

County News

The Cumbria-Cumberland Federation of Women's Institutes

CCFWI, WI Office, 12a Clifford Court, Carlisle CA3 0JG

Visitors/Phone enquiries: Wednesday/Thursday 10.00am to 1.00pm Tel: 01228 521774

Website: cumbria-cumberland.thewi.org.uk/

 Facebook.com/CCFWI/

Chairman: Kathleen Bowron

Treasurer: Ann Kirkpatrick

Federation Secretary and Editor: Lesley Porter

Email: ccfsecretary@ccfw.co.uk

Enclosures this month: Spring Bulbs Catalogue; 2024/25 Year Book updates, 2025/26

Subs payment form. **TO ALL SECRETARIES**— Please distribute accordingly and if any enclosures are missing, please contact the Secretary at WI Office

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THE MAIN EVENT

Thursford Christmas Spectacular

Event Code: ACL-TCS

Event lead: Mandy Henderson - Tel: 078635 50266 /

Email: MandyH.WITrustee@outlook.com

Date: 18th – 21st November 2025

Cost: £425 pp - **Deposit:** £75 by: 31/5/25 - **Balance:** £350 by: 15/8/25

Booking form: Available from event lead and electronic copies will be sent to WI secretaries and on the website. **Please contact event lead prior to completing + paying to check a place is available.**

This trip is open to all WI members and their family and friends. Places are on a first come first served basis. Accommodation in twin rooms (3 singles available) on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis.

18th Nov - Travel down to Great Yarmouth, staying at the Palm Court Hotel. Pick ups from Longtown, Brampton, Carlisle + Penrith.

19th - Tickets for the Christmas Spectacular matinee performance. <https://www.thursford.com/christmas-spectacular/>

20th - Day trip into Norwich.

21st - Travelling home.



Thursford Christmas Spectacular

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR ISSUE no. 393 - 18th March

A LETTER FROM YOUR COUNTY CHAIRMAN

Dear Members,

I am looking forward to meeting some of you at the Dabble Day at Bothel on 22nd March and at the Trustees Coffee Morning at Ivegill on 29th March, hopefully the weather will be kind to us. It is good to be doing things together again after what seems like a long winter. Lots of other exciting things are being planned as you will see in this newsletter.



Kathleen Bowron

Those of you who came to the Annual Council Meeting in Keswick in 2023 will remember the beautiful "Resolution" Banners which Thirlmere W.I. brought along. Well they, together with the Green Hearts Banner, which many W.I.s contributed to, have been chosen by National Federation to be part of a display at Beamish Museum from 8th – 16th March. Congratulations to everyone involved with their production. *If you get the chance to visit Beamish during the exhibition please take photographs for County News.*

Have you all taken part in the £500 Free Cash draw in your 2025 Membership booklet? YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT. Wouldn't it be great if a Cumbria-Cumberland member and their W.I. were to be the winner. Kathleen Bowron

OTHER NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

⇒ CUMBRIA-CUMBERLAND CALENDARS:

2025 calendars - now only £1 if collecting from the office or + £1+ £2.10 p+p if you want it posted out.

2026 + beyond - For several years, sales of the Federation Calendar have run at a loss, despite ordering smaller quantities, but this of course results in the unit charge being higher. Many charitable organisations are offering their calendars at only a nominal rate which we cannot match and coupled with rising postage charges each year, even the most loyal members and those who have sent our calendar all over the world, are having to make some sacrifices and ordering less. It is therefore with great regret that we are considering making the 2026 calendar our last. We have taken immense pride in showcasing our County with members sending us some wonderful photographs depicting the many aspects of Cumbria Cumberland.

⇒ ACM CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE - As mentioned in the Feb issue, this year's Chairman's Challenge is 'Anything beginning with 'C'. The list of things that this can include is too many to list but here's a few to get your started: crochet; cards; candles; cuddly toy. As last year you, the members, will be the judges but we will be allowing more time for this to take place. So get your thinking caps on and get crafting... you've 9 months until October!

⇒ HIDDEN HEARING - New hearing centre at 4 Devonshire St., Carlisle, CA3 8LP are offering you a chance to get **FREE** ear wax removal - **worth £50** - To redeem this offer, you simply need to call them on 01228 273268 and quote **COC7-1** when they book.

NEWS FROM YOUR SUB-COMMITTEES

⇒ **BULBS** - Ann Kirkpatrick, Bulb Order Co-Ordinator.

