



SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 71 June 2026

Find us on:



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Hello Everyone

We are thrilled to have won Best Dressed Marquee at the County Show. Congratulations and well done to the County Show Team and a big thank you for all your hard work in putting this event together. Thanks also to all those members who knitted bunting for us. What a fabulous display!

We are also excited about the Watch Party at Stafford Rugby Club, a lovely venue. Another great chance to be together and get to know one another whilst taking part in our important National Annual Meeting on the 4th June.

The 2024 – 2025 National Annual review is now available - click [here](#) to view the document.

We hope you are getting your teams organised for the Quiz on the 18th June. Are you busy revising? Are you getting your table arrangements ready for the table competition?

See you soon.

Helen

WI Walnut Tree

Are there any WIs who received a walnut tree donated by NFWI to commemorate their 75th anniversary back in 1990?

We have been sent in a photograph of this splendid walnut tree from Cheddleton WI, which is still thriving despite being replanted some years ago.

From memory, NFWI supplied each Federation with a number of trees, a draw took place and Cheddleton WI were lucky enough to win one of these trees.

Perhaps someone can help us and provide a little more information. We would love to see more photos if your WI also planted one of these trees.



Upcoming Events

Check out our events [here](#)

Committee News and Activities

Federation Quiz

Tickets for the Federation Quiz don't need to be printed - a phone screenshot is fine - and more sustainable.

Garden Festival Trophy

Swifts are back ! They fly an amazing 6,000 miles from Africa yet when they arrive, their nesting sites may be inaccessible.

Help raise awareness of this by entering the Garden Festival Trophy competition by creating an item in any format (eg craft; written piece; art work) with a clear message of how they can be helped. Please see [here](#) for details.

Save the Date!

[Love Yourself Wellness Day](#)

26th September

**Member's Pavilion,
Stafford County Showground**

Don't forget to put the date in your diary.

We have lots of activities on offer. Some are for members only so look out for the application form which is being sent out to WIs later this month.

As the Environmental Representative for our WI, I am always on the lookout for ways to introduce recycling etc to our members. I trawl the internet for how other WIs approach the subject and I am always open to any suggestions.

At a recent Federation meeting I got to talking, like you do, to a member from Lichfield WI about how they introduced the subject at their meetings. I was enthused following this discussion to introduce the 'little' approach to our WI members. This entails each member doing a small act of recycling or preserving valuable resources. From this our WI's environmental project for the year is entitled "A little means a lot"

Kerri Thacker, Brewood Afternoon WI

Skittles Tournament

The third annual Skittles competition organised by the Arts and Sports Team was held this year at Walton Village Hall in Stafford, hosted by Berkswich WI who provided a wonderful afternoon tea and drinks.

Thirteen teams of four players took part from across the County and congratulations go to the winning team who were Bishops Wood WI.

These events are always good fun and are an ideal way to relax and exercise with friends.



Dear WIs and Members

This is an update from the Member Support Team.

Currently we are dramatically reduced in numbers. We will continue to support you, but our response time may be reduced.

A member of the team will always be available at our County Showground events; Here comes Spring, Its Christmas, the County Show and Wellness Day. We can answer your queries and give advice. Please come and see us at the "Here to Help Stand".

We always welcome the opportunity to have a chat with you. Please don't hesitate to contact us by email (see Adviser List Form) or via the office admin@sfdwi.org.

We are recruiting to the WI Adviser role. If this interests you, please contact us for an informal chat.

Helen Mancey
Member Support Team Chair

BOTANIC DRAWING WITH JO EDWARDS

Twelve members had a wonderful day participating in the Botanic Drawing Workshop at the Cornerstone, lead by Jo Edwards of Eccleshall WI.

Jo is an excellent teacher and demonstrator and some fabulous pieces of art were produced.



Committee Members—Please send in your yearend paperwork to Federation Office. Affiliation fees also need to be sent in as payment is now due. Even if you haven't collected in all your subscriptions, please send in what you have. Many thanks to those who have already sent in paperwork and affiliation fees.

EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -

Did you take part in the Great Big Green Week?



If so, please send in the details to inspire others - and if you didn't take part, remember that doing good deeds on any day or week make a difference. Pass it on!

County Show

We hope some of you managed to pop along to see us at the County Show.

As always we had some fabulous entries and are proud that we have so many talented members in Staffordshire. Thank you to everyone who entered the competitions.

See [here](#) for the full list of winners and display photographs.

Arts and Sports Team: Book Review “Normal People” by Philippa Gregory

Many WI members will be familiar with the works of Philippa Gregory through her meticulously researched historical novels such as “The Other Boleyn Girl” or “The White Queen”. However, as well as writing best selling fiction Dr Gregory is also a recognised authority on women’s history.

When we read the history of our nation it is often quite literally ‘His Story’, a history of men, as viewed by men, as recorded by men. In her book “Normal People” Philippa Gregory sets out to redress the balance and put women where they should be ---centre stage. She retells our nation’s story, of social and cultural change, powered by the determination, persistence and effectiveness of women from 1066 to the current day.

This is an extremely readable book about millions of women: those who left records and those who were hidden from history. It is not a feminist book, nor does it chart women’s ‘rise’. After all women are not yet equal! But it spotlights the presence of women throughout history and goes a long way to explaining our current position in society.

Jenny Fletcher, Great Haywood WI

Bowls Taster Session 15th May

The sun appeared and the rain clouds kept at bay! Nine ladies representing, Brocton WI, Great Haywood WI and Stowe by Chartley WI had a fabulous afternoon learning the basics of crown green bowls followed by tea and cake provided by the ladies from Woodlands WI.

All the ladies did so well that they played some doubles games at the end of the session and some great talent was uncovered.



SUPPORTERS CLUB

Congratulations to the May Winners who win £25 each

**No 11 P Hodgkinson, Westlands WI
No 103 V Hillier, Haughton WI**

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN