



# SFWI News Bulletin

## Issue 58 April 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

Welcome to April.

I have been out and about promoting The WI. International Womens Day was celebrated in a big way at The Hair House In Newcastle under Lyme. I was invited to this event to talk about SFWI and Clare Lean from So-Sew WI came along too. It was a wonderful event with other speakers celebrating women.

It was really great to be involved in the reading of the poem, To Our Younger Selves for part of the NFWI International Womens Day celebrations. It was read by WI women for women everywhere. Did you see it on Facebook?

Janet Moorby, Mary Cooke and I, represented SFWI at the Sewing for Pleasure Show at the NEC where we promoted The WI on a stand set up by Warwickshire Federation. We had a full and eager response from women all day and gave out lots of information. It was great to meet some SFWI members there too, some of whom had arranged it as a WI trip. A great thing to consider doing, it was an amazing event.

It is one of my great passions to promote The WI, because I know that it means so much to so many women. And... sometimes The WI is the best kept secret of all!!!

Have a look on the NFWI website at the new clothing, there are some great new T shirt Designs that are useful when out promoting your WIs!

Ashley WI are now 104 years old! I attended their birthday party with Liz Goodwin. They had a wonderful bulb show too, a genius idea to engage with members. Another lovely celebration of a long-standing WI.

We are looking forward to seeing some of you at the Here Comes Spring event at the County Showground. It will be wonderful as usual.

Best wishes to you all

*Helen*



Helen Mancey has been given a High Sheriff's Award in honour of the work she does, championing the WI in Staffordshire. Helen takes every opportunity to promote the benefits of belonging to WI, wherever she goes.

Congratulations and thanks for all your efforts, Helen, from all Staffordshire WI members.

Check out our upcoming events [here](#)  
[Event Application Form](#)

# Committee News and Activities

## Happy to Help!

Don't forget to come and say hello to us at the Here Comes Spring Event. We are happy to answer any queries you may have. Amanda and Sam are also on hand to help, collect post or take payments for any events you wish to sign up for.

We have acquired a number of dressmaking patterns, craft books and various other books. If you would like to have a rummage, these will be available on the Crafts stand for you to help yourself.

## WI Stationery

We have received a number of requests for WI stationery. Please note that we no longer hold stock of stationery. This now has to be ordered online direct from NFWI. Link as follows <https://shop.thewi.org.uk/collections/all-stationery>

## 'Here Comes Spring' 8th April

The Events Team is delighted that we will have an audience of over 500 members to attend the Showground on April 8<sup>th</sup>. We have three very different inspirational women speakers. Julia Mitchell, High Sheriff of Staffordshire will open proceedings, talking *about* her year in office. Lesley Smith will be in costume as Katherine Swynford, John of Gaunt's mistress & later his wife. In the afternoon Rev. Canon Kate Bottley will be entertaining us with interesting anecdotes from her life as a TV personality. A camera will be set up to show close ups on two screens. These will be higher than in November to make sure everyone can see.

Lesley Smith asks for no photography during her performance. Please respect this and also do not take photographs of the audience, as some members have not consented to having their photograph shared on social media.

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 even larger 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 springtime shopping. We have some interesting new stalls to check out.

Please bring your tickets. I will look forward to welcoming you at the door.

**Verity Conner, Chair, Events Committee**

## EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -

### Blister Pack Recycling



As well as Superdrug stores with a Pharmacy, some Boots stores are now offering blister pack recycling.

Check if your local Boots has this facility by searching Boots blister pack recycling, choose your nearest store and look under 'store details'.

Ensure that your WI is covered for every eventuality by taking out WI insurance through Staffordshire Federation. Last year's policy expired on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 so make payment as soon as possible to be sure that you are covered.

