

Dates for your diary

Friday 1st December - IT Club

2pm Sycamore Hall

Monday 4th December

The Wensleydale Cheese Experience

Hawes 12'30pm Entry free

Friday 8th December – Lunch Club

Sandpiper Hotel, Leyburn 12.00 for 12.30pm

Saturday 9th December – Christmas Coffee

Morning and Craft Fair

10.30am – 3pm Sycamore Hall

Monday 11th December – Card Making

Askrigg Village Hall, 10.30 until afternoon.

Thursday 21st December - Monthly Meeting

Christmas Lunch, Tennant's Garden Rooms 12 noon

Tuesday 11th - January Book Club

7.30 pm Sheep Scar Thornton Rust

Monday 22nd January - Soup and Sweet

12 noon Bainbridge Village Hall, £5

Events at Sycamore Hall

Monday 9am – 11am Post Office

2pm Knit and natter

Tuesday 10.45am Quiz or Bingo

Wednesday 9am – 11am Post Office

10.30 Wellbeing coffee morning – second

Wednesday of each month

Thursday 10.30am Coffee morning

2.00pm Bridge

Friday 11am Gentle exercise



*'Special Christmas
timetable of events, see
details on page 3*



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Federation Events

See Federation Newsletter for full detail

Thursday 7th December – Carol Service

Holy Trinity Church Skipton 2-4pm £2.50

Thursday 15th February Dabble Day

Embsay Village Institute 10.30am – 3.30pm £20

Tuesday 5th March – Log Cabin Patchwork

Alma House, Ripon, 10.30am-3.30pm £20

Tuesday 12th March – Cookery Demonstration

Arkendale Community Hall, 1.30pm – 4.00pm, £15

**Saturday 16th March – Not Home-made but
Handmade**

Alma House Ripon, 10.30am-3.30pm, £20

Saturday 23rd March – Climate Change Half Day

Bishop Monkton. 12.30pm-3.30pm, £10



Christmas Coffee Morning and Craft Fair

Saturday 9th December 10.30 am - 3 pm

Sycamore Hall, Bainbridge

**We are asking for your help to make this
event a success**

Donations please

Mince pies and cakes for refreshments

Tombola prizes

Handmade crafts for our craft stall

Tombola prizes to Karen's shop by Thursday 7th December, other donations
on the morning please

Volunteers Please

Make and serve refreshments

Manage the stalls

Help set up at 9am

Help clear away at 3pm

Please let Nicola know if you can volunteer

Spread the word

Let all your friends and family know

Share our Facebook posts

Thank you

Christmas Events at Sycamore Hall



Friday 1st December, 10am: C of E service

Tuesday 5th December, 10.45am: Quiz

Thursday 7th December, 10.30am
Coffee Morning, Christmas Jumper Day – where a Christmas jumper and donate £2 to Save the Children.

Friday 8th December, 1.30pm: Festive Singing with Diana



Saturday 9th December, 6pm:
Christmas Quiz with Festive Pie Supper, £10

Tuesday 12th December, 10.45am: Bingo

Thursday 14th December, 10.30am: Coffee Morning and Elf Day, raise money for the Alzheimer's Society

Sunday 17th December, 10.45am: Methodist Carol Service



Tuesday 19th December, 10.45am: Christmas Quiz

Thursday 21st December, 10.30am: Christmas Coffee Morning

Friday 22nd December, 1.30pm: Carol Service



From the Committee

Welcome to the Bainbridge WI New Year. Thank you to the committee members who are continuing to serve this year: Heather Bradbury, Linda Cameron, Gill Flowers, Anne Harrison, Betty Hodgson, Alyson Jones, Claire Lambert, Raewyn Parkinson, Janine Preston and Karen Prudden.

Thank you to Margaret Thompstone who is stepping down this year, your input has been greatly valued and we shall miss you but know that we will be seeing you regularly at our events.

Welcome to Sue Stokes, our newest committee member who is already very active in our WI, we look forward to working with you. Thank you to all the members who voted me in as President for another year.

We have finalised the programme for 2024 and will be revealing it at the Christmas lunch and are looking forward to another busy year.

You may have read in the WI Life magazine that National have set the subscription rates for 2024-2025.

The subs are shared between: National £13.10, Federation £11.30 and our local WI: £23.60, giving a total of £48.

We are allowed to 'subsidise' our portion and have decided to keep the annual total subscription rate at £39 per year for as long as we can do, giving you a reduction of £9 on the suggested fee for this year. The subscriptions are due by 1 April next year.

