



SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 44 Dec 23/Jan 24

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

Well, we have been busy!

We had a gorgeous afternoon and evening giving out long service certificates to members and WIs, then the Trophy presentations for the County Show and other competitions. This was an immense pleasure to do. So, think about entering in any competition that's suits you to be in with a chance of being a winner next year.



We feel very proud about the 'Its Christmas' event, it was so good! If you missed it, please come along to the Spring event which promises more of the same quality enjoyment. Thank you to our Events Committee, a great team who masterminded the whole thing.

It is not just what happens on the day, the behind-the-scenes work is immense, but the planning is well worth it. If you feel inspired to join one of our teams just contact us for an informal chat.

Thank you to the Member Support Committee and Karen Sulway Resolutions Officer who organized the Resolutions Meeting (see report in this bulletin). It is always an amazing inspiring meeting where we debate the resolutions and hear from amazing speakers whose talks link in with our Campaigns. If you missed it, please come next year.

We are so looking forward to seeing you at the Carol Service, 2pm at St Mary's Church in Stafford on 14th December 2023, it promises to be a lovely service.

Please remember to send a delegate to the Annual Meeting, Online on 24th January 2024.

This is an important part of our year, when our guest speaker will be Hilary Haworth, Chair of the Denman Trust. The 24th January 2024 is International Day of education, so Hilary is a pertinent speaker to have on the day.

I would like to take this moment to wish you all Happy Christmas from myself and us all at SFWI and wish you all a Happy New Year for 2024. I know that WIs share the love and caring at this time of year, we are always amongst friends. Keep it up!



Please note that this Bulletin is a double issue and we will next be talking to you in January.

Very Best Wishes to you all, *Helen*

Upcoming Events

Carol Service	14th December 2pm	St Mary's Church, Stafford
SFWI Annual Meeting	24th January 7pm	Online
Amigurumi Crochet	10th February 10am	Cornerstone
Afternoon with Jane Dew	16th March 2pm	Armitage Village Hall
Spring is Here Event	24th April 10.30am	County Showground
County Show Preview Eve	28th May 6pm	County Showground
County Show	29/30th May	County Showground
Federation Quiz	25th June	County Showground

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

SUPPORTERS CLUB November Draw Congratulations to the Winners!

1st Prize £ 25.00 No 96 D Frisby Brown Edge
 2nd Prize £ 10.00 No 78 J Methven Barlaston
 Afternoon
 3rd Prize £ 5.00 No 68 C Hill Great Haywood

Treasurers Corner

££££

Pro rata fees for WI members joining in Oct, Nov and Dec are now due. Keep your accounts balanced and make payment today. Don't forget to send us details of BACS payments to

accounts@sfwi.org

Committee News and Activities

It's Christmas 2023



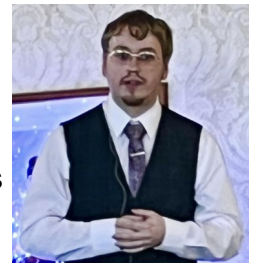
If you didn't come, you missed a 'Grand Day Out'. The hall was buzzing as members arrived and started with a coffee and shopping. The craft stalls and Staffordshire Markets had so much that was ideal for Christmas. Our first speaker, Charlotte Hollins from Fordhall Organic Farm, talked about rescuing the farm from sale and closure, when she was only twenty one. £800,000 had to be raised and the farm became a Community Land Project, run with the help of many volunteer groups. Members felt this venture fulfilled all our WI aims. Charlotte was a charming speaker and very much an inspiring woman.

After our NFWI resolution about ADHD it was wonderful, then, to listen to Alex Hunt, who opened 'The Cheese Locker', his business in Abbots Bromley, two years ago. The business is thriving and operates from a shop & also online. Alex himself has autism and was not afraid to explain, to a very sympathetic audience, just how he had overcome all the hurdles he faced growing up. When he left school, he was told he would never work or drive! He does both. His stall was always busy and the cheese tasting was so popular with members, as they were buying. This amazing young man showed that endurance and never giving up in the face of adversity brings results. Members were delighted that Alex could share his journey in such an honest and lucid way.

After yet more fabulous shopping, Wynne Evans was the star of the show. He opened up about his amazing career as an opera singer and told amusing anecdotes about life as an opera singer. Wynne has become best known in recent years for his role as 'Gio Compario' in his hilarious advertising campaign for a well-known comparison insurance website. He freely admitted that he did not want to continue, after the first advertisement, as his 'hates' on Facebook were over 2 million. He has had to learn not to worry about that!

As winner of Celebrity BBC MasterChef this autumn, he has taken on more television work. Wynne also presents a BBC Wales morning radio show. The audience laughed until they cried hearing Wynne's humorous presentation. As a finale Wynne sang with gusto 'Impossible Dream' from Man of La Mancha. He received rapturous applause and a standing ovation.

It was certainly a day, when three very different speakers, were all wonderful in their own right. The audience were united in their appreciation of all the speakers. Huge thanks must go to the hard-working Events Committee and to trustees who made the day such a success.



