

Scottish Women's Institutes - Federations Full Annual Reports 2025

During 2025, Federations across Scotland delivered a varied programme of shows, competitions, workshops and social events. Many welcomed new members, celebrated milestones and supported local communities through fundraising and volunteering. Collaboration, learning opportunities and strong friendships remained central, strengthening Federations despite ongoing challenges in some areas.

The following reports were written by Federations and submitted for AGM – May 2026

Angus Federation: Charity Number SC002643

We held 4 executive meetings and 2 Federation meetings where prizes were given for our syllabus competition and the Glamis Babbington Trophy which, this year, was for a photograph of Institutes having fun and enjoying themselves. No Institutes have closed and there have been many new Members across various Institutes.

In February we held a Matter of Opinion Competition. This was new to many Members, so they did not know what to expect. However, it encouraged many Institutes to hold practice sessions ready for the next competition.

Our Federation show was held in March. This event is huge. Held in the Reid Hall, Forfar it is very popular and as well as attracting over a thousand entries it is popular with the public who know from experience that they will see exhibits of a high standard. This year we had entries from new Members and from first-time exhibitors.

Sporting activities are popular in Angus despite the disappointment of not always having a National Competition to progress to. Curling is always well supported, helped by the fact that we have an ice rink in Forfar and we held a Bonspiel in March. We also have indoor bowlers, and some Members have tried taster sessions of walking netball and pickleball. Of course, this year has been Ruralympics and Angus hosted the National Competition with 18 teams attending from all over Scotland. It was a well-organised, enjoyable day. Two weeks later at the same venue our Federation round was held. A busy time for all.

It was a fine day in April when many Members set out on the ACWW walk. This was well supported and those unable to walk met the walkers for tea in the hall afterwards. £55 was raised.

Argyll Federation: Charity Number SC004964

Across our Institutes most went to local hotels for dinner or held a party/quiz at Christmas.

Trips out included visits to gardens, a local factory, an afternoon tea, summer garden party and meals out.

One Institute produced a recipe book containing recipes using potatoes.
A launch was organised and we enjoyed visiting Institutes.

There were a variety of crafts covered with demonstrators and hands-on activities in: flower wreath-making, sugar-craft flowers, pottery, recycled-bead pictures, knitting and many more.

There were talks on acupuncture, the work of the Lord Lieutenant of Argyll, behind the scenes at Kilmartin museum and Argyll Coffee Roasters among many others.
Games of bingo, beetle drives and quizzes were also played.

Keep fit activities – yoga, keep fit Classes, Scottish country dancing.

Many Institutes come together with others in their area for combined events. This includes a bulb show, trips out, invites to meetings with a speaker, Macmillan Cancer support coffee evening and open evenings with a seasonal theme.

Workshops organised by our federation were held on cake decorating and fused glass.

We are holding our Biennial Show on the 25th of April 2026 in Ardrishaig. The hosts are Lochgilphead and Ford Institutes.

Ayrshire Federation: Charity Number SC001533

During the year we have held: Federation competitions - Stadium Carpet Bowls, Indoor Carpet Bowls, Inter-Institute quiz, Ruralympics,

Fundraising Events – Fashion Show with 200 attendees, Flowers & Flavours demonstrations with 150 attendees.

Classes – Using your Air Fryer Class, Cocktail/Mocktail Masterclass, Entered Ayr County Show, Evelyn Baxter Macramé Class – 12 Members attended Federation Day, guest speaker was Rev Jill Clancy, with afternoon entertainment by her choir.

Quarterly meetings, all Members are invited were held February, June, September and December

We took a stand at Ayr & County Flower show, where we advertised our Organisation, had leaflets showing all our Institutes, when and where they were held, this resulted in

20 new Members within the Federation and a link to someone Interested in starting up a new Institute.

