



Bainbridge WI Newsletter

April 2026

President: Sue Stokes 07816 955723 sue.stokes@qualitar.co.uk

Newsletter Editor: Sarah Betts 07766 730869 bainbridgewinewsletter@gmail.com

Walking Group

Wednesday 1st April
To Redmire and Castle Bolton
Also

Theatre Group

The Secret Garden at Theatre Royal, York

Wednesday 8th April
Bingo Night at Hawes Market Hall to raise
Funds for Bainbridge Village Hall

Craft and Chat

Sat 11th April, 10am – 12 noon,
Sycamore Hall. Bring your own project to work on.
also
Craft Group visit to Spring into Wool at
Leeds Grammar School

WI Committee meeting

Mon 13th April - 7.00pm Sycamore Hall

Sunday 15th April
NYWF Botanical Floral Casting at Alma House

Monthly Meeting

Thursday 16th April
7.30pm Bainbridge Village Hall.
Tea and biscuits for refreshments.
Speaker/Activity changed

Annual Community Lunch

Saturday 18th April
Bainbridge Village Hall

Repair Café at Richmond Town Hall

Sunday 19th April 10.30-12.00

Spring Council

Wednesday 22nd April
Tennants, Leyburn

Lunch Group

Thursday 23rd April
Redmire Community Pub. 12.00 for 12.30

Book Group

Friday 24th April 7.00pm, Sycamore Hall
also
Saturday 25th April - Trip to Hexham Book Festival

Theatre group meeting

26th April The Magic Flute screening at Richmond
Station

High Dales WI

Pickleball

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**

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

Intro

March was a month of ups and downs. The weather was drab with mostly cloudy, rainy, windy days with an odd day or two of glorious sunshine then rainbows. With a world in turmoil and so much fear in many countries it makes you realise how lucky we are. At our craft and chat we had members who were clearly suffering anxiety and grief yet using the chance to share stories and escape for a while in the company of their WI friends. The following week many of us were lucky enough to spend time on Mother's Day with our children and family members. I really enjoyed eating afternoon tea made by my Granddaughter – that was a first!

Our invitations have gone out to members of our community and we're looking forward to providing them with a delicious lunch on April 18th. Check out the reports from all our groups and make note of a lot more outings and activities we have to look forward to in April and the forthcoming months. There will be sign-up sheets as usual at our **16th April meeting when instead of a speaker we will be having a Scavenger hunt plus a quiz and activities. Do come prepared for whatever weather, we will have indoor activities for any that would prefer to stay indoors ☺**

Spring Council takes place on 22nd April at Tennants. Bainbridge WI will be well represented and we're looking forward to hearing Jeryl Stone,

NFWI Chair in the morning and Paul Whittaker OBE, "the deaf conductor" in the afternoon. We'll also see how our entries in the Norah Worth and Kathleen Bird competitions get on.

If you missed the sheets at our last meeting but see something you'd like to join in then please contact the group lead. Gwen has organised a few trips and performances for Theatre group to enjoy, some had to be booked at short notice due to low availability. Claire has been busy with the Gardening group and she now has plans for the next few months. We all enjoyed the visit to Susan Freer's garden and the delicious tea and cakes.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter



Sue Stokes

March Meeting

Our March meeting took place at Sycamore Hall in a very well packed lounge! It was lovely to see so many people there to enjoy our evening, including (we hope!) some potential new members.

Our speaker was Bob Coombes from The Wensleydale Railway, who came along dressed as Station Master, Mathew Newton, to talk us through Matthew's life with the railway. It was a fascinating tale.

At the age of 30, Matthew married Betty. He and Betty lived in accommodation provided by the railway which increased in size as he moved through the ranks. Matthew became station master at Aycliffe, earning £70 per year.

Sadly, their son, William, died in 1909 from tuberculosis, aged just nine years, and just three years later, their daughter Elsie also died. When the First World War came, Matthew was in a role that meant he was exempt from fighting. In 1920, Matthew and his wife moved to Leeming Bar station which saw his pay rise to £260 per year. Then, in 1929, they moved to Darlington where they remained for twenty years.