Monthly Meeting

Our November meeting was the AGM. We began with a review of the year, followed by updates from all our interest groups including the Book club, Walking group, Craft group, Lunch club, IT club and Garden club. It has certainly been another busy year for Bainbridge WI.

The election of officers, committee and President followed. Nicola Robinson continues as our President. Margaret Thomstone retired from the committee after 40 years of service but continues as a member with over 60 years participation. We thank Margaret most sincerely for her many years of service. We welcomed Sue Stokes onto the Committee.

At the end of the formal proceedings a hot supper followed provided by Café Curva of Hawes and desserts came from Mill Race Teashop at Aysgarth.

Christmas Lunch 21st December

A private dining room at Tennant's is booked for our Christmas lunch. You have all informed us of your choices – these will be printed on a card for you so don't worry if you have forgotten what you booked! We can accept late bookings until **3rd December**.



If you haven't done so already, please pay for your meal before **3rd December**, and please note after this date we will not be able to give refunds if you are unable to attend.

As usual we will have a Secret Santa gift swap. Please be creative and find a gift for a cost of no more than £5. It can be new, second-hand, or homemade, so long as it is in good condition and it is something that you would be happy to receive.

After lunch we will be entertained by our own members giving a Pantomime Reading.



Christmas Coffee Morning and Craft fair

A Christmas Coffee Morning at Sycamore Hall has become a regular item on our WI calendar. This year it is being held on 9th December.



It is open to anyone to attend, and we are combining it with a Craft Fair featuring local crafters including Linda Cameron – knitted and woven woollen items, Rita Cloughton – sewn items, Lynne – handmade soaps, Carole – Christmas decorations, Brenda – knitted teddies, our own WI made decorations, and a tombola.

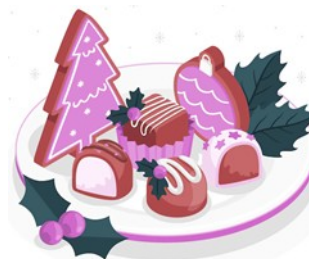
Entry is £3 between 10.30am and 12noon



which includes a hot drink and mince pie or cake, after 12 noon entrance is free with refreshments on sale. **Please let all your friends and family know.**

We are looking for volunteers, particularly for the morning which we expect will be very busy. We need people to set up in the morning and clear away in the afternoon, to make and serve drinks, manage the tombola table and our craft table, and take money at the door. Please let Nicola know if you are available, even if only for a couple of hours.

We like to serve homemade mince pies and cakes so it would be great if you are able to do some baking for us. The Tombola stall is always very popular so any items you can donate for this will be gratefully received, which can be dropped off at Karen's shop in Sycamore Hall – by Thursday 7th at the latest please.



Card Making

Diana Hartley has very kindly offered to lead a card making session on Monday 11th December in Askrigg Village Hall back room, with a 'bring and share' lunch break. Please let Nicola know if you would like to attend.

The Wensleydale Cheese Experience

The Creamery in Hawes has a special offer of free entry to groups of twelve or more to the Wensleydale Cheese Experience. We have booked a visit for Monday 4th December, meeting there at 12.30pm. If you would like to come along please let Nicola know.

Soup and Sweet

Our final Soup and Sweet lunch of the year was held on 20th November. We welcomed eighteen guests and served Spicy Mediterranean Vegetable and Lightly spiced cauliflower soups (we are considering renaming the event 'The Spicy Soup Club' as these soups go down very well!) The Sweets were Berry Sponge and Toffee Sponge. Thank you to helpers – Susan, Heather, Margaret, Nicola and Rachel.



Book Club

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 11th January. Again it will be held at Sheep Scar and the new book title is The Keeper of Stories by Sally Page.



All Welcome

Crafts for November

We had another really enjoyable morning at Sycamore Hall when eighteen members and guests made more Christmas decorations.

Look out for details of another similar event we are planning for just before Easter and also for a patchwork workshop that Linda, our craft coordinator, is busy organising.



IT Club

The IT club is finally settling into a routine, meeting on the first Friday of the month at Sycamore Hall. In November we explored YouTube – how to find content, view it in different ways – fast, slow, large, small, with subtitles, and how to save a video to watch later. YouTube is a great resource for finding out how to do things. It also very distracting – we were so engrossed that we forgot to have a cup of tea!

