



Bainbridge WI Newsletter

July 2026

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

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

Walking Group

Wed 1st July Circular walk from Hebden via Burnsall.

Full walk 4 miles, part walk 2 miles.

Leave Bainbridge 9.30, meet Hebden 10.30, meet Burnsall 11.30 for shorter walk. Refreshments at The Old School Room, Hebden.

NYWF residential At Barnard Castle

10th – 12th July

WI Committee meeting

Mon 13th July -7.00pm Sycamore Hall

Craft and Chat

Patchwork exhibited at Great Yorkshire show

Tues 14th – Fri 17th July

No workshops this month but start thinking about making items for the Christmas Fair 😊

WI Committee meeting

Monthly Meeting

Thursday 16th July, 7.00pm for 7.30

Talk – Cancer Research – by Andy Wilson

Bainbridge Village Hall

Tea and biscuits for refreshments.

Book Group

Friday 17th July, 7.30pm at Sycamore Hall

To discuss The Midnight Library by Matt Haig.

Garden Group

Saturday 18th July at 10.30am - Sue Peckitt's garden at Coles House, Moor Road, Askrigg, all welcome. There will be a signing up sheet available at our next meeting.

Lunch Group

Wednesday 22nd July, 12.00 for 12.30

The Knights Table, Little Stainforth

Theatre Group

Thursday 23rd July, 7.30pm

The Tempest at The Georgian Theatre

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
Tuesday 10.30am - Quiz or Bingo
Wednesday 9am - 11am Post Office
Thursday 10.30am - Coffee morning
Thursday 2.00pm – Bridge
Friday 11am - Gentle exercise
Every day 2pm – Dominoes

Intro

June has been another busy month including our most successful fund raiser at the Beamish car rally. On a sweltering day our amazing WI members sold drinks, homemade sandwiches, cakes and savouries with incredible sales.

A great team worked behind the scenes to plan and prepare, set up the gazebos and all the kit. Then all the makers and bakers turned up with delicious food to sell, all packaged and labelled. Thank you, all makers, and please claim expenses for the ingredients as you have generously given your time 😊

There was no urn available for us so it was by the grace of Karen and Tim Prudden's water and electricity supply that we were able to serve drinks at all! This is definitely something to follow up before our next outside event.

There was no waste! Takings on the day were over £1,000 which even after expenses will make our largest income generator. Congratulations to all volunteers and their families.

A steady flow of customers all day 😊



Sue Stokes

GYS



In June, a number of members from different WIs met at Alma House in Ripon and spent a day sewing knitted and crocheted squares together for the Great Yorkshire Show WI landscape. Some of these were on view on the stage at the last meeting.

Sarah Betts

National Federation Annual meeting

A report was released for the National Federation Annual meeting on 4th June attended by Sue Stokes. Both the women's homelessness and the public toilets resolutions were passed.

A start has already begun to enter data onto the Toilet app by reviewing Bainbridge public toilets; which will aid this project.

If you would like to read a copy of this report please contact Sue Stokes.

Sue Stokes

June Meeting

June's meeting was interestingly cheesy one by Andy Swinscoe of The Courtyard Dairy! He explained how cheese started in the country and the Dales. We heard about the artisan cheesemakers and he took us through cheese making to the current day.

Andy started the Courtyard Dairy on a shoestring and it has grown and grown. His interest and passion for cheese shone through his talk, which

was accompanied by various samples of cheese including Baron Bigot – a lovely thin skinned brie type of cheese, and a traditional Wensleydale.

There was a brisk sale of cheeses after his talk and the queue of WI members to buy his wares was a testament to the lovely flavours.

Sarah Betts

Monthly Meeting Signup Sheets

Please make sure that at each monthly meeting you check all the sign-up sheets for the various different outings and events. Bring your diary along to check dates and top tip is to take a photo of the sheets that you sign up for – then you have all the information on your phone! And....

Did you know we have an email distribution list for third party events and activities that might be of interest to our members? We won't send you loads of commercial stuff; we share information about community activities like the Repair Shop in Richmond, fundraising events in our nearby villages and local campaigns such as 'Stop Ure Pollution'.

Let me know if you'd like to join this list. You can remove your name at any time.

For Federation information about events, they won't be included in this newsletter but members can always refer back to the Federation newsletter if they want to see what's coming up in the region. They have started adding an 'events at a glance' page which I think is helpful,

Rachel Newall

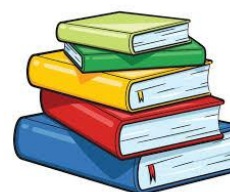
Lunch Club



A yummy lunch was eaten on Wednesday 24th June, when ten Wensleydale gourmets descended upon The Queens Head in Finghall. The weather was beautiful as we drove to it, the temperature perhaps higher than we would have liked! We sat around an oval table which was lovely and made conversation much easier. After sorting out the pre-ordered food, and various changes that had been made, we all tucked in to lasagne, fish pie, scallops, scampi and a beef baguette - chips were particularly good and plentiful. Some members said that they would take other halves along at a later date – a good recommendation! Unfortunately, no pictures this month as we were too busy eating!

