EAST KENT FEDERATION

EAST KENT NEWS

OCTOBER 2023



Contact Information for the Federation Office

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

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

Opening Hours:

Tuesday to Thursday,

9.30am – 3.00pm

(closed for lunch from 1.00pm to 1.30pm)

East Kent Federation <u>Website</u>

Ticketsource for bookings



Word from the Chair

Well, the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is upon us, and I am sure that many of you, like me, have been dealing with gluts of various fruits and vegetables, we have started to look like tomatoes, cucumbers and blackberries and are running out of inspiration - bring on the chutney!



It is good to see the photos of the WI shows that have been taking place, the creativity and skill of our

members is amazing and some of us are looking forward to learning some of those skills at Craft Day on 6th October, there may still be a few places left if anyone is interested in joining in, so contact the office for more information.

Word from the Chair

We have been notified that NFWI are changing the way they organise their Annual Meeting. As we all know, in 2024 it will be a hybrid meeting based at the Albert Hall, for the following two years (2025 and 2026) it will be a virtual meeting only and then in 2027 a hybrid meeting – venue to be announced nearer the time. As we will have the option of 1 delegate to 4 WIs in 2024 why not think about applying to be a delegate, we will have a wonderful day out meeting members from around the country.

You will see in this issue the lovely comments about the Federation Holiday at the beginning of September, it sounds great fun and perhaps it is something we should do again – what do you think?

The Trustees would very much like to meet more members and chat about the WI and hear their views, please do let us know if you would like a Trustee to visit your meeting or event we will make arrangements to come along.

Carol

federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

The Winners of September 200+ Club draw

1stNo 84£20.00 Fiona StewardHastingleigh with Elmsted WI2ndNo 6£12.00 Janet AdamsonAlkham WI3rdNo 50£8.00Pat HarperFaversham Gunpowder WI

Treasurer's Chat

The Federation is introducing the use of QuickBooks for our invoicing.

Treasurers and individuals who purchase tickets from the office rather than via Ticketsource will receive an invoice by email. The only difference you will notice is in the layout of the email.

We ask that invoices are paid in full as soon as possible after receipt. If for any reason you believe the invoice to be incorrect- do not pay but contact the office and if an error has been made a revised invoice will be issued.

Please can I remind all treasurers to send in any outstanding affiliation fees and check that everyone on the MCS has paid their subscription. Remember we are only members when we have paid our subs and NFWI have received their portion of the affiliation fees.

Elízabeth

federation.treasurer@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

Membership and Advisory Committee

Car Insurance

There have recently been a number of queries about WI members giving lifts to other members to meetings and events. Please check your own car insurance. In many cases an unspecified sum of money given as a gift is not seen to be the same as being hired. However, please do consider the costs involved when accepting a lift. Thank you to all car drivers who help their WI.

New WI Announcement

We are pleased to announce the formation of a new WI in Faversham. Their formation meeting will be held on Thursday 19th October, 2023 at 10am at The Welcome Centre, St Judes, Tanners Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 7JW. If you would like to be a founder member, please bring your membership fee, of £11.30 for a dual member (a member of any other WI in East Kent) or £23.00 as a new member (for the period October 2023 to March 2024) to the WI meeting, as well as cash for refreshments. Congratulations to all who have made a new WI possible.

Treasurers Training – Coming very soon

The Advisers have been working hard to provide a new meaningful and comprehensive training for Treasurers, Independent Financial Examiners and any WI member with an interest or wish to provide support to the Treasurers role.

Meetings will start late October and will be announced to WI's by letter and flyer as well as on social media and flyers as soon as halls and equipment have been booked. Please keep an eye out for the details.

Dates for your diary

Friday 6 October 2023 Sunday 8 October 2023 Tuesday 24 October 2023 Wednesday 15 November 2023 Tuesday 19 March 2024 Wednesday 10 April 2024 Wednesday 17 April 2024

Craft Day – open to non members Knitting and Stitching Show open to non members So you think you are a Good Driver? Open to non members The Jewels and Wardrobe of the Duchess of Windsor - on Zoom EKFWI Annual Meeting, Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone Spring Garden Day Literary Lunch - Lydden Village Hall

FEDERATION HOLIDAY REVIEWS

WENDY HALL

I had a wonderful time at the Manor, thank you. I have been there before, so knew what to expect. It can be quite overwhelming when you get there for the first time. It was a bonus to choose your activities before we went. Some of the classes were rushed, with taking the money taking up valuable crafting time. There was a huge amount of classes on offer.

