



# North Yorkshire West Federation News



## GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW 8TH TO 11TH July 2025

### COME AND JOIN US AND HAVE FUN AS A CATERING ASSISTANT OR STEWARD



Come and join us at the show, make new friends and do something new!



And enter our competitions—entry form is in the mailing

## April 2025

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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

# GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW 2025

Why not have a go at the classes below?

<b>Craft:</b>	Max 3 entries	A picture made from natural materials mounted no larger than A4 including mount, i.e. think flowers, wool, seeds etc.
<b>Recycling:</b>	Max 3 entries	Repurpose a container to give it another useful life with a note stating "original and new purpose". Maximum size 15 cm x 15 cm x 30 cm high.
<b>Knitting &amp; Crocheting:</b>	Max 3 entries	A knitted or crocheted animal: this need NOT be a toy for a child to play with but could also be e.g. a doorstop, could be something like a stuffed and mounted animal head.
<b>Craft:</b>	Max 3 entries	A fabric draught excluder to fit a standard door – embellish as you wish.
<b>Floral:</b>	Max 3 entries	A welcome planter – fresh plant material, internal diameter 25 cm (remember you have to carry it).
<b>Floral:</b>	Max 3 entries	An arrangement of fresh flowers in a jam jar to brighten your kitchen table.
<b>Baking:</b>	Max 3 entries	A crunchy top lemon cake see back of entry form for recipe.
	Max 3 entries	4 pieces of Tray Bake – please submit the recipe.
	Max 3 entries	3 different preserves on a board supplied by us – minimum jar size 8 oz.
<b>Special Class: Not to be judged – maximum 3 entries</b>	Indicate number of entries and the type of craft and size of exhibit	"Something I made earlier". Can be any draft just to be displayed to showcase our WI members' talents.

The entry form is in the mailing together with the Catering Assistant form and the Exhibition Steward form.

<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/interests/on-with-the-show>

This link will give you all the information required for your exhibits

# Your Chairman's Report

Julie Clarke [j-a-clarke@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:j-a-clarke@hotmail.co.uk)



This will be my last chairman's addition for our monthly Newsletter, it has been a privilege being at the helm firstly from 2010 - 2016 then 2019 - 2022 and finally the last 12 months.

The time is right for me to stand down and leave the Board, since mentioning this many of you have asked - will I still be involved - the answer to that is yes. When catering is required I'll be involved, plus this year's Great Yorkshire Show and helping with the Activities committee but not necessarily as the chair, so I will not be disappearing all together simply not being a Trustee any more.

We were amazed at the response for the "Walk, Talk and Lunch with the Calendar Girls" event, 83 applied from 23 Institutes unfortunately 8 WIs in the ballot had to be disappointed for safety reasons we could not have more than 50 walking. What I have managed to arrange is an Autumn Lunch again at the Gamekeepers Inn at Threshfield where both Angela and Trish have agreed to be the morning speakers on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, so there will be another opportunity to hear all about their story. What I remember going back 25 years in the week before the launch of the calendar, in the Craven Herald, it said and I quote - "The WI would bare all ". Little did they or any of us realise just what an impact the calendar would have, both for them and the WI movement.

Our Spring Council is also proving very popular as we go to print - we already have 205 members attending with a further 34 Institutes to reply, it's a good job Tennants can cope with all who wish to come as I have checked with Jessica the Events Manager there will be no problem. I can remember the very first time we went we had 435 attend, and that was in the year all Yorkshire Federations celebrated their centenary.

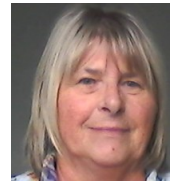
National's Annual Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> June - we still have some places if any visitors wish to come and join us at Alma House that's just £5.00 to cover morning coffee, light lunch from 10.00am - 4.00pm. Come and hear the business, see the result of this year's resolution vote " Bystanders can be lifesavers" which you will have discussed during your May meeting and instructed your Delegate how you wish her to vote for your Institute, and to hear two quite famous speakers - Angel Strawbridge, who featured alongside her husband Dick on the very popular Channel 4 series "Escape to the Chateau" and Emma Bridgewater founder of the famous pottery. If you would like to join us just ring Helen in the Office to book your place.

