



SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 34 February 2023

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



Hello everyone

I have the privilege of becoming your new Chairman.

I will start by paying tribute to our outgoing Chairman, Helen Newman. Helen has skilfully and steadfastly guided us through the last six years in the Staffordshire Federation. Not once have we sat back on our laurels. We have forged ahead through thick and thin. It is now our aim to carry this forward and keep Staffordshire modern and lively, because of Helen. Helen has our most grateful thanks for what she has achieved. We all wish her well and a well-deserved rest from life at the helm!

It is so great to be a part of an enthusiastic team.

We are carrying forward our Time for Change initiative and now have a few actions from that, so you will see some communication from us about that. One of those actions is all about recruitment and development. We invite interested members to join us at the Federation. We welcome you to one of two social events to come and meet the Trustees, the aim being for us to tell you what we are about and how we do it.

I am passionate about getting involved deeper in The WI either by joining your WI committees or joining us at the Federation. The benefits to you personally as a volunteer in the WI are massive. The WI also benefits from your input. Just say YES and you will be welcomed with open arms. We continue to aim to be diverse and inclusive of all sorts of women running the WI. This makes magic happen.

Have some happy meetings!

I am now off to feed my sheep on a bright and breezy February day. Best Wishes,

Helen

Upcoming Events

Annual Federation Quiz	23rd February at 7.15pm	County Showground
The WI Constitution	27th February at 8pm	Online
Read a Crochet Pattern	15th April at 10am	Cornerstone
Treasurers' Workshop	18th April at 6.30pm	Cornerstone
Recruitment Just say Yes!	19th April at 7pm	Young Farmers Club
Recruitment Just say Yes!	22nd April at 11am	Cornerstone
Here Comes Spring	25th April 1030am	County Showground
Preview Evening	30th May at 6pm	County Showground
County Show	31st May/1st June	County Showground
Treasurers' Workshop	19th September at 11am	Cornerstone
Presentation Aft/Eve	15th November	Young Farmers Club
It's Christmas	21st November 1030am	County Showground

Plus various craft events—see article from Crafts Committee.

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

Show the Love with us

February 2023

Whilst you can make a positive impact to Show your Love for the planet every day—February is Show the Love Month.

Make, wear and share green hearts to show the love for everything you want to protect from the impacts of climate change. Send these hearts to your MP to ask them to champion putting the solutions in place to create a greener, safer and fairer future.

The more green hearts MPs see, the stronger their mandate to make sure your wishes are acted on in Parliament. To find out who your MP is, and how to email them, put your postcode into members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP.

Send photos of your green hearts to The Cornerstone, too, to inspire others. You can also find resources for Show the Love 2023, including the Show the Love 2023 digital action pack and a downloadable postcard on [The Climate Coalition's website](https://www.theclimatecoalition.org) : www.theclimatecoalition.org

Committee News and Activities

Calendar Photos & Gardening Tips



Thank you to everyone who has sent in photos of what they have seen in their gardens - and tips for successful gardening.

More are needed, please! Photos should be sent digitally in landscape format, in sharp focus and show something that you would like to see on your wall for a month; focus in on something of interest, like an insect in a flower or a bird feeding - or maybe dew glistening on a cobweb.

It is intended to have photos depicting what happens in gardens during each season and so the month that the photo was taken should be included in your submissions - along with the name of your WI so the calendar covers gardens across the County.

Gardening tips can be what have been passed down through generations or what you have discovered that works for you. Maybe it is where or when to plant certain bulbs or plants to get the best results, or what squirrels won't touch or how to be wildlife-friendly.

Send your photos and tips to swfipressofficer@gmail.com and put a note in your diary in **April** to order your 2024 calendar to see which photos and tips were chosen.

Final Reminder—Don't forget to send in your resolution selection to Federation Office. The deadline for receiving these here is 14th February—Make a difference; your voice counts!

Member Support

Just a reminder this month to review your budgets and review whether you can afford to charge part or none of the WI Subscriptions to your members in April 2023. the total for 2023 to 2024 is £46 and the WI share is £22.60. more details and guidance can be found in MY WI under essential information.

We can still be invited to your WIs for Annual Meetings and support; please let us know if you need us.

Thank you everyone!

Member Support Committee

Events Committee

Let's think positively. '**Here Comes Spring**' is our next big day at Staffordshire Showground, on April 25th. Tickets are £25 but so much is included for your ticket price.

