



# SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 54 November 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](mailto:admin@sfwi.org) or [accounts@sfwi.org](mailto:accounts@sfwi.org) Opening hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm



Hello everyone

Well, we are truly into Autumn now with all its lovely colours and the not so nice lower temperatures. I always cherish every bit of sunshine at this time of year.

Well, it's been busy! I have been to some celebratory events at Hilderstone WI, now 90 years old, Woodcroft WI now 50 years old and Shareshill WI now 70 years old. What achievements! They are still very much thriving WIs, and it was a privilege to be there to help celebrate their special birthdays. I have also been dotting around the county to visit WIs, always a pleasure. Its great to witness close, kind friendships and working together to produce brilliant meetings. Thank you again for what you all do.

Every member and guest at Hilderstone had a lovely little knitted 90 brooch, isn't that lovely?



The awards ceremony was super. Long service awards were presented and the County Show trophies. Always a pleasure to reward members who invariably have given a lot to The WI and those who have entered Competitions and won! Tea and cake are always involved too!

I would like to welcome three newly trained Independent Financial Examiners, Jane Roberts and Lynn Hubbard and Sue Roden. We had some bespoke WI training for them. Their input into the WI financial year is crucial and we thank them for that.

**Good news!!!!!!**

Two members from Acton Trussell WI won theatre tickets from NFWI, to see Angel and Dick Strawbridge from "Escape to the Chateau" their report is in this bulletin. Well done!

NFWI are running a membership survey to improve their understanding of you, our members. This helps them shape projects and policies with you, our members, in mind. Please complete the survey at [thewi.org/countmein](http://thewi.org/countmein)

Also, WIs now have an opportunity to be involved in shaping the next Constitution. It is over 10 years since the last changes. Federations and WIs are invited to share their feedback on the proposed changes to the organisation's governing documents. Full details have been shared in the September mailing, which can be found here <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/essential-information/mailling-documents>, and was also sent to all federations and WIs in hard copy.

There is lots going on!!! Best Wishes to you all and see you at "It's Christmas" !

*Helen*

## Upcoming Events

Resolutions Meeting	2nd November 10am	Weston Village Hall
Resolutions Meeting	4th November 7pm	Zoom
Seasonal Workshop	9th Nov 10am <b>Sold out</b>	Young Farmers Club
It's Christmas!	19th Nov 10.30am <b>Sold out</b>	County Showground
SFWI Christmas Tree Festival	4th-10th Dec	St Mary's Church, Stafford
Carol Service	17th December 2pm	St Mary's Church, Stafford
SFWI AGM	28th January <b>2025</b>	Online
Granny Square Crochet	15th Feb	Cornerstone
Dressmaking workshop	22nd & 29th March	Philanthropy House, Stafford
Here Comes Spring	8th April	County Showground
Federation Quiz	19th June	County Showground

# Committee News and Activities

## 'Its Christmas' November 19<sup>th</sup>

The Events Team is delighted that we will have an audience of 600 members to attend the Showground on November 19<sup>th</sup>. We have three very different sessions firstly Debbie & her team from Perry's Field to Fork demonstrating sausage & pork pie making. Pam Moseley, from Quirky Flowers will then also demonstrate on a Christmas theme. A camera will be set up to show close ups on the screens. In the afternoon we are all looking forward to Will Kirk in conversation with our very own Helen Newman. Please send in any questions you have straight away to Cornerstone. Questions from the floor are not possible.

I know that, with a large audience, it will be more difficult to move around the hall. Do please remember that we used to have large numbers in previous years. Try and get to the venue in good time to find a seat. Be very careful with bags and sticks and stow them under the seats. I hope you will all be mindful of others and in the usual tolerant, WI way, be kind and careful as you move around the building. Our wonderful stall holders will be excited to see you for some excellent Christmas shopping. Jeryl Stone our NFWI Chairman will also be joining us so please give her a big Staffordshire welcome and make it a day to remember.

