

EAST KENT FEDERATION

EAST KENT NEWS

JUNE 2026



Contact Information for the Federation Office

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Opening Hours:

Tuesday to

Friday

9.30am – 3.00pm

(closed for lunch from
1.00pm to 1.30pm)

East Kent Federation
Website

[Ticketsource](#) for
bookings



NEWS FROM OUR CHAIRS



Angela Coleman
Chair



Sharon Goff
Chair

Hello everyone, and a very warm welcome to this June newsletter—we hope you find it an enjoyable read and a lovely way to catch up with all that’s happening across our East Kent WIs.

The East Kent Federation Board got together on 15th May for our second Board and Planning meeting since forming in April. There was lots of chat, plenty of ideas being shared, and a real sense of excitement as we started thinking about what we’d like to do over the coming year—it was all very positive.

Looking Ahead – What’s Coming Up

We already have some fantastic events to look forward to this year, and we hope that by the time you read this edition of the East Kent News, you’ll have enjoyed a lovely day at the Summer Garden event on 27th May. It was a real pleasure to welcome two wonderful speakers—Nan Eshelby with her talk “Hello Nature Lovers” and Neil Franklin, a Trustee of the Brogdale Collections, finishing up with an afternoon flower demonstration by Blooming Green Flowers from Maidstone.

We’ll be sharing more events throughout the year and in future newsletters, and we do hope you’ll be able to come along and support them—it’s always so nice to see everyone there.

The NFWI AGM on 4th June is set to be a great day, and we will be hosting a friendly watch party in Faversham at the Alexander Centre. This will be a great chance to get together, have a chat, and enjoy the event as a group. Whether you are attending as a delegate or just coming along to watch, it’s a really nice way to feel part of the wider WI community. If you haven’t yet bought a ticket, these are still available on Ticketsource, £10.

Delegates have already been advised of the WIs they are representing, plus received the ‘Voters Zoom Link’.

We are already making plans for the East Kent Federation AGM in 2027, which will be held again at Kent College. If this year’s event is anything to go by, it is sure to be another brilliant day! We are hoping to welcome some fantastic speakers once again, so do keep an eye out for more details as plans develop.

As always, thank you for being such a wonderful and supportive part of our WI community. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and all that’s coming up in the months ahead. We look forward to seeing many of you at future events, there’s plenty to look forward to!

Angela Coleman and Sharon Goff
federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

FEDERATION TREASURER



A quick update from your Federation Treasurer.

You will all be pleased to hear that across the WIs and the Federation we raised £1612.98 for the Kent Neuro Therapy Centre. The money raised will enable 2 people to have Neurotherapy for 1 year. This will help them improve mobility and coordination, reduce fatigue and will help the centre to empower their members living conditions.

A big thank you to everyone. You are all stars.

You'll be pleased to hear that the new Mayor of Canterbury has chosen the Neuro Centre as his charity of the year too!

Cheers Chris

THE WINNERS 200+ CLUB MAY DRAW

1st prize	£15.75	No 84	Fiona Steward	Hastingleigh with Elmsted WI
2nd prize	£9.45	No 24	Dorothy Douse	Hawkinge Evening WI
3rd prize	£6.30	No 74	Gill Cooke	Newchurch WI

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 4 June 2026	NFWI AGM - Watch Parties	Page 5
Saturday 6 June 2026	Pride March Canterbury	Page 3
Tuesday 16 June 2026	Visit to KSSAA	Page 3
Monday 22 June 2026	WI committee advice Zoom	Page 3
Wednesday 1 July 2026	Auditions Event, Dover	Page 3
Tuesday 7 July 2026	Betteshanger Mining Museum Visit	Page 5
Friday 10 July 2026	Anyone for Croquet?	Page 4
Saturday 12 September 2026	Quiz Walk Around Sandwich	Page 5
Wednesday 16 September 2026	WI Day: 12.00-15.00	Page 5
Monday 21 September 2026	Top Team Quiz, Canterbury Academy 6.30 for 7pm start	Page 4
Saturday 17 October 2026	Visit to KSSAA	Page 5
Monday 30 November 2026	KSSAA Carol Service	Page 5
Wednesday 7 April 2027	EKFWI AGM	

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 July EKN Monday 22 June 2026.

