

Federations Annual Report

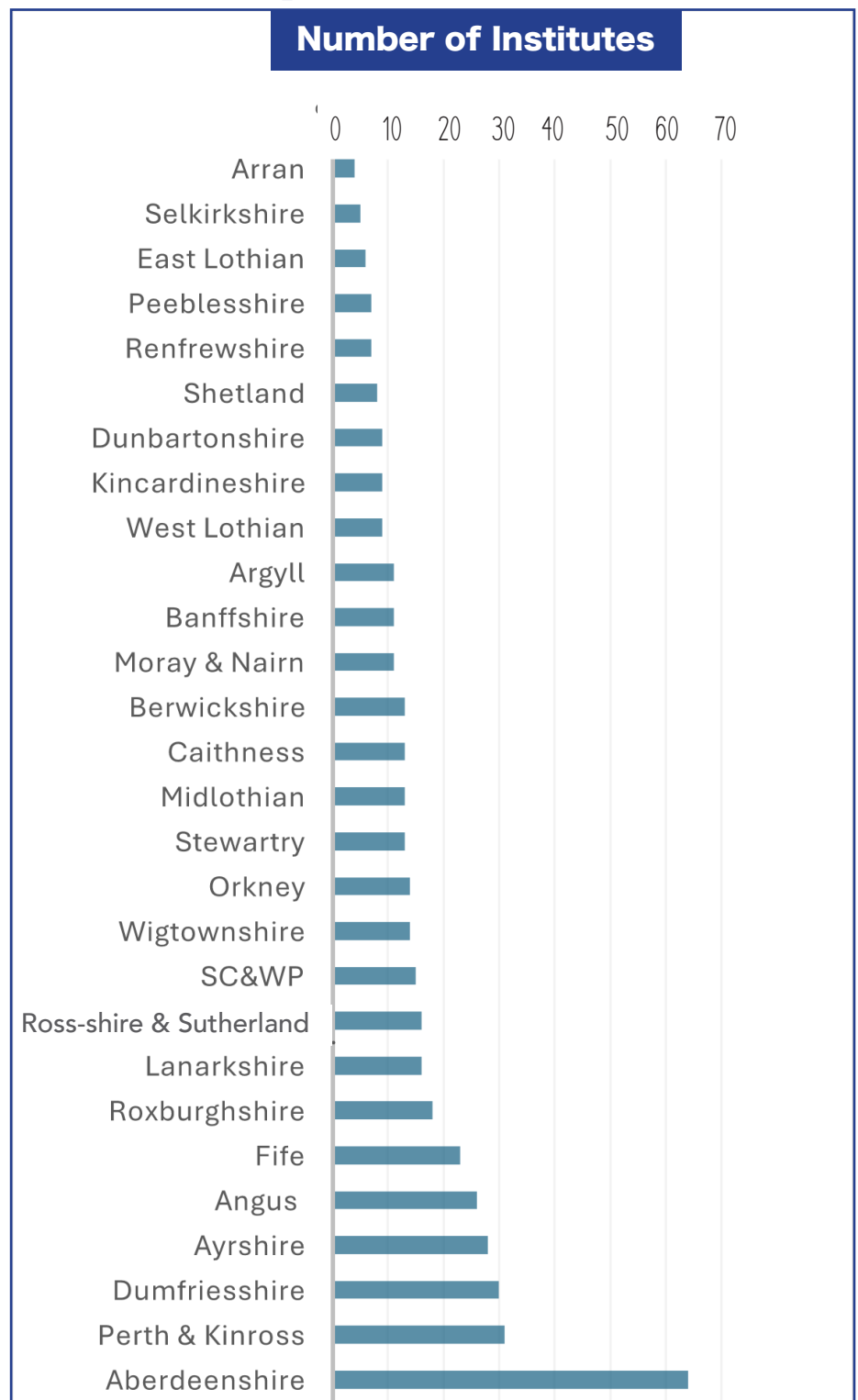
It was a busy year for the SWI Federations around Scotland. Here's what went on in more than 400 communities...

