

Newsletter

July 2026

FEDERATION QUIZ 2026

Come and show off your knowlege at our annual quiz.

Teams of 6 can apply (maximum 2 teams per WI). Have fun in a friendly competition with a light supper and refreshments included.

Cost per member is £10



Presidents and Secretaries Forum
22nd August at Gargrave Village Hall
Free to members



Come and try some crafts you may not have done before at Dabble Day on 5th November at Gargrave Village Hall



Autumn Lunch - 21st October, Oakdale Golf Club, Harrogate with BBC Bargain Hunt's Caroline Hawley.



Chair's Notes

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

Telephone 07495 362525



I hope those of you who were able to attend the National Annual Meeting via Zoom at home or at Harrogate Rugby Club found something of interest.

Congratulations to Heather Stoney on her appointment as Chair of the National Education Committee. Thank you to all the delegates for their efforts in voting and reporting on behalf of our WI's.

We have been amazed by the variety of squares, yarn bomb items and the "one I made earlier" contributions" to our display the Yorkshire Show – photographs will be posted in due course on Facebook, Instagram and our website for you to be amazed too!

Thank you to the GYS committee and all the catering and stewarding volunteers – it doesn't happen without you.

The following people have been appointed as Independent Financial Examiners by the Board of Trustees as these are now Federation appointments, rather than National as in the past:

Jackie Williams-Madden

Marina Briggs

Pat Dunhill

Kath Rayner

Margaret Golightly

Teresa Wilks

As a Board we congratulate our new IFEs who completed the training course in March, and thank those continuing in this valuable role. Please do remember an IFE is there to help you ensure your WI accounts are accurate and reflect the previous year's activities. Do remember to allow time for them to examine your accounts before your annual meeting, when your accounts should be approved by the membership. If you have any account queries, our IFEs are all happy to advise. Please get in touch with an IFE via the office.

Treasurer notes

by Helen Davison helendavison05@gmail.com



May I introduce myself? I am Helen Davison and I was appointed as Federation Treasurer at the Board of Trustees elections in May. I am still in the training period, under the expert tutelage of Hazel Smyth, learning the systems and processes in place

Do you have new members in your WI? Don't forget to register them for Gift Aid if appropriate.

If you are making any BACS payments, please remember to include your WI or name, and the event code if applicable, as the reference.

After the recent training for Independent Financial Examiners, we now have 6 qualified IFEs who can audit your Wis annual accounts.

Get in touch with the office, or to me directly on helendavison05@gmail.com for any questions or queries

Helen.

Membership Team Update

by Sue Earl Armstrong sueearlarmwiadviser@gmail.com



Come meet the Membership Team (virtually) and see what we do

Some of you will have heard me ask for members to come along and observe one of our team meetings to find out more about the Membership Team and what we do. I know I sound like a broken record, but we really would like your input as you may have an idea that would help us get new members or set up a new WI in your area. We generally meet on Zoom so if you would like to join us please let the office know and we can let you have the meeting details.

Upcoming Forums

It's not too late to book onto the President and Secretaries Forum on 22nd August, which is being held in Gargrave Village Hall from 10am to 1pm.

We will be holding Treasurer and MCS Forums later in the year and will let you have the dates as soon as they have been arranged. So, if you would like to find out more about what these roles entail, please keep an eye out for dates.

Memorial Book

Just a reminder that we have a Memorial Book which is kept at Alma House. It is a lovely way to celebrate and remember our valued members who have passed away and are no longer with us. If you have had a member who has passed away and would like her name added to the Memorial Book, please let the team know so that we can include her in it. Any donations are used to provide bursaries for members to attend federation events.

Thank you from the team

Activities Update

by Sara Baldwin-Cole sarabaldwincole@outlook.com



Greetings from a Summery Dale! We are in fully excited mode now ready for our residential weekend at Barnard Castle...we will share our adventures next month.

The activities team are constantly trying to offer you all new experiences that a usual WI event can't offer. We are keen to try anything that you want and for 2027 two ideas that have been proposed for next year would be: a day trip to Birmingham NEC to see the Military Tattoo on Sunday 21st February and a day trip to one of the craft and sewing shows at the NEC, such as Creative Crafts and Sewing For Pleasure 11th – 14th March.

If either appeal, then please send an email to our office so that we can decide if its worth planning or not, as we have had poor interest on several much requested trips and events recently, and we know the pennies are tight! Do share any other ideas with us please.