MESSAGE TO SECRETARIES

ZOOM ETIQUETTE GUIDE

The Board has put together a handy little Zoom etiquette guide to help keep meetings running smoothly and make things a little easier for everyone taking part.

If you'd like a copy, just drop me an email — I'd be very happy to send it over.

We really hope it comes in handy and helps your WI video meetings run even more smoothly.

Sharon Goff

Email: federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

AUDITIONS EVENT FOR SPEAKERS

Wednesday 1st July 2026

St Mary's Church Parish Centre, Cannon Street, Dover, CT16 1BY

6.30-8.30pm

Ticket price £5 payable on the door

Raffle

No pre-booking required – please note that this is for members only.

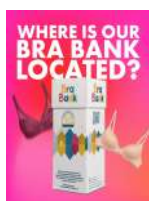
This is the way YOU choose the Speakers as recommended in the Speaker's List.

Use your talent spotting skills not just for your WI, but for the WIs across East Kent.

We look forward to seeing you.

*Any queries, please contact the Federation Office
01227 464106 or
assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk*

BRA COLLECTION



You have done it again - when we ask you, always turn up!

This week, the Board of Trustees packed up **65 kg** of bras! White ones, black ones, and every kind of lacy ones! Most of them **new!**

Thank you, thank you, thank you. We will update you as we go along.

Keep them coming! If you want to borrow the collection box or want a copy of the posters, just call Alison in the office.

WIST TEAM

Great News. You will be pleased to hear that we are now organising another round of Presidents and Secretaries training. This training is not confined to those members holding these positions at present, although of course they would be most welcome. Have you ever thought you might be interested but not sure what is involved? Come and find out! Also, think about succession planning. Who could be ready to take over when the current officers step down?

Dates and venues to be announced soon. Keep an eye out in the East Kent News.

Gill Crone
WIST Chairman

WI COMMITTEE ADVICE: ZOOM MEETINGS.

We are introducing regular Zoom meetings for WIs to ask the trustees of East Kent Federation questions about running their WI. We will send the dates, times, and the link to secretaries. We ask that you send your questions in via email with the name of the attendees; this will enable us to get the information you need, but we also welcome questions at the meeting. At present, these are just for members of the WI committee, but if you have a question, ask them to ask us on your behalf. Date of next meeting: Monday 22nd June 19.00-20.00

WI DAY: 16TH SEPTEMBER 2026 12.00-15.00

SAVE THE DATE

We are busy organising a really great event to celebrate WI Day. It will have two fabulous, entertaining speakers and a sharing platter lunch. Tickets will be available on [ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk) shortly. As soon as we have confirmed the finer details, we will let you know.

This will be a fabulous social event for everyone - we are hoping that you will all join us.

LIFESTYLE TEAM - PERFORMING ARTS, LEISURE AND SPORTS

ANYONE FOR CROQUET?



Friday 10th July 2026 at 10.30am to 3.00pm
4 Town Lane, Chartham Hatch, Nr Canterbury
CT4 7NN

Come to the croquet lawn at Chartham Hatch to learn or perfect your mallet skills!

Mallets and balls will be provided. There will be players on hand to explain the game and help you.

Ticket includes tuition, coffee, tea, cake, biscuits and fun! Please bring a packed lunch.

£15 PER PERSON

This is always a very popular event with limited places, please book early to secure your place and avoid disappointment!

In case of inclement weather, the croquet lawn has also been booked for Monday 13th as a back up plan!

Limited parking available on the drive, however there is also parking in village hall car park which is just the other side of the road in Bigbury Road, CT4 7NH.

Tickets available on [Ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

For further information please contact the office

Tel: 01227 464106

Email: assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

TOP TEAM QUIZ

Calling all members who love quizzes!

