North Yorkshire West Federation WI

Newsletter November 2026

Federation Carol Service

Wednesday 2nd December 2 pm to 4 pm

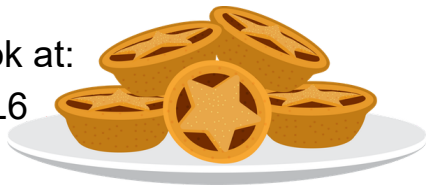
Holy Trinity Church, Skipton BD23 1NJ

£5 per person (under 16s are free) - includes coffee/tea and a mince pie

Visitors including children are welcome



Booking form is with your secretary or book at:
https://forms.gle/RvHVGN5b9yYaSMhL6





Programme Planning Forum

Saturday 14th November

10.30 am to 1.30 pm, Alma House, HG4 1NG

Meet up with members of other WIs to share ideas and learn about exciting and interesting ways to attract existing and new members with a varied and dynamic programme that will appeal to everyone. **It's a free event!!**
Open to all members - please book via your secretary or direct with the office.

Chair's Notes

by Hazel Smyth web.nwyorkswi@yahoo.co.uk
Telephone 07495 362525



Firstly, an apology to all those members who have not been able to attend the Autumn Lunch - we totally underestimated the appeal and the venue was unable to accommodate more than 100 but see Sara's Activities section for plans for a future event.

Secondly, it is AGM season, when some committee and team members may decide to step down and new volunteers are needed. Please consider helping to organise your WI meetings. Sharing the tasks keeps your WI running smoothly and prevents the work from falling to the same few people while others enjoy the evening.

National AGM 2027

Thursday 3 June 2027 at Connexin Live, Hull

We are contacting the WI's who are due to provide a delegate to represent their group of WI's at this meeting. There will also be the option for members to attend as observers in person or on-line - booking information will be included with the **December Newsletter**

Great Yorkshire Show

Thank you to all who were able to contribute to the show in 2026 either by planning, cleaning, catering, creating in yarn or just spending on food. We appreciate all the feedback received both positive and negative.

The board has made the decision to instigate **GYS 2027 committee** to make arrangements for the show and I am in the process of contacting members of the 2026 committee. I am also looking for volunteers who wish to help in the planning for 2027 - please let the office know if you want to be involved.

Hazel Smyth – GYS Chair 2026

Treasurer notes

by Helen Davison helendavison05@gmail.com



200 Club Subscriptions

Be in it to win it!

Tickets for the 2027 draws are now on sale at a cost of £10 for 12 monthly draws. There are 10 draws with prizes of £30, £20 and £10, and 2 **super-draws** with prizes of £100, £50 and £25.

Lots of ways to enter:

- Members and WIs who have had tickets for 2026 will be contacted directly by email.
- Use the form in this month's mailing.
- Download a form from the Federation website.
- Contact the office directly

Don't miss out!

Activities Update

by Sara Baldwin-Cole sarabaldwincole@outlook.com



It is definitely Autumn now, and thankfully we have green fields again after our very dry summer, and with the leaves turning, it is jolly nice to be back in jumpers and socks!

And as we approach the end of this year we have a calendar of lovely Federation events planned for you in 2027 which I will share with you in the December newsletter.

The first craft event is a beginners bookbinding day at Alma House, and the booking details are now with your secretary OR you can book directly with the office by email.

I've mentioned Autumn and that brings me onto the Autumn Lunch which in a positive way has been hugely popular in that 170 ladies applied to join us, but unfortunately we could only offer 100 places (the venue was unable to expand the space on this occasion). Julie Clarke & I had the awful task of working out how to reduce the numbers fairly and avoid a deluge of emails relisting attendees, menu choices and the practicality of lifts planned etc. There was no simple way to just limit the numbers per WI to a minimum of 3 or 4 to get down to 100. So we opted for a ballot by WI not by individual attendee.
This has brought up the subject of "surely we should have been chosen as first come first served?" It appears that most WIs don't recall that we abandoned such a system ten years ago. Principally because of when WIs meet and when information of WI events are shared. As it regularly meant that those meeting later in the month often missed out on being able to book anything if speedy booking was required. A start and closing date were introduced, and on the few occasions of an overbooking we have had to use the ballot system at the booking closing date.

