups as we go:)



From the left: Nicola Robinson, Raewyn Parkinson, Sue Stokes, Gill Flowers , Claire Lambert, Susan Freer (organiser) and Mary Scarr. **Sue Stokes, Bainbridge WI.**

The poster features a festive background with a red gradient, white snowflakes, and several large, shiny gold Christmas baubles. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical layout on the right side of the image.

**Federation Carol
Service**

**On Wednesday 3rd
December 2025**

From 2 pm to 4 pm

**At Allhallowgate
Methodist Church
HG4 1LG**

**Cost £3.50 including
refreshments and a
mince pie**

**Guests & children
welcome**

**Booking start date 1st October, closing date 19th November. Please quote code
25F08Ca when booking. Cost includes a charge for use of the chapel. Collection
will be donated to British Heart Foundation**



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



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

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www.thewi.org.uk/northyorkshirewest**

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.**

Office closed on Thursday 16th October.