Future Plans

We run a Bi-Annual Summer Trip which will take place in June 2026, 51 Members away for 3 nights to Newcastle, with a day trip to Alnwick Castle and Gardens and Day Trip to Durham including cruise.

Ayrshire Federation will be holding The SW Area Lunch; 7 Federations have been invited on 27/06/26.

Our Bi-Annual Federation Show takes place on 24th October 2026. This is always a very successful show, last year we had around 350 entries.

It is hoped in the next year we will have a new Institute up and running in Prestwick area, we will support this group in any way we can.

Banffshire Federation: Charity Number SC026751

Craft days are held at a different Institute monthly, and very well attended by 40+ Members. Members may join in with the demonstrated craft of the day or bring their own craft. Funding has been obtained to pay for outside demonstrators and equipment/consumables. A shop is run on the craft days, which recycles donated craft/haberdashery items and provides additional income.

Keith Show is very well supported, with a good number of high-quality entries. This year we held a free 'Guess the number of Cotton Reels in Sweetie Jar' competition to slow down visitors and increase interaction, which was very successful. We sold 20 SWI aprons and provided a breastfeeding area. Susie Finlayson and her 'stitchers' attended with 'The Cabrach Tapestry' to which many enjoyed adding a stitch. This year we plan to have a 'Budget Bites' area with simple economic meals and printed recipes.

Judges: We have provided craft & cookery judges to numerous local and agricultural shows both the SWI and Aberdeenshire Federation.

Promotion: President & Secretary were Inter-viewed on Keith Community Radio, new posters & flyers produced, stands have been taken at various shows, events and supermarkets.

Federation Meetings: both the May meeting & AGM were well attended. AGM elected new executive (triennial), displays of Members' crafts and competitions held.

Members: have attended various SWI events both online and in person, including 3 to Oral History at Muir of Ord.

Evelyn Baxter: the excellent Macramé Class from Hazel Lawson was extremely popular and two separate Classes were required to accommodate 22 Members.

Institutes: most Institutes have held at least one open evening / event, these are generally well supported by other Institutes. We are very fortunate there is a lot of friendship and Interaction between our various Institutes.

Berwickshire Federation: Charity Number SC001462

The Federation along with the H&H have once again had a very busy year with meetings which involved a variety of different talks, demonstrations and doing crafts. We continue as a Federation to support our members as much as possible when the need arises, whether it be at Institute level or personal.

Members have been involved in judging and demonstrating at various other events such as Flower Shows, Agricultural Shows, and also at their own Institutes.

We continue to engage with our neighbouring Federations again in Judging or Classes.

We continue to have representatives in the Curling and Green Bowling competitions. We have our own Carpet Bowling Competitions, then on to the South West Area to compete with Members from various other Federations.

We continue to support the Evelyn Baxter Classes.

We hold a Christmas Carol Concert, the money raised goes to a local Charity.

This coming year there will be our Federation Show in October, and we are also hosting the Southwest Carpet Bowling Competition with assistance from Lanarkshire Federation.

It will be another busy year for all our members and as a Federation we appreciate all the help and support that we get from our members. We are always looking at ways on how to promote and attract new members to the organisation.

Dumfriesshire Federation: Charity Number SC000759

Our annual Federation competitions in Carpet Bowling (triples and pairs), Short Mat Bowling, Outdoor Green Bowling, Golf, Curling and Darts took place. The Carpet bowlers went on to defend their Southern Counties title, and the Outdoor Bowlers came a very close second in the national competition.

Our own Ruralympics were well supported in February and in October we hosted a very successful Inter-Federation event.

The highlight of our year was the Federation Show in May. In preparation we held a "Hints and Tips" session and some very successful fundraising for this event took place in the form of a Race Night, Flower Arranging Demonstration and Quiz.

The Evelyn Baxter Class in Macramé in June was fully subscribed and much enjoyed and nine of our members (including one tutor) had a great time at Summer School.

The Spring and Autumn Walks were well attended, and we enjoyed a Line Dancing afternoon.

