



# Bainbridge WI Newsletter

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December 2025

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President: Sue Stokes 07816 955723 [sue.stokes@qualitar.co.uk](mailto:sue.stokes@qualitar.co.uk)

Newsletter Editor: Nicola Robinson 07490 656007 [bainbridgewinewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:bainbridgewinewsletter@gmail.com)

## Mon 1 December – Gift wrapping

Sycamore Hall residents' Christmas gift bags  
10.30am – 12pm (ish) Appersett. Contact Sue Stokes for further details or to book a place

## Wed 3 December - Walking Group

Approx. 4 ½ mile circular walk from Hawes through Hardraw and Appersett. Meet 10.30am in Hawes, by the Chapel Gallery. Refreshments at The Wensleydale Pantry afterwards (about 1pm). Please let Nicola know if you would like to join the walk: [Njrob222@gmail.com](mailto:Njrob222@gmail.com) or 07490 656007

## Sat 6 December – Christmas Coffee Morning

10 am - 12 pm Sycamore Hall. Please let Sue Stokes know if you can provide mince pies, cakes and/or tombola prizes. Also if you can help on the day.

## Sat 6 December – Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

2 pm - 4 pm Bainbridge Village Hall. Cost £38 (includes all materials). Please contact Sue Stokes

## Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December- Tree planting

In memory of Margaret Reynolds at Pateley Bridge Contact Sue Stokes for details.

## Thurs 18 December – BWI Christmas Lunch

The Middle House, Askrigg. 12.30 pm arrival for lunch at 1 pm, followed by entertainment. Cost £30 for 2 courses, £35 for 3 courses. Please bring a 'Secret Santa' gift. **Please pay full amount now to BWI.** Gill will not be taking cash on the day! Contact Rachel Newall [rs\\_newall@hotmail.com](mailto:rs_newall@hotmail.com)  
07905 301740 or Alyson Jones  
[alysonjones@hotmail.com](mailto:alysonjones@hotmail.com) 07946 165198

## Thurs 18 December – Theatre group trip A Christmas Carol

Curtain up 7pm Holy Trinity Church, Wensley. £16 +72p booking fee. **Please book by Friday 12 December. Please make payment to BWI.** Contact Alyson Jones [alysonjones@hotmail.com](mailto:alysonjones@hotmail.com)  
07946 165198

## Sat 3 January – Craft and Chat

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

## Thurs 15 January – Monthly Meeting

**Quiz and Resolutions** 7.00 for 7.30pm at Sycamore Hall. Tea and biscuits for refreshments

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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**

### **Thank you to all members.**

I would like to say a big thank you to all our members for the majority of you voting for me to be President for 2025/26. It was lovely to feel appreciated for all the work from our committee and groups over the last year. We have a lot of brilliant things to look forward to over the coming year.

Thanks to our two committee members who have made such a valuable contribution as committee members but have decided to stand down Nicola and Raewyn. We will miss your guidance, help and enthusiasm and hope you will continue to enjoy your membership to full extent without the current commitments. Thanks also to all 2025/6 committee members especially for those adapting to new roles. We're really pleased to confirm our new committee and their roles below:

**Committee roles** – All will share in delivery of our programme

**President:** Sue Stokes

**Vice President/catering co-ordinator:** Anne Harrison

**Vice President /Minutes & External comms:** Janine Preston

**Treasurer:** Alyson Jones

**Secretary:** Rachel Newall

**Membership secretary/GYS co-ordinator:** Alison Thwaite

**Assistant Treasurer/Programme secretary:** Gill Flowers

**Crafts co-ordinator:** Linda Cameron

**Newsletter Editor:** Sarah Betts (from January edition)

**Health and safety:** Sheryl Willis

**Raffle seller/organiser:** Liz Beresford

**Holidays/Trip co-ordinator:** Sue Stokes

Coming up we have our December meeting, the Christmas meal will be at Middle House 12.20 for 1pm 18th December. Your menu choices will be on printed cards for you to collect before being seated so you don't have to remember what you ordered

some time ago😊 We're looking forward to seeing you and please remember to bring your Secret Santa gift which should be something you'd like to receive yourself of £5. A new programme for 2026 will be available at our December meeting – our Christmas lunch on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

