

Issue no: 400 - Dec 2025/Jan 2026

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@ccfwi.co.uk

Enclosures this month: 3rd qtr Subs form; County News order form; Darts Team entry form; 200 Club 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:

Office closed from 19th Dec to 6th Jan 2026

THE MAIN EVENT

2026 TEAM DARTS COMPETITION

Event Code: ACL-TDC

Cost: £15 per team of 5

Venues: Heats venues are still to be confirmed, but final is at Wigton Bowling club

Dates: Heats will be played late March/early April.

Final will be on Fri 24th April 2026.



Your secretary will now have the entry form to enter your team into this years competition... so get signed up and get practising!

CONTENTS THIS MONTH

- Pg 2 Chairmans Letter;
Other Board of Trustee
News
- Pg 3+4 Secretary Notes; Sub
Committee News;
- Pg 5 Federation Events +
Diary; Special Dates in Feb
- Pg 6 + News from your WI's;
7 Visit Idea; Research opp.
- Pg 8 Speakers Corner; 200 Club

The Trustees would like to
wish all our members
a happy Christmas and
a peaceful 2026



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR FEB ISSUE no. 401 - 15th JAN

A LETTER FROM YOUR COUNTY CHAIRMAN



As I write this the rain is streaming down and I am very glad to be warm and snug inside. I hope you have all survived Storm Claudia without any repercussions. I was honoured at the last Board of Trustees meeting to be re-elected as Chairman and I promise to fulfil the position to the best of my ability.

Thank you for the feedback forms you completed at the ACM they are very useful, although it would be more helpful if those who gave us 0 told us exactly what they did not like. We cannot improve matters if we don't know what you are looking for.

This double issue of County News says goodbye to 2025 and welcome to 2026. I am sure that your WI will be celebrating December with an extra special meeting and I hope you all have a wonderful time.

Your Trustees are busy planning lots of exciting things for 2026 but if you have any suggestions, please let us have them, we do want to organise things YOU want.

We can all make 2026 a great year for our Federation and for your WI. Do invite friends to join some of your meetings as well as Federation events and let them see that we are a great organisation to be part of. Whatever you may be doing over the next few weeks I do hope that you have a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and I wish you all you wish yourselves for the New Year.

Kathleen Bowron



OTHER BOARD OF TRUSTEE NEWS

⇒ CALENDARS 2026

A few people have been upset not to be able to purchase calendars as they are all sold. Last year, and the year before, we were left with a box unsold which ate into any profit so we took the decision this year to only get printed the number that was ordered last year by WI's rounded up to nearest 100. On a final note though, our Calendars have been going around the world, here's an excerpt from a thank you letter recently received: *I am sad to learn this is the final year you will be producing the calendar. My grandmother came from Little Salkeld, after World War One she emigrated to New Zealand. I never met my grandmother but from what I understand from my mother she remained a Cumberland woman despite living her later years half a world away. Throughout my 66 years lifetime there has always been a CCFWI calendar in our homes in New Zealand as my mother's cousin, Hilda Warwick of Little Salkeld and a late member of your Institution, annually sent calendars to my mother and my uncles who were born in Cumberland and the Borders. Since Hilda's death I have continued with the tradition by sending calendars to my siblings and cousins. Thank you to the W.I. for all the years you have produced the calendar. It has brought us much pleasure and will be missed in our family as a link with Cumbria. My cousin has kept many of the postcards over the years.*

NEWS FROM YOUR SUB-COMMITTEES cont'd

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT - Chairman: Dawn Eyre

Hello from the Membership Support Team, we have enjoyed providing two Treasurer Support events this year both of which were I hope of use to the attendees. They all seemed to enjoy their chance to share good practice and discuss problems they were encountering and with the help of all at the meetings hopefully solved them. We are intending to put similar events on in 2026 for Presidents and Secretaries.

If any WI would be happy to provide a venue for these please let us know. We would like to do one in the West of the County and one in East. Please contact any member of the Advisers team if you can help.

Are you aware... Each WI should have an MCS rep assigned to keep your WI and members details up to date on NFWI's MCS - **Any MCS rep who needs help can contact Pam Jago for a one to one session.**

FROM OUR CLIMATE AMBASSADOR: Anne Baird



For River Action Week I bought a new Sculpture from Harrogate Autumn Flower Show for my Garden.. (see photo) .. lighting up a previously dark space. The Show itself was a lovely treat of Flowers, Fruit, Vegetables & Home Inspiration - definitely worth a visit.

The Environment Wreath was placed at Keswick War Memorial for Remembrance Day as usual - remembering the Cost to the Natural World of War & Conflict.