We are planning an Afternoon Tea in Masham Town Hall with a talk about wedding attire and fashions over the years. We want to include a display of your wedding garments , any accessories and photos which will be displayed and shared. So do let us know if you have your wedding outfit, any dresses and accessories that we can borrow? All styles welcome. Save the Date: Tuesday 4th May 2027.

Sara

Annual Meeting Resolution 2026 - Accessible Public Toilet Facilities to Promote Dignity, Health and Social Inclusion - action plan

It was agreed at the National Federation of WI's Annual meeting to accept both shortlisted resolutions: Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health and social exclusion had the most over 40,000 votes. Here's the proposed action plan to enable us to measure any changes we make as a result this campaign.

Firstly there is an app available to use for free which enables anyone to know where the nearest public toilet is to their location. However, the data is not very accurate. If each WI can check their local toilets are listed with accurate and up to date information, then this resource can be helpful to us all. Please download the application at <https://www.toiletmap.org.uk/>

As an example, I checked out the public toilets in our village Bainbridge. There was a listing, however the information was incomplete and the price had changed to 20p. This can be a tricky amount to pay as many of us don't carry much cash and the access will only open after a twenty pence piece has been put in the slot.

On the app there is a Volunteer help guide with a printable checklist to make it easier to collect data away from home. However, if you use your mobile phone you can enter the data directly. When you look on the map, you can tap on the red symbol for a toilet, and the features will be listed. You can see when the data was last updated with many last updated in our area in 2016. If you have a toilet that has been closed or one that isn't listed, you can edit the listing by following the "Add a Toilet" link or delete the toilet venue if it has been closed. If you have any problems updating the toilets or wish to send toilet details or comments, please contact gbtoiletmap@gmail.com

I had personal experience of the difficulties there can be to use public toilets for those who are disabled. My disability was the outcome of a fall on black ice. Some have more permanent difficulties. I found that to open doors to some service stations toilets special keys were needed. I didn't have one so had to get a member of staff to provide one. Other cases were where the disabled toilet couldn't be accessed indoors, you had to go outdoors and use a different 3external door. Another was too small for a wheelchair to turn in and so once in I was trapped and couldn't open the door to get out!

If you get chance to test the unlicensed toilets near you, it may be worth getting someone in a wheelchair to test true accessibility. There are also very few toilets with braille signage.

Good luck with updating the data **Sue Stokes, NYWFWI Trustee and President of Bainbridge WI.**





NOTICEBOARD



Paying for Events

To help our treasury team please follow these guidelines when making payment to Federation

- If paying by WI cheque write the event on the reverse.
- If using a personal cheque put your WI and the event on the reverse.
- If paying by BACS include WI and event in the reference.

Please also email the office with details of the members and event the payment relates to.

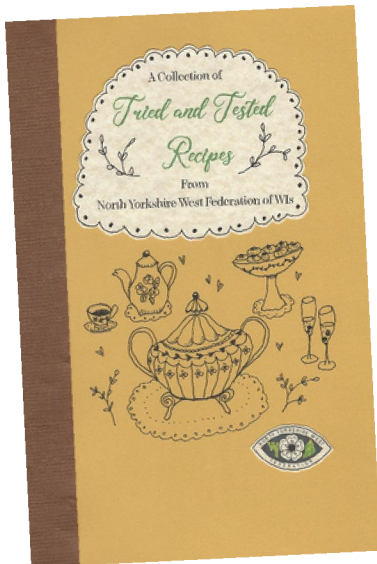
Resolutions 2026

Both resolutions were passed at the National Annual Meeting on 4th June. These are:

Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health and social inclusion and

Action on women's homelessness

What will your WI do to support these?



The Federation recipe book, containing tried and tested recipes of WI members will be available to purchase at the Great Yorkshire Show for just £10

Great Yorkshire Show

Don't forget to visit the WI pavilion at the show and tell your friends/family to go along too. There will be lots of yummy food available and opportunity to vote on the yarn bomb display entries.

Sending emails to members

To keep within General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), this is just a reminder that when you send out emails to members, please address the email to yourself and then bcc (blind copy) everyone else so that member's email addresses remain confidential. The exception to this is if members have given permission for their email addresses to be shared with each other -ie committee members. If you need any support on this please get in touch.

Are you concerned about Climate Change?

You are invited to a screening of **The People's Emergency Briefing Film** at Alma House, 7 pm September 9th. The film features leading UK experts in climate science, food security, health, economics, national security and nature. It presents a clear, measured view of how the climate and nature crisis is affecting everyday life. Further details will follow in the August newsletter.