Verity Conner Chairman Events committee

EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -



Whatever you are doing over the Festive period, do try to plan your food shopping and not get too much in 'just in case'. If you have leftovers, turn them into imaginative meals and make good use of your freezer. Cutting food waste makes sense for your purse and also for the environment.

If you have (or are getting) a coffee machine, check out whether your local Morrisons store recycle the coffee pods.

<https://my.morrisons.com/blog/community/podback/>

The Importance of the MCS

The Members Communication System (MCS) is the WI database that holds details of all members. This database information is used for sending the WI Life magazine to members. If you have not received your magazine contact your MCS rep to ensure that you have been added to the MCS.

Crafts, Art and Design

Seasonal Dabble Day 4th November – 28 attended at Checkley Community Centre – lots of fabulous creations including orange pomanders with a beautiful orange aroma, Sashiko style Christmas cards, fabric Christmas crackers complete with cracker snap, Macrame Christmas pudding rings, Scandi style hearts, Mosaic Snowmen, and Cotton Reel Danglies. Everyone went home with their choice of 4 of these creations. Your CAD committee thank you for your warm and enthusiastic comments and we hope to bring you more next year



See enclosures for events for full details of 2024 events – available with your WI secretary, on Facebook or on the website.

[CAD painting competition](#) – any medium. Subject – Pop Art.

[Amigurumi Crochet](#) 10th February - Cornerstone

[Craft Speaker and cream tea](#) – 16th March –Armitage Village Hall

Janet Moorby, CAD Chair



County Show 2024

Have you seen the schedule for 2024? The theme is '*Alice in Wonderland*' - do take a look - the crafts and cookery are not too onerous but if you or your WI need some advice, please do contact Beryl via admin@sfiwi.org. We are very much looking forward to seeing your entries next year. Start planning now!!.

Trauma Teddies

Staffordshire Women's Aid are looking for Trauma Teddies for the children of families that they support. The small teddies are just the right size for youngsters to cuddle. Are you able to knit one or more over the coming months? They would be much appreciated. Patterns are available and will be emailed out with this bulletin. Alternatively you can contact the office and one will be emailed out to you.

All donations - including Trauma Teddies - can be taken to their offices on the 2nd floor of Stafford Borough Council's Civic Offices, Riverside, Stafford ST16 3AQ any Monday and Wednesday between 9am and 3pm.



Calling All Quizzers !

Make a note in your new diary and calendar - the **2024 Federation Quiz** will take place on

TUESDAY 25 JUNE at the County Showground

A fun-filled night is guaranteed with questions on a range of subjects - there will be something for everyone.

Details to follow in the New Year.

If you need a Quiz to ponder over the winter, your Quiz Master has put together a cryptic quiz which is available from The Cornerstone, £1 per sheet. £25 for the winner !

Send payment, and enclose SAE to Cornerstone. Entries need to be received at The Cornerstone by 31 January 2024. Results will be made available on Facebook.



SFWI Christmas Raffle Winners

Prize	Name	WI
£100	Cathy Knight	Brewood Afternoon WI
£20 M & S voucher	Mary Smith	Shenston Evening WI
£25 Hobbycraft voucher	Jenny Fareham	Haughton WI
£10 Waitrose voucher	Joan Williams	Littleworth & Kingston Hill WI
M&S Marc de Champagne	Chris Seward	The Ridwares WI
Cashmere Scarf	Gill Brown	Denstone WI
Wildflower Mat	Clare Shenton	Waterfall WI
Baileys	Janet Press	Doveside WI
Hamper	Anthea Smith	The Ridwares WI
Pamper Set	Carol Molloy	Hammerwich WI
M&S Drinking Chocolate	Mary Meddings	The Ridwares WI
Quality Street	Trina Ritchie	Haughton WI
Choc Chip Cookies	Chris Gate	The Ridwares WI
Bee House	M Hilton	Eccleshall WI
Cottage Delight Jams	Brenda Howe	Broughton WI
Christmas Hamper	Debbie Davis	Barlaston Herons WI
Mulled Wine	Joyce Hodge	
Hamper	Elaine Stovey	Wulfrunian Ladies WI

Member Support Committee

The Resolutions meeting was a great success with lots of debate.

So-Sew WI (Amanda and Clare) came up trumps with their talk about wild swimming linking in with the current campaign for clean rivers. They also spoke about the way that they love getting involved with campaigns in their community. Thank you to them.

Linking in with the 2019 WI Campaign No More Violence Against Women; the day of our meeting was the start of 16 days of action, marking the International Day To End Violence Against Women. We held a minute's silence remembering the 110 women that had died in the past year in the UK due to domestic violence. Our speaker Rebecca spoke about domestic violence and the impact that it has. She is an artist and brought along some of her art to demonstrate this. We are so grateful for her inspiring talk.

Our Next move is for Secretaries to send in the **total selections for each resolution from your WI to The Federation Office by Tuesday 11th February 2024**. Let us aim for 100% response this year!!!! If you didn't attend the Resolutions meeting, you will find information in the November WI Life, and we also sent out the information to your WIs.

Look forward to seeing you in 2024! So a Very Happy Christmas and Happy New Year from the Member Support Committee to you all.