

County News

Image: Magnolia in bloom

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@ccfwi.co.uk

Enclosures this month: Current Year book updates;

TO ALL SECRETARIES— Please distribute/display accordingly and if any enclosures are missing, please contact the Secretary at WI Office

Changes to Office Hours:

May : None

CONTENTS THIS MONTH

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THE MAIN EVENT

Day Trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park - £35 pp

Event Code: EPA-YSP **Date:** Weds 10th June

Event Lead: Jennifer Baker **Tel:** 07923 430932

Email: tonybakerdevelopments@gmail.com

Pickup points (time change from previous): Halston, Carlisle at 8:30 and Sandgate Bus Station, Penrith at 9:00
Returns to same points at around 6:00-6:30. Come along with us to West Bretton and enjoy an artistic treat. The price includes coach and entry to the park. This excursion is open to family and friends so come and join us for a lovely day out. There are food outlets at the park or you can have a Picnic in the grounds among the sculptures it's up to you. Check out more about this fantastic park by going to their website: <https://yvsp.org.uk/>



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR JUNE ISSUE no. 405: 15th MAY

A LETTER FROM YOUR COUNTY CHAIRMAN

Well, I can't quite believe that I am writing for the May edition of County News, where has the time gone?

I was reminded the other day that the W.I. was one of the founding members of the Fairtrade Foundation in 1992. It is perhaps one of the resolutions that we have forgotten about but the Trustees feel that we must remind ourselves of the difference Fairtrade makes to small farmers and producers throughout the world. We have therefore decided that all our Federation events will use Fairtrade products such as tea, coffee and sugar, starting on May 8th with our coffee morning in the Newcastle Building Society, English Street, Carlisle. It will be good to see lots of you there taking a break from your shopping.

We would also like to encourage individual W.I.s to consider using Fairtrade goods at their meetings and events. It would be good if we could say we were a Fairtrade Federation. Hoping to see many of you over the coming months.



Kathleen

On a sad note...



I am very sorry to announce the death of one of our former Chairmen, Eileen Wilson who held office from 1994 to 2008. Eileen first joined the W.I. in Armathwaite with her Mum in 1952. On her marriage to David, she joined Crofton and then Thursby where she was President for a great many years. In the early 1980's Eileen attended Newton Rigg college to train as a Home Economic judge.

This took 6 years as each class had to be passed before you could move onto the next, quite a commitment. She joined the Home Economics Committee and helped to produce various cookery books. Early in the 2000's she was approached by Jane Hasell-McCosh about the possibility of holding a Marmalade Festival, and as they say the rest is history. Eileen continued to judge at the Festival until fairly recently. In 2022 Eileen celebrated 70 years as a W.I. Member and Thursby W.I. held a "Hats Compulsory" Afternoon Tea in her honour.

We send our condolences to Eileen's family and remember her with fondness.

We have winners!

We had the 1st drawing of our 200 Club on 21st March at the Dean Coffee Morning

- o 1st Prize: £90 - **No. 33** – Bothel WI
- o 2nd Prize: £50 - **No. 29** – Anne Darbyshire of Westward WI
- o 3rd Prize: £30 - **No. 55** – Lazonby WI
- o 4th Prize: £20 - **No. 27** – Mandy Henderson of Cumdivock WI



ARTS, CRAFTS & LEISURE - Chairman: Mandy Henderson

Congratulations to the Team Darts winners – Wetheral WI – winning all their games in the final. Unfortunately you have missed the chance to go target shooting on 16th May as we are now full, however you could contact me if you want to go on the waiting list in case there are any cancellations! It's great fun and you are inside so no getting wet... and ladies please remember your lunches! The decorating boxes with Pewter is now full but Margaret's "Black work" 2 x day Classes 10th and 24th June in the WI Office has a few spaces so if you have thought about it do contact her before it's too late!

Events still to come: September brings Axe throwing and Archery, and Pewter Jewellery. Do please try to support these events and book your place asap. They are arranged for you, our members and we look forward to seeing you at some of them.

