



Welcome to Issue 24 - 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 SCIO SC053058

New group for Falkirk!

More than 50 women attended the launch of the latest SWI group at the end of April! Chatty and excited women flocked to Falkirk Stadium and were keen to shape the group by discussing their interests and which activities they would like to see happening in their area. A huge thanks to SC&WP Federation's Margaret and Elizabeth for their help on the day. Their help will be invaluable during the first few months while the group gets fully established! Welcome on board Falkirk!

The next new group launch will be in Newhaven, Edinburgh. If you have friends in the area let them know! The launch will be at The Heart of Newhaven Community, 4-6 Main Street Newhaven EH6 4HY on Sunday, May 26 from 2:30-4:30pm. We look forward to welcoming women to our happy band there!

SWI AGM - All members welcome!

Join us for this year's AGM which will continue with the new format so many enjoyed last year. SWI's National President Mary Burney will celebrate the past busy and successful year, and members will give feedback on successes around the country. It's a great chance to find out how members shape the future of the SWI.

We'll have guest speakers from around Scotland, so join us Saturday 18th May, from 10.30am-noon. Book here rb.gy/3vjkl

Important news for all Institute Office Bearers

Your help is needed!

You may be aware that the SWI national body has become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). This change in charitable status was first mooted by the Board of Trustees in 2018 and we are delighted that stage 1 of the process is now complete. This enables us to protect our National Office Bearers from liability, apply for major funding, and meet OSCR, the funding regulator's, strict requirements. Federation Office Bearers have been involved in the process so far and have given greatly appreciated feedback on the draft constitution which was updated to reflect the new status. Our legal team is currently reviewing the document which will be circulated in a few weeks.

Now we have reached a crucial stage in seeking acknowledgment from the Federations and Institutes within them. All Federations have been contacted and will have requested that Institutes also formally acknowledge the SCIO entity.

Steps for Institute Office Bearers or Organising Committee to follow:

1 At your next meeting or before May 24th 2024, please formally acknowledge the SCIO entity. This acknowledgment can take place during a normal Institute meeting (face to face or online) and does not need to be part of an Annual General Meeting (AGM)

2 Institutes report to Federation to confirm that acknowledgment of the SCIO entity has been duly recorded. This should be sent before 3rd June 2024.

3 Federation sends an email to hello@theswi.org.uk confirming acknowledgment from each Institute. This should be obtained by 3rd June 2024.

This is the statement each Institute must submit acknowledgement of:

“This Institute is aware that a new Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) has been created by the Scottish Women’s Institutes (SWI), and as part of the ongoing restructure process we hereby acknowledge the intention of the current unincorporated SWI charity which this Institute is affiliated with to be wound-up and replaced with the new SCIO, and we hereby accept the new SCIO as the successor body to the unincorporated SWI charity insofar as this Institute is mentioned in its governing document and for the purposes of gathering of membership fees”.

Your cooperation in this matter is crucial for the successful transition to the SCIO entity. Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Royal Highland Show news

It’s nearly time for this year’s Royal Highland Show (20-23 June) at Ingliston, and we’re thrilled so many members have volunteered to help at the Scottish Handcrafts Championship. Thank you to all who have generously offered their time and support, it is truly appreciated!

Members help to run, manage, and steward the event each year and we’re delighted to say we’re in the main throughfare for 2024! You’ll find us in the Shopping Hall on 13th Avenue. We can’t wait to welcome you and see the beautiful items that have been handcrafted by people around the world.

There’s still time to enter an item (just!). Find out what’s required here rb.gy/uycvyr

Tickets to the Royal Highland Show are available here rb.gy/1k4ct0 – come and see us!

Last year’s RHS Overall Winner enjoys her prize!

The Overall Winner of last year’s Scottish Handcraft Championship was Lou Washington who we’re delighted to say is a member of Coldstream SWI. Her fabulous needlefelting work netted her the prize which was vouchers towards a creative course of her choice. And what did she choose? Something she could do quietly? Sedately? No! She chose blacksmithing! Way to go, girl!

