



# Bainbridge WI Newsletter

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February 2026

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## Walking Group

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February  
Venue to be confirmed

## Craft and Chat

Sat 7 February 10am – 12 noon, Sycamore Hall  
Bring your own project to work on

## Learning Hub

"13th February 12.00 - 13.00 Wellness :  
Put your heart first this Valentine's Day:

## Pottery Workshops

There are 2 workshops planned this month, the first is now full, but there are still spaces left on 16<sup>th</sup> February. See body of newsletter for more info.

## Monthly Meeting

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February  
7.30pm Sycamore Hall. Tea and biscuits for refreshments.  
'Peat Restoration and Yorkshire Wool' Talk  
By Ruth Lindsay

## Lunch Group

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 12 for 12.30  
Hamiltons at Aysgarth

## Garden Group

27<sup>th</sup> February  
Kiplin Hall, Northallerton

## Book Group

No meeting in February, we meet every 6 weeks.

## Federation events

### **Lace Knitting workshop**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 10.30 – 3.30  
Alma House £25.00 Book before 13<sup>th</sup> Feb

### **Spring Council**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at Tennants

### **London Trip 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May**

**Stay, learn and explore -Residential at Barnard Castle 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July**

See NYWF newsletter for more details and booking details

## Events at Sycamore Hall

Monday 9am - 11am Post Office  
Monday 2pm - Knit and natter  
Tuesday 10.30am - Quiz or Bingo  
Wednesday 9am - 11am Post Office  
Thursday 10.30am - Coffee morning  
Thursday 2.00pm – Bridge  
Friday 11am - Gentle exercise  
Friday 11.30am – Fresh fish van  
Every day 2pm - Dominoes

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**Payment by BACS (online):** Account name: Bainbridge WI, Bank: Virgin Money,  
Account number: 25405645, Sort Code: 05 09 94, Reference: the name of the event/activity

**Payment by cheque:** Please write on the reverse of the cheque: **your full name, details of the event/activity the payment is for**

**Payment by cash:** Please put the money in a decent sized envelope and write on the outside: **your full name, details of the event/activity the payment is for**

## Intro

Well January was a month of a few ups and downs?! Our first event was craft and chat, a lovely gentle catch up with four members enjoying sharing ideas for the coming year. Having made a New Year's resolution to get back into walking I joined our walking group's first outing on 7<sup>th</sup> January. My plan was to join everyone half way and walk back with the group to the café for a coffee.



(Nicola Robinson, Susan Freer, Claire Lambert, Raewyn Parkinson and Janet Thomson in the pic!)

Nicola kindly suggested that the first half of the walk was flatter and easier than the second half so I agreed to set off with everyone and then drive to the coffee shop at the end and wait for them there. Walk leader Nicola reminded us that conditions were cold and icy and to take extra care. All went well on a gloriously sunny morning. There had been a frost and some icy patches but we all carefully walked from Hawes to Hardraw. I was waving the others goodbye and turned back to my car only to slip on a patch of black ice and fall on the stone slabs! I knew I'd really hurt my ankle when I couldn't move my leg and the pain was excruciating!! I must have lost consciousness for a while as I don't remember being covered in coats (donated by our walkers – kind souls) and a foil blanket from Nicola's first aid kit. Someone managed to call Mark and had tried getting an ambulance but they were already out on calls and not expected to be available for over an hour.

Mark was "brilliant" according to Nicola 😊 He arrived in no time at all, picked me up and transferred me (with great difficulty) from the ground

to a chair then into his car. Fortunately a wheelchair was provided at A&E in Northallerton and after 4 hours, Morphine, an x ray (showing 2 fractures) and a plaster cast being fitted I was sent home with 2 sticks as my walking aids.

Well, how DDA compliant is your home? Ours has no downstairs loo or bathing facilities. Our stairs have a switch back and our beds are really high. I also found that I could hop a couple of steps with the sticks but I was quite wobbly! It has really brought home that you need a lot of kit to make day to day activities possible. Thankfully I was loaned a wheelchair by Vanda and that has been a godsend. Mark got kit delivered including a shower seat, loo seat with clutch handles, extra pairs of wide leg trousers to fit over the plaster then moon boot etc etc.

