



SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 48 May 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

I am writing this the day after our Spring Event. What a lovely day, the Events team have done us proud, yet again. A big thank you to them! The speakers are always wonderful; some make you think, some make you thankful and some make you laugh—all good for us! It is so rewarding for us to see you all enjoying yourselves.

We have some busy planning sessions ahead of us. We are picking up on our Time for Change Agenda. This is where we look forward to a sustainable future for Staffordshire WIs. Forward planning is so important and I encourage all WIs to consider this. One of our items will be recruitment and retention for us and WIs. With us in mind, if you have ever thought to yourself that you have something to offer and you think that you could make a difference, then contact us. We are always willing to talk about options and the door is always open. Becoming a volunteer starts with a small seed of a thought that grows. We also want to be as diverse as possible to effectively represent you all. This is me giving you a friendly nudge!!!!

I hope you enjoyed this month's WI Life. Leading up to the NFWI elections, national Trustees talk about how rewarding it is to be involved at that level. Also, read about the upcoming general election, how to get involved, linking in with our campaigns and making our WI voice heard.

Make sure you see or hear about what is coming up for you in Staffordshire. From crochet and bowls, the press report competition, and the garden festival dragonfly competition to the exciting Richard III trip to Leicester. Great opportunities for all.

Well, the temperature is still cool! My little lambs are working hard to grow and keep warm. See you out and about and good wishes to you all

Very best, *Helen*

Upcoming Events

County Show Preview Eve	28th May 6pm	County Showground
County Show	29/30th May	County Showground
President/Secretary Eve	11th June 7pm	Young Farmers Club
Needle Felting	22nd June 10am	Cornerstone
Federation Quiz	25th June 7.15pm	County Showground
Beginners Crochet	20th July 10am	Cornerstone
Bowls Singles	26th July 11am	Amasal Club, Stafford
Music Concert	28th July 3pm	St Mary's Church, Stafford
Bowls Doubles	2nd August 11am	Amasal Club, 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

Upcoming Crafts events

There are no craft events taking place during April and May as I know you are all busy with your entries for the County Show!

Craft events re-start on 22nd June with a [Needle-felted Landscape/Seascape](#) followed with [Beginners Crochet](#) on 20th July. Spaces are being offered on a first come first served basis so please apply promptly as these events do fill up quickly.

Details of both events are with your secretaries and on the website along with details of how to enter the [Rosemary Palmer Trophy](#) competition for a stitched postcard depicting a 'holiday' scene.

We look forward to crafting with you soon.

Janet Moorby, Crafts, Art and Design Chairman

FEDERATION QUIZ

Tuesday 25 June, County Showground 7.15pm start, 9.30pm finish

Is your WI taking part in the Federation Quiz at the County Showground this year?

Make sure that you get your entries in soon - a Team of four is just £20 and this can be taken from WI funds. WIs can enter as many Teams as they want.

A fun night is guaranteed - there is always a buzz at The Quiz and whether you are competitive or just want a fabulous time, you will be warmly welcomed.

The theme this year is Keeping Britain Green - that is for the table decorations, but there is no obligation to take part in that side of the event.

Questions will be on all subjects, to suit all - with nothing cryptic!

Bring your own refreshments - there will be no bar.

Looking forward to seeing you. For further information see [here](#).

Education & Public Affairs

EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -



Have you heard of No Mow May?

No Mow May encourages gardeners to leave their mowers in the shed for this month and transform their lawns into havens of biodiversity. Lawns don't have to be pristine green, they can be an interesting patch of wild meadow flowers supporting insect pollinators.

Consider not mowing this month and only mowing once a month through the summer - bees and other insects will be grateful.

County Show Committee

Not long to go now until the County Show! Could members who are entering competitions please forward entry forms so that we can process your entry. Please ensure that your name and WI is included on the form. Finished items should be taken to the Showground between 8.30am and 11.30am on Tuesday 28th May. Thank you to all those who have already sent in their form.

Education & Public Affairs

Ladies, we have finally been able to re-arrange a visit to Bosworth and Leicester to follow in the footsteps of [King Richard III](#) - the original trip was a casualty of Covid in 2020.

Do have a look at the details which are with your secretary, on the website and social media.

