



SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 45 February 2024

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!!!

Last week we had the Annual Meeting for the Federation, This was held on the important, historic launch day of the new Learning Hub and our speaker was Hilary Haworth an NFWI Trustee and Chair of the Denman Trust. This day was also International Day of Education. Hilary told us all the Learning Hub and its provision of free learning for members. I hope that you have signed up to see what is on offer—it's fantastic.

We now have a challenge for the Federation, alongside this Learning Hub. We can apply for grants for our own events or learning experiences. We would love to hear of your ideas please of what you would like to have in Staffordshire. Let us know, we always want to hear from you.

We also held our Elections Meeting last week and we would like to welcome two new Trustees to the Federation: Sue Roden from Shanks Sisters WI and Dr Mary Cooke from Cheddleton WI. A big welcome to both of you and we look forward to working with you both. This is really wonderful, but we are always in recruitment mode! If any of you reading this have an interest in getting involved in a bigger way at the Federation, then please get in touch. We have to keep thinking about keeping our Board of Trustees diverse and relevant for you all. Please call for a chat—the door is always open!

You may have noticed that I was elected as Chair again for 2024; thank you all for your support and lovely messages. I will endeavour to do my best for you all as always. Good wishes and the best times for your meetings in 2024.

Very best,

Helen

Upcoming Events

Amigurumi Crochet	10th February 10am	Cornerstone
Afternoon with Jane Dew	16th March 2pm	Armitage Village Hall
Treasurers' Workshop	16th April 6.30pm	Cornerstone
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
Treasurers' Workshop	16th September 11am	Cornerstone
Awards Afternoon/Evening	23rd October	Young Farmers Club
Resolutions Meeting	2nd November 10am	Weston Village Hall
Seasonal Workshop	9th November 10am	Young Farmers Club
It's Christmas!	19th November 10.30am	County Showground

Committee News and Activities

Events Committee

The Events Team have had some wonderful comments about 'It's Christmas', our day at the Showground in November. If you have not been to one of our days at all or not for a while, why not give our [Here Comes Spring!](#) event a try on April 24th 2024. There is so much to see and do as well as listening to three fascinating speakers. There will be regular stalls but also new ones to buy from. Kerry Mason, from '[Thighs the Limit](#)', will keep us entertained as she talks about her mission to provide beautiful tights in all shapes & sizes.

Our morning speaker is Gill Thomas, the self-styled '[One Armed Sewist](#)' she took part in the 'Great British Sewing Bee' on TV. We know she will have a lot more to tell us than just her experiences on this programme, as she has overcome physical problems to do what she loves doing, sewing!

[David Harper](#), **Antique Dealer & Auctioneer**, from Barnard Castle is our keynote speaker. He is much loved for his many appearances on television on '*Antiques Roadtrip*', '*Flog It*' & '*Bargain Hunt*'. He is a colourful character, full of fun, very knowledgeable & very amusing. David is a published author, artist and sculptor. Our speakers always give us interesting insights into their lives and show us that our WI values and passions are so important.

Please come along. Tickets at £25, are on sale from February, either through your institute or by contacting Cornerstone. There is excellent free parking. Bring your own lunch. Drinks are available to purchase.

The Events Team will be looking out for you, see you then. **Verity Conner Chairman**

SFWI Calendar 2025

It may only be the beginning of 2024 but work has already started to compile the SFWI Calendar for 2025. The theme is Rivers and Waters of Staffordshire and photos through the changing seasons are needed - can you help?

Photos must be in **LANDSCAPE** format, have no people or cars in the shot and be in clear focus. Please send your photos digitally to sfwipressofficer@gmail.com with the location and date taken.

Many thanks.

EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -

February is the month to craft green hearts and spread the word about protecting our precious planet.

In this General Election year, this month is an ideal opportunity to make all political parties aware of the strength of feeling about the need to tackle climate and nature crises.

Will you sign the Climate Coalition's Open Letter and add your voice? https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/community-open-letter/?SQF_ORGANISATION=133

You could also send Green Hearts to your local MP with personal messages from individuals or your WI.



SFWI FEDERATION QUIZ

[Here it is!](#) Your entry form for the 2024 Federation Quiz

This year our Annual Federation Quiz will be held on
TUESDAY 25 JUNE at the Staffordshire County Showground
7.15pm to 9.30pm - it will still be light!

Questions will be on a wide variety of subjects - all straightforward,
nothing cryptic and no marks lost for spelling.

