

Scottish Women's Institutes Member news

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Welcome to your member newsletter - Issue No 4

We hope you are enjoying this new way of keeping you abreast of all the latest news and developments at the SWI.

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Thank you for all your support.

Annual General Meeting: The time for change

A focus on change and transformation was the theme at the Scottish Women's Institutes Annual General Meeting on Saturday 28th May 2022.

In her address to 160 members, SWI President Anne Kerr explained how COVID has significantly contributed to the decline in membership levels across Scotland, and the importance of making changes to the organisation now if we are to survive for future generations.

Members had the opportunity to ask questions during the online meeting which sparked a lively discussion about the draft strategy currently under consultation with members. We then heard from auditor Kenny McDowell, who presented the 2021 annual accounts and reinforced the strategic concern of membership decline.

To conclude the formal part of the AGM business, Anne announced the trophy winners from the Federation Annual Reports for 2021 as:

- **Barbara Brookshire Trophy** - Kingsmuir Institute, Angus Federation
- **Stoneycreek Trophy** - Thornhill institute, Dumfriesshire Federation

We were then delighted to be joined by our guest speaker Pinar Asku from [Maryhill Integration Network in Glasgow](#), who provided a fascinating talk about the community work and creative activities they are doing to ensure much-needed support for asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants. We look forward to exploring potential working with Maryhill Integration Network in Glasgow.

Our newly designed annual general meeting included a membership panel session, led by a group of members from across Scotland's institutes. Each group member gave a 5-minute presentation about their institute's successes, from fundraising applications to sourcing funding and embracing change - a positive end to the event.

We wish to thank all who generously helped make this event possible; our facilitators, speakers, and of course all the members who took the time to attend and participate.

If you missed the event, you could watch the event in full by clicking on the link and using the passcode:

Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/z4dMcZkolUKxY6oA0lev_8jgkO97sUUr7s6yhxWViaObvKYSrDNOsaE4Zqjivs5l.LEiN3vCGWAEsEzSx?startTime=1653728149000

Passcode: K&ukAn=0

Also, due to time constraints, there were some unanswered questions, so we have answered them separately in the link here ([link](#))

Alternatively, if you would like to carry on the conversation, or have any questions, please get in touch by emailing: future@theswi.org.uk and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Call to Members: Expressions of interest required

In light of the curator's visit from the National Museums of Scotland in April, we would like to reach out to SWI members who may be interested in helping with the curation and development of an inventory of SWI's collection of historic artefacts and items that are located in Heriot Row, Edinburgh. Having a full up-to-date inventory of our collection is essential to future proof our heritage.

Over the decades, we have collected various items such as historic loan boxes filled with examples of exquisite craftwork, books, magazine archive, royal memorabilia, photos, slides, and many important documents that all need to be curated and protected for the future.

We would like to establish an SWI member project group that has the time, expertise, knowledge and possibly memories of these items, to start developing a detailed inventory. This inventory will help with knowing what we have, tracking our items and creating an aide-memoire of our collection. It also provides important information should we decide to develop or exhibit our collection in the future.

As part of the first phase, we are looking for up to 10 members who will be available to attend Edinburgh HQ over the summer week of 18th - 22nd July 2022 to take part in this project led by SWI President Anne Kerr.

In particular, we are looking for members to fulfil the following roles:

- Organise, categorise, and inspect objects
- Number and name objects
- Descriptions and background to objects
- Label objects
- Photograph objects
- Complete object entry forms on laptop
- Wrap and package objects
- Store objects

If you would like to express interest in being involved in this project, please email us detailing your knowledge, experience and expertise to future@theswi.org.uk no later than June 17th 2022. We will cover members' expenses as part of the project.

We look forward to receiving expressions of interest and please be reassured as we have a limited number of places for this phase, there will be future opportunities to get involved in a wider member working group focusing on future phases such as the future development of the collection.

Have your say in changing the future together

As a declining membership and the effects of the pandemic have had a significant impact on the organisation, the Board of Scottish Women's Institutes has developed a new draft strategy which sets out an ambitious proposal for the next three years. Now it's over to you so we can change the future together.

The draft strategy can be found

[https://www.theswi.org.uk/images/MEMBER%20AREA/Add%20March%202022/SWI%20Draft%20Strategic%20Plan%202022-25_compressed%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.theswi.org.uk/images/MEMBER%20AREA/Add%20March%202022/SWI%20Draft%20Strategic%20Plan%202022-25_compressed%20(1).pdf)

and it is accompanied by a membership survey which will run to July 20.

We would like to encourage all members – and lapsed members – to use this opportunity to let us know what you would like to keep, change, develop and enjoy. We have created various ways for you to access the membership survey, so please choose the best option for you...

1. Online

<https://researchresource.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/t2m52x>

This is the best way to get your response in quickly and easily. *The completed survey will be automatically sent to Response Resource.*

2. In-person group meeting

<https://researchresource.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/t2m52x>

Some members may wish to meet as a group to tell us what they think, so we have created a digital form (word format) for multiple responses. Some Federations are offering support to facilitate a group meeting so please ask your Federation Secretary if this is available. *Completed group surveys should then be emailed to Lorna.shaw@researchresource.co.uk*

3. Proxy voting

If you would like someone to fill out an online survey on your behalf your local SWI Digital Champion will be able to assist with this. Please ask your Federation Secretary to put you in touch with your nearest Digital Champion or get in touch with HQ. *The completed survey will be automatically sent to Response Resource.*

4. In-magazine

The next issue of Women Together will have the draft strategy and survey printed in full. These pages can also be photocopied and shared with others to fill in if need be. *Completed surveys should be mailed to Research Resource Scotland Limited, 10 Lake Avenue, Lanark ML11 9BQ*

5. Printed copies

Printed copies of the survey will be available on special request from SWI headquarters. Please email your address to hello@theswi.org.uk and add 'Survey' in the subject line. *Completed surveys should then be mailed to Research Resource Scotland Limited, 10 Lake Avenue, Lanark ML11 9BQ*

We will report on member responses at the end of July 2022, so please make sure you participate in changing the future together.

Book an evening of discovery with Professor June Andrews...on 16th June at 7pm

As part of our new SWI wellbeing online events: Nursing and dementia expert Professor June Andrews will talk about the highs and lows of becoming carers to loved ones.

June will talk about her latest book, *Caring and Carers*, in an entertaining and informative way, basing everything on the latest research in the field.

About June June made ambitious things happen during her decade directing Stirling's Dementia Services Development Centre. She heightened public and professional awareness of the practical things you can do to make life better for people with dementia. Now she works independently to improve the lives of people with dementia and their carers and care workers.

June serves on the board of the Target Healthcare REIT, and is adviser to the Dementia Services Development Trust. She has been recognised by Fellowship of the Royal College of Nursing, the highest honour awarded to nurses in the UK who have made an exceptional contribution to health care, and she supports other health and social care teams as a coach and mentor. Her books on dementia have been in the Amazon bestsellers lists for up to ten weeks at a time

Because of her considerable achievements as a nurse leader, she received the Chief Nursing Officers' Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012. In 2013 she was listed in the Health Services Journal as one of the fifty most inspirational women in health care and separately as one of the 100 most influential clinicians in England.

In 2016 she was awarded the OBE and in 2017 made a Fellow of the City and Guilds Institute of London, and in 2020 completed a degree in Law from the University of Edinburgh.

In 2021 she achieved her Expert Witness Certificate from the University of Aberdeen.

To book your place, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/whats-on-66729>

Stitched with love campaign

We have begun distributing the beautiful items members have been making for the stitched with love appeal. Thank you to all of our talented ladies – from as far afield as Orkney to the Borders and Aberdeenshire to Uist – who have been busy making bears, dolls and blankets for the displaced women and children fleeing war in Ukraine.

Over the next few weeks, we are delivering the handcrafted delights around the country but as there have been delays in people reaching Scotland, we made the decision to also send some items to Poland and Ukraine where people are in the most desperate need.

We recently visited Leisa Davidson who heads up the collection hub at Glasgow University and, as a Ukrainian herself, she was delighted to receive the handcrafted gifts. If you would like to watch Leisa's message,

visit: <https://www.facebook.com/ScottishWomensInstitutes/videos/1168074207361907>

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to our Stitched With Love appeal – it's amazing what we can achieve together.

Dates for your Diary

16th June - Carers and Caring: Part of our Wellbeing online guest speaker events
<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/whats-on-66729>

21st June - Introduction to SWI for potential members
<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/whats-on-66729>

23-26th June - Royal Highland Show, Ingliston, if you are interested in being a steward, please get in touch

12th Sept - National Golf Competition

13th Sept - National Outdoor Bowling Competition

19-23rd Sept - ACWW European Conference, Glasgow

8th Oct - National Soloist/Duets and Choirs Competition

For further information visit our website events section www.theswi.org.uk

Thankyou