It's time to think about our gardens and plan our displays. The bulb catalogues are now available and we would be delighted if you could support this very important fund raising effort. Members can order good quality bulbs at reasonable prices and this helps raise funds for the Federation. Last year, thanks to your support, we received £728 commission on the sale of bulbs, a very important amount towards helping to keep CCFWI solvent.

ARTS, CRAFTS & LEISURE - Chairman: Mandy Henderson

We are looking forward to our recycle Dabble Day on 22nd March. Give it a go!! Good luck to all the darts teams with the first matches taking place on the 24th March. A big thank you to all involved in arranging and hostessing the matches. We have a target shooting day on 10th May – great fun and you are inside so no getting wet! “Black work” Classes with Margaret Pattinson hope to go ahead on 5th and 19th June in the WI Office. There is much more to come: an indoor games day in July; Crochet day and our trip in November to Thursford as seen on the front of this County News. Do please support these events as they arranged for you, our members. We look forward to seeing you at some of them.

EDUCATION & PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Chairman: Jennifer Baker

Please watch this space for a date (late spring) to hold the Dental Health Matters meeting in the Federation Office. An idea is beginning to take shape, for The Quizzical Walk (maybe early summer) but still needs more details before going to press. A Literary Lunch - this is still in its very early stages with speaker/s venue and date still to be decided.

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT - Chairman: Dawn Eyre

Programme Secretaries Social - 9th April - (MS-PSS1)

Cost: £5/pp to be paid by your WI, pay on the night **Event lead:** Dawn Eyre

Venue: WI office in Carlisle, CA3 0JG. To book your place - **Tel:** 016973 61851 or **email:** deyre67@gmail.com by 1st April. This is a social night with drinks and nibbles that will give programme secretaries a chance to share speaker information (good and bad!!) with other secretaries around the County. So get ready to share!

AND FROM OUR CLIMATE AMBASSADOR: Anne Baird





Check out your carbon footprint & see where you can make Green improvements in your life at <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>



Take empty blister medicine packets to recycle at Superdrug in Carlisle.



Recycle Textiles at Dunelm in Workington.

SEE our CCFWI Green Heart 'Show The Love' Banner at the NFWI Exhibition at Beamish Museum in March. Thank you for your contributions Anne    

FEATURED FEDERATION EVENTS

⇒ ACWW: Associated Country Women of the World (E+PA)

Rural Women in Action (My apologies - In the last newsletter I mistakenly called this 'Pennies for Friendship' when it should've been 'Rural Women in Action'). We still raise funds for this, last year around £1000 was donated this way. Can any WI's who haven't already donated please do so before the end of April by making a cheque payable to ACWW (not CCFWI) and sending into the WI office.

Women Walk the World Day - Tuesday 29th April 2025 - (EPA-ACW)

Recreational Hall Thirlmere 10am for a 10:30 start.

First of all, Thank You, to those of you who have already registered. This is our main fund-raising event for ACWW donating to the Rural Women in Action Fund, supporting grassroot projects in developing countries.

There is limited parking at the Recreational Hall, so please car share. Suitable clothing and footwear will be needed for this linear, flat 5-mile walk alongside Thirlmere. We need as many of you as possible to come on this walk, and pay £5. You will get a nice filled roll for lunch, tea and/or coffee. Bring some extra cash for traybakes and the tombola. As always, any dogs must be kept on their leads the whole time. There are bins along the route where poo bags can be deposited!!

For catering and H&S requirements you need to register for this event. So, before 17th April drop an email to trishdunant@googlemail.com or text a message to 07977416961 giving your name and WI.

⇒ Federation Coffee Morning - Only £5 p/p (TB-CM1)



Being held at Ivegill village hall - CA4 0PA - Sat 29/3/25 - 10am-12 noon
Serving delicious home baked scones, traybakes and teas and coffees. No need to book we just need you to turn up!

⇒ Spring Dabble Day - Recycling Theme - 22nd March (ACL-SDD)

The deadline to book onto this has been extended to 14th March. For more info on the day and how to book see Feb County News or ask your secretary to forward the flyer we sent out. The crafts we will be doing this time, and you can do as many as time allows: Sock mats; Paper flowers; Decorated jam jars; Button pictures and Jumper mitts / fingerless gloves (you will need to bring an old jumper for this one).



⇒ Target Shooting - Sat 10th May 2025 (ACL-TS1)



Event lead: Ilene Forsyth - **Tel:** 01228 791539 **Email:** Ilene.Forsyth@icloud.com
Cost: £25 pp **Start:** 10:00am for 10:30am start **Location:** Longtown, CA6 5ST **To Pay:** cheques payable to CCFWI and **posted to:** March House, 22 Netherby Rd, Longtown, CA6 5XJ. Price includes the shooting and teas/coffees, scones and traybakes but you will need to bring your own lunch. Come and give it a try, see if you can find your inner Annie Oakley! Open to family and friends.

