



North Yorkshire West Federation News



May 2025

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Membership Training Workshops

Save these Dates!

Presidents & Secretaries – Gargrave
Friday 16th May 6.30 – 9pm

Treasurers & MCS Reps – Alma House
Tuesday 27th May 6.30 – 9pm

Treasurers & MCS Reps – Gargrave
Tuesday 6th June 6.30 – 9pm

Treasurers & MCS Reps – Masham
Tuesday 24th June 6.30 – 9pm

These workshops are free and a great way to meet the membership team & other WI stakeholders

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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

Membership Report



Sue Earl Armstrong sueearlarmwiadviser@gmail.com

Firstly, thank you to the ladies that attended our President's and Secretaries workshop at Alma House last month, the feedback from you was very positive. Our next workshop is on the 29th April in Masham and booking forms are available on the Federation website if you haven't seen one. Then we are at Gargrave on the 16th May

Our Treasures and MCS workshops start in May, the first one is at Alma house on the 27th followed by 6th June at Gargrave and 24th June at Masham.

We looking to hold Gift Aid, social media and programme planning later in the year so watch out for dates in the newsletter.

Meanwhile if you have any queries no matter how small please contact the office Helen will forward on your request to one of our WI Advisers.

Thank you again for your support **Sue and the team.**

Getting Ready for Great Yorkshire Show



It's time to be getting organised for this years show, we hope the schedule for the Exhibition area has inspired you to participate so the area will show off what talented members we have, this year's "Special Class" has been incorporated to highlight the wide variety of crafts our members complete.

The set recipe which you all enjoy - in actual fact is Mary Berry's Crunchy Top Lemon Cake , so if you Google her you'll find useful tips and those who work in metric the quantities are in both.

Thinking of the Cafe Section there was such a tremendous response earlier when we asked for your support so please get you're applications in by the 13th June on this year's form and you can indicate what job you have done in the past. Those who have never been to help before could indicate your preference. At the Thankyou Party last year some of you volunteered accommodation for members living distances away and if they could stay locally would complete more than one day, so if you could offer accommodation can you please let Helen in the Office know, alternately if you are a member wanting accommodation will you too let Helen know either by phone 01765 606339 or email nywfw24@gmail.com so we can try and accommodate all requests.

Let us hope we have another successful show with a full Exhibition highlighting what talented members we have and the Cafe and Cart offering delights to satisfy the customers. Thankyou in anticipation, **Julie.**

SPRING COUNCIL 2025 on 12th April at Tennants Garden Rooms



A Grand Day Out

What a fabulous day we all had on the 12th, over 300 WI ladies from all corners of NYWF gathered on a beautiful sunny day to talk business and be entertained. We started off with the business: Julie Clarke (Chair) presented the trustees report (a copy of which is available for you to read). Requests for more volunteers to help at The Great Yorkshire Show. As Julie is stepping down as Chair this year grateful thanks were given for all she has done during her tenure. Hazel Smyth (Treasurer) presented the financial report (a copy of which is available for you to read). Hazel asked us to sign up for Gift Aid, if applicable. Also, when doing a bank transfer to WI or Federation, details are important, as many details as possible in the reference box and your name, saves a lot of time trying to work out who the money is from and for what. It was proposed and seconded to continue to use the current financial auditors. Both the trustees report and the financial reports were proposed and seconded.

The first speaker was Susan Laurie from School Readers gave a very thought-provoking talk about the need for volunteers to help with children's reading some statistics: 1 in 7 adults are functionally illiterate. Approximately half the prison population have a reading age of under 11. 1 in 3 children read for pleasure. Approximately 2 million reading sessions have been delivered since 2013. 113 volunteers in Yorkshire within 63 registered schools. To volunteer with this amazing charity, go to www.schoolreaders.org Spread the word, it's so important for our children's future. A suggested donation of £40 would be so helpful to support the current volunteers if you are unable to volunteer yourself.