On behalf of our Bainbridge WI committee past and present I'd like to wish you all the Christmas of your dreams with those you love. May there be a peaceful time ahead. We will look forward to celebrating Christmas and having a really good time in the new year. We will be starting in January with craft and chat so we hope to see as many of you as possible on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 10 -12 at Sycamore Hall. There's lots of wonderful events to look forward too although we will have some more voting to do in January to choose the resolution we would like the WI to campaign for in 2026. It is an important part of the WI culture to encourage as many members to have a chance to decide what National WI will be campaigning for over the new year.

Our groups are what makes our WI so vibrant. Our group leads are below and we continue to be grateful for their on-going commitment to give us these fabulous events each month throughout the year.

### **Group leads**

**Book club:** Susan Freer

**Crafts:** Linda Cameron

**Garden group:** Claire Lambert

**Lunch club:** Anne Harrison

**Walking group:** Nicola Robinson

**Theatre group:** Alyson Jones

**Leaning hub:** Sue Stokes

**Holidays/Events:** Sue Stokes

**Great Yorkshire show:** Alison Thwaite

**High Dales:** Nicola Robinson, Karen Prudden and Claire Lambert

November was a very busy month for Bainbridge WI. There have been many key events. We began with craft and chat on 1<sup>st</sup> November when 6 of us brought along items for the Christmas craft fair.

Spennithorne and Harmby WI kindly donated some extra craft items by for our very successful Christmas craft fair on November the 8<sup>th</sup>. A special thank you to Nicola Robinson who managed to make this event a success for our WI. We're also grateful to Linda Cameron who co-ordinated the stall holders and **all our WI volunteers** who donated cakes, made mulled wine, served and cleared away on the day.

**Sue Stokes**

### **Christmas Coffee Morning**

Thank you to all helpers for both the gift wrapping and help serving on the Christmas coffee morning which takes place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 10-12 at Sycamore Hall. Donations of mince pies or cakes would also be much appreciated. Please bring them to Sycamore hall 9.30 on the day.

This friendly event is much appreciated by the residents of Sycamore Hall. It has become a tradition for us to not only experience the joy of giving but ensures that our local neighbours also really enjoy receiving a present, have fun with the tombola and a chance to socialise with their neighbours and WI friends.

**Sue Stokes**

### **Other Events you may be interested in**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** – Carols by candlelight at Hardraw church 7pm, raising funds for the church organ.

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December** – Charity Bingo night at Askrigg village hall 7.30pm, organised by Diana Hartley

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December** – Bainbridge Christmas tree lights switch on. 4.15 for 4.30pm

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December** – NYWF board Christmas lunch at Alma House

**Askrigg Ladies singing for Pleasure:**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December -Garsdale Chapel 2.30

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December -St Oswalds church  
Askrigg 7pm

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December Bolton Arms, Redmire 6pm

**Sue Stokes**

### **November Meeting**

As usual, our annual meeting was held in November where we had the opportunity to nominate and vote for our President for the forthcoming year.

The business was undertaken under the supervision of an advisor from Coverdale WI. Six of our members were nominated for the role of President, but only two were willing to stand. Consequently, we were all invited to vote and the outcome of that secret vote was that Sue Stokes has been re-elected as President for the forthcoming year.

Sue thanked all those who had voted for her and welcomed three new members to the committee. A meeting was to be held the following week to allocate roles to the committee members and to discuss plans for the coming year and the remaining events of this year.

Janine gave her usual entertaining poetic report of our activities over the past year. We were stunned to hear that we had held over 120 events/activities! That is amazing and demonstrates just what a good WI can offer to its members. Reports were also given for the various clubs we run, which are all free of additional membership costs. Thanks were expressed to Nicola and Raewyn who have stepped down from the committee and Susan Freer who has stepped down from the Garden Club. Alyson was welcomed as Treasurer, taking over from Gill.