I know some of you went to Beamish Museum - see some of the pictures on pages 8 and 9. As this was arranged to highlight 110 years of our movement as part of this National is now asking us to plant a tree possibly having a "Party in the Park". Join a free WI Website session on the Learning Hub and keep an eye on WI social media on the website to find out how to get involved. From the correspondence we have received in the Office I think National are wanting us all to celebrate this great achievement of our movement, so if you do decide to do something special don't forget to let us know.

Lastly, I think all that remains for me to say is thank you for supporting the WI keeping your Institute vibrant and supporting the federation. **Julie**

# Membership Report

Sue Earl Armstrong [sueearlarmwiadviser@gmail.com](mailto:sueearlarmwiadviser@gmail.com)



Well, Spring seems to have sprung! We have opened our first WI of the year, Wath and Melmerby WI near Ripon. We had 20 ladies eager to join the WI movement. Hazel and I were so pleased to see such a lovely group of ladies. This now brings the total of WIs in the Federation to 77.

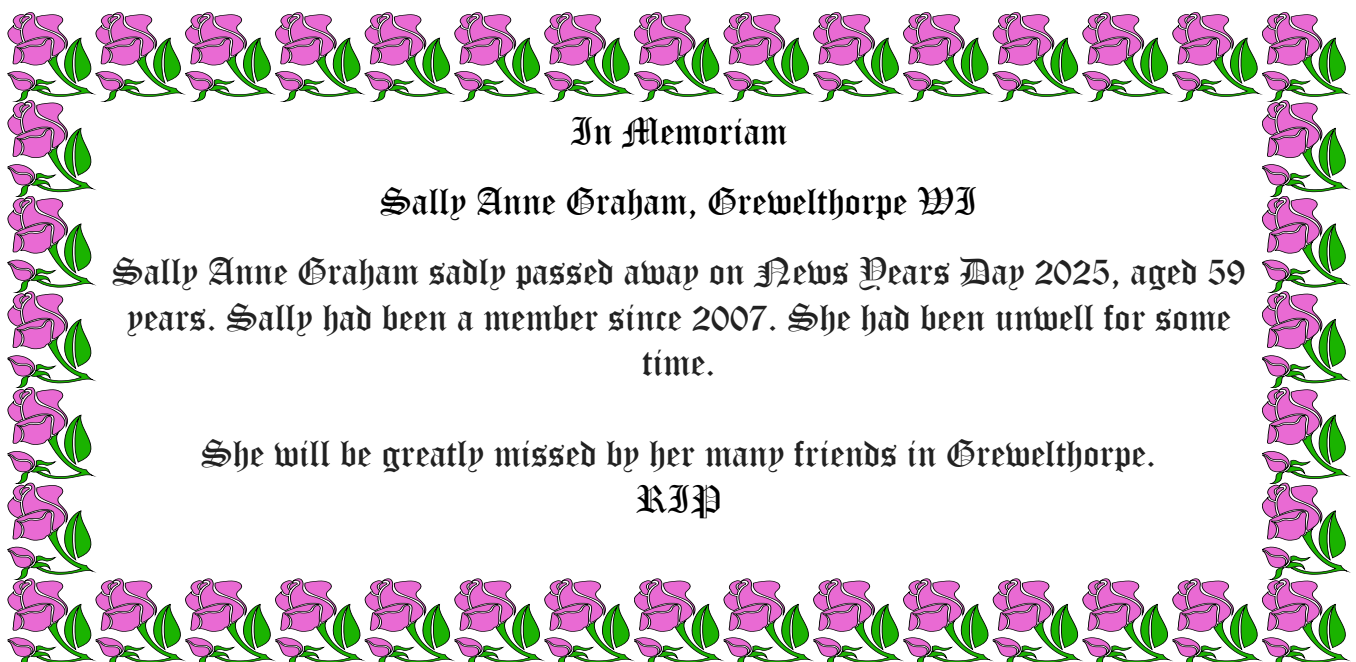
Our Presidents and Secretaries workshops are starting up and we are looking forward to seeing past and new officers come along to these sessions. We will be following these with our Treasurers and MCS workshops later in June.

We are holding workshops in three different areas to include your officers. We do need to look forward to how our WIs will be in the future and this is down to your officers moving forward having people alongside them to take over when they step down. This really helps your WI to thrive when you have officers who are new to the roles, allowing outgoing officers to become members again and enjoy their WIs without having to think about it, just to enjoy the programme that has been set up.

Programme Planning will be coming up later in the year, please don't forget we have the refreshed speakers list on our website along with a host of other information and workshops etc. My WI is another way of finding things out along with The Learning Hub where you can enjoy a host of different things from yoga to painting and interesting speakers.