Valerie Welti, the second speaker, gave a hugely informative and interesting presentation on the history of women in policing. Having no connection to The Police Service herself, she became interested in certain woman and their influences. Some of the women were Margaret Damer Dawson, Nina Boyle, Dorothy Peto and Edith Smith all of whom were influential throughout the last century, google them! The first policewomen were women of independent means, providing their own uniforms and this therefore excluded the working class. During and after the suffragette movement many women thought women should policewomen thus reducing much of the violence in policing (against women) at the time. In the early days of WPS, women were 'unsworn' and therefore couldn't arrest anyone, some training was eventually funded and women in society were gradually accepting women police representatives. They did long shifts and had their own hierarchy within the WPS, separate to the men's ranks, allowing them to gain promotions. **Continued on next page**

Spring Council report continued

Eventually the government gradually realised the need for women police and offered £2-3 payment. In about 1918 women had justified in their existence but criticism was never far away, and the women were often accused of being too educated!

In the early days it was a very male orientated job with women not allowed to attend certain courts as the women were perceived to be too delicate. After Armistice Day some forces had a permanent WPS but after WW2 government spending was drastically reduced and many were disbanded. From 1904-1988 there were great improvements in the role, recruitment, uniform, criteria to join, eg younger women, married women were now not exempt. In 1949 first Chief Superintendent of Metropolitan Police (Elizabeth Bather), 1995 female Chief of Lancashire Police (Pauline Clark) and in 1968 the first black woman constable (Sislan Fay Allen) joined the Metropolitan Police, in 2007 first woman openly LGBT to be appointed Commissioner (Cressida Dick) to the Metropolitan Police. Worth researching further, we take policing in our times for granted.

After lunch there were presentations of awards, certificates and the Ella Pullan and Rose Bowl awards. We were then entertained by the beautiful, charismatic Reverend Kate Bottley. What a character, she had us all in stitches and latterly moved to tears with tales of her life; upbringing education, finding love (and faith almost on the same day!), navigating herself through life's trials and tribulations, new parishes, new career opportunities (can you believe its 10 yrs since gogglebox?), new ways to share her faith in whatever she does. Needless to say, we attendees for Ripon Belles all agreed we'd be one of her flock in a blink. Oh, she has a new book out too, another thing to Google. **Christine McKay, Ripon Belles WI.**

The Rose Bowl award for institutes that started with less than 30 members was awarded to Richmond WI. The Ella Pullan Award for institutes that started with more than 30 members was awarded to Masham WI.

Memorial Bursaries Fund

The following WIs were awarded bursaries at Spring Council of £50 to be used against any Federation event or workshop up to 30 April 2026

Airton, Cononley, Bishop Monkton, Skipton Dalesway, Killinghall, Bedale Belles, Austwick, Hampsthwaite, Scriven, Arkendale.

200 £ CLUB DRAW £

Congratulations to the following who have won these prizes

1st prize—£100—138, Alma Doughty, Richmond WI

2nd prize—£50—83, Liz Lord, Killinghall WI

3rd prize—£25—108, Oresome Copper Belles WI

1st Prize

£100

Applique Workshop Held on 18th March at Alma House



Once again Anne Starkey came up with some unusual pieces of work that we could make. Her design of snowdrops was very fitting due to it being cold and icy the day that we made them. Then her wild flower design had us hoping for some sunshine. Anne demonstrated how to cut the material on the bias so we could make stems that would bend into natural shapes easily and then showed us how to make the flowers using either freezer paper or Vilene so that the shapes were stable and could then be hand sewn on the back ground fabric. Although none of us managed to finish our pieces we were able to take away the tips and tricks to enable us to finish the pieces at home. Anne's workshops are always very informative and great fun to attend. **Sheila Carr, Threshfield & Linton WI.**

