



Welcome to Issue 17 - Members' news

This is a print-friendly version of the Scottish Women's Institutes monthly member newsletter.

Scottish Women's Institutes was established in 1917 and is an inclusive and inspirational membership-based organisation. We are here to build an inclusive community, to have fun and form friendships, to campaign, to learn, to share and to socialise. We provide a platform for social activities and networking, and champion women's issues.

Find out more about us at **www.theswi.org.uk**

Scottish Women's Institutes is a registered Scottish Charity No. SC011901

Welcome to Issue 17!

In this special events edition you'll find a huge range of in-person and online events for you to enjoy over the next few months.

Our calendar for 2024 is also revealed, and this features the return of SWI Summer School and Study Tour, and a new Spring Shindig, too! The new Skills & Events committee is working on a programme for all of these in-person events but expressions of interest are invited now.

We have many online events for 2023 and 2024. Remember all of our online sessions are free for members. If you're not a member yet find out more about joining the SWI go to www.theswi.org.uk/join-the-swi

Our new address is:

SWI, Unit 8, 1 Carmichael Place, Edinburgh EH6 5PH.

Our phone numbers and email addresses remain the same:

hello@theswi.org.uk

0131 225 1724

In-person events

If you prefer to get hands on, then our new upcoming health & wellbeing events and craft workshops are worth a look! You can view them all www.theswi.org.uk/events-info/ or see below for some more detail about each carefully crafted event!

SWI Summer School 2024

Strathallan School, Perth | August 15-19

Save the date!

After a break due to the pandemic, we're delighted to announce Summer School is back!

What's on offer?

A variety of expert tutors across a range of handcrafts and activities – there will be something for everyone! The Skills & Events committee is currently considering options and a full schedule of three-day courses will be announced in November, but here's a sneak peek of what will be on offer...

3-day willow basket making workshop

Make a willow woven basket under the expert guidance of tutors Catherine Davies and Pascal Carr of Allaboutwillow. The pair are award-winning master basketmakers who have been making and teaching basketry for more than 25 years. The artisans work with opera, ballet, TV and film companies and are the basketmakers for the Outlander TV series.

3-day Shetland Lace Knitting workshop

Native Shetlander Elizabeth Williamson will take you through the basic stitches and techniques of Shetland lace knitting. You will be shown how to read lace charts and knit samples of Shetland lace, plus fix any mistakes! This workshop is suitable for a beginner skill level but it would be an advantage if participants had a little experience in knitting.

What's the schedule?

Thursday 15th August Arrive, settle in and enjoy an evening meal

- Friday 16th, Saturday 17th, Sunday 18th August Participate in your choice of three-day courses from 10am-4pm each day, then relax with fellow pupils in the school's beautiful grounds, library or swimming pool.
- Monday 19th Enjoy breakfast before heading home with a brand new skill to share!

About the location

Strathallan School is set in 153 acres of rural Perthshire and is an award-winning boarding school with comfortable, well appointed dorms and modern classrooms and facilities.

How much will it cost?

Costs including all tuition, single room accommodation and full board of breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Member rate £490, non-members £550.

Expressions of interest are required now, so please email hello@theswi.org.uk by October 31st if you wish to attend. A minimum of 60 participants is required to make this event go ahead. A full schedule will be announced in November and any bookings can be made then.

SWI Spring Shindig

The Crichton, Dumfries | March 23rd 2024

Save the date!

All members are invited to a dinner dance with a great band at The Crichton in Dumfries.

The event will be a great chance to learn a few new moves, too. Expert dance tutors will lead classes before the evening festivities. You can choose from:

- Salsa
- Line dancing

Costs will be approximately £65 per person. Accommodation is available separately at The Holiday Inn on the Crichton campus, or at the Premier Inn or Travelodge nearby, with room rates from £40-£130.