Looking forward to seeing you at our Federation events.

**Thank you from Sue and the team.**



## In Memoriam

Sally Anne Graham, Grewelthorpe WI

Sally Anne Graham sadly passed away on News Years Day 2025, aged 59 years. Sally had been a member since 2007. She had been unwell for some time.

She will be greatly missed by her many friends in Grewelthorpe.

RIP

# Around the WIs

## Burton Leonard WI

100 Years of Friendship Fun and Laughter

Anne Townsend, Burton Leonard WI



On 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025, Burton Leonard WI (BLWI) celebrated its centenary. The event was marked on the day by a lunch in the village hall. Members enjoyed a two course meal, washed down with a glass of fizz. The table had been beautifully decorated by the committee, in a green, white and purple theme, echoing not only the colours of the WI movement, but also those who campaigned long and hard for women's suffrage. Members were gifted a booklet, charting the story of BLWI over the century, researched and written by Anne Townsend. The lunch was organised by Avril Clarke, the celebration cake was baked and iced by Marcia Crossley and floral table decorations were made by Mavis Hammond and Carol Banks. It was a fitting and memorable way to celebrate such a milestone.

However, the fun did not stop there. The following weekend, BLWI hosted an exhibition, organised by Anne Townsend, opened by Federation Chair Julie Clarke and attended by Tom Gordon MP. The exhibition expanded on the material in the book, with both focused on three key themes: membership, philanthropy, community and activities. A whole display board was given over to celebrating the extensive achievements of the WI drama group. Each display board was brought to life with photographs of members, including many from the 1920s and 30s.

As well as the exhibition, visitors could partake of refreshment in our own recreation of a Lyons Corner House Tea Room. Committee member, Pat Stansfield made hats, cuffs and aprons to the pattern of those worn by the 'Nippy' Lyon's waitresses (so called because of their speed of service). Suitably attired members delighted visitors with waitress service and the cake trolley. Many comments were made comparing our 'café' to a famous teahouse in nearby Harrogate!

Over the course of the weekend approximately 150 visitors attended the exhibition, with people coming from neighbouring WI's, towns and villages. Particular thanks must go to Killinghall WI who turned out in large numbers. Feedback on the event was amazing, with visitors posting on Facebook urging others to attend. A selection of comments include: 'Lovely exhibition..' 'Fabulous memories', 'Beautifully put together exhibition and wonderful waitresses'.



Further celebratory events are planned during the year including a short holiday to Norfolk. We hope to continue to enjoy *Friendship, Fun and Laughter* for another 100 years.

# Around the WIs

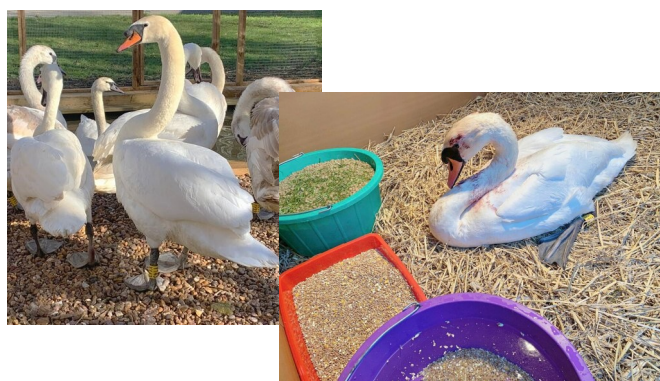
## Burton Leonard Centenary Celebration continued

Tom Gordon, MP for Harrogate attended the Burton Leonard Centenary Celebration on Saturday 15th February and he reported back about the event in the House of Commons where the minister said that the government is pleased to support community groups like the WI. Pat Stansfield, Secretary of Burton Leonard WI said that it was the icing on the cake for us to get a mention in Parliament after the tremendously successful Centenary exhibition.



