

# EAST KENT FEDERATION

# EAST KENT NEWS

# BUMPER ISSUE

# DECEMBER 2026/JANUARY 2027



**The Federation Office will be closed from Thursday 24th December reopening on Tuesday 5th January 2027. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

### Contact Information for the Federation Office

Crown House,
John Roberts Business Park,
Pean Hill,
Whitstable CT5 3BJ

Tel: 01227 464106
federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

**Opening Hours:**

**Tuesday to Thursday**

9.30am – 3.30pm

(closed for lunch from 1.00pm to 1.30pm)

East Kent Federation Website

Ticketsource for bookings

Ticketsource phone number

0333 666 3366

Members Facebook Page

## NEWS FROM ANGELA



Angela Coleman
Chair

As we come to the end of 2026 we have much to be proud of and so much to look forward to in 2027.

Every year I say I won't book in so much but each year it gets busier! I've no one to blame but myself and like all of you I love every minute of the season.

I had a great time at craft day even though I don't have any talent whatsoever- I made a beautiful Elmo lino print Christmas card for my youngest granddaughter which she will love!

I was honoured to Chair a meeting for Margate WI this month. Following the Supreme Court ruling last year Margate decided to provide an education evening for their members and neighbouring WIs. Speakers joined them from Margate Pride and Transactual. It was a wonderful event listening to lived experiences and learning a little more. The speakers were so eloquent, warm, relatable and inspiring. If you want to find out more contact me, Pride have an education officer who is happy to come and talk at our meetings. Well done Margate ! The WI is all about education- you hit the brief!

You'll see that we are busy working with Porchlight and NFWI have launched their No Woman without a Home campaign. In the meanwhile food and toiletries donated to Foodbanks gets to local homeless people.

As I write this I'm looking forward to The Silent March with the Soroptimists and many others through Canterbury as part of the 16 Days of Activism against VAWG. This is a very moving event. The situation at the moment is shocking- we all read the papers. It's just not something we can ignore as the Country's largest women's charity.

On a lighter note we will have attended the Carol Service at Canterbury Cathedral in aid of Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance by the time you read this. We are hoping that lots of you will have joined us. We are very proud to be raising money for such a wonderful Charity.

Whilst you are buying presents for everyone else don't forget to get your tickets for our AGM in April. We have a really great day planned and Jeryl Stone will be joining us from NFWI too. Don't miss out!

Finally on behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the amazing work you put into your WIs. Thank you to all your committees and for everyone of you for choosing to be a member of East Kent Federation.

Happy Christmas to you all and we wish you all a very healthy, happy and fun New Year.

*Angela* federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

## FROM OUR TREASURER

Last month I wrote a piece on the Groups of WIs and the use of WI funds.
In an attempt to clarify matters it seems to have caused some confusion. I hope this helps.

WI Groups are where many WI's get together to run an event once or twice a year and the Wis in the Group can take it in turns to run them. They are organised by the Presidents and Secretaries and it's good for sharing best practices. There are still many WI groups that still exist.

Many years ago our constitution covered WI Groups - ie several local Women's Institutes joining together for Group meetings with clear rules on how these functioned.

Long before I became involved with the Federation this layer of governance was removed by NFWI and the Groups were no longer governed by the Federation and our Constitution.

Some areas kept their Group meetings up and some disbanded. Others remained but in a different format. The information given at the time was that these meetings could not be charged to the whole WI but each person attending would pay at the door and a raffle etc could be used to raise funds for the self running of the Group.

We have very clear rules on the use of WI funds. The rules haven't changed but the nature of our Institutes means that information doesn't always get passed on when new trustees take up the post, and we all end up doing things, with the best of intentions that are outside the Charity Commission rules.

The advice we gave last month was because we were made aware that WIs were paying to join groups and this is not allowed.

We at Federation are very keen to encourage WIs to form and join Groups. We recently contacted you to find out exactly which WIs belonged to which Group - the only proviso is that you cannot take money from your WI funds to pay for the Groups. Members who attend pay at the door, a raffle, a quiz etc should cover the costs. These are a great opportunity to invite visitors to experience the WI at a friendly event. We encourage this too. Funds for WI Groups must be kept separate from the WI bank accounts. The surplus funds can be used for the next meeting and so on.

I really hope this explains why I wrote to you last month and it's a little clearer.

