



North Yorkshire West Federation News



SEPTEMBER 2023

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CHRISTMAS FOOD AND FLOWERS

LET'S GET FESTIVE!



At Darley Memorial Hall on Thursday 23rd November 2023

10.00 am coffee, 10.30 am—3.30 pm

Cost £32.50

Including lunch, cookery demonstration by Kimberley Brereton and flower arranging demonstration by Vanessa Wellock.

Closing date 3rd November

If closing date has passed, please contact the office for availability—telephone 01765 606339

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Office Open:
Tuesday 9.00am-12.30pm, 1.00pm-4.00pm
Thursday & Friday 9.30am-12.30pm, 1.00pm-4.00pm.

The office will be closed on Monday and Wednesday
Find us on Facebook
NYWFWI Charity Reg. No. 513934

Chairmans report for September Newsletter



By Heather Stoney, hjstoney48@gmail.com

I do hope that you have enjoyed the last two months, and have had trips out with your WIs. The weather has not been kind, but I think we have come to expect it.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Great Yorkshire Show, there were old and new faces—no I don't mean old in years, there are some regular faces who come year after year because they enjoy the camaraderie and friendship. I do hope the first timers really felt a part of the team

Thinking of teams, I am making a plea which I am asking every one of you to read. I am sending you all a letter either electronically or in printed form. It is not a begging letter financially, it is a plea based on asking members for help. Please do take the time to read it and give serious thought to what as a Federation we are asking. There have been many hours of work spent on it and it would be a shame if it was not read as it may have great impact on the long-term future of the Federation.

Thinking about the newsletter, it is wonderful to get all your reports in, we do enjoy reading them and seeing all the photos and we do want to print them all but I am going to ask you to keep the reports to less than 400 words. This will help us print them and then nobody is disappointed.

This is why I am keeping my report brief this month, I would hate for an article to be left out. We have increased the capacity of the newsletter this month to enable us not to disappoint you, sadly this has a cost implication on the Three Ps—Printing, Paper and Postage!

Best wishes, Heather

Office Opening Hours week commencing Monday 11th September due to staff holiday:

Monday and Wednesday—closed as normal

Office open: Tuesday 9.00 am until 12.30 pm

Thursday closed

Office open: Friday 9.00 am until 1.00 pm.

Please leave a message on the answer machine and emails will be dealt with.

Activities Committee Update

By Julie Clarke j-a-clarke@hotmail.co.uk



Events are beginning to happen once again, so do look in the Events Section of the newsletter where you will find full details. Hopefully there will be something there you'll want to join us for so please book up early. Your secretary will have the booking form or do it yourself by using a booking form downloaded from our website, www.thewi.org.uk/northyorkshirewest.

In the July/August newsletter I mentioned a holiday. We are hoping to arrange a two day break, incorporating a visit to Highgrove during May. Unfortunately, Highgrove do not issue their open days until the new year, so as soon as the information is available we'll let you know.

Plans are underway for 2024 incorporating many popular items, including a Dabble Day, Fashion Show, History Wardrobe, Quiz, Food & Flowers plus workshops. Once we have more information, we will let you have it.

Finally, the Norah Worth Competition for 2023

Make what you like from a 100g ball of Double Knitting Wool.

As many of you know Norah was very interested in design and that is why this year we have decided it is up to you to design something of your choice.

The award will be presented at the Spring Council Meeting, so you have plenty of time as your entry does not need to be at Alma House until 1st March 2024.

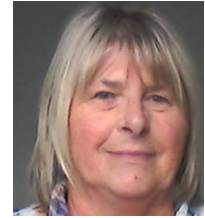
Great Yorkshire Show

Thank you to all who helped in any capacity, we certainly had a busy time in both the Exhibition and Cafe areas, which has resulted in a very successful show. The Thankyou Party was well supported, and questions were asked – how many breakfasts did we serve – 1068 plus an additional 219 Bacon Rolls and 122 Sausage rolls totalling 1409 breakfast meals made - no wonder you were busy!!! Well done team.

Wendy our “Scone Queen” produced 1300 scones to serve over the counter plus many more enjoyed by the staff, and she wants to do them again next year!!! Many compliments were received, especially from our regular customers who appreciated them been made on site once again.