## Sharow & District

For our meeting in March we invited Daniel Sidley from Yorkshire Swan and Wildlife Rescue Hospital in Selby to come along and give us a talk about the work he and his volunteers do. He formed the charity twenty years ago and, together with his volunteers, has helped rescue hundreds of swans and other wildlife around Yorkshire and the Humber. Although with the only other closest swan rescue centers being on the borders of Scotland to the north and Worcester to the south he finds that he can be called to rescue wild animals and swans from almost anywhere. His talk was very informative, and a real eye-opener to the accidents (and the cruelty) that befall these beautiful creatures; mostly because of the impact of we humans! He is very keen to get his message across to a wider audience and would be happy to be invited to talk to other groups. I can certainly recommend him. He didn't charge for his visit, but would appreciate a donation to his charity. If you're interested email him on: [info@ysrh.org.uk](mailto:info@ysrh.org.uk) **Denise Roberts, President**



**Keep in touch! It is great to read what all the WIs are up to. Please send your news to [nywfw124@gmail.com](mailto:nywfw124@gmail.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. Thank you.**

# Around the WIs continued

## Bainbridge WI

At our Bainbridge WI February meeting talk about the Friends of the Friarage by Jenn Scribbins with supporter and fundraising WI member Karen Prudden and President Sue Stokes.



Karen has had to travel all the way to James Cook hospital Middlesbrough for treatment using this specialist equipment. The fundraising is attempting to enable provision of this service at Northallerton in North Yorkshire. Should other WI's wish to have a talk by Jenn she can be contacted at: [jenn@friendsofthefriarage.org.uk](mailto:jenn@friendsofthefriarage.org.uk) Sue Stokes. Photo taken by Alison Thwaite.

## Ripon Belles WI

Ripon Belles were hard at work in an enjoyable craft workshop last evening with Felicity Jennings.



The art of “dotting” consists of using acrylic paints with a specific tool to ‘dot’ and manipulate the paint to make your own colourful designs, in this case using pre-painted card bookmarks. An extremely satisfying craft in which we all unleashed our creative side. Thank you Felicity. **Moira George, President.**

## Our latest WI—Wath & Melmerby WI formed on 10th March 2025



We are pleased to announce that we have a new WI which was formed on 10th March 2025—Wath and Melmerby WI. We wish all the new members success in their new WI!

## Applique Workshop at Alma House on 11th March 2025

Sue, Anne and Alison from Bainbridge WI were delighted to come along to Anne Starkey's Applique Workshop on 11<sup>th</sup> March at Alma House, Ripon. This has proved to be a popular workshop with 15 attendees and a further workshop planned for the following week. Anne offered two design options for attendees to work on and gave advice about techniques and methods that could be used. The trio from Bainbridge did a 70 mile round trip to be able to attend and they all found it hugely enjoyable, learning new skills and making new friends from other WIs in the North Yorkshire West Federation.

Future workshops will be very welcome. **Alison Thwaite, Bainbridge WI.**



# Beamish Museum Exhibition for International Women's Day on 8th March 2025

Saturday 8th March arrived and off I went to Beamish to take part in International Women Day and to celebrate 110 years of the WI movement. This gave me the chance to dress in the appropriate costume of the era. I took part in both of the street rallies for "Votes and Equality for Women." The day gave everyone the chance to meet members from other WI's across the country and come together as one. A brilliant day was had by all in the glorious sunshine. **Linda Petch, Aiskew WI.**



NFWI  
Chair Jeryl  
Stone leads  
the march



Linda wearing her  
suffragette outfit



**Felicity Jennings and Sam Pugmire from Spa Sweethearts WI** went up to the fabulous Beamish Open Air Museum on 15th March to see the WI exhibition. In the 1950s town the hall showcased the fabulous banners that WI groups all around the country have created. Many of the campaigns were highlighted such as clean rivers, green hearts and dental health matters. The creativity was very inspiring and although Spa Sweethearts do have a banner we came away wanting to make one bigger and better! There was lots of interest in the WI in the room with the ladies of Beamish WI demonstrating rag rugging in the hall. Once again it made us proud to be part of the largest women's organisation in the UK.





# Beamish Museum Exhibition for International Women's Day continued

## Donna Galek, Madhatters WI

When I read in the WI learning hub that Beamish was celebrating International Women's Day, I just had to go and what a day it was. I was lucky to go with Helen Smith and Susan Moss from Bishop Monkton WI. This was the brief on the ticket:

The NFWI International Women's Day Exhibition will be held in the 1950s welfare hall. Furthermore, Suffragette rallies will be held at 11am and 2pm in The 1900s Town to mark International Women's Day.

