

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 6th September- Walking Group

From Thornton Rust around Addlebrough,
10.30am Watch out for emails and WhatsApp
for updates.

Tuesday 12th September – Book Club

7.30 pm Sheep Scar Thornton Rust

Friday 15th September IT Club

2pm Sycamore Hall

Wednesday 20th September -

An Evening With Adam Frost

7.30pm Tennants Garden Rooms £14

Thursday 21st September - Monthly Meeting

7.30pm Amy Fairburn

Bainbridge Village Hall

Open to non-members, no charge

Monday 25th September - Soup and Sweet

12 noon Bainbridge Village Hall, £5

Thursday 26th September – Lunch Club

Black Bull, Nateby

12.30 for 1pm

Garden Club

Date and Place TBC

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

High Dales Event

Monday 2nd October -Skittles & Quiz

Thornton Rust Institute, 7pm, £7

BAINBRIDGE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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Federation Events

See Federation Newsletter for full detail

Wednesday 6th September

Autumn Bounty Cookery Demonstration

2pm - 4pm and 7pm – 9pm Alma House £10

Saturday 16th September

International Day - Ukraine

Darley 10am – 3.30pm £30 includes lunch

Tuesday 26th September

Jane Robinson – author

2pm - 4pm Alma House £15 with Afternoon Cream

Tea

Tuesday 24th October

Beginner's Watercolours

Alma House 9.30 – 3.30pm £12 + £5 materials

Thursday 26th October

Returner's Watercolours

Alma House 9.30 – 3.30pm £12 + £5 materials

Tuesday 7th November

Wacky Christmas Wreaths

10am – 3pm £12 + £5 per wreath

Thursday 9th November

Wacky Christmas Wreaths

10am – 3pm £15 + £5 per wreath Hellifield

Institute

Thursday 23rd November

Christmas Food and Flowers

10am – 3pm Darley Memorial Hall £32.50

Thursday 7th December – Carol Service

Holy Trinity Church Skipton 2-4pm £2.50

From the Committee

August was another busy month with the book, walking, and garden clubs meeting, and some very successful fundraising at the Tractor Event - thank you to all involved. It feels like we are still waiting for summer to happen, but it is September now and definitely time to start planning for the autumn! Our Soup and Sweet lunches start again this month as does the long-awaited IT Club and in October we are having a Christmas Crafting event. So read on for full reports on our past and upcoming events and activities.

The Tractor Event

Thank you very much to all who baked, prepared sandwiches, helped out on the day, and visited us at our refreshment stall. We had another very successful fundraising session with takings (before expenses) of just over £480. This was the first time we have had a stall at this event and so we weren't sure what to expect. It was more relaxed than Beamish, a little slower to get going (possibly due to a certain sporting event taking place in the morning - our commiserations to the England Women's Football team in losing the final but you were played brilliantly throughout the tournament and are an inspiration). But from late morning we had a steady stream of customers. The weather stayed dry for most of the day and an enjoyable day was had by all.



Monthly Meetings

Colin Bailey of BlueBoxt Creative and Performing Arts, was our August speaker.

Colin has been a talented musician and singer for over 30 years, hailing from Wensleydale he gave a very informative talk about the work of BlueBoxt, which is a voluntary run charity based in Wensleydale.

It offers opportunities for individuals and groups to participate in community arts-based activities. They offer theatre and concert performances, regular workshops and one-off activities, and also offer mentoring and support for all age groups.

Colin spoke with passion about some of the young people they have helped on their musical journey and where they are in their careers with help from BlueBoxt, now scattered as far as London and Newcastle.

They also run a Gospel Community Choir and have Jazz and other musical workshops. They are hosting a Quiz Night on 29th September at 7pm at the Falls Coffee House to raise much needed funds. To book online at www.blueboxt.org

For our September meeting we are looking forward to welcoming Amy Fairburn of Rosemary and Twine in Leyburn, Amy will be demonstrating Autumn Flower Arrangements. The arrangements will be raffled during the meeting. As these will be special prizes the raffle tickets, for this evening only, will be £1 each. This is a free open meeting, so bring along your friends.



Bursaries

We are offering bursaries to members again this year. The amount of money allocated to the bursaries, and the value of each bursary for the year was decided by the Committee in August. For 2023 we will offer 10 bursaries of £20 each.

In September all members will be asked if they wish to be entered into the draw. The deadline for entry into the draw will 31st October.

The draw will take place at the AGM. Those awarded a bursary will be given a certificate stating the amount of the bursary and the expiry date. The bursary can be spent on any Bainbridge WI or North Yorkshire West Federation of WIs event or activity. The bursary is to be used within 12 months of issue.

There will be a sheet at the monthly meeting for members to indicate if they want to be included in the draw, any members who haven't ticked either way by the end of October will be contacted by phone or email.

Soup and Sweet

After a break for the summer, the Soup and Sweet lunches are back. We have three planned for the remainder of this year:

25th September, 23rd October and 20th November.