However, we are now in a new world where increasing numbers of members book their own attendance directly with the office, or on our trial online booking system, and yet some still rely on secretaries filling in forms and posting them or emailing them in. But it is time to review our process without alienating those few members that are not IT savvy, and we would love to hear your thoughts on a better way to be fair to all members who want to join in.

We have apologised to the 8 WIs that submitted attendees for the Autumn Lunch in varying numbers that we had to disappoint, and most were very understanding.

We have asked Caroline Hawley to redo her talk at a lunch on 23rd February in Harrogate. This will be an easy park venue (free on the day), with minimal fear of inclement February weather up a dale preventing attendance. We will on this occasion offer first dibs to the disappointed WIs and there will be no limits on the places available. We are just waiting to confirm that Caroline is not required for shooting Bargain Hunt that day. We will be sending out the final details to you all as soon as we can. We trust that you understand our challenge to be fair always.

Save that date!

Membership Team Update

by Sue Earl Armstrong sueearlarmwiadviser@gmail.com



Hello to you all. Moving into Autumn, the colours are amazing as we travel around our areas.
The Membership team are looking forward to next year and are already planning our forums. We really do appreciate your time in attending our forums; we aim to help all our WIs with the running of their WIs, no two are alike and that is why we are so unique in our Federation.
We are running just one Programme planning forum this year as there is a lot to cover and the different aspects to look at. We are holding this at Alma House through the day on Saturday 14th November. It would be great to to see at least two members from each WI; they do not have to be on the committee/team to see what it's all about. We are here to help you run your WIs and having an interesting programme is always good for your members and potential new members. I look forward to seeing you on the 14th of November.

We are starting 2027 with a Treasurers and Gift Aid Forum on Saturday 27th February at Alma House. We are planning other venues for our forums around the Federation, and we will try to please as many of the WI's as we possibly can.
Hope to see you soon, if you need any help or support please contact Helen Smith at the office; she can pass you onto a member of our team to assist you.
Many thanks, Membership Team

Around the WIs

Sharow & District WI

At the October meeting our members got crafty and a little bit messy (well some got very messy!) with botanical printing, using paint and a wonderful variety of leaves to create their own unique designs.

There was plenty of experimenting, lots of colourful results and of course plenty of chatting and laughter along the way!

A big thank you to Carole Willis for sharing this lovely craft with us and inspiring us to have a go.

Who knew leaves could be so much fun?!
Andria Denton.









Around the WIs

The Follifoot WI Ladies in Leather Calendar is now on sale!
All proceeds to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance



Following it's launch last Saturday at the Follifoot Cricket Club, the Follifoot WI Ladies in Leather 2027 calendar is now on sale. The idea for the calendar came about over a post-WI outing supper and a discussion as to how to attract new members to the village WI, raise some money and have some fun. Follifoot WI member Linda Oldridge had the inspired idea of 'Ladies in Leather' (LiL's), a collaboration among our members, Linda's biker husband and his fellow motorcyclists. As Linda's own brother's life had been saved by the Yorkshire Air Ambulance (YAA) following a near fatal motorbike accident three years ago, the choice of charity for the project was a very easy one and one which was unanimously accepted by all of the LiL's.



Within days, photographer Ian Marshall of Scarlet Ribbon Photography had offered his services free of charge. Within two weeks enough support was gained from generous local businesses and villagers to cover the production costs of the calendars; every penny raised by the sale of the calendars will go directly to the YAA.

Two fun-filled photoshoots of WI members, sitting astride classic motorbikes, in front of every Follifoot village landmark, created quite a stir. We were thrilled that so many villagers turned out to watch the proceedings, many of them potential new WI members.Before we knew it, the calendar was printed, just in time for Saturdays launch party with supporters, WI members and villagers.

The day before the launch Linda was delighted to be contacted by Angela Baker, one of the original WI 'Calendar Girls', who had heard what we were doing and rang to wish us well. We couldn't have asked for a better start to our calendar launch and couldn't believe how kind it was of her to make contact, but that's the WI for you.