We have booked a larger venue this year with easy parking

This is an evening event, alternating time each year, to hopefully suit all!

Can your WI win the coveted TTQ winners shield? Institutes are invited to enter teams of up to six members per table.

Monday 21st September
2026

The Canterbury Academy, Knight Avenue,

Canterbury, Kent CT2 8QA

6.30pm for prompt start at 7pm

Tea/Coffee and biscuits at half time

£9 PER PERSON

Book via [Ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk) or the office

Deadline for bookings **TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER**
2026

There is a maximum capacity of 120 in the hall, so once this number is reached bookings will not longer be taken. Please do not leave it too late as last year several teams were disappointed not to get a place.

Contact the Federation Office:

assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk Tel:

01227 464106 for further information



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EKFWI - East Kent Federation Of Womens L.

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Over **£60m** raised for UK good causes

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NFWI AGM watch parties

The NFWI AGM is fast approaching on Thursday 4th June 2026.

There are three superb speakers booked and if last years meeting is anything to go by it will be well run and easy to access.

If you want to come and join the board at the Faversham Watch Party at the Alexander Centre 10.30-4, just go onto [Ticketsource](#) and get a ticket (this applies to delegates too). It's only £10. It will be a lovely day. Don't leave it too late as seats are limited.



Anne Boden

See you all there!



Professor Michele Dougherty

Faversham too far to travel why not join **Hythe Morning WI** at their Watch Party?

The Tin Tabernacle, Hythe.
Tickets available on [Ticketsource](#) just £5.

QUIZ WALK AROUND SANDWICH



Meet at
St Clements Church Hall, Church Street, Sandwich CT13 9EH
On

Saturday 12th September 2026 at 1.30pm

Come and explore the quaint Cinque Port Town of Sandwich with us!

Route takes 1.5 – 2 hours to complete and paths around the town can be uneven and very narrow in places so please bear this in mind when booking and not suitable for young children

Emails will be sent to those who book with exact start times and best places to park. At the end of the walk light refreshments will be served at the Church Hall where answers and winners are announced! Car parking in Sandwich is limited, so please car share where at all possible.

£8 PER PERSON

Closing Date: by **20th August 2026**

For further information please contact:

Lin Gates in the Federation Office Tel: 01227 464106

Email: assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

Or: Book directly on [Ticketsource](#):

VISIT TO BETTESHANGER MINING MUSEUM AND WALK

BETTESHANGER MINING MUSEUM AND WALK

**Betteshanger Park, Sandwich Road, Deal, CT14
oBF**



Tuesday 7th July at 10:30

Tickets - £10.00 Non-members welcome

If you have not been here before Betteshanger Park is the perfect blend of heritage, recreation, and relaxation. We will meet at 10:30 and start with a guided tour of the mining museum with an ex-miner which takes about one hour. Before we walk, you can get yourself a quick coffee in the excellent café at the venue. The walk is around a nice, easy trail exploring Betteshanger Park. It visits the pond and meanders through the woodland and open fields, taking in the lovely scenery and is just under 4 miles. For those who wish there are shorter routes that can be walked

Please note parts of this route are multi-user with hikers, runners, and mountain bikers all using the trails. Care should be taken to accommodate all who want to enjoy these paths, and appropriate footwear should be worn. Stay safe, please bring a bottle of water and sunscreen with you!

We will be walking 6.3km (3.9 miles)

Closing Date: **Thursday 4th June 2026** (book early to guarantee places on the mining museum tour).

Tickets can be purchased on [Ticketsource](#): and are sold on a non-returnable, non-refundable basis, unless the event is oversubscribed or cancelled by the Federation.

**For further information please contact
Federation Office –**

Email: assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk or

Tel: 01227 464106

PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

Public Affairs and resolutions.

You will have all had your resolution meetings by now. Thank you so much for sending in your results to Alison in the Federation office. These will be taken to the NFWI AGM this week.

Some of the delegates are confused by the fact that they are not representing their own WI.