Cheers Chris

## FESTIVE QUIZ

**A FUN FILLED CHRISTMAS QUIZ**
**Monday 7th December 1.45pm**
Come and join us at Godmersham and Crundale Village Hall for lots of fun and prizes
**Mulled Wine Tea/Coffee and Mince Pies or Yule Log**
**INCLUDED - Yum 😊!!**



PRIZES FOR BEST FESTIVE JUMPERS
TICKETS ARE £8.00 PER PERSON (plus Booking Fee)
Individuals or Team Tables of 6
ALL WELCOME
Tickets are available via Ticketsource:
Or alternatively please contact the Office Tel:

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2027/28

The subscription rates for next year have been set and sent to your WI secretaries.
NFWI gives the National Council three rates to choose from. The majority vote wins. This year they chose the lowest increase with the highest increase for the WI level.
You'll see from the chart below the importance of paying your subs to your Treasurer in time to enable her to get the Federation share to us before we have to pass on the NFWI share on time too. You wouldn't believe how long we have to wait for some subs to come in!
If you haven't paid your subscription by 1st April you are technically no longer a member! We don't know if you are not renewing or whether you have forgotten. Please, please make it easier for your Treasurer and us and get ALL SUBS in by 1st April 2027. Put it in your diary now.
If you aren't going to be at your meetings in the New Year for whatever reason you can schedule a payment from your bank account or get a cheque to your treasurer.
We really appreciate everyone who gets their subs to their WI in good time and all the Treasurers who get the subs to us on time - THANK YOU.

| Total subscription | WI share | Federation share | NFWI share |
|---|---|---|---|
| £57.00 | £28.60 | £13.30 | £15.10 |

The timetable for membership fees is set below. We request that wherever possible BACS should be used for a quicker, effective and less expensive mode of payment:

| Deadline | To action |
|---|---|
| 1st April 2027 | WI to collect subscription payments from members |
| 30th April 2027 | Payments from WIs to Federations including pooling of fares |
| 31st May 2027 | Subscriptions and pooling of fares payments from Federations to the NFWI |

## THE WINNERS 200+ CLUB

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st Prize | £17.75 | No 165 | Angela Coleman | Millstead with Frinsted WI |
| 2nd Prize | £10.65 | No 30 | Christine Woolgar | Kennington WI |
| 3rd Prize | £7.10 | No 83 | Kathleen Macphee | Smeeth WI |

Are you in the 200 Club? For just £12 a year, your number is entered into 12 draws! The more members, the higher the prize; the more tickets you have, the greater your chances! The forms are available now from your secretary or Lin at the Federation Office, 01227 464106.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Monday 7 December 2026 | Festive Quiz | Page 2 |
| Tuesday 19 January 2027 | Zoom Drop in Session | Page 3 |
| Monday 1 February 2027 | Deadline Joan Boucher Cup | Page 3 |
| Wednesday 7 April 2027 | EKFWI AGM Ticket Sales Now Open | Page 4 |
| Thursday 15 April 2027 | Resolution Meeting | Page 4 |
| Thursday 3 June 2027 | NFWI Annual Meeting Hull. | |

**To book direct or to see if tickets are still available click on Ticketsource for most events.**

**Deadline for copy to be included in the February issue EKN Thursday 21 January 2027**

## RESOLUTION MEETING

**Save the date.**

The Resolution meeting will be held on Thursday 15th April 2027 10-12 at The ARCA Hall, Ashford Road Thannington Without.

Delegates for the Annual Meeting in Hull should attend, claiming the cost back from the WIs they are representing.

## OFFICER ZOOM DROP IN SESSIONS




Our next officer Zoom In Session will take place on **Tuesday 19 January at 19.00** If you have anything you want to ask, please let us know - if you just fancy a chat, that's great too. Please let Alison know if you wish to attend, and she will send you the link.

## EKFWI INSPIRING WOMEN




**Karen Jenner of Shepherdswell WI** has been recognised with an Excellence in Science Award for her outstanding contribution to fragrance safety research. The first woman and the first environmental scientist to receive this prestigious honour, Karen accepted the award at the Research Institute for Fragrance Materials (RIFM)'s 60th Annual Meeting in New Jersey on 5 November. Reflecting on the recognition, Karen said receiving the award two years after retiring was a wonderful surprise and a meaningful acknowledgement of decades of dedication to her field. Her career demonstrates the power of science, innovation and generosity, proving that women don't just work in science, they help shape its future.

Read more at: https://rifm.org/dr-karen-jenner-honored-with-2026-robert-h-bedoukian-excellence-in-science-award/

**EAST KENT FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES - CIO**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
**Wednesday 7th April, 11.00 am - 4.00 pm**
**Great Hall, Kent College, Whitstable Road, Canterbury, CT2 9DT**

**EARLY BIRD BOOKING PRICE - £18 + BOOKING FEE**

*Early Bird Tickets are £18.00 per person + booking fee (members only) until 31st January 2027, thereafter tickets will be £20.00 + booking fee* **Ticketsource link**
*Tel: 01227 464106 Email: assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk*

**OUR GUEST SPEAKERS WILL BE:**



**RT REVD ROSE HUDSON-WILKIN, BISHOP OF DOVER**

We are so excited to announce that our special Guest Speaker at the EKFWI AGM on 7th April 2027 will be the Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of DoverRose will be joining us to talk about her incredible life story from Montego Bay to a Bishop in Kent, it is quite a story!

