

# EAST KENT FEDERATION

## EAST KENT NEWS

NOVEMBER 2023

### Word from the Chair



### Contact Information for the Federation Office

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[federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk](mailto: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 [Website](#)

[Ticketsource](#) for bookings



### Word from the Chair

I hope you are all keeping warm and dry with this sudden change in the weather. Our thoughts are with those in other parts of the country who are dealing with the result of all the heavy rain.

Now the clocks have gone back, and we have the longer evenings it is the opportunity to catch up with all those little projects or read that book you've been promising yourself! If you've read a book you think would appeal to other members, why not send in a review that we can share with everyone in the East Kent News?

Recently, some of my fellow Trustees and I have been made very welcome at various WIs where we have thoroughly enjoyed meeting the members; we are looking forward to visiting more of you in the coming months.

Lesley Whybrow from Hythe Bay WI attended the recent Climate Conference organised by NFWI and you can read her article about it in this newsletter. Lesley signed up as a Climate Ambassador at the meeting and we look forward to hearing more from her in the future.

Your secretaries will have received information about this year's resolutions, please take the time to study and discuss them and think about which one should go forward for discussion and voting at the Albert Hall in June. Forms for you to fill in will be in the November issue of WI Life.

Your WI will also receive a letter inviting members to apply to be a delegate at the Albert Hall, it will be a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow members from around the country and take part in a great day. There will also be an opportunity for members to attend the meeting in person as an observer or, to join virtually.

Elizabeth and I attended a National Council meeting this weekend and, among many things there were pictures celebrating WIs from around the country. We were delighted to see photos of Margate WI and hear them congratulated for their efforts in raising the profile of the WI by taking part in local events, supporting a local charity and litter picking which highlights the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign which started as a resolution in 1954!

Carol

[federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk](mailto:federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk)



### The Winners of October 200+ Club draw

1st	No 31	£19.00	Kaye Merrywest	St Stephens WI
2nd	No 121	£11.40	Carole Seabrook	Hawkinge Acrise & Paddlesworth WI
3rd	No 61	£7.60	Diana Terry	Saint Martins WI

## Treasurer's Chat

Thank you to all those treasurers and MCS reps who have updated the NFWI database (MCS) to show that members have paid. If you haven't done this please can you have a look and ensure that anyone who hasn't paid their subscription has been removed and that everyone else is marked as paid.

As Carol has written, we attended the National Council meeting this last weekend. These meetings are now held online using MS Teams to enable more Federation representatives to attend. No matter where people live, or what home or work commitments they have, meeting virtually does have some advantages. Yes, we miss the chat over meals and a drink but our skills at socialising via a weblink are improving and as treasurer I'm pleased that we don't incur hotel and travel costs.

NFWI keep reminding us that all subscriptions are due on 1st April each year and that we must endeavour to get all subs in before that date. We as a Federation are expected to forward on the NFWI share in early April and until they receive the money they will not consider us to be paid up members. I'm sure they will continue to remind us of this at all future meetings!

I have noticed that since the change in the subscription year many more WIs are collecting and sending in the affiliation fees much earlier than before. Indeed as all WIs meet in March, unlike in January, there is really no reason why subscriptions cannot be paid either at your March meeting or online before the end of March. Perhaps we can get a gold star next year by being the first to get all our affiliation fees to NFWI.

Although many of you now book tickets direct through Ticketsource we do still get a lot of cheques into the office. I can't actually remember when I last wrote a cheque but I do remember having to think carefully about what to write and where. Please can you ensure that you write clearly, date them correctly and don't write or mark in the 'white area' across the bottom of the cheque, the bank often rejects these and the bank cashiers have to enter them by hand into the banking system which is time consuming.

One more thing - please ensure you mark all payments, either by BACS or cheque, clearly with the invoice number it relates to. It's lovely to receive money from

WIs but can be frustrating trying to work out what it is for.

Oh dear, I didn't mean to come over as a 'bully' but if we can all try one small thing to improve the way we work the results will be tremendous.

Thank you all for your understanding.

Elizabeth

[federation.treasurer@eastkentfedwi.org.uk](mailto:federation.treasurer@eastkentfedwi.org.uk)

## Trustee nominations

Have you read that nominations for trustees should be sent into the EKFWI office by 1 December ?

Do you think -

Does this have anything to do with me?

Me? I am happy being a member of my WI why should I get involved?