Expressions of interest are required now, so please email hello@theswi.org.uk by October 31st if you wish to attend as a minimum number of participants is required to make this event go ahead. A full schedule will be announced in November and any bookings can be made then.

Creative Crafts

SECC Glasgow | 26-29th October 2023

Join us at The Creative Craft Show in Glasgow next month – the whole show will have a Halloween theme and the CRAFT40 code will get you 40% discount on tickets – get tickets here: rb.gy/p42gj

Plus! We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join us at the event. If you would like to be considered as a 'member helper' and receive a FREE ticket to the show on the day of volunteering, get in touch!

Contact us at hello@theswi.org.uk to let us know your preferred day of choice and whether you would like a morning or an afternoon slot. We will be in touch to confirm all details.

Health & Wellbeing: Wild Swim & marshmallow bonfire

11am October 14th 2023 | Portobello Beach

If you have ever wanted to try wild swimming, why not do it with friends and have an expert show you the ropes and keep you safe! This October our wild swimming expert Maree Rudd, of Wild Swim Scotland. Maree will lead a supervised session to mark the end of summer. This will be followed by warming up around a bonfire with hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows – and maybe even a bit of cake!!

We will meet on at Groyne 5, Portobello Beach at 11am and you can choose to have a quick dook or take a short swim – whatever you're comfortable with.

Book to register to attend here: rb.gy/9v8le

Watch out for the next issue of Women Together, the SWI members' magazine – it will feature a full report from the Women In Scotland – SWI National Conference & Exhibition. Out early October!

A great range of online events

There is a programme of great online talks and demonstrations for members to enjoy. These are all free for members and are easy to sign up for – just a couple of clicks and you're there.

Skill Share: Cyanotype for beginners

Online event | October 5th | 7pm – 8pm

During this interactive session, SWI member Lynn Winpenny will guide you through the basics of cyanotype photography and teach you how to create stunning blue-toned prints using just sunlight and simple materials. No prior experience is required, as we'll cover everything from preparing the chemicals to exposing and developing your prints.

This event is free for members, £5 for non-members. Book here: rb.gy/7xi7y

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Health & Wellbeing: Skincare masterclass: Age Without Apology

Online event | October 19th | 7pm-8pm

The SWI has teamed up with skincare brand Willowberry to help celebrate their 'Age Without Apology' campaign and bring you a fun and informative online skincare masterclass by Willowberry's Founder, Jenni Retourné, which celebrates the beauty of maturity.

Discover effective skincare routines, get skincare tips, watch product demonstrations and find out how to confidently care for your skin as you age.

This event is free for members, £5 for non-members. Book here: rb.gy/g08mm

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Health & Wellbeing: Surviving Breast Cancer

Online event | November 1st | 7pm-8pm

Pennie Latin-Stuart will talk about her journey through breast cancer, the many highs and lows it has brought into her life and in particular what she sees as the huge value in sharing our stories, honestly, openly, painfully, both on the page and through podcasting.

This session is an hour long and the final 20 minutes will be dedicated to questions and answers, so please come prepared with any questions you may have!

This event is free for members, £5 for non-members. Book here: rb.gy/irftu

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Heritage: SWI Heritage & Culture Group

October 24th | 6pm-7pm | Online

We're now diving into our second meeting, dedicated to the collation and preservation of SWI Heritage for the preparation of a Visitor Learning Centre in Scotland.

Our aim is to actively engage with members in the development of our Heritage into a collection that's easy to access. This collection will not only feature physical artefacts but also house an oral history where cherished memories and voices of SWI members are preserved.

Your insights and historical knowledge are of real value to the success of the project. We wholeheartedly welcome your contributions to this exciting initiative.

We warmly invite all members who have an interest in this project, whether they have a specific story to tell or would just like to know what's happening, to join us for this informal online evening session.

Click [here](#) to register: shorturl.at/FMOPY

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Heritage: SWI Stories

Online event | March 20th | 7pm-8pm

To celebrate SWI heritage and Women's History Month, this informative online presentation on the biography of our founder, Catherine Blair, will help you discover the fascinating stories behind the creation of SWI and how Catherine's vision has shaped our community.