**KENT SURREY SUSSEX AIR AMBULANCE**

An inspiring, in-depth look at their lifesaving work in Kent, Surrey, and Sussex. Sharing their passion through an interactive presentation filled with powerful stats, images, patient stories, videos and more.

**PLUS, SURPRISE GUESTS**

Do not miss out – put the date in your diary NOW! Get a group of you together – it is going to be a fabulous day.

**Book now to avoid disappointment**
Ticketsource link

**Transport**: There is a large car park at the venue, but it would be helpful to car share where possible. The busses from Canterbury and Whitstable stop outside the school.

**Refreshments**: Tea and coffee will be on sale before the meeting and at lunch time. It is advisable that members bring a packed lunch as the venue is not close to shops or cafes/restaurants.




Our thanks to NK Holidays who are sponsoring the Federation Annual General Meeting on April 7th.

## EAST KENT FEDERATION ACHIEVER'S

**DOES SOMEONE IN YOUR WI DESERVE TO WIN THIS AWARD?**

Have you achieved something this year - a new skill, a qualification, recognition for services, anything unusual or something personal.

We are all about celebrating women for who they are, what they are and what they do! Don't be shy.

Is someone in your WI inspiring and remarkable but doesn't like to tell others what they are quietly doing?

Let us know. We want to hear about all of your members' achievements during the past year. You can nominate yourself or others.

Contact Alison via email federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk with the name, WI, contact number and most importantly what the member has accomplished.

**NOMINATIONS TO BE RECEIVED BY 31ST DECEMBER 2026**

## ROSE BOWL AWARD

Each year we ask you for nominations for members or groups of members that have given the Women's Institute considerable support and service over the years or for a very short time. It's the difference and the impact that matters.

It can be to the organisation overall or to one WI, it doesn't matter. Think about women that have inspired you to become more involved in the organisation. Who has gone above and beyond!

The Award takes place at our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 7th April 2027 at
The Great Hall, Kent College, Whitstable Road, Canterbury, Kent CT2 9DT

The winner or winners will be invited to attend the meeting.

Let Alison know the name, WI, and reasons for your nomination.
Email: federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

Let's celebrate the amazing members in our Federation.

**NOMINATIONS TO BE RECEIVED BY 31ST DECEMBER 2026**

## SPOTLIGHT ON A WI

**BETHERSDEN WI**

Bethersden is 103 years old!
We are gradually resurrecting ourselves from the pandemic with the help of some new members eager to learn more about the WI and engage in social activities and events that make a difference.
Many of our members are of a certain age, however they are keen to do what is possible for them to support current issues and campaigns. The more energetic members are happy to take a more active part when the opportunities occur.
Our lunch club has been very popular this year, encouraging members to share with one another over food.
Our craft club continues to thrive on the 3rd Saturday of each month, and the book club meets every six weeks.
2 of our members and their husbands valiantly tackled a large and unwieldy maple tree in our churchyard, as it had got out of control. The tree was a gift from our link institute in Beamsville, Ontario Canada back in 1987, following the hurricane, and it has grown substantially since then.
We have recently reacquainted ourselves with the Kennington group and have already enjoyed excellent events with their members. Our own group, the Smarden group is much depleted since Smarden WI closed, however we do maintain contact with our links in Egerton and Westwell. It is always a pleasure to regularly meet with other WI members, building on our sisterhood and engaging with shared interests.
Long may our institute reign!

## JOAN BOUCHER CUP FOR WRITING



*To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the death of Elvis Presley, in 2027 we are inviting you to write a story entitled……..*

***SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL***

***Let your imagination run wild!***

*The winning story will be published in East Kent News and the first three places displayed at the Federation AGM*

**Simple Rules:**

- Please write how many words you have used (maximum 600) at the end of the story
- Add your name & WI on a separate piece of paper to your story, if sending by post
- Submit your story either via email or post to the EKFWI Secretary
- Closing Date for Entry - 1st February 2027

For further information please contact the EKFWI office.

## RESOLUTIONS- NO WOMAN WITHOUT A HOME.

This month NFWI launched No Woman without a Home tackle women's homelessness. *No Woman Without a Home* was officially launched at the House of Lords, it brought together parliamentarians, homelessness experts, women's organisations, researchers and WI members and the event shone a powerful spotlight on a crisis that is hidden.
At the heart of the launch was a simple but urgent message: women experiencing homelessness are frequently invisible. Many are not sleeping on the streets but are instead sofa surfing, staying in unsafe accommodation, living with abusive partners, or moving between temporary arrangements to avoid rough sleeping. Research shared during the event highlighted that only around one in ten women experiencing homelessness are currently counted in official figures, making it much harder to provide the support they need.

NFWI have now launched a campaign action pack and materials to support members to act and raise awareness of these issues locally. You can download the campaign pack and resources from the campaign webpages, where you'll find information on the campaign priorities and ways to make a difference.

