



SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 46 March 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



Hello everyone

As a follow on from my last message, we have had a contact from Alberta Women's Institutes, Canada now. A fellow member called Mae has sent a coaster commemorating our Golden Jubilee (in 1969) that she found in the archives of a Closed WI. I think it may have been taken over in the exchange visit mentioned in my last bulletin. She took the trouble to package it up and write a delightful letter with warm wishes to us all in Staffordshire. I will send her one of our Staffordshire WI mugs with our return good wishes.

We have got some lovely events coming up, keep your eyes peeled on the website and the list below that Amanda creates for you. There is something for all tastes, but if there is something that you would like to see, please let us know. All details will be with your secretaries.

I am particularly excited about the Summer Concert in July which promises to be very special.

I am enjoying the Learning Hub. The calibre of the courses is high, I have attended some mandatory courses to do with my role as well as some art courses. Do have a look, there is lots available.

Will see you out and about. Good wishes to you all.
Very best,

Helen

Upcoming Events

Afternoon with Jane Dew	16th March 2pm	Armitage Village Hall
Treasurers' Workshop	16th April 6.30pm	Cornerstone
Here Comes Spring!	24th April 10.30am	County Showground
County Show Preview Eve	28th May 6pm	County Showground
County Show	29/30th May	County Showground
Craft Lino Cutting	8th June 10am	Cornerstone
President/Secretary Even	11th June 7pm	Young Farmers Club
Federation Quiz	25th June 7.15pm	County Showground
Music Concert	28th July 3pm	St Mary's Church, Stafford
Craft Mosaic Workshop	14th September 10am	Cornerstone
Treasurers' Workshop	16th September 11am	Cornerstone
Awards Afternoon/Evening	23rd October	Young Farmers Club
Resolutions Meeting	2nd November 10am	Weston Village Hall
Resolutions Meeting	4th November 7pm	Zoom
Seasonal Workshop	9th November 10am	Young Farmers Club
It's Christmas!	19th November 10.30am	County Showground
Carol Service	17th December 2pm	St Mary's Church, Stafford

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

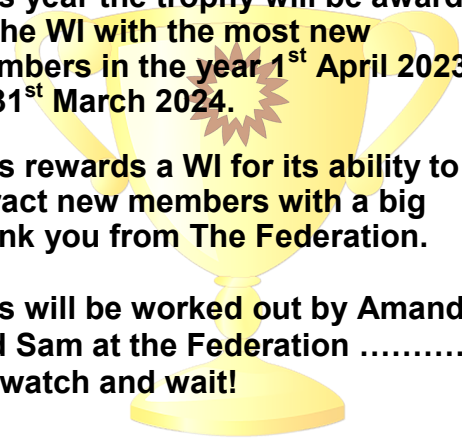
Committee News and Activities

Freda Houldcroft Trophy

This year the trophy will be awarded to the WI with the most new members in the year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

This rewards a WI for its ability to attract new members with a big thank you from The Federation.

This will be worked out by Amanda and Sam at the Federation
So watch and wait!



Here Comes Spring April 2024

Don't miss this great day out at Staffordshire Showground on Wednesday, April 24th.

Be inspired by the self-styled 'One Armed Sewist', Gill Thomas, who on her quest to design and make garments took part in the Great British Sewing Bee.



Kerry Mason, from Thighs the Limit, will talk about her business and of course there will be plenty of opportunity to *shop 'til you drop!*

David Harper, our keynote afternoon speaker, will fascinate you with his tales from the world of antiques, as well as give you an insight into his passions for art and sculpture.



Come along and book your ticket at £25— tickets are selling fast.

Join us in a day to remember!

Verity Conner and the Events Committee

VEOLIA

There are a few places available to visit the Waste to Energy facility operated by Veolia at Four Ashes, off the A449 between Penkridge and Wolverhampton on THURSDAY 14th MARCH at 1.30pm £5 per person - Tea and biscuits are provided.
Contact Cornerstone to book your place.

EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -

**Count your plastic for one week
11-17 March**



It's time the government got serious about tackling the plastic crisis.
You can help by taking part in The Big Plastic Count!

Right now world leaders are negotiating The Global Plastics Treaty, an international legal agreement to prevent the harmful impacts of plastics.
Help convince the UK Government why they should champion bold, decisive actions to phase out plastic pollution.

Sign up to take part in this important survey.
<https://thebigplasticcount.com/>

People have Power when they work together.
Be powerful.