Our annual Federation Quiz night (with 21 teams), Syllabus competition and two Federation Competitions were also well supported. An Air Fryer demonstration was very popular.

Several Members had a fantastic history lesson in the form of a guided tour of St Michael's Churchyard including Burns Mausoleum and the post-meeting lunches in May and December were well attended and enjoyed.

A sub-committee was set up to review and update the Federation Constitution, and this process is now complete.

Unfortunately, Beattock Institute has decided to close. Meanwhile, on a happy note, centenary celebrations were enjoyed by Applegarth & Sibbaldie, Kirkconnel, Terregles and Mouswald.

Several Members have been involved in online Classes, committees and groups as well as "in person" oral training. Handcraft and Homeskills judging skills have again been in much demand across Federation and Country Shows. All in all, it has been a busy and productive year.

Dunbartonshire Federation: Charity Number SC025895

During March a Beginner's Guide to Crochet Class was held, providing Members with the opportunity to develop new skills in a supportive and encouraging environment.

On 25 April, the Federation hosted a successful and well-attended Ruralympics event, which was enjoyed by all who participated.

A significant milestone was reached on 11 May with the official launch of the new Dumbarton Institute, marking a positive development for the Federation.

Members undertook their Homeskills and Demonstrators' Tests on 19 May, achieving a commendable standard that reflected their dedication and preparation.

The Summer Meeting was held in June and open to all Institutes.

Our Summer Outing was a visit to the Botanic Gardens in Dollar, providing Members with an enjoyable and sociable day.

Five Members attended Summer School, further developing their knowledge and skills while representing the Federation.

Members also entered Classes at the Royal Highland Show, showcasing their work at a national level.

In October, Macramé Classes were conducted by Sharon Murdoch, alongside an informative Air Fryer Demonstration delivered by Agnes Henderson. Canvas work Classes were held in November, led by Susie Finlayson.

Throughout the year, Members supported other Federation Shows by undertaking judging.

Plans for 2026: Looking ahead, the Federation Show will be held in September 2026.

The Federation will also arrange coach transport to enable Members to attend the National Gathering in Dundee.

East Lothian Federation: Charity Number SC022656

In 2025 we had 2 Federation meetings.

The AGM was held in January when the Quaich competition at this meeting was 3 pieces of shortbread, and the winner was Louise Dickson Spott SWI and the summer meeting in June hosted by Humbie SWI.

The Bolton Trophy (Paperweight) competition at this meeting for a photo titled The Weather was won by Carol Wilson, Longniddry SWI.

In April Musselburgh SWI hosted the Federation Quiz. The winners were Musselburgh with Longniddry runners-up.

The Federation Show took place in May in Athelstaneford village hall.

A walk around Amisfield Garden in Haddington with a picnic to follow took place on a lovely sunny morning in September.

Finally, at the end of September, we had a 2-day Evelyn Baxter Macramé Class in the Maitlandfield hotel in Haddington.

Fife Federation: Charity Number SC026364

We held fund-raisers events, Annual Show and Classes which were held during 2025.

We detailed all that we participated in and noted all we have planned for 2026 including working together with P&K, S C &WP, confirming that despite Institutes closing and a decline in Membership, Fife Federation are financially strong with a robust team looking forward to an active and successful 2026.

Isle of Arran Federation: Charity Number SC025734

Hosted Southwest Area Lunch.

Weeklong Exhibition in Local Museum to Celebrate 100 years of Federation on Arran. Further exhibition of same in local library All Arran WIs joined in with ACWW Woman Walk in May.

Federation had a stand at our Annual Farmers Show to promote our WIs on the island. Updated our "History of Villages on Arran" book back on sale to tie in with our Centenary Year.

Kimany WI celebrated their 100th year birthday with a lunch to which Members from other WIs were invited.

Our Institutes continue to encourage new Members along with their varied and interesting talks and demonstrations.

