



**SWI Skills & Events committee  
Achievements 2025**

## Meetings & events

### Main committee

- 9 committee meetings held online in 2025
- 1 committee meeting held in-person in Oct 2025
- 14 committee members

### Sub committee

- 6 committee meetings held online in 2025

### Events

- 50 events
- 1900+ attendees

## **SWI national events**

- **National sporting competitions**  
Outdoor Bowling, Golf (rescheduled for 2026)
- **National competitions**  
Photography, Writing Trophy (Warnock) and Evelyn Baxter
- **SWI Study Tour to Dublin & Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, 2025**  
50 members attended, facilitated with support from member helpers
- **SWI Summer School, University of Stirling, 2025**  
114 attendees, Mary Burney and Anne Howat facilitated the evening entertainment and organisation, supported member helpers

# Areas for development

- **SWIFTS development**

Continued to develop an attractive learning pathway to National Proficiency Tests – SWI Framework for Textile Skills / SWI Food Technologies

- **Rebrand and develop national competitions**

Update and refresh several competition titles to ensure members know what they involve

- National Spoken Word Competition (previously Variations on a Theme)
- National Drama Competition (previously Anstruther Grey)
- National Variety Competition (previously 15-minute Variety)
- National Debating Competition (previously Matter of Opinion)
- National Writing Competition (previously Warnock Trophy)

## **Committee development (part 2)**

- **Enhancing current competitions**  
Updating and standardising guidelines for host Federations, working towards developing competitions which are attractive to younger members.
- **Assessing SWI Summer School and SWI Study Tour**  
Utilising feedback from Study Tours and Summer School for continual improvement and maximum member enjoyment and satisfaction.

## **Financial Sustainability Goals Achieved**

- Continued to ensure all events achieve profitability or at least breakeven
- Advised Federations to create a budget for Evelyn Baxter classes and set their own ticket prices to ensure sustainability at a regional level
- Reviewed competition entry fees in 2025
- Phased out Action Appeal grant for 2026.

## **Governance and communication**

- Committee aligned with national strategy
- Skills & Events committee reported to SWI AGM
- Regular Skills & Events communications in the e-newsletter, SWI website, social media and Federation Secretary newsletters
- Member-led

## **Next steps: Align with the SWI Strategic Plan**

- Triennium – encourage committee successors
- Maintain financial sustainability of SWI events
- Accelerate the development of SWIFTS
- Secure Federation hosted events across Scotland
- Continue to explore events to attract new and younger members i.e. craft workshops, upcycling, beginner classes
- Monitor uptake of National competitions to ensure viability
- Align with Members' Gathering in September 2026



**Thank you for all your hard work!**