Matthew died at the age of 83, leaving just £1,420. Betty died a year later.

Bob told us of the work being carried out to preserve the railway. The line is currently open from Leeming Bar to Redmire, with the latter part remaining open as part of an agreement with the Army, who use it to transport their equipment etc.

At Christmas, the railway is transformed to offer rides on 'The Polar Express' which has become a very popular Christmas treat for many, with some apparently turning up in their pyjamas (as in the film)! Whilst this project is run by an independent company, the railway has benefitted by around £200,000 so it is definitely worth doing!

The Railway not only offers the opportunity to ride on the trains along the route, but both Scruton and Leeming Bar Stations open to the public, being staged in the 1910's and 1920's. Refreshments are available at Leeming Bar Station. It is also possible to arrange 'Experience Days' on the railway, driving some of the vintage engines. Of course, volunteers

are always welcome to help in the restoration and running of the railway.

Karen Prudden

Great Yorkshire Show

Members are encouraged to make items for the WI stand display this year and can download a document with the requirements, should you wish to get involved.

https://www.thewi.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/773890/The-Great-Yorkshire-WI-Yarn-Bomb-2026-Schedule-and-Entry-Form-.pdf

The Craft and Chat group are already aware of these and working on it, but all are welcome to contribute, particularly on the 6" and 12" squares.

North West Federation

A reminder to all members that if you would like to find out about the latest news and events happening in our Federation, do go to -

<https://yorkshire-north-west.thewi.org.uk/2026-events-and-workshops>

Alison Thwaite

High Dales

Pickleball Taster Session

Monday 11th May 7pm

Pickleball is one of the most popular racket sports in the world. It is FUN and SOCIABLE.

It's easy to play, even if you have never played a racket or ball sport before, even if you don't consider yourself 'sporty'. We play it on a Badminton Court, with a similar net to tennis, with solid bats a bit like table tennis, and a plastic ball like the ones we played with as children.



Here are a couple of videos:

www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60480668

What is Pickleball? (you can skip the advert on this one after 5 seconds)

Now – do you know what a ‘dink’ is? What is the ‘kitchen’? What is Bainbridge’s link to Pickleball?

Come along to our taster session and find out what you are not allowed to do in the kitchen!!

The session is being organised by the High Dales committee with the help of the Wensleydale Pickleball Club. There will be a short demonstration from club members (which includes a number of WI members) then chance to have a go and to talk to the Chair and members of the Club.

Tea and biscuits served.

Monday 11th May, 7pm, Askrigg Village Hall. Please wear comfortable clothes and suitable shoes such as trainers. There is no charge for this. A signing up sheet will be at the next meeting or let Karen, Claire or Nicola know if you would like to come along. Booking is not essential, but it will help us to organise if we know how many or you are coming.

Spring Council

Spring Council will be held on 22nd April at Tennants and for those interested, below are our entries for the Norah Worth award. Entrants are Linda Cameron, Anne Bell, Anne Izard, Alison Thwaite and Sarah Betts.



Lunch Club



The lunch club were pretty much blown to The White Bear in Masham, the wind was so strong. It even tried to make off with one of Anne’s bank cards that unfortunately fell out of her purse. Luckily the card was safe and sound, found hiding in a pile of leaves blown against a door!

We had a pleasant lunch with much chat over a wide range of subjects. The service was good and food was tasty but some of the vegetables were very cool, so perhaps overall, not as good as the last visit.

We are next heading off to The Community Pub in Redmire, on Thursday 23rd April, where Anne will arrange for a table, do look out for the signing up sheet at the April meeting.

Book Club



Our March meeting was held on Friday 6th March, when we discussed "Katharine Parr, The Sixth Wife" by Alison Weir.

At Book Club you do not have to read every book. We have a "Bring and Share" supper and it is a relaxed social event with new members made very welcome

Susan Freer

Garden Group



(the following article was not in time for the March newsletter!)