This is the Press Release from 16/11/26

**The National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) is urging its 175,000 members to lobby politicians across England and Wales to tackle the issue of women's homelessness and highlight this often-hidden problem.**

WI members voted to make women's homelessness one of the organisation's 2026-27 national campaigns. The 'No Woman Without A Home' campaign calls on governments and public bodies to:

> 'Count Her, House Her and Support Her' by improving the recording of women's homelessness, guaranteeing access to safe accommodation for survivors of domestic abuse, and ensuring every woman can access wraparound support to rebuild her life.

The campaign aims to tackle the hidden realities of women's homelessness – in which an estimated 10 times as many women are homeless as official figures show* – and ensure that no woman is left invisible, unsafe or without a place to call home.

**It's being launched on Monday November 16 in the House of Lords with the support of Baroness Neate, formerly the CEO of both Shelter and Women's Aid.**

Chrissie Booth, chair of the WI Public Affairs Committee, said: "When we think of homelessness, we often picture rough sleeping - but women's homelessness is often hidden. It can mean sofa surfing, moving between temporary accommodation, living in unsafe housing, or staying in an abusive relationship because there is nowhere else to go. As a result, many women experiencing homelessness remain invisible and unsupported.

"Our very first national resolution, passed in 1918, called for better housing for women and families. Times have changed but women are still at the sharp end of the housing crisis. That's why we are asking the 5,000 individual WIs to open their doors to their communities, inviting local government, charities and women with lived experience to come together and collaborate on tackling this issue. If one conversation could change a life, imagine what 5,000 could do."

Emma Brown, a WI member from Yorkshire, experienced losing her home after her relationship broke down when she found her partner had run up debts under the promise of a large family inheritance, including the rent and council tax.
Emma said: "He lied about sorting the rent and the council tax, he ran up my overdraft and credit card bills but he hid the post from me so that I didn't know what was happening. We ended up with a two-week eviction notice.
"I was one of the lucky ones in that I had family who could take me in, but that was my home and my independence I'd lost. It's scary, if you take family out of the equation.

https://www.thewi.org.uk/campaigns/key-and-current-campaigns/no-woman-without-a-home.

Keep an eye on the EKFWI Facebook group as all information is shared on it.
In East Kent we are working with Porchlight to highlight the situation. We have some great ideas to bring it to the attention of our communities and will share them as soon as possible.
In the meanwhile, the single **MOST** important thing we can do is donate food and essentials to our **Foodbanks**. This is distributed to all Homeless people and hubs.

## PORCHLIGHT

For more than 50 years, Porchlight has supported people facing homelessness across Kent and Medway. We know how to find people, earn their trust and get the right help to them fast.

Porchlight sees first-hand the challenges women face when they lose a safe place to call home. As Kent's leading homelessness and mental health charity, we support women experiencing homelessness, domestic abuse, poor mental health and financial hardship.

Our teams provide practical support, helping women access safe accommodation, navigate housing systems, improve their wellbeing and rebuild their confidence and independence

Women's homelessness is often hidden from view. When people think of homelessness, they may picture someone sleeping rough on the streets. Yet for many women, homelessness looks very different. It can mean sofa surfing, staying in unsafe relationships, moving between friends' homes, living in temporary accommodation, or spending nights in places where they do not feel secure.

This hidden nature of women's homelessness means it can go unnoticed for years. Many women experiencing homelessness are actively trying not to be seen. Faced with the risks of violence, exploitation and abuse, they may avoid sleeping rough altogether, even when they have nowhere safe to live. Instead, they make impossible choices, trading stability and safety simply to keep a roof over their heads.

The reasons women become homeless are complex; poor mental health, relationship breakdowns, domestic abuse, bereavement and the rising cost of living can all be factors.

A sudden crisis, such as losing a job or facing an unexpected bill, can also quickly push someone into housing insecurity.

The impact can be devastating. Homelessness affects physical and mental health, making it harder to access healthcare, maintain employment or support children. Women experiencing homelessness often report feeling isolated, anxious and invisible, and our clients often need support across multiple aspects of their lives to achieve lasting stability.

Porchlight's work highlights that with the right help at the right time, homelessness does not have to define someone's future. Safe accommodation, specialist support, mental health services and compassionate one-to-one guidance can help women move beyond crisis and build brighter futures for themselves and their families.

Hear from Jacqui who was supported by Porchlight, and now volunteers for us: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RYeWYMhT2A

Women's homelessness is not just a housing issue. It is a matter of safety, equality and opportunity. Every woman deserves a place where she feels secure, valued and able to plan for her future. By raising awareness of the hidden forms homelessness can take, we can help ensure that women facing housing insecurity are seen, heard and supported.

Everyone can play a role in making things better. Understanding the realities of women's homelessness is the first step towards creating a society where no woman has to choose between safety and a place to call home. Supporting organisations such as Porchlight, whether through fundraising, volunteering or simply raising awareness, helps ensure that women facing homelessness can access the support they need to rebuild their lives.

Thank you all for choosing to support Porchlight over the coming months, it means so much to us and the women we support. We look forward to sharing more about our work and what you can do to make a difference to the lives of some of the most vulnerable women in our communities.

## RESOLUTION SHORTLIST 26/27

At your meetings each and every member gets a vote to choose the Resolution they would most like to go forward to the NFWI Annual Meeting. Sometimes it's something that is personal to us and sometimes it's an issue we've not even considered before. This is your chance to shape the conversation. Get your vote to your secretary who will send them to the Federation office

The shortlisted resolutions are:

1. **Honey and fraud**- Many honey products sold in the UK do not have clear labelling, with a lack of clarity on their country of origin and contents. The NFWI calls on government to enforce mandatory country of origin labelling for all honey sold in the UK, and where honey is blended from different countries, to ensure labels show the percentage share from each country, and to ensure that honey products diluted with non-honey sweeteners are labelled and marketed as such. This must be underpinned by testing and enforcement. We also call on WI members to support the local honey industry by purchasing from UK-based beekeepers.
2. **Give youth a space** - The closure of youth clubs and loss of safe community spaces for young people has contributed to increasing concerns around social isolation, mental health and antisocial behaviour. The NFWI calls on government and local authorities to invest in and expand accessible youth clubs and dedicated youth spaces to provide young people with opportunities to develop skills, build positive relationships and access support, supporting their mental health and helping them to thrive and contribute positively to their communities.
3. **Adapting to a changing climate** - The Climate Change Committee has warned that the UK is falling behind in adapting to the impacts of climate change, leaving communities, infrastructure, food security and nature at risk from a

changing climate. The WI calls on government, regional and local authorities to prioritise and adequately fund fair and inclusive climate adaptation measures, such as flood protection, resilient infrastructure, sustainable food systems, water security and support for vulnerable groups, to build resilient communities and protect people, nature and livelihoods from the increasing impacts of climate change.

4. **A new chapter – addressing the shame and embarrassment for adult non-readers** - There are 6.6 million adults in England and around 216,000 in Wales who face everyday challenges because they struggle with reading or cannot read at all. The NFWI calls on WI members to take practical action by raising awareness, partnering and volunteering with established organisations that provide 1:1 coaching and support to adult non-readers of all ages. The NFWI calls on WI members to lobby policymakers to implement robust strategies for adult non-readers and to achieve improvements in literacy.
5. **Make deaf awareness, everyone's awareness** - Communication connects us with the people and the world around us, underpinning our wellbeing, safety and ability to participate fully in family, work and community life. One in three adults in the UK are deaf, or have hearing loss or tinnitus, in addition to thousands of children and young people. The NFWI calls on WI members to become deaf aware by increasing their knowledge and understanding of how to support deaf people and those with hearing loss, encouraging inclusive practices in their communities, and achieving positive change in how deaf people of all ages are perceived, understood, and supported

## SPEAKER UPDATE

**Julius Bannister** – Email: julius@biro.co.uk – Category 9 – Fee £80.00 + something towards travel. A DAY AT THE RACES, A NIGHT AT THE OPERA - Julius Bannister, a violinist, spent 40 years in London's music business, playing for West End shows (Les Mis), opera, ballet, for the symphony, as a recording artist for blockbuster movies, and as a backing musician for pop and other entertainers. He estimates that he has made more than 15,000 recordings to date! Rather than blowing his own trumpet, Mr. Bannister charts the course from a child with a love of music, to actually becoming a professional musician. His first boss was Max Jaffa and today Mr Bannister heads up Village Concerts that takes music into primary schools (essential, in this day and age, collaborating on projects with the former Children's Laureate, Anthony Browne) and provides live music in small rural village locations through a series of light music concerts with his Astor Palm Court group. Yes, of course he brings his violin, and entertains with a veritable chocolate box of music we have loved.

**Conrad Bigham** – 16 Pioneer Avenue, Marden, Kent TN12 9FT, Tel No: 07803 131808, Email: conradbigham@hotmail.com, Fee Charged: £75 plus travel at 55p per mile – Category 7 – Historic London Hotels – Luxury and Scandal, Equipment Required – projector and screen, able to speak to all WIs in East Kent, Available to speak am, pm and evenings and available to speak at short notice.

## TRAINING FOR WI OFFICERS OFFERED BY NFWI

We would like to remind WIs that training is available to support members undertaking WI Officer roles, including Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries. Whether you're newly appointed or looking to refresh your knowledge, this modular training is designed to support you in your Officer role.

We recommend that role-specific training is completed every two years. Regularly revisiting the training helps to ensure that you remain up to date with any changes to existing policies and guidance, as well as any new requirements or information that may have been introduced since you last completed the training.

This training is available through VIA and can be accessed at any time by clicking here or:

1. Visit VIA.thewi.org.uk
2. Log in using the details you use for My WI
3. Select 'Federation & WI area' from the top right corner
4. Select your relevant role to access the available training

If you have any questions or are having trouble logging into your VIA account, please take a look at our helpful step-by-step guides. If you're still having difficulties, our team will be happy to help. Simply email us at VIA@nfwi.org.uk.

