

Northumberland Federation News

Chat from the Chair

Hello ladies, here we are back after the break where the weather has been fabulous and there is a lot of exciting news, so much I am not sure where to start!

Firstly we have been approached by three (yes really, THREE) members who have shown interest in joining the Board of Trustees. All three of them have now been to one meeting as Observers and are all eager to come along to the next one. They are Judith Kirby from Newbrough WI, Joy Williams from Clousden Hill WI and Susan Wilkinson from Pegswood with Bothal WI.

I can also announce the winner of this year's bursary following interviews with the girls, who were all delightful young ladies. It is Mya Reveley. who is going to study law at The University of York. We wish her well and will give you more news later.

The Service of Celebration at Newcastle Cathedral is well under way as is the Annual council Meeting at the Royal Grammar School on Saturday 3rd October where I hope to see a delegate from every WI and lots of observers.

The agenda and other information about the Annual Council Meeting went out to secretaries in the last mailing and I am asking you all to make sure that you know about the two resolutions which will be voted upon at that meeting. The first one is quite straightforward and is to adopt the Articles of Association that all WIs have to do and the second

one is to decide on whether or not you wish to continue with the bi-annual bursary to a young woman going in to some form of further education, and if so you are happy for the amount to be raised from £10 per year for each WI to £15 per year. The Board very much wish to continue with this scheme but as you will be aware we are not allowed to use the members' Annual Subscription money for this purpose. When we started this we had well over 100 WIs and the money given easily covered the outgoings including any postage etc but we are now standing at 90 WIs and it has been down to the generosity of money from a fundraising raffle that has allowed us to meet our obligation for the last recipient. So your decision is important and your delegate must be told how to vote.

The Federation Quiz is nearly completed and under lock and key at The Coast sub Office. Applications are coming in for Chatsworth House at Christmas but please remember the closing date is 14th September. Last year's trip to Castle Howard was fabulous, despite the weather which managed to be cold, wet and windy.

My last bit of news is about the fundraising Christmas Cracker Day at Cresswell House and full details of what it entails, how to get a ticket, book a table etc are all enclosed with the secretary's mailing this month.



In this newsletter you can expect:

Chat from the Chair from Marj

Updates from the hardworking committees:

- Membership Support - *Moirá Bengtson*
- Arts & Leisure - *Barbara Kilkenny*
- Craft - *Barbara Kilkenny*
- Public Affairs, Education & Science - *Pamela Lamb*

Treasurer's Message from Barbara

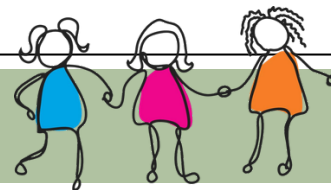
Secretaries' Enclosures:

- Applications forms

200 club draw

Editor: *Dee Ward*

Membership Support



Hello Ladies, hope you're all ok and managing to hang on to the year's coat-tails as it flies by. It's said that time goes by faster as we age, and I can't argue with that at all!

Thank you very much for the support for our Programme Planning session with 28 members attending - it's great to be able to exchange ideas and information on events and speakers, from the excellent and successful to the 'best forgotten', and have fun whilst doing so.

We're also delighted to have had enquiries from two prospective Adviser trainees, who will join us as observers at the next Membership Support Team meeting so if you've been thinking that you'd like to join us please get in touch - we have space for another one or two. I'd love to hear from you if you'd like more information: moirawi@outlook.com or 07889 928064.

Finally, a heartfelt plea for you to contact us to update information regarding your Officers and venues, especially if you've just had changes during your Annual Meetings, or recently had a change of four walls/scenery!

Have fun, Moira X

Arts & Leisure

The **Domino Competition** has reached the semi-final stage. Good luck to Corbridge & Netherton and Clousden Hill and Newbrough. The Grand Final will be on September 28th. Application forms for 2027 will be with the October Newsletter.

Thank you to all members who have supported our summer events. **The Summer Quiz** was a full house and **Poetry Please** was a great success at Cambo. Many thanks to their members for the hard work that went into the planning. Both events will be in the diary next year.

A WI to host a fifth circular walk would be much appreciated. A coastal walk perhaps?

Reminder: **The Jigsaw Competition** is on Mon Oct 19th 11:00 - 14:00, c/d Tues Oct 6th.

Please make dietary requirements clear when booking your place. If we don't have these it causes disappointment on the day for the committee and members.

Future dates. **Christmas Beetle Drive**. Thurs Dec 10th Application form in October.

Looking ahead. **A Retro Games afternoon**. Mon Mar 22nd 13:30 Details in December.

As always we are open to ideas.

Public Affairs, Education, Science & ACWW

Reminders: Hancock Museum Talk - 6 October 2026 at Cresswell House at 2 pm. There is still time to apply for this talk by Dr Rachel Anderson, Heritage Researcher, and discover the history of the Hancock Museum. The cost is £8 to include tea/coffee and cake. Closing date is Tuesday 22 September 2026.

A career in Forensics or Tales of a Fingerprint Expert 17 November at Cresswell House at 7 pm

For those who like murder mysteries, and who doesn't?, Judith Kirby will give a talk explaining the science behind fingerprint identification and the realities of working in Forensic Science.

The cost is £8 to include tea/coffee and cake. Closing date is Friday 30 October 2026.

We hope to see you at these events.

