



SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 56 February 2025

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

Its good to be back and a Happy New Year for 2025!!

We held our Annual Meeting on 28th January and our inspiring guest speaker was Jeryl Stone NFWI Chair. She gave an inspiring talk to accept change and move forward and reminded us that The WI is still the largest Women's organization in England, Wales and the Islands. Thank you to all the WIs who managed to send a delegate to this meeting. As a thank you for Delegates we held a prize draw, and Pat Kennedy, delegate for Broughton WI, won the ticket for The **Its Spring Event** in April. Congratulations Pat!

We held our elections meeting on 29th January 2025. I was voted in as your Chair again; I am so privileged to hold this post. We appointed two new Trustees, Rachel Greaves and Liz Goodwin; welcome to both and we look forward to working with you.

If any of you want a bigger future in The WI in Staffordshire, come and talk to us. We represent a diverse group of WIs, and we want our board and committees to be like that too. Don't hesitate, the door is always open!!!!

Since I last spoke, I have been out celebrating again! So-Sew WI had a special Murder Mystery party. I was there when they started and it was so lovely to be there with them on their 10th Birthday. I was with Meerbrook WI to celebrate their 100th Birthday in December, how amazing is that?

The Christmas Tree Festival was great; we had a tree with lots of your donated toothpaste hanging from it. Thanks to Lynda Packer who made the two tooth Fairies that adorned the tree too. We gave lots away in gorgeous bags made by Trustees, Janet and Mary. We were campaigning for the resolution Dental Health Matters and also Promoting The WI in Staffordshire.

Not long after that we had the wonderful Carol Service with refreshments too. Broughton WI made us so proud with their beautiful singing, thank you to them.

The WI is now in its 110th year and the celebrations have started. Keep your eyes peeled on information from NFWI, by email, the website and Social Media. The big day to celebrate will be WI day on 16th September 2025. If you come up with some plans, let us know please.

This year the NFWI Annual Meeting on June 4th, 2025, is online. We are holding a Watch Party in Staffordshire. This gives Delegates an opportunity to experience the Annual Meeting online, but at the same time being together with other Delegates, Observers and Trustees. Observer tickets will be available soon for all members to watch at home but there will also be a small number of observer tickets for this watch party in Stafford. The Watch Party tickets will be on a first come, first served basis. Look out for an announcement soon when tickets become available.

See You Soon and Best Wishes to you all,

Helen

Committee News and Activities

Happy New Crafting Year – the Committee thank you all for attending craft events last year and hope you are looking forward to future events.

Coming up shortly, we have Granny Squares Crochet on 15th February at Cornerstone – these are Granny Squares with a difference – there are a few places available and the closing date has been extended to 6th February.

Then on 22nd & 29th March we have our **Dressmaking Workshop** at Philanthropy House, Stafford. The workshop is split over 2 days and you will need to attend both days to complete the garment. You will learn how to read the pattern, size the pattern to fit, lay the pattern on the fabric and cut out ready to sew on day 2.

Don't forget the Rose Deag Painting competition – 'Britain in Autumn' – a watercolour competition for novices. Closing date is 13th March so brushes at the ready!!

Enclosures for both events and the competition are with your secretaries, on the website and on Facebook.

Remember, if you are unable to attend an event in Stafford, we have our CAD Committee Skills Port Folio and our committee members are available to come to your WI or WI craft group meeting. Please do contact us via the office.

Save the date!!!! 14th June at Checkley Community Centre we will be welcoming Janet Markwell from the Cornerpatch, Eccleshall to speak about her fascinating career. This will be followed by a delicious cream tea. Watch this space!!!

We look forward to welcoming you to the next event.

Janet Moorby, Chair—Crafts, Art and Design Committee

County Show—Now that Christmas is over there is plenty of time to start crafting your entries for this year's County Show. The theme is **Nursery Rhymes**. Please see our schedule for full details. Last closing date for entries is Thursday 15th May.

EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -



This February is the TENTH ANNIVERSARY of the Climate Coalition's *Show the Love* campaign to support climate action through local events, heartfelt conversations and green heart craftivism.

The WI is a founder member of the Climate Coalition.

What will you and your WI do to raise awareness of the Climate Crisis in your community? You could also take practical individual or collective actions this month that might become a life-long change for the good of the planet. Remember that every little action taken locally has a cumulative effect nationally - and globally. Make a difference this February !

