



SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 47 April 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>

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Hello everyone

Well, we have a sniff of a lighter spring air and a little bit of warmth. The sunshine makes us feel good and certainly puts a spring in my step.

NFWI have a few updates about the Learning Hub. Please make sure all email addresses for your members are up to date; this ensures that members can access the courses for free. Good housekeeping with the MCS2 is essential. Please add new members immediately in order that they can gain access to the Hub. Let us put the Learning Hub onto our agendas and make sure that all our members know about this fantastic **free** resource. Encourage all to sign up to the newsletter. Remember also that you can run a session from your WI and share with your members. I feel very passionate about the Learning Hub; I don't want you to miss out at all. NFWI are asking for feedback so far; they want to know what works well. We have started a committee to look at how we can apply for Grants available to us from the Learning Hub. This will be for face-to-face sessions. Watch this space!

We are so looking forward to the Spring Event. We still have tickets, so apply quickly! Also, the Summer Concert on a hot, sunny Sunday afternoon! will be amazing, details with your Secretary and on the website.

We are at the start of a new WI year. Have a fantastic year in your WIs with much learning, fun and spending time together.

As I write this, I am about to start lambing. This is a busy time as many of you know, so my good wishes to all of you about to do the same thing!
Good wishes to you all. Very best,

Helen

Upcoming Events

Treasurers' Workshop	15th 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
President/Secretary Even	11th June 7pm	Young Farmers Club
Needle Felting	22nd June 10am	Cornerstone
Federation Quiz	25th June 7.15pm	County Showground
Music Concert	28th July 3pm	St Mary's Church, Stafford
Richard III Trip	7th September	Leicester
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

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.



Book your ticket at £25. Still some seats left. Join us for a day to remember. It's always a fun day out. Lots of easy to access free parking is available.

Verity Conner & the Events Committee

MY WI

Have you seen the section on **running your WI**? Have a look at the section called "**Let's talk about**".

There are subject areas here:

LGBTQ+
DISABILITIES
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
REFUGEES
RACISM

Click on the subject to be inspired to start important conversations in your WIs, get WI meeting ideas, or simply educate ourselves.

Roots Eco Larder UPDATE

Due to popular demand, and in cooperation with Justine at Tranquillity, etranquility.co.uk Roots are going to continue offering some of their refills:

- Washing up Liquid
- Laundry Liquid Non / Bio
- Fabric Softener
- Toilet Cleaner
- All purpose Cleaner
- White Vinegar
- Rinse Aid

Remember to take your bottles to refill!

EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -

Did you see the report that a message was found in a plastic bottle on a beach in Scotland that had been written 40 years ago? It was still legible!



It just goes to show that plastics take a very long time to break down - and when they do, micro-plastics are released into the environment.

Why not celebrate **Earth Day on 22 April** by challenging yourself to pick up a certain number of pieces of plastic (and other) waste. The Planet will be grateful.

Ensure that your WI is covered for every eventuality by taking out WI insurance through Staffordshire Federation. Last year's policy expired on 31st March 2024 so make payment as soon as possible to be sure that you are covered.

Hi everyone

The first Treasurer update is 15th April 2024 6.30pm until 8.30pm at Cornerstone. If you are new or just want an update, please get booked on.

We are enjoying coming along to all your Annual Meetings. Remember, if you have any concerns about elections or the recruitment of officers, please don't hesitate to contact the Advisers. We are here to help you and when we are on board early, we know that we can make a difference.

We will mention again about sharing roles... it's the future !!!!! If officers need additional support, then this option may be for you. This can lighten the load, helping you to stay in your role. No role should be or should feel onerous. There are also different ways to run your meetings.

Committees and Officers, thank you for all that you do for your members.

We hope to see you at the Spring Event, 'Here comes Spring' on 24th April. Come and say hello at the 'Here to Help' stand.

Thank you for all that you do.