It is a full day out by coach on SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER and includes a talk and short walk at Bosworth Heritage Centre, entry to Richard III Visitor Centre and a Richard III focussed guided tour at Leicester Cathedral. All venues are suitable for those with limited mobility.

It will be popular so please book as soon as possible as places are being offered on a first come first served basis!

Karen Sulway, Chair, EPA Committee

MEMBER SUPPORT

Hi everyone

The first Treasurer update was 15th April. This was a busy meeting with lots of information and sharing of ideas. If you are new to your role, or need an update, enrol on the next course September 16th. Don't forget to ask for help if you have any queries about finance in the meantime, this is our ongoing mantra!!!

Also, remember, if you have any concerns about elections and recruiting to your officer posts, don't hesitate to contact the Advisers. We want to help you and when we are on board early, we know that we can make a difference. If you are thinking now about next year and know it will be difficult to recruit to these posts then, please speak to us now.

Sadly three WIs have been suspended this month. Recruiting to the officers' roles was just too difficult and without these crucial roles, a WI can't operate. This is always very sad for all concerned.

The President and Secretary update is for Officers new to the roles and is 11th June at 7pm. Details are on the website or with your secretary. This is for those new to the role and therefore is a smaller event than usual, book early to secure your place. These events are always informal always allowing you to ask questions that are personal to you.

The Here Comes Spring Event was amazing. It was so great to see you at our Here To Help stand. A lovely happy event!

Thank you for all that you do.

Best Wishes,
Member Support committee

SUPPORTERS CLUB

Congratulations to the April Winners!

1st Prize £ 25.00 No 85, A Hiskins, Whittington WI
2nd Prize £ 10.00 No 132, M Whalley, Great Haywood WI
3rd Prize £ 5.00 No 62, S England, Tutbury WI

Reminder—please send in your photos for the SFWI calendar which should be in landscape format. Theme: Rivers and Waterways of Staffordshire. Please email to: sfwipressofficer@gmail.com. Thank you.

Book Club

Staffordshire WI virtual book chat meets bi-monthly to discuss a range of books around one theme. There is no set text and no judgement.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 13th May at 7.30pm on zoom.
The theme is non-fiction.

8th July – theme: Fantasy 23rd September – theme: Detective/Thriller

Please email admin@sfdwi.org if you would like to join the mailing list.

Hope to see you there!



'Here Comes Spring 2024'

Members flocked into the Ingestre Suite at the County Showground to have a great day out on April 24th. Gill Thomas, the self-styled 'One Armed Sewist' took us on her journey learning to sew. Until then she had never appeared in public without her prosthetic arm. It was an amazing and very poignant story, showing her courage and determination, which was an Inspiration for us all. She talked about her 'Great British Sewing Bee' experiences, which brought the whole experience to life. Gill had definitely now fulfilled her goal to show that she could overcome her disability to make her dream come true.

After a lunchtime of shopping and chatting, David Harper burst on to the stage. He was never still as he made us laugh so much about his experiences with antiques and when taking part in Bargain Hunt and Antiques Road trip. There were lots of questions and comments from the audience. David's description of branding himself to look good on television, with fake tan, shaving his head and his beard, regrowing his beard and finally being allowed on screen, kept everyone in stitches. His underlying passion for and knowledge of art and antiques shone through.

There were 25 stalls in the main room, foyer and the Boden Suite. The stallholders donated some wonderful raffle prizes. Thank you for attending. The events Team really appreciate your support. Please come to 'It's Christmas 2024'

SAVE THE DATE: November 19th Will Kirk, the furniture restorer from TV's 'The Repair Shop' will be speaking and Debbie Hill from 'Perry's Field to Fork, Eccleshall' will be demonstrating sausages and pork pie making during the morning. Hope to see you there.

Verity Conner & the Events Team



The Great Big Green Week is 8 - 16 June

Be a part of this important event, run by the Climate Coalition. Here are some ideas;

Have a Green Buffet/Picnic - or make your WI refreshments 'green' - source everything locally and use plant based products.

Pledge to reduce car travel - share lifts/use public transport/walk if the journey is small - and record how many car-miles you save collectively.

Run a recruitment campaign in your local library - the more WI members, the greater the impact we will have!

Share your actions on our Facebook page to inspire others!
Find out more - visit greatbiggreenweek.com

**THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK** 