Lou says: “It was a challenge! I took my partner, Phil, along and we went to Middle Row Forge just over the border in Cumbria, which is run by a brilliant blacksmith called Richard Halbert. The first day was a beginner’s course, learning the basics, managing the forge, learning about the tools etc. We both made a poker in the morning, and in the afternoon I made two coat hooks and Phil made a toasting fork.

“Day 2 was axe making, and I wasn't sure I was up to it! It was a lot more challenging, but Richard is a brilliant teacher and really helped me believe I was capable! It was much harder work and we had to use heavy machinery, but I coped, and it was such a great feeling when it started looking like an axe. I was totally out of my comfort zone, but I wanted to use my prize to do something I'd never done and that would challenge me, and it sure did! I like to think that's what the winning prize money is for, to learn new skills or develop existing ones, and promote dying skills and crafts.”

Well done, Lou - we can't wait to see your entries in this year's Championships!

++ HERITAGE NEWS ++ HERITAGE NEWS ++ HERITAGE NEWS

Have you seen our new video about the SWI Heritage Project yet? View it here rb.gy/v79t25

NEW - Heritage Meet-up Event | In-person for members | The Glasgow Women's Library | Saturday, May 24th, 1.30pm-3.30pm

Plans for the new SWI Visitor Learning Centre are progressing well, and a home for the fabulous SWI archive and collection could be achievable in 2026.

We are meeting up face-to-face in Glasgow Women's Library on 24th May at 1.30pm to discuss the next exciting stage of the project – all members who are interested in the SWI Heritage Project are welcomed to come along, have a cup of tea and help shape the Visitor Learning Centre space and decide what you would like for the centre.

The centre architects are keen to hear more ideas of what SWI members want from this exciting stage of the project – you are the experts. By listening to your needs and wants during a table discussion, the architects can tailor their designs to meet the needs of SWI members and visitors.

Your involvement and valuable contribution are key to shaping the future together and ensure the projects success.

You can find more information on how to get to the venue & parking here rb.gy/fwzwcy
Look forward to seeing you there for an enjoyable afternoon.
Book your place here rb.gy/vofjh4 - all members interested in our Heritage are welcomed!

Dates for your Diary – Monthly Heritage Group online meeting

The next is on 23rd May (6-7pm)

The Heritage Group meets monthly to progress and contribute to the SWI Heritage project. Please feel free to join the Heritage Group and help to steer the direction we take.

- Securing funding is crucial for the project to go ahead – we will know in about 5/6 weeks
- There will be numerous face-to-face volunteering opportunities.
- Training will be provided and you don't need to be digitally experienced.

Book your place here rb.gy/u9m3va

Also, if you are wondering about your own Institute or Federation archive, come along and hear from the Archivist on looking after your local Heritage collection on Thursday, 16 May 2024 7-8pm

In response to popular demand, we're thrilled to announce a special free online session facilitated by the SWI Heritage Project Archivist. This is designed for members interested in starting their own archiving at either at Institute or Federation level and it's FREE for SWI members. Book your place here rb.gy/u8lbdg

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A special thanks to Federation Office Bearers

Hello ladies, I'd like to thank all Federation Office Bearers for their help in completing the recent survey sent out by the Skills & Events Committee. By giving us accurate uptake of team involvement for national events this will help us make informed decisions on future team competitions. Many thanks!

Anne Howat, Convenor, Skills & Events Committee

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Events go from strength to strength

In the past year, the SWI has offered members a huge range of events and competitions ranging from the latest Study Tour of the Peak District to online member training, Skill Share Sessions, and health and wellbeing talks. We're delighted to say that the feedback has been fantastic, with the online events attracting members and non-members. Participants rate the sessions 4.8/5, and each is hosted by members or staff. If you haven't tried them yet, don't miss the fab Spring/Summer programme.