2441 pots of tea were consumed, 715 rolls, not including those on the Cart and the staff ones, over 600 sandwiches and 1028 portions of cake were sold, so production teams well done, not forgetting the very important “washing up gangs” and the “Trolley Dollies” - they did an amazing job keeping everything clean and tidy. Also our cashier who returns annually all 4 days plus the Trustee team. As I have said before, without the help from yourselves the volunteers we could not do this and so many have expressed they wish to return next year. We the GYS team will have our final wind up meeting during September so we will keep you informed what we're planning later—Julie.





We are pleased to say that we managed to reform Ben Rhydding WI. They are a great group of ladies and we hope they will go far.

We were approached by a lady from Kirby Overblow who wished to open a WI in her area and we have done just that. They are a great bunch of ladies who are new to WI, and they wish to be called the KO Girls WI.

We still have places for our Gift aid and Treasurers Hybrid meeting on the Tuesday 19th September at 7.30pm at Alma House or via Zoom.

Jane Robinson will be giving a talk “Ladies shouldn’t climb ladders”. This is not a literal specification; this is about how women have been overlooked because they are female. We are really looking forward to this event and after the talk there will light refreshments of scones and cream. This event is on Tuesday 26th September at 2pm at Alma house.

As we are moving towards the time of year that you are holding your Annual meetings, we are happy to come along and help if you require.

Treasurers you will need to get your Accounts audited prior to the team meeting so that all of the team members can see your accounts and they then can be signed.

We still have outstanding payment of Agents Fees. These should have been paid in by the end of May. If you have new members join you need to send in the agents portion as soon as possible after they have joined. The Federation Treasurer will be sending out notifications to the WIs that haven’t paid.

Membership Communication System or MCS - I had mentioned in our last newsletter that our figures for payment for members and the MCS does not tally. According to the MCS figures we have 2,286 members, that is not how much we have received in monetary value. It may be that we have members on there that are no longer attending, so can we please amend this. Make sure you haven’t ticked dual members.

Please can I ask for this to be amended, if you haven’t got the document we sent out that explained how you can do this as one procedure, please let the office know and we can forward that to you. Many thanks.

Looking to the future we intend to open a virtual WI, and we are looking to open more WIs in the Harrogate area in 2024, as so many WIs in this area have waiting lists for members.

If anyone would like to come along to a Membership support meeting you are more than welcome to come along to observe. If interested please get in touch via the office.

We are always happy to have our members’ input and ideas.

Many thanks from the team - Anne Harrison, Sue Butters and Sue Earl Armstrong.



KEY

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|-------------------------|---|---------------------|
| £ | Extra cost for kit | ✂ | Equipment required | 🍴 | Food included |
| 👤 | Interactive workshop | ☕ | Tea & biscuits included | 🍷 | Wine/punch provided |




Events

SEPTEMBER


Saturday 16th —International Day—Ukraine at Darley Memorial Hall, 10.00am to 3.30pm to include lunch. Closing date 25th August. Cost £30 per person.  

Tuesday 19th —Gift Aid and Treasurers Meeting at Alma House, 7.00-9.00pm, this is a hybrid meeting £10 per 2 members paid for by WIs. Closing date 25th August. 


Tuesday 26th—Membership Afternoon Cream Tea with author Jane Robinson at Alma House, 2.00-4.00pm , £15 per person. Closing date 8th September. 


OCTOBER

Tuesday 24th– Beginners Watercolours with Gail, 9.30am-3.30pm at Alma House, cost £12 plus £5 for materials., closing date 2nd October.  

Thursday 26th– Returners Watercolours with Gail, 9.30am-3.30pm at Alma House, cost £12 plus £5 for materials, closing date 2nd October.  


NOVEMBER

Thursday 7th—Wacky Christmas Wreaths with Sheila Carr at Alma House, 10.00am-3.00pm, cost £12 plus £5 per wreath, closing date 20th October. 

Thursday 9th –Wacky Christmas Wreaths with Sheila Carr at Hellifield Institute, 10.00am-3.00pm, cost £15 plus £5 per wreath, closing date 20th October. 

Thursday 23rd—Christmas Food and Flowers at Darley Memorial Hall from 10.00 am-3.30pm, Cost £32.50—flowers and cookery demonstration.  
Closing date 3rd November.

DECEMBER

Thursday 7th—Federation Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church, Skipton from 2.00—4.00pm. £2.50 per adult, children free. Booking start date 1st October, closing date 24th November. Booking form in the mailing. 