Despite being a real pain in the leg...I have managed with Mark driving and becoming my carer, cook and chauffeur to get to our Granddaughter Ellie's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday celebrations and my own birthday trip to stay at Scone palace in Scotland. Some events I will miss, first meeting of lunch club and garden group, some things are impractical to do so no Aquafit for up to 6 weeks. All being well I will get to book club and join Theatre group at the Robinson Crusoe panto in Hawes and the papercraft activity with Diana Hartley on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

I'm looking forward to our February meeting with the Peat restoration talk and lots more group activities.

## Annual Community Lunch

To give you all plenty of advance notice, we will be asking for volunteers to help at our community lunch in April. Please save the date Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April when we'd be really pleased if you could help. For new members and to refresh our own memories too this is our main event of the year The Annual Community Lunch when we invite local residents over 75years old to a free 2 course lunch and raffle. We will need volunteers to help source and prepare

food, help to set up and decorate Bainbridge village hall, including flowers for the tables; help cook and serve on the day, also to help clear away. I must say that it's lovely to see some friends and neighbours enjoying meeting up with each other and enjoying our WI's hospitality so it gives a superb feel good vibe. We cannot do this without your help.

If you're interested and can help us, please put your name and availability onto the signing up sheet that will be out at our February meeting. We will then arrange a planning meeting after.

Many thanks,

**Sue Stokes**

### January Meeting

We held our January meeting in the warmth and comfort of Sycamore Hall and had a fun evening. We listened to presentations on the five resolutions put forward this year and then voted for our favourite. We agreed that all resolutions were worthwhile but our vote clearly favoured one which was the provision of free and accessible toilets for all. Our nomination will now go forward to the WI and it will be interesting to see which is chosen by the majority of members.

We then had a fun quiz, prepared by Claire, which challenged us and brought discussion and laughter. It was good to be back amongst our friends after the festive break and we were also pleased to welcome another new member.

As always, there are lots of activities to sign up for so we are already launching into the new year as we plan to continue - busy! All in all, a good evening.

**Karen Prudden**



### Lunch Club

Approx 13 members of the WI descended on The Wheatsheaf in Carperby on Weds 21<sup>st</sup> January. There was plenty of discussion about where else to go this year and lots of suggestions for Anne to work on! The food and service was very good and the ice-cream sundae looked magnificent!

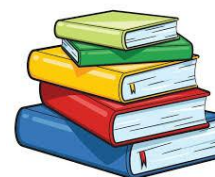


Our next outing is for lunch at Hamiltons Tearooms on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 12 for 12.30.

If you are interested in going, contact Anne.

**Sarah Betts**

### Book Club



The Book Club met on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January at Sycamore Hall, to discuss the last book read, which was 'The Unravelling of Maria' by F J Curlew. We had a pleasant meeting and, on the whole, the book was enjoyed, though a few people found the chronology confusing. We then set dates for our meetings until December(!), and discussed possibly going to the Hexham Book Festival, once their programme is published.

**Susan Freer**

### Garden Group



The group met at Sycamore Hall on Saturday 24th January and we shared photographs of members' gardens and open gardens which had been visited during 2025. All the pictures were enjoyed over tea, coffee and lots of cake! A programme of visits for 2026 is coming together and next month it is hoped the Garden Group will be visiting Kiplin Hall near Northallerton on Friday 27th February for a walk around the grounds and gardens to view their snowdrops. This can be followed by refreshments in their café and even a tour of the Hall afterwards. Full details about this visit will be put out at the next meeting with a signing-up sheet, if we can have a minimum of 10 in our group we will be eligible for a group discount rate. The cost for a Group of 10 or more is £10 per person.

I have provisionally booked our "group" in at Kiplin Hall for this date and look forward to a good number of us attending. Everyone is welcome and hopefully by the end of February, the grounds of Kiplin Hall will be starting to come back to life.

**Claire Lambert**

your own project or ideas for something new to try out. Just come along for a cuppa and a chat – you'll be most welcome to join us.

Below is a picture of a slate etching done partially in the January Craft and Chat, and inspired by our 2025 Craft Group lino printing workshop!

**Sue Stokes/Linda Cameron`**



### Craft group

There are several craft workshops planned for 2026. For those that liked your Christmas gift bauble that was created from a lino print, there will be another workshop coming up soon.

#### **Pottery workshops**

We have a few spaces left for the pottery workshop on Thursday 16 February. If you would like to come along and enjoy a session including a fantastic opportunity to experience pottery 'on the wheel' please let me know by Wednesday 11 February. Linda on 01969 629777.