EAST KENT
WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

# CHERRY BLOSSOM WALK

**13th APRIL 2027.**

There will be two walks:

Morning Walk from 10am to 12 Noon &
Afternoon Walk from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Maximum of 20 persons per walk.
Price is £12.50
(plus Booking Fee)

Tickets can be booked via Ticketsource:
www.ticketsource.com/east-kent-federation-of-womens-institutes
or via the office:

Tel: 01227 464106
Email: assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

## THE SCRAPSTORE @ EAST KENT MENCAP

**The ScrapStore @ East Kent Mencap, Foresters Hall, Meeting St, Ramsgate, CT11 9RT.**

**An exciting green initiative that looks to reduce waste in Thanet.** The ScrapStore encourages people to reduce, reuse and recycle by taking in safe, clean 'scrap' craft products so that re-usable items are saved from landfill.
The craft supplies are sold at affordable prices for others to use to get creative. It is run by volunteers with and without a learning disability, and all art supplies have been donated.

**The ScrapStore is open every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10am to 2pm.**



## WIST TEAM

The WI Advisers remind you to get in touch with regards to your Annual Meetings should you have any problems or queries, and we will do our best to help you.

We would all like to wish you a peaceful and Happy Christmas.

Gill Crone
Chair WIST

An exciting new project looking to reduce waste in Thanet by encouraging people to reduce, reuse and recycle craft materials.

Donate anything you think another crafter could use, like:
- fabric and haberdashery
- yarn and wool-craft items
- paper, card stock, books and magazines

Pay a flat fee and fill a carton.
Browse our 'one off' items and grab a bargain.
An affordable way to try new crafts or replenish your stash while supporting a local charity.

## A NEW YEAR FINANCIAL DETOX

*Chartered Financial Planner Sam Secomb suggests a gentler kind of January resolution: taking stock of what you have, what it costs you and what it is for.*

January brings plenty of advice about fresh starts, and most of it is about giving things up. I would like to suggest something more useful: a financial detox. Not a month of feeling guilty about December, but a calm look at what your money is doing and whether it still suits the life you have now.

Very few of us designed our finances from scratch. They built up over decades. A pension with each employer. A savings account opened when the rate looked good. An insurance policy taken out when the children were small. A direct debit set up for a magazine, a charity or a gym and never thought about again. Each made sense at the time. The question worth asking now is whether they still make sense together.

**Start with what is going out.**

A good first step is your bank statement. Most banking apps and online banking now list all your direct debits and standing orders in one place. Go through them line by line and ask of each one: do I know what this is, do I still use it, and is it still good value?

You may find a subscription you no longer use, cover for something you have since sold, or a premium that has crept up quietly at each renewal. Your regular charitable giving deserves a look too. Not to cut it, but to check it still goes where you want it to and that Gift Aid is being claimed if you pay income tax.
None of these may be large on its own. Added up over a year, they often are.

**Then look at what you have**
Financial clutter is not only what goes out. It is also what sits still.

- **Old pensions.** Many of us have pensions from several employers and only a rough idea of what they add up to. If you have lost track of one, the government's free Pension Tracing Service can help you find the provider. You can also check your State Pension forecast online at GOV.UK.
- **Cash.** Keeping money in the bank for emergencies and peace of mind is sensible. A large balance that has built up simply because you were not sure what else to do with it is worth questioning, especially if it sits in an old account paying little interest.
- **Investments and policies.** An ISA or bond opened years ago and rarely looked at since. A life policy you vaguely remember. Could you say what each one is for?
- **The paperwork that protects you.** Is your will up to date? Have you set up Lasting Powers of Attorney? Have you told your pension providers who you would like to benefit if you die, often called an expression of wish? These are easy to put off and matter enormously to the people you love.

**Ask what your money needs to do**
Once you can see the whole picture, the most useful question is not "what should I buy?" but "what is this money for?"
Money you might need for a new car or a new boiler next year has a very different job from money set aside to help grandchildren, to give you more choice about when you stop working, or to pay for care later in life. Give each part of your money a purpose and the decisions become much clearer.

**Don't try to fix everything in January**
January is four fairly dark weeks. It does not need to transform you, and rushing is particularly unwise where pensions and investments are concerned.
Set yourself a more realistic aim. Know what you have. Decide what your money needs to do. Pick the two or three things that deserve your attention first. Cancelling a forgotten subscription is a satisfying start. Understanding how everything fits together is the real prize.

**Join us in January**
If this has made you realise you have plenty of financial pieces but are not quite sure how they fit together, that is exactly what we will be exploring in our free online Finance on Friday session: **Financial Detox, Get Properly on Top of Your Money in 2027**, on **Friday 29 January 2027 at 12 noon**.
In 45 minutes we will look across the main areas of your finances, help you spot where things may have become disconnected and give you a way to identify the three areas worth reviewing first. Everyone who joins will receive our Financial Detox worksheet to work through at home.
No jargon. No judgement. No January punishment.
To book your place, visit womens-wealth.co.uk/online-events. If you cannot make it, or would simply like the worksheet, email **ww@womens-wealth.co.uk** and we will send you a copy.

