



SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 53 October 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

We have had WI Day, The WI's 109th birthday on 16th September. I know that some of you celebrated this date in style.

That date kick started The WI week of River Action. I managed to join Rolleston on Dove WI down by the river this year with their placards and one brave soul in a bathing costume got in the river in her wellies that let in the river water. Let us all wish and hope for clean rivers. Well done them! Well done to the other WIs springing into action too!

I would like to reiterate Melissa Green's message to you all on that day and say thank you to all our members. She said 'As a member of the WI, you make our wonderful movement what it is. You support each other, you inspire each other - and together we create a positive change in communities up and down the land'.

We have some lovely events coming up and I am very excited about them. I know that lots of you will be coming to its Christmas! It will be such a great day, please come and say hello at the Here to Help stand.

For the next few months we have some planned staff shortages. If you wish to call into the office can you please ring first to check that we are here to save you a wasted journey. Emails and phone messages may also take longer to respond to. We will be doing our best so bear with us please. Thank you.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon

Helen

Upcoming Events

Awards Afternoon/Evening	23rd October	Young Farmers Club
Skittles Afternoon	26th October Sold Out!	Moreton Millenium Community Centre
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
SFWI AGM	28th January 2025	Online
Here Come Spring	8th April 2025	County Showground
Federation Quiz	19th June 2025	County Showground

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

Committee News and Activities

'It's Christmas'

Thank you for your wonderful support already ordering tickets for 'It's Christmas' on November 19th. Please send in for tickets as soon as possible so that no members are disappointed. Our NFWI Chairman, Jeryl Stone, has been invited and will be attending so you will have a chance to chat to her throughout the day.

Our morning demonstrators, Debbie from Perry's and Pam from Quirky Flowers will be live streamed on to large screens so you can see what is going on. Many of our lovely stallholders are returning as well as, hopefully, some new faces.

Will Kirk will be on stage in the afternoon, with our very own past chairman, Helen Newman leading him in a question-and-answer session. Helen did a marvellous job with author, Phillipa Ashley and she is busy researching Will now! If you do have any general questions about restoration work on wood please send them into Amanda at the Office. We cannot promise a specific answer but it will help to draw Will out so that we can find out about his amazing skills and make the most of our afternoon in conversation with him.

Please remember there will be a super raffle with lots of prizes. 'It's Christmas' is a day to enjoy with fellow members. See you there.

Verity Conner, Chairman Events Committee

Garden Festival Trophy

Thank you to everyone who entered the Garden Festival Trophy competition to make a Dragonfly out of recycled materials.

Congratulations to the winner; Rosie O'Hara of Ipstones WI whose clever design, visual impact- showing the dragonfly in its habitat - and use of recycled materials impressed the judge the most.

All entries, with the judge's comments, will be displayed at *It's Christmas* on 19th November.



EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -



Autumn is upon us and the gardens need a tidy-up It is time to think about hedgehogs, now their hibernation is near.

Please consider making a safe spot for a hedgehog - a broken terracotta pot on its side part filled with dry leaves left in a sheltered spot would be ideal.

If you are thinking of having a bonfire, check that there are no hedgehogs tucked in the base before it is lit.

If you haven't seen a hedgehog in your garden, is it because there is no access under the fence ? A hedgehog highway is easily created - a 13cm x 13cm hole in a fence panel or wire mesh is sufficient.

Spread the word to your neighbours and get the whole road involved.

Hi everyone
We hope you are all well.

Thank you to those who have sent in their Annual reports. We are still waiting for six WIs to send in their Annual reports and we will be contacting you for these, thanks.

There are a few things to tell you about:

We have a few missing items such as financial statements and some are not signed by the President and the Treasurer as well as the examiner. This is an important part of the process, thank you.

Regarding flexible subscriptions, this is an annual decision and is helped by doing a budget. One WI sent in a budget, thank you.

Keeping large amounts of money in your accounts is not advisable; lots of WIs have had successful fundraising. Please be mindful that this money is for the members and is for their benefit. This is for great speakers and other things in line with our constitution. The money could also be used for flexible subscriptions. As a guide, the money in your account should cover the running of your WI for the next year unless you are planning a big anniversary or event in the following year.

It was a pleasure reading all the reports and seeing all the wonderful things that you all do for your members.

Best Wishes

Member Support Committee

Following in the Footsteps of Richard III

What a Grand Day Out was had by members who went on the Bosworth & Leicester trip organised by the Education & Public Affairs sub-Committee.

There was role play at Bosworth Heritage Centre to understand the strategy of the Battle that claimed Richard's life plus an interesting talk on the politics of the time, and the role that women played.

Then it was on to Leicester to the Richard III Visitor Centre where atmospheric holograms gave context to his life and an exhibition showed how the search for his body was conducted - and verified. We were able to view the actual grave site, looking down through glass into the excavation in the famous Council car park with an image of how his body was lying.

To finish the day, there was a guided talk at Leicester Cathedral - just across the path from where Richard was found - to see his tomb and amazing stained glass windows dedicated to his life, and death.

Karen Sulway, Chair of Education and & Public Affairs Committee

SUPPORTERS CLUB

Congratulations to the September Winners!

1st Prize £ 25.00 No 69 P Turner, Brown Edge WI
2nd Prize £ 10.00 No 74 A Hughes, Tutbury WI
3rd Prize £ 5.00 No 189 S Brewster, Broughton WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

September event

Fun with Mosaics on 14th September – 11 members attended creating some beautiful birds and leaves with a few snowmen thrown in for good measure. Another enjoyable morning fuelled with tea and biscuits and lots of chatter.



Winners of the Rosemary Palmer Trophy competition for a stitched postcard will be announced next month.

Upcoming events

Seasonal Workshop - November 9th at Stafford Young Farmers Club 10 am until 4 pm approx. You will be able to make a framed wirework picture and one, maybe two, needle felted baubles for your tree – closing date 17th October.

Details of all events are with your secretaries and on the website.

CAD Committee Skills Port Folio

Please do come and visit us at the 'It's Christmas' Event on 19th November when we will have on display our Committee Skills Port Folio with the aim of us coming to your WI meeting or Craft Group. We will be in the President's Suite. So, if you are attending this event do come along and have a look at the ideas we have on offer. There may even be an opportunity for you to 'have a go'.

2025 – Save the Date

Feb 15th Granny Squares Crochet - Cornerstone

March 22nd & 29th Dressmaking Workshop, Stafford – 2 parts – you will need to attend both days

June 14th Speaker with Cream Tea – Checkley

Sept 6th Botanical Drawing - Cornerstone

Oct 25th Rope Baskets Crochet - Cornerstone

Nov 15th Seasonal Workshop SYFC with a foodie theme.

We hope there will be something for everyone.

We look forward to crafting with you on 9th November at the Seasonal Workshop.

Janet Moorby, Chair, Crafts, Art and Design Committee

Thank you for using our new generic events form for submitting applications. This is really helpful and is working well for administration.

Congratulations to Houghton WI, winners of the annual Press Report Shield.



NFWI have launched a brand-new WI Lottery, in partnership with the good people at Gatherwell Ltd. Funds raised will support community projects across the NFWI, regional federations, and local WIs.

A ticket to take part costs £1 a week, and 60% will go directly to good causes.

To enter visit www.thewilottery.co.uk. Good luck!