The ladies of the Garden Group had some lovely weather for their visit to Kiplin Hall at the end of February. About twelve of us arrived in the lovely sunshine and naturally had to start with a coffee and a chat before heading into the gardens.

There were huge swathes of snowdrops in the wilder areas of the gardens which looked stunning in the sunshine. Although it was a glorious day, we decided against the walk around the extensive lake, having been warned that the path was still suffering from the recent heavy rainfall. None of us fancied ending up on the floor, or even worse, in the lake! Instead, we enjoyed it all from a distance. We were all impressed with the enormous walled garden

which will no doubt be heaving with vegetables and flowers later in the year.

After a stroll around the gardens, we headed back to the cafe for lunch, which was delicious. We then headed to the hall to enjoy a tour around the parts that are open to the public.

Before leaving, we recorded our visit for the album although it has to be said, it presented a rather sad image with Sue in her wheelchair, Liz with her walker and at least four of us with sticks! We must have looked like we'd been released from the care home!!! Still, despite all our ailments, we'd had a wonderful visit.

And, of course, before we left, we had to head back to the cafe just one more time for tea and cake - to sustain us on the long journey home, of course!!

Thanks to Claire for organising this visit.



Karen Prudden

March meeting

Garden Group met at Susan and Tim Freer's garden in Thornton Rust on a cold, slightly windy, but dry Saturday morning at the end of March. The daffodils were out in full force and many other colours were emerging in the garden; their Magnolia was on the point of bursting into colour and many other plants were showing signs of coming out of their winter hibernation. There are lots of colour in pots around the garden, which are strategically placed to shelter from the wind. Whilst gardening in the dales can be challenging, Susan and Tim are well seasoned dedicated gardeners and it always a pleasure to visit their garden and see



for
ourselves
what is
emerging
after a
long

Linda Cameron

Walking Group



winter. Susan invited us into the warmth of the house and we enjoyed hot drinks and lots of delicious homemade cakes. We swapped gardening magazines and books, together with some seed packets. We then made plans for next month's meeting, which will be a trip to Braithwaite's Garden Centre at Leeming Bar on **Wednesday 15th April**, leaving Bainbridge at 10.30am. If you wish to join this visit please let me know on 07989 418582 or email: claire@penninotech.net and also let me know if you are willing to drive.

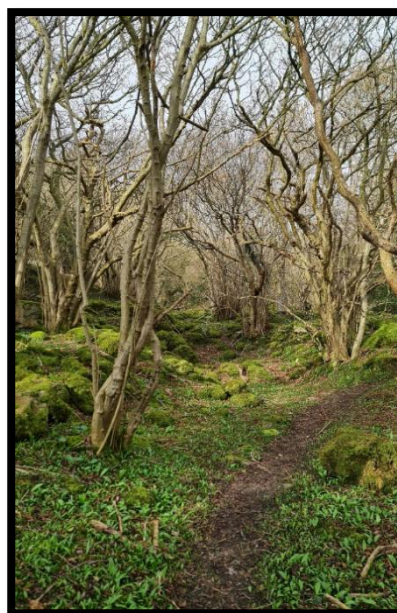


Claire Lambert



This month craft and chat will be held on Saturday 11th April, from 10.00am at Sycamore Hall. Do bring along your own projects to work on.

4 members of the Craft and Chat group are heading off the Spring into Wool – a festival held in Leeds – on the 11th April, to see/feel/buy all things woolly!



The weather let us do our March walk on the planned day – hurray!! On Wednesday 4th March we did a circular walk around the outskirts of Thoraby taking in part of the snowdrop walk. The snowdrops were impressive even though they were just going past their best but it was good to see the daffodils, cherry blossom and aubretia coming out. We had a leisurely walk through very varied landscapes – open fields, woods, stream sides and higher viewing points, ending up at The George for drinks to accompany our snacks (they don't do food but didn't mind us taking our own sandwiches).

Our next walk is on **Wednesday 1st April** starting at Bolton Castle, going down and around Redmire before heading back to the castle for refreshments (the pastries and cakes are rather scrumptious!).