There will be something for everyone so put together your Teams of four and reserve your
table or tables now!

There will be a prize awarded to the team whose table best interprets the theme (optional)

KEEPING BRITAIN GREEN

For more information on how the Quiz is run, [click here](#)



Crafts, Art and Design

We hope that you all enjoyed the seasonal festivities and are now looking forward to
another year of crafting activities.

The [Amigurumi Crochet](#) workshop will take place on 10th February at Cornerstone – we hope
you will go away inspired to create the Cheshire Cat for entry into the County Show.

We have our wonderful '[Stitches in Time](#)' event on 16th March at Armitage Village Hall with
speaker Jane Dew. This is your opportunity to view and learn about some fascinating
embroidery and enjoy a cream tea whilst socialising with fellow members old and new. You
will also be able to purchase craft kits and/or craft items to complete an ongoing project or
try something new. So, if you haven't signed up yet, the closing date is 15th February.

[CAD painting competition](#) – theme this year is Pop Art – any medium – so while it's cold and
dreary outside, why not grab some paints and paper and enter our competition. There is
still plenty of time to enter – closing date is 14th March.

See enclosures for these three activities for full details – available with your WI secretary,
on Facebook or on the web site.

Events planned for 2024

We have three events planned for 2024 which we hope you will enjoy – full details will
follow in due course: -

8th June – Lino Cutting - Cornerstone

14th September – Mosaics - Cornerstone

9th November - Seasonal Art at Stafford Young Farmers Club

We are trying something different this year – instead of you coming to us, why not invite a
CAD member to come along to one of your craft meetings to lead a session. We
anticipate that full details of who is available and crafts on offer will be issued by end of
March.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Janet Moorby, Chair, Crafts, Art and Design

Happy New year from Member Support!

Are you planning your Annual Meetings? The Annual report form for 2024 has been sent to you. Please don't use an old version as we update this document every year. Once your Annual Meeting is over, please send this, a committee report, a programme, and financial statement for last year, as soon as practicable. Please let us know if you would like us to attend your Annual Meeting, and we look forward to seeing you then.

Look out for the helpful signposting information document on IT learning for you all. This is a great resource for you and can be bespoke and is free. The service is provided by volunteers via the Libraries. Let us know if you access this and your comments. This helpful information has been sourced by one of the WI Adviser Assistants; our thanks for that.

Look out for Treasurer updates too, informal sessions at Cornerstone with our expert Independent Financial Examiners. See you all soon, **Member Support committee**

Rehome & Repurpose Unwanted Items

Pre-loved items and unwanted Christmas gifts can be taken to Tranquility in Stafford where they are sold to raise funds for Staffordshire Women's Aid. Items to donate (or buy) include clothes, bric-a-brac and accessories but not furniture.

Tranquility is off the Newport Road, next to Roots Eco-larder and on the same site as the former Shoe Shed. Open 9.15am to 4pm Monday to Friday & Saturday 10am to 4pm.

Follow them on [Facebook - rehome and repurpose](#) - or phone Justine on 0775 9475874 for more information.



Thank you Brewood Afternoon WI!

Following on from the launch of the partnership between **SFWI and Staffordshire Women's Aid**, Brewood Afternoon WI has been actively engaged in supporting this worthwhile cause and in helping the WI's work towards "No More Violence Against Women and Young Girls".

In December 2023 its members donated a grand total of £150 to the charity. The money was raised mainly at their annual Produce Sale in October 2023, for which members donate homemade produce which is then sold to other members.

The remainder of the money was raised from the coins used by members to vote in the monthly competitions throughout 2023. Going forwards, Brewood Afternoon WI has decided to donate the competition coins to Staffordshire Women's Aid and are delighted that the money will be going to a meaningful local charity.

In addition, the members were extraordinarily generous in supporting the charity's Christmas Cracker Appeal and a carload of the requested items was collected at their WI's Christmas Party meeting in December 2023. The items were then delivered to Staffordshire Women's Aid's offices.



SUPPORTERS CLUB

Congratulations to the Winners!

December 2023

January 2024

1 st Prize	£ 25.00	No 8 J Hall Great Haywood WI	No 154 M Hickling Waterfall WI
2 nd Prize	£ 10.00	No 183 S Calder Shenstone Eve WI	No 41 S Mountford Aston by Stone WI
3 rd Prize	£ 5.00	No 180 K Leese Caverswall WI	No 86 D Flower, Shenstone Eve WI