Best Wishes,

Member Support Committee

National Resolution Results

2023/24 resolutions		Selections received to date	Percentages
1	Dental Health Matters	37,772	39.6
2	Impacts of Poor Housing Conditions	27,608	28.9
3	Say 'No' to Gambling Advertising	20,077	21
4	Improve Outcomes for Women in the CJS	9,949	10.4
Total selections received		95,406	

The NFWI Board of Trustees has agreed to put forward the top (one) resolution to the Annual Meeting in June. The wording of the resolution is as follows: **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.*

To support members in learning more about the resolution that will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting, the NFWI will be hosting a webinar on **Wednesday 24 April at 12noon**. The webinar will be an opportunity to learn more about the topic and will be open to all members to attend.

Members who wish to join can register their interest [via MyWI](#).

SUPPORTERS CLUB

Congratulations to the March Winners!

1st Prize £ 25.00 No 134 D King, Rough Hayes WI
2nd Prize £ 10.00 No 143 L Hare, Whittington WI
3rd Prize £ 5.00 No 139 P Kennedy, Broughton WI

County Show Preview Evening

**28th May at 6.00pm
County Showground**

Enjoy fizz and canapés while looking at the entries in this year's show

'Stitches in Time' event on 16th March at Armitage Village Hall with speaker Jane Dew. Members attended from all over the County to listen to Jane's experiences with her needlecraft and career in textiles. Jane began her career in teaching followed by freelance costume designs and beautiful embroidered work for theatre companies and arts projects across the world. She brought along a collection of photos of her work which was a source of wonder and inspiration to many. A question-and-answer session followed showing much interest from the audience. Jane said afterwards *"I renewed old friendships, met a fellow Birmingham College of Art & Crafts student from '64-68 and a delegate who enquired about the restoration of a church frontal! What a splendid afternoon, I hope people enjoyed it as much as me"*. Vote of thanks was given by Helen Newman and then a delicious cream tea was served by CAD committee members. Although we had a few setbacks with the sound, for which we apologise, thanks must go to the members of Tean WI who gathered together to mix, make and bake the scones, to CAD committee members for all their hard work both on the day and behind the scenes, to Armitage Village Hall for coming to the rescue with the sound and most of all to you, the members, for attending. We hope you enjoyed your afternoon.

Upcoming events

8th June should have been Lino Cutting but due to unforeseen circumstances has been cancelled. We will try to re-arrange at some time in the future.

22nd June – come and try needle-felting your own masterpiece. We will be needle felting a landscape or seascape of your choice using a variety of fibres which you will take home framed. Please bring a photo or picture for your inspiration. All materials and tools will be provided.

20th July – Beginners Crochet – more information next month

Competitions

Craft, Art and Design Shield – painting – this competition has now closed and has been judged. Congratulations go to: -

1st Dawn Wakefield, Eccleshall WI
2nd Ros Langford, Broughton WI
3rd Kath Hopcroft, Stowe By Chartley WI

Highly Commended

Karen Parsons, The Ridwares WI
Carrie Ann Smith, The Ridwares WI
Liz Murphy, Rolleston on Dove WI

Rosemary Palmer Trophy – as usual this is a craft competition, and we are looking for a stitched postcard depicting a 'holiday' scene. It must be worked on a calico base, landscape or portrait, using materials that must be stitched. Max size when finished 6"x4" (15cm x 10.5cm).

Happy crafting!

Janet Moorby, Chairman, Crafts, Art and Design

Sewing for Pleasure at the NEC

On 14th March Janet Moorby and Beryl Podmore manned the WI stand at the Sewing for Pleasure event at the NEC, Birmingham. Warwickshire Federation set up the stand and other Federations were invited to promote the WI as well as their own Federations.

We were greeted by lots of fabulous WI members and non-members alike and from all over the country including Ireland. We were kept fairly busy chatting and advising on how to join the WI, where to find a WI in their area, what happens at a meeting, campaigning, and much, much more besides. All in all, although very busy, we both had a fabulous day.

