



## **Welcome to Issue 40 – 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](http://www.theswi.org.uk)**

Scottish Women's Institutes is a SCIO, SC053058

## **Welcome to your new member website**

We're delighted to announce the launch of the brand-new Scottish Women's Institutes website, designed with members in mind!

Thank you to all the volunteers who dedicated their time to helping us test all these exciting new features we have in store, this website wouldn't have been possible without them.

Members are encouraged to explore the new website as much as possible and play around with our new features. We'll be in touch again in February to collect your feedback, as we continue to make changes that benefit you.

Our refreshed website brings together everything you need to stay informed, inspired and involved in SWI life. Here's a taster of what's waiting for you:

### **Member resources at your fingertips**

Whether you're looking for the latest materials, guidance documents or ideas for your group, you'll find a growing library of member-exclusive resources ready to explore.

### **Member podcasts**

Join us as we launch the first three podcasts in our new series, honouring the inspiring women of the SWI community, past and present. A new episode will be released each week over the next seven weeks.

### **Member events calendar & booking**

Discover upcoming SWI events, workshops and gatherings across Scotland. You can now book your place online with ease, never miss an opportunity to take part in something new.

### **Member news**

Whether it's the latest newsletter, central office update or what's going on in the various Federations across the country, our news section will keep you informed.

We want our website to celebrate our members and our organisation, offering a welcoming space for both current and future members.

Explore the new website - [theswi.org.uk](https://theswi.org.uk)

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## **New Feature: What's On, Submit your Federation Event**

The SWI offers a diverse range of events including workshops, summer schools, in-person and online skill shares, competitions, national educational programmes and scholarships. There's something for everyone. Our new event pages have a range of new features that make finding and signing up to events easier than before.

### **New Features:**

#### **Easy sign up**

Sign up for an event near you using the built in Eventbrite or Beacon ticket feature, meaning no more extra webpages to navigate.

#### **Submit your Federation event**

Have a Federation event that you would like members in the area to know about? Well you can now upload them straight to the website! Our events team will review the details and reach out if they need any more information.

#### **SWI TV**

Access all SWI TV videos directly from our new events section, never miss an upload.

VISIT THE EVENTS PAGE - <https://www.theswi.org.uk/learn/events/>

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## **New Feature: Member Resources, Support & Benefits**

The SWI offers comprehensive support, including training programmes, practical resources, leadership opportunities, and personal development initiatives, designed to make members' lives easier and more rewarding. Whether you want to learn new crafts, lead community events, or build lifelong friendships, SWI provides the tools and support to help women thrive.

There is no longer a members login section on the website, you'll be able to find all the information you need as a member without needing to remember login details.

### **New Features:**

#### **Marketing Materials**

Want to spread the word about your Institute? Access a full suite of flyers, posters, and social media graphics ready to download and share.

#### **Institute Guidance**

Find new member sign-up forms, role descriptions, and useful links to help your Institute run smoothly.

#### **Governance**

Stay informed with the latest board meeting minutes, our current-year strategy, and updated policies, all in one place.

VISIT THE MEMBERS RESOURCE PAGE - <https://www.theswi.org.uk/resources/>

## **New Feature: SWI History Makers Podcasts**

### **A brand new podcast series**

Enjoy ten SWI History Makers Podcast episodes presented by Jennifer Reoch. The first three episodes are available now, with new episodes released every Monday starting from November 10th.

This inspiring series explores the impact of the SWI, how one woman created Scotland's largest women's movement and how it continues to shape lives today. Listeners can expect stories of cooking, crafts, friendship, heritage, and the many ways the SWI connects women across generations and around the world.

### **Podcast Release Schedule**

- Episode 1 – SWI Founder: November 3
- Episode 2 – Archiving: November 3
- Episode 3 – Friendship: November 3
- Episode 4 – Heritage: November 10
- Episode 5 – Cooking: November 17
- Episode 6 – Going Global: November 24
- Episode 7 – Pandemic: December 1
- Episode 8 – The War Years: December 8
- Episode 9 – Shows: December 15
- Episode 10 – New Groups: January 5

WATCH THE FIRST THREE EPISODES - <https://www.theswi.org.uk/heritage/member-podcasts/>

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### **New Feature: Institute Search**

Find Institutes near you, thanks to our updated Institute finder. These pages will give new and current members all the information they need to get in touch and find out what is going on at a group near them.

Our membership team have been hard at work ensuring that the information we have for institutes are up to date.

However, could you kindly take a moment to double-check that the information for your local Institute is correct?

You can do this by typing your Institute's name into the search bar on our new Institutes page. After searching for your local Institute, click on its name on the right-hand side of the map to view the details we currently have on file.

If any corrections are needed, please send an email to [membership@theswi.org.uk](mailto:membership@theswi.org.uk).

VISIT OUR INSTITUTES PAGE - <https://www.theswi.org.uk/search-for-an-institute/>

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## **New Feature: SWI Heritage**

Take a look at how the SWI has grown and evolved over the years on our brand-new Heritage Project webpages.

## **Home & Country Magazine**

Three issues of Home & Country Magazine provide a window into what life was like for rural women living in Scotland.

## **SWRI Cookbooks**

Ever wondered how food has evolved and changed over the decades? We've uploaded cookbooks from the 1920s, 1930s, and 1950s to give you a selection of classic recipes you can try at home.

## **Heritage Project**

Learn more about the work of our dedicated team of volunteers are doing to keep the rich and fascinating history of the SWI alive for generations to come.

VISIT OUR HERITAGE WEBPAGES - <https://www.theswi.org.uk/heritage/>

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**We will be in touch for feedback in February, please use and try out the new website.**