

# County News

Image: Carlisle Citadels

## 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/](http://cumbria-cumberland.thewi.org.uk/)

 [Facebook.com/CCFWI/](https://www.facebook.com/CCFWI/)

Chairman: Kathleen Bowron

Treasurer: Ann Kirkpatrick

Federation Secretary and Editor: Lesley Porter

Email: [ccfsecretary@ccfwi.co.uk](mailto:ccfsecretary@ccfwi.co.uk)

**Enclosures this month:** Subs form – 2026/27; Theatre by the lake poster; 2026 Bulb catalogue and order form **TO ALL SECRETARIES**— Please distribute/display accordingly and if any enclosures are missing, please contact the Secretary at WI Office

### Changes to Office Hours:

Mar/Apr: None planned

### CONTENTS THIS MONTH

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### THE MAIN EVENT



⇒ Federation Coffee Morning - only £5 pp

**Venue:** Kirkstyle Community Centre , CA14 4TH

**On:** Sat 21/3/26 at: 10am-12 noon

Your Board of Trustees prepare, and serve, delicious home baked scones, traybakes and teas and coffees. We use these events as a federation fundraiser and for you to get to know your Trustees so please support us. No need to book we just need you to turn up!



### BULB ORDERS

Your club secretary is being sent the bulb catalogues and order forms . This is a fundraiser for your Federation so please start planning your gardens and get your orders in.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR APRIL ISSUE no.**

## A LETTER FROM YOUR COUNTY CHAIRMAN



Well, the days are definitely getting longer, although not much warmer! What a great time we had at Keswick when Thirlmere W.I. arranged the showing of Calendar Girls at the Alambra cinema. Congratulations to them on raising £2,700 for Blood Cancer UK and Finn's Barn. A very worthwhile venture.

I am looking forward to meeting lots of you at Keswick Rugby Club on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March- International Women's Day. The event is open to all from 10am until 4pm (with a Women's Rugby match to watch in the afternoon) and is a great opportunity to showcase the W.I. The Trustees are holding the first Coffee Morning of 2026 at the Kirkstyle Community Centre, Dean, CA14 4TH on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March see you there as well!

An extra Coffee Morning has been arranged at the Newcastle Building Society, English Street, Carlisle on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 10am until 12noon. (There are very gentle stairs to the room we have been invited to use). Another chance to meet up with friends and have a natter.

Kathleen Bowron

## OTHER TRUSTEE /OFFICE NEWS

### FROM KRIS LONGSHAW:

A big thank you and well done all those knitters/crocheters who make baby items for the Baby Bundles going to the Community Midwives in West Cumbria. The Midwives are always pleased to receive these lovely packs and love handing them out to those families who are struggling. We don't very often get feedback from the recipients of the packs but a friend of mine sent me this and I'm delighted to share the comments with you:



*"Hi Kris, I was visiting a family we support who have just brought home their baby. They were telling me with much enthusiasm about the lovely pack they received from the WI and the magazine with recipes! The midwives brought it to them this week on visits. Dad was genuinely moved at such generosity and that someone else was thinking about them."*

### FROM YOUR SECRETARY AND COUNTY NEWS EDITOR

This is a bit of a plea... I could really do with pictures of local landscapes / visitor attractions etc. ideally in all seasons, in a landscape format for the County News banner.



Also, whilst we are not doing a calendar for 2027, we are hoping to put together a wall planner which will also need pictures, these could be in landscape or portrait format. All pictures would need to be sent to me electronically, with the name of the place and your name so we can give credit where it is due. Thank you.

## NEWS FROM YOUR SUB-COMMITTEES + OFFICE

### ARTS, CRAFTS & LEISURE - Chairman: Mandy Henderson

Well Ladies, we are looking forward to the Team Darts matches and hope to see some of you at the final on 24<sup>th</sup> April. Good luck everyone. We have been finalising dates for this year's events; Some to look forward to; Target Shooting, 16<sup>th</sup> May and Decorating boxes with Pewter, 28<sup>th</sup> May, see our full adverts - both back by popular demand! New Event this year, as was suggested on our feedback forms - Axe throwing and Archery - give them both a go - 26<sup>th</sup> September; Our yearly Quiz, 22<sup>nd</sup> October. These events are great opportunities to meet other ladies, have fun doing it and supporting your Federation too as without your support our Federation may not be here to support you in the future! Everyone is a winner!

### MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT - Chairman: Sue Addyman

I have taken position as Chair of Membership Support, our Advisors Committee. The role of Advisors, as the title suggests, is to support you. The main tasks being to form, suspend, reform and enlarge WIs. Other responsibilities can be to promote The WI, research areas for new WIs, help struggling WIs, and encourage growing WIs . We are here for you so please use us . Any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact .  
Tel 07956 157 449—Email [susan.addyman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:susan.addyman@tiscali.co.uk)

### EDUCATION & PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Chairman: Jennifer Baker

Watch out for more details on our day trip to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in June

### FROM OUR CLIMATE AMBASSADOR: Anne Baird

'Cumbrian Rag Rugs' illustrated book by Winifred Nicholson is a great history & description of her Craft which is artistic, easy to try & a good use of old fabrics.

'Place of Tides' by James Rebanks also shows a traditional way of life & influence on personal journey. Well worth a read.

NFWI are running a series of 'Fair Green Future' Webinars - sign up at MyWI to 'Show The Love' & learn how you can encourage & participate in community climate action. Free to members. <https://via.thewi.org.uk/news/join-our-new-fair-green-future-lunchtime-webinar-series>



#### Special dates in April

Thurs 2nd - [World Autism Day](#)

Weds 22nd - [Earth Day](#)

27th - 3rd May - [National Gardening Week](#)



## FEATURED FEDERATION EVENTS

**Payments for events:** Make cheques payable to CCFWI and send to the event lead (unless directed otherwise). Or save postage and **pay by BACS** using the event code as reference  
**Bank a/c name:** Cumberland Federation of Womens Institutes **A/C no.:** 40185149 **Sort code:** 82 43 03 *Please contact event lead prior to paying to check a place is available.*

⇒ **PEWTER WORK - BOXES - £15PP Code:** ACL-PW

**Date:** 28th May 2026 - **Location:** WI Office **Time:** 9:30-4:30

**Event Lead:** Margaret Pattinson **Tel:** 016973 42365 **Address:** Broadacre, Thornby Moor, Wigton, CA7 0JZ

You will need to bring your own lunch but teas/coffees supplied.

**Spaces are limited for this event so register your interest by phoning Margaret now.**

Once a space is confirmed you will need to send your payment, along with a SAE, to Margaret, so details of the course can be sent out to you.

⇒ **TARGET SHOOTING - £25PP Code:** ACL-TS

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026 **Location** Longtown, CA6 5ST **Time:** 10.00am for 10.30am

**Event Lead** - Mandy Henderson - **Email:** [mandyh.witrustee@outlook.com](mailto:mandyh.witrustee@outlook.com)

**Tel** 07863550266 **Address:** Gill Farm, The Gill, Dalston, Carlisle, CA5 7JP

Payments to be sent to the event lead.

Price includes the shooting and refreshments but you will need to bring your own lunch.

Numbers dependant, may be open to family and friends. Great fun day come and give it ago.

⇒ **ACWW: ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD**

**Women Walk the World Day** - Wednesday 29th April 2026 - (EPA-ACW)

**Event Lead:** Trish Dunant **Email:** [trishdunant@googlemail.com](mailto:trishdunant@googlemail.com) **Tel:** 07977 416961

Have you registered for this fun event? This is our main fund-raising event for ACWW donating to the Rural Women in Action Fund, supporting grassroot projects in developing countries. Now is the time to drop me an email or text giving your names and your WI. Suitable clothing and footwear will be needed for the walk. Pay on the day.

**From 10am**, while you check in and pay your registration fee teas, coffees and traybakes will be available. **At 10:30**, with your route description in hand you will set off.

**Registration Fee:** We are trying out something a bit different this year. You can **EITHER** pay separately; £5 registration fee, £1 filled roll for lunch, £1 tea or coffee, £1 traybakes and £1 for each raffle ticket **OR** make one payment of £10 which includes registration fee, filled roll, unlimited tea or coffee, at least one piece of traybake and 3 raffle tickets.

This is a trial and, on the day, we will see which system has been most popular!!!