Around the WIs

Wharfedale WI

A group of our members recently enjoyed a visit to the Bankfield Museum in Halifax. Originally a grand house built for Edward Akroyd, a local mill owner and philanthropist, he also built a model village, Akroyden, alongside the mansion for his workers, now a conservation area. The house was acquired by the town in 1887 and eventually became a museum. We were there to see their 'Fashion Extremes' exhibition exploring 250 years of fashion, from scandalously short minidresses to voluminous sleeves, towering platform heels and extremely wide skirts, flared trousers and bold clashing colours. Displaying 250 years of exaggerated trends and the lengths that we women were (are) prepared to go to in the name of fashion! The added bonus was a roomful of clothes and hats which we could try on, causing lots of hilarity when we did.



A great visit, highly recommended!

Sue Appleyard, Wharfedale WI



Coverdale WI accepted the invitation

On the 31st May we had been invited to be responsible at the Coverham Church Fete for the Refreshment Marquee. Here is the team of 11 who helped serve and prepare many filled rolls, Sausage Rolls prepared by Sara, not in the photo as she had her Atrium Vintage Pop-Up Shop. Many mouthwatering tray bakes were produced by 9 of our members plus 4 varieties of sponge cakes, coffee chocolate lemon and orange. We also ensured we had cakes suitable for allergies, 2 hot water boilers which needed expert intervention to stop them tripping from the generator, tea coffee juice for the young ones and plenty of milk plus lactose free, so we were ready for the 12noon opening.



We were very busy and received many compliments and as you can see from the photo by 3.30pm we had very little left. Our Treasurer had provided a float, but she could not be with us in the Marquee as she was required for 1st Aid Cover, we loaned the card machines from WI Office which helped but being in a field with limited Wi-Fi and access on occasions meant cash was the only option.

At the end of the day, we'd all thoroughly enjoyed our involvement, although a little tired, being part of the revival of the Fete last held in 1955 which proved so successful and for us after all the expenses were accounted for our 50% of the takings boosted our own funds by all most £600.

We had certainly flown the WI flag with pride and possibly gained another new member.

Julie Clarke, President





The Follifoot WI Summer Outing

The Follifoot WI summer outing replaces our June meeting, and this month we were treated to a private tour of the Yorke House and White Rose Cottage Gardens at Dacre Banks

It was a perfect summers evening and the coach journey from Follifoot to Dacre Banks through the beautiful Yorkshire countryside reminded us all how lucky we are to live here. Once at the gardens we were warmly greeted by garden owner and creator Pat Hutchinson and her daughter-in-law Amy who is taking over the gardening mantle.

A tour of the fabulous gardens followed, Pat explaining the planting schemes and identifying individual plants for us as we slowly walk past stunning herbaceous borders, the beautiful pond and stream, areas of woodland planting, the vegetable garden and patio pots filled with sedums, hostas and ferns, and everywhere lovely views and special little places to sit and enjoy them.

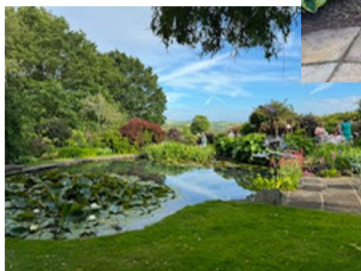
When Pat and her husband first moved into Yorke House in the 70's, the garden was non-existent and primarily used as grazing for their children's ponies. But in the 90's they started to take gardening seriously and Pat hasn't stopped since. Some years ago her son and daughter-in-law moved into Yorke House and Pat into the cottage next door, cleverly splitting the garden to create a 'small' garden, as Pat describes it, for her cottage, and here we also find stunning borders, another lovely pond and fabulous views over the dry-stone walls across the dales.

After the tour we are free to explore on our own and to marvel at the unbelievably weed free flower beds, thanks to regular composting and mulching according to Pat, the enormous and slug damage free hostas, and the clever planting schemes. Pat and Amy close by to answer questions and hopefully to enjoy all of the compliments being showered upon their creation.

The gardens are opened to the public each year through the National Gardens Scheme and Pat is rightly proud of how much money the scheme makes for charity each year. Their next open day is July 12th and if you want to see two wonderful gardens, and enjoy a homemade cream tea, don't miss it!