Around the WIs

On a chilly Wednesday evening we had a very warm welcome to Follifoot Park Riding Centre from Julie, Morag and the team. We began our evening with a tour of the stables and facilities at Follifoot Park. Julie told us how the riding centre now has over 30 stables, an indoor and outdoor school and a forge, which is the base for farrier husband Chris. During the tour we met some of the horses and ponies, including adorable Tinkerbell the Shetland pony! Morag then told us all about Follifoot Park Disabled Riders Group and how the group became an independent charity in 1994, and has 150 volunteers and 120 riders aged 3-80 with a range of disabilities. She explained how the movement of the horse replicates the movement of walking, so provides wonderful physiotherapy for riders with mobility issues and for wheelchair users, being up high on a horse gives them the opportunity to see the world from a different perspective. Each rider has a horse specifically chosen for them to ride according to their height, weight and ability. If horse riding is not suitable for an individual, there is also the option of carriage driving or riding the mechanical horse. Riders are mainly local. The charity has an annual gymkhana which is the highlight of the year, and this gives riders the chance to compete in fun based activities and win rosettes. A patron of the charity holds a picnic each year for volunteers and riders at their house and this is also attended by some of the horses! At the end of the evening it was time for some fun and members had the chance to ride Storm the mechanical horse. Volunteers don't need to be horsey and 2 hours a week is all that is required to make a difference. For each riding session three volunteers are required per rider, plus ride leaders and coordinators to ensure each rider is safe. Being a volunteer is a very fulfilling role and new volunteers are always required. It's a great way to meet new friends and help enrich lives. The group are always in need of donations and welcome companies to nominate them as their chosen charity. If you would like to donate or volunteer please contact admin@follifootparkdrg.org.uk
Jayne Kiddie, Follifoot WI.





Walk, Talk and Lunch with the Calendar Girls on 26th March 2025



The recent walk, lunch and talk on 26th March with the original Calendar Girls of Rylstone WI was an excellent day in every respect.

All attending were welcomed by Julie Clarke and her team to Linton Memorial Hall with coffee and biscuits. 44 of us headed off across the fields, which were starting to fill with sheep and their newborn lambs, so we were very mindful to close all gates behind us. We were ably led by Rachel Smith and her high-vis ladies from Coverdale WI. The halfway point was for a short stop at St Michael and All Angels Church, Linton by the River Wharfe and then a quick detour to view the Linton Falls. Despite little recent rain, they were still impressive. We then returned across the fields over a disused railway line and passed Threshfield Primary School, we headed back into Linton completing a walk of around 4 miles. The weather was perfect, sunshine all the way. Whilst a few more members had stayed in the hall to complete a Calendar Girls themed quiz, we all tucked into our soup and sweet lunch together. Roast pepper and tomato or mushroom or lentil soups, followed by mango roulade or lemon cheesecake sweets, all delicious and all homemade by Federation trustees and helpers.

After tea or coffee, we were ready to hear from four of the original Calendar Girls, Trish, Angela, Beryl and Ros, who were there to tell us about the idea of their "alternative calendar" conceived in 1999 and published for the year 2000. Now 25 years on from that most famous calendar, we were given a potted history of events with many funny and heartwarming tales arising from its publication together with the film and stage show which followed. All four ladies spoke warmly of what it meant to each of them to raise such significant amounts of money for Leukaemia UK and now Blood Cancer UK. Up to the present time, their efforts have raised over £6M towards research and development and will no doubt have saved many lives as a result. We congratulate them all for being so brave doing this in Angela's husband John's memory. All WI members present showed their admiration and appreciation to these 'girls' 25 years on and to see the very close and strong friendship bond they still have to this day was lovely. Our grateful thanks to Julie and her team for organizing a superb day in the dales. **Claire Lambert, Bainbridge WI**



Rag Rug
Workshop on 8th
April at Alma
House



I was really pleased to get a place on the Rag Rug workshop as there were only 8 places available. The first thing you noticed was an array of beautiful and colourful completed 'rag rugs' made by Mary Cooper who was our tutor for the day. We were welcomed with a cuppa kindly made for us by Sara Baldwin-Cole who was hosting Mary on behalf of the Federation. On the tables sat little baskets, one for each of us, containing an array of items to assist us in our rag rug making efforts.

There was also a huge pile of fabric strips made out of tee shirt fabric.

After introducing herself Mary began by explaining the concept of making a rag rug and the huge part this craft plays in her life. She then went on to tell us how the pieces of fabric could be woven into any pattern you wish. Old tee shirt fabric is used as it doesn't fray; which not only means your rug stays stable but you are recycling. Mary takes inspiration for her designs from many things she sees around her that catch her eye. She will take a photograph or copy it and then draw it, freehand, onto the hessian.