The reason for this is that we have to allocate one delegate to four WIs. We try hard to allocate the delegate to her own WI, but it isn't always possible. It's a tricky job! Your delegate will always follow your instructions.

This year it was very hard for us to reach the quota of just 23 delegates.

Each year at your appointment meeting, you have to elect a delegate from your WI. This goes onto your MCS. I know between us all we can get all WIs represented next year.

As the delegate, you get to attend the Resolution meeting, EKFWI's AGM, and the chance to attend the NFWI AGM, next year in person in Hull.

It is a fabulous opportunity- you claim all your expenses back from the WIs you are representing. It is an amazing experience which you can't appreciate until you've been to a city centre with thousands of other WI women. It is such an inspiring experience.

Please do think about it. We need delegates- if we don't, we cannot represent you.

In-person meetings are so important; please don't leave it to someone else to volunteer. See you in Hull next year



Did you know that you can continue to campaign on any previous Resolution that has received a mandate at an AGM? If the latest Resolution doesn't appeal to your members or if it's not of relevance to you, then you can continue to support one that means something to you. The Resolutions past and present are all on [MyWI](#).

Have you subscribed to the NFWI Public Affairs newsletter?



If you are interested in joining the Public Affairs team at Federation, please give Angela a call. We need you!

PRIDE 2026 - CANTERBURY

You asked, so we applied to join the March through Canterbury on Saturday, 6th June.

If you are interested in showing support for the LGBTQ+ 🏳️‍🌈 community, please call Alison ASAP.

SUNKEN GARDENS WESTGATE ECO EVENT

Sunken Gardens Westgate Eco Event Sunday 20th September

If you've not already been, do join us at this fabulous event. It really is a great day out. More details on their [website](#).

KSSAA CHARITY OF THE YEAR

As you all know, we are supporting the Air Ambulance for the next two years. We want to raise a huge amount, and we know that you will rise to the occasion.

We have collection pots, lapel pins, and can obtain other items if you want them.

The fundraising team will happily send you a speaker for your meetings.

We have several amazing opportunities for you.

Visit to Rochester base Tuesday 16th June 10.30-12.00 and 13.00-14.30.

Visit to Redhill base Saturday 17th October 10.30-12 and 13.00-14.30. This is a rare opportunity to see them in action; husbands and friends are welcome; you will have to get yourself to Surrey.

Christmas Carol Service at Canterbury Cathedral Monday November 30th 7.30pm. Tickets are available from KSSAA website under events.

Family fun day Saturday 19th September 11am, Aylesford Priory.



We will have lots more events over the next two years.

SUMMER GARDEN DAY



Bees! Apples! Flowers! These were the themes of the day.

The weather had got the message, it might not yet be meteorological summer, but it was a warm yet not hot day and a gentle breeze kept the hall pleasant.

About 150 people attended the day which started with Nan Eshelby talking about gardening for bees. She is also a children's author bringing her message to protect bees through illustrated books.

Neil Franklin from the Brogdale Collections spoke about the collection, local varieties of apples and activities held on site beautifully illustrated with photos.



Bek from, Blooming Green Flowers educated and entertained us in the afternoon. She along with her cousin have a flower farm near Maidstone and specialise in natural floral arrangements. She led us through bridal flowers, the brides bouquet, bridesmaids posies, table decorations, pew/chair decorations and a pedestal arrangement all done without the use of floral foam. She was a delightful finale to the day.

In addition to the talks there were some lovely stalls selling crafts and plants. The Fifth Trust, Elham also brought wine to taste and buy with one of the trustees speaking briefly in the morning about the work they do. I found it a really enjoyable day out coming home with a bouquet of flowers and a bottle of rose wine. Thank you to all involved with the planning and running of the event. I know our teams need more help. If you, like me, enjoy these events why not volunteer even if only on the day selling raffle tickets or making tea.

Elizabeth Lansman, Hythe Bay & Hythe Morning WI.