The food was good and plenty of it.

The room was fine, with lovely views over Dartmoor, although the mattress had seen better days.

The coach and driver was first class, very helpful, an excellent driver. The coach was very comfortable, with the added bonus of tea and coffee and a toilet on the same level.

JAN PERFECT

I really enjoyed the holiday. I thought it was well organised and have no suggestions for changes. I think the coach company we used was a great choice. The coach was the right size for the number of people going and had the added bonus of a clean useable loo and coffee being served. The driver, Ian, kept us informed. We had to reroute on the return journey because as the closure of part of the M20 and couldn't come back via Ashford. The coach company arranged for transport for those going to Ashford from Canterbury. Exemplary service.

I'd go again. Well organised and good value for money.

JANET GOODWIN

The Federation holiday was fantastic from the coach, the driver & his lovely wife; the hotel; the food; the hotel staff and of course the amazing selection of crafts available to take part in together with many and varied sports......

Such a shame that Hazel was unable to stay and enjoy it all but sincerely hope that she is feeling much better and not in such pain any longer.

Well done Federation and look forward to maybe another similar trip in the future.

CHRISTINE GIVNEY

I am very pleased I decided to go on the federation holiday.

The coach journey was very comfortable and the driver and his partner worked hard to ensure all our needs were met. Our hotel room and bathroom, although small, was very clean. The bed was comfortable and we had everything we needed.

The food was plentiful and of good quality with lots of choices. I was booked on a number of craft taster sessions and I found all the instructors helpful and informative and we were able to produce an item in the time allowed. The other facilities I sampled: swimming, adventure golf and ten pin bowling were an added bonus. All in all it was a fun packed few days with a very friendly group of WI ladies.

Thank you to all those who made the arrangements and made this trip possible.

LOIS BELLENIE

The coach and driver (and wife) were wonderful and did a great job. However, on a 7 hour journey only one stop was not enough and resulted in my being awake most of the night with horrendous cramp in both legs.

The venue was a beautiful setting and offering such a very wide selection of activities it really was something for everyone. They were so accommodating if you wanted to change your choice. I had a go at things I would never have had the chance to do elsewhere and am really proud of my achievements.

Our accommodation was fine though I felt being untouched by staff for three nights was pushing it a bit. The beds were comfortable and facilities adequate.

The restaurant did a fine job considering the numbers they were catering for, and covered every need diet-wise. The food was varied and good and well cooked on the whole and the coffee good.

Overall, it was a good break just a shame it was so far away. Although I did enjoy it, it has convinced me that I really don't like crowds now; I am used to being alone at home and only mixing with small numbers at any one time.

Thank you for all the organising and I am sure it will be a very good venue for future visits for a lot of our WI ladies.

SUSAN SMITH

I enjoyed the holiday at Manor Hotel very much indeed. The coach was on time, the driver and his wife (Ian and Alison) were very polite, professional and friendly. Catering to our needs as and when they arose. Felt safe and happy on both journeys. Even making separate arrangements for the Ashford ladies because of the traffic due to the escaped prisoner from Wandsworth which caused chaos.

The accommodation is obviously being updated as some rooms were nicer than others but this must be an ongoing project.

The food and staff were friendly and helpful. The food choices were excellent and there was plenty to feed the huge number of guests as the venue.

Booking the activities was very easy but I was disappointed I couldn't try Glass Slumping, something I have wanted to do for a long time.

This was because we were leaving before both firings of the glass would be complete and could not collect our work before departing Devon.

I feel this should have been added to the activity information on their form that it takes two firing and is time critical. A couple of the craft teachers were a little abrupt in their instructions and I felt we were unnecessarily rushed at times. We finished the pottery in 40 minutes not the allocated one and a half hours. We could only make one item and felt we could have made two, obviously paying for both.