Whether you're a long-time member or new to SWI, this event is a fantastic opportunity to gain insights into the incredible woman behind it all. Don't miss out on this unique chance to connect with our founder and be inspired by her remarkable journey.

This event is free for members, £5 for non-members. Book here: shorturl.at/fsD38

Training and education

The Evelyn Baxter programme 2024

Subject: Basic Dressmaking

Tutors: Jessie Meikle, Ravenstruther Institute, Lanarkshire Federation, and Lesley Robinson, Online member, Glasgow

Jessie and Lesley will start their tour of Federations in January 2024, teaching a basic dressmaking workshop for sewers who want to start expanding their skillset.

The workshops will help pupils develop an understanding of the basics of pattern fitting, cutting, and making a simple garment.

They aim to get pupils to a point of knowing the basics that will give them the confidence to get behind a sewing machine and make their own unique garments. Most importantly, the hope of all Evelyn Baxter classes is to inspire and ignite creativity.

How do I book a class?

SWI staff will be in touch with Federation Secretaries shortly to take note of preferred class dates. This will be passed to the tutors to check their availability before classes are confirmed by the end of 2023.

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Competitions

Photography competition

Last call for entries | Deadline 16th November

All members are invited to enter their eye-catching photos into the Photography Competition. The themes are:

- Fun
- Flowers
- Friendship

Send your digital images to hello@theswi.org.uk or post printed pics to our new address **SWI, Unit 8, 1 Carmichael Place, Edinburgh EH6 5PH.**

Strategy update

Transitioning to become a SCIO

The Board of Trustees conducted an extraordinary board meeting in Perth Concert Hall on September 15th to pass a special resolution approving and recording the decision to transfer the SWI National Body unincorporated charity and its assets to a new Scottish Charity Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

This marks phase one of the legal process, which entails an application to OSCR with no impact on members. Phase two will involve incorporating the wider Federations and Institutes into the SCIO entity and is scheduled for consultation in early 2024.

Visitor Learning Centre Progress

As part of the SWI's strategic vision for a Visitor Learning Centre, the Board of Trustees has agreed to initiate exploratory talks with The Crichton Trust, which has plans for a centre focused on women within Crichton's heritage campus in Dumfries.

The aim of this scoping exercise is to explore any potential opportunity to bring together and co-locate two powerful parallel stories of rural women's lives and their influence on Scottish society and well-being.

Action Appeal Grant Update

The Action Appeal Grant scheme has been providing grants to Federations for assistance with 100% of travel expenses for national sporting and educational competitions. In order to reduce the financial loss for national competitions, the Board of Trustees decided that this scheme will be phased out over the next three years. In 2024, claims of up to 60% will be paid.

SWI National Charity for 2023 and 2024

Federations and Institutes are reminded that this year's chosen charity is Mountain View School for the Deaf in Malawi. All donations will go to enabling boys and girls the opportunity to be taught arts, crafts and practical skills to offer them better life chances.

Should any members have any strategy questions or queries, please don't hesitate to email hello@theswi.org.uk

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](https://bit.ly/3KiCrPd)
- Federation Secretaries will find a new hub for information and how to book National Competitions [here: bit.ly/3KAB2ou](https://bit.ly/3KAB2ou)

Do you want to receive this newsletter?

- Click [here: bit.ly/3ENy7EC](https://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!

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](https://bit.ly/3u7BDoM)
- Our Facebook group - This is where members share pics, recipes, news and more. Join the group [here: bit.ly/3u4tCAM](https://bit.ly/3u4tCAM)

Do you want to receive event alerts?

Subscribe to SWI's Eventbrite page [here: bit.ly/3VhO652](https://bit.ly/3VhO652) and never miss a thing.

Do you want general news?

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

Thank you!