At the launch party, Linda or 'The Boss' as she is now known, gave a welcoming speech thanking everyone involved: the LiLs, the bikers with their bikes, our generous supporters and incredible 'behind the scenes' team who provided WI worthy spreads on every occasion. Adding "Each month of the calendar the pictures show off some of the beautiful parts of our village, we've had enthusiasm and interest from residents of all ages, we're well on the way to a significant donation to the YAA and we've had tremendous fun so …..mission very nearly accomplished!"



Clare Deacon, Regional Fundraiser at YAA joined us at the launch and said "We were delighted to hear Follifoot WI wished to support the charity in such a novel way. Every 2027 calendar sold will help keep the helicopters airborne and will help save lives." Clare offered thanks to everyone involved.

"It really does take a village, and a WI, and now we are just hoping to sell as many calendars as we possibly can for the YAA. Please help us to keep them flying if you can." Linda Oldridge.

The calendar is now on sale for £10.00 at Follifoot Village Stores or via email to l_oldridge@yahoo.com for £13.50 including P&P.

Jan Mackaness.

Giggleswick WI – Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers

Giggleswick village is situated on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and has a population of 1,270. Our nearest hospital is 21.2 miles away which means a category 1call (Life-threatening e.g. cardiac arrest) can take longer than the national target response of 7 minutes. If available a community emergency voluntary first responder may be dispatched ahead of an ambulance to provide CPR and defibrillation until the ambulance arrives. Statistically over 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen in the UK every year, with a survival rate of less than 1 in 10—with women facing a statistically lower chance of survival than men. Giggleswick WI approached Giggleswick Parish Council (PC) to raise the awareness of the WI's "Bystanders can be lifesavers" resolution 2025. This led to a partnership with the aim of promoting CPR and defibrillation training for the community as part of the PC's resilience plan for the village. An excellent training session was delivered by Yorkshire Ambulance Service to twenty local people and seven WI members. The training consisted of step by step instructions from how to assess if a person is breathing or not, how to perform CPR and how to use a defibrillator.









NOTICEBOARD



Don't forget the Federation Cookery Book is still available to purchase. It would make a fabulous Christmas present! Your secretary has details of how to order in order to gain money for your WI or contact the office .



GYS Blanket Edging/Completion

Everyone will remember from Great Yorkshire Show that we wanted to edge/complete the blankets before we donate them to local charities. Please come along to Alma House on Friday 13th November from 10 am to 4 pm. Please let the office know by 6th November if you are able to attend, tea and coffee provided, Please bring your own lunch and a basic sewing kit.

Federation quiz winners

Congratulations to Melsonby WI who came out top in the quiz final. Thank you to all the teams who took part this year, the hosts of all the heats and the final, and last but certainly not least, Federation Trustee Helen Davison who set the questions.

Speakers List

When planning your programme don't forget there is a speakers list that you can view on our website or download Please have a look at https://yorkshire-north-west.thewi.org.uk/wi-speakers-list
Get in touch with the office if you have any to add or know of any that ought to be deleted.

NYWFWI EVENTS AT A GLANCE

EVENT	DETAILS	BOOKING CLOSES
Programme Planning Forum Saturday 14/11/2026 10:30am-1:30pm	**Alma House**	**Ring/Email Office**
Food & Flowers 18/11/2026 10am to 3.30pm	**Darley Memorial Hall**	**06/11/2026**
Carol Service 2/12/2026 2pm to 4pm	**Holy Trinity Church, Skipton**	**20/11/2026**
Beginners Book Binding Day 11/2/2027	**Alma House**	**29/1/2027**

WINNERS OF 200 CLUB DRAW

Congratulations to the winners of the October draw.

41 - Glasshouses WI - £30

74 - Leanne Marris, Ripon Belles WI - £20

211 - Sheila May, Threshfield & Linton WI - £10

The Federation Treasurer will be in touch about your prize

Please let us know what your WI has been doing. Send in your report (**maximum 250 words**) and a photograph (if more than one please ensure both are in same format ie portrait or landscape) to the Federation office - details below - for inclusion in future newsletters and on the website. Please note due to space limitations some articles may be edited or may only appear on the website.

If you have any Safeguarding issues, please contact Hazel Smyth on 07495 362525

Office closure dates

There are currently no planned closure dates



Find us on Facebook at https:www.facebook.com/nywfwi

North Yorkshire West Federation has a new Instagram account
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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