*Sam Secomb is a Chartered Financial Planner and founder of Women's Wealth, based in Canterbury. She writes the Moral Money column for The Daily Telegraph.*
*This article is for general information only and is not personal financial advice. Although Sam is a WI member this article reflects her personal views. She is passionate about Women's finance.*

## News from around the Federation

On the 29th of October at **Goodnestone WI,** we hosted the twice yearly group meeting. With a good turnout from WIs from Woodnesborough, Wingham, Sandwich, Ash and Eastry.

We invited Lucy Gove from Canterbury Cantata Trust who led an interactive musical session "singing for wellbeing" starting with Jerusalem! She was a lovely, enthusiastic and engaging instructor, who had everyone regardless of skill joining in singing rounds.



There was also a raffle, bring and buy and a pumpkin competition. Thank you to all the WIs who joined us to make it such a memorable evening.



**St Peters Village WI** Committee members decorated the memorial at St Peters Church and surrounding benches with poppies made by our members. The purple ones are in remembrance of all the animals participating in all conflicts.

We held our Autumn Fair where Queen Victoria, from our local Charles Dickens tour company, opened our successful event. There were many stalls with Christmas crafts. An enjoyable time had by all.



Members of the **Chestfield WI** Craft Group led by Jennie Silk have been busy over the past few weeks putting their sewing skills to very good use. Following our recent support for Pure Pads, an organisation that helps provide sanitary products and hygiene items to underprivileged girls and women in Rwanda, the group has been hard at work making handmade items to support this worthwhile cause.

With plenty of enthusiasm, members have produced a wonderful collection of items. It has been heartening to see so many people giving their time and talents to help others less fortunate than ourselves.

The Chestfield WI Craft Group continues to demonstrate how small acts of kindness can make a real difference. A sincere thank you to everyone who has contributed. The dedication and willingness to help are greatly appreciated and will have a positive impact on the lives of others.



Our November meeting was Milstead with Frinsted WI's 104 birthday party and we were entertained by singer Steve Hubbard who performed brilliantly throughout the evening and the ladies were served a wonderful supper and beautifully decorated cupcakes made by the President. After the meal the ladies enjoyed music and dancing. It was a fabulous night.



The highlight of the evening was a presentation to **Joyce Whittaker** to commemorate her 65th year as a member of Milstead with Frinsted WI. Joyce was presented with a certificate and flowers to mark the occasion. Joyce has served in many roles within the WI and is a valued member who has contributed so much to the group.

Three committee members from **KENNINGTON WI** laid a poppy wreath at the Memorial in Kennington, this event is always well supported by our local community.



A selection of the Artworks done by our very talented Art Group who meet weekly.



Our coffee & cake or Bacon Butty, or Soup & a Roll mornings, are very popular with our members and local community.

**Becket WI** took a coach trip to the Kings Gallery to see the wonderful Queen Elizabeth ll clothing exhibition.

We had the most wonderful day viewing all of the late monarch's clothing, from her Christening gown to her Wedding dress and her Coronation gown, There was an abundance of clothing to view, alongside all of the receipts for her clothing from the suppliers.

If only we could purchase a complete outfit of couture clothing for £4.00 now!

Members descended upon the gift shop after the exhibition and some came away with what we can only imagine was their Christmas shopping!

If you have the opportunity to go and see this exhibition it is a truly great day out.



**Newchurch WI** delivered 54 bags of toiletries etc for homeless ladies to the Rainbow centre in Folkestone.

Our members collected these items following the talk from Porchlight at the Resolution Meeting at Thanington Without. The Rainbow Centre collect period packs & toiletries etc & work with the food banks. Porchlight also work with the Rainbow Centre.




With Christmas just around the corner it was appropriate for Pete Allen to pay a return visit to **Woodchurch WI** with a presentation on "The History of Pantomime".

Pantomime has become a great British tradition with early roots in Greek and Roman mime, music and dance. Moving forward a thousand years Commedia dell'arte, with its stock of improvised characters arrived alongside the Mummer's and Mystery plays. Harlequin, Punchinello and slapstick comedy also appeared in the mix. By the early 18th century theatrical producers such as David Garrick at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane, introduced the professional Boxing Day pantomime, as we know it today. Joseph Grimaldi transformed the role of Harlequin clown to the Pantomime Dame and brought in audience participation, whilst further gender/cross dressing roles are seen in the young, thigh slapping, male protagonist played by a woman. Traditionally the main female lead is always played by a woman. The ugly sisters, Dandini and Buttons arrived via Rossini operas.

