



SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 67 February 2026

Find us on:



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Hello Everyone

Since we last spoke, we have enjoyed the Carol Service and The Christmas Tree Festival. These were two lovely events in Stafford, enjoyed by many of our members.

The SFWI Annual Meeting is the constitutional requirement of our annual round up of all that we do in Staffordshire. Thank you to those of you who attended as delegates and observers. Melissa Green CEO for NFWI gave us food for thought in her talk. It was great that we could welcome her to Staffordshire. Our grateful thanks go to retiring Trustee and Vice Chair Janet Moorby and retiring Trustee, Rachel Greaves for their commitment to SFWI. Our new Board of Trustees will be announced following our elections meeting. Kay Jackson, WI Adviser, VCO and past Vice Federation Treasurer has also retired and she has our very best wishes.

Just a reminder about the MCS. Please keep your details up to date. Sam uses this list to contact Staffordshire members and confirm affiliation fees. She recently checked the MCS details with her own WI members and found that many no longer had a landline or had out of date details. Please check with your members that you have up to date information.

We have lots of exciting events and sessions planned for 2026, keep your eyes peeled everyone, we look forward to seeing you.

Thank you all for your ongoing support.

Helen

CALENDARS FOR SALE

We still have some stocks of the SFWI calendar left and these are now on sale at a reduced price of £2.40 each. If you would like to purchase one please contact Federation Office on 01785 223838 or email admin@sfwf.org. If you require your order posting, additional charges will apply.

2026/27 Subscription Fees

By 1st April 2026 your Subscription Fee needs to be paid to your WI—this year the fee set by NFWI is **£54.00**. To help your Treasurer please ensure you pay your WI no later than your April meeting. If you are already a full member and would like to join a subsequent WI then you would pay the multi subscription fee of £27.00. Fees may vary if your WI is applying the flexibility policy.

Are you interested in the Environment, Education, Public Affairs?

Can you spare a couple of hours four times a year to get involved with The Education and Public Affairs Sub Committee: Two meetings are on Zoom and two are face to face at Cornerstone. Travel and expenses can be claimed.

For a no obligation chat to find out more, contact Karen Sulway, Chair of Education and Public Affairs on 07795 535772 or email karensulway.sfwf.trustee@gmail.com

Committee News and Activities

Re-scheduled event – Rope Basket Crochet

This event is re-scheduled for 7th February 2026 10am – 2pm. All members booked on this session have been contacted and asked to confirm by the 15th January whether you are able to attend as we will offer your place to members on the waiting list if you are not available. You will need to bring your kit with you unless you have not yet collected it, in which case it is in the office.

Upcoming CAD events 2026

[Stitch and Flip Patchwork](#) coasters 28th February **Event now full**

[How to insert a Zip](#) 21st March

Maximum eight places available on each workshop so do book early – spaces still available

We will be bringing you another Botanic Drawing workshop on 9th May. This time using small Spring flowers. We are also offering a bag making workshop, details of which will be circulated next month.

You will find all the enclosures for the workshops and the CAD art competition in the usual places!

This is my final News Bulletin report as many of you know by now that after six years on the Board of Trustees, I am stepping down at the January Annual Meeting, and I hope you will join me to wish my successor every success in the future.

Happy New Year Crafting

Janet Moorby, Chair, Crafts, Art and Design Committee

County Show

With Christmas over there is plenty of time to start crafting your entries for this year's County Show. The theme is **A Day at the Seaside**. Please see our [schedule](#) for full details. Last closing date for entries is Thursday 14th May.

EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -



Every February 14th, people across the UK make and share green hearts to show what's at the heart of the future they want to protect.

Please send a green heart message to your local Council Leader and/or MP, sharing what's at the heart of your community and what you want to protect.

It could be a simple written message or a more elaborate crafted one - but please do SOMETHING to raise awareness that WI members feel strongly about our future and that of generations to come.

Show the Love and the Green Hearts Campaign is part of the Climate Coalition's action for change - at the heart of a healthier, fairer, safer future is climate and nature action - and climate and nature action is at the heart of stronger communities, better livelihoods and a secure future.

