



Welcome to Issue 47 – 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 is a SCIO, SC053058

Members Shine at the RHS Handcrafts Championship 2026

A huge thank you to all the members who took part in the National Handcrafts Championship 2026. Your creativity, skill shone through to help make this year's event a wonderful celebration of Scottish handcrafts at their very best.

Congratulations to all our winners and prize recipients. It was a pleasure to see many of you receive your awards in person and celebrate your achievements with fellow members.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the RHS committee, volunteer judges and stewards. Their time, expertise and hard work were invaluable in managing the championship, from carefully assessing entries to creating the beautiful displays that showcased members' outstanding work.

Members Enjoy Success at the National Golf Competition

What a day at the SWI National Golf Competition! Well done to everyone who took part it was a fantastic day on the course! A special thank you to Renfrewshire Federation for hosting such a fun event, we can't wait for next year's competition.

Congratulations to all our winners from yesterday's competition:

Scratch Strokeplay Trophy

1st – Sheila Adams & June Irons (Ayrshire)

2nd – Mandy Lunn & Karen McKinley (Berwickshire)

Handicap Stableford Trophy

1st – Joanne Porter & Elizabeth Dally (Wigtownshire)

2nd – Patricia Weir & Susan Mutch (Argyll)

Awards

Nearest the Pin – Jerry Arthur (Arran)

Longest Drive (Silver, below 16) – Mandy Lunn (Berwickshire)

Longest Drive (Bronze, above 16) – Jackie Gray (Renfrewshire)

Members – Don't Miss Out on the Fun!

Great news! A limited number of additional Friday day-and-evening tickets are now available for the SWI Members' Gathering on Friday 11 September. If you missed out the first time, this is your chance to join fellow members for a fantastic day of friendship, inspiration and fun. Enjoy a programme of engaging workshops and oot an' aboots and hear from an outstanding line-up of speakers, including:

- Stuart Johnstone, Editor of The People's Friend magazine
- The Maclean Brothers
- Leonie Bell, Director of V&A Dundee

The excitement continues into the evening with the official opening of the Vaughan Nash Exhibition, a drinks reception and SWI's Got Talent. The evening will be hosted by comedian Susan Morrison, promising plenty of laughter and entertainment to round off a memorable day.

Last Chance to enter the Members' Gathering National Competitions

A friendly reminder that the closing date for entries to the Vaughan Nash, Dundee Cake, and marmalade competitions is 26 June 2026.

Please note that we cannot accept any late entries, so we encourage members to submit applications before the deadline.

Know a Good Thing? Pass It On.

Share Your Skills: Baking & Cooking Tutors Wanted

At SWI, we believe that if you know a good thing, you pass it on. We're exploring opportunities to introduce baking and cooking experiences across Fife and surrounding areas and are looking for members who would enjoy sharing their skills and inspiring others. Whether you have experience in baking, cooking, demonstrations, teaching, or simply enjoy helping others learn, we'd love to hear from you. This is a chance to connect with fellow members, pass on knowledge, and help others gain confidence and enjoyment through learning new skills.

Tutors are paid the current agreed rate, with travel expenses covered.

Share Your Skills: Floral Arts & Gardening Tutors Wanted

We're also developing garden centre partnerships and are looking for members across West Lothian, Fife, Dundee and Angus who would like to share their skills and enthusiasm with others. We'd love to hear from anyone with experience or interest in floral arts, flower arranging, gardening, potting, seasonal planting, or other creative and horticultural activities. Whether you're an experienced tutor or simply passionate about your hobby, this is a wonderful opportunity to inspire others, build connections and keep valuable skills flourishing within our communities.

Tutors are paid the current agreed rate, with travel expenses covered.

Members inspired by GSA students' Summer Show

Members from Moray & Nairn Federation enjoyed a visit to the Glasgow School of Art's Rural Lab Summer Show last Friday, as part of the SWI & GSA's ongoing collaboration.

Janet, Karen and Lynne spent the afternoon at Altyre near Forres, where they were treated to a huge variety of work by talented GSA students a wonderful showcase of the craft skills being developed through the Rural Campus programme.