AROUND THE WIS

Kirkby Malzeard WI



As part of the Kirkby Malzeard Big Weekend our WI entered a Float in the tractor parade. One member was 86 that day so we had organised a surprise birthday cake. We also had a 'Bottle Pull' and served refreshments for our funds (we used one of your North Yorkshire West Federation Flags - thank you) - Pat Weatherer

AROUND THE WIS CONTINUED

Sutton in Craven WI



Sutton in Craven WI celebrated its 70th anniversary recently. They held a party in which members enjoyed a beautiful iced cake and a glass of Prosecco. Over 30 current members attended, with several guests. They enjoyed looking through our collection of photographs, keepsakes and memorabilia from the last 70 years, including minute books and other records of our WI.

Everyone took part in a quiz devised by Bev, based on the names of local villages, which was won by members of "The Team". A game of "Stand up Bingo" was won by Charlotte, who had baked the cake!

Our Spring fundraiser was to guess the name of two knitted toy animals, created by Bev and Gail. Our winners were Margaret who won the Rhino named William and Audrey who won the Tiger named Matilda. The monthly completion was a delightful button hole won by Beverley.

Everyone agreed that it was a brilliant afternoon and excellent celebration of our 70 years as a WI.

Shirley Davids, Secretary, Sutton in Craven WI

Thornton Watlass WI



On 8th June Thornton Watlass WI had a wonderful evening creating lino cuts and printing from them.

Jo Garlick, a local artist, ran the workshop. We used small squares of soft lino rather than hard lino. The advantage of the soft lino is that there is no need to soften it up on the radiators or electric hot plate to make it soft enough to carve! Everyone produced a lino cut which we then printed out using black ink. We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and we will have Jo back at some point in the future to do an afternoon workshop of lino cutting and printing using a register so that we can create multicolour prints.

Ruth Rising, President, Thornton Watlass WI

Killinghall WI

Killinghall WI held its annual Strawberry Tea for Killinghall Village on Thursday 5 July. The event is free for senior citizens with a nominal charge for adults. This event has been in our calendar for many years and this year didn't disappoint with over 60 guests attending.

The day starts around 11 o'clock with the first task of hulling many punnets of strawberries and setting up the tables for our guests. Guest arrived from 3 o'clock and this year we were lucky to be accompanied by professional singer, Ruth Strangeway who sang a repertoire of many songs during our tea which got us all singing along.

It was a hugely fun afternoon for all who attended, including 20 residents from our local Nursing Home who joined us for the tea with their carers and it was lovely to see so many smiling faces. As always, these events don't happen without the support of our members, so thank you Killinghall WI! - Anita McCarthy.



AROUND THE WIS CONTINUED

Report from Upper Nidderdale WI which celebrated their 95th birthday

It all began in the last century: September 5th, 1928 to be precise, founded by President, Mrs Huskinson with Miss Brown as Secretary and Miss Harrison as Treasurer. At the time Upper Nidderdale was a mainly agricultural working dale situated on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales. From 1921 the upper dale had been subjected to the building and development of a series of reservoirs serving Bradford. In order to service the needs of the construction, the Nidd Valley Light Railway was established with stations at Pateley Bridge, Wath, Bouthwaite and Lofthouse. At Lofthouse the passenger services terminated but the railway continued up to the building sites. The population of the dale increased exponentially and then dispersed after the reservoirs came into service and the railway closed. In 1937.

Those were the days when the provision a secure source of food was uppermost and the WI had been instrumental in encouraging families and particularly women to grow and preserve food, particularly after the war. These days an emphasis is placed on ensuring the environment is protected so that we can continue providing the natural products and resources which people appreciate at Farmer's Markets and the range of agricultural shows that abound in this beautiful part of the country.

For any membership organisation to reach such a significant 'birthday' is a cause for celebration and Upper Nidderdale WI took the opportunity to come together at the Old School Tea Rooms in Hebden, outside Grassington, on June 28th 2023. We enjoyed friendship, conversation, the music played by Alan Carter on an accordion and accompanied him in several of the songs popular in those early years of the WI. We were joined by members of our Regional Group from Summerbridge WI and Glasshouses WI and we also welcomed valued colleagues from Alma House, the office of our North Yorkshire West Federation.

Heather Stoney, our Federation Chairman, presented Upper Nidderdale President Lucy Tiffany with a framed certificate to be displayed in Ramsgill Village Hall where our meetings are held.

Accompanying this report are the photos from the presentation of the certificate to Christine Harker at the Spring Council meeting and the presentation by Federation Chairman, Heather Stoney to Lucy Tiffany at the 95th Birthday Celebration of the Upper Nidderdale Women's Institute.

