

Federations Annual Report 2024

Aberdeenshire Federation

The federation received a £20,000 grant for the lottery to help us with our activities for 2 years.

In May 2025, we will be hosting Country comes to Town in Inverurie. We will have displays from Institutes and members. The Friday will be for set up and judging and on Saturday, we will be open to the public to show off the work of members and providing tea and coffee.

Will be hosting 2 evening events of Fish and Chips with a bingo and quiz and 1 quiz evening.

In the office, we are working to make our admin more streamlined and how best we can support the institutes.

We will share our success and learnings to help other Federations.

Angus Federation

Angus Federation has had a busy and eventful year, filled with competitions, social gatherings, and sporting activities. In November, a well-attended quiz night raised significant funds, followed by a festive Christmas Singalong in December. February brought anticipation for the Matter of Opinion event and the start of sporting competitions.

Sporting activities remain popular, with curling thriving thanks to Forfar's ice rink. Golf competitions continue to draw interest, with an event scheduled for March. Indoor bowling is active, and members have also explored walking netball and pickleball. A highlight was the Ruralympics, where Angus hosted the National Competition, welcoming 18 teams from across Scotland.

April will see the ACWW walk and the highly anticipated Federation Show at Reid Hall, Forfar, a major event featuring over a thousand entries. Handcrafts and Homeskills continue to flourish with five winter meetings, skills schools, and competitions.

Several institutes celebrated milestone anniversaries, marking over 100 years of activity. Efforts to establish Junior Dippers received HQ funding and venue support but are currently on hold due to illness. Despite this, Angus Federation remains vibrant and committed to engaging its members in diverse and enriching activities.

Argyll Federation

Argyll held a Biennial Federation Show in Campbeltown in April 2024. Members from across Argyll took part with many staying overnight in the area. After the business meeting of our AGM in June we held a buffet lunch for members to give everyone a chance to get to know each other and to catch up with old friends. Our institutes are extremely far apart so we don't often get the chance to meet up. Two Evelyn Baxter classes were held, one in Oban and the other in Whitehouse. These were well attended and enjoyed by members across the federation.

In November Lochgilphead institute celebrated their 95th anniversary. They had a letter of congratulations from our area MSP who lodged a motion in the Scottish Parliament to recognise it.



All our institutes hold different activities throughout the year, coffee mornings, trips out, hands on craft sessions, talks and demonstrations. They all celebrated Christmas with meals out or trips to a pantomime.

Our next Biennial show in Ardrishaig will be April 2026.

Ayrshire Federation

Edible Decorating & Garnishing 12, Calligraphy Class 20, Evelyn Baxter Dressmaking 8, Stadium Bowling 27, Carpet Bowling 48, Inter Institute Quiz 80, Outdoor Bowling 30, Ruralympics 72, Federation Day 102, Protection online scams 80, Wood Turning Class 4. Future Events: Federation Biannual Trip, Using Air Fryer Demonstration, Cocktail. Mocktail Masterclass, Ayr County Show, Outdoor Bowling, Flowers & Favours Demonstration Day, Federation Day

Berwickshire Federation

The Federation along with the H & H have had a busy year with meetings which involved a variety of different demonstrations and talks. We continue as a Federation to support our members as much as possible where the need arises. Members have been involved in judging and demonstrating at various other events such as Flower Shows, local Agricultural Shows and at our own Institutes.

We continue to engage with our local Federations within our area at events and classes. We continue to have representatives in the Curling and Green Bowling competitions, and we also have our Carpet Bowling Competition which then goes to South-east Area to compete with members from various other Federations. We take part in the Evelyn Baxter Classes. We hold a Carol Concert at Christmas and the money raised goes to a local charity. Our next big event is our Federation Show which is in April. We are always looking at ways on how to promote the Organisation and to attract new members to join us.

