



SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 68 March 2026

Find us on:



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Hello everyone,

I think the rain is easing.. a bit ☺; glimpses of sunshine for us all, very welcome!

Happy International Women's Day for 8th March to all of our wonderful members.

We can all look forward to our events coming up with excitement, we have lots coming up. For more information, check our website for the events list.

The 'Love Yourself Wellness Day' on the 26th September 2026

This is something that we are really looking forward to so save this date!!!! The programme is lovely with a diverse range of activities, something for everyone. It will be free to our members. This is the event that we received our Denman Grant for. Details are out soon, watch this space!

Sign up now for the Supporters Club, applications close on the 5th of March 2025. Details with your secretary and on the website. Monthly draws take place for two prizes of £25 each. You may buy more than one ticket each.

We all look forward to seeing you out and about, see you soon!

Thank you all for your ongoing support.

Helen

Crafts Team

We look forward to welcoming members to our Patchwork Workshop this coming Saturday.

The Botanic Drawing Workshop is now full and confirmation will be emailed to all applicants in due course, however we do still have a number of spaces left on the Zip Workshop.

SUPPORTERS CLUB Congratulations to the Winners!

1 st Prize	£ 25.00	No 183 L Cole, Brown Edge WI
2 nd Prize	£ 10.00	No 58 D Yates, Aston by Stone WI
3 rd Prize	£ 5.00	No 116 C Buck, Stafford Town WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Upcoming Events → [See here](#)

Committee News and Activities

Calling all Bridge Players!

Are you a keen bridge player?

There will be a Bridge Drive on Thursday 17th September 2026, organised by the Lady Captain of the Brocton Hall Golf Club, Stafford, ST170TH. Experienced Bridge players are invited to register interest and discuss further as necessary. Please contact Kathryn Mann at kathrynmann3@gmail.com. Thank you.

Membership Awards

With the introduction of the 20 and 30 year certificates and badges, we are having a considerable number of enquires from WIs asking when individual members joined. Please note that we do not hold these records and neither does NFWI. It is on the onus of the WI itself to keep individual member records. It is also wise to add this information to the MCS when members do join and fill in any history if the individual has been a member of a previous WI. Membership should be continuous to achieve a Membership Award. We are still awaiting supplies of the 20 and 30 year badges.

Here Comes Spring 21st April

For April 21st we have a packed programme in the morning. Charlotte Almond the CEO of Staffordshire Women's Aid will give a short talk about her work, helping women in need. Then Sarah English, Lisa Williams and Helen Johnson from the Staffordshire History Centre will talk about their work and encourage us to help with their project, sewing map bags.

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. If you have not booked your place, please do so as spaces are filling up fast. This Spring Event is always a joyful affair, as spring is in the air.

May I remind you that when booking your place, if you have severe mobility issues, please let us know and a suitable seat will be allocated for you. We are trying hard to keep everyone safe, so that the day can be enjoyed by all. The Events Committee will be there to welcome you. Enjoy the day.

Verity Conner Chair Events Team

EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -

Are you a Climate Hero?



Take a 5 minute test to find out - and get some tips to help reduce your carbon footprint.

This might inspire you to set challenges for your WI as part of the Great Big Green Week; 6 -14 June

Search [Climate Hero Calculator](#)

Treasurers' Corner

Tidy up your accounts and ensure that any pro rata affiliation fees paid in January, February and March are paid over to SFWI before next year's fees are due on 1st April.

Thank you.

Book Recommendation—Well worth a read!

The Heart's Invisible Furies by John Boyne

The central character is Cyril, who was given up for adoption by his teenage mother in 1945, and the novel tells his life story.

As Cyril grows up, he realises he is homosexual but has to hide his feelings; as the novel progresses, Boyne weaves in the changing attitude towards homosexuality over the years.

Like in real life, the many characters in Cyril's life lose touch and then meet up again.

The novel is at times laugh out loud because some of the characters are so eccentric but it is also heartbreakingly sad. Boyne has such a way with words, and can convey so much in a few words. One of those books that you can't put down.

This year's Annual Federation Quiz is on THURSDAY 18 JUNE at The County Showground. The theme for table decoration is *The Importance of Water* and is being supported by Severn Trent Water - they are donating some raffle prizes and giving free water saving devices to all Quizzers.

The Quiz is always a fun event - whether teams are competitive or just want a good night out. The atmosphere is wonderful with a buzz around the room.

Questions are not all about the theme - there is something for everyone. Teams need not decorate their table, but there is a trophy for the best decorated table.

Please see [here](#) for more details.

If anyone would like to chat about how the event is run - or wants to volunteer to help on the night, please contact Karen Sulway karensulway'sfwl.trustee@gmail.com

Hi Everyone

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. With your new committee in mind, we have sent out a copy of The Trustee Eligibility Form for your committee to review for any changes to circumstances and for new members to the committee to agree and sign.

The Treasurer Updates meetings are April 15th at 6.30pm 2026 and September 14th, 2026, at 10.30am, both at Cornerstone. The attendee can be anyone from the committee along with the Treasurer, if you want to feel more confident at finance. We say this as the whole committee are responsible for the WI finances.

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

Best Wishes to you all,

Member Support Committee

Resolutions

Staffordshire Results

Title of resolution	Number of selections
Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health, and social inclusion	874
Action on women's homelessness	559
Nearer to Nature	188
Love Your Vulva – Self checking is your best defence against vulval cancer	172
Every child needs a friend	301
TOTAL NUMBER OF SELECTIONS	2094

A massive thank you to all those members who took part in the resolution selection process. Approximately two thirds of members made their choice and we are pleased to announce that all 97 of our WIs returned results. These have now been forwarded to NFWI for national counting and we await the outcome.

Join Staffordshire Women's Aid Helpline Volunteer Team!

Are you passionate about helping others and making a real difference in your community? At Staffordshire Women's Aid, volunteers are at the heart of everything we do. We are currently looking for caring and committed women to join our award-winning team as a helpline volunteer – the first point of contact for people who need our support (and a range of agencies who work with us).

What we offer:

- ☐ Full accredited training (with ongoing CPD)
- ☐ Travel expenses
- ☐ Regular support & supervision
- ☐ A chance to meet like-minded women and make a real difference



What you'll do:

Handle enquiries ranging from donations to giving advice and information, as well as follow-up calls.
Listen and respond to calls with care and compassion
Work alongside a professional team who are always on hand for support.

☐ Current opportunities:

Monday from 10 until 2pm
Thursday mornings
Friday mornings & afternoons

If you would like more information or feel like this role would be a good fit for you, please email us at: volunteer@staffordshirewomensaid.org.