Biddy Fisher OBE
Secretary, Upper Nidderdale WI



AROUND THE WIS CONTINUED

Askwith with Weston WI

Claire and Neil Raven from Ikley and District Motor Club visited Askwith with Weston WI to talk about their life in motorsport. They also brought a couple of their vehicles, a Porsche and a rally car, Daphne preferred the Porsche with diamante dust caps!! Comment from Claire and Neil were “a lovely evening with the WI, some fab cakes, thanks for a warm welcome and fun evening.” - Hazel Pullan



The Bedale Belles WI held their Rag Market on 17th June in Chantry Hall, Bedale.

It was a beautiful day and table holders started setting up early. People started drifting in and within the first hour the hall was a buzz with crafters looking for that special item. The table holders varied from selling fabrics, whether is be for dressing making, quilting, furnishing, felting materials, vintage buttons, lace and patterns, knitting, weaving and crochet yarns. There was lots of chat and plenty of tea and cake. It was a very successful day for all concerned.

Our next Rag Market will be June 15th 2024, so put it in your diary!

On June 22nd we had our annual trip out and visited Ripley Castle. We have a fabulous guided tour followed by afternoon tea in the cafe. The castle is owned by the Ingleby family who lived there for over 700 years. There is lots of political and religious conspiracies, civil wars, broken marriages, inept heirs and intrigue.

Jane Beck
Secretary
Bedale Belles WI



200 Club Results

Congratulations to the following,
who have won these prizes in August:

10—Jean Rodgers—Long Preston WI
48—Audrey McKay—Marton cum Grafton WI
233—Carol Skinner, Scriven WI

AROUND THE WIS CONTINUED

Melsonby WI

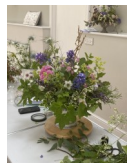
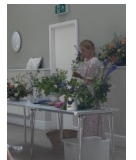
For the August meeting, most members from Melsonby WI held their annual barbecue, which was an occasion of mixed joy and sadness. Their much-loved president, Joan Harwood, had recently, suddenly been taken ill and died. The previous week she had been actively involved at the planning meeting, so it came as a shock to members and the whole village. Her Dublin son-in-law had bought a set of pinafores for Melsonby WI to use at the monthly coffee morning that they run in the church, as a thank you to her for hospitality for his family over Christmas. As two members were away in Australia in the New Year, Joan wanted to wait until they returned before taking a group photograph that could be kept as a record. Various events meant it got put off, but she was determined that it should happen at the barbecue. It was so sad that she herself could not be included, but we felt her presence, as above the tree in the background there is the faint trace of a rainbow, which reflected the song *Somewhere over the rainbow* that had been played at her funeral.

Judith Stansfield, Melsonby WI



Ripon Centre WI

At the June meeting, we were treated to a floral demonstration by Debs Boulton of Forage and Flourish. She also brought along some arrangements she had done earlier for members to see. As she arranged, she talked about alternatives to Oasis, as this is now not recommended because it takes a long time to bio-degrade. All the material she uses for arrangements are foraged from hedgerows, fields, her garden and the gardens of friends. She utilises herbs, grasses, wild flowers, seed pods, cones, thistles, ferns and leaves—Val Paxton



Keep in touch!

It is great to read what all the WIs are up to. Please send your news to nwfw@btconnect.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.

REMINDER!

National Raffle Tickets and payment need to be returned by 22nd September to WI Enterprises using the prepaid envelope which came with the raffle tickets.

Thank you.

WHAT THE WI CAN DO FOR YOU BY KAREN PRUDDEN OF BAINBRIDGE WI

I have been a member of Bainbridge WI for twenty years, having been encouraged to join by the person whose house we bought when we moved to the Dales. What a brilliant recommendation that has turned out to be! From my first meeting, I was welcomed and now have a network of great friends and supporters. Ours is a very active WI with several clubs and outings running alongside our monthly meetings.

After many active years, unfortunately, at the end of 2022, I suddenly lost my eyesight after two years of sight problems. I was just 57!

So, I began 2023 as a person registered blind. Although a shock, I had no idea then just how this would change my life. I was warned that I would go on a roller-coaster ride of highs and lows - and how true that has been! Life is now very challenging. However, I was very determined that blindness was not going to define me as a person and I was going to continue to do what I could, within its limitations.

I was feeling low at this point and expected that my role of secretary on the committee would now end. However, our new president spoke to committee members and came to me with the idea of taking on the role of Vice-President instead. What a joy to feel that I could still be useful.

