



SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 29 September 2022

Don't forget to visit the SFWI Facebook page for the latest news: Staffordshire <https://www.facebook.com/staffordshirefederationofwomensinstitutes> or our website: <https://sfwi.org>

Tel: 01785 223838 Emails: admin@sfwi.org or accounts@sfwi.org Opening hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm

Dear Fellow Members



I hope you are all well at what is a sad time whilst we mourn the great loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Her Majesty the Queen was of course a member of our wonderful organisation and President of Sandringham WI. She was a truly inspiring women.

I know that members across Staffordshire will remember her fondly and will have stories to share. National Federation wish you to share those stories over the coming days so that we are able to respectfully mark her passing and proudly note her achievements and also celebrate her life by making entries into the WI online book of condolences. The link is: <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/oraXSyiu>

A formal document will be forwarded to all Presidents and Secretaries today with an outline of National Federations plans for the period of mourning and guidance for WIs.

As a Federation we will observe the official period of mourning and pay tribute to her life as both our Monarch and a fellow WI member.

We have sent our condolences to The Royal Family.

Yours in Friendship.

Helen

Upcoming Events

Bowls Doubles	16th September 12 noon	Florence Tennis/Bowling Club ST3 4EB
Presidents/Secretaries	20th September at 7pm	Boden Suite, County Showground*
Catch Up		
Bowls Finals	23rd September 12 noon	Florence Tennis/Bowling Club ST3 4EB
Women Walk the World	3rd October at 6pm	Milford Common, Stafford ST17 0UH
Stitched Felted	1st October at 10.30am	Cornerstone
Decorations		
Ladies who Lunch!	15th October 12.15pm	St Luke's Church Hall, Cannock
Craft Club	22nd October at 10am	Cornerstone
Seasonal Workshops	5th and 26th November	Young Farmers Club
Free Motion Embroidery	12th November 10.30am	Cornerstone
It's Christmas!	16th November 10.30am	County Showground
Resolutions Meeting	19th November 10am	Weston Village Hall
Annual Carol Service	12th December 2pm	Saint Mary's Church, Stafford

***Please note change of venue for the Presidents'/Secretaries' Evening**

Details are with your secretary and also posted on our website and Facebook page.

Committee News and Activities

Have you signed up for our Ladies who Lunch Event? Join us on Saturday 15th October at 1215pm for a two course lunch and a talk from Jennier Rigby—Actress and raconteur! Ticket price £20. Venue St Luke's Church



GROWING WILD FOR NATURE!

The Council-owned verge outside The Cornerstone is to be a Wildflower Patch after the necessary permissions were recently granted. Soon it will be a riot of colour and the insects will love it!

A beautiful hessian sign has been crafted by Janet Moorby, Chairman of Craft, Art & Design and this has been displayed on the fence to show that the rewilding is for a purpose.

This is part of the Federation's Earth Day's 52 Week Challenge - are you taking part?

If your WI is doing your bit for the environment on a weekly, monthly or on a whole-year basis, don't forget to record your efforts and let The Cornerstone know.

Every small action helps - and the more small actions that are taken, the bigger the help becomes.

EDUCATION & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The visit organised by E&PA to the BIFoR facility was fascinating. Increased levels of carbon dioxide to replicate projected climate changes are released from high masts in a natural woodland and the effect is measured. Data is collected not just from the trees in respect of growth and leaf production but also the soil composition, microbes, fungi and wildlife. It was amazing to know how one action has a ripple effect throughout the natural environment.

For information on the project visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/bifor/index.aspx

EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -

This month, spare a thought for butterflies that are looking for nectar in a landscape of fewer summer flowers.



If you have a banana or two that are no longer suitable for eating, hang them up in a tree - with a couple of slits in the skin - and watch the butterflies enjoy the treat. The sight will be a treat for you, too!



Events Committee

Ladies Who Lunch October 15th 2022

The Events team are looking forward to the lunch at St Luke's Church Hall Cannock. We are delighted that Cannock WI are working with us and helping to make it a special get together. Don't forget to bring your own drink and glass.

The last few tickets are available at £20 for a lunch of cold meat, salads dessert and the chance to hear monologues from Jen Rigby. So please contact the Federation office as soon as possible.

'It's Christmas!' November 16th

This is going to be a very exciting day at the Showground. We are looking forward to Jonathan Moseley in action with his beautiful flower arrangements, as well as having a stimulating and amusing talk from Geoff Eze and a chance to get in the Christmas spirit with the Inn Ringers and their tuneful bells. **'Shop 'til you drop'** and enjoy a chance to buy unusual and special Christmas gifts, at the many craft food and drink stalls. As a team our aim is to make it a day to remember.

If you have a suitable venue to arrange a Federation event, please let me know

Verity Conner (Chairman Events Committee)

Knitting

We are still taking premature baby knitting. if anyone would like to make a blanket about 30" x 30" for the hospital baby unit, these are urgently required at the moment.

We are taking our trauma teddies to the police and we have been asked by them if we could supply some 'police teddies', so if you have any wool suitable for making a teddy dressed as a policeman this would be greatly appreciated.

Any donations can be brought along to Federation Office or to any of our events.

Thank you to all those members who have sent in donations.

Presidents'/Secretaries' Evening 20th September

Due to the high response, please note that the venue has now changed. It is now being held in the Boden Suite, County Showground ST18 0BD. This is in the building where we hold our large events. It is no longer being held at The Young Farmers Club.

SUPPORTERS CLUB Congratulations to the Winners!

1 st Prize	£ 25.00	No 30	R Simpson, Sandon WI
2 nd Prize	£ 10.00	No 8	K Jones, Westlands WI
3 rd Prize	£ 5.00	No 34	A Maiden, Tillington WI

Celebrating 70 Years of WI!



Ruth Downs of Maer and District WI has recently celebrated 70 years of being a WI member. She originally joined Weston WI in Crewe with her mother but when she married, moved away from the area and eventually joined Maer and District WI where she has remained ever since.

Not long after she joined she was asked to make a Children's Party Cake for the County Show Competition and to her surprise she won and has never looked back!

After her success, she enrolled on a City and Guilds course in Design and Decoration of Flour Confectionary and was asked to run the course when her tutor retired although she declined this. However, since then she has tutored cake decorating at Rodbaston Agricultural College for 16 and was a Denman College tutor for six years. She has also been involved with the production of cookery books both at National and Federation level and was a member of SFWI's Homes and Gardens Committee.

Ruth is also a member of the Sugar Craft Guild.

She has had the honour of making her own WI's birthday cakes and was especially delighted to make their centenary cake in 2019.

A remarkable WI career which all came about because she said **'yes'** to entering a competition!

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

HM Queen Elizabeth II
1926-2022