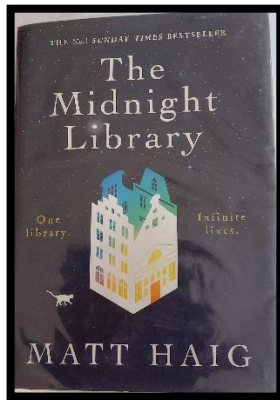
Sarah Betts

Book Club



Six members attended the meeting on 5th June at Sycamore Hall. The book we discussed was "Your Inner Hedgehog" by Alexander Mc Call Smith. Those of us who went to Hexham Book Festival and heard the interview with the author learned that he had formerly been a Professor of Medical Law at the University of Edinburgh. He became an expert on medical law and bioethics and served on British and International Committees. In this "quirky" book he seemed to be showing the pomposity, misogyny and self-conceit of some Academics. However this is done in a very humorous way and the story is set in a German University Library. Some members

enjoyed the book enormously and others were ambivalent., The next meeting of the book club is on 17th July 7-30pm in Sycamore Hall. The book we will be discussing is "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig. New members are always welcome.



Susan Freer

Garden Group



Whilst not an official Garden Group outing, a number of our members visited Firby Hall Gardens, as part of the National Garden Scheme. (This means that the gardens are only open on specific day/s.)



At the Lino printing workshop held on 1st June, we spent a few enjoyable hours and learned how to print multiple colours. The outcomes were quite striking!

Thanks to Linda for organising the workshop.



Sue Stokes

Theatre Group



Four of us are booked to go to Bowness-on-Windermere on Wednesday 3rd June to see 14 Again with music and lyrics by Victoria Wood. It was pouring with rain; but we enjoyed a pleasant lunch before walking across to the theatre.

The smoke effects weren't so pleasant but the performance made us chuckle as we reminisced about our teenage years and Victoria Wood's sense of humour.



Sue Stokes/Gwen Clark

Walking Group



It was third time lucky with the weather this month, so we eventually set out to Swaledale on 17th June and it was perfect for walking.

We parked at Ivelet Bridge and walked along the river to Muker stopping a while to watch the Sand Martins flitting around (they have nests in the riverbank). The meadows were looking fabulous, majoring in buttercups, red clover and geraniums (crane's bill) at the time we were there. Closer inspection revealed others such as selfheal, yarrow, daisies, and eyebright.

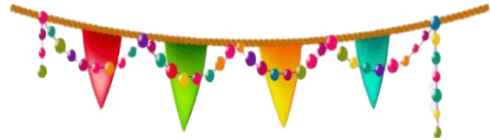
Refreshments were taken at The Gallery – self serve tea and coffee (very good coffee), traybakes and our own sandwiches. We stayed there quite a while enjoying the garden and peacefulness.

We took the same route back to the cars but as ever it does look different from the other direction.

Our next walk is scheduled for Wednesday 1 July. A circular walk from Hebden via Burnsall. The total walk is just under 4 miles, a shorter version of about 2 miles can be done from Burnsall along the river on the Dales Way which is fairly level and mostly sound underfoot.

Please let me know if you would like to join us.
njr222@gmail.com, 07490 656007

Nicola Robinson



Happy Birthday

Many Happy Returns

Jennifer Fawcett
Grace Helmsley
Alyson Jones
Margaret Preston



Hold the Back Page by Karen Prudden

THE FUTURE DOESN'T LOOK SO BRIGHT

I am so pleased that my children are now grown up with children of their own, but I have to say I worry about the sort of world my grandchildren are going to inherit.

There has been a lot in the news recently about the 'lost generation' and it seems to link very closely to developments in technology as much as anything else. We are warned that there are increasing numbers of youngsters who are unable to find work and are not in training, relying on benefits to help them afford even a simple life. I was horrified to hear on the news how a 24-year-old man had applied for hundreds and hundreds of jobs but has so far not worked since finishing his studies! It seems that it doesn't matter how many applications you submit these days, there just aren't the jobs available. I was even more horrified to hear that job applications to some of the bigger companies/organisations are screened by 'AI bots' first! So, depending upon what they have been programmed to look for, it would be easy to fail to pass that initial stage of recruitment if you don't 'hit' the right word! It must be absolutely soul destroying!

As if that wasn't bad enough, we are warned that over the next two or three years there will be significant reductions in the job market, particularly for entry level jobs. This is also due to AI which we are told will take over many of these roles. Maybe there is an argument to say it removes mundane roles and produces better value for money for employers but what are all the people that would have had those jobs doing? Presumably nothing! That will put a drain on the State through increased claims to the already over-stretched welfare system and a reduction of tax income to the Government. None of that is good, but it doesn't even consider the effect on the mental health and wellbeing of those who are unable to work. I would guess that represents an additional strain on the NHS!

How awful is this for the young generation who have worked through their schooling and further education, expecting to get out into the world of work and make their way through life, buying houses, marrying, having children etc. It seems to me that those dreams have all been shattered now. There certainly seems little incentive for youngsters to work hard through their education to achieve the best because the current and predicted situation appears not to reward that in any way and indeed, contributes to additional pressures for these youngsters who we have encouraged to get into significant debt through their studies.

What on earth are we thinking? There is no doubt that some progress is good and technology can do a lot to help us but when it gets to the point where we are specifically designing it to take over from us in whatever area of life that happens to be, there has to be something wrong!

As someone who is no longer considered your 'average' person, I have experienced both the good and the bad aspects of technological developments. I have admitted that AI is already helping me with the new Meta AI glasses which give me back some independence as a visually impaired person. However, I am also experiencing the downsides of technology with all the digital developments affecting most areas of life that I really struggle to access with my disability. Online banking is almost impossible, online shopping challenging (and amusing when the wrong thing turns up because I had failed to see the sizing!) but there are many more examples, including far too many in the healthcare sector that make me feel very marginalised.

So, perhaps we need to sit down and have a serious think about how far we go with the development of technology and particularly AI before we find that none of us have a purpose and we all become a drain on the society that is already under pressure?

Am I alone in thinking this?