**Sue Stokes/Linda Cameron**



Craft and chat will be taking place between 10 -12 on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February at Sycamore Hall. Bring



### Walking Group



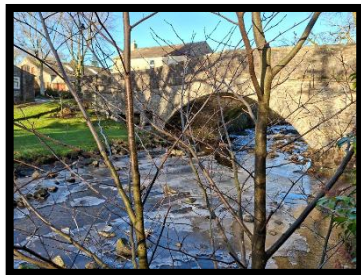
It was a cold but beautiful day when we set out from Hawes. The ground was frozen so we took care to tread carefully and keep away from ice as we went across the fields to Hardraw. We arrived in Hardraw where Sue was stopping to drive back to Hawes but



as we set off for the remainder of the walk Sue sadly slipped on black ice and broke her ankle. We are very grateful to

the residents and holidaymakers who helped us keep Sue warm until Mark could get her into the car to go to A&E. We wish you all the best for your recovery Sue.

Our next walk is scheduled for Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, weather permitting, and route to be

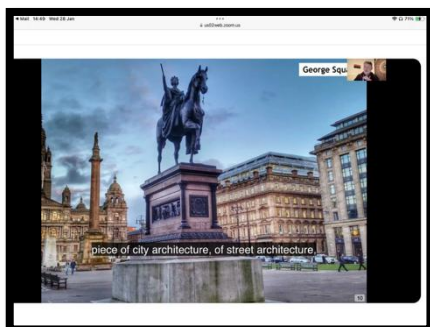


decided nearer the day after I have checked out the conditions. Please look out for an email nearer the day or let me know if you would like to be kept updated personally.

**Nicola Robinson**

### The Learning Hub

From our January newsletter I recommended another Tilo talk, this time it was in the UK and as I was planning to be in Scotland, a talk about



Glasgow. I have been there in the past but only for a work conference so there was little time to sight see. This talk definitely made up for a lot of the sights I had missed.

Tilo has kept up his reputation for taking you places and making them so interesting that you are then tempted to visit and see for yourself. Despite being an old city there are only 4 medieval buildings, yet there are 4 Christian cathedrals, St Mungo's is the largest in Scotland, 13 Mosques, 4 Gurdwaras and 1 Hindi Mandir. This reflects the diverse population.

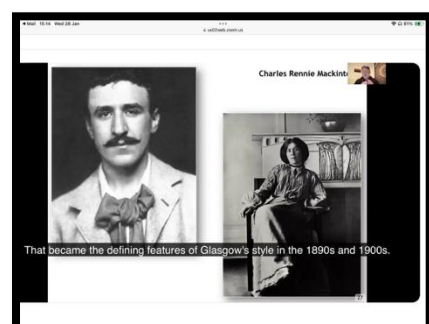
Glasgow's wealth sprung from the tobacco lords. In 1668 they created a custom port for tobacco and controversially now the slave trade. One claim to fame is that the only statue of Queen Victoria on horseback in the world is here.

There are a lot of references to Women's achievements with Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh in the screenshot above recognised for her significant artistic partnership with Charles Rene Mackintosh who credited her with "three quarters of his success" Margaret was one of the Glasgow Girls generation of suffragettes who created jewellery and banners to support the movement for equality.

There is also a Suffragette Oak tree which has become a powerful symbol of the



women's suffrage movement. It was planted on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1918 to commemorate the granting of the vote to some women in the UK.



Tilo also mentioned about the Willow tea room which is still open today. (A tad expensive though) Many more buildings and gardens were discussed. If you'd like to watch this then drop me a message, I have access to Tilo's talk until 11.59pm on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

I also have a recording of the Clean Rivers craft action dragonfly key ring workshop and a copy of the crochet pattern. I have not made any – yet! I am happy to email a copy to any member who has missed the session. Just let me know.

**Sue Stokes**

### **Christmas community event**

Our lovely WI member Diana Hartley did it again when she agreed to take Askirigg Ladies who sing to The Redmire Village Pub on Sunday 21st December. Spot our WI members getting into the Christmas spirit or check out Facebook if you'd like to hear for yourself. It really felt like the Christmas spirit in Wensleydale.



**Sue Stokes**

### **Theatre Group**



I have now taken over the Theatre Group and here are a number of suggestions for trips below. People may like to check these out and/or email any suggestions to me, if there is enough interest we could meet in person to mull over ideas and/or come up with a plan!