Fun activities include line dancing, regular gatherings for walks, whist and pottery.

Lanarkshire Federation: Charity Number SC022609

Struggling along with reduced numbers and aging groups.

Midlothian Federation: Charity Number SC025899

Midlothian Federation started the year in January with our first meeting of the new regime of the amalgamated Executive and H&H Committees and with all Institutes represented. 6 meetings have been held during the year, with an extra meeting solely to decide on the Federation Show Schedule. These meetings have proved to be very successful, although very busy. A Trustee Training session was also held facilitated by a member's husband.

Over the course of the year the following activities across the Federation have taken place: January Social Meeting (delegates meeting): Ladies attended a craft session alongside the delegates meeting business and were shown how to decoratively wrap a bottle, and to reuse toilet roll or kitchen roll inners to make lovely star decorations.

Members from Midlothian attended the Creative Craft show in March to volunteer with the SWI stand, run a craft session and enter pieces into the Scottish Quilting Show. We held an Evelyn Baxter Macramé Class in April which was enjoyed by all the ladies who attended.

In June we held our mid-year Social Meeting (delegates meeting) which was a quiz this time round.

Numbers are continuing to grow in attendance for these events, and everyone enjoyed the quiz put together by a member's husband.

We saw 3 of our Institutes join to form a strong new Institute with c.40 Members in October and which is going from strength to strength.

Members volunteered at the Scottish Small Holders Festival in October which included stewarding and a table providing SWI information. One of our Members also ran taster sessions on pyrography.

In November we held a Glass Painting Class as part of our April 2026 show schedule which was well attended and enjoyed with Members going away with two new pieces of decorated glass.

Moray & Nairn Federation: Charity Number SC026141

As always, our year starts with the Federation Quiz in March, the hall was packed and a great night was had by all.

In April Members were given the opportunity to take part in a community resilience first aid course free of charge.

We held our Art & Crafts show in Nairn in June, a great showcase of talent, well attended by both Members and the general public.

Storm Amy tried to disrupt our Evelyn Baxter Class with no power in the hall, so we tried again the next day, the ladies worked very hard and for a week a bit longer than usual but managed to complete the Class.

Our Craft Group continues to thrive, meeting 8 times a year, with a variety of workshops available. Members also judged and entered local shows.

Cromdale and Longmorn celebrated their centenaries in 2025, and we will celebrate the Federation centenary in 2026 with a party being planned for July.

Our Quiz, in March, will take a different format this year, being held on a Saturday afternoon and will also incorporate a floral art and baking competition.

Also, in 2026 we are organising a fundraising concert featuring a local jazz band in April and a de-stash event in May.

Peeblesshire Federation: Charity Number SC025963

Spring Show held annually in March – well attended & good entries.

Federation 100th Birthday party in May 2025 was held at Peebles Hydro and attended by 80 Members who thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Perth and Kinross Federation: Charity Number SC026428

Events held: - Federation Show, Ruralympics, General Knowledge Quiz, Coffee and Carols in aid of our Rural Choir, May and November Business Meetings. Bus Trip and air fryer demonstration.

Courses held: - Evelyn Baxter, beginners crochet.

Institutes still collect Pennies for friendship.

The Groups within the Federation were disbanded and 4 new areas created. 2 representatives are elected from each area onto the executive to allow for full representation of the Membership.

Working closely with the archive from AK Bell Library to have the records held in storage properly catalogued. This will start to get into full swing in 2026.

Working toward developing closer working ties with Fife and SC&WP Federations to offer Members more face-to-face opportunities

Several Institutes have celebrated significant birthdays – 90th, 95th and 100 in the case of Kinloch Institute.

Renfrewshire Federation: Charity Number SC025950

Institute events – Collection of Christmas gifts for Erskine Home and tour of the facilities. Supper and collection for Macmillan Nurses.