Surely the committee deal with this?

Look around your WI or at members you have met at WI events. Do you know a someone who has a skill that would benefit the federation?

Organisational  
Marketing  
Financial  
Leadership  
Technology  
Social media

Why not ask them if they will stand for election?

The trustees are members just like you, they have volunteered to give some time to help with the running of the federation. There is no financial remuneration but legitimate expenses are reimbursed.

Nominations can come from all members - get involved and have the trustees you want and deserve.

Contact the EKFWI office if you need a nomination form.

## Dates for your diary

Friday 3 November 2023

Wednesday 15 November 2023

Tuesday 19 March 2024

Wednesday 10 April 2024

Wednesday 17 April 2024

Auditions, Ash Village Hall.14.00 hours

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

To book direct or to see if tickets are still available click on [Ticketsource](#) for most events.

## WI Climate Conference

As a relatively new member of the WI I wasn't aware that climate change was one of our big campaign issues so I was intrigued to read in the WI Life that there was going to be a WI climate change conference in London on 17th October. I applied online for a ticket. Attendance was free. I didn't realise at the time but the conference was live streamed so I could have watched it from home but I think the experience of actually being there was worth the train journey.

There was a stellar array of speakers including Teresa May, Alok Sharma and Ed Miliband. The fact that they were willing to give up some of their precious time to talk to us just shows that they consider the WI to be a powerful force.

Teresa May focused on the investment opportunities that tackling climate change presents and stressed that business needs certainty. Alok Sharma talked about the need for international action to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. Ed Milliband pointed out that tackling climate change isn't just about disaster avoidance but also about delivering better lives eg lower energy bills and new jobs.

The first panel discussion was about setting the scene. This covered a wide range of topics including the need for the Government to remove the barriers (including cost) for ordinary people to make changes to reduce their carbon footprint. 80% of people are worried about climate change but don't always know the most effective steps they can take to help. There were some excellent questions from some of the WI members present.

The next panel discussion was about taking everyone with us. There was a lot of discussion about the need to keep talking to people about climate change. Stories are an important way of doing this.

In the afternoon I joined a breakout discussion about tackling the biodiversity crisis. The panel consisted of the chair of the charity Buglife; the founder of Incredible Edible and the Head of Ocean Recovery at the Marine Conservation Society.

What I hadn't realised is that the WI already has about 400 climate ambassadors whose role is to engage with decision makers and spread the message in the community. Several of the politicians at the event stressed the need to keep writing to your MP and local councillors with your climate concerns. Even if it doesn't evoke an immediate reaction, it will add to the pressure.

As a founding member of The Climate Coalition, the WI movement works to urge policymakers to take decisive action to tackle climate change, and to encourage community networks to come together on climate action projects in their local area.

For nearly 100 years, WI members have led campaigns to conserve the natural world from environmental degradation and climate change. Generations of WI members have used their campaigning might to call for action on issues as diverse as water pollution (1936), acid rain (1985), the ozone layer and CFCs (1988), deforestation (1989), renewable energy (1977 and 2006), litter - a campaign which founded one of Britain's leading environmental organisations Keep Britain Tidy in 1954 - recycling and conservation of resources (2005), and the protection of birds (1933), honeybees (2009) and animal welfare.

Be it making simple swaps in their own lives, or lobbying policymakers as part of the WI's Climate Ambassador scheme, more and more WI members are taking action to protect our world for generations to come.

You can find out more information about the WI's climate change work here on the climate change pages of the national website [www.thewi.org.uk](http://www.thewi.org.uk)

**Lesley Whybrow**  
**Hythe Bay WI**



## WINNERS OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



**Teresa Burgess**

### Photography competition “WATER”

Thank you all for your wonderful photographs showing your interpretation of water . The entries were many and varied and the trustees looked long and hard at them eventually coming down to the last three printed here .

Hopefully the winner will be used for the next Year Book but we would like to display them all at the Annual meeting if that is agreeable with you all.

Thank you for taking the time to go out there and take your pictures and for sending them in, you are all a very talented bunch of photographers.

Sandy Brown FGCA.

WINNER Teresa Burgess from Becket WI

RUNNERS UP:

ELAINE MORDANT Kingstown &  
Ringwoud WI

VAL BIRD Herne Bay WI



**Val Bird**



**Elaine Mordant**



## FOOD GARDENING AND CREATIVE ARTS

### A Crafty weekend

On a lovely sunny Friday we all met at Chartham to come together for 2023 Craft day. Seven different crafts were set out and hopefully all were enjoyed by the attendees. We were looked after all day by our lovely hostesses and we were soon getting busy with our chosen crafts. The warm weather allowed for time outside to eat lunch and then came the raffle and onwards to the afternoon session. My thanks go to the FG&CA committee for working so hard to put on this event so much goes on behind the scenes. The tutors all provided a great crafting experience and we thank them for their time. Home time came and lots of wonderful crafts left the building. Big thank yous to all who helped set up and take down especially to our Chairman Carol Evans who has a way with tables.

Let us know what you want to see at craft day 2024, what form do you want this to take and what crafts you would like to see there.

Sunday bright and early we boarded our comfy coach to go to the Knitting and Stitching Show. This is the highlight of my year - wool everywhere. This year it was a lot smaller but the usual favourite stands were there. I had a class booked at midday and I made my fabric box however the instructions were not good so to repeat this box I have turned to You Tube and now there are lots of Christmas boxes filled with goodies ready for our Macmillan coffee morning. Afternoon saw me spending my pennies and loaded with bags I made my way back to the coach and a good journey saw us back home quickly. As I had booked with Ticketsource way back in July I was unsure if I would be able to attend due to hospital dates, so I took out the insurance backed policy they offered knowing that if I was unable to go I would get a full refund something to think about when booking for events.

A full but very happy and enjoyable weekend in the company of friends .

Sandy Brown chairman FG&CA



**Felt Pictures**



**Washi Tape Cards**



**Marzipan Work**



**Fabric Flowers**

### Craft Day

Another fabulous craft day was enjoyed on 6 October at Chartham Village Hall with a great choice of old and new crafts to learn.

The organisers had options of quilling, washi tape cards, fabric flowers, decoupage, marzipan figures and goldwork embroidery (what an amazing choice of gold bits and bobs mainly bought in Saudi ).

Everyone as usual was so welcoming, lovely to meet other ladies from local WIs, a great raffle plus an excellent display of work from the needlework group who meet regularly.

Four of Hythe Bay WI members attended plus of course Elizabeth was there supporting the day. So much effort is put in to these events and we had such a great day that we have requested more craft days. If anyone else is interested in the next ones then please talk to us to help you decide if it is something you wish to take part in.

Wendy Healey  
Hythe Bay WI



**Gold Work**

## PERFORMING ARTS, LEISURE & SPORT PALS

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



### **The Jewels and Wardrobe of The Duchess of Windsor**

**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 £45 million

**Wednesday 15<sup>TH</sup> November 2023 at 19:30**

**£5 PER PERSON** (deadline for booking is 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024)

**For further information please contact:**  
[federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk](mailto:federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk)

## AUDITIONS EVENT FOR SPEAKERS

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

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:gill4auditions@gmail.com)*

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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: [federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk](mailto:federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk)

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**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](mailto:sfh.publicaffairs@gmail.com) or via Federation Office

**The Mature Drivers Seminar took place on Tuesday 24th October at Godinton Village Hall.**

Tom from the KCC Safer Road Users Group showed us two videos and answered many questions from members, giving us useful information and advice. He gave us ideas about safety and also addressed some issues such as nighttime driving and Smart Motorways.

Tom told us what to do if we have concerns about our own or someone else's driving ability, and how to get assessments done either privately or via NHS.

Some of the comments from members attending were that it was informational, reassuring, encouraging and helpful.

Speaking to Tom after the meeting he said that he was keen to reach out to other areas in East Kent Federation and I hope that we will shortly be able to do that.

Sue Hankins  
Public Affairs

## Membership and Advisory Committee

Congratulations to the Committee and Members of our newest WI, formed on 19th October 2023.

Welcome to Faversham Pearls WI.

WI's Annual Meetings are held February or March next year. If your WI requires assistance at their coming Annual meeting, please contact the Federation Office by email, as soon as possible.

There are still spaces available at the Treasures Training. You do not have to be a Treasurer, all that is required is an interest in WI finances. Cost £12 per WI.

Please register your WI with the Federation Office.

Bobbing 6th November 2023 6.30 pm for 7pm

SWAN Centre 14th November 2023 10am for 10.30

Chestfield 30th November 2023 6.30pm for 7pm

To book please email the EKFWI office [assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk](mailto:assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk)

## MyWI

<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk>

Did you know that MyWI is a valuable source of information. Under the 'Essential Information' tab guidance can be found on a wide variety of topics to help you run your WI.

First time users of MyWI have to register but it is very straightforward- just make sure you use the same email address that is on the MCS, just follow the instructions.

If you have any problems accessing MyWI please don't hesitate to contact the office and we will do all we can to help.



### 50th Birthday Celebration on 13 October 2023

After weeks (or so it seemed) of warm sunny weather Friday 13 October was dull, chilly and rainy, but the forty-one members and eight guests who made their way to The Lads' Club were in high spirits because it was Castle Green WI's 50th birthday

President Julie Andrews welcomed everyone and thanked Mary Wheatley for the celebratory flower arrangement and Kate Dilks who had made two birthday cakes. A traditional iced and decorated fruit cake and a gluten free sponge cake



Julie invited five previous Presidents, Gill Roffey, Kate Dilks, Jean Lewis, Margaret Gradden and Margaret Alcock to join her for a photograph with the cake and flowers.

We then settled back to enjoy cake and Prosecco served by Elisa and her team. There was a display of past photo albums and a slide show on the TV screen of photos of our more recent activities and meetings. Jeff and Sylvia Wagner then entertained us with a modern Magic Lantern show.

### Margate WI

As part of their campaign to keep Margate tidy, members of Margate WI have sent letters with crocheted pumpkins to Thanet district councillors to encourage them to install more rubbish bins in one of their local parks, Tivoli.

The members, who have been carrying out litter picks around the town since May, were shocked at the state of the park, having collected a total of 38 bags of rubbish over two sessions in August and October. Just one litter bin could be seen.

In an act of craftivism, the crochet pumpkins feature two faces, a cute one and a Jack-o-lantern face, to remind councillors not to play trick-or-treat with the park which is popular with young families and dog walkers.



Also in October, Margate WI held its first fundraising quiz, attracting 120 people and raising £1,200. The proceeds will go to support the group as well as their charity of the year, the Cheerful Sparrows. The group was well-supported by neighbouring WIs who entered teams, and also local businesses donated more than 25 prizes for the raffle. Attendees donated buttons and fabric for the group to continue their work in making baby quilts for the Special Care Baby Unit at the local hospital. Margate WI would like to thank everyone who supported the night of fun and games.

**KENNINGTON WI**, Recently had a very successful “Bacon Butty” morning as part of our fund raising efforts.



On 11th October **St Peter's Village WI** celebrated their 3rd birthday from changing our name and invited members and guests from local WIs.

Many ladies took part in the Line Dancing and the scones and cakes were delicious. Julia Mustoe, secretary, made the cake. There was a quiz, raffle and the winner of our monthly competition of objects contributed, the colour being orange.

Mandy Jarvis of Margate WI supplied the attached photos and is on the left in the last photo.

**Chestfield WI** with the poppies outside our hall ready for 11th November. Least we forget. All hand knitted and crocheted.



**GARLINGE WI** members were faced with a Samurai Warrior at their September meeting; actually, it was Bill Parr dressed for his presentation on Japanese Culture. We heard first about the history of swordsmanship, with some impressive moves and the longest and sharpest knives we are ever likely to see in our hall, and there were no volunteers to help! Then it was the turn of the drum and with some audience participation Bill brought it to life. A most enjoyable evening.



CHERYL WITH  
WHITFIELD EVENING WI  
 ARE HAVING A  
60s EVENING  
 AND THE PERFORMER WILL BE  
BARRY GOGS  
 ON  
**FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2023**  
 IN WHITFIELD VILLAGE HALL  
 Off Sandwich Rd, CT16 3LY  
 FROM 7.30PM-10PM

TICKETS  
£6.50

RAFFLE

FOR TICKETS  
 Contact Cheryl on  
 01304 820444

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 photographs. Last date for submission of copy for the December issue of the EKN Thursday 23 November.

## NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

Join us for an interesting talk by Nikki Gammons of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. Nikki is an enthusiastic speaker who leads walks throughout Kent. She is our main speaker at our AGM at Ashford Road Community Centre, Thanington on Monday 27th November, starting at 11.00a.m. This will be followed by our informal Annual Meeting, with a chance to suggest places to visit and hear what we have been doing. All welcome, no charge - and good refreshments.

### 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.