Craft

Since the last Newsletter there have been two successful events. **The Quilling Workshop** was thoroughly enjoyed and those attending would like another workshop in 2027.

Another **Floral Workshop** resulted in some fabulous arrangements thanks to Alison's tuition.

Reminders.

- **Jen's Biscuits.** Sat Sept 26th. Arrive at 10 to start at 10.30. Finish at 12.30 after sampling some award winning biscuits.c/d Sept 8th. £12.50 pp.
- **Goldwork Workshop** with Marian Fairless. Mon Oct 12th. Arrive at 10 for a 10.30 start. Bring a packed lunch and finish at 15.30. c/d Tues Sept 29th.
- **Christmas Multi Craft Day.**

Join us for the return of one of our most popular events. Arrive at Cresswell House at 10am for coffee and biscuits ready to start at 10.30am with one of the 3 festive crafts we are offering. The crafts are Card Making, Candle Decorating and a beautiful Needle Worked Brooch.

Along with the crafts you will enjoy the now famous Craft Committee lunch, suitable for vegetarians. **A gluten free option will be available but numbers are needed.** The day will finish at 14.30.

The crafts are suitable for beginners as well as those with experience.All materials and equipment provided.

The festive season starts here.

Venue: Cresswell House at 10am for 10.30 start on Sat Nov 28th. Cost: £35pp. c.d Tue Nov 10th

The committee looks forward to welcoming up at all or any of the above.

200 Club - winners CONGRATULATIONS:

1st - Sally Wade, Ulgham WI £50
2nd - Vicky Pepys, Slaley WI £25
3rd - Helen Small of Shotley WI £10



Treasurer's message

I would like to clarify the information recently sent to Treasurers about who can be asked to audit the accounts of a WI. This person does not have to be a Federation IFE.

What is asked is that it is helpful if the auditor has an awareness of Charity Commission Rules. If, as Treasurer you follow the instructions in the Account Book then your paperwork will comply with these rules and so will be straightforward for the auditor, whether that be an IFE or some other qualified person.

Reminders. For all new WI members from June onwards please send Northumberland's POF (70p per member) with subs.

When sending an email without a photo/scan of application form please advise of all necessary event details in said email.

Please keep for your reference the event details section of the application form.

An Invitation. Treasurers will receive an email inviting them to a coffee morning hosted by Rosie and Julie on Sat Sept 26th 10:30-12:30 £5 per WI. Coffee and cake, a quiz and raffle and chat about all things treasurer related. They look forward to meeting you.

Secretaries' enclosures...



- Applications
 - Christmas Multi Craft Day
 - Christmas Cracker Day
 - Christmas at the Cathedral
 - 200 Club
 - WI Adviser invitation

Dairy Dates - see separate sheet....

Chat from the chair - continued

I must now add something that was missed in the last Newsletter. It is always a special occasion when any organisation reaches a milestone birthday, but as you all know, my message for each month is actually often ready to go before some events are reported. I am therefore saying a belated Happy 100th to Stannington WI who held a lovely party at the beginning of June to which myself and the Advisers were invited. Also, I would like to mention that Dilston WI will celebrate their 100th in October this year, also with a party.

Happy Birthday to all other WIs whose birthday was a tombola one (ending in a 5 or a 0) and don't forget you can send a short report and pictures to our website.

Well, I am quite exhausted just looking at what we have coming up but it will be fun, I promise.

Mary x

And a bit more.....

National Annual Meeting 2027

The National Annual Meeting 2027 will be held at The Connexin, Hull on Thursday 3rd June. This will be a hybrid meeting and so delegates and observers can choose to attend in person or online.

We are waiting for further information from National but hope to send out Northumberland Federation's revised Link List and the delegates' and observers' application forms shortly.

Travel will be by coach. We have accommodation booked for the night of Wednesday 2nd June at the Holiday Inn in York, and will travel to Hull the following morning. We will return to the North East after the meeting. Delegates' shared accommodation will be covered by the contributions paid by Wis. However, should a single room be requested and is available, the extra cost will need to be covered by the delegate herself. The cost of travel for delegates is covered by the National Pooling of Fares paid by each Federation and WI.

Any in-person observers will be required to pay the cost of accommodation, meeting ticket and coach travel (if travelling with the Federation's party) and will need to send the completed application to the Office. Observers wishing to attend online will need to register themselves and pay the appropriate donation – all prices will be notified on the application forms.

Centenary Bursary 2026

We are delighted to let you know that we have awarded the Centenary Bursary 2026 to Mya Reveley from Blyth. As in previous years, it was a joy to meet the girls who had applied and all interviewed would have been worthy winners. However, Mya stood out with her enthusiasm and determination to succeed in her chosen subject of Law. We are sure you will join with the Board of Trustees in wishing Mya all the very best for her time at York University and success in her future career. She has promised to keep us informed of her progress and we look forward to hearing from her as she ventures into a new and exciting stage of her life.

Please discuss and vote on the resolution regarding the Centenary Bursary at your Wis in order for your delegate to relay your wishes at the Annual Council Meeting on Saturday 3rd October at the RGS. The resolution is included in the agenda for the meeting which was sent to WI Secretaries in the last mailing.

Thank you for reading!

For more information on what you've all been up to, head over to our website, keep your pictures coming, we'll try to include as many as we can. Click here - (www.northumberlandwi.org.uk)

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