Please keep the ideas coming in for other events that you would be interest in. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT - Chairman: Sue Addyman

Following a successful celebration of International Women's Day in March which was held at Keswick . Interest was expressed in there being a Womens Institute in the town, so, as we welcome Spring which symbolises renewal, rebirth and new beginnings, effort is being made to renew a Women's Institute in Keswick. An initial information evening has been arranged for Wednesday 13th May @ Keswick Rugby Club between 7pm & 9pm . If you know of anyone who may be interested in this please could you spread the word.

If you need any help or assistance with anything please do not hesitate to contact The Federation Advisors. We are here for you. Let's work together to grow The Womens Institute.

EDUCATION & PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Chairman: Jennifer Baker

Please get booking for the Yorkshire Sculpture Park trip as soon as possible. We need to reach a certain number for this to go ahead so please don't leave it until the last minute and then be disappointed.

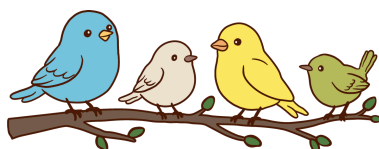
FROM OUR CLIMATE AMBASSADOR: Anne Baird

Cumbria Nature Festival.. 8-10th May Connect with Nature.. *Bats, Badgers, Willow Weaving, Talks, Swifts Hedgehogs, Music, Food & local initiatives - see FB page/website for info.

<https://www.cumbrianaturefestival.co.uk> Tickets from £5 or go Camping for the weekend.. !! Short walk off the X4/5 Bus route.

Keswick Museum Community Gallery - has a 'Curlew Recovery Exhibition' - see the excellent work of volunteers & learn about this Endangered species.

**RSPB advice for Bird Feeding has been updated due to risk of disease spreading - please don't feed birds seed between 1st May & 31st October. Clean water/dish welcome. 💧



FEDERATION EVENTS DIARY

Date/Time	Event	Venue	Cost	Code	Closing Date
May 2026					
8th : 10am-12 noon	Federation Coffee Morning	Newcastle Building Society, Carlisle	£5	TB-CM2	Just turn up
16th: 10:00 am	Target Shooting - Rifle	Sandysike Longtown Carlisle CA6 5ST	£25	ACL-TS	FULL
28th: 9:30-4:30	Pewter Work - Decorated Boxes	WI Office	£15	ACL-PW	FULL
Jun 2026					
4th	NFWI - AGM watch party for delegates	WI Office	N/A	N/A	N/A
10th + 24th	Blackwork course (2-days)	WI Office	£20	ACL-BWC	Check availability
10th	Daytrip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park	Coach trip	£35	EPA-YSP	25th May
20th	Federation Coffee Morning	Patterdale	£5	TB-CM2	Just turn up
29th	Programme Secretary Social	WI Office	£5	MS-PSS	15th June
Jul 2026					
8th	Quizzical Walk	Carlisle	£5	EPA-QW	Just turn up

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

Date	Event	Venue
Sept 12th	Federation Coffee Morning - £5 pp	Woodend
Sept 26th	Axe Throwing & Archery - £40pp	Windermere
Sept 30th	Pewter Jewellery Workshop	WI Office
Oct 5th	Film Showing with Neil Emerys award winning documentary file-The Art and Life of Dorothy Ramsay - with Afternoon Tea	Lamplugh
Oct 14th	CCF AGM	Greenhill Hotel
Oct 22nd	Annual Quiz Night	Dalston + Lamplugh
Nov 7th	Federation Coffee Morning	Seascale
Dec 5th	Carol Service	Arthuret Church, Longtown

FEATURED FEDERATION EVENTS & NEWS

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.

We have two new WI Advisers:

Amanda and Nancy both did the online Advisers course and passed. Their contact details are below.



Amanda Ings - Email: amandacings@gmail.com Tel: 07702 068197

Nancy Banks - Email: nancy lindsey banks@gmail.com Tel: 07876 470251

Federation Coffee Mornings - £5 pp - we have 2 coming up!