**Rose Deag Painting competition** – ‘Britain in Autumn’ – Congratulations to the winners who are :

**First: Margaret Brown, Brocton WI**  
**Second: Mavis Ballard, Brocton WI**  
**Third: Chris Gate, The Ridwares WI**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> June at Checkley Community Centre we have **our Cream tea and Craft Speaker** organised along with stalls selling all manner of items to add to your craft stash. The enclosure is out now so do get your application in before the tickets sell out – numbers are limited. Enclosure with your secretaries now, on the website and on Facebook.

### **Membership Subscriptions are now due!**

Now is an ideal time for MCS reps to update the database. Please ensure that the number of subscriptions reflect the number of members you have on the MCS database. Are member contact details up to date? Correct email addresses are required to access My WI and correct postal addresses are required to ensure WI Life is received. From time to time we also need to contact members directly so it is useful to have telephone numbers recorded. Finally, is your meeting venue and time up to date?

Hi everyone

Our first **Treasurer Update** is on 14<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm, we look forward to seeing you then. If you haven't managed to book in, the next one is 8<sup>th</sup> September 10.30am. We still have spaces available for both sessions. If you are new or just want an update, this is an excellent session. We now have a new and improved agenda.

We hope your Annual Meetings are going well. Remember .. talk to us if you need to; we are here to help.

Details will go out next month for our Secretary and President update. Save the date for 30<sup>th</sup> September at Standon and Cotesheath Village Hall.

See you all soon!

Best Wishes to you all.

**Member Support Committee**

### **SUPPORTERS CLUB**

#### **Congratulations to the March Winners!**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize £ 25.00 No 25 K Browne, Berkswich WI  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £ 10.00 No 165, D Flower, Shenstone Eve WI  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £ 5.00 No 181, V Atkins, Penkridge WI

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## Garden Festival Trophy

Hedgehog numbers are in decline.

The Garden Festival Trophy competition this year is to raise awareness of their plight by using recycled materials to create a hedgehog - with a message or messages about the reasons for the decline and positive steps that can be taken to help them survive.

For inspiration, go to [wildaboutgardens.org.uk](http://wildaboutgardens.org.uk) and search hedgehogs

Click [here](#) for the Competition entry form.

Entries will be displayed for publicity opportunities and at our *It's Christmas event* on 18th November.

## New Trustee: Liz Goodwin

I was educated in Uttoxeter and went to the University of East Anglia where I studied English History and English Literature - I enjoy reading, and am part of the UWI Daisy Book Club on Facebook. I also enjoy knitting and cross stitch, visits to the cinema and theatre, walking and doing the park runs.

I have had a varied career, working as a secretary and a farm secretary, managing rental properties, and spending a year in Australia before training to be a Primary School teacher. I taught in Burton on Trent until December 2011, and the following May I began working as the Federation Secretary for SFWI. I enjoyed meeting the members at the different events I was involved with organising, and going to the NFWI AM each year. In 2015 I was involved with the setting up of The Women of Uttoxeter WI after the previous WI had closed in 2012.

## National Resolution Results

2024/25 resolutions	Selections received to date	Percentages*
1 <b>Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers</b>	<b>32,667</b>	<b>36.2%</b>
2 Eliminate landfill of medication packaging	20,844	23.1%
3 Join the repair revolution	10,633	11.8%
4 Let's talk about incontinence	26,168	29%
Total selections received	90312	

This year over 90,000 selections were cast. 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:

**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.*

WIs should now consider how they wish their delegate to vote on the resolution at the NFWI Annual Meeting on 4 June 2025. All WIs get one vote on the resolution – for or against. WIs may choose to give their link delegate discretion to decide how to vote after hearing the speakers and the debate at the Annual Meeting. Please ensure your WI makes it clear to your link delegate whether you are granting her discretion. WIs and federations are also encouraged to hold discussion events to allow members to consider how they wish their delegate to vote. The NFWI will also be hosting a discussion event. Please follow the link for further details.

<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/public-affairs-and-campaigns/news-and-actions/resolution-selection-results-announcement>