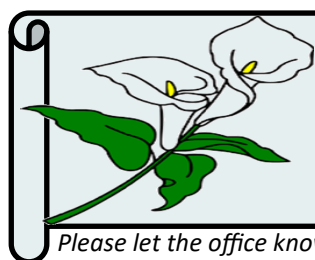
**Rural Women in Action** (Used to be 'Pennies for Friendship'). We are still taking donations for this so please donate by making a cheque **payable to ACWW (not CCFWI)** and sending into the WI office. We will then forward them onto ACWW. *Thank you.*

# FEDERATION EVENTS DIARY

Date/Time	Event	Venue	Cost	Code	Closing date
<b>March 2026</b>					
8th: 10:00 - 4:00	International Womens day	Keswick Rugby Club	Free	N/A	Just turn up
21st: 10:00 - 12 noon	Federation Coffee Morning - Dean	Kirkstile Community Centre, CA14 4TH	£5	TB-CM1	Just turn up
Dates to be announced	Darts Competition - Heats	Venues	£15/team	ACL-DT	14/2/26
<b>April 2026</b>					
24th: 7:30pm	Darts Competition - Final	Wigton Bowling Club		ACL-DT	
29th: 10:00am	ACWW Walk	Embleton Village Hall, CA13 9XU	£5	EPA-Walk	Register by 19/4/26
<b>May 2026</b>					
8th : 10am-12 noon	Federation Coffee Morning	Newcastle Building Society, Carlisle	£5	TB-CM2	Just turn up
16th: 10:00 am	Target Shooting	Sandysike Longtown Carlisle CA6 5ST	£25	ACL-TS	1/5/26
28th: 9:30-4:30	Pewter Work - Decorated Boxes	WI Office	£15	ACL-PW	End April
<b>June 2026</b>					
4th	NFWI - AGM watch party for delegates	WI Office	N/A	N/A	N/A
10th + 24th	Blackwork course (2-days)	WI Office	TBA	ACL-BWC	End May
20th	Federation Coffee Morning -	Patterdale	£5	TB-CM2	Just turn up

... and note these in your diary, more information to follow in future issues

Date/Time	Event	Venue	Cost
June 10th	Daytrip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park	Coach trip	TBA
Sept 12th	Federation Coffee Morning	Woodend	£5
Sept 26th	Axe Throwing & Archery	Windermere	TBA
Sept 30th	Pewter Jewellery	WI Office	TBA
Oct 14th	CCF AGM	Greenhill Hotel	TBA
Oct 22nd	Quiz nights at Dalston + Lamplugh		TBA
Nov 7th	Federation Coffee Morning	Seascale	£5
Dec 5th	Carol Service	TBC	TBC



Gone but not forgotten, We remember  
 Glenys Pratt ~ Rosley WI  
 Jean Hotton ~ Bassenthwaite 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.

## NEWS FROM YOUR WI'S -

If you want to show us what you've been up to, send a good picture (ideally named and in landscape) and a few words to the office 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. - **All the pictures from this issue will be on the website gallery in all their glory!**

### ⇒ Hallbankgate WI

Had a lovely November meeting where we had the pleasure of welcoming Hrishikesh Desai, the Michelin Star Chef Patron at Farlam Hall Hotel & Restaurant which we are very proud to share our little village with. Not only did Hrishikesh provide a wonderfully inspiring talk about his journey to becoming a Michelin Star Chef at this meeting, but he was kind enough to present some very special milestone awards to five of our very valued members, including Norah Jackson, pictured here, who has celebrated 70 years at our WI (!) In 1978 Norah wrote a poem about the WI, you can see it on the website... Some things never change!



### ⇒ Cleator WI

Handing over the £500 they raised for Hospice at Home.



### ⇒ Moresby WI

His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cumbria, Mr Alexander Scott presenting Mrs Margaret Hartley, President of Moresby WI with her British Empire Medal awarded in His Majesty the King's 2025 Birthday Honours List for Services to the Community in West Cumbria.



### ⇒ Dundraw WI

Are having a Coffee Morning to raise funds for their Village Hall

**ALL WELCOME**



9th May  
10:00 am—2:00 pm  
at Blencogo village hall, CA7 0BZ

### ⇒ Dalston WI Craft Group

A huge thank you to our amazing craft group. A national WI call-out led by standing with giants volunteer & WI member Toni Briggs inspired 37,000 handmade poppies in 2024 to be sent forming a key part of the Normandy display. Our talented Dalston WI ladies have contributed 94 beautiful handmade poppies of their own helping to make the 2026 display truly special. Every poppy helps us honour those who served