FEDERATION EVENTS DIARY

This is a summary of our planned events. To help you:

CN issue; Date of the county newsletter which has more detailed information, including the event organiser/lead and their contact details. **Closing Dates** are colour coded: **running out of time/spaces;** **deadline/capacity approaching so need to book ASAP;** **time/spaces available** Code: N/A = Not applicable or none given

Date/Time	Event	CN issue	Venue	Cost	Code	Closing date
March 2025						
29 th : 10-12pm	Federation Coffee Morning	Feb	Ivegill Village Hall CA4 0PA	£5	TB-CM1	Just turn up
22 nd : 10-3pm	Spring Dabble Day	Feb	Bothel Village Hall CA7 2HL	£25	ACL-SDD	14/3/25
24th/25th/31st : 7:30pm	Darts Competition - Heats		Various		ACL-DT	Closed to entrants
April 2025						
9th: 7-9pm	Programmes Secretary Social	Mar	WI Office CA3 0JG	£5	MS-PSS1	1/4/25
25 th : 7:30pm	Darts Competition – Final		Wigton Bowling Club		ACL-DT	Closed to entrants
29 th : 10am start	ACWW walk	Feb	Thirlmere	£5	EPA-ACW	17/4/25
May 2025						
10th: 10am	Target Shooting	Mar	Longtown, CA6 5ST	£25	ACL-TS1	2/5/25
Misc items with booking dates						
18th-21st Nov	Thursford Christmas Spectacular	Mar	Great Yarmouth	£425	ACL-TCS	31/5/25 for deposit £75

... and keep a watch out for more information on these

Date/Time	Event	Venue	Cost
June 4 th	NFWI AGM – Watch Parties	TBC	TBC
June 7 th	Federation Coffee Morning	Longtown	£5
June 5th + 19th	Blackwork Class	WI office	£20 (incl both days)
July 19th	Games Day	TBC	TBC
Sept 13 th	Federation Coffee Morning	Alston	£5
Sept - TBA	Learn to Crochet	TBC	TBC



Ever fancied being on TV?

⇒ **BBC Two's Mastermind** is currently scouring the UK to find contenders for the next series which will be filmed in Belfast!

⇒ **Mothership TV** for a new Channel 4 series are looking for adults from ALL walks of life to go on an amazing journey of self-discovery by taking part in a series of immersive intelligence games.

Just ask your WI secretary if you're interested as they will be sent the emails from the office with more info on these opportunities.

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM YOUR WI's

If you want to show us what you've been up to, send a good picture and a few words to the Editors email. Or If you want to advertise a forthcoming event please drop me a line and I'll see if I can fit it in.

⇒ Linstock WI -

Quiz Night - Mon 14th April - 7pm in Linstock WI hall.

Tables for teams of 4 are limited, cost £7 per person including supper. To book ring 01228 533387.



⇒ Walton WI -

95th Birthday Celebration

On Weds 5th Feb, members proudly celebrated their 95th Birthday. A great achievement for a small Cumbrian Village. Members were delighted to welcome Sally from Sally's Tearoom in Warwick Bridge who gave members an entertaining cookery demonstration and explained how she started her business. Sally made some of her famous scones in real time and invited members to sample a variety of the different flavoured scones she makes daily in her Tearoom.

Members were then treated to a delicious

supper beautifully baked and presented by Sally. Linda Woodward won the competition and Glenys Simpson gave the vote of thanks to Sally to express members thanks to her for sharing her knowledge and making a truly scrumptious supper that helped to make their 95th birthday celebration very special. "Happy 95th Birthday Walton WI, thank you for 95 years of friendship and fun, long may it continue."

⇒ Dundraw WI -

Centenary Birthday Celebration

On Feb 12th, 1925, Mrs Court-Brown and Mrs Milton formed a WI group in Dundraw, Cumberland, becoming an integral part of the local community. And so to Feb 12th, 2025 when today's Dundraw WI gathered to celebrate this landmark centenary of our still thriving group. We were joined by the Chair of CCFWI, Kathleen Bowron and vice-chair Penny Coulthard, a delicious lunch, entertainment from the Dundraw players and (comic) madrigal singers and a cake!