Dumfriesshire Federation

Annual Federation competitions in carpet bowling (pairs and triples), short mat and outdoor bowling, golf, curling, and darts have taken place. In the absence of a national Curling Bonspiel, we hosted a Fun Day event with neighbouring Federations and local clubs. We also hosted the Southern Counties Carpet Bowling Competition, which Dumfriesshire won, and one of our Outdoor Green Bowling teams was successful at the National level.

The annual Ruralympics event was well-supported, with two teams advancing to compete in the National competition. The Evelyn Baxter class in dressmaking was enjoyed, with an additional day also well-supported. Both Spring and Autumn walks were enjoyed, and our competitions included the annual Federation quiz, syllabus competition, and two Federation competitions.

Our 'Variations on a Theme' team rose to the challenge and was delighted to win the National competition. Social activities included Line Dancing and Scottish Country Dancing. A "Hints and Tips" afternoon was held in preparation for our Federation Show in May 2025. Our judging skills have been in high demand at Federation and Country Shows.



There have been Group and Institute anniversary celebrations, but sadly, the Glencairn and Johnstonebridge Institutes have closed. Members attended, both in person and on Zoom, the gathering in Edinburgh to focus on preventing further closures, and we were pleased to see May MacCormick shortlisted for the Outstanding Member of the Year Award at that event.

The South-West Area lunch, the Heritage Event in Glasgow, and Summer School have all been well-supported by our members, and we are well-represented on various National level events. It's been a busy and successful year, and we look forward to 2025.

Dunbartonshire Federation

Dunbartonshire Federation held a Quiz Night on 24 March 2024, followed by the Federation Show on 4 May 2024. In May, Susie Finlayson provided Crewel Embroidery Classes. Our Summer Meeting in June was open to all Institutes, and three members attended the Summer School. The Milig Institute began their monthly Junior Dippers sessions in July.

The National Bowling Competition, hosted by Dunbartonshire Federation, took place at Helensburgh on 26 August 2024. Two teams also participated in the National Ruralympics in Kirriemuir on 5 October 2024. In November, Susie Finlayson provided Blackwork Embroidery Classes and Jessie Meikle provided a Basic Dressmaking class in December.

Our members also contributed by judging at other Federation Shows. Looking ahead to 2025, plans include Cove and Kilcreggan celebrating their 75th anniversary, modern calligraphy and crochet classes, a summer trip to the Botanic Gardens in Dollar, tests for Proficiency Certificates, and the possibility of establishing a new Institute in Dumbarton.

East Lothian Federation

East Lothian Federation hosted a Quiz in March 2024, followed by a Chinese painting class in May, which was a new and enjoyable venture for those who participated. In June, Longniddry SWI organised a coffee morning, craft show, and a guided walk around Longniddry, inviting all East Lothian Institute members to join. This event provided a wonderful opportunity for members to gather, share ideas, and exchange experiences. In December, Longniddry SWI held their annual Christmas Craft Fair, continuing the tradition of celebrating the festive season with the community.

Fife Federation

Ten Executive Committee Meetings were held in 2024. Federation President Jane Smith, Secretary Doreen Cuthbert, and Treasurer Catherine Williamson met with Institutes ahead of their designated events.

Due to low footfall and committee availability, the Freuchie office now opens only on Executive meeting mornings. The Secretary manages emails and administration from home, with the President able to access remotely. Printing for brown envelopes was completed in-office. Online submission of formal forms has been well received, though postal submission remains available. Many members continue to disregard deadlines and nil responses.



Two Federation meetings took place in May and November, covering local and national SWI discussions and decisions. Some Institutes closed in 2024, including Carnbee, Kilrenny, Aberdour, and Dalgety Bay, with no new groups formed or amalgamations.

Regular newsletters and emails keep members informed and engaged. As not all members are online, information is also shared via Institute Secretaries. Handcraft classes were successful, and the quiz sheet remains popular, alongside the annual quiz night. The Newburgh Coffee Morning and Autumn Afternoon Tea were well-attended and financially beneficial. The four-corner taster event will return in 2025 with improvements.