## NFWI WALES—

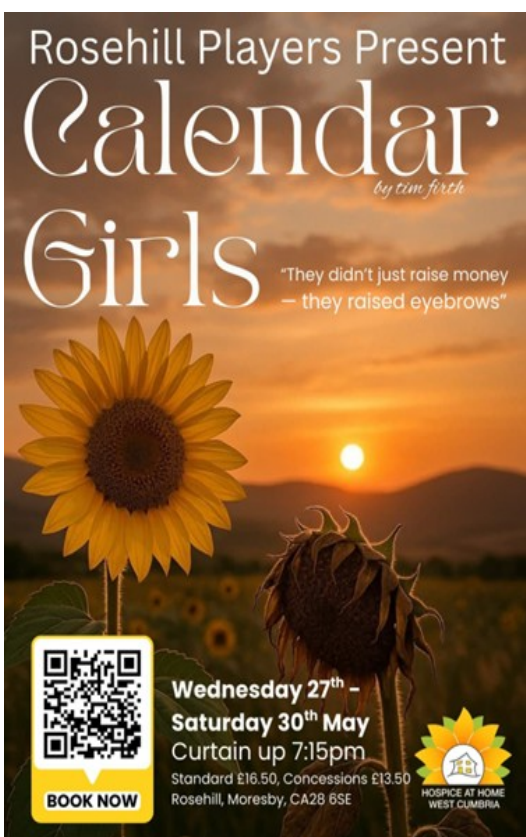
### 2026 COMPETITION "NOT IN MY NAME "

Design and create a coaster depicting the theme ending violence against women. Your secretary has had all the details on what is required and how to enter so why not give it a go?



## MAYBE OF INTEREST BUT NOT WI EVENTS -

These are several women focused events coming up this year of which Calendar Girls seems to be pretty prominent. Some basic details in this County News but your secretary has also been sent leaflets of these items, either in hard copy or via email, which gives you more details: **Please ask to see them and support local events.**



## WEST CUMBRIAN ROTARY CLUBS— VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) FUNDRAISING PROJECT

We invite you to a delicious buffet at Hunday Manor Hotel on Friday 20th March, 7o'clock for 7.30, in their new special events suite. £10pp. All funds raised will go to the Freedom Project in West Cumbria.



Violence against women and girls is a local and national crisis. Please attend to find out what we can do to help. Interesting speakers, including DI Mike Taylor Tactical Lead for VAWG, Cumbria. Vicky Pike from the Freedom Project will introduce lived experience speakers.

Your Club Secretary has been emailed a poster with more details and about how to pay.

## ARRIVING AT RHEGED 26TH MARCH UNTIL 28TH APRIL.

### Longest Yarn 2 "Britain at War" <https://rheged.com/event/the-longest-yarn-2/>

Volunteer knitters and crocheters from across the UK, and beyond, have created a stunning set of 80 dioramas which depict scenes of Britain during wartime entirely from yarn. There are also 8 life-size figures including a Navy submarine officer, a Spitfire pilot, a land-girl rat catcher (see picture) and piper Bill Mallin. I (Rosie at Penrith WI), was privileged to design and create one of the panels (No 25 - Churchill visiting sailors onboard HMS Exeter).



# THEATRE BY THE LAKE

## A YEAR OF WOMEN'S STORIES

We're delighted to be welcoming WI members from across Cumbria-Cumberland, Cumbria Westmorland and North Yorkshire for a year of powerful, entertaining and inspiring productions centred on women's lives.



**Lark Rise to Candleford 26 MARCH - 18 APRIL**

Flora Thompson's beautifully observed portrait of rural womanhood and community.



**Spitfire Girls 12 - 16 MAY**

The remarkable story of the women who flew and ferried aircraft during wartime, quietly changing history.



**Nell Gwynn 9 JULY - 1 AUGUST**

A witty, bold and joyous celebration of a woman who refused to be defined by her circumstances.



**Calendar Girls the Musical 6 AUGUST - 5 SEPTEMBER**

The true story of friendship, courage and ordinary women doing something extraordinary.

Whether it's a social outing, a special celebration, or your first visit to us, we're here to help you plan the perfect theatre trip.

Generous Group Booking Discounts | Behind-the-scenes Theatre Tours available | Fully accessible venue | Matinee & evening performances | Coach-friendly drop-off & parking nearby | Café and Lakeside Restaurant on site



Find Out More

☎ Group bookings: 017687 74411 | 🌐 [enquiries@theatrebythelake.com](mailto:enquiries@theatrebythelake.com)

## 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.

⇒ **RICHARD QUINN- PREVENT**

**Email:** [richard.quinn@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:richard.quinn@cumberland.gov.uk)

My name is Richard Quinn, and I lead on Prevent within Cumberland council. Prevent is one strand of the governments counter terrorism strategy called CONTEST, and our work is about raising awareness in communities about the Prevent programme which works to prevent those most at risk from radicalisation from turning to terrorism or supporting terrorism. I am offering to present to your groups within the Cumberland area, with a 25–30-minute presentation outlining what prevent is, the current threat, and signs to look out for. If this is of interest, please message me on the email above.