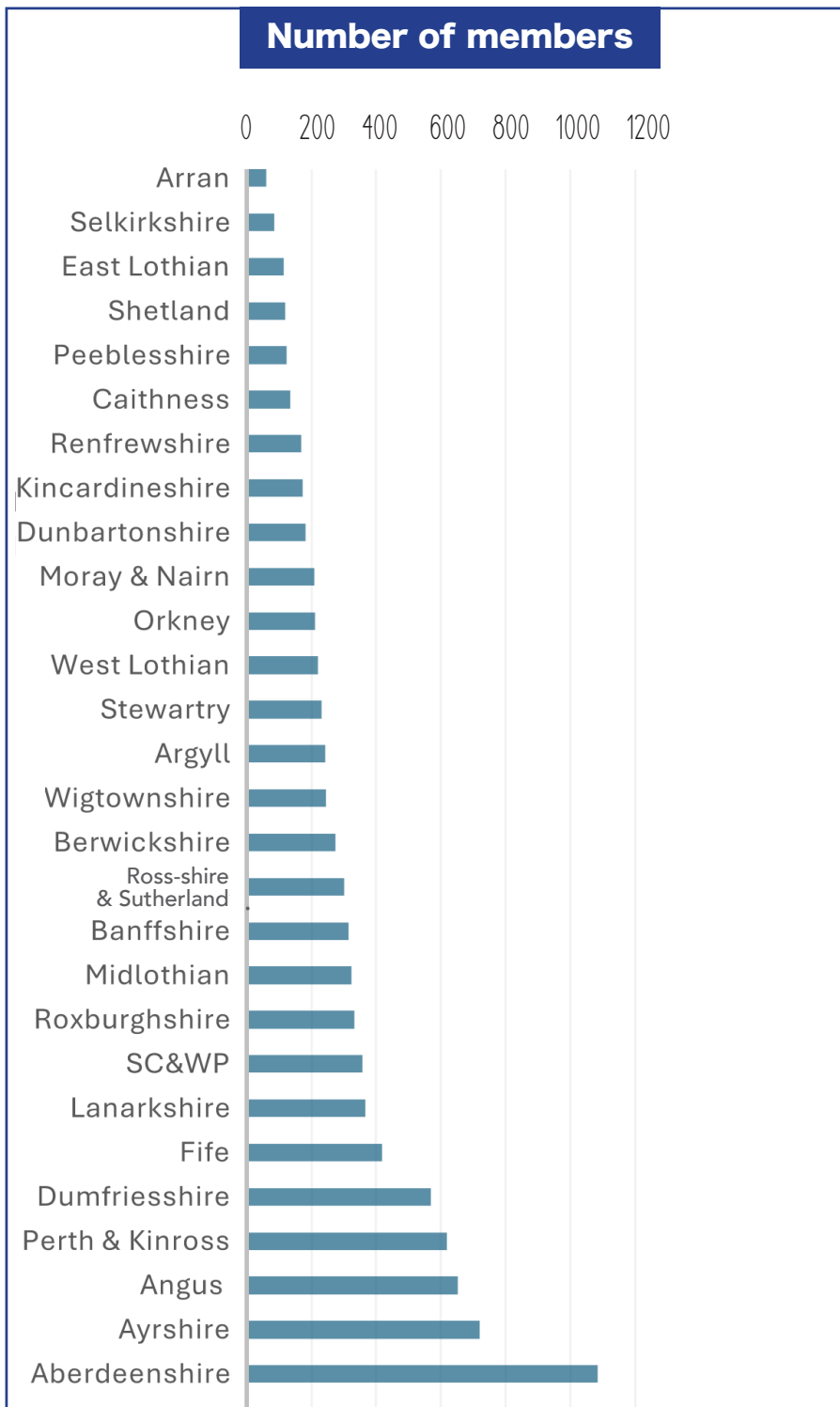
ABERDEENSHIRE

The Federation show 'Country Comes to Town' in May garnered significant support, boasting 22 Institutes participating in the Co-Operative Section and 133 individual entries in the open section. Notably, Irene Reid of Mintlaw SWI received recognition with a 1st and 2nd prize at the Highland Show, while Kathleen Brander of Tullynessle and Forbes SWI secured a 2nd prize. Fintry SWI's achievement of 4th place in the Vaughan Nash Competition at the National SWI Conference in Perth was celebrated, along with Sheila Steele's win of the Nancy McMillan trophy. Mintlaw SWI marked its 70th birthday in June and in November Rothienorman SWI celebrated its centenary. Office renovations, including new double-glazed windows, heating, LED lighting, bathroom, kitchen area, and flooring, were completed, alongside the clearing of asbestos from the basement in order to preserve historical papers and artifacts.