We then played a game which allowed us to get up and engage with other members. It was just a bit of light-hearted fun!

Our supper was prepared by Emily at Olive's Cafe at Sycamore Hall and we were grateful that it was a hot lasagne as we were pretty chilly on a really cold night!

There are still a few events to look forward to before the end of the year, including of course, our Christmas Lunch which this year will be held at the Middle House in Askrigg.

**Karen Prudden**

## **Woodland Trust – Snaizeholme**

Our lovely speaker from October, David Mason, has been in touch regarding the questions you asked, here is what he says:

*I've had responses from Woodland Trust colleagues to my presentation questions and they are, as follows:*

*1) For those wanting free trees to create or expand a community woodland, then, as previously mentioned, go to our website and use this link:*

*<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>*

*2) The corrugated sheets at the 'top' of the Snaizeholme valley (close to Cam Road) might not be on our land, but aren't known to our Site Manager*

*3) The big question about Wool Logs (for peatland restoration) had a detailed answer, so I've included it (below) for you.*

*I hope that's everyone catered for, if not send me more!!!*

*Many thanks to you all!*

### **Wool Logs in Peat Restoration**

*The Woodland Trust has pushed to experiment with wool logs on our peatland, as we really wanted to find a way to support local industry. However there were 2 main issues on top of those highlighted below.*

*1 - Up until now, they have proved less effective than the coir rolls; as witnessed by Alec Pue (WT Site Manager) on a recent site visit. Not holding/filtering the water as efficiently, nor do they get absorbed into the landscape the same, with vegetation seemingly not to grow on them like the coir. YPP trials are trying to work on the design of how these are 'baled' up and have a few ideas that may help, but it is early days.*

*2 – The funding that we were fortunate to get to support the work (Nature For Climate) doesn't recognise wool logs as a legitimate intervention so would not fund their use.*

**Yorkshire Peat Partnership** says, website here, <https://www.ypppartnership.org.uk/our-research-evidence-data-and-development>

### **Wool logs (extract)**

*In spring 2024, we (YPP) started a year-long trial of wool logs as an alternative to the coir logs we currently use. If successful, this would create a market for what is generally regarded as a waste product; it would also minimise the carbon miles in our restoration. We need to establish whether wool logs remain stable enough to do the job, as previous trials have shown problems with the material's structural integrity once wet. There's also concern around whether wool will leach nitrates into the peat, which would be a problem in such a low nutrient habitat. Until we have satisfied ourselves on these issues, we cannot commit to widespread deployment of wool logs.*

**David Mason**

## **Lunch Club**

A return visit by popular demand has seen 11 of us go to Hamilton's tea room for entertainment and afternoon tea. Despite the Tea Room being for sale, Anne has managed to organise a booking for our Bainbridge WI members. We were able to enjoy the fabulous spread of sandwiches and cakes with plenty of tea and coffee. There is always a good measure of entertainment. The owner, Steve, brings



a jolly and seasonal end to the fabulous meals we have had with our lunch club over 2025.

Well done to Anne with support by Rachel to enable us all to enjoy eating out together each month. We're all looking forward to the programme for 2026. It's too tempting to worry about your waistline!

**Sue Stokes**



## ***Garden Group***

This was to be our last meeting of the year. We had booked an Afternoon Tea in the Tea Room. Fourteen members attended. We arrived at West Rounton in plenty of time so that members could do some Christmas shopping. There were so many lovely items on display which were very tempting. The Afternoon Tea was delicious and we were treated to copious amounts of tea and coffee. I think all of us needed a cardboard box to take home the cakes which we could not manage to eat after consuming the sandwiches and jam and cream scones and trifle. The staff were super helpful and looked after us very well.



