

EAST KENT FEDERATION

EAST KENT NEWS

FEBRUARY 2024



Contact Information for the Federation Office

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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

It's so good to see the days drawing out and the signs of spring in the garden with the snowdrops and crocuses coming into flower.

There are also some new beginnings for the WI! I hope you have all seen that the WI Learning Hub is live with many free courses available to members. Your secretary should have received the information from NFWI about how to register, so why not sign up and receive a regular newsletter telling you what is on?



By now, your WI should have received all the documents for the ACM at Leas Cliffe Hall on 19th March, please make sure that any questions are sent to the Federation office in plenty of time so that we can provide full and clear answers for you. Just a reminder that, under the constitution, each WI should send a delegate to represent them at the ACM to vote on the motion to approve the annual report and other business matters; all members are welcome to attend an interesting and enjoyable day. Observer tickets, costing £16, can be purchased on Ticketsource or via your WI and the office. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there.

On the subject of tickets! There are still a few available for the Show the Love craft sessions on Monday 5th February in the Federation office, I am looking forward to a session of craft, chat, tea and cake with fellow members. Tickets for Spring Garden Day are now on sale, there are excellent speakers, and some interesting stalls so see you there.

Hopefully everyone has now selected the resolution they think should go forward to the Annual Meeting at the Albert Hall, if your WI has not yet sent in the results, please can you do so before 10th February so that the figures can be sent to NFWI?

The time for Annual Meetings is fast approaching, I hope all goes well but if you have any concerns, please contact the Federation office for help.

Carol

federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

The Winners of January 200+ Club draw

1st	No 143	£20.25	Joan Williams	Mersham WI
2nd	No 74	£12.15	Gill Colbourn	Newchurch WI
3 rd	No 117	£8.10	Ann Newington	Temple Ewell WI

EAST KENT FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 19th March 2024, 11.00 am – 4.00 pm
at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

GUEST SPEAKERS

**Amanda Tooms –
Educator, Leader, Mentor and Therapist**



Amanda has worked within the performing arts industry and education for most of her career. Leaving college at the age of 17, she spent the next 10+ years working on stage in the UK and overseas as a professional dancer. She has worked in a variety of theatres and performing arts venues as well as cruise ships, television, and film. In 1992 she opened her own very successful dance school and concentrated on teaching the next generation(s) of young dancers.

Amanda graduated in 2015 from Middlesex University with a Master's Degree in Professional Practice, Dance Technique Pedagogy and in 2022