**THE BIG
PLASTIC
COUNT
11-17 MARCH**

Crafts, Art and Design Committee

What fun we had at our Amigurumi Crochet workshop on 10th February at Cornerstone – we hope to see all your finished creations and be inspired to enter a Cheshire Cat into the County Show.

We are looking forward to our wonderful 'Stitches in Time' event on 16th March at Armitage Village Hall with speaker Jane Dew. The event is now fully booked. Doors open at 1.30 pm when you will be able to purchase craft kits and/or craft items to complete an ongoing project or try something new. Following the speaker session we will serve a cream tea. More shopping time will be available should you wish.

CAD painting competition – theme this year is Pop Art – any medium. There is still plenty of time to enter – closing date is 14th March. We hope to see your entries soon.

Happy crafting!

Janet Moorby, Chair, Crafts, Art and Design

Save the Date!



SFWI is delighted to be holding a Summer Concert in 2024 with Harry Raybould. Harry is an accomplished pianist whose career is emerging from his studies at the Royal Northern College of Music - Manchester, and The Birmingham Conservatoire. He has demonstrated his skills in audience engagement and musical abilities with events in London, Birmingham and abroad in Portugal where he accompanies Soloists and Quartets.

We have asked Harry to play for our summer concert, in Saint Mary's Collegiate Church, Stafford on **Sunday 28th July, 2024**. The programme will start with Beethoven, and after a refreshment break Harry will offer pieces by Debussy, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Gershwin and Chick Corea. The concert will start at 3.00pm and end around 4.30pm. **Tickets £15.**

Mary Cooke, Chair, Leisure and Pleasure Committee.

Look out for our Social Media Sessions—ideal for anyone planning to set up Social Media within their WI. More information coming soon!

Roots Eco-Larder is closing.

Based at the rear of the Shoe Shed site on Newport Road, Stafford, this community venture has helped reduce the use of single-use plastic with their 'fill your own containers' shop for the last 6 years. Roots will continue to trade until March 31st. So make sure you get your refills while stock remains. rootslarder.com

Note that the recycle hub and the rehome & repurpose facility, are operated by Tranquility to raise funds for charities and will not be affected. etranquility.co.uk/pages/recycling

SUPPORTERS CLUB

Congratulations to the February Winners!

1st Prize £ 25.00 No 61 K Moulton, Tean WI
2nd Prize £ 10.00 No 188 J Mycock, Waterfall WI
3rd Prize £ 5.00 No 127 C Dain, Barton u Needwood WI

Reminder—Book Club

This is held online every other month on a Monday to discuss books on a theme. If you would like to join us please email Federation Office on admin@sawi.org. Next Meeting 4th March.

2024/25 Subscription Fees

By 1st April 2024 your Subscription Fee needs to be paid to your WI—this year the fee is **£48.00**. To help your Treasurer please ensure you pay your WI by no later than your April meeting. If you are already a full member and would like to join a second WI then you would pay the dual subscription fee £23.60.

Hi everyone

A new event aimed at new Secretaries and new presidents has been arranged. This event is smaller than usual, to enable us to focus and give support to those who are new in post. Get your applications in soon. This will be on 11th June 2024, 7pm until 9pm at the Young Famers building.

The first Treasurer update is 15th April 2024 6.30pm until 8.30pm at Cornerstone.

We are looking forward to coming to the Annual Meetings with you all.

Best Wishes

Member Support Team

Hello ladies

Karen has retired from her position of Resolutions Officer and I have been fortunate to be asked to continue her good work in the future.

I would like to thank Karen for all of the hard work that she has put in over the past few years. She has been an excellent Resolutions Officer and has really promoted National and SFWI campaigns in an exciting and informative way. She has paved the way for me to continue with her legacy. She will be sorely missed and is definitely a hard act to follow.

I am pleased that so many of you voted for this year's NFWI resolution which will be debated at the NFWI Annual meeting to be held in June this year at The Royal Albert Hall. The results of Staffordshire WIs are as follows:-

Title of resolution	Number of selections
Dental Health Matters	732
Impacts of poor housing conditions	689
Say 'no' to gambling advertising	486
Improving Outcomes for Women in the Criminal Justice System	218
TOTAL NUMBER OF SELECTIONS	2125

These results have now been forwarded to NFWI and we should receive confirmation of the overall winner in the near future.

If you have any queries regarding the resolutions process, I can still be contacted by email at sfwiresolutions@gmail.com or a message can be left for me at The Cornerstone. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

During 2024 we are planning some exciting workshops and events about future, past and present Resolutions. It would be great to have you on board.

Yours in friendship,

Sue Roden
SFWI Resolutions Officer