Verity Conner, Chairman Events Committee

### Calendars & Diaries

**Reminder**—WI calendars and diaries are available for collection from The Cornerstone or alternatively, they can be collected from our 'Here to Help' stand at the SFWI 'It's Christmas' event on 19<sup>th</sup> November at the Staffordshire County Showground.

If collecting from Cornerstone, our current opening hours are Mon-Thurs 9:30am – 2:30pm.

### Wanted.....

#### Your Autumnal Photos Needed for the 2026 SFWI Calendar

Fields of Pumpkins, a vista of autumn colours, dew on a spider's web, brooding skies, in fact anything that captures Rural Staffordshire - so long as it is in landscape format, has no people or cars in shot and is in focus !

Send photos by email to

[sfwipressofficer@gmail.com](mailto:sfwipressofficer@gmail.com)



### Reminder— we would like donations of Toothpaste to help us with our Christmas Tree Decorations.

The dental bags will be given to worthy causes during the Festival which takes place at St Marys Church, Stafford from 4th—10th December 2024.

Donations can be taken to Federation Office by 19th November or bring to 'It's Christmas'.

### EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -

November is a good time to think about Christmas cards. Instead of sending individual cards to your WI friends this year, consider having a decorated sheet of paper for all your members to sign and pen a message. Then everyone could donate what would have been spent on individual cards to a nominated charity. With less paper being used, there would be fewer trees involved, too !



### NFWI Winners -

Elaine Angell and Jane Martindale from Acton Trussell WI were lucky to win tickets from NFWI to see the Dick and Angel Forever Home show at the Regent theatre on Sunday 13th October, along with a number of other WI members from other institutes.

During the first half of the show Dick and Angel explained about their careers before they met, Dick was a lieutenant Colonel in the army then had a career in television, Angel was an accountant and also ran a vintage hospitality business. They bought a rundown chateau and began renovating it showing us photos and videos from the television series. But fame comes at a price, lots of untrue stories circulated about them online - it was reported they had sold the chateau -Not True - it is their forever home !! as per the title of the show.

In the second half Dick and Angel were joined by their children Arthur and Dorothy on stage when four members of the audience were chosen to play Jack of all trades - Making a wreath, upholstering a stool, wiring a French plug and tiling a wall . The winner was chosen by audience clapometer with Dick having the casting vote. After this Dick and Angel did a question -and-answer session. They were asked how much they had spent on renovating the chateau - answer over £700,000. Another question was are there any differences between the English and French system of education? Angel said that the French have a board with the naughty children's names on for everyone to see, much to the parent's embarrassment, and that the headteacher was enthusiastic about them taking the children out of school to go on tour - they were not fined!

Finally they thanked everyone for attending and we all left having had a really uplifting time.

## Leisure and Pleasure Sub Committee

### Centenary Cup writing competition

We will have a portfolio folder with the winner and all other entries of the 2024 writing competition – Ghost Stories of Staffordshire! You can read the winning entry and the runners -up. Come to the L&P stand in the President's Suite, at the 'It's Christmas' event on 19<sup>th</sup> November where they will be displayed.

### Federation Skittles tournament

On 26th October at Moreton Village Hall, 36 members, in 9 teams, participated in the first Federation Skittles Tournament, followed by delicious refreshments provided by Moreton, Outwoods, & Bromstead WI. The competition was won by Rolleston WI. Full report to follow next month.

### Darts and Bowls competitions

There are new planning teams for the Darts tournament and the Bowls competition for 2025. If you, or a member of your WI would like to join these please let admin know asap to be advised of arrangements. We will have a huddle at the 'It's Christmas' event to pass on current information and let you know of other meeting dates etc. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Planning for a new competition:

The WI Garden planting competition. Each WI to enter photographs of their chosen group planter or plot or flowerbed they are responsible for. These can be any size and planted with donated plants. The judging will be in June 2025, so get planning for your display! The planters and plots will be judged for their texture, shape, size, rarity, colour and innovation. Submissions and entries are by photographs.