News from around the Federation

Tunstall Evening WI attended a Watercolour evening with Heidi Schaffner. We learnt two techniques, the first using rock salt and the second cling film to make different effects on our paintings. We also had time to paint a 'normal' watercolour. We all had varying degrees of success with our efforts, but everyone went home with something they were pleased with, and everyone enjoyed the evening.



Stanford with Postling and Lympne WI had a very successful fusion glass workshop at their May meeting. Despite a lot of nerves everyone produced a unique piece of



Members from **Becket WI** visited the Masonic Temple in Canterbury. There was a very interesting talk given by one of the Mason's, with an opportunity to look at all the artifacts.



A very enjoyable morning was had by all with a trip to the coffee shop afterwards!

Chestfield WI

After watching her sister endure breast cancer treatment and a mastectomy, Glenda witnessed how physically and emotionally demanding the journey could be. During one visit, she noticed her sister holding a pillow tightly to her chest. It helped ease post-surgery discomfort, but on the hardest days it also offered reassurance and calm. Even now, her sister still fondly calls it her "comfort cushion".



That moment stayed with Glenda. Guided by her caring nature, she asked herself what she could do to support others facing breast cancer. Determined to help, she visited a charity shop, found suitable fabrics, and began making comfort cushions for patients walking the same path.

Glenda Langford and Jennie Silk had the privilege of personally delivering the cushions to the Cancer Ward at QEQM. During their visit, they also donated premature baby cardigans, lovingly knitted by dedicated members of the Craft Group with great care.

GARLINGE WI have been out and about and this photo was taken at Flamingo Adventure Golf meeting a friendly gorilla on the way.



The Garden Group spent a lovely afternoon at Canterbury Garden Centre rounded off with a welcome cuppa!

Isabelle Davidson

Congratulations to Isabelle, member of **Holm & Danley WI**, (Isle of Sheppey) on her 101th birthday celebrated on 2nd May 2026.



Isabelle has been a WI member since 1958 (68 years), firstly with the closed Halfway WI where she served on the Committee, as Secretary and was their President for 10 years. When Halfway WI closed in the early 1970's as they were unable to find a member to become the Treasurer, Isabelle then became a member at Holm & Danley WI. She was a member of the Craft Guild for many years.

She still attends every WI meeting, still lives independently in her own home (albeit with some assistance). Isabelle arranges her taxi every month, has a special seat at the meeting and a close set of friends of all ages.

Isabelle says "I've always been glad she joined the WI all those years ago."

Hythe Bay WI's New Yarn & Wine Group. Crafting, Connecting, and Contributing to Our Community



Hythe Bay WI recently formed a new crafting and social group called Yarn &

Wine meeting at our local pub. We have very mixed abilities and we guide our group, building confidence and expanding their skills in a supportive and friendly environment.

We started by making squares in to Fiddle blankets for a local care home. Our second project was knitting tea cosies for the local café where we also hold social Saturdays.

This month was a sewing evening using recycled fabric from charity shops and we learnt to sew and create tote bags giving everyone such confidence and joy when they walked away from the evening with beautiful bags in hand.



It's been such a success starting the group and everyone is looking forward to our next project.

The East Kent News editorial team welcome articles from WIs which focus on special events or may be of particular interest to other members . Please limit the number of words to a maximum of 150 and just one or two individual photographs. Please send text as a word document or as an email but not PDF. Send the photos separately not embedded into the text, the photos are better quality and it makes it much easier to edit.

NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

Tram Hatch Gardens at Charing Heath is our venue for a visit on Thursday 11th June for a private guided tour by the owner which is not to be missed! We continue our outdoor theme with a repeat visit to Samphire Hoe, the new piece of land created from Channel Tunnel spoil near Dover on Wednesday 8th July. We will see how the site has been colonised by animal and plants and should see rare orchids. Charges for these visit vary, Members of our Group have detailed programmes, visitors are welcome if numbers allow. Events need to be booked, at least a week in advance, by contacting the Hon Secretary via the Federation Office.

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.

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.

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.

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.