Share your ideas and actions to inspire others by sending stories and photos to admin@sfdwi.org

2025/26 Subscription Fees

By 1st April 2025 your Subscription Fee needs to be paid to your WI— this year the fee is **£51.00**. 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 £25.10.

Hi everyone

Happy New Year to you all!!

Have you ever thought of being more involved in the WI? The WI Adviser Role is great; helping WIs, opening new WIs, promoting The WI and being part of a supportive team. If this sparks your interest, then have a look at the learning Hub for the free course on WI Adviser Training. It is now a much more accessible course, is online to do in your own time and will be accompanied by a supportive framework from your fellow WI Advisers. It is also there for anyone interested in the running of a WI, a great recourse and helpful course. We would love to talk to anyone interested in the role, the door is always open!

££££ Look out for the information on the Treasurer workshops ££££

Monday 14th April 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Monday 8th September 10.30am to 12.30pm

These are very useful for those new to the role and for updates.

WI Committees: Regarding flexible subscriptions, this is an annual decision and is helped by doing a budget, you may wish to consider this now.

A request form for your Annual Reports and Financial Statements has been sent to you to be sent to the office by 31st May 2025, thank you.

Best Wishes

Member Support Committee

'Here Comes Spring', our April Event, will be here before we know it. The Events Team have worked so hard to bring three women speakers together, to make April 8th an inspiring day at the Staffordshire Showground. We welcomed so many of you to this lovely venue in November and we are looking forward to seeing you all again. The screens will be higher to give everyone a better view.

Julia Mitchell is High Sheriff of Staffordshire and will be able to talk about her incredibly interesting role. Our great friend Lesley Smith will appear in costume and in the character of Kathrine Swynford, mistress and wife of John of Gaunt. No doubt we will be kept enthralled as we go back in time. Our keynote speaker Rev Canon Kate Bottley, from North Nottinghamshire is a modern woman, who we know from her TV appearances on Gogglebox, Songs of Praise & Sunday Morning Live, as well as her famous Flashmob video on You Tube. We are sure she will be inspirational and make us think.

There will be plenty of stalls to keep you busy as you 'Shop'til you drop'. Hot drinks are for sale but bring your own packed lunch. I look forward to welcoming you at the door. Please don't forget your tickets. Doors open at 9.15am.

Verity Conner, Chair Events Committee

SUPPORTERS CLUB

Congratulations to the Winners!

December

January

1 st Prize £ 25.00	No 5 C Bradbury, Brown Edge WI,	No 112, S Nicholas, Whittington WI
2 nd Prize £ 10.00	No 71 P Guest, Tutbury WI	No 190, C Foreman, Tutbury WI
3 rd Prize £ 5.00	No 46 C Hill, Great Haywood WI	No 161, S Hornblow, Barton under Needwood WI

Staffordshire Federation of Women's Institutes Winter Quiz 2024

ANSWERS

1. Cowslip	21. Ragged Robin
2. Wood Anemone	22. Speedwell
3. Bugle	23. Butcher's Broom
4. Tansy	24. Harebell
5. Oyster Plant	25. Goldenrod
6. Iris	26. Flower of Jove
7. Leatherleaf	27. Water Plantain
8. Woad	28. Hemlock
9. Himalayan Balsam	29. Lords-and-Ladies
10. Catmint	30. Mistletoe
11. Gallant Soldier	31. Dandelion
12. Self-Heal	32. Love-in-a-Mist
13. Fat Hen	33. Solomon's Seal
14. Bloody Cranesbill	34. Ox-Eye Daisy
15. Lily of the Valley	35. Yellow Rattle
16. Maretail	36. Bog Rosemary
17. Wormwood	37. Herb Bennet
18. Ground Elder	38. Bird's Foot Trefoil
19. Sundew	39. Hemp
20. Foxglove	40. Venus' Looking Glass

Thank you to everyone who took part in the SFWI Winter Quiz.

Congratulations to Vivienne Leyland of Lichfield Evening WI who wins the £25 prize.

SFWI Calendar for 2026 - RURAL STAFFORDSHIRE

Thank you for the photos received so far for next year's calendar - please keep sending them in - the Calendar needs to have photos suitable for all seasons, depicting Rural Staffordshire - ones that you would like to look at for a whole month ! Send digitally, in landscape format with no people or cars (and in focus !) to sfwipressofficer@gmail.com

For Upcoming Events please head over to our [website](#) Or check out our Facebook page.