Please remember to put out water for birds & feed during colder winter months.

NOTES FROM YOUR SECRETARY

⇒ 2025/26 WI INSURANCE PAYMENTS

Just a reminder that all payments need to be in by 31st Dec please.

⇒ COUNTY NEWS ORDERS FOR 2026

Your secretary has the order form so please get your orders in.

⇒ DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR ADDITIONAL OFFICE SERVICES

Printing: We can now offer competitive prices on basic printing jobs. Please email the office with your requirements.

WI Programmes: Send me them via e-mail as an attachment, ideally as a single sheet, and without personal contact details, i.e. without your secretary/treasurer phone numbers, on them and I'll upload them to the website. **Please note:** the NFWI are currently doing work on the websites so they may not appear immediately.



NEWS FROM YOUR SUB-COMMITTEES

ARTS, CRAFTS AND LEISURE - Federation Quiz 6th November 2025 -

Our annual quiz took place at **Dalston** and **Lamplugh** with a total of 32 teams taking place. Winners at Dalston were – Penrith and wooden spoons were given to Lowry Hill J.C's. A very close scoring evening. Lamplugh winners were Dean with Woodend receiving the wooden spoons. Well done ladies!! It is not about the winning its the taking part. Everyone had a fun night, meeting other WI Ladies and even learnt something new too. Thank you all for you support and see you next year!!

Chairman: Mandy Henderson



Lamplugh Winners: Dean WI



Wooden spoons: Lowry Hill J.C's

Dalston Winners: Penrith WI

All in a nights work... Behind the scenes at Lamplugh Quiz Night, by Trustee Sandra Clifford

Getting stuck behind a large lorry on the A66 we were getting a bit anxious about arriving late at Lamplugh, but to then arrive to a dark Hall and no cars in the car park was a bit daunting. But fortunately there were contact numbers for the Hall Reps. on the Hall door. But then even more daunting, after a number of to and from phone calls, was to be told that the Hall hadn't been booked (it had!) and that one of the Lamplugh WI Ladies had told them she hadn't heard anything about a Quiz anyway. Happily, by now I was able to tell them that the Quizzers had begun to arrive, as did the keys shortly after, thanks to Claire. So, after much appreciated help from the Quizzers we had the tables, chairs and kitchen set up ready to go and almost on time and given the chatter, laughter, "deep discussions" and yummy looking suppers everyone seemed to be starting to enjoy themselves. Once again thank you all for coming and again our apologies for the delays and our inadequacies. We hope you all got home safely, as did we eventually... First of all the 3 of us to Penrith, then Penny onward to Brisco and Jennifer to Melmerby and all before midnight, even with the seemingly ever present night time road works on the A66. Our warmest regards and see you all in 2026... Sandra, Penny and Jennifer.

FEATURED FEDERATION EVENTS + NEWS

Federation Coffee Mornings - Only £5 p/p -

Come and meet your Trustees, serving delicious home baked scones, traybakes and teas and coffees. No need to book we just need you to turn up, pay on the day!

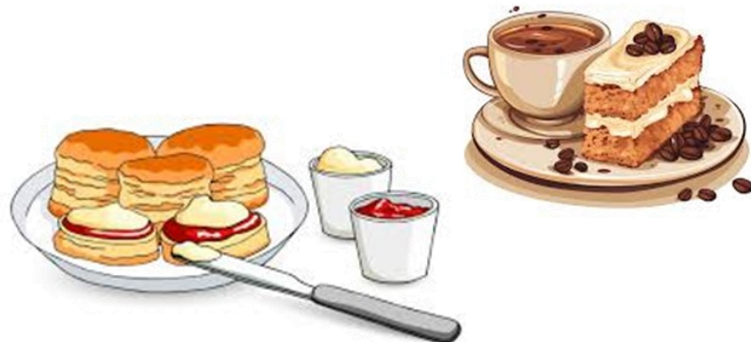
Venues for 2026 -

21st March: Dean

20th June: Patterdale

12th Sept: Woodend

7th (TBC) Nov: Seascale



WATCH THIS SPACE...

2026 - Not got any more details than is given below, but watch this space for more info on the events as soon as we have it.

March 7+8th	International Women's Day - event being organised by TWSFWI at Beamish
Dates to follow	Late March/early April - Heats for Team Darts Competition - Venues to follow, £15/team - you need to get your entry form in by 14th Feb.
April 24th	Team Darts Competition Final at Wigton Bowling club
4th June	NFWI AGM - We'll be opening up WI Office in Carlisle for all delegates
June	Yorkshire Sculpture Park - a coach day trip
Oct - 14th	CCFWI - ACM at Greenhill hotel, Wigton
Dec 5th	Carol Service



Special dates in Feb

I think December and January speaks for itself so I'm going to get ahead and give you time to maybe incorporate some events into your meetings. **Online:** Clicking on the day can take you to more info.