It was a great chance for members to see the collaboration in action first hand, and to share their own passions and enthusiasm for craft with the next generation of makers. Collaborating with an organisation of GSA's calibre brings real benefits inspiring members, celebrating shared values around making and skill, and building bridges between our communities and the next generation of makers.

Celebrate an Inspiring Member

Do you know an inspiring SWI member who goes above and beyond?

The annual Margaret Whiteford Award celebrates those outstanding members whose passion, dedication and commitment truly reflect the values of the SWI. If there's someone whose contribution deserves recognition, we'd love for you to nominate them and help us celebrate the difference they make.

The winner will be announced at the SWI Members' Gathering on 11 September 2026 at the Apex Hotel, Dundee. Please get your nominations in before Friday 31 July.

A Heartfelt Thank You from Hannah

Each year, we are delighted to welcome an international intern from the University of Edinburgh, and this year we were fortunate to have Hannah join us.

Throughout her placement, Hannah worked closely with our members, supporting focus groups and interviews as part of her research. She would like to extend her sincere thanks to everyone who generously gave their time, shared their experiences, and contributed to her project.

Hannah has greatly valued the opportunity to work alongside our members and learn from their insights. She will share her final dissertation with us in due course, and we look forward to hearing about the outcomes of her research.

On behalf of everyone involved, we wish Hannah every success and happiness in her future career.

Member Wellbeing Matters: Catch Up on Our Burnout Prevention Workshop

Catch-up on this online workshop here:

<https://youtu.be/gSkocxOPlkY?si=BVaGnfYdWfn9WlOe>

Upcoming National Online Event – Free for members

SWI Expert Talk: The Women Who Shaped Dundee's Trade Union Movement
Wednesday 8 July | 7pm – 8pm

The Women of Dundee's Trade Union Movement explores the stories of the key female figures involved in this pivotal part of the city's industrial past. From introducing the women involved in trade unions and their impact, to investigating moments of solidarity and highlighting Dundee's jute and flax industry. This historical talk celebrates the role of women and the legacy they left behind. Join us for this fascinating talk by Kim Turford-Mowat, Learning Curator at Dundee Heritage Trust.

Your exclusive member benefits

Wendy Wu Tours: 5% off all tours, can be used in conjunction with other offers.

CODE:SWI5

Rydale: 10% off country clothing - limited to non sale items only

CODE: SWI10

Bloom & Wild: 15% off flowers & Gifts

CODE: THESWI15B&W

Willowberry: 10% off skincare products

CODE: 10offSWI

The Edinburgh Woollen Mill: 20% off all clothing products

CODE: SW25

The Crafty Kit Company: 20% off craft kits, supplies and gifts

CODE:SWI20

Please note: all discounts are only available online and are not for in store use.

Member Support & Benefits

National Benefits:

- Take part in national events – From the SWI Summer School and Study Tour to the Members' Gathering and competitions.
- Learn new skills online – Enjoy free online events, a library of YouTube "how-to" videos, and scholarship opportunities.
- Use the membership toolkit – Access ready-made templates and ideas to promote your Institute and celebrate members' achievements
- Enjoy exclusive discounts – Take advantage of great savings and special offers just for members.
- Stay connected – Receive our monthly members' e-newsletter and quarterly Heritage Project updates.

SWI Member Insurance

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 (adults or children) is branded as a SWI event, and it is recommended to confirm that any event venue you use has public liability insurance.

Access to SWI events

Keep up-to-date with the exciting range of in-person and online events [here](#).

Communities on Facebook

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](#).

Do you want to receive event alerts?

Subscribe to SWI's Eventbrite page and never miss a thing.

Do you want general news?

Visit www.theswi.org.uk for updates.

Contact us for any further information at SWI, Unit 8, 1 Carmichael Place, Edinburgh EH6 5PH or hello@theswi.org.uk or call 0131 225 1724

Alternatively, if you have a grumble to share, please follow our complaints procedure to ensure that you receive an appropriate and timely response.