Fife Federation was represented at the Ruralympics by Abdie. The Federation Show in May at Cupar Corn Exchange saw record participation, with afternoon tea attracting additional support. There was no presence at the Fife Agricultural Show, and Junior Dippers was not revived.

The Area Lunch in Stirling allowed members to meet in person, strengthening connections. Federation leaders have since met informally with peers. Members judged and stewarded at shows and supported fundraisers, including raffles and sales. Marsha Adams continues her role on the Skills and Events Committee, while Catherine Williamson joined the HQ Finance Committee.

Pam Goodwin is an Evelyn Baxter Class scholar in macramé. Joyce MacRae was placed 4th for the Margaret Whiteford Award, a first for Fife Federation. Several Institutes celebrated centenaries or milestones with special events. Members also attended funerals to honour those who passed away.

Isle of Arran Federation

The Island institutes have been decreasing. At the end of 2024, another institute held no meetings and collected no subscription and is on the point of closing. On an island which has a large investment in tourism, the number of houses converted to holiday homes and holiday renting accommodation continues to increase, leaving many villages with a very small number of permanent residents. The institute which is going to close very soon is in one such village. Our last closure just after COVID was also for this reason.

Despite this, three institutes remain, but numbers overall are down.

The Federation had a presence at the local Farmers' Show and at an event organised by our local voluntary service organisation, where we promoted membership. However, our annual show has been discontinued, as with only 54 members overall, many who do not do crafts or baking, we are unable to produce a viable show given also the cost of a venue and the commitment required from members able to support the show on the day.

We attended our South-West Area meeting during the year. 2025 is our Federation's centenary year and we hope to celebrate it. We are planning a "pop-up" display at our local museum to coincide with this event.

Our "Arran Village History" book which was originally written in the 1980s, revised in 2002, has been reviewed and updated and is nearly ready for publication.

Mid Lothian Federation



The Federation held five committee meetings throughout the year, along with two scheduled Federation meetings. Unfortunately, the AGM had to be rescheduled from November to January due to bad weather. This year, the format of the summer meeting was changed to a social event featuring entertainment by the Capital Concert Band Ensemble. The event was well-attended and enjoyed by all, leading to a decision to shift from formal meetings to more social gatherings.

Christmas craft sessions were held during the AGM, and business was kept to a minimum at both meetings, with reports distributed in advance. Our Federation Show, held in October, was a great success, receiving strong support from all our Institutes and members of the public. Although the number of entries was slightly lower than at our previous show in April 2024, the display of our members' skills was impressive, and we broke even financially. The main focus of the show was to showcase the talent and skills of our Midlothian members and promote the SWI.

Federation Committee members provided support and advice to help establish a new group in Newhaven. Although it took some time to form an organizing group, we look forward to Newhaven joining the Midlothian Federation soon. Midlothian Federation entered teams in both the Outdoor and Stadium Bowling Competitions. The H & H Committee hosted classes for members in Iris Folding and Kumihimo Braiding, while the Federation Committee held two Christmas workshops focusing on Flower Arranging (Table Centrepieces) and Christmas Crackers.

Planning is already underway for our next Federation Show in April 2026. It was also decided that, starting in January 2025, the Executive and H & H Committees will be amalgamated, with all Institutes being represented.

Moray and Nairn Federation

Three Federation meetings and AGM, Annual Federation quiz in March, Food & Flowers show in Elgin in June.

Members judged at shows for Aberdeenshire and Banffshire Federations and also at Nairn Farmers Show.

In September, we held an Evelyn Baxter two-day class. In January, the Federation organized a Ten Pin Bowling outing. The craft group met seven times throughout the year, offering a variety of classes, including papercraft, Tunisian crochet, Blackwork, tatting, and Christmas wreath making. Additionally, two members have been teaching basic sewing skills to a Primary 3-4 class. Meanwhile, two Executive Committee members have begun recording members' verbal recollections as part of the national heritage project.