We all know about *Valentines day, but what about...

***Fri 13th - [Galentine's Day](#)**

Tues 17th - [Random Acts of Kindness Day](#)

Fri 20th - [National Love Your Pet Day](#)



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!**

⇒ Kirklington & District WI



At our September meeting we had the Cumbria Fire and Rescue service speaking at the meeting. after the talk we went outside the fire man showed us the equipment they carried in the fire engine.

⇒ Cockermouth WI

Our Park Run Cafe at Cockermouth Rugby Club has just celebrated its first year. Our WI ladies had a busy morning making bacon butties and tea/coffee. And there was free cake for everyone.



⇒ Alston WI

A big congratulations from the Board of Trustees go out to Alston WI who came 3rd in NFWI-Wales 'Not in my Name' banner competition. Well done to all who took part in it's creation. The winner and runners-up were announced at their stakeholder event at the Welsh Parliament on Monday 17 November .



NEWS FROM YOUR WI's cont'd...

⇒ Thirlmere WI

Are having a fundraising event on **4th Feb 2026** at the **Alhambra Cinema at Keswick** of 'Calendar Girls'.

Screenings are at **2pm + 7pm** with tickets at **£5**.

To book call the Alhambra on **017687 72195**. WI's have **priority booking until 10th Dec** when tickets will go on general release.

All proceeds to be shared equally between

Blood Cancer UK  & Flynn's Barn 



The poster was also sent out to all secretaries on 12th Nov due to time constraints on priority bookings

VISIT IDEA

⇒ Theatre trip opportunity



The Story of Swing, a 10-piece band, has a gig at **Millom's Beggars Theatre**, beggarttheatre.com/whats-on/, on **Saturday, 14th Feb, 2026, 8pm**. They are offering discounted tickets for WI members for groups of 6 or more. You'd need to drop a line to this email address - storyofswing@gmail.com - with the name of your WI, confirming the show date and venue you'd like to attend and the number of tickets, they'll respond with instructions on how to redeem the discount.



MISCELLANEOUS

⇒ Volunteers wanted for research on hospital volunteering

Lily Tidman, doing a PhD History project, is seeking interviewees who volunteered in hospitals in Cumbria, Northumberland, or County Durham 1979-1997, particularly for hospital radio stations and Leagues of Friends. If this sounds like you, would you be interested in giving one or two interviews about your experiences?

The project is for Lily Tidman's PhD in History at Newcastle University, supervised by Professor Graham Smith, and funded by UK Research and Innovation's (UKRI) Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) through the Northern Bridge Consortium Doctoral Training Programme. For more info email Lily at L.tidman2@newcastle.ac.uk.

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.

⇒ **ANNA HUGHES - FLIGHT FREE UK AND THE FLIGHT FREE CHALLENGE**

Email: jessicashearingg@gmail.com **Tel:** 07799 081776

Anna Hughes is an adventurer and author, and the director of the charity Flight Free UK. She is an experienced and inspirational speaker on the topics of sustainability and flight-free travel. A talk from Anna explains her motivation to stop flying and the various overland adventures that followed, including cycling 4000 miles around the coast of Britain, and taking trains the length and breadth of Europe. She also talks about her work with Flight Free UK, which inspires and encourages others to give flight-free travel a try. Talks can be flexible according to your needs, lasting between 20 and 40 minutes, with time for questions. Anna is able to travel to various parts of the UK (by train of course!). The fee is £60. For more information about Anna, please visit www.annacycles.co.uk For more information about Flight Free UK and the Flight Free Challenge, please visit www.flightfree.co.uk

200 CLUB TICKETS

We still have some 200 Club tickets available. If you'd like one (or more) please fill in the order form sent to your secretary and send payment to the office, or via BACS. We will fill in the stubs and send you your portion to keep.

Draws for 2026: take place on 21st March; 20th June, 12th Sept + 14th Oct

Prizes for 2026: 1st - £90; 2nd - £50; 3rd - £30 + 4th - £20

Pay by: Cash, personal cheque, or BACS.

Each ticket goes into all 4 draws so you could win more than once!

Buy for yourself or for your WI.

Tickets are limited to 200 so you have very good odds of winning.



Remember to get your order form in for
next years issues of the County News by
Jan 12th 2026