Date: Fri 8th May **Time:** 10am to 12noon

Venue: Newcastle Building Society,
65 English St, Carlisle CA3 8JU



Date: Sat 20th June **Time:** 10am to 12noon

Venue: Glenridding Village Hall, CA11 0PA

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



We're going back to our values and only serving Fairtrade Teas and Coffees



Blackwork Classes (2-days) - £20 pp -

Event Code: ACL-BC **Dates:** Weds 10th & 24th June - **Time:** 10:00 - 3:00 **Location:** WI office
Back by popular demand this 2-day course introduces you to the intricate world of Blackwork. **Spaces are VERY limited** so check first by phoning the event lead now. **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.

Programme Secretary Social - Mon 29th June

Event Code: MS-PSS **Date:** Mon 29th June **Time:** 7:00-9:00pm

Venue: WI Office, CA3 0JG **Event Lead:** Sue Addyman **Tel:** 07956 157449

Email: Susan.addyman@tiscali.co.uk **Cost:** £5pp to pay on the night (payable by your WI)



After successful events last year we're doing them again. Book your place and come along to this casual evening with light refreshments and no agenda. The aim of this event is to help you get planning for your 2027 programme, or to fill in those sudden blanks for this year! We ask those attending to bring with them any ideas or recommendations, along with contact info, for visits or speakers, to share with everyone else. We are also hoping to do one over in the west of the county so watch out for that one.

2026 Darts Tournament - Winning team: **Wetheral WI** Final held on Fri 24th April



The winning team, who won all their games on the night, with the team and individual trophies, as presented by County Chairman Kathleen Bowron.

Congratulations to winners **Wetheral**. Stoneraise, Wreay and District WI came a close 2nd. **Diane Spark**, from Cockermouth WI, took the Highest Score Trophy with 128. Well done to all who took part and big thank you's to Elsie and Caroline for organising (there's a lot to do in the background), the WI's taking part in the competition or organising venues and scorers and suppers. It was great fun, some late nights, some slow matches – well we can't all be professionals! It is a fantastic way to meet other WI ladies and have a lovely evening out with your own members... See you again in 2027!

Puzzle time - You should be seeing these in your gardens, can you find these flowers:

solution on page 8

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Allium | Anemone | Bluebell | Camassia |
| Chrysanthemum | Cyclamen | Daffodil | Fritillaria |
| Gladiolus | Hyacinth | Lobelia | Narcissus |
| Snowdrop | Tulip | | |



BULB ORDERS

Don't forget to get your bulb orders in by 26th May. Your club secretary had the catalogues (hard copy and e-version). This is a fundraiser for your Federation so please support us and start planning your gardens... and get your orders in.



Special dates in June

All Month - [National Age Without Apology](#)

1st - 7th - [Volunteers' Week](#)

Sun 21st - [International Day of Yoga](#)

In e-formats click on the links for more information on the special dates



Dundraw WI



The April meeting of Dundraw WI welcomed Alex Ashton who spoke about the charity 'Pet Blood Banks UK'. Like humans, animals can be saved by the infusion of blood and blood products. Alex's talk focused on dogs and outlined the procedure for donation collections which are sent to the laboratory in Loughborough where it is separated into its different components for later distribution to veterinary practices. For more information check out the website petbloodbankuk.org. During the meeting Alex took a photo of a group of Dundraw members, which included Misty her dog, from which she created this enhanced picture. *Reproduced by the kind permission of Alex Ashton from the Pet Blood Bank UK.*

Lazonby WI - Open Meeting

Tuesday 12th May at 7pm -

£4 entry charge

'The Play's the Thing' -

2 plays reflecting WI Life
by Old Rope Productions

Competition:

Any photo showing women
together (family, friends etc)



Santon Bridge WI

Glorious sunshine, beautiful bluebells, cheerful birdsong and amazing company, all these things were enjoyed and shared by Santon Bridge WI ladies today. As always there had to be food included.



MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

CUMBERLAND COUNTY SHOW - Saturday 6th June



Your Federation are again sponsoring one of the **Home Industries** competitions. Check out the category and how to enter using below link.

<https://www.cumberlandshow.co.uk/content/competitors>

The theme this year is 'The Four Seasons' so plenty of scope to get your creative juices flowing.