The first stage was to hem the piece of hessian on all four sides to prevent it fraying. She then drew rows on the hessian to guide us with the linear pattern. She demonstrated to us, individually, how to push the fabric through with the help of a dolly peg. This is a tool made by Mary by cutting off one of the peg legs and lightly sanding it down so there are no rough edges; this leaves a pointed remaining leg to push the fabric through the hessian, genius.

Apart from Mary checking on us all throughout, the room became almost silent as each one of us concentrated on the task in hand. We were all carried away with this surprisingly mindful, relaxing and enjoyable activity; so much so that we all went past the break time for lunch. All the participants thoroughly enjoyed the day and went away with a sense of achievement; each one very enthusiastic about continuing the rug at their leisure.

We all went home with the little baskets of sewing items and a bag of tee shirt strips, ALL cut by Mary. This was a brilliant workshop to attend and a massive thank you to Mary for sharing her skill with us. A hugely talented lady. **Moira George, Ripon Belles WI.**

What's on In Your Federation

APRIL

Tuesday 29th—Presidents & Secretaries Meeting at Masham Town Hall from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Closing date 22nd April. Free workshop. Booking form is with your Secretary.



MAY

Friday 2nd—60s Fashion Evening with Meredith Towne at Kettlesing Village Hall doors open at 6.30 pm. From 7.00pm to 9.30pm. Cost £25 for members, £30 for guests. Closing date 21st April Booking form is with your Secretary.



Friday 16th— Presidents & Secretaries Meeting at Gargrave Village Hall from 6.30pm to 9.00pm. Closing date 9th May. Free workshop. Booking form is with your Secretary.



Wednesday 21st—Food Hygiene online course at Alma House, from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. Cost £10.50 to Federation, £10.50 + VAT for the online course. Closing date 9th May. Booking form is with your Secretary.



Wednesday 21st— Trip to Drum Machine at Sowerby Bridge then Hebden Bridge. Cost £35 members/£40 guests. Closing date 14th May. Booking form is with your Secretary.

Tuesday 27th—Treasurers and MCS meeting at Alma House from 6.30pm to 9.00pm. Closing date 20th May. This is a free workshop. Booking form is with your Secretary.



JUNE



Wednesday 4th—National Annual Meeting event at Alma House from 10.00am until 4.00pm. There is no charge for delegates, visitors will be charged £5 to cover the costs of refreshments. Lunch and refreshments will be served. Please ring the office to book a place



Friday 6th— Treasurers & MCS Reps workshop at Gargrave Village Hall from 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm. Free meeting. Booking form is with your Secretary.



Thursday 19th—Trip to Littlethorpe Manor Gardens. Refreshments from 10.00 am, garden tour at 10.30 am. Cost £17. **Priority will given to members on the waiting list.** Closing date 6th June. Booking form is with your Secretary.



Tuesday 24th —Watercolours Improvers with Gail Evans at Gargrave Village Hall from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. Cost £12 plus £5 materials. Closing date 13th June. Booking form is with your Secretary.



Tuesday 24th— Treasurers & MCS Reps workshop at Masham Town Hall, from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm. This is a free workshop. Closing 13th June. Booking form is with your Secretary.

Thursday 26th—Watercolours Improvers with Gail Evans at Alma House from 10.00 am to 3.00pm. Cost £12 & £5 materials. Closing date 13th June. Booking form is with your Secretary



HIGH PRIORITY THIS MONTH

Your WI must vote

on the resolution

Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers at your May Meeting



Full details of the briefing notes were sent in the March mailing from National WI to your Secretary.

Helen is in the process of contacting all delegates to let them have the contact details of all the Secretaries in the WI group which they will be representing. Delegates need to contact their WI groups no later than 23rd May. This is so that delegates can vote on your behalf at the Annual Meeting on 4th June 2025.

Companies Act Meeting NFWI

Your WI has also been sent details in the March mailing of the vote on National Federation's proposed constitutional changes. Your delegate will vote on this on your behalf at the first meeting on 4th June.

NYWFWI General Meeting

Provided the constitutions are approved, then North Yorkshire West Federation WI needs to adopt the new CIO constitution and this will be done by a vote in the General Meeting after the NFWI Annual Meeting. We are holding this meeting on the same day to save WIs having to attend another legal meeting.