Orkney Federation

In 2024 members took part in Federation shows – Handicraft, gardening and baking shows.

2024 was also Orkney Fed Centenary year and both the federation and branches held celebrations for members to attend. The federation organised a celebratory meal in June 2024 and organised a display of craft/ SWI items from members at the local museum in from Sept – Dec 2024. A floral display was organised in conjunction with two other local charities and funds raised for the display were divided between all three organisations. Photos and articles were also included in the local newspaper and radio.



In July some members also judged competitions at Caithness SWI competitions

Members enjoyed a mini art quilt class, and it was duly noted by the federation when members requested more classes to be organised by the federation in the future. In response to this in 2025 we have a 3 days 3d decoupage class in June 2025, a cookery demonstration in Sept and a taster/ fun session for members with an interest in knowing/ playing indoor carpet bowls.

The federation has revised its SWI information leaflet. This is currently at the printers and will be ready to circulate to public libraries and shops by March 2025. It is hoped this will attract new members to the SWI.

Orkney is also looking to host federation meetings via zoom/ hybrid meetings in the future. This is in recognition of members who cannot always attend meetings in person.

Peeblesshire Federation

In 2023/2024 the Committee of Peebles-shire Federation met every couple of months to discuss Institute matters, offer ideas and advice about how to expand membership and shared information from Head Office.

We also undertook to organise the 'Industrial Tent' at the Peebles Agricultural Show in August - this has traditionally been run & organised by the Federation but over the last 2 years we have been in conversation with the Agricultural Show Committee for them to take over the running of the tent. Last year competition entries were down on the year before & it was felt that the amount of work could be shared by the Show Committee.

The ever-popular Spring Show (formerly called the Bulb Show) was held in March and was very well attended by Institute members as well as members of the public. It's always a great occasion to catch up on news and admire the handiwork of our members.

Perth and Kinross

The Federation has hosted a fundraising concert with Perth Rock Choir and a quiz. We held the finals of the federation Ruralympics. The team went forward to the national finals. An evening of Tenpin Bowling with over 40 members taking part.

We held a successful Federation Show.

A Promotional Table at Perth Show was maned for the duration of the show.

A federation meeting was held in May but due to a yellow weather warning the November meeting was postponed and will take place in March 2025.

Classes: - Our Skills and Events organised a one-day course on Tunisian Crochet.

A two-day course on Book folding where a member from Moray and Nairn came and shared her skills. Two Evelyn Baxter Courses on basic dressmaking were held in September and October. A Christmas Demo Day was organised with a demonstration of parcel wrapping techniques in the morning and hands on craft activities in the afternoon. Representatives from the Groups who won



their heat competed in the annual Elizabeth Gardiner Competition. The theme was Play your Card Right. A Federation Craft Group has been started where members get the opportunity to try out different crafts, eg embroidered biscornu and a Temari ball.

Our Rural walkers meet regularly.

We have celebrated two of 100th Birthday Parties, a 90th and 95th Birthday Party with the Institutes.

We meet every 3 months with our Area Office Bearers to organise future events within the Area.

Renfrewshire Federation

We thoroughly enjoyed attending various Federation events throughout the year, including social lunches, spring and winter craft days, the annual walk, annual outing, Ruralympics, and the four meetings held annually.

Our participation extended to National events, such as Outdoor Bowling, the Photo Competition, Study Tour, Summer School, Evelyn Baxter – Tamari Balls, and the Creative Crafts Stand. Locally, we took part in the Kilbarchan Show, Houston Agricultural Show, and Kilmacolm Show, and visited other Federations for events like the Dumbartonshire Federation Show, Lanarkshire, and Largs.

Additionally, we were honoured to be asked to judge at several events, including those held by the Ayrshire Federation, although we unfortunately don't have enough judges to assist everyone. Houston & Crosslee also had the opportunity to judge at the Lochwinnoch Show.