ANGUS

The Angus Federation's Handcraft & Homeskills gatherings, led by a new Convenor and committee, have been well received, attracting over 40 members per meeting. Various activities, including golf, bowling, walking netball, and curling, have been organised at both Federation and national levels. Social events such as singalong nights, quizzes, and walks have added vibrancy. Homeskills, proficiency





Angus continued tests, and Judges' tests have been successfully hosted. The best of Angus was on show at the National Conference, and plans for the Federation Show are under way, with good entries anticipated. Stewardship at the Highland Show and a visit to Galashiels to see The Great Tapestry of Scotland will round up the year's activities.

ARGYLL

Trips to gardens, smokehouses, and tea parties, alongside craft demonstrations covering various skills, have kept Argyll members engaged. Food demonstrations, games, and fitness

activities have added diversity. Talks on history, geography, and combined events with other organisations have fostered community engagement. Plans for the Biennial Show in April, including classes on temari balls (from this year's Evelyn Baxter classes) and needle felting, are under way.

ARRAN

Lamlash SWI celebrated its centenary in April 2023, marking a milestone for the island. The Federation's commitment to updating the 'History of the Villages of Arran' book indicates a dedication to preserving local heritage. A successful

Handcraft & Homeskills show was held, and the challenges faced by different Institutes, such as maintaining activities through the summer months, were acknowledged. Community involvement in events such as Santa's Sparkle and The Queen's Jubilee demonstrates the SWI's commitment to local initiatives despite ongoing challenges.

AYRSHIRE

Ayrshire's SWI activities have been diverse, ranging from bowling and golf competitions to fashion shows and Ruralympics. Members have engaged in various craft classes and future plans include a bi-annual trip to Inverness and the Federation Show in October 2024. Social events including craft days, quiz nights, and rural outings have added to the camaraderie among members. A brand new group in Largs is now the most popular new group in Scotland!

BANFFSHIRE

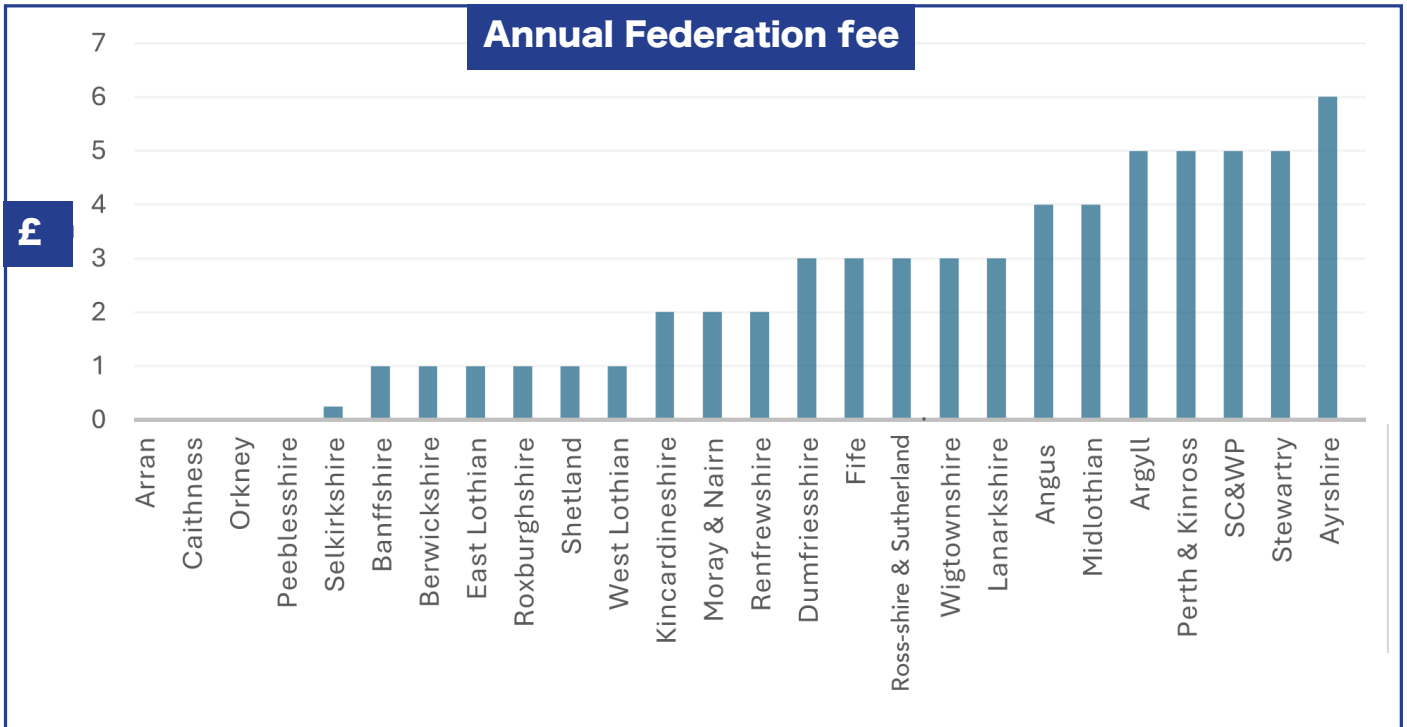
Banffshire Federation has maintained active participation in crafts, cookery, and rural skills, evidenced by high attendance at Saturday Craft Group meetings. Interactions between institutes and neighbouring Federations have been encouraged, fostering a sense of community. Participation in proficiency certificate assessments and judging for other Federations highlights Banffshire's commitment to skill development and collaboration. The annual show at Keith Show was a notable success.