Having thanked our hostesses, and ravaged their plant sales stall, we moved on to The Wellington at Darley for a delicious supper and another fabulous view. There was much excited talk about starting a 'Gardening and Gossip' club, and many other new ideas for 2027, so watch this space. Having thanked the pub for their excellent food and service, we thanked Committee member Nicky for organising such a wonderful evening and headed home in the sunset.

Jan Mackaness, Follifoot WI.





Giggleswick WI Annual Fund Raiser

This year our chosen charity was the “Hope for tomorrow Bus” Cancer Care Charity. This provides a vital service for our rural community by facilitating cancer care treatment for people without them having to make a 43 mile round trip to the local hospital, at a time when people probably least feel like travelling.

We received our allocated date to host Langcliffe teas with just two months to go. Langcliffe Institute is an established fund raising venue which happens every Sunday from April to September with different charities raising funds each week. The count down began in earnest by promoting the event on Facebook, the AGM of Giggleswick Parish Council. Posters were also made and displayed across the community. Back at Giggleswick WI basecamp boards were frantically going round to establish who was doing what? Prizes and donations began to arrive from the local community.

On the day the WI husbands helped with the tables and generally getting the hall ready, also managing the Tombola and the Raffle.

As soon as the doors opened two hours went by in a flash - exhausting but exhilarating! We are very proud to announce we raised £1,151.00 - our best fundraiser ever!

Pre Meeting Social -Early Light Tea. This initiative was made by Janet Wigfield our President who felt just attending a meeting preceded by listening to a speaker gave members very little time to sit and chat. This is especially pertinent at the moment as our neighbouring WI in Settle has sadly recently closed. This provided us with the opportunity to get to know the ladies that wished to join us by providing a relaxed environment with time to sit, eat and chat.

The food was made by Janet with help from other members consisting of things like quiche, salad, and sandwiches with a desert to follow. The tea commenced an hour before our meeting, incurring a nominal charge of £4 ahead to cover the cost of food and the additional cost for the hall. This has been trialled three times and has proven to be hugely successful. Ten ,twelve and twenty one members attended respectively, including Hazel Smyth chair for NYWFWI at our last meeting. The plan is to continue these early teas quarterly and keep it self financing. Special thanks to all the ladies in our WI family for their amazing contributions and support for each other. **Jane Saunders, Giggleswick WI**



NYWFWI EVENTS AT A GLANCE

EVENT	DETAILS	BOOKING CLOSES
Presidents & Secretaries Forum 22/08/2026 - 10am to 1 pm	Gargrave Village Hall Free to WI members	14/08/2026
Climate Change Presentation 09/09/2026 - 7pm to 9 pm	Alma House	To be confirmed
Federation Quiz Heats 18/09/2026 6.30 pm for prompt start at 7 pm	Various venues - see your secretary for details	2/09/2026
Federation Quiz Final 16/10/2026	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Autumn Lunch 21/10/2026 12 noon for 12.30 pm	Oakdale Golf Club, Harrogate	7/10/2026
Dabble Day 5/11/2026 10am to 3.30pm	Gargrave Village Hall	To be confirmed
Food & Flowers 18/11/2026 10am to 3.30 pm	Darley Memorial Hall	To be confirmed
Carol Service 2/12/2026	Holy Trinity Church, Skipton	To be confirmed

For Events and Activities (workshops, speakers, trips etc) organised by our Federation, we have always had a no refunds policy for any cancellations to a booking, requested by the attendee.

This policy can be reviewed in the light of an exceptional circumstances reason for a cancellation, and if a place is arranged to be taken by another WI member, then that would allow us to revoke the policy also.

If the event is cancelled by Federation then full refunds are of course offered and cheques used for payment will be destroyed or returned.

Thank You

WINNERS OF 200 CLUB DRAW

Congratulations to the winners for June

113 Kate Croll, Giggleswick WI - £30

184 Mrs J B Jelley, Killinghall WI - £20

180 Jean Slater, Threshfield & Linton WI - £10

The Federation Treasurer will be in touch about your prize

**If your WI has any Safeguarding issues, please contact
Hazel Smyth on 07495 362525**

Office closure dates

- Please note that the office will be **closed** during Great Yorkshire Show week which is 14-17th July.
- The office will be **open** on Monday 20th July but **closed** on Friday 24th July
- Helen, Federation Secretary, will be on holiday from 24th to 28th August so the office will be **closed** that week.
- During these periods please ring Hazel on 07495 362525 for any urgent matters



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



North Yorkshire West Federation has a new Instagram account
[https:// www.instagram.com/northyorkshirewestfederationwi/?g=5](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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