

NORTHUMBERLAND FEDERATION OF WIs ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 2026

Date	Saturday 3 rd October 2026	Venue	The Performing Arts Centre, Royal Grammar School, Eskdale Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4DX
Time	10:30 for 11:00 start – 15:00 approx.	Cost	Delegates FREE - Observers £8.50 each
Closing date: Monday 14 th September 2026		Event Code	2621

We hope to welcome lots of members to our Northumberland Federation of WIs Annual Council Meeting 2026 at the RGS on Saturday 3rd October for what promises to be a great day. Two informative and entertaining speakers have been booked, and the Federation 'pop-up' shop will be in the Foyer for you to browse and make purchases - card or cash payments please. The Annual Council Meeting is always a good opportunity to meet up and chat with the Board of Trustees, WI Advisers, guests and fellow members from across the Federation - we hope to see you there!"

WIs are requested to send one delegate to the meeting (no charge) and all members are invited to attend as observers at a cost of £8.50 each.

The agenda is enclosed. In order for us to ensure a quorum is in place at the meeting to vote on the resolutions on the agenda, tickets for delegates will be attached to the agenda. No tickets are required for observers attending. Delegates must register on arrival and hand in the delegate ticket.

Two resolutions will appear on the agenda at the meeting. Would you please discuss these at your WI meetings and ensure that your delegate is prepared to cast your WI's vote by a show of hands at the Annual Council Meeting. Details of the resolutions are given overleaf.

The meeting will start at 11.00 am and you are asked to be in your seats ten minutes beforehand. Coffee/tea/cold drinks will be available to purchase in the foyer, and you will be able to eat your packed lunch in the auditorium or in an available room.

Claim forms for the delegates' travelling expenses will be available on the day. Please note that any taxi fare will be reimbursed at the rate of 35p per mile from the first pick up point. Unfortunately, there is no provision for members to park within the grounds of the RGS, but the school has agreed that members with mobility issues can be dropped off at the door of The Performing Arts Centre.

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EVENT CODE 2621: ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

c/d: 14TH SEPTEMBER 2026

WI Name:			
Sending a Delegate?		Yes	No
Name of Observer(s) Attending:		Delegate Name:	
Main Contact Name:			
Please add both phone and email details where possible.			

We look forward to seeing you at the Northumberland ACM 2026!

Adoption of the revised Northumberland Federation's Articles of Association

Last year we asked WIs to vote on the adoption of the revised Articles of Association 2025. We were pleased to note that the required percentage of WIs voted in favour of the adoption. In accordance with the regulations set down by NFWI we now find it necessary to ask WIs to confirm their vote. Therefore, we would ask you to vote at your WIs – a show of hands is sufficient – in order for your delegate to cast the vote at this Annual Council Meeting.

The resolution reads:

"It is hereby resolved by way of special resolution that the draft Articles of Association be and are hereby approved and adopted as the Articles of Association of the Northumberland Federation of Women's Institutes in substitution for and to the exclusion of all existing Articles of Association of the Northumberland Federation of Women's Institutes"

Centenary Bursary

As explained at the Council Meeting in 2025, due to several WI suspensions, the donations from WIs are not covering the cost of the Bursary, in fact further amounts are being raised by Board members and a donation from a Beetle Drive held by the ex-DeWindt Grainger Group members. Therefore, WIs were asked to consider donating a little more than the £10 – it appears that, when sending in their 2026 subscriptions, two WIs have sent in an extra £10 each. The cost for 2026 appears to be covered and we are committed to awarding the Bursary this year, for which we have received nine applications from the almost fifty schools contacted. In view of the number of even more WI suspensions this year, we are concerned that the cost of the Bursary for the coming years will not be covered by WI donations, and the Board of Trustees proposes the following resolution. Would you please discuss the subject of the Centenary Bursary at your Wis in order for your delegate to cast the result of the voting "for" or "against" at the Annual Council Meeting.

Please note: Should a WI not be represented by a delegate at the meeting, a proxy vote "for" or "against" should be sent to the Federation Office prior to the meeting in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the WI, which will be opened when the vote is taken. Also, should a delegate not be present to vote at the meeting and no proxy vote received, the vote will be taken as a positive."

The resolution reads:

"Following a vote at the Annual Council Meeting in 2024 when WIs agreed to continue awarding the Centenary Bursary of £2000 every two years supported by the donation of £10 per year per WI, due to a number of WI suspensions, the Northumberland Federation Board of Trustees proposes that, in order to continue making this award, the donation of £10 be increased to £15 per year per WI as from April 2027 and for the foreseeable future".

Methods of payment:

- **WI BACS** using the above Event Code (e.g. for an application for 1 member, please use the payment ref 26**x1). In addition, please send a timely corresponding email confirming the BACS payment including your WI name to federationoffice@northumberlandwi.co.uk . Ideally please also provide a scanned copy or photo of this form attached to this email or if unable to do so please additionally type out all the above required details. If these steps have been followed it is not necessary to also post your form to Cresswell House.

Lloyds Bank, Northumberland Federation of Womens Institutes, Sort Code: 30-93-71 Account Number: 03511958.

- **Cheques** are payable to Northumberland Federation of WIs and sent with a completed copy of this form.
- Other options are to come into the Office to pay by **cash** or **card** using our SumUp machine during Office opening hours (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 09:30 – 14:30). Please also complete this form.

Notes:

- Please ensure all applicants and their WI keep a note of event details, particularly if handing in this form.
- For any additional relevant information that we need to be made aware of for an event please contact us.

We look forward to seeing you at the Northumberland ACM 2026!