All will take place in Bainbridge Village Hall and are open to anyone who wishes to come along.

Thank you to those of you who have offered to help already, we still need more helpers so if you can do any of the following: make a soup, make a sweet, or help on the day, for one or more of the lunches please let Nicola

know or sign the sheet at the meetings. Your help is very much appreciated and the more volunteers we have, the easier it is!!

Christmas Crafting - save the date

After the success of our last craft session - Recycling and Upcycling - we are holding a similar event with Christmas as the theme on 14th October. There will be a few different crafts to do. There is no charge for the event, only for any items that you wish to take away with you. Any surplus items will be sold to raise funds for our WI. We will be sending out more details towards the end of the month so, for now, make a note of the date in your diary.

Walking Group

We had a familiar walk this month: up the hill and across the fields to Semerwater, up again to Countersett for refreshments, then back down the hill, through the woods to Bainbridge. The weather was rather windy and cool for August but quite acceptable for walking.

September's walk is from Thornton Rust, strolling around Addebrough.



IT Club

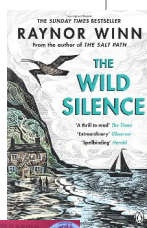
The long-awaited IT Club will start with a meeting on Friday 15th September, at 2pm in Sycamore Hall, this will be a joint meeting with Sycamore residents. Our aim is to provide a place where we can help each other learn about how to use our gadgets, the Internet and more. For this first session we are inviting your questions - please send these to us in

advance so we can research the answers. If you would like to come along to the meeting, please let Nicola know by email, text, WhatsApp or phone (details at the top of the newsletter), then come along with your 'gadgets' eg smart phone, ipad, laptop.

Book Club

At our August meeting we discussed *The Wild Silence* – Raynor Winn. This book continues the true story of one couple's experience of dealing with homelessness and a terminal diagnosis whilst undertaking a long distance walk, wild camping and discovering the importance of nature to our well-being. Her first book, *The Salt Path*, has now been made into a film.

Our next book is the *Empress Orchid* Anchee Min.



Garden Club

On Saturday 26th August six of us gathered in Margaret's extremely sheltered garden tucked away in a quiet corner of Bainbridge, it was



like entering a secret garden. Once through her cottage gate and down the footpath the abundance of colours met

you in this well-tended private space. The garden lawn is beautifully mown and all the flower beds were bursting with colours, mixed roses and various colours of



Phlox. The lower garden accesses the River Bain which flows past and the path also wanders down to her neighbour's garden which also abuts the River Bain.

Both gardens benefit from morning sunshine right through to 4 – 5pm in the afternoon as the sun moves around to the west. A haven for birds, butterflies and bees in this sheltered space, Margaret and Roger enjoy the garden to the full and can sit out at various places to make the most of the south facing aspect.

After we had looked around we then enjoyed tea and coffee and some homemade light refreshments, it was a lovely morning, in a very idyllic setting. Thank you Margaret for hosting.

High Dales Group

The next meeting is a SKITTLES and QUIZ evening at Thornton Rust Institute on MONDAY 2nd OCTOBER at 7 pm. We are looking for teams of up to six people to take part in this fun event. Cost: £7 including supper. Please book your place by **21st September**. Please give names and money to Karen or Susan at our next WI meeting

Each team will play a skittles alley and there will be a written quiz which team members can puzzle over whilst waiting their turn on the skittles alley. A plated supper will be served throughout the evening. Tea/coffee will be available but you can bring your own drinks along if you wish. At the end of the evening, a prize will be awarded to the team with the highest overall score for both the skittles and the quiz. Teams can be made up on the night, if necessary.

An Evening with Adam Frost

We booked ten tickets to see Adam at Tennants on 20th September. These have all been allocated but at the time of writing there were still tickets available from Tennants. If you would like to go, just get in touch with Tennants and when you buy your ticket ask if you can be added to our group so we can sit together - it is booked under Nicola's name. We are in section A, price £14.

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

September Birthdays



A very happy Birthday to:

Jean Abraham Bette Cannell
Betty Hodgson Lesley Kettlewell
Margaret Reynolds
Beryl Simpson Sue Tempest

Hold the back page by Karen

A Sad State of Affairs

Well, here we are in September and already the nights are drawing in and even the mornings have been pretty dark recently. I am not sure I am ready to cope with the darkness of winter just yet!

Summer was a disappointment (again!) and doesn't help us to be very cheerful about what is going on in our world. Everywhere you look, there seems to be some sort of disaster, misery or anguish. The news has become far too depressing to watch but when I do I get increasingly angry that no-one seems interested in tackling the problems that face us all.



I don't think I will get into global warming as that is a problem that we all need to take seriously and do our bit to ease, but as in most things that are significant, they rely on the leadership of those with the power to get the ball rolling. Unfortunately, in the case of something this important that is never going to happen because those very people are more concerned with the financial implications and how any attempts to address the situation may affect those who hold the purse-strings. I suspect much the same could be said about issues in the NHS and many other big organisations where those at the top need to know that they will be okay, regardless of what happens to the rest of us!