After a visit to the Walpole Hotel in Margate the talented craft ladies of **HOATH WITH DISTRICT WI** decided to produce a decorated napkin in keeping with the tradition of the hotel. The napkin collection is known as "The Napery" and they are displayed in the hallways and corridors of the hotel.




Our napkin is number 303! We delivered our napkin to the hotel and while we were enjoying tea, coffee and delicious cake, Jane, the owner of the hotel, had our napkin framed.

**Bobbing WI** spent a very relaxing evening painting Christmas decorations and chatting. These will look fantastic hanging on our Christmas trees this year.








Members of **Deal Goodwins WI** laid wreaths at Remembrance Day events at Deal Hospital and Deal Crematorium. Poppies for the two wreaths were knitted and crocheted by members.



It is with great sadness that members of **Shepherdswell WI** share the news of the passing of Marion Glave on 23 November.

Marion was a valued and much-loved member of our WI for more than 40 years. Throughout those years, she gave her time, energy and enthusiasm generously, serving in a variety of roles including President, Vice-President, Secretary and Programme Secretary. She was also the organiser of our much-enjoyed weekends away, helping to create lasting memories and friendships for many members.

Marion had a love of crafts and was always keen to learn new skills. In recognition she was awarded a Denman Bursary and attended Denman College, where she enjoyed a course in 3D decoupage. As President in 2012, she was invited by the EKFWI to take part in a special Olympic Torch relay event, travelling on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway to Dungeness, where the West Kent Federation WI ceremonially passed the torch to the East Kent Federation WI.

Marion's dedication to the WI was remarkable, but she will be remembered just as fondly for her friendship, kindness and good company. She touched the lives of many members over the years and played an important part in the life of our Institute.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew her, and our thoughts are with her family and friends at this difficult time.

## NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

We have ended our year with a very successful lunch in Folkestone and a well-attended Annual General Meeting held in Thanington. Our guest speaker was Lisa Steward from the Thorne Rescue Centre, who gave us lots of useful and interesting facts about hedgehogs and how we can help with their declining numbers. Suggestions for future activities were discussed, and planning will commence in the New Year. We wish all our members and friends the compliments of the Season.

### SPINNERS AND KNITTERS GUILD



The Spinners and Knitters Guild meets on the first Monday of each month unless it is a Bank Holiday, in which case the meeting takes place on the second Monday, from 10.30 am until 2.30pm in Chartham Village Hall.

Our aim is to have fun spinning and/or knitting in a relaxed atmosphere. We are a self-help group where, in addition to spinning and knitting, we indulge in many associated crafts from crochet, felting, dyeing, locker-hooking, peg loom weaving, etc.

Why not pop along to any meeting and see what we are up to? You can be assured of a warm welcome and the chance to find out more. We have regular workshops in all aspects of woolly crafts.

For further information, contact: EKFWI office and they will pass on your query.

**LACEMAKERS GUILD** – we are a small group of enthusiastic lace makers, who meet monthly at Meadow Grange Nursery, Honey Hill, Whitstable CT5 3BP.
We would love for some new members to join us. We are happy to help beginners and have various pillows, bobbins, books and threads to get you started your lacemaking way. Meetings are held on third Tuesday of the month 10 am to 1pm. For further information : contact the Federation office who will pass on a message.

**CRAFT & HOME ECONOMICS GUILD IN DOVER.** Meetings are every 4th Wednesday in the month at 2pm
Whitfield Village Hall. Manley Close, off Sandwich Rd, Whitfield. Dover.

**WHITSTABLE CRAFT & HOME ECONOMICS GUILD -** Meet at St John the Baptist Church Centre, 11 St John's Road, Swalecliffe, Whitstable, Kent CT5 2QU on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. The meeting starts at 2.15pm. No meeting in August.

**NEEDLECRAFT GUILD -** The Needlecraft Guild is a very friendly creative group, who all enjoy trying their hand at traditional, experimental and new techniques of Needlecraft. We try a new project each month. Whatever level of ability, a warm welcome and help is given to new members. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10.30am till 2.30pm at Chartham Hatch Village Hall, Bigbury Road, Chartham Hatch, Canterbury CT4 7NH. For further details contact the federation office who will forward your message. See our 2027 programme below.

2027 Programme:
27th January – Peacock with Sally Morley-Smith (member)
24th February – Silk Bracelets with Claire Player (Janet Gray's sister / outside tutor)
24th March – Stumpwork with Sue Cleary (committee member)
28th April – Using Denim Seams and Edges with Lesley Finney (outside tutor)
26th May – Chicken Scratch embroidery with Sue Cleary and Janet Anstiss (committee members)
23rd June – Plastic Canvas work with Carol Howell (committee member)
28th July – Hand Quilting with Jacqui Cotterill (outside tutor)
25th August – Fabric Postcards with Janet Anstiss (committee member)
22nd September – AGM and UFOs
27th October – Wet Felting with Linda Dean (member)
24th November – Holly Wreath with Glo Jessup (committee member)