I think the young girl on the till became flustered when fourteen of us went to pay as she managed to overcharge us! However this mistake was remedied the next day. It was rather upsetting after we had enjoyed such a lovely afternoon. I think in future it would help the staff if we gave them a list of names so that they can record each member when they pay.

At this meeting Claire Lambert agreed to be the Garden Group Coordinator for the coming year so we can look forward to many interesting visits and events in 2026

**Susan Freer**

## ***Book Club***

The venue for this months meeting was changed at very short notice. This was because the cases of

Covid among the residents at Sycamore Hall had increased. Three members had already sent their apologies so I decided to hold the meeting at my house. Thanks to the wonder of e-mail and WhatsApp all the members were notified.

Nine members attended and some came in Christmas jumpers!



The book under discussion was Rabbit Hole by Mark Billingham.

The story is told by Alice who after suffering with PTSD is admitted to a

Secure Acute Psychiatric Hospital. A patient and a Nurse are murdered and Alice believes herself to be a Detective Constable and tries to solve these crimes.

This was an interesting book on many levels. The author being male wrote the story as though he were female. The book gave an insight into conditions in a Psychiatric Unit and how patients were treated and staff operated. The story had many twists and turns and had a surprise at the end.

After our discussion we all enjoyed a festive "Bring and Share" supper.

Our next meeting is PROVISIONALLY booked for Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7-30pm in Sycamore Hall. Please check e-mails or WhatsApp for confirmation

Happy Christmas Reading and All Best Wishes for the New Year

**Susan Freer**

## Christmas Craft Fair

Our Christmas Craft Fair on 7 December was a great success again this year. There was a lovely 'buzz' about the day, with lots of visitors, including



some who had returned especially to see us after last year. The stallholders were all very happy with their sales and are wanting to return next year. We are very pleased to say that we made £80 from stallholders' tables and £270.33 from the refreshments (including donations for the mulled wine), all of which will go into our funds. We took £182.60 on the craft table which was from a combination of our member's craft makes and those of Spennithorne and Harmby WI. Sue Stokes has arranged for these takings to be passed onto Spennithorne and Harmby WI to donate to Cancer Research.



I would like to say a **big thankyou** to everyone who: put up posters and handed out leaflets, made crafts for our stall, made cakes for the refreshments table, loaned decorations, set up and decorated the hall on the Friday evening, helped out on the day and stayed to help clear away. Your time and efforts are much appreciated by us and by everyone who came.

**Nicola Robinson**

## Craft group

We've had a really good year of relaxing craft and chats plus some fun and educational workshops to develop our crafting skills this year. Thanks to Linda for organising the tutors ☺

We've also had some lovely craft and chat sessions where regulars Alison, Nicola, Liz, Anne Harrison, Anne Izard, Sarah, Linda, Sue and others have nattered away while doing our own projects. The results and inspiration of these events have seen items made for the Great Yorkshire Show, crocheted red roses made to support England Women's rugby team at the world cup (which they won – hoorah!!) Also a banner started to recognise the 110<sup>th</sup> year of the WI. There were also donations from members of the craft group to sell at our Christmas craft Fair which, along with members from Harmby WI, raised funds for Cancer Research.



Yet more effort is being made to create decorative baubles by Alyson, Raewyn, Karen, Gill and Nicola for the Christmas coffee morning gift bags, inspired by the recent Linocut workshop. Brilliant work by all.

**Sue Stokes**

## Upcoming Craft Activities

There is no Craft and Chat session in December, however they will resume in 2026, the first session being on Saturday 3 January. 10am in Sycamore Hall. Bring along your own craft project to work on.

We have a number of craft workshops lined up for next year, details will be available soon:

- January – Papercraft with Diana Hartley
- February – Pottery with Liz Carlisle
- March – Printing with Helen Callear

**Linda Cameron**

### Walking Group

We had to postpone our walk this month due to rain but were lucky to go the following Wednesday (12 November) which was the only dry day that week.