Mary Cooke, Chair L&P Sub Committee.

## SUPPORTERS CLUB

### Congratulations to the October Winners!

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£ 25.00	No. 5	C. Bradbury	Brown Edge
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£ 10.00	No 171	M Cliffe	Brown Edge
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	£ 5.00	No 182	J. Fletcher	Great Haywood

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## Craft, Art & Design Sub Committee

Congratulations to all the entrants and the winners of the Rosemary Palmer Trophy competition for a stitched postcard are -

- 1st Marianne Hall, The Ridwares
- 2nd Anne Harper, Marchington Woodlands
- 3rd Ellen Poole, Waterfall

Please don't forget to collect your entries from the Show-ground on 19th November at the end of the day.

**Seasonal Workshop** - November 9<sup>th</sup> at Stafford Young Farmers Club 10 am until 4 pm approx. This event is now fully booked and we look forward to welcoming you there—have a fabulous day.

**CAD Committee Skills Port Folio**— Don't forget to come and visit us at the 'It's Christmas' Event on 19<sup>th</sup> November in the President's Suite.

The Seasonal Workshop concludes the CAD events for 2024 but we have a few different activities planned for 2025, so do look out for the enclosures.

**Janet Moorby, Chair, Craft, Art and Design Committee**



You can just go along or if you prefer to register visit the Eventbrite Womens Aid website at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/candlelit-vigil-staffordshire-womens-aid-tickets-1026735181567?aff=erelexpmlt](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/candlelit-vigil-staffordshire-womens-aid-tickets-1026735181567?aff=erelexpmlt)

## **2024/2025 Resolutions Short List**

There is a very varied list this year for you to discuss and vote upon. We have a resolutions meeting on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at Weston Village Hall** to discuss the resolutions. If you cannot make it and want us to come along to your WI to go through them with your members please get in touch with Cornerstone and hopefully we can arrange for someone to come along and talk to you.

### **1. Let's talk about incontinence**

It is estimated that 14 million people in the UK of all ages are suffering with bladder problems, and a further 6.5 million with bowel problems. However, it is still a subject that is misunderstood and very hard to talk about. We call upon the UK Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and Wales' Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to examine in detail all areas of health and wellbeing that are affected by incontinence issues. We call for the government to commit to an up-to-date audit to provide a national picture of incontinence care, offering a baseline from which to drive improved services.

We call upon the members of the WI to raise public awareness, remove the stigma around incontinence, to help reduce the significant impact on people's lives.

### **2. Bystanders can be lifesavers**

There are over 30,000 out of hospital cardiac arrests a year in the UK, and less than one in ten people survive. Women have a lower chance of surviving than men. Early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillating can more than double the chances of survival. We call on WI members to work together to increase public confidence and training in the delivery of CPR and to work with local organisations to help to improve access to defibrillators in their communities to give every person the best chance of surviving a cardiac arrest.

### **3. Join the repair revolution**

There is a huge excess in clothing production which has devastating consequences for the environment. The WI calls on the UK Government to join the repair revolution and strengthen the law and investment to support a circular economy of clothing and fabrics in the UK, where repair and reuse is achievable, accessible, and affordable to all. We also call on WI members to promote clothing reuse and repair in their communities.

### **4. Eliminate landfill of medication packaging**

Medication packaging, due to its complexity, is not routinely recyclable through local authority collections, usually leading to disposal in landfills. We call on the WI to proactively raise awareness by encouraging additional collection points where empty packaging can be easily returned for recycling. Furthermore, we call on manufacturing companies to acknowledge their moral responsibility to reduce their environmental impact by exploring simpler packaging alternatives that are easier to recycle or have less impact on the environment. These steps can significantly improve recycling rates to move towards eliminating landfill.

If you need any further information about Resolutions please contact Sue Roden at Federation Office.