



SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 43 November 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>

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Hello everyone

It was so lovely to see over 100 of you at The Cream Tea with Nell Gwynne at the wonderful Whiston Village Hall. It was fantastic! Big thanks as ever to the Events Committee, whose hard work, dedication, and love in planning and working on the day produced something special. This event sold out very quickly as it was very popular. Let us know what future events you would like please; we like to have lots of interesting things to consider.

The display made by of Let's Make Jam WI on Reginald Mitchell's Iconic Spitfire plane at The potteries Museum and Art Gallery is very moving. Do try to visit it.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at "Its Christmas" and the Resolutions meeting where we have arranged a special speaker.

One of our members at Alton won a prize out of only seven in the National Raffle, well done! We get money back from the tickets sold, so thank you all!

I have signed many certificates and sent out long service badges to lots of members over the last few months. I want you to know that you are all valued and congratulate you all for being in The WI for so long. We need to reach out to new members though, be welcoming and then we can all stand together in friendship. On that note, have a think about working behind the scenes with us at The Federation. I am happy to chat anytime, call me if you are interested. There is a new WI hoody sweatshirt, on sale in the WI Shop on the NFWI Website. There is free postage until 10th November 2023 on orders over £65! You may wish to do a group order. Save the date for our Annual Meeting on Zoom January 24th at 7pm, see the flyer.

Keep well and keep warm as the winter chills start. See you out and about.

Helen

Upcoming Events

Presentation Aft/Eve	15th November	Young Farmers Club
Resolutions Meeting	25th November 10am	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
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

Committee News and Activities

Historical Visit to Whiston

Mistress Nell Gwynne kept her audience of Staffordshire WI members spellbound on October 21st at Whiston Village Hall.

Nell (better known as) Lesley Smith, gave a very poignant talk about her short but interesting life. In her youth she escaped from her drunken mother, sheltered and cared for her younger sister, before becoming one of the first actresses allowed on stage in 17th century England to portray a woman. She captivated her audience as she was a brilliant comic actress, 'pretty witty Nell'. This is where she met Charles 11 and she became one of his many mistresses. Charles valued her as she gave him two sons, one becoming the 1st Duke of St Albans. On his deathbed Charles asked the Duke of York not to let 'poor Nelly starve'.



After an enthralling dip into the past, the Events Committee members with the help of seven Whiston WI members served a delicious cream tea. The hall looked stunning, with tables decorated with fresh flowers. There was a lovely atmosphere as members chatted and the sun shone, despite the terrible flooding the day before.

My thanks go to the workers who decorated the room, made the scones, served tea and washed up all with smiles on their faces in true WI style.

Verity Conner Chairman Events committee

Hello everyone

Have you seen the resolutions for this year? They are listed for you in this bulletin and have been sent out to you via email. They will be in the November issue of WI Life too. Also in this issue will be members selection slip.

Our Resolution meeting is Saturday, 25th November at Weston Village Hall 10am – 12pm. This is a fantastic meeting where we can all debate the resolutions, then this informs our decision making to select the resolution that we individually support the most. Please come along but let us know you are coming please; there is a flyer with your secretary with all the details. This is your chance to have your say!

We look forward to seeing you all at The Its Christmas event on 21st November at the County Showground. We will have a stand called "Here to Help", come and have a chat. This will be another lovely event for us all, Great speakers, nice things to buy and meet up with our friends.

Best wishes

Member Support

EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -



When you are tidying up your garden this month, if you are using your Council's wheelie bin for garden waste please leave the lid open for a few hours afterwards to allow insects to escape. Ladybirds are particularly susceptible to hiding in seed heads.

SFWI WINTER CRYPTIC QUIZ

Whilst you will have to wait until 25 June for the Annual SFWI Federation Quiz, your Quiz Master has put together a Cryptic Quiz to keep the grey cells ticking during the winter.

Quiz sheets cost £1 per entry and there will be a prize of £25 for the winner.

The Quiz - towns, cities and villages in the British isles - will be available at the *it's Christmas* event on 21 November or by sending an SAE with cheque to the Cornerstone.

It's Christmas!— Don't forget your purses ladies! We have a variety of stalls so a great opportunity to pick up some Christmas presents. We also have on sale at the Member Support Stand a small supply of SFWI calendars priced at £4.80 each and our own enamelled Staffordshire WI badges priced at £12.50.



Crafts, Art and Design

Review of October Events: -

Ribbon Embroidery on 14th October – 8 attended on a wet miserable Saturday morning. By the end of the session, 8 beautiful Christmas trees had been created using ribbon on canvas. Another session planned for next year.



Events coming up:-

Seasonal Dabble Day 4th November – full report and photos in the next issue.

Events planned for 2024

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

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

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

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

Provisional dates for future events –

8th June – Ribbon Embroidery

14th September – Mosaics

9th November - Seasonal lino cutting

Janet Moorby, Chairman CAD

Staffordshire Women's Aid is holding a Candlelit Vigil (battery operated candlelights only) on FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER in Market Square, Stafford, from 4.30pm. [Here](#) is the link to full details.



Please come along to show your support for the important work that they do and to demonstrate the WI's commitment to raising awareness of this issue - our Resolution campaign from 2019 is **No More Violence Against Women & Young Girls**. **Bring Banners if you can and let's make our presence felt.**

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO MAKE DONATIONS to Staffordshire Women's Aid, [click here](#)



Gnosall Jambusters WI asked for poppies to be knitted or crochet and were overwhelmed by the response, not only from members but from friends and ladies in the village—over 250 poppies have been donated.

This wonderful Remembrance Day display was put together by two of their members, June Frost and Betty Clifford and erected in their two flowerbeds.

Shortlist of Resolutions

2023/2024

1. Dental Health Matters

There is a chronic shortage of NHS Dentists and people are suffering health issues as a result. The NFWI calls on the Government to increase investment in the training and retention of dentists and to review the current inadequate NHS contracts in order to ensure everyone can access an NHS dentist wherever they live.

2. Impacts of poor housing conditions

Poor housing can have a deleterious effect on human health and well-being, safety and quality of life and can disproportionately affect the most vulnerable groups in society.

The NFWI calls on the UK Government to boost housing standards and regulations, increase funding for housing renovations, increase the supply of affordable and secure housing and strengthen collaboration with local authorities, housing associations and other relevant stakeholders to develop strategies that address local housing challenges.

3. Say 'no' to gambling advertising

Harm caused by excessive gambling is a global problem. Some countries are already addressing this by banning advertising. The NFWI calls on members, the government, regulators, the NHS, educationalists and gambling charities to work together towards achieving a complete ban on gambling advertising. This will reduce gambling harm, save the NHS money, protect family relationships and decrease the number of suicides, around 400 per annum at present.

4. Improving Outcomes for Women in the Criminal Justice System

There is an urgent need to radically reform decision making in respect of women in the criminal justice system and in particular, pregnant women and women with children. We urge cross government collaboration to the deliver on the 2018 female offender strategy by setting goals, robust governance and performance measures to reduce the number of women who have committed non-violent offences from being imprisoned.



Let's Make Jam WI have spent two years planning a display at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery. They have draped a blanket of hand made poppies on the iconic Spitfire plane for Remembrance day 2023.

They also did a community event for members of the public to make origami poppies on 21st October. The display is in the Spitfire Gallery in the museum from 21st October to 12th November 2023. This moving display is very special, and a visit is recommended.