For Institute events, we collected Christmas gifts for Erskine Home, hosted a supper and raised funds for McMillan Nurses, visited Parklea Branching Out, and enjoyed meals out together. Our members also volunteered at the Bridge (community hub), decorated Christmas trees for local churches as part of the Christmas Tree Festival and contributed to many other community-focused activities.

Ross-shire and Sutherland Federation

The Federation held 2 Federation Meetings in person and 2 Executive Committee Meetings by Zoom. Bulb & Floral Art Show in March 2024 and Handcraft & Baking Show in May 2024.

Sports activities by members included Federation Ruralympics Competition held in June 24 - the winner's, a team from Resolis, competed at the National Final in October 2024 and were the winners.

We circulated newsletters and diaries to Institutes in January, March and September 2024. Additionally, email updates were sent throughout the year.

Special Features in 2024 involved a Christmas evening at a local Garden Nursery in November 2024.

We also started a SWI Junior Dippers Craft Class for children ages 7 to 14 in September 2024.

Roxburghshire



Roxburghshire celebrated our 100th birthday in 2024 with our two main events being our Centenary Afternoon Tea in June and Centenary Show in October. Both events were well supported by members across the Federation and attracted local press coverage.

We held an indoor bowling afternoon in March with the winning rink going forward to the South East area event later that month. The Evelyn Baxter Dressmaking weekend in April was attended by members from both Roxburghshire and Selkirkshire and we also joined forces with Selkirkshire to help with their craft day in November.

Our annual Spring Rally in May was very well attended and we raised £263 for local Guide Dogs volunteers on the night. Throughout the year we have been encouraging members to look for old minute books, photos and other items of memorabilia to be added to the SWRI / SWI Collection held in the Borders Archive in Hawick. There has been a great response and hopefully the collection will form the basis of a research project in the future.

Selkirkshire Federation

We have had a quiet year altogether.

All 5 Institutes continue to meet monthly with a variety of craft nights and talks. 2 members joined Roxburghshire members for the Evelyn Baxter class as we had insufficient to hold our own. 3 members took H& H home-skills courses-Knitting, Fabric boxes and Embroidery. All gained 1st class certificates. 1 member attended the summer school willow class and enjoyed it very much.

We created a Facebook page for the Federation to spread news on Institutes activities and an effort to increase numbers. In November 24 we held a 1-day free craft class. Crafty Capers was very successful with members from the federation and Roxburgh federation taking the classes. Decoupage candles, Needle-felting, Crotchet, Fascinators and many more. Lunch was included. Members of the public attended as well. We had leaflets on SWI activities, and a number expressed interested in joining. We had a De Stash table which was successful and raised a good amount for charity which was split between Cancer Research and McMillan nurses.

We are having a Federation Show in May 2025 and are busy with the arrangements for this at the present time.

SC&WP

In 2024, the Management Team and Executive each met four times, with one Executive meeting followed by a lunch at the venue. Area-wide Federation meetings were held in April and November. Due to declining attendance at the April meeting, it will be reimagined as a Spring Social in 2025 with a new format aimed at encouraging better participation.

Past Presidents and Office Bearers attended a coffee morning to help identify photos and individuals in preparation for our Centenary celebrations. This proved invaluable in organising our photo archives. The Evelyn Baxter class was a great success, with one participant saying, "I didn't know what to expect, but I learned more in 2 days than I ever thought I would."

With increased costs and reduced use since the broadband and phone were removed during COVID, it was decided to close our office when the lease ends on 31st December 2024. Member-led workshops in fabric wreath-making and beginner crochet were popular and well attended.

We had a successful fundraising stall serving tea, coffee, and pancakes at World Textile Day in May. SC&WP hosted the Area Lunch with 67 attendees. We supported the formation of Falkirk SWI and celebrated several members' successes at the Royal Highland Show. Dollar Institute proudly won the Stoneycreek Trophy

Shetland Federation

We had two competitions at the Spring Federation Meeting, the first for four empire biscuits and the second was to make four 4" squares in either knitting or crochet. With over 200 there were plenty to be donated for making blankets.

