



SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 41 September 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

We still have some late Summer sunshine ... it keeps giving me a boost, hope it does that for you too!

We have lots coming up for you to do and am pretty sure there is something there for everyone. Please keep your eyes peeled in this bulletin for Amanda's upcoming events and you will find the links to the information and application form. Lots of you have found the links useful. The SFWI website, Facebook and Instagram also host this information, so please continue to look there too.

The "Its Christmas" event is one of our flagship events at The County Showground and it will be such an enjoyable and relaxing day, so please apply early as we know that tickets will be in demand. We really look forward to welcoming lots of you there!

We are starting to see a new enthusiasm for events and are pleased, so don't leave it until the last minute to apply. If you have applicants in the first month an event is announced, send the application in. If you have more the next month, then send in again. Try not to wait until you have a big bunch and apply near the closing date and then risk losing out. Some of our venues are now smaller due to cost and previous predictions of take up, so we are restricted for some events. As ever the enthusiasm and expertise from each committee for producing great events is immense and I thank them for this.

Speak to me or any of us if you feel interested in joining any of our committees; we always welcome you to come along and look at what we do.

As always, Best Wishes and see you out and about, I hope.

Helen

Upcoming Events

Bowls Singles Comp	15th September 12pm	Kingsley Bowling Club	
Fun with Mosaics	16th September 10am	Cornerstone	Event Full
Treasurers' Workshop	19th September at 11am	Cornerstone	
Visit to Veolia Plant	19th September at 9.30am	Veolia, Four Ashes	Event Full
Bowls Doubles Comp	22nd September 12pm	Kingsley Bowling Club	
Bowls Finals	29th September 12pm	Kingsley Bowling Club	
Ribbon Embroidery	14th October 10am	Cornerstone	Event Full
Nell Gwynne Tea	21st October 2pm	Whiston Village Hall	Sold Out!
Seasonal Workshop	4th November 9.30am	Checkley Community Centre	
Presentation Aft/Eve	15th November	Young Farmers Club	
Resolutions Meeting	25th November	Weston Village Hall	
It's Christmas	21st November 1030am	County Showground	
Carol Service	14th December 2pm	St Mary's Church, Stafford	
SFWI Annual Meeting	24th January 7pm	Online	
Spring is Here Event	24th April	County Showground	

Details are with your secretary and also posted on our website and Social Media

Committee News and Activities

Reminder—Our office opening hours are 9am to 3pm from Monday to Thursday. The office is closed on a Friday. Our Accounts Technician is available for advice and to take card payments between 9.30am and 2.30pm.

Treasurer's Corner

The closing date for requesting an Independent Financial Examiner for this year is end of September. If you haven't already done so, ensure your completed form is sent to the SFWI office before the end of the month. Thank you.

It's much easier to keep on top of late Affiliation Fees—pro rata fees for WI members joining in July, Aug or Sept are now due. Make payment today, if paying by BACS email details of your payment to accounts@sfwi.org

Crafts, Art and Design

Events coming up:-

Fun with Mosaics on 16th Sept and Ribbon Embroidery on 14th October – we were really pleased to receive your applications for these events but due to high demand, both of these events were filled well before the closing dates.

Seasonal Dabble Day – 4th November – Checkley Community Centre.

Summer holidays are nearly over so it must be time to be thinking about Christmas!! 7 crafts are on offer including a Sashiko style card, Scandi felt decoration, mini wreath ring, fabric cracker, mosaic snowman, pomander and cotton reel dangler, from which you can choose 4 – places are filling so do send your applications so as not to be disappointed – enclosure available with your secretary, on Facebook and on our website.



Competition - Rosemary Palmer Trophy competition for a door wreath – any medium, any size – closing date 28th September. Please note that this is a craft competition and not a flower arranging competition.



All entries will be displayed at the 'It's Christmas' event being held at the Showground on 21st November.