Meeting at Bolton Castle car park at 10.30am or leaving Bainbridge about 10am for car sharing.



Please let me know if you plan to come along so that I can keep you updated with timings and weather reports. Email njrob222@gmail.com, phone/text 07490 656007

Nicola Robinson

Spring Flower Photo Competition



had last month – the snowdrop walk around Thoraby and the visit

This competition was inspired by the snowdrop events we



to Kiplin Hall. Thirty-six photos were submitted in the two categories – Snowdrops and Spring Flowers.

I hope you all had fun taking the photos and voting for your favourites. They were displayed on the wall at Sycamore Hall for residents and WI members to vote. There were two clear winners: Raeywn Parkinson for the Snowdrop category and Gill Flowers for the Spring Flower category. Congratulations to you both and to everyone who took part, they were all lovely.

Nicola Robinson

Theatre Group



The April outing for the theatre group is to see The Magic Flute screening at Richmond Station on the 26th April. We look forward to reading all about it next month!

Ed



Happy Birthday

Many Happy Returns to

Jean Daykin
Anne Izard
Carolyn Rukin
Sheryl Willis and



Many apologies for leaving out Cathy Gosling who celebrated her birthday last month.

The Advance of the Robotic Lawnmower

Oh dear! I have just been reading a report in Richmondshire Today of yet another burglary in the area. These seem to be an increasing trend although, in the main, they tend to be the theft of vehicles and particularly quad bikes. Seemingly, gangs of criminals are targeting this area and planning where they can get their next swag from.

It must be extremely annoying for local farmers to have to think about where they leave their quad bike to ensure it is not stolen, when they are busy trying to run their farm in challenging conditions. I doubt it was an issue fifty years ago for farmers to think about locking up their quad bikes whenever they were not in use, but sadly these days it is essential. Rarely a week goes by when an alert is not issued by North Yorkshire Police seeking information relating to yet another quad bike theft.

Anyway, today, I was reading yet another report of a theft but this time it was one that made me laugh. Someone had reported a theft but the only thing stolen was a robotic lawnmower! For goodness sake - is nothing sacred these days?!

I now have a vision of this little robot lawnmower merrily enjoying roaming around the lawn of its owner's garden when some 'thug' enters the property, grabs the robot and makes their escape at speed, with the robot tucked under their arm and squealing in fear!!! It's the stuff of fantasy - or is it?!?! Okay, I know that these things will cost an awful lot of money and the idea is that you put them on the lawn and leave them to do their thing. However, in so doing, you must accept that they are vulnerable to the sad people that have a desire to steal them! You can hardly chain them down as that rather defeats the object of them roaming. I would like to propose electronic tagging or microchipping for

these lawnmowers or maybe even a satellite tracking system to protect these vulnerable things! It might even be possible to have an app on your phone which the lawnmower triggers when it is being violated?!?! Explain the to your friends when you are out and about and an alarm goes off on your phone ... sorry, must dash, my mower is being attacked!! I am sure that these things are not beyond the realms of possibility but they would likely cost far more than the thing itself! Equally, given that they are robotic I suspect it won't be too long before someone 'hacks' into them and they make their own escape!

Can you imagine it? A string of robotic lawnmowers making their way up the high street in army formation? Sorry - I am getting a bit carried away now! However, in this world nothing is impossible! Maybe we are on the edge of a takeover by robotic lawnmowers?! Just look how drones have developed from being helpful and fun to becoming weapons of war! It seems anything is possible.

I would have suggested that Bainbridge Parish Council considered the purchase of some of these things to keep the village green well-groomed but if the theft of them is a new line for the criminals, can you imagine how many they would get through in a year? And, if they managed to survive the criminals, no doubt children would think they are a new toy to play with and dogs would doubtless attack them!!

So, I guess my advice to you is that if you cannot be bothered to mow your own lawn, you should accept the risks you take in spending your money on a robotic lawnmower. You never know what they might be planning!

How mad is our World?!