

Welcome to Issue 14 – Members' news

Blimey! It's a packed couple of months for the SWI – new Board members, new speakers announced for the SWI National Conference & Exhibition, and a whole load of new events on the horizon. Enjoy the ride...!

Meet SWI's new Board members

We are delighted to announce five new Trustees for the SWI Board who will be formally adopted at the SWI AGM on May 13th. The members, from all across Scotland, will be the voice of the membership and help to implement the Strategy and lead the SWI in the next exciting stage of its life as we head towards the creation of the Visitor Learning Centre.

The successful applicants all underwent a rigorous application and interview process with National President Anne Kerr and Immediate Past President Linda Retson joined by independent interviewer Andrew Tweedy of the Royal Society for the Support of Women in Scotland on the panel and incoming President Mary Burney observing.

- Sybil Stuart Fochabers and District SWI, Moray and Nairn Federation
- Jane Hogg Mouswald SWI, Dumfriesshire Federation
- Susie Finlayson Wilton Dean SWI, Roxburghshire Federation
- May Tosh Oban SWI, Argyll Federation
- Linda McTurk Lochrutton SWI, Stewartry Federation

These members will join Anne Kerr, Mary Burney, Joan Hutchinson, Linda Riddell and Karen Johnson who are remaining in post. The SWI would like to thank Dawn Endean, Aileen Cavers, Katie Wood and Anne Howat, who will be stepping down, for their dedication over the past three years.

All members are invited to the SWI AGM which will take place online on Saturday May 13th. Book your place here: bit.ly/3nSlngJ

Full schedule revealed: Women In Scotland – SWI National Conference and Exhibition 2023

15th-16th September | Perth | Tickets selling fast!

Things are shaping up for the new-look National Conference & Exhibition in Perth this September! We're delighted to reveal the full schedule of excellent speakers who will be addressing delegates in this two-day celebration of all things SWI. Book your place today to avoid disappointment!

Day 1

A day exploring friendship, heritage crafts and lifelong opportunities...

- **Inspirational Key Speaker** Mike Stevenson
- **Expert Key Speakers and Q&A** with Mary Lewis of Heritage Crafts, and Elaine Lindsay of Something Corny

- **Expert Key Speakers and Q&A** with Mark O'Donnell of Age Scotland and Dr Isabella Moore CBE, The Olderpreneur Alliance

7-9pm Family Evening Marketplace

Showcasing the SWI to Scotland with make & take sessions, demonstrations and an extra-special pop-up shop.

Day 2

A celebration of Scotland's homegrown talent...

- **Expert Key Speakers and Q&A** with Jen Hogg, star of *The Great British Sewing Bee* and Helen Vass, winner of *Great British Bake Off Creme de la Creme*
- **In conversation with** The Hebridean Baker, Coinneach MacLeod, star of ITV's *This Morning*

You'll find full details of the speakers and what they will be discussing on the new National Conference hub here: www.theswi.org.uk/wis2023/

Tickets are selling fast

More than 1,400 members have expressed an interest so far and tickets are being snapped up, so don't miss out!

Single day passes start at just £35 for members, £65 for non-members – and these passes include lunch and refreshments! Book your place here: bitly.ws/yqqb

Download your member toolkit

Let's all meet up, have fun and showcase the SWI to Scotland!

As Women In Scotland – SWI National Conference & Exhibition 2023 is a major highlight of this year's calendar, a members' toolkit has been developed to help everyone spread the word.

This event is open to all and there will be a Family Evening Market from 7-9pm on Friday 15th, so get sharing with friends and family who might love to come along for cookery and craft demonstrations, make & take sessions and kids' crafting with Perth & Kinross's Junior Dippers.

You'll find a range of posts for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter & LinkedIn here: bit.ly/3MoK090

Calling all Federation Secretaries...

After many requests for more raffle tickets to support the National Conference, Events and Admin Officer Charlotte has ordered more. If you would like to receive a bundle of tickets for members in your area please email hello@theswi.org.uk.

The raffle will be drawn at Women In Scotland – SWI National Conference & Exhibition 2023 and great prizes are currently being sourced by the National Conference committee. Tickets are just £1 each and the prizes are fab – you've got to be in it to win it!

The Royal Highland Show – could you be a steward?

Each year Scottish Women's Institutes collaborates with the Royal Highland Show to manage the Handcrafts Competition.

This is a 10-day labour of love for the Royal Highland Show committee and a huge amount of work goes on behind the scenes, for which we would like to thank all involved. Each year, the committee's first role is to create a theme and schedule for the year ahead, and this is then approved by the Royal Highland Show. You can see the schedule here: bit.ly/3KDi9Be

If you would like to be a steward at the event – and receive a free pass to the show – send an expression of interest to hello@theswi.org.uk. Stewards typically work for half a day and then have the rest of the day to explore the show.

Evelyn Baxter Scholarship 2023

Are you an experienced sewer? The Evelyn Baxter scholarship programme is now open for applications and this year's theme is Basic Dressmaking.

Two scholars are sought to learn how to teach members the basics of dressmaking and applications are invited to take part in a train the trainer session at SWI central office in Edinburgh from June 9th-10th. Scholars will then tour the country from January 2024 onward to share their skills with members.

Scholars receive free training, accommodation and travel expenses for the training session if selected. Applications will be considered by previous Evelyn Baxter scholar and H&H Vice Convenor Amanda Clark and H&H Convenor Liz Hay.

If you would like to apply to carry out this important strand of SWI's lifelong learning provision, email an expression of interest to hello@theswi.org.uk.