The amount of crafts, workshops and activities on offer were huge and we were spoilt for choice.

I would definitely go again if the WI were to organise such an event in the future.

Thank you to Hazel Bentley and whoever else was involved in the arrangements for this trip. Very well done.

AUDITIONS EVENT FOR SPEAKERS

Ash Village Hall, Queens Road, Ash, CT3 2BG

Friday 3rd November 2023

Doors open 1.30 pm for 2.00 pm start Finish time approx. 5.00 pm

£4 for the afternoon



Raffle – tea and coffee available on arrival and at coffee time.

No pre-booking – just turn up, please note that this is for members only.

This is the way YOU choose the Speakers as recommended in the Handbook. Use your talent spotting skills not just for your WI, but for the WIs across East Kent.

We look forward to seeing you.

Gill Bull, Speakers' Coordinator 01304 614184 or gill4auditions@gmail.com

AUDITIONS EVENT

Held on the 19th June 2023 at Bobbing village hall at 7.30 pm

The following speakers have been approved for inclusion in the YearBook:

Richard Parsons 'Canalmania - The Building of Englands Canals' parsonsrichardoo4@gmail.com

Helen Howard 'Who made my clothes' helen_howard@btinternet.com

PERFORMING ARTS, LEISURE & SPORT PALS

Top Team Quiz

The annual top team quiz was held at the new venue of Godmersham and Crundall Village hall. 114 members gathered to enjoy the quiz organised by the Performing Arts, Sport and Leisure Subcommittee. As usual Peter Jones was question master and provided six very interesting and thought-provoking rounds. Thanks to Carol Evans and Lesley Jones (Peters wife) who marked all the answer sheets.



Lots of thinking going on as Peter Jones reads out the questions!

Twenty teams took part and the scoring really was very high with not that much difference between first and base! The victorious team was Chartham WI – congratulations. The team was presented the Top Team Shield was Federation Chairman Carol Evans and a gift each by PALS chairman Mary Telford.



Left – Mary Telford (Chairman of PALS) the victorious Chartham Team and far right Carol Evans (Federation Chairman) presenting the TTQ Shield)

Joint runners up, just one point behind the winners, were River WI and SWAN WI – well done! Scores were very close between all the teams, but holding everyone else up were Capel WI.



Above: The team from Capel WI with their prizes

The quiz will run again next year and will be an evening event. The PALS team are looking to hold the event in the east of the county - if anyone has any ideas of a suitable hall in this area, that can comfortably seat 120 people, please contact the office.

Participating teams were invited to submit a question that could be put into EKN, so here are the ones handed in, thank you to them.

- 1. What sport was originally known as 'Murderball' (SWAN WI)
- 2. The TV watershed starts at 9pm when does it end? (Chartham WI)

- 3. In whose reign was Thomas Beckett murdered? (Barham with Kingston WI)
- 4. Which James Bond film did Pussy Galore appear in? (Caple le Ferne Evening WI)
- 5. What is the collective noun for a group of jellyfish? (Herne WI)
- 6. What is in the middle of a Sussex Pond Pudding? (River WI)
- 7. Which Kentish village church has windows by Marc Chagall? (Smeeth WI)
- 8. What is the driest desert? (Eastry WI)
- 9. Which Queen of England was the daughter, wife, sister, mother and grandmother of Kings of England? (Hawkinge, Acrise and Paddlesworth WI)
- 10.At the beginning of the first series of Downton Abbey, Matthew Crawley was a distant and unknown cousin of the Earl of Grantham. Which even led him to becoming heir of the estate and title? (Orlestone WI)
- 11.What are the three ingredients of a Scotch Woodcock? (Milstead with Frinsted)
- 12.Whose film roles include Mark Antony, Henry VIII, Dick Turpin and the Rumpo Kid? (Whitfield Evening WI)
- 13.What is the worlds fastest bird? (No name of WI on sheet handed in)

Answers on last page

With the winter approaching we invite you to attend a **Zoom Talk**



<u>The Jewels and Wardrobe of The Duchess of</u> <u>Windsor</u>

Speaker: Janie Ramsay

Janie gave a most interesting talk last winter on the ups and downs of the antique trade and we are really pleased to have her back to give a talk about the jewels of the Duchess of Windsor.