Follow the Eventbrite page here bit.ly/3KiCrPd

Our online events in numbers:

- 60% have attended more than 10 online events
- 10% non-members each session
- 90% found the sessions useful
- 90% are likely to attend another

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What a show!

This year's Variations On A Theme competition was held online, with participants exploring the theme, Conflict, in all its complexity. From intense dramas to heartwarming comedies, SWI storytellers displayed their creativity and talent. A massive congratulations to winners, Dumfriesshire, and runners up, Gilmourton SWI!

Thanks to all the teams who entered, our guest adjudicator, Jim Gibson, and to National Skills and Events Convenor, Anne Howat for hosting!

You can watch the competition in full on our YouTube channel Scottish Women's Institutes TV here rb.gy/nzeovr

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FREE SWI Expert Talk: Understanding how to start archiving your own records

Thu, 16 May 7pm

Book here - rb.gy/5nlei8

FREE SWI Members' Annual General Meeting 2024

Sat, 18 May 10:30am

Book here - rb.gy/3vjkl

FREE SWI Heritage Group Monthly Meeting

Thu, 23 May, 6pm

Book here - rb.gy/u9m3va

FREE SWI Expert Talk: Birthlink - Adoption through the ages

Tue, 28 May, 7pm

Book here - rb.gy/jjizi6

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In-person events

Someone's got some polishing to do!

The results are in from Aberdeenshire Federation who hosted the SWI National Bowling finals at the Garioch Bowling Centre Inverurie. SWI teams from across Scotland entered and the home team, Aberdeenshire Federation, won with Ayrshire Federation coming in as runners up. Well done!

A very enjoyable day and the Garioch Bowling Centre provided excellent catering and venue for the event.

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SWI Summer School 2024

August 15-19th | Strathallan School, Perthshire

This year's SWI Summer School at Strathallan School, Perthshire, is set to be unmissable! We're thrilled to say that 130 members have already booked their place on one of the fabulous courses on offer.

There are still a few places available if you would like to attend as either a day scholar or on a residential basis from 15-19 August 2024.

Expert tutors will teach the following courses:

- Willow basketry
- Painting
- 3D Decoupage
- Shetland Lace Knitting
- Crochet
- Beadwork
- Floral Art
- Painting

Find out more [here](https://www.theswi.org.uk/summer-school-bookable/) - <https://www.theswi.org.uk/summer-school-bookable/>

SWI National Competitions: Outdoor Bowling

In person | Monday, August 26th | 10am | Helensburgh Bowling Club

Federations are invited to send one or two teams to this year's National Outdoor Bowling competition which will be hosted by Dunbartonshire Federation at Helensburgh Bowling Club, on 26th August 2024.

Enter teams for this event [here](https://rb.gy/nzh16z) - rb.gy/nzh16z

SWI National Ruralympics Competition

In person | Saturday, 5th October | Webster's Sports Centre, Kirriemuir

SWI would like to invite entries to this year's Ruralympics competition which will be hosted by Angus Federation in Kirriemuir.

Book here - rb.gy/4of2yv

Margaret Whiteford - Outstanding Member of the Year 2024

Competition | Deadline 26th July

Make sure you don't overlook the opportunity to nominate that outstanding member who consistently goes the extra mile for everyone!

Take a moment to consider who is indispensable and consistently exceeds your expectations and contributes significantly to your Institute or Federation?

This year's recipient will follow in the footsteps of Maz Thorn (right) from Powmill SWI, who proudly received the trophy last year. You can hear from last year's nominees here rb.gy/zpsokt

It is as simple as filling out this form here shorturl.at/sxH19 and sending it to charlotte.hughes@theswi.org.uk before the deadline of Friday 26th of July 2024.

All nominations are confidential. Both individual and group nominations are accepted!