The Women's Institute is a founder member of the Climate Coalition.

Hi Everyone

Happy New Year all!

A repeat message for you all: Please let us know if your committee is anticipating any difficulties in recruiting to the important officer roles, President, Secretary and Treasurer. Now is the time to be discussing the future before your Annual Meetings next year. We are here to help and advise you, we want to support you. Remember that the Constitution and rules now say that: **The Committee shall determine a process for the nomination of candidates for election as an Elected Committee Member.** The members should still elect a President from the incoming elected committee members at the Annual Meeting. If you are experiencing any difficulties, we want to hear from you. We are here to help and advice you, we want to support you.

Subscriptions: Now is the time to be discussing 2026/2027 subscriptions. WIs can apply the flexibility policy to their 2026/27 subscription. This means the full amount of the WI portion of the subscription can be charged, the WI can reduce their portion of the subscription or waive the WI portion of the subscription entirely. Please note that whatever your decision is, this must apply to **all members in your WI**. This is so that all members are treated equally and fairly.

Thank you for all your ongoing work in your committees and WIs.

Best Wishes to you all,

Member Support Committee

RESOLUTION SHORT LIST 2025/26

**MAKE YOUR
SELECTION**



Final Reminder

Don't forget to send in your resolutions. These should be with us by **6th February** at the latest.

Based on the new constitution, multi-members are permitted to vote in each WI: ***"a multi-member can vote on all matters within all her WIs including national matters such as Public Affairs resolutions"***

Upcoming Events [Please see here](#)

SUPPORTERS CLUB

Congratulations to the December/January Winners!

1 st Prize	£25.00	No 66 P Hobbs Great Haywood WI	December
2 nd Prize	£10.00	No 108 L Hubbard, Waterfall WI	
3 rd Prize	£5.00	No 165 G Griffiths, Shenstone Eve WI	
1 st Prize	£25.00	No 2 A Newbon, Caverswall & Cookshill WI	January
2 nd Prize	£10.00	No 94 J Moorby, Tean WI	
3 rd Prize	£5.00	No 128 L Evans, Stowe by Chartley WI	



Winter Quiz

Thank you to all those who took part in the Winter Quiz.

Congratulations to Jo Edwards of Eccleshall WI who is the winner of our winter quiz and receives the £25 prize. Answers are on Socials and our website [here](#).

Here Comes Spring' 21st April

The Events Team is delighted that booking forms are arriving for members to attend the Showground on April 21st. We have a packed programme in the morning with three representatives of the Staffordshire Archive to talk about their work and encourage us to help with their project.

This will be swiftly followed by the arrival of royalty. King Charles II will be in our midst. Dr Gareth Williams will bring to life this larger than life character, remembered as the Merry Monarch.

After lunch, we will welcome Julia Bradbury, TV presenter, a great lover of the outdoors and an advocate of healthy living. Our wonderful stalls will be there for you to enjoy, as well as an amazing raffle and a chance to shop 'til you drop.

As you know, 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. If you have severe mobility issues, please let us know and a suitable seat will be allocated for you.

We look forward to meeting you all. We want you to have a really good time.

Verity Conner and the Events Team

VIA—Launching Monday 9th February

Behind the scenes, NFWI have been building something transformative - and it's nearly time to share it with you. Introducing **VIA**, the new permanent online home for everything on the WI Learning Hub.

VIA is a modern digital learning platform where you'll discover, book and take part in our courses. Designed with your experience at the centre, it brings together live courses, recordings and resources in one clear, easy-to-use space - for beginners and experts, new learners and lifelong students alike.

Nothing you value is going away - the same courses, tutors and warm welcome you know, simply in a better, more future-ready home. For now, there's nothing you need to do (except get excited). Just hang tight - we'll be sharing more very soon. And to make sure you're first to hear what's next, be sure to follow on social media for the latest updates and first looks as VIA comes to life.

VIA is bold. It's ambitious. It's designed for you.

