

Annual Business Meeting, Saturday 8th November 2025

President's Report

2024 – 2025 has been an eventful year and its success is due to the work that all the members of SC &WP put in.

In 2022 when the closure of our Federation seemed inevitable, a decision was taken to set up a Management Team to support the two Office Bearers, Margaret and myself. Our aim – to reach our Centenary. And we have succeeded. 2025 is our Centenary Year and although the plan was to hold events every month, this has proved impractical. Instead, Area events have taken place and these have all been very successful.

Unfortunately, the Falkirk Women's Group has taken the decision to close in spite of the support and advice that Margaret had been given the members. But not all the new Groups formed over the last two years have survived.

Last year I said that I hoped to visit more Institutes, but once again, that did not happen, as I was out of commission for the first few months of the year. But attending the Centenary events has meant that I have been with the Institutes at some point this year.

This week, we lost one of our most long-standing and much loved members, Anne Muirhead. Anne was in Blair Drummond SWRI, before joining Gargunnock. She was at the end of a phone if you needed advice or help. Anne was Federation President and Group President when I joined the Rural and she was a guiding light to me and to so many others.

The Area Lunch was held in June in the Stewarts Resort in St Andrews. It was lovely to see 21 members from SC&WP attending the lunch. Although the room was a bit cramped, the noise levels showed how everyone was enjoying themselves, meeting long-standing friends from Perth & Kinross and Fife Federations.

Margaret and I have met with these two OBS every 2 – 3 months to discuss ways we could work together. Suggested Area events were talked about, but these did not come to fruition.

As well as the OBs coffee mornings, I was invited to present the trophies at the P & K Federation Show last month. I didn't envy the judges when I saw the number of entries in each class, but it was a wonderful display and I enjoyed meeting up with so many members that I have got to know over the years.

As you all know, it was agreed to give up the lease of the office in STEP and that took place in January.

The artefacts which were stored in the Office have been donated to the Smith Art Gallery and Museum, with the exception of the lectern and the chairs. All will be catalogued but will still be available to the members if needed. Some items are still to be handed in, including the Rolls of Honour.

Last year I put out a plea for some of our members to volunteer to shadow Janet and Fiona, who are standing down after many years from what was the H & H Committee, renamed the Cookery, Crafts & Events Committee. Sadly we had no-one stepping forward and the CC&E Committee will cease to exist after today. This will mean that there will be no more competitions,

with the exception of the Federation Quiz, which is organised by the Institute which one it the previous year.

But the highlight of the year has been our Centenary events. The Federation was split into three Areas and I asked each Area to organise a special event for its members. The South Area, comprising Cumbernauld, Greenhill & District, Polmont and Slamannan held a lovely afternoon tea at Caulders Garden Centre in Cumbernauld. It was very well attended and we all enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea.

The West Area, Drymen, Gargunnock, Kippen and Ruskie held a craft display in Gargunnock Church. It was very well attended and everyone was in awe of the talent of the ladies in these Institute. This was followed by a sail on Loch Lomond, followed by High Tea at the Oak Tree Inn in Balmaha. I have never seen Loch Lomond so calm and the reflections so clear on what was a perfect summer day.

Sadly I missed the East event last Thursday. Blairlogie, Braco & Greenloaning, Dollar and Tillicoultry held a High Tea at Inglewood House Hotel. Everyone I have spoken to has said how much they enjoyed the afternoon.

And today is our finale, our Centenary Lunch. I hope everyone is looking forward to it. After the doubts three years ago, we have survived, as planned, to celebrate

Without your participation, we would not have achieved this.

This has been a very long report, but a Centenary Year is something to celebrate.

And I want to finish by thanking the Executive for its input at our meetings, the Management Team of Anne Artis, Fiona Campbell, Elizabeth Hay, Janet Iffla and Kathleen Sinclair for their support over the last few years. Janet and Fiona are standing down this year after many years of service. And last, but not least, I want to thank Margaret Crawford, who continues to provide secretarial support and wise advice.

And, finally, I want to thank you for being members of SC & WP.. Without you, there would be no SC & WP.

This concludes my report. Thank you.