



Scottish Women's Institutes – SWI Skills & Events Annual Report 2025

Prepared for AGM - May 2026

The year of 2025 has been both productive and successful, with a strong programme of meetings, competitions, and events delivered to members across Scotland. The committee has continued to support skills development, encourage participation, and align our work with the wider SWI strategic objectives.

Governance - The committee maintained a regular meeting schedule throughout the year.

- Six main committee meetings were held online
- One in-person committee meeting was held in October 2025
- The committee consisted of fourteen members
- The sub committee held six meetings online
- The committee utilised a 'What app' committee group for adhoc questions and problem solving

In addition to governance work, the committee successfully delivered 50 events during 2025, with over 1,900 attendees, demonstrating strong engagement from members across Scotland.

National Competitions - The committee supported a wide range of national events and competitions during 2025, including:

Sporting Competitions

- Outdoor Bowling
- Golf (rescheduled for 2026)

National Competitions

- Photography
- Writing Trophy (Warnock)
- Evelyn Baxter

National Events

SWI Study Tour – Dublin & Ireland's Hidden Heartlands 2025

- 50 members attended
- Supported by member volunteers

SWI Summer School – University of Stirling 2025

- 114 attendees
- Evening entertainment and organisation supported by member helpers

These events provided valuable learning opportunities and helped strengthen connections across the membership.

Areas for Development - The committee also focused on several key development areas during 2025:

SWIFTS Development - Work continued on developing an attractive learning pathway to National Proficiency Tests, including further development of the SWI Framework for:

- Textile Skills
- Food Technologies
- Crochet
- Floral Art

Competition Development - The committee began refreshing national competitions to ensure they remain relevant and engaging for members. These include:

- National Spoken Word
- National Drama
- National Singing
- National Debating
- National Writing

This work aims to broaden participation and attract new audiences.

Committee Development - To further strengthen the programme:

- Hosting guidelines for federations were reviewed and updated
- Work has begun on developing events/competitions attractive to younger/newer members
- Feedback from Summer School and Study Tours is being used to support continuous improvement

These steps help ensure events remain relevant, enjoyable, and sustainable.

Financial Sustainability - Financial sustainability remained a key priority for the committee throughout 2025:

- Events were planned to achieve break-even or profitability
- Federations were advised to create budgets for Evelyn Baxter classes
- Competition entry fees were reviewed in 2025
- The Action Appeal grant will be phased out by end of 2025

These measures support long-term sustainability and responsible financial planning.

Governance and Communications - The committee remained aligned with the SWI national strategy and reported regularly.

Communications included:

- Regular updates in the e-newsletter
- SWI website updates
- Social media promotion
- Federation and Secretary newsletters

The committee continues to take a member-led approach to planning and delivery.

Strategic Priorities and Next Steps

Looking ahead, the committee will focus on:

- Encouraging committee succession
- Maintaining financial sustainability
- Accelerating development of SWIFTS
- Securing federation-hosted events across Scotland
- Attracting new and younger members
- Expanding workshops and beginner classes
- Monitoring uptake of national competitions
- Supporting the Members Gathering in September 2026

The Skills & Events Committee has delivered a strong programme of events and competitions during 2025, supporting learning, engagement, and enjoyment for members across Scotland.

A vote of thanks goes to Skills & Events Convenor Anne Howat, all the committee members, volunteers, federations, and staff for their dedication and support throughout the year.

Thank you

Skills & Events Committee

For further information, please contact hello@theswi.org.uk