

FAQs from SWI Annual General meeting on 24th May 2025

Questions	Answers
<p>Q. Is anything done to support declining institutes before they close, and are members actively welcomed to nearby institutes?</p>	<p>Yes, support is always offered to Institutes that are finding things difficult before any decision is made to close. This often includes conversations and meetings with the local Federation, whose role is to help and guide Institutes in their area. While Central Office can offer advice and guidance, decisions around closure are local matters and are best handled in partnership with the Federation and the members involved.</p> <p>Central Office also supports the wider membership by providing practical resources, such as the Members' Toolkit at https://www.theswi.org.uk/events-news/your-member-toolkit.html. This is designed to help members promote individual institutes in their local area. The free-to-use promotional materials can be downloaded and used in communities and on social media to show what a valuable resource the SWI is for women across Scotland.</p> <p>At the recent AGM, the membership panel shared a real-life example of how Institutes are working together, sharing resources and hosting joint events, to help stay active and enjoy the core values of the SWI: friendship, learning, and fun.</p> <p>If an Institute does have to close, every effort should be made to ensure members feel warmly welcomed and included in nearby Institutes. Keeping in touch with the Federation throughout helps make the process smoother, and members are always encouraged to stay connected and continue enjoying being part of the wider SWI community.</p>
<p>Q. Could get more events up north e.g. golf?</p>	<p>Each year, Federations are invited to volunteer to host National sporting competitions. Their support is essential to make sure events can happen across Scotland. If you're based in the north and are interested in hosting a competition, please speak to your Federation and ask them to let the Events Team at Central Office know. The more Federations that get involved, the more opportunities we can offer members to take part and enjoy these great events.</p>
<p>Q. How many individual members do we have?</p>	<p>8,700 (as of November 2024).</p>

<p>Q. At the last Treasurer's meeting, we discussed the fact that some members of institutes are refusing to pay the full amount of the SWI membership fee but still consider themselves members of our organisation. Is this correct?</p>	<p>For clarification, the SWI membership fee is a set amount agreed each year and applies to all members. This fee helps cover the running costs of the organisation and allows us to continue offering support, resources, and opportunities across Scotland.</p> <p>We understand that times can be challenging, but to remain a member of the SWI and enjoy the benefits that come with it, the full membership fee must be paid. We kindly ask all Federations and Institutes to make this clear to members.</p> <p>Thank you for your understanding and continued support in working towards a sustainable future.</p>
<p>Q. How can we can join or create a virtual group meeting and how do the pay fees?</p>	<p>A big thank you to our guest speaker from the NFWI! We're happy to explore the idea of setting up a virtual institute here in Scotland and would love to hear from anyone who's interested. Please get in touch with us to chat more about how this could work for the SWI. Email hello@theswi.org.uk.</p> <p>In the meantime, for a bit of inspiration, you can watch the NFWI virtual institutes video here. https://www.thewi.org.uk/join-and-support-us/become-a-wi-member/virtual-wis</p>
<p>Q. When will we know the theme for the 2026 Vaughan Nash competition?</p>	<p>The Skills and Events Committee meets every month and will be discussing the Vaughan Nash competition theme at their June meeting. Once it's agreed, the theme will be shared with all members in the June e-newsletter. This gives everyone a full year to start planning and working on their entries, we're excited to see what members create!</p>
<p>Q. Will there be online training for members who want to be Heritage digital volunteers, but can't travel to Edinburgh or Glasgow?</p>	<p>Yes, absolutely! We'll offer an online training sessions to support volunteers. This will guide you through the task and clearly explain what's involved and how you can help. We're excited that members can take part in this digital volunteering, either as a group or individually. We're sure it will spark lots of memories, chat and laughter along the way!</p>
<p>Q. I would like to find out more about volunteering with SWI Junior Dippers groups.</p>	<p>Volunteers play a key role in bringing the Junior Dippers programme to life. Whether you're already involved with a group or interested in starting one, this is a great opportunity to share your skills and inspire the next generation. You can help organise fun, hands-on activities like baking, crafting, or cooking, support open days to raise awareness, or simply lend your time and enthusiasm to help young people discover the joy of learning new things. With funding available per project, now's the perfect time to get involved and make a difference in your community. Get in touch at hello@theswi.org.uk.</p>