Volunteer in The Bridge (community hub) and community café held in village church. We also celebrated our 70th anniversary and 72nd birthday.

Federation events – Social lunch, craft days spring and winter, annual walk, annual outing,

Ruralympics, meetings four times a year.

National events – Study Tour, Summer School, Evelyn Baxter – Macramé, Creative Craft Stand – demonstrating and stewarding.

Local events – Participated in the following Agricultural Shows – Houston, Kilbarchan, Kilmacolm & Neilston.

Judging at Houston Shows and others.

Visited other federations for events – Arran, Dunbartonshire, Largs.

Online – some Members take part in Friday's Craft & Chat, Heritage group, online talks and demonstrations.

Ross-shire and Sutherland Federation: SC025989

The Federation held 2 Federation Meetings in person and 2 Executive Committee Meetings by Zoom.

Bulb, Baking & Floral Art Show in March 2025 and Handcraft in May 2025.

Sports Activities by Members: Members were to take part in the cancelled National Golf Competition.

Newsletters/Diaries: 3 produced for Institutes in January, March and September 2025. Update emails were also sent throughout the year.

Special Features in 2025: Members enjoyed Christmas evening at a local Garden Nursery in November 2024.

We continued our SWI Junior Dippers Craft Class for children ages 8 to 14 in 2025. We held a Federation Quiz Night on November 25.

Roxburghshire Federation: Charity Number SC026273

Annual events included Indoor Bowling in March, Spring Rally with entertainment from local singers, an outing to Alnwick and our afternoon tea which has become an annual event after feedback from Members following our Centenary afternoon tea in 2024.

We linked up with Selkirkshire for the Evelyn Baxter Macramé Class with one of their members attending our Class in August and two of our members travelling to Selkirkshire in October.

At the request of Members, we held a musical evening with supper, however it was poorly attended as people didn't want to travel at night, this is a challenge that we need to address for future events.

Our show committee have been busy planning for our next Federation Show in 2026 and the schedule has been distributed to Members. As always, Members have been out and about judging at local flower and agricultural shows.

We were saddened by the closure of Bedrule Institute whose Membership had been declining for some time. We had hoped that a merger with another Institute would be possible, however this did not come to pass. On a positive note, a number of Bedrule Members have now joined other Institutes within the Federation, and we are delighted that they have chosen to continue their SWI Membership.

Several Members have been very active in supporting the national Heritage project by sorting out archive materials to be deposited at the Heritage Hub in Hawick and also conducting oral history recording of past and present Members.

Stirling, Clackmannan & West Perth Charity Number: SC027052

During 2025 the Management Team met 4 times as the Executive with our usual Executive lunch at the final meeting of the session. Our Spring meeting was held in April and although we changed the format to encourage more Members to come along, numbers stayed the same. Our business meeting was held in November. Unfortunately, we have had no volunteers to take on the roles within our Craft, Cookery and Events team, meaning we will have no competitions at our Federation meetings or craft days etc.

2025 was our Centenary session which was celebrated in November with a lunch with the President of Perth & Kinross and Fife invited along with our National President and the Depute Lord Lieutenant of Stirling in attendance.

Our fundraising event at the World Textile Day in May kept us busy with tea/coffee and hot pancakes for those visiting the event and the money raised from our de-stash craft table went to the Beatson Cancer Care charity in thanks for the support given to several of our members over the years.

The Area lunch with P&K, Fife and SC&WP was well attended by SC&WP Members.

Following on from the success of this event, we look forward to developing a closer working relationship with P&K and Fife which will give the Members of the three Federations an opportunity to take part in larger and more varied events across the area.

We are once again facing an uncertain future with Members being consulted on a sustainable way forward for the Federation.

Shetland Federation: Charity Number SC027471

We had a very well supported Sunday Teas in the summer. A rural ramble was also organised for the summer, but the weather was disappointing and we had a very successful residential weekend in February.