So of course we had to play the part. When we arrived, there were buses to take us to the different towns. We had enough time to look around the 1950's town before the rally. Then into the Masonic Hall where the action started! They were auctioning a lady's jewellery to pay her taxes! There were boos and jeers from the crowd which had gathered in the hall, but we were careful not to get arrested because we wanted to march. The crowd then moved outside, the ladies lined up and the march began. The shopkeepers tried to heckle and shame us back into our homes, but our "VOTES FOR WOMEN!" drowned them out. They were no match for the Ladies of the WI. We marched to the park where The Beamish WI ladies congregated on the bandstand and entertained us with suffragette songs.


We had an additional insight whilst in the dentist's room in the 1900's town. Helen, a retired dentist, was allowed into the exhibit to explain the instruments to us. Susan was even allowed to carefully sit in the now fragile dentist's chair whilst Helen performed "an old style extraction". She stated that "not much had changed in the instruments used between then and now". It was a lovely atmosphere. We had a small sense of what it would have been like and everyone joined in. We continued then to look around the other towns and the exhibition, finishing with fish and chips! A lot of people who were visiting Beamish that day, hadn't known about the WI participation, but they enjoyed the extra entertainment and so many people were reminiscing in the homes about their childhood or days with gran in her home.


Thank you Beamish for putting on a day for The International Women's Day. I hope we get to do it again.




# What's on In Your Federation


## APRIL


**Saturday 12th**—Spring Council Meeting from 10.00am to 3.30pm at Tennants Garden Rooms, Leyburn. Afternoon speaker Reverend Kate Bottley, morning speaker Valerie Welti “Walking the Blue Line”/Susan Lawrie from the School Readers scheme. Cost £32.50 for Delegates, £37.50 for Visitors. Closing 27th March. Booking form is with your Secretary. 


**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 

# NOTICES

## 200 £ CLUB DRAW £

**Congratulations to the following who have won these prizes**

65—Sandra Turner, Scriven WI—£30

101—Knaresborough WI—£20

120—Carol Headley, Threshfield & Linton WI—£10



### Can you help with the Federation Finances?

#### Federation Finance Assistant

The Federation is looking for applicants for the position of Federation Finance Assistant reporting to the Federation Treasurer. The applicant will be required to prepare the monthly management accounts from the Cloud based Sage Ledgers and under take monthly reconciliation of the bank and other balance sheet accounts. I

It is anticipated this will take approximately 2 days per month and full training will be given. **A salary will be paid based on experience.** If you know of a non-member who might be interested please get them to contact Hazel direct on the number below.

#### Federation Treasurer

The Board of Trustees is looking for applicants for the role of Federation Treasurer which is currently a Trustee appointment to the Board of Trustees. This is an honorary role but expenses are paid.

For further details or to discuss either role please contact **Hazel Smyth on 07495 362525**

### Federation Safeguarding Officer



Should you require any help or guidance on safeguarding issues please consult Sue Butters by email at **[susan.butters12ripley@gmail.com](mailto:susan.butters12ripley@gmail.com)**. Sue is always here to help.

### Important Requirement



Please can members include their phone numbers on all booking forms. Thankyou, **Helen**.

### Delicious High Teas offered in Broadbelt Hall, Glasshouses WI.

For further information please contact **[pamelalupton23@gmail.com](mailto:pamelalupton23@gmail.com)**

## TREASURERS AND MCS REPRESENTATIVES WORKSHOP

To be held at Gargrave Village Hall, BD23 3RD  
On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025 from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm  
And at Masham Town Hall , HG4 4DY on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June from  
6.30 pm to 8.30 pm  
This meeting is free for MCS Representatives and Treasurers  
Light refreshments will be served.

An opportunity to share knowledge and overcome challenges  
with spreadsheet accounts. This is open to new officers or  
potential new officers in these roles



Join us for an evening talk with

*Meridith Towne*  
Costume Historian & Dressmaker



**As we Sew The Sixties!**

Rediscover the delights of what was  
considered shocking fashion in a home  
dressmaking journey through the  
decade with Bri-nylon, Crimplene and Simplicity patterns.  
A whole selection of garments to see from Cindy dolls  
fashion to beach wear - you will wish you were still sewing in the  
sixties!



**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 7pm to 9.30pm**

**Kettlesing Village Hall, Harrogate, HG3 2LE**

**£25 For Members £30 for Guests**

**Includes Cocktail or Mocktail Refreshments**

**A prize will be awarded to the best Sixties Outfit or accessory worn on the night!**

**Booking Starts 17<sup>th</sup> February & Closes 21<sup>st</sup> April**