#### **SETTLE**

**[www.settlevictoriahall.org.uk/eventsandshows](http://www.settlevictoriahall.org.uk/eventsandshows)**

Celloship of the String-4 cello players

Sunday 15th February 2pm £17.50

FILM – WILDING from Isabella Trees book

Wednesday 4th March 2.30pm £4

FILM – HOLY COW

Wednesday 4th March 7PM £6

#### **BOWNESS -ON- WINDERMERE**

**[www.victoriawoodtheatre.com](http://www.victoriawoodtheatre.com)**

Animal Farm - Solo adaptation

Thursday 26th March 6.30pm £16.50

#### **YORK THEATRE ROYAL**

**[www.yorktheatroyal.co.uk](http://www.yorktheatroyal.co.uk)**

The Secret Garden - The Musical

March 17th-4th April

Hamlet

April 14th-18th

Die Fledermaus

June 3rd-6th

#### **SWALEDALE FESTIVAL**

**[www.swalefest.org/](http://www.swalefest.org/)**

The Lark Ascending

Monday 25th May Aysgarth Church

Leyburn Band at Castle Bolton

Systir- Icelandic ladies singers at St Andrew's Church

Vivaldi Four Seasons  
Richmond Church May 27th

NEWCASTLE THEATRE ROYAL.  
**[www.theatreroyal.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.theatreroyal.co.uk/whats-on)**  
To Kill a Mocking Bird  
April Tuesday 21st- Saturday 25th

THEATRE BY THE LAKE in Keswick  
**[www.theatrebythelake.com](http://www.theatrebythelake.com)**  
Banff Mountain Film Festival February 27th and  
February 28th 7.30pm

**Gwen Clarke**



*Happy Birthday*

**Many Happy Returns to**

**Alison Thwaite**



## *Hold the Back Page by Karen Prudden – February 2026*

So, here we are in February already! I have no idea where the time goes these days but I have to admit that I am relieved January is over! What a miserable month that is? We are all feeling flat after the excitement of the festive period; the weather is generally rubbish and the bugs are rife! Oh yes, and then there are the bills to pay! Anyway, we have just about survived that so now we should be looking forward to longer days and better weather - in due course.

Our New Year has been brightened by the arrival of our twin grandsons on 28th December. What a joy! You forget just how small babies are when they are born and, although these two were big for twins, they still appear tiny little scraps! They have that wrinkled skin that new babies have and are yet to really open their eyes properly and have a good look around. Having said that, they are growing quickly and are already changing into little individuals. Thankfully, they are not identical and, although I struggled at the outset to tell the difference between them, they are now changing rapidly and are clearly going to be very different. I am told that one is very much like his mum and the other is like his dad - that only seems fair!

In only three weeks they have grown sufficiently to mean they can no longer share one Moses basket or one pram. Reality hit home with the car not being up to the job of squeezing in two car seats, a double pram and the copious trappings required for two babies! As a consequence, that was the first challenge of the new year – to find a big car that was affordable and practical.

When my children were babies, a car seat was a simple thing that you put in your car and left there until it was too small and needed changing. Now, they seem to be these highly engineered contraptions that fit to the seat and the floor of the car, swing round to allow easy access and have

bottle holders etc to make your child comfortable and safe. I am quite surprised they are not made with a built-in phone or intercom - no doubt that will come! I know from the one we have for our older grandson that they are heavy and cumbersome and almost impossible to move for anyone without considerable strength! I stand no chance!

I guess we are about to launch on a new journey of discovery into 21st century childcare and I don't doubt that I shall have something to say about it all!

For a start, it seems that you are no longer supposed to make up formula milk in advance as it could allow germs to infiltrate it! I'm sorry! How did we cope then? I remember making up bottles to take out for the day which we could heat at some point before feeding. Our children survived - and so, for that matter, did we!

It also seems that bathing new babies is frowned upon! No more do new parents have lessons on bathing babies before leaving hospital - oh no, they mustn't bath their new treasure for some time (at least until the cord stump has fallen off)!

My philosophy on all this has been to tell the new parents that if it works for them and the babies and everyone is thriving, then it is fine! Common sense is sometimes required - again!

Anyway, we are looking forward to lots more fun in the coming months and years and can't wait to see how these new additions to the family develop. I am not sure I envy them the world they have been born into, but hopefully it might improve and they will get to enjoy a fulfilling life.