BERWICKSHIRE

Despite the challenges posed by Institute closures, Berwickshire Federation remains resilient, participating actively in sports competitions, classes, and events including a carol concert and Federation Show. Efforts to attract new and younger members underscore the Federation's commitment to sustainability and growth. Collaboration with neighbouring Federations and engagement in local shows further strengthens Berwickshire's presence in the community.

CAITHNESS

In Caithness, the year saw the staging of two Bulb Shows showcasing the region's horticultural talents. Indoor bowling matches provided opportunities for friendly competition, while The County



Federations Annual Report overview

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Institutes closed in the past year

32

Institutes at risk of closure

11

SWI women's groups launched

Caithness continued Show, a highlight of the calendar, featured diverse skills of our community. A coffee morning provided a delightful opportunity for members to gather and socialise. Additionally, the Federation convened for three meetings throughout the year, addressing important matters and fostering unity among its members. The year culminated with the eagerly anticipated annual quiz held in October, uniting participants for an evening of intellectual challenge and friendship.

DUNBARTONSHIRE

Dunbartonshire Federation was active in various competitions, including indoor and outdoor bowling, as well as curling. The Federation hosted its Triennial Handcrafts & Homeskills Show in Spring 2023, showcasing the talents of their members. A summer meeting in June welcomed participation from all Institutes, fostering community engagement. The autumn saw the annual Ruralympics, providing opportunities for friendly competition and camaraderie. Additionally, classes

such as crewel embroidery were offered in autumn 2023, with follow-up sessions planned for spring 2024. Unfortunately, a temari balls class was postponed until 2024 due to adverse weather conditions.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

Dumfriesshire had a bustling year of events and competitions. Federation events included spring and autumn walks, the quiz, and Ruralympics. Sports enthusiasts participated in various events such as curling, short mat, outdoor bowling, indoor bowling, and darts. Notably, the golf, curling, and outdoor bowling teams represented Dumfriesshire at the national competitions. Ewes SWI performed admirably in the national quiz, securing 2nd place. Additionally, Canonbie SWI represented Dumfriesshire at the South West Area Ruralympics, earning 2nd place. Dumfriesshire celebrated victories too, winning the 2023 Southern Counties SWI indoor bowling title, and preparing to host the event the following year. Members also attended the National Conference in Perth, showcasing Dumfriesshire's achievements through

a video presentation. Some specific highlights included the successful Evelyn Baxter class focused on temari balls and a fundraising concert which entertained members and raised funds. Furthermore, Dumfriesshire ladies played crucial roles as judges at various events, including the YFC at the RHS, Peebles, and Yarrow agricultural shows, and the Berwickshire SWI Federation Show.

EAST LOTHIAN

East Lothian held two meetings in 2023, one in June and another in December, and a brand new group in Musselburgh is going strong. Competitions included a June photo contest featuring East Lothian landmarks, and Christmas decoration creation in December. Unfortunately, a planned quiz had to be postponed due to illness, but it will happen in 2024.

FIFE

Fife was bustling with activity, holding ten executive meetings and two Federation meetings where discussions focused on local and national SWI matters. Handcraft classes on blackwork, hardanger, and temari balls were organised, alongside curling events and the annual Federation Show. Members actively engaged in fundraising coffee mornings, quiz nights, and afternoon teas. Notably, Marsha Adams represented Fife on a new sub-committee called Skills and Events,



SWI AGM 2024

Fife continued reflecting the Federation's commitment to skill development and community involvement.