My concern at the moment is a matter much closer to home, although not exclusively local issue. It is that of a lack of staff. What on earth has happened? As the owner of a local

business I am currently having to address a situation where two local suppliers have ceased their services, In one case, the whole business has closed down due a lack of staff and in the other, it is a lack of staff that has caused the business to withdraw its wholesale services.



This is a crucial problem, not only for the businesses concerned but for all those who they have worked with. For a small business like mine, I now have to try and find alternative suppliers, ideally locally, who can meet the needs of my customers. However, without the buying power of the supermarkets, I don't fancy my chances! That aside, my ethos was to promote other local businesses but clearly they are having their own issues.

Now, I don't know about you, but I was always brought up with the message that if you didn't work, you didn't get paid and therefore you couldn't have what you wanted! Has that message changed? I don't believe this shortage in the workforce has anything to do with a falling population, or even a lack of foreign workers. especially not locally where most Dales folk are hard workers, some until the day they die!

No, if you ask me, this problem appears to stem back to the Covid-19 Pandemic when people experienced a life shift. Many were fortunate to be put on the furlough scheme, allowing them to isolate at home whilst still being paid - a lifesaver for many, but at what cost?.

I suspect some thought that was the way forward in the future and just don't want to go out to work if they can possibly avoid it.



Others, I sense, saw that there was perhaps more to life after living under this

terrifying cloud and subsequently made seismic changes to their lives. Perhaps these changes involved retiring earlier than planned, or selling their homes and travelling the world or just not working the hours they had previously to ensure a better work/life balance.



Whatever it is, things do seem to have gone downhill since that time. Couple this with the way our current education system appears to encourage youngsters to study for as long as possible before or after taking a 'year out' and then perhaps think about doing some work. Marvellous, if you can afford it but not necessarily good for our economy or for their work ethic, or indeed for the wellbeing of some students who just don't want to study..

The relatively new initiative to make it a legal requirement to remain in education until the age of 18 does not benefit everyone. There are many youngsters who are just desperate to leave school/college and start work, but now can't. Admittedly, they are allowed to go into an apprenticeship but that isn't always practical or even necessary for some students and/or their plans for the future.

Whatever you may think about that, it does mean that youngsters now can't start full-time work (if they wanted to) until the age of 18, rather than 16, so that is two years with a lot of youngsters out of the full-time workforce.

And then there are the youngsters who are intent (or persuaded) to go to university.



I may be in the minority, but I consider myself very fortunate that neither of my children wanted to go to university (my bank account breathed a huge sigh of relief!). This wasn't because I made any attempt to put them off - in fact, quite the opposite. However, what I told them was that I would support them in their studies if they absolutely knew what they wanted to do and if a university degree was essential for them to achieve that. In 21st century Britain, there are far too many university courses that appear to be there just for students to have a jolly good time for three or four years (often at their parents expense!) whilst delaying the inevitability of having to earn a living - generally one that the degree does not bear any relevance to!

So, if you were to ask me, I would say that our education system has got it all wrong. I don't deny that we need doctors, scientists, engineers, lawyers etc, and that a university education is generally essential for any of those roles. However, we also need a range of other skills to support our economy and our lifestyle. We need people who are good with their hands - creative skills; people with compassion and caring natures; people who are good with animals and nature; construction workers; road workers, etc, etc.



The list is endless, but all of these roles are essential to the balance of our lives and the success of the economy. Unfortunately, I think we have spent far too many years encouraging our youngsters that they are not good enough if they don't go to university, making many struggle through three or four years in misery, only to end up without a job at the end - or at least not one that they studied for. Meanwhile, all those who believed they had a natural talent that they wanted to nurture were cast aside or led to believe they were not good enough. Look where that has got us!

I always remember an incident I had at a local school some 14 years ago now when I was told by a member of staff that they would discuss with my son what they wanted to do after 'A' Levels when all the students wanting to go to university had been helped and encouraged to submit their applications. I was furious and didn't mind saying so!

What makes one student's choices any less important than the others?! In the words of an adage we had when I worked in school 'every child matters' and therefore their worries, concerns and decisions are as important as the next student's. Looks good on paper and even sounds good, but in my experience, the practice is very different!!

Anyway, they are just my thoughts on how we may have ended up at this point with a crisis of lack of staff. What on earth are we going to do to address this swiftly to avoid the demise of many more businesses, particularly locally?

As I have often said, staff are the single most important thing in a business as without good staff it doesn't matter how many customers you have, they will not linger if they do not get good service. I have often been mocked for this view, but I tend to think that maybe I am right. Get good staff - treat them well - they

will stay - you will get a reputation second-to-none!

Anyway, possibly that will not help in the current situation but I really hope someone is sitting there with the solution because as far as I can see, we are hovering on a precipice and our very way of life could be affected.

Answers on a postcard please!