SWI National Photography competition 2024

Competition | Deadline 4th November | Theme - Our Fragile World

Harness the potential of your camera in this year's photography competition. We encourage members to delve into the theme of 'Our Fragile World' by entering your compelling photos.

The competition prizes are:

1st place - £25 voucher for SWI's online shop

2nd place - £15 voucher for SWI's online shop

3rd place - £10 voucher for SWI's online shop

Please email your photographs as Jpegs to **hello@theswi.org.uk** before the deadline of Monday the 4th of November 2024. Entries will be judged after the deadline and the winners will be announced by the end of November 2024.

Click here **shorturl.at/rtSY3** to register and pay on Beacon - if you need a form emailed to you separately, please contact us to request one. Have fun and good luck!

SWI National Writing competition 2024

Competition | Deadline 30th September | Theme - If you know a good thing, pass it on

Unlock the power of your pen in this year's writing competition. We invite participants to explore the theme of 'If you know a good thing, pass it on' by submitting your captivating written pieces in the form of an inspirational letter.

The competition prizes are:

1st place - £25 voucher for SWI's online shop

2nd place - £15 voucher for SWI's online shop

3rd place - £10 voucher for SWI's online shop

Please email your inspirational letter on a Word document to **hello@theswi.org.uk** before the deadline of Monday the 30th of September, 2024. Entries will be judged after the deadline and the winners will be announced by the end of October 2024.

Click here **shorturl.at/ozLPR** to register and pay on Beacon - if you need a form emailed to you separately, please contact us to request one. Have fun and good luck!

SWI Evelyn Baxter Competition

Competition | Deadline 31st May | Subject - Temari Balls

Did you attend an Evelyn Baxter Federation class in 2023 to learn more about the art of Temari Balls and want to showcase your skills? Well now is your chance by entering this year's Evelyn Baxter competition.

Only attendees of the Evelyn Baxter Federation Schools are eligible to join. The entry form has been sent to all Federation Secretaries, or alternatively, you can find the form here **www.theswi.org.uk/events-info/**

Remembering our friends

Joan Hutchison With deep sorrow, Shetland SWI Federation has informed us of the passing of our wonderful SWI Board Trustee, Joan Hutchinson. In honouring her memory, the Federation wishes to convey some words written by one of her dear friends.

Joan will be sadly missed by us all at Shetland Federation SWI. Always a leader, full of ideas and suggestions and never afraid to put in whatever work was needed to make things happen. She had total respect from everyone and was loved by us all. Always up for a laugh whether it be her humorous poems, her jokes, or sketches. The "Dowager" as she was affectionately christened, was the driving force in Whalsay Institute, as well as Shetland Federation and was truly one of a kind.

Joan was born and grew up in the Borders, eventually settling in Whalsay, where she married fellow teacher Charlie. She became a leading member of Whalsay Institute where she held the long-term role of President. She was Chairman of Shetland Federation from 2008 till 2011, she then became a Central Councillor and then a SWI Board Trustee.

Her home in Whalsay was a meeting point for fellow institute members or executive members planning meetings where there was always a welcome plate of soup and cake. Shetland Federation has lost its figurehead, and no one can come close to filling her shoes.

Apart from her passion for all things SWI, Joan loved her trips to Murrayfield to see Scotland play rugby. She and Charlie enjoyed many holidays to Sorrento, where they were treated like members of the family instead of guests in the small family-run hotel they so enjoyed staying in. They particularly loved cruising and making new friends on their travels. They also enjoyed taking regular trips back to her former hometown of Duns in the Borders to meet up with family and friends. She also greatly enjoyed her weekends at Shetland Folk Festival.

A warm, loving good friend to all of us who had the privilege to know and work with her. Our thoughts are with Charlie, her daughters, grandbairns and great grand bairns and her step-son and step-daughter and partners.

The SWI Board and staff extend heartfelt condolences to the Federation, as well as to Joan Hutchinson's family and friends. She will be sorely missed.