KINCARDINESHIRE

Kincardineshire had a successful year, hosting the National Final of the Matter of Opinion and the National Quiz, with their Federation winning the latter. They also celebrated Cove Bay Institute's centenary and organised enjoyable temari ball classes. Members also participated in judging roles at local and national shows within the community.

LANARKSHIRE

This year, Lanarkshire experienced the closure of three Institutes, with another at risk due to hall closures and an aging membership. Some groups affected by hall closures found alternative venues, including local bowling clubs. Members achieved success both locally and nationally. Gilmourton won the Matter of Opinion competition, showcasing members' talent. Regular events such as the quiz and Ruralympics were also held, and members participated in the wider SWI Ruralympics and bowls competitions. Monthly craft classes and Rural Rambles have been popular among members, and a successful double demonstration day and a de-stash day were both well attended. A local viewing of the Vaughan Nash competition featured 53 entries!

MIDLOTHIAN

Midlothian Federation had a productive year, providing a table showcase at the National Conference and entering the Vaughan Nash competition. The Federation organised activities, including an Evelyn Baxter temari balls class and demonstrations on pancake making and mocktail making.

MORAY & NAIRN

Moray & Nairn Federation was active at both national and local levels, hosting events such as ten pin bowling, quizzes, destash/tabletop sales, and craft group meetings. Members engaged in diverse activities including the North Neighbours project, skill tests, and wider charity work. Cranloch Institute's rich history was celebrated at its centenary, too.

ORKNEY

During 2023, Orkney Federation made plans to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2024, organising exhibitions, garden displays, and celebratory meals. The aim was to offer more skills classes to members, beginning with a quilting class in March 2024. Proceeds from property sales are earmarked for members' benefit, including skills development.

PEEBLESSHIRE

Peeblesshire had a series of events, including a bulb show, participation in the Peebles Agricultural Show, and a day trip to Dumfries House. These activities provided opportunities for members to socialise and explore new interests.

PERTH & KINROSS

Perth & Kinross Federation organised a range of classes and events, from Evelyn Baxter classes to heritage crafts such as willow weaving classes, trips to Oban and fashion shows. Members enjoyed engaging activities including corn dolly making and Christmas demonstrations, showcasing their diverse interests and talents.

RENFREWSHIRE

Renfrewshire Federation organised various activities including craft days, online quizzes, social lunches, and outdoor sports competitions. Members actively participated in a variety of regional events and competitions.

ROSS-SHIRE & SUTHERLAND

Ross-shire & Sutherland Federation hosted shows, quizzes, and fundraising events throughout the year. Members planned additional shows for 2024 and planned Ruralympics and golf competitions. The Federation remained active in promoting local crafts and engaging people at community events.

ROXBURGHSHIRE

Roxburghshire Federation focused on consolidating its activities following previous Institute closures. Members engaged in walks, indoor sports, and craft activities, including a successful Spring Rally. Members also participated in external events such as the Royal Highland Show's Scottish Handcraft

Championship and local agricultural and flower shows. Plans are under way for a centenary celebration.

SC&WP

Stirling, Clackmananshire & West Perth Federation established a new management team to organise events. Members hosted diverse activities including floral art demonstrations, craft days, and try-a-craft sessions, engaging members in skills development and fundraising for wider charitable causes. The Federation enjoyed success in sports competitions and photography, reflecting its dynamic community.

SELKIRKSHIRE

Selkirkshire had a relatively quiet year but still engaged in various activities such as bowling competitions, temari balls classes, and proficiency tests. Members participated in the Vaughan Nash competition and AGM activities, showcasing their commitment to skill development in the community.

SHETLAND

Shetland Federation organised a range of events, from fabric journal classes to Rural Rambles and online auctions. Members participated in shows, lunches, and exhibitions.

STEWARTRY OF KIRCUDBRIGHT

Stewartry of Kirkcudbright Federation had a busy year with diverse activities including craft classes, Rural Rambles, and bowling competitions. Members hosted social events such as a Christmas quiz and actively participated in regional competitions, reflecting a vibrant and engaged community spirit.

WEST LOTHIAN

West Lothian Federation organised a variety of events, including international nights, bowling competitions, and cookery demonstrations. Members engaged in social activities including fashion shows and intergenerational Junior Dippers sessions.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

Wigtownshire Federation organised numerous events in their community, including walking groups, craft classes, and celebrations for centenaries.