We have had several events which were good for networking, team building and socialising. Many of our events have had speakers who have provided an interesting programme based on local issues and citizenship.

In August we held our biennial show which was a great platform for showcasing the skills and talents of our members. The show was very well supported in the local community, and we look forward to our next.

Stewartry of Kirkcudbright Federation: Charity Number SC022319

Our members continue to act as judges at various Shows, throughout the year also competing in National Competitions, at Agricultural & various flower shows and the Royal Highland Show.

In February, eighteen teams took part in the Ruralympics. Our first, second & third teams went on to play in the Inter-Federation Ruralympics, in October, hosted by Dumfriesshire Federation which the Stewartry won, our other two teams were in the top six.

In March, we had an Anne Arnold Needle felting Class.

A 'Fizz & Fun' afternoon in May. Where we were entertained by two Ladies singing, and various games were played.

In July, we had two tables at the Stewartry Agricultural Show, where we had various games for Children & Adults, also promoting the SWI.

In September we hosted the National Green Bowling, in Kirkcudbright, ten teams took part. Evelyn Baxter Macramé two-day Class in September.

October: A 'Craft Day' where twenty-two Members were creatively guided through four Christmas-themed crafts: Needle Felting, Card Making, Glass Decorating & Beadwork, led by four Executive Members.

December: Our Annual Christmas quiz with hot mince pies & shortbread and a Super Raffle.

The Executive committee met five times.

The AGM in January was rescheduled to February due to adverse weather. Also, three Federation meetings were held, with the Executive committee also in attendance. In November we held a quiz. 39 teams participated and as well as having an enjoyable evening a considerable amount of money was raised for our funds. A Christmas Singalong was enjoyed in December.

There have been several Institutes holding significant birthday parties this year. Other Institutes have been involved in a range of fund-raising activities such as quizzes, Easter Egg Hunts, Summer and Christmas Fayres and a Silent Auction to mention but a few.

West Lothian Federation: Charity Number SC022049

West Lothian Federation has had a very successful year in the lead up to the 90th Anniversary with a variety of events.

In January the Education Evening was very successful. Floral Art workshops, tutored by Alison Redmond, were held on 8th & 22nd March in Uphall Community Centre.

A very successful launch of a new group was held in Winchburgh - site of the first Institute in West Lothian on 23 March. The ladies now enthusiastically join in Federation events and were presented with the trophy from the original Winchburgh Institute for use in their competitions.

A 1% quiz took place on 30 April and was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

At the A.G.M. in May, we got a Vice President of the Federation. Members also shared scone recipes and enjoyed tasting the results with their tea.

The Evelyn Baxter Macramé Class took place in West Lothian on the 20th and 21st September where ladies made a variety of items.

At the Members' request a smocking Class of 8-10 was held in September, where the ladies increased their skills.

The Harvest Festival Charity Coffee Afternoon was held on 4 October. The chosen charities were Brock Garden Centre, Jak's Den and West Lothian Carers. A lighthearted competition took place at the same time with the winner being presented with the Agricultural Trophy

An Entertainment Evening was held on 27 October where the guest artist was an Elvis look-alike, and he had everyone up dancing to the popular tunes.

Institutes took part in "Stitched with Love" initiative, and many donations were presented to HomeStart.

Our Dippers are thriving and enjoying learning new skills. They were successful at the Highland Show, gaining 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes.

Wigtownshire Federation: Charity Number SC027880

We held a fashion show which was open to the public and money raised went to two local day centres.

We also have a monthly walking group which is wheelchair friendly and again this is open to everyone.

We have had fun bowling, curling, Ruralympics and an afternoon tea for Members to catch up with everyone and a raffle to help raise funds.

Twelve ladies attended the Evelyn Baxter Macramé Class. Six ladies attended summer school, and we have also judged at neighbouring federation shows.

We also did local advertising at our local Agricultural Show in Stranraer with banner, information and display of what goes on to help with recruiting.