Our keynote afternoon speaker is Nancy Birtwhistle. She won Great British Bake Off in 2014 and she has written books about cleaning in an eco-friendly way. Nancy has appeared on 'Morning Live' & 'The One Show'. We are sure she will have lots of hints and tips to share with us.

In the morning Pippa Ashley, a local author based in Hammerwich, will be chatting and answering questions about her writing and telling us how she thinks of her ideas. If you have any questions you would like to ask Pippa, please contact Amanda at Cornerstone.

Also, Louise Gray of 'Silver Sentiments' will be telling us about the eco friendly way she sources her beautiful jewellery.

Once the doors open, do come and look at and buy from all the wonderful stalls with craft, food, drinks and jewellery. Coffee and tea will be on sale but don't forget to bring your sandwiches.

Our Christmas Event had a friendly and happy atmosphere. Please join in the fun, as we enjoy a spring day filled with plenty of shopping and an opportunity to listen and learn from our speakers.

The Events Team will be ready and waiting to welcome you.

Verity Conner (Chairman Events)

SUPPORTERS CLUB Congratulations to the Winners!

1st Prize £ 25.00 No 103 J Crump, Tean and Sandon WIs
2nd Prize £ 10.00 No 114 E Machin, Brown Edge WI
3rd Prize £ 5.00 No 38 J Fletcher, Great Haywood WI

Don't forget to sign up for the Supporters Club 2023/2024 — renewal date is 1st April; applications to reach us by 7th March!

Your **Crafts, Art and Design** committee have met for the first time this year and the programme is now planned. We hope there is something for everyone.

15 th April	10am – 2 pm	Cornerstone	Reading a Crochet Pattern
13 th May	10am – 2 pm	Cornerstone	Next Steps in Free Motion Machine Embroidery
17 th June	10am – 2 pm	Cornerstone	Amigurimi
8 th July	10am – 2 pm	Cornerstone	Beginners Crochet
16 th Sept	10am – 2 pm	Cornerstone	Mosaics
14 th Oct	10am – 2 pm	Cornerstone	Ribbon Embroidery
4 th Nov or 25 th Nov	Christmas Dabble Day - Checkley Community Centre		

Details of the April session will be with your WI in February.

We have extended the session time to 4 hours when we hope you will be able to complete the projects. Costs per session will vary dependant on materials required. Numbers are limited at Cornerstone to a maximum of 12 (except the free motion machine embroidery when the max number is 8).

Final details for the Christmas Dabble Day will be announced later in the year.

Reminder - Rose Deag Rose Bowl competition – watercolour painting of a British bird - **closes 16th March**. Please do get your entries in and encourage your fellow members to participate. Full details are with your WI and on Facebook, etc.

We hope you will be able to join us for some of these events.

Happy crafting!

Janet Moorby (Chair, Crafts, Art and Design)

Wanted - County Show—Reminder!

Once again, The County Show Committee would like any unused craft items that are suitable for sale on their pre-loved craft stall at this year's County Show. Pens, pencils, paint, paper, card, stamps, inks, fabrics, yarns, threads, hoops - any craft items that you no longer require. No magazines though please and no sharps, ie, scissors and scalpels. Please contact Federation Office on admin@sfdwi.org to arrange delivery/collection.

Thank you.

Voucher Booklets—These **will be included in the February issue of *WI Life*** and all WI members will receive them directly with their magazine. This year's booklet also includes a £500 cash prize draw for one lucky WI member - and another £500 cash prize for the WI to which they belong.

Regarding the membership card, this will not be included in the booklet. As previously advised, the card will instead be available for members to download from My WI and you can choose to either keep it as a digital download or print it out. The digital cards will be personalised with the member's name. A non-personalised version will also be available for WIs to download for members unable to access My WI. However, there is no obligation for members to print off a WI membership card and there is also no obligation for those members who do not have access to the internet to find a way to download a membership card. Members don't require a card to go to WI meetings or attend Federation and NFWI events. Members will not miss out if they can't or don't wish to download a membership card. This is just one of many small environmentally friendly changes at the WI. Together, they add up to big improvements for our planet.

Can you help? Are there any keen knitters who would be willing to knit blankets for the Royal Stoke Hospital NICU? They are in urgent need of both small and large blankets.