Our speaker has worked in antiques for over 40 years, including as Director at Sothebys. It was Sotheby's who auctioned the Duchess of Windsor jewels in 1987 for \pounds 45 million

Wednesday 15TH November 2023 at 19:30

£5 PER PERSON (deadline for booking is 2nd November 2024)

For further information please contact: federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

PALS

EAST KENT FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

We invite you to pen a short story for the

JOAN BOUCHER CUP



Let your imagination flow in writing a short story of up to 600 words. Please choose your own title. The story must contain the following words:

ROBIN CANDLE SHOWING YOGA SHIMMERING KING HENRY VIII

This year as well as winning the Joan Boucher Cup we are offering a free place at the Literary Lunch which is being held at Lydden Village Hall on 17th April 2024 to the winner. The winner will be invited to read their story at the literary lunch.

Simple Rules:

- Please ensure the 6 'must include words' are either in capitals, underlined or highlighted.
- Please ensure your story has a title.
- Please write how many words you have used (maximum 600)
- Do not put your name or WI on the short story but send a covering note, to enable fair judging.
- Submit your story either via email or post to The Federation Secretary

Closing Date for Entries is December 31st 2023

Don't leave till then, in case you forget in the Christmas and New Year festivities!



For further information please contact:

Performing Arts, Leisure and Sport Sub-Committee via the EKFWI office email: <u>federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk</u>

Received from an outside organisation.

Have you ever thought the craft skills of the WI could save a life?

I am getting in touch because we are working on a pro bono campaign with the NHS and I would love to mobilise the skills of the Women's Institute to help with our cause.

There are currently 233 children in the UK desperately waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant.

We are working with the NHS to raise awareness and get more parents to consider giving consent to donate their child's organs, should the worst happen.

We need the craft skills and expertise of people like you and your members to join our Creator Collective to make this project a reality and get our urgent message to the public.

We want you to help us by making dolls to represent each of the 233 children on the organ donor wait list. Each doll will be placed in an NHS waiting room or equivalent as if they are waiting, just like the children on the donor list.

We will utilise news and social media to provide PR coverage of the dolls you will be making, to ensure our message reaches as many people as possible.

I have attached more information. I would love it if you could discuss this with your board and see if it is a project that you can share with your members.

We are already working with some of the other WI federations and we could love to add you to our Creator Collective.

Thank you Claire



PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Invites you to

A SEMINAR FOR MATURE DRIVERS

Presentation by KCC Safer Road Users Team On Tuesday 24th October 2023 At Godinton Village Hall, Louden Way, Ashford, TN23 3JJ

Doors open 10.00am for a 10.30am start.

Tickets - £7.50 Non Members Welcome

Refreshments available on arrival

Tickets may be purchased via ticketsource at <u>https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/east-kent-federation-of-womens-institutes</u>:

or by contacting the Federation Office.

Climate Change

EKFWI Public Affairs are looking for someone with a passion for talking to others about climate change and advising members on how we can all become aware of environmental issues

There is a lot of advice and resources on MyWI

Being a WI Climate Ambassador means taking more of an active role in the WI's climate change and wider environmental campaigns. The WI's Climate Ambassador Scheme is for all WI members, everyone, no matter your prior knowledge of climate change campaigning. There is no set time commitment, and you can give as much or as little time as you like to the scheme depending on your other commitments.

If you think you would like to become involved but would like to know more about it I can be contacted via the Federation office

Your Public Affairs Committee is inviting members to take part in a photographic competition.

The competition will run until January 31st when 3 finalists will be selected for display and judging at the 2024 ACM at Folkestone.

A cup will be awarded to the winner.

The Good, The Bad and The Ugly of Kent's Rivers and Waterways.

RULES

- 1. The photos must be the members own work and should not be coastal views.
- 2. Each entry should be 3 photographs one for Good,

one for Bad and one for Ugly

- 3. They should be mounted as a set of 3.
- 4. Entries must be received at the Federation office no later than January 31st.

