



SFWI News Bulletin

Issue 72 July 2026

Find us on:



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Hello Everyone

Another month has brought two more fantastic events!

The NFWI Annual Meeting gave us some amazing speakers, and both the resolutions were passed by the membership. The important issues of women's homelessness, and access to public toilets in our communities are both big social issues for women and we have a chance of making a difference. Look out for the helpful documents on both resolutions from NFWI. Our watch party was enjoyable at Stafford Rugby Club, a great venue. In June next year the NFWI Annual Meeting will be a face-to-face meeting in Hull. We have already booked a hotel for delegates and observers. Please think about being a delegate when we put the request out as you gain such an insight into The WI just by being a bit more involved. NFWI are planning events on the day before the meeting, and we all look forward to spending time with you.

The quiz was great, thanks to all of the teamwork behind the scenes and our very own quiz master, Karen Sulway. Karen is now an expert on the quiz, and I bet she is already working on next year's event!

Keep watching for news of new courses and things to do, there is more to come!

Applications are now open for the members only courses at the Wellness Day September 26th. This will be such a great day, it's all free for everyone, members and non-members. The information is with your WIs and on our website. Tell your friends and spread the word. We are so excited about this event, let us all make it a success.

Enjoy the sunshine whilst we have it!!! See You Soon,

Helen

Federation Quiz

Congratulations to Canwell (A) WI - winners of the SFWI Federation Quiz 2026 with an impressive 93 points out of 100.. They will hold the Knighton Challenge Shield for 12 months. Rolleston-on-Dove (A) WI came second with 90 points and will hold the Val Smith Memorial Trophy for 12 months. Stowe-by-Chartley (B) WI won The Best Dressed Table award for their interpretation of the theme The Importance of Water.

A full list of the results are available [here](#).

Thank you to everyone who took part - and to the 20 Volunteers who made the evening run smoothly.

Karen Sulway (Quiz Master and Chair of Education & Public Affairs Team)



Committee News and Activities

We are really sad to inform you all that Aled Jones will not be attending 'It's Christmas' in November. He has a three hour show every morning now on Classic FM and has turned us down!

However, **Adam Frost**, a garden designer and presenter at Chelsea and on Gardener's World will be speaking to us instead, at the Showground on November 17th. We think Adam will prove to be equally as popular and will mean we have a wonderful afternoon. Remember Lindsey McKenna will be talking in the morning about her quest to save exotic wildlife that is being kept cruelly in unsuitable conditions.

There will be plenty of time for shopping with new stalls, as well those stalls we love to welcome back every year.

Tickets at £25 will be on sale soon. It's hard to think about Christmas but we do love our special get together with all our WI friends, chatting, shopping & learning. Save the date, November 17th and we look forward to seeing you there. Meanwhile enjoy the summer and any sunshine.

As autumn approaches on Saturday, September 26th the Events Team will be helping at the 'Love Yourself' ~Wellness Day at the Showground from 10.00am until 4.00pm. This is a completely free day as SFWI applied for and were lucky enough to receive a Denman grant from NFWI. The free classes for members can be booked already but the Pavilions will be filled with stalls and demonstrators. Come along and bring your non-WI friends. It is all free. It may encourage lots of women to join us, once they see what the WI is all about.

Verity Conner Chair Events Team

Upcoming Events

Check out what's on [here](#)

Hi everyone

A save the date for **Secretary and President update: 15th September 2026 at Stafford Rugby Club**. We look forward to seeing you. If the Secretary or President are unable to attend then please send the Treasurer or another committee member instead. The update is relevant to you all and above all you will gain a lot from spending time with other WI committees. Details out this month.

Thank you all for your ongoing work as committees for your WIs, it is very valuable and you are all valuable!

Member Support Team

EVERY ACTION COUNTS: -

.Here is a good idea to help keep insects hydrated during the dry summer months;

Fill a shallow container with stones or marbles and add water - preferably rainwater - so that the stones just sit above the water line. Insects will be able to perch for drink.

Replace the water regularly to prevent a build up of algae.