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Celebrity Showcase: Meet Bake Off's Peter Sawkins

30th May | Expert Talk | Online

If you want an insight into the behind the scenes of the Bake Off tent, have any baking questions, or are interested in how Peter is using his skills to inspire a new generation of chefs and bakers, this event is for you! If you know anyone that may be wanting to explore the kitchen then bring them along for this fun-filled session!

The event is FREE for members, £10 for non members. Book here: bit.ly/3Tkwdm1

Chocolate making masterclass – salted caramel & tempering

5th July | Skill Share Session | Online

Just in time for National Chocolate Day on July 7th, the SWI is hosting this fantastic tutorial with Finlay Macdonald, owner of Chocolates of Glenshiel, on how to make salted caramel chocolates.

This event is free for members, £5 for non-members. Book here: bit.ly/3zAc1mS

Straw Craft Course for Beginners

15th July & 19th August | In person | DCA, Dundee

Beginners and experienced crafters are invited to come along to this two-part course in straw work. This will be full of learning, fun and friendship, and be led by Elaine Lindsay of Something Corny. Straw work is one of Britain's traditional crafts and it has been practiced for hundreds of years and you will be helping to preserve it for future generations.

This 2-part workshop is £99 for members, £115 for non-members. Book here: bit.ly/40KB2rF

PLUS! Don't miss this upcoming health and wellbeing event

To HRT or not to HRT? with menopause expert Dr Heather Currie, Associate Specialist Gynaecologist at Dumfries & Galloway NHS. Date tbc, so subscribe to the SWI Eventbrite channel to make sure you don't miss updates on all future events here: bit.ly/3KiCrPd

Competitions update

Last call for Vaughan Nash entry forms!

Vaughan Nash

Deadline for entry forms 14th April

Institutes are invited to prepare entries to this year's Vaughan Nash competition which will be hosted at the Scottish Women's Institutes National Conference on 15th-16th September 2023. This year's theme is Christmas and entry forms can be found here: bit.ly/3LrBI5S

Matter of Opinion

15th April | In person | Banchory Town Hall

Join us for a highly competitive get together for the popular Matter of Opinion competition. Spectator tickets are available here: bit.ly/43fkXvU

Evelyn Baxter competition

Deadline for entry forms 26th May (completed entries June 30th)

This year the Evelyn Baxter Competition is open to all attendees of the 'Improving your basic knitting & finishing skills' class, taught by Evelyn Baxter scholar, Amanda Clark.

This year's article is **A Baby's V Neck Cardigan Size 16**. All entries will be displayed at our new-look National Conference in Perth Concert Hall on 15th-16th September. Details available here: bit.ly/415MwWI

Morgan Trophy competition

Deadline for entries 30th June

This competition is open to all SWI members. The chosen theme is **Hot or Cold Soup Recipes**. All entries will be displayed at our new-look National Conference in Perth Concert Hall on 15th-16th September. Details available here: bit.ly/415MwWI

Warnock Trophy competition

Deadline for entries 7th August

All members are invited to enter a short story (max 500 words) into the Warnock Trophy Competition. The theme is **A Childhood Memory** and all entries will be displayed at our new-look National Conference in Perth Concert Hall on 15th-16th September. Details available here: bit.ly/415MwWI

National Bowling competition

Deadline for entries 3rd July | Competition August 7th | Moray Bowling Club, Elgin

All members are invited to enter the competition – speak to your Federation Secretary or find details here: bit.ly/3zBWIdz

National Golf competition

Deadline for entries 17th July | Competition August 21st | Loudoun Gowf Club, Galston

All members are invited to enter the competition – speak to your Federation Secretary or find details here: bit.ly/40XIVIC

Get set for 2024!

Just a wee heads-up that the new SWI diary and calendar will soon be ready to order and Federation Secretaries will be invited to place bulk orders.

This year's colour is sunny orange with a gold foil trim – perfect for any handbag – and the calendar will feature fabulous views of Scotland's most beautiful places and spaces. Each will be £6 and make perfect gifts for yourself or friends and family.

The Edinburgh Remakery team is looking for tutors for its craft classes – could you help?

An award-winning environmental social enterprise based in Leith, the Edinburgh Remakery's mission is to put an end to waste by providing people and communities with the skills and opportunities to live more sustainably. If you would like to volunteer your time or become a tutor and be paid £20 per hour email hello@theswi.org.uk and your details will be passed on to the Remakery team.

Don't miss your member benefits

Do you want to access SWI events?

- Keep up-to-date with the exciting range of in-person and online events here: **bit.ly/3KiCrPd**
- Federation Secretaries will find a new hub for to information and how to book National Competitions here: **bit.ly/3KAB2ou**

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Do you want to receive this newsletter?

- Click here: **bit.ly/3ENy7EC** to subscribe to receive the latest news direct to your inbox! You won't be bombarded by spam. We are committed to keeping our members informed so your help makes all the difference!

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Do you want to join us on Facebook?

- **Our Facebook page** – Don't miss out, join us on Facebook and keep abreast of what's happening for the SWI and across the membership in Scotland. Follow us here: **bit.ly/3u7BDoM**
- **Our Facebook group** – This is where members share pics, recipes, news and more. Join the group here: **bit.ly/3u4tCAM**

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Do you want to receive event alerts?

Subscribe to SWI's Eventbrite page here: **bit.ly/3VhO652** and never miss a thing.

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Do you want general news?

Check in at **www.theswi.org.uk** for updates!

Thank you!