Any queries email Sue Hankins at

sfh.publicaffairs@gmail.com or via Federation Office

These are members personal recommendations

Lower Hardres Farm Shop,

Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, Canterbury. CT4 5Nw. <u>01227 700947</u>. They have a web site.

Lower Hardres Farm shop sell a wide range of fruit; veg; salads; chilled goods; local bakery bread; Cakes; biscuits, a range of frozen pies and Indian meals; all goods you may find in a supermarket; plus pet food; sacks of good quality whole food dog biscuits; chicken food; loose wild birds seeds; off Licence; plus an amazing butchery selling as much meat sourced locally as they can.

They also have pick your own soft fruits, plums and pears as and when in season.

Farthingloe Farm Shop,

Folkestone Rd, Dover CT15 1AA

Excellent selection of vegetables, fruit, eggs etc. Also a good bakery selling bread, quiches and cakes. The Barn restaurant serves huge breakfasts as well as lunches and teas.

News from around the Federation

GARLINGE WI spent a lovely sunny afternoon on the St Peter's Village Tour, soaking up the history of St. Peter's in Victorian times enacted via vignettes of life as experienced by the local rat catcher and his wife, Sir John Wesley leader of the Methodist church, the female drunkard, the hard times of living in the workhouse, and the local fortune teller being punished in the stocks, to mention a few. These Victorian ladies wandering on the local green were happy to pose for a photoshoot with us! Highly recommended but you will have to wait until next year ladies as the season has closed.



Willesborough WI, Ashford, Kent held their first Autumn members competition on September 16th. It was very well supported with entries which included handicrafts, cake baking, sewing and paintings/drawings.

The general public were invited in to see what the WI ladies get up to and enjoy tea and cake from the refreshment stall.



We are a newly reformed group since Covid restrictions allowed us to open and the ladies enjoy weekly tea and cake afternoons, theatre trips dining out at local restaurants and various groups to join if they so wish.

Chestfield WI craft Group made 205 red yellow and green hats for premature babies. We will share them between Margate and Ashford Hospitals.



Rodmersham Green WI, celebrated their 45th birthday

We were entertained by 5 members of the Harmony Choir, who sang a lovely variety of songs, enjoyed by all.

We sang happy birthday and toasted our group. The cake was cut by 2 founder members Barbara Wills and Kay Hubbard a pleasant afternoon



Margate WI brings reality of polluted waters to Westminster

Members of Margate Women's Institute travelled to Westminster in flippers and fins to make waves and call for action against polluting our rivers joining women from other WI groups on the 12 September in London.

As well as displaying banners calling for action, the Margate WI members dressed as swimmers and mermaids, and brought with them a stark reminder of just some of the things regularly found discarded in our waters.

Items, including disposable barbecues, fast food wrappers, children's plastic toys, flip flops, face masks, cosmetic wipes, as well as sanitary products, condoms, nappies and dog mess bags, were all hung out on a washing line to highlight the litter problem regularly blighting outdoor bathing areas.



Chartham WI. is very lucky to have a member who is both a keen wildlife gardener and a botanical artist whose work is widely admired.

Jackie Richards' garden is just under an acre and into this space she has incorporated ponds, trees, bird feeders and boxes, an enclosed vegetable garden and, of course, a wonderful display of flowers and plants. Grassy pathways wind their



way between and around the various elements, and the space is alive with dragonflies, birdsong and very happy bees. There is even a birdbox which this year has been appropriated by a colony of bees! Other birdboxes have cameras in them via which she can monitor the hatching of the baby birds that will have a safe space to fledge in her garden.

Jackie keeps a careful visual record of everything she observes in her wildlife haven and has several photograph albums and journals devoted to the diversity of such creatures as moths, birds, caterpillars and ladybirds. She also, of course, uses elements of her garden as the inspiration for her artwork.

Jackie suggests that a pond is important, with a shallow end for amphibians (with a walkway for any other unfortunate creatures that accidentally fall in), and a deeper end where dragonflies and fish can thrive. It is also important to grow the right plants to encourage butterflies, moths, bees and other insects (i.e. ladybirds love Achillea). Ideally there should also be a wooded area for birds to nest in, and multiple feeders with different kinds of food for the various species.

The various elements present in Jackie's garden and her dedication to the beautiful space she has created certainly encapsulate the spirit of 'Coronation Gardens'!



This year (2023) Jackie won a well deserved 'GOLD' in the wildlife garden category of the local Parish Council's competition -'Chartham in Bloom'. In July, **Great Chart & Godinton WI** held a very interesting evening with the local Nepalese community as what had started out to be one gentleman giving us a talk escalated with their kindness and enthusiasm into an amazing evening.

Not only did they provide the speaker with a Power Point presentation all about the origin of the Ghurka soldiers together with the culture and traditions of the Nepalese people which was so interesting.



They also brought along dancers in their beautiful costumes who gave several dance demonstrations which were truly fascinating. Along side all of this they also provided a tasty selection of their traditional foods for us all to taste, Many of their community also came along to join us on the evening encouraging some of our members & guests to try items of costume and to play their

instruments. (Fortunately, my husband is a drummer and was able to master the rather large drum handed to him).

We had decided to invite members & partners from the other WI's in our Kennington group to the evening and from the feedback we received everyone had a delightful time. We cannot thank the lovely friendly Nepalese people enough for entertaining us in such a fantastic way.

Lynsted with Teynham WI had a lovely sunny day for our summer outing to Hastings and Tenterden Heritage Steam Railway.

We arrived in Hastings for lunch time and members enjoyed fish & chips and cockles & mussels along the sea front.

We then hopped on the coach for the short ride to Tenterden with time to explore before our steam ride to Bodium which included a delicious Cream Tea .



Members of Deal and Sandwich C&HE Guild had a most enjoyable day making button pictures and mouse gift pockets (just big enough to hold one of those chocolate hazelnut sweets!).

The guild is great fun and a way to meet even more like-minded members and learn something new.

The Guild meet again <u>on the</u> <u>16th October</u> and is making Christmas wrapping and decorations.



Answers

- 1. Wheelchair Rugby
- 2. 05:30
- 3. King Henry II
- 4. Gold Finger
- 5. A smack
- 6. Lemon
- 7. Tudeley
- 8. Atacama Desert in Chile
- 9. Elizabeth of York
- Sinking of the Titanic where James, first cousin and heir of Robert, Earl of Grantham and Patrick, James's son and heir died
- 11. Eggs, Anchovy and Toast
- 12. Sid James
- 13. Peregrine Falcon

GUILD & GROUP MEETINGS

SHEPPEY CRAFT & HOME ECONOMICS GUILD Meet at 2.15pm on the fourth Thursday of the month at The Bethel Church Hall, Chapel Street, Minster on Sea, Sheerness ME12 3QF. Contact their Secretary, Valerie Chatten on 01795 874634 for further details.

LACEMAKERS GUILD – We are a small group of enthusiastic lace makers, who meet monthly, at The Clock Tower Café, Tyler Hill Road, Blean. We would love for some new members to join us. We are happy to help beginners and we have various pillows, bobbins, books and threads to get you on your lacemaking way. Our meeting is on the third Tuesday from 10 am to 1 pm. .

NEEDLECRAFT GUILD – The Needlecraft Guild welcomes all WI members who are interested in any form of needlecraft. They meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month (except December) at Chartham Hatch Village Hall, Bigbury Road, Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7NH between 10.30am and 2.30pm. New members are always welcome to this friendly, creative group. To find out how to join, please contact the Federation office.

SPINNERS – The Spinners Guild meet in Chartham Village Hall, Station Road, Chartham, Kent CT4 7JA on the first Monday of every month, unless it is a Bank Holiday, in which case the meeting takes place on the second Monday. The meetings start at 10.30am and end at 2.30pm. It's a friendly & lively group and, in addition to spinning, they have workshops on knitting, felting, weaving, button making - pretty much anything woolly! New members are always welcome and are put under the wing of experienced spinners to learn about the craft.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

An opportunity to visit Blean Woods for a long walk, possibly viewing the bison (and the oneyear old calf), is our next visit - <u>on Wednesday</u> <u>11th October</u>.

This will be the last outing for this year, but our AGM in November will include an enthusiastic speaker from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

For further details, please contact Janet Adamson on <u>01304</u> 784267 or email: <u>janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com</u>