You need to enter before the closing date of: Friday 22nd May 2026

CUMBRIA WOMEN OF THE YEAR 2026 - NOMINATIONS OPEN 4th MAY 2026 UNTIL 21st JUNE 2026

the process is simple and confidential, anyone can nominate a deserving woman by completing the online form which, along with more information, can be found at: www.cumbriawomenoftheyear.com

or by contacting: Debbie Keighley via email: cwotyenquiries@gmail.com or tel: 07999 806966

Alongside the prestigious Cumbria Woman of the Year title, are three other categories, these are:

- **Outstanding Contribution** – recognises women who have made a significant impact in their field or community.
- **Service to the Community** – the award celebrates those who dedicate their time and efforts to improving the lives of others.
- **Special Achievement** – honours individuals who have overcome challenges or achieved remarkable success.



SPEAKERS / VISIT IDEAS CORNER

THE FLYING THIMBLES - a Folk Fusion Band

Contact: Helena **Tel:** [07931233096](tel:07931233096) **Email:** kit_carew@yahoo.co.uk

We are a folk fusion band featuring Helena (WI Alston member) on clarinet, washboard and vocals, Robin on fiddle and Harry on guitar, foot drums, vocals and harmonica! We can create the right vibe for your WI party from music for ceildh and circle dances, relaxed afternoon tea chilled vibes to evening get up and boogie. We have a big following in our native Alston and played for the WI Christmas party 2025. Contact Helena for more details.

ROSEHILL PLAYERS (ROSEHILL THEATRE) - Calendar Girls production - 27th to 30th May

<https://www.rosehilltheatre.co.uk/whats-on/rosehill-players-calendar-girls>

Tel: [07766 727927](tel:07766727927) **Email:** anniew3011@gmail.com **Price Discount!**

Your secretaries already have the poster for this event. If any of the ladies would like to come and see **Calendar Girls The play** (as it is different from the film) we could offer you a discount price of £10 per seat for a block booking of 20 people. Just get in touch.



DID YOU KNOW/CAN YOU REMEMBER



That the WI was one of the several organisations who founded the Fairtrade Foundation in 1992. Members had been campaigning throughout the 1970s and 1980s for global food security and agricultural self-sufficiency in developing countries. The perception today is that Fairtrade has rather dropped off the WI agenda. Cumbria Fairtrade Network would like to know if this is true or not for WI groups in Cumbria. Your secretary has received a letter, detailing more about the aims and ethics of Fairtrade, which includes a quick 2-question survey as Cumbria Fairtrade Network would love to know; Do WI groups use Fairtrade tea and coffee and sugar at meetings.? Do you as individuals use Fairtrade tea and coffee at home? **Please could you get together and respond to the survey.**

Do you help to care for or support someone who has dementia and who is living at home?



You are invited to join a new, national, free needlework project. No experience necessary!



To get your free kit, scan the QR code or use the link below. Also your secretary has the flyer with other contact details on. <https://royal-needlework.org.uk/fragile-threads/hopeforhome/>

WASP Windrush Against Sewer Pollution

Whilst this isn't in our geographical area it ultimately does affect us and links in with our clean rivers campaigns. WASP were involved in the making of Dirty Business if any of you watched it (check it out using the link below) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dirty-business> and are asking us to share a link to get you to petition the government re: public ownership of our water.

<https://weownit.org.uk/act-now/bring-thames-water-into-public-ownership>

Puzzle Solution



f	r	i	t	i	l	l	a	r	i	a	s	e	n	r
c	c	h	r	y	s	a	n	t	h	e	m	u	m	t
b	y	p	d	a	n	e	m	o	n	e	c	h	r	u
e	r	c	a	i	o	e	i	o	y	a	w	y	i	n
g	a	m	l	d	u	o	o	n	l	c	a	m	a	
l	c	a	m	a	s	s	i	a	n	e	b	c	g	r
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l	b	u	c	l	h	s	n	o	w	d	r	o	p	u
u	e	l	h	i	p	i	e	s	n	i	t	y	m	s
s	l	i	p	a	s	e	t	a	t	l	a	o	n	r
r	l	p	a	l	l	i	u	m	b	i	t	r	e	l
i	s	u	f	u	a	n	s	a	s	t	e	g	o	s