Sylvia Henry - Cluny SWI members remember Sylvia Henry who sadly passed away in April. Sylvia became a member of Cluny SWI in 1973 when she was taken along to a meeting by her mother. She became President in 1997 and held that role until 2023 when she felt she could no longer communicate effectively due to Parkinsons and MND. She still however maintained a keen interest as Honorary President and attended meetings and outings when she felt fit enough. She will be sadly missed by everyone in Cluny and other Aberdeenshire Institutes.

Karen Rogerson and Connie Sutherland - Daviot SWI members are very saddened to report the death of two past members. Karen Rogerson was a member for a number of years until she moved to Ayr, where she sadly passed away in hospital in November.

Connie Sutherland was a long-time member, a great curler and golfer entering many Aberdeenshire Competitions. Sadly, she passed away on Boxing Day.

Alison Mackenzie - Kiltarlity SWI remember their dear friend, Alison Mackenzie who passed away very suddenly and unexpectedly. Alison became an Honorary Lifetime member of Kiltarlity Institute in September, as a thank you from members for everything she did for SWI and the Institute craft class. Members learned a great deal from Alison in passing on her many talents and skills in the craft genre, but she also kept everyone on the right track with SWI matters, holding office in the Inverness Federation and Kiltarlity Institute for many years. Her commitment was an inspiration. She was also much sought after for judging at SWI events along with Executive committee work which she undertook, always with good grace and unfailing enthusiasm, despite poor health which she bore with great stoicism. Alison was a special lady who touched the hearts of all who knew her.

Maureen Watt - Cullerlie-Garlogie SWI remember their member Maureen Watt who sadly died in October 2023. She joined Cullerlie-Garlogie SWI later in life about six years ago and was a valued member who always had a ready smile and a positive attitude. She will be missed by all.

May Hosie - Sadly, Cumbernauld SWI lost one of its most respected members, May Hosie, who passed away at the grand old age of 101. Having joined the Rural in 1991, May was an Honorary member and was a faithful attendee at meetings until 2019.

May enjoyed all aspects of the Rural whether it was taking part in the monthly competitions, going off on days or weekends away, making her renowned marmalade or jams and May's own favourite, being a member of the quiz team. For a short time May joined the committee to fill a vacancy but was just as happy being an ordinary member, helping out whenever needed. May was the epitome of a Rural member. A clever woman whose interests included history, metallurgy and the periodic table - no one would argue, May was the most independent person you could meet Maybe that was the secret of her longevity but her lasting memory must be the words used by everyone who knew her: "May Hosie was a lady".

Jane Rattray - Finally, June Templeman recently informed members that Jane Rattray, who taught at many of the Scottish Country Dance weekends in Pitlochry, had passed away. June said: "Jane always enjoyed meeting up with members each year and had a great skill in guiding everyone through the dances - there was always a lot of laughter involved. We will miss her greatly."

SWI's Sanquhar glove patterns are flying off the shelves thanks to SWI member, May MacCormick's recent appearance on BBC News. May passionately highlighted the significance of preserving the traditional Sanquhar knitting technique. You can get patterns here - shop.theswi.org.uk/

As each pair of gloves is unique, we'd love to see pictures of your finished pair - let's see Scotland's wonderful heritage being celebrated all across the country! Email pics to hello@theswi.org.uk and tell us how long they took to make!

See May in action here - rb.gy/rxo1nd

Don't miss your member benefits

SWI Member Insurance

- Please note, that members are covered through SWI Public Liability Insurance when working with non-members (children and adults) such as the Junior Dippers workshops.
 - Please note: It's important to ensure that any event involving non-members (adult or children) is branded as a SWI event and it is recommended to confirm that any event venue you use, has public liability insurance.

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 information and how to book National Competitions here: **bit.ly/3KAB2ou**

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!

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**

Do you want to receive event alerts?

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

Do you want general news?

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

Thank you!