Our next date is 1st December when the topic is 'organising your photos and documents into folders' – on your phone, tablet or computer. Do come along and join us. No need to book, just turn up.

Garden Club

Our last get together of 2023 is at Susan Freer's house: Sheepscar, Thornton Rust, on Saturday 2nd December at 10.30am. Being December, this is an indoor meeting chatting about house plants and other garden related things. Please let either Susan or Nicola know if you want to come along.

Canary Girls

At our June meeting Sandra Gold-Wood spoke to us about the munition workers in the two World Wars and about the work she and other volunteers are doing to get a permanent memorial to these workers in the National Memorial Arboretum. There is now an online petition on the Canary Girls website www.canary-girls.com to help get official national backing for her memorial. Please consider adding your signature to this petition.

December Birthdays



A very Happy Birthday to :

Linda Cameron

Susan Freer

Janet Thomson



Newsletter Entries

If you wish to have an article included in our newsletter please send it by email to bainbridgewinewsletter@gmail.com. If you do not use email, then please pass your entries to one of the committee members

Hold the back page by Karen

The End of Another Year can you believe we have made it to December already? I swear that as I get older the months pass by more quickly! Perhaps that is just because I am busier now although I struggle to remember a time when life was more sedate!

So 2023 is drawing to an end, and what a year it has been. I don't know what yours has been like, but mine has not been a good one and has presented me with many challenges.

Until something happens, I don't think we realise quite how fragile life can be and things can change in a split second. It is a shame that we don't realise this until it is too late because it always leaves regret and that is a sad way to live our lives.

My health has been poor this year and that has led to many changes in lifestyle, not just for me, but also for my husband. It wasn't what either of us had planned but it does demonstrate how little control we have over our own lives.

In amongst the sadness of what has been lost and the chaos of carving out a new lifestyle, it has been more than apparent that my life would be very different if I did not have someone to care for me and friends who are willing to give up their time to help me.

This is a bit daft really as I spent a good number of years caring for my parents whilst also trying to live my own life and raise my children, but I guess we never expect that the tables will turn and we will need the caring. I have to admit that I prefer the 'giving' to the 'receiving' and that has probably been the hardest thing for me to adjust to this year.

However, when I sit back and think about it logically I am getting older and adjusting to such changes is just something that I, and everyone else, has to deal with as we age.

Needless to say, I am sad to think that I won't manage to dance on 'Strictly' as Angela Rippon has just done so brilliantly at the ripe old age of 79, nor run a first world country like Joe Biden is doing in his 80's. However, I can make the effort to change my life to suit my new circumstances and to make the most of what I can actually do.

I am wondering therefore whether, as this year comes to a close, the lesson I must learn is that ageing is natural and even if it has hit me earlier than I would have liked, it doesn't mean life has ended.

Alternatively, is my lesson for the year to realise (as if I didn't already know this) that none of us are an island and we all need others to allow us to live life to the full?

I suspect that maybe there is a bit of both that I have to take away from this year and I also have to learn to be more graceful in accepting this and appreciative of just how lucky I am. One thing I do know for sure is that I consider myself really fortunate that I live here in Wensleydale, surrounded by so many lovely people who I feel radiate support.



Even though this is not where I was 'born and bred' I can guarantee that this is the best place for me to be in my current circumstances because I know that there are people here who really care about others - and that certainly wasn't the case where I used to live (and I suspect still isn't!).

We are very fortunate here to benefit from a real sense of community and it is reassuring to know that there are people looking out for each other without thinking twice.



So, as the festive season approaches and 2023



comes to an end, perhaps the thing we should be most grateful for (apart from making it through another



challenging year on all fronts – economic crisis; wars; poverty; climate crisis, strikes etc, etc) is that we enjoy not only beautiful scenery and amazing wildlife here in the Dales, but we also benefit from the most wonderful communities and amazing people. That is a real gift that we should be thankful for this Christmas.

Consequently, from me, a very personal 'Thank You' to each and everyone of you who really have helped me get through this very difficult year. It has been humbling that people have been so kind.



I hope my ramblings have not bored you rigid this year, and I also hope that I may be able to continue rambling into 2024!

Make sure you enjoy the festive season with those you love and who love you. Memories are more important than physical gifts, so get busy creating lots of them!

Also make sure to enjoy the amazing Christmas lights in Bainbridge and appreciate the work of a small group of volunteers who have staged them for our enjoyment.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Healthy 2024.

Karen

The Back Page Rambler!