There have been challenges to my WI membership including receipt of 'WI Life' which I could no longer read. However, enquiries by our President resulted in me receiving an audio copy. Likewise, I was feeling very left out of local news as I could no longer read either our Federation or our own Newsletters. However, one of our members has taken it upon herself to record a digital audio version of both which has really opened up my world again.

Our wonderful members have stepped up to help with other challenges, including transporting me to events, helping me get supper and complete paperwork at our meetings. Some meetings are less appealing than others as I do not know what the speaker is doing, but it doesn't stop me going along.

Our committee now discuss accessibility at our meetings and realise that there are other members with problems and we need to think harder about how we can include everyone.

I am thrilled, and humbled, at how much thought our WI has given to my particular disability, but also to other issues affecting members. I still feel very much a part of our WI and although I may not be as useful as I once was, I can still contribute. It has been hard for me to adjust to asking for, and receiving help, but my circumstances are now very different and I have to accept this.

Despite my limitations, the WI has continued to allow me to participate in craft workshops, trips and even modelling in a fashion show! I also write for our monthly Newsletter and of course can still enjoy the Lunch Club as I can always eat - and talk!

Following this, I can definitely say that my membership of the WI has been one of the best decisions I ever made!

So, I am forever grateful to our President, Committee and all the members of Bainbridge WI who have just accepted me as I now am and gone out of their way to ensure I remain an active and valuable member. They have no idea how much that has meant to me, especially when I was trying to adapt to life without my sight. I consider myself very fortunate to be surrounded by the wonderful ladies of the WI - Thank you!

Kirkby Malzeard WI Presents



House of Lords: inside democracy's largest chamber

**A talk by Lord Newby
from Ripon**

Friday November 17th 7.30 pm
Mechanics' Institute, Kirkby
Malzeard

**Tickets £8 – Call Anne on
01765 658557**

Website Editor Training

The Federation currently maintains a website presence on the National Website at www.thewi.org.uk which also provides space for individual WI's. In most cases in our Federation this provides a monthly programme page and a link to WI Website and/or Facebook pages. If you are interested in finding out how you could expand your presence and maintain the website National are running two sessions for new and existing website editors on **Thursday 23 November 2023** and **Tuesday 5 December 2023**. 4:30-6:30pm – please register via <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/communications-and-pr/using-the-wi-website/web-editor-training>. There is no cost for the training/cost of software to maintain/space on the National website. If you wish to discuss or require further information please contact me - Hazel Smyth on web.nwyorkswi@yahoo.co.uk

History Wardrobe, Monday is Washday held on 27th July 2023 at Coronation Hall, Milby by Pat Dunnill of Starbeck Afternoon WI

Although taking place on a Thursday afternoon, we were treated to a trip through the extensive procedures of Monday washdays in the past. How things have changed! The two Lucys from History Wardrobe, dressed appropriately in washday outfits from the 19th and 20th centuries, took us on a trip down memory lane to the bad old days of hard domestic work. What a performance our mothers and grandmothers had to go through. Most of us recognised some of the equipment that was essential in the past and we were all grateful for our modern machines and the freedom we now have. As usual we were informed and entertained and, after a bit of audience participation, we joined in a rousing chorus of Ta Ra Ra Boom Dee Ay (which included flying knickers). An excellent cream tea followed.



Watercolours With Gail—Beginners and Returners

It's time again for the popular Watercolour Workshops with Gail Evans, book your places now!

Beginners Watercolour Workshop—Tuesday 24th October—9.30 am—3.30 pm, maximum 12 people, cost £12 plus £5 materials. **Please bring a packed lunch.**

Returners Watercolour Workshop—Thursday 26th October 9.30 am—3.30 pm, maximum 12 people, cost £12 plus £5 materials. **Please bring a packed lunch.**

Closing date 2nd October for both workshops.



WACKY CHRISTMAS WREATHS WITH SHEILA CARR

Come and choose between two festive wreaths, or make both! Easy alternative wreaths made from paper or felt. Sew or glue, the choice is yours. Lots of fabric and papers to choose from. All materials supplied by tutor, £5 per wreath. **Please bring a packed lunch.**

7th November at Alma House, Cost £12, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

9th November at Hellifield Institute, Cost £15 (the extra charge is to cover the cost of the hall), 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.



Closing date for both workshops is 20th October



North Yorkshire West Federation of WIs Federation Carol Service



Thursday 7th December 2023

Holy Trinity Church, Skipton, BD23 1NJ

2.00pm – 4.00pm

£2.50 per adult / children free

(to include refreshments)

Booking start date 1st October to 24th November