At the Autumn Federation the competition was for a Christmas Card. We are very much community based and had a successful summer tea event this year supported by the local community. We had our annual rural ramble in June this year - Boddam provided a lovely program which was well advised given the weather that day. It didn't bother those in attendance who had a wonderful day exploring a different part of the isles. There were dinner and lunch dates at various locations throughout the year which were a fantastic opportunity to meet friends and make new ones.

We had our biannual Autumn show supported by both members and the wider community. This was a great showcase to highlight the wealth of knowledge and talent of our members. Especially in the areas of knitwear and needlework. There really were outstanding exhibits. Members very well supported our 2-night residential craft weekend. One of our own members delivered a lovely upcycling workshop which produced some lovely items.

Stewartry of Kirkcudbright Federation

Our members continued to judge at various Shows, throughout the year, also competing in National Competitions, and at agricultural & various flower shows, also at the Royal Highland Show. Nineteen teams took part in the Ruralympics. The winners taking part in the National Ruralympics hosted by Angus Federation. We held our Spring Show in March. Line dancing class in May, held on one of the hottest days of the year. On the 18th & 19th May two of our members attended an Evelyn Baxter 2-day basic dress making class with Wigtownshire federation.

Fun bingo night at the end of May. Had two tables at the Stewartry Agricultural Show in July. One a Sales table, the other table for different competitions. In June we had a Bucket Drumming class for two hours, twenty-six ladies took part. Craft day in October, thirty ladies took part learnt four different crafts. Craft fayre held in November, well supported. December, our annual quiz, nineteen teams took part, had hot mince pies and shortbread, with tea or coffee, and a super raffle.

Various Rural rambles from April to October, held by different Institutes throughout the Stewartry. The Executive committee met six times, and once on Zoom through adverse weather. There were joint meetings of Executives, with Federation delegates & H&H Delegates, one meeting with Executives & Federation Delegates & one Meeting with

Executives & H&H delegates

West Lothian Federation

In January the speakers for the International Evening were SWI members who had attended the ACWW Conference in Malaysia. Their presentation, followed by a light buffet prepared by committee members.

Members enjoyed fun and competitive sessions of 10-pin bowling and Ruralympics. Lucy Simpson hosted a craft class where participants learned the art of creating smocked cushions. Christine Barton arranged a Floral Art class, tutored by Alison Redmond, where members could learn floral arranging skills. Linda McTurk came and demonstrated Easter cooking and super dishes. Some members went to see 'Calendar Girls' in Livingston.

The Annual General Meeting saw the election of a new secretary and treasurer.

In June, the President attended the National Conference with other members who set up a table of crafts, demonstrating the creative talents within the federation.

On October 6, the Federation Show featured numerous entries from members and attracted many visitors.

Several of our members attended the Office Bearer gathering in Edinburgh.

The Entertainment Evening at the Bathgate Royal British Legion featured guest artiste Susan Broadfoot. The evening followed with a light buffet, providing a delightful mix of entertainment and social interaction.

The Dippers continue to thrive, with the girls enjoying a variety of craft activities.

Wigtownshire Federation

The walking group meets monthly, offering walks of varying lengths, some of which are wheelchair-friendly. We hosted a cookery demonstration by Jane Hogg and a Bingo night, both of which were open to the public as part of our efforts to recruit new members.

Thirteen ladies attended the Evelyn Baxter 2-day class, and members participated as judges at neighbouring Federation shows, YF Handcrafts at RHS, and local shows. Elizabeth participated in the Handcraft Championships at RHS. We also organised a range of fun events, including bowling, Ruralympics, curling, and a papercraft class. Additionally, we hosted the Southwest Get Together, with six members attending Summer School, and held a very successful Federation Show.