Watch Party Stafford Rugby Club June 4th 2026

Delegates, Trustees and Observers gathered at Stafford Rugby Club on June 4th to attend a Watch Party for the NFWI Annual Meeting. Thanks to Sam Taylor, our Accounts Clerk, who takes on all the organisation each year of the Annual Meeting, all the delegates were ready and waiting as the meeting started. Jerusalem was sung by us all with gusto.

Jeryl Stone, NFWI National Chairman gave her address & each of the NFWI Trustees had recorded a piece about themselves. There were three main speakers.

As Jane Goodall died suddenly, after agreeing to speak at the Annual Meeting, Mary Lewis, Chair of the Jane Goodall Institute UK, stepped in - a conservation organisation that has developed from one small community-led project and now has 30 Institutes around the world. Jane's message throughout her life was that every day we make a difference, it is up to us how much difference we make.

Professor Michel Dougherty, the first female Astronomer Royal in their 350-year history spoke of how she became a lead on the Cassini mission to Jupiter and Saturn without having a physics background - a lesson in taking chances and trying new challenges. She made the observation that the WI is rooted in curiosity which is just like science.

Finally, Anne Boden, founder of the successful digital Starling Bank, explained how she overcame the challenges of setting up her vision and implored women to always look after themselves before looking after others. She embraced challenges and felt that AI was here, therefore it should be put to good use.

The Resolutions were discussed and questions taken. The Resolution for Free Accessible Public Toilets was passed with a majority of 95% and the Homelessness Resolution by 92%. It is our challenge now in our own WIs to follow up these campaigns both locally and nationally so that our voices are heard. Remember WI is the largest women's organisation in the country.

An excellent meeting ended with two messages from Jacinda Arden, former New Zealand Prime Minister and Julia Gillard, former Australian Prime Minister. They emphasised that our strong campaigning can make a difference. The meeting ended with the singing of Land of our Fathers and the National Anthem.



Tote Bag Workshop

Members recently attended our bag workshop and thoroughly enjoyed the session and went home with a beautiful Tote Bag. Thanks go to Ellen Poole of Waterfall WI for leading the session.

SUPPORTERS CLUB **Congratulations to the June Winners** **who each win £25**

No 162: M Clarke, Haughton WI
No 37: J Moorby, Tean WI



County Show 2026



We all love a dry County Show, but this year it has been I think, the sunniest and hottest County Show on record, bringing people flocking in to enjoy all that the show offers.

The SFWI marquee, with the theme “A Day at the Seaside” gave everything it could to give it the sea-side feel, and it certainly delivered in style. Visitors that came to see us gave wonderful feedback on the decorations and the County Show judges awarded us first place for ‘Best Decorated Marquee’ - we are so proud.

I can only say a massive thank you to everyone on the WI County Show Team, Sam and Amanda from SFWI cornerstone, Great Haywood WI, who ran the refreshments and all the women who volunteered their time and talents to make this such a successful event. What a wonderful team of women.

Also, thank you to all the Staffordshire WI members who entered the show classes to give wonderful displays of their various skills and talents. The show is for you and gives you an opportunity to come together and highlight so many crafts.

In the marquee we had stall holders displaying and selling to our many visitors – Maggie Brammeld with various handmade items, Chris Mayer the kumihymo lady and Janet Marklew from The Cornerpatch, Eccleshall.

We had a raffle, just as you entered the marquee, and thanks to Amanda Turner (County Show Team member) from the company Thames River Cruise who donated the wonderful prize of a Thames River Cruise for two people, including dinner and entertainment as the prize for the raffle. The team worked hard for two days selling the tickets and did exceptionally well with this. Thank you.

The Member Support Team were in attendance to promote the WI and answer any questions people had. It is a fantastic opportunity to highlight the SFWI and Staffordshire Institutes for potential recruitment as so many women visit the marquee.

It was a busy (and hot) time setting up and decorating the marquee, a day of entries and judging and two days greeting the public. This has only been possible with the wonderful teamwork of everyone involved, making it another successful show for the SFWI. You should be immensely proud of yourselves and thank you all so much.

Pat Kennedy—Acting Chair, County Show Team



We have another healthy and thriving walnut tree pictured here with some members planted by Meerbrook WI to commemorate NFWI's 75th Anniversary.



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INSPIRING WOMEN