Unfortunately, not everyone who had planned to come could make the rearranged date so just Janet, Susan and myself went out, setting off from Tupgill Park (The Forbidden Corner). We had a peaceful walk through varied scenery – down the drive, across the road to take leafy paths to the river, over the river which was in full spate after the recent heavy rain, through the historic churchyard at Coverham Bridge, up the fields past Pinker's Pond and along the top with views of Coverdale and Wensleydale. We returned back to Tugill Park from the top end, walking through the Parkland passed the two-tier lake, taking a short break to read the history of the estate and its origins as a racing yard. We completed the morning with a light lunch at The Saddle Room, all very tasty options.

Our walk in December will be around Hawes with refreshments at The Pantry afterwards. Please let me know if you would like to join us. The planned date is **Wednesday 3 December** – weather permitting.

Nicola Robinson

### Theatre Group

So just a reminder that Theatre Club are off to see A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens at the Holy Trinity Church in Wensley. This one act play is on Thur 18 Dec which is the same day as the WI Christmas lunch, however with a start time of 7pm there's time to let the mince pies digest. If you would like to go, please let me know as soon as possible. Car shares available.

And it looks like Hawes Panto is the top favourite for our first trip of 2026. Oh yes it is! Hawes Amateur Operatic Society is presenting Robinson Crusoe and the Pirates, a hilarious pantomime which tells the tale of Robinson Crusoe, his family and friends sailing on Captain Codpiece's ship, The Jolly Pollock, which gets attacked by Redbeard and his pirates - boo!! It includes sailors, pirates, music, a giant man-eating stinkwort plant and lots of surprises! It's on at Hawes Market House from Wed 28 until Sat 31 Jan 2026, so plenty of time to put out

sign-up sheets for the meeting in Jan with potential dates.

Finally, just to say as I move into my new role of Treasurer it would be wonderful if someone would be happy to take on the role of Theatre Group co-ordinator for 2026. Please do let me know by emailing [alysjonjones@hotmail.com](mailto:alysjonjones@hotmail.com). In the meantime, I'm happy to continue until I can hand over.

Alyson Jones

### The Learning Hub

The November workshop on the Learning hub to Crochet chocolate orange covers which I recommended was interesting and I didn't manage to finish during the session! Well November has been a very busy month. I may some finished ready to hang on our Christmas tree at home – fingers crossed. It will be lovely to have a few minutes to relax and enjoy time to do some crafting. Luckily the Learning hub offers the flexibility to access many workshops after the date that they are first streamed. Here's the front screen where you can access recorded courses – if you get chance in your spare time why not check out what is on offer. It could become one of your new year resolutions ☺



Sue Stokes



## Happy Birthday

Many Happy Returns to

Linda Cameron, Susan Freer and Janet Thomson





## *Hold the Back Page by Karen Prudden - Christmas 2025*

Well, that is another year almost done! I don't know about you, but I don't remember them passing by quite so quickly when I was younger! These days, we hardly seem to have got miserable January out of the way before we are planning for Christmas again! Personally, I think it has got a lot worse since Covid and I really have lost all track of time since that year in 2020 when time stood still.

So, another festive season is upon us but, once again, I am struggling to summon up the enthusiasm that it seems we should all have for this time of year. Perhaps someone could tell me why we should all feel such joy when everything around us seems to be going wrong?



I suppose if we went back to the origins of Christmas, then the reason to celebrate is still there (if you believe, that is) because the celebration was originally to mark the arrival of Jesus Christ, deemed to be our saviour. The trouble is that these days it is harder to remember these origins of the period as we are bombarded with materialistic commercialism for almost half the year in the run-up to this religious festival.

Unfortunately, since those early days, there has been a lot of water flowing under the bridge! I don't doubt that each generation had their own issues and concerns but honestly, did any of them have the sort of problems we have now? I doubt it! Life on earth in the 21st century is hard! Half the World is starving; others are stricken with war and then there are the natural disasters that seem to be increasing, allegedly due to the way we have treated this planet over the last few hundred years. Talk about reaping what you sow! We are certainly doing that!

I often talk to people about what is going on in the World these days and, generally speaking, whilst

being worried, we all feel great sympathy for the children and youth of today. What on earth have they got to look forward to? If they listen to the news, the planet is on a course for self-destruction, thanks to our selfish behaviour, Climate change is real but is seemingly beyond our ability to resolve, especially as we cannot all agree on whether it exists and if so, what we should do to stop it!

There are very many pressures on everyone these days, but particularly on the youngsters. We no longer allow our children to have a real childhood, instead pushing them to look and behave beyond their years way before they should. We like to treat children like mini-adults these days and, if you ask me, we have handed over far too much control to them too! I absolutely believe that every child has the right to a safe and happy home and family life, but I do not believe that they should be allowed many of the choices they have now. I tend to think that when children tell adults what to do, and they do it, there is something wrong with the balance of life!

I appreciate that I am getting old, but in my day we respected our elders. We certainly didn't tell them what to do, or what we were prepared to do, or not to do! The adults ran our lives and we were happy to follow their lead. That isn't to say that they always got it right but I am sure most tried very hard and I don't think there were as many issues as there are these days.

When I hear parents in the supermarket asking their children what they want to eat for dinner or lunch and each one says something different - and gets it - I feel very sad. That is not how it should work, surely?! Don't the adults decide what the children should have to eat and isn't it meant to be the same meal for everyone - not numerous different choices?! Equally, wasn't it generally homemade and eaten at a table with everyone else, rather than microwaved in a box or tub and eaten off the lap with the fingers?!



If you go to a certain 'fast food restaurant' these days, you will see children/youngsters, sometimes in their pyjamas or onesies, eating food from boxes and bags with their fingers whilst also playing on tablets that half an hour ago, other children were using!! I am wondering if any actually washed their hands at any point in this 'meal' process! Meanwhile any parents that may have come with them are sitting on other tables and playing on their phones!! What sort of dining experience is this and what does it teach our children about the process?

So, one good thing I hope will come from Christmas is that everyone will sit down for a proper Christmas Lunch which will hopefully consist, in the main, of fresh, home-cooked food, served on plates at a table and eaten with cutlery whilst



sharing conversation with other members of the family. Let's hope that is the case anyway! And when it comes to present giving, let's not give in to all the advertising, nagging and emotional blackmail to provide endless presents that we really don't need. As a child, I remember the excitement of getting the one thing that I had perhaps said I would like for Christmas. What a joy that was! Now, children are bombarded with so many gifts that they have no real interest in or gratitude for any of them. If we cannot afford it, we shouldn't buy it! If they don't get what they want, then that is a valuable lesson to learn - we can't always have what we want. However, how often do we find that all these expensive toys and gizmo's we felt we had to buy our children for Christmas because they were 'the thing' are discarded very swiftly in January for something else? If they were bought on credit, they probably aren't even paid for before the child is fed up with them and is demanding something else! As the saying goes ... 'less is more'... and that applies to gifts too! Christmas isn't a competition to see who

can spend the most (or overspend the most!!) It should be a time for family, friends and memories - not materialistic things!

Yes, okay, so now I have turned into a 'Bah Humbug' miserable old woman! However, none of this is what Christmas is about!

I really hope that this year we can all enjoy a peaceful and happy Christmas, with our family and friends and without the fear of paying off the debt in the New Year.

Just remember that at the end of the day, it really is just another day to enjoy a meal with others whilst thinking of those less fortunate than ourselves, and the simple things in life. Let's not get sucked into all the other pressures that are placed upon us to be perfect.

And just maybe, rather than spending a lot of money on gifts for those who perhaps don't need them, we should consider spending just a bit on something for the many who will get nothing at Christmas - not even a good meal?! That is what Christmas is really about! And, what is more, that will give us all so much more pleasure than giving an unwanted gift to someone who is possibly ungrateful for it!



Thank you for enduring my ramblings during 2025. God willing, we will all return in 2026 for some more ramblings, rants and possibly a few laughs!

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Healthy New Year.