NEWS AND EVENTS FROM YOUR WI's... Cont'd

⇒ Warwick Bridge WI - Fundraising for the Calvert Trust, Keswick



After visiting the Calvert Trust in Keswick for our Summer outing in 2023 some members decided it would be a good idea to help them with their fundraising. Our 4x4 Challenge required members to raise £100 per person along 4 routes, ranging from 2 - 10km, around the Lake District. The Challenge was completed in

September and we raised **£602** for the Calvert Trust. We had a great time achieving this which as you can imagine included a lot of craic, plus sampling delightful cafes and pubs en route!



EVENTS FROM YOUR WI's - previously mentioned -Don't Forget:

⇒ Lazonby WI:

Soup Day – All Welcome - Lazonby Village Hall - Tues 18th March 2025 – 12:00-2:00pm : Soup £4 to eat in - Take away £1.50 and tea, coffee and biscuits

Open Meeting - All Welcome (Men too!) - Lazonby Village Hall - Tues 11th March at 2pm - Keith Scobie-Young Of Cumbria Clocks - Manufacture and repair of clocks, including Big Ben, Raffle, Tea and biscuits.

⇒ Stoneraise, Wreay and District WI:

Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale - All Welcome - Sat 12th April at Wreay Village hall, 10:00-12 noon. If you would like to book a table please contact Sally Threlkeld - 07751 022170 or sallythrelkeld1@gmail.com

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

- ⇒ **Office Hours:** We will be closed w/c 31st March - reopening Tues 8th April
- ⇒ **BACS Payments:** Before using BACS it may be best to check with the Event Lead via phone/email first to check spaces are still available. **Bank a/c name:** Cumberland Federation of Womens Institutes **A/C no.:** 40185149 **Sort code:** 82 43 03 **Reference:** Use the event code or form code supplied.
- ⇒ **Cheques:** Please make sure you are sending to the correct person, it's not always to the office.
- ⇒ **Colour Printing:** Some WI's have expressed concern over the amount of colour used in the County News and the cost of it. To put minds at rest, we are charged the same for a page full of colour as one with just a little bit on, and as no-one has stated a preference for black and white copies lets add a bit of colour to our lives!
- ⇒ **Emails sent with the PDF copy of the County News:** Hidden Hearing offer; Mothership TV; Mastermind

SPEAKERS CORNER

Disclaimer: Some speakers contact us requesting that their details be given to WI's. We would like to point out that we issue them as suggestions and not necessarily recommendations.

⇒ **MARCOS KALLOU** marcoskallou@priorknowledge.co.uk

Trading for 21-years Prior Knowledge are a multi award-winning Estate Planning firm, specialising in Wills, Trusts, LPAs and Estate Planning. Registered as WI-speakers with three different Federations we mainly present on either, "How to Protect Some or all of Your Home From Care Fee Costs" or "The Importance of Having LPAs". We have recently been approached by one WI group to do a bespoke question and answer session for their members, mostly about Inheritance Tax and other related matters. We are very flexible. We DO NOT charge any fees, and are now taking bookings for 2026 and beyond.

⇒ **JO MILLS** - Story teller: 07957719982 / Carvetiistory@gmail.com website: Www.jomills-storyteller.co.uk

I am a professional storyteller based in Carlisle. I can offer story sets or tailor something specific to your group. My most popular sets for WI groups are:

Faerie Stories for Grown-ups: Do you think faerie stories are just for children? Think again. In this entertaining set of stories for mature audiences, Jo delves into the dark, often humorous but always enthralling world of faeries.

Tales of Christmas Past: In this festive set of stories, Jo takes you into Christmas past where we hear the stories behind some of our favourite traditional tales. So settle down with a mince pie as these stories fill you with festive cheer.

⇒ **ALEX ASHTON** - Pet blood bank: alex.ashton@petbloodbankuk.org / 07717825205 web: www.petbloodbankuk.org

My talk comprises of a background to the charity and the reasons why it was founded. I also discuss what dogs are eligible to donate blood and explain what happens during the donation process. I then explain what blood products we produce and provide some case studies of dog's lives which have been saved as a result of receiving the products. I usually bring my retired blood donor dog, Misty, along unless the venue doesn't allow dogs or anyone attending the talk doesn't feel comfortable around dogs. He's usually very popular though.



Gone but not forgotten

We remember

Eileen Robertson ~ Dundraw WI

Molly Dickinson ~ Skelton WI + Ivegill WI

Patricia Burns ~ Moresby WI

Nesta Cooper ~ Irthington WI

Jean Irving ~ Irthington WI

Margaret Rutherford ~ Lees Hill WI

Please let the office know if you want anyone's name entered, but please remember that we need you to have permission from relatives before we can do so.