Janet Moorby, Chairman, Crafts, Art and Design

EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -

Sunday 24 September is World Rivers Day -



Are you able to help reduce pollution of a waterway in your area by litter-picking along a brook, stream, canal or river? Chat to people you meet too and tell them about the importance of keeping rivers healthy for wildlife - and ourselves.

The Directory of Actions regarding the 52 Week Earth Day Challenge has been updated ! Take a look and be inspired <https://sfwi.org/52-week-earth-day-challenge/>. Every Action Counts - if you have other actions to add, please email them to admin@sfwi.org

Events Committee Update

The whole team are delighted that so many members are signed up for Lesley Smith, giving her Nell Gwynne Talk with a Cream Tea to follow at Whiston Village Hall in October. Hopefully we can plan another as obviously moving events around the county is popular with you all.

November 21st is the date for 'It's Christmas' in 2023. The size of the Showground allows us to welcome larger numbers of members to share the day. Charlotte Hollins of Ford Hall Farm, which is run on organic principles, will be a really interesting speaker. I do hope you have seen our keynote speaker, Wynne Evans, taking part in Celebrity Master Chef on television. He will no doubt have some amazing tales to tell. Alex Hunt from the Cheese Locker at Abbots Bromley is going to give us an insight into how he set up his successful business. There will be cheese to buy from his stall as well as a wide range of different stalls. It is a great day to buy unusual Christmas gifts. There will be a mixture of very different stalls and time to browse before the meeting starts and during lunch. Don't forget your packed lunch!

Looking forward to seeing you all. The Events Team is working hard to make sure you all enjoy a varied programme of activities.

Verity Conner, Chairman Events

**It's Christmas!
21st November**

**Congratulations to our speaker, Wynne Evans—
crowned Celebrity MasterChef Champion 2023**

Tickets are being sold on a first come first served basis so please book early to avoid disappointment.....



Member Support Committee

Big thanks to the Presidents and Secretaries who attended the catch up at the County Showground on 7th September. It was a very hot evening! The Member Support Committee led the event and thanks to them too for their time and expertise.

We discussed a lot under topics of Communication, running your WI and Money. We have lots to think about going forward and next year the plan is to provide some induction type sessions for new officers.

We look forward to seeing Treasurers at the update on 19th September

Enjoy your Autumn meetings and we will see you soon!

SUPPORTERS CLUB **Congratulations to the Winners!**

1 st Prize	£ 25.00	No 123 P Cliffe, Broughton WI
2 nd Prize	£ 10.00	No 68 C Hill, Great Haywood WI
3 rd Prize	£ 5.00	No 168 M Cliffe, Brown Edge WI





Launch of Partnership between SFWI and Staffordshire Women's Aid



WI Day - 16 September 2023

It is with great excitement that we can announce that WI Day in Staffordshire this year will be marked by the launch of a Partnership between SFWI and Staffordshire Women's Aid. Together we will be able to help drive change across Staffordshire, supporting our 2019 Resolution to raise awareness of and to eliminate Violence Against Women and Young Girls.

Compared to 2019/2020, calls to the Staffordshire Women's Aid 24 hour Helpline increased by 81% in 2021/22, referrals for Refuge increased by 124% and referrals to the Counselling Service increased by 918%.

This cannot be tolerated – challenges are needed to the everyday acceptance of violence and abuse against women and young girls.

A programme of initiatives will be put together and circulated in due course.

Members of the Hartshill WI have completed a community urban knitting and crochet project for Newcastle-under-Lyme Council and the Brompton Museum. The members wanted to get involved with a community event via some form of crafting experience.



They began researching local anniversaries and events in January and put forward several proposals to our W.I. crafting group. The group agreed to support the Brompton Museum with its 80th anniversary and the Town's 850th Royal Charter Anniversary granting it Borough status, by creating an urban knitting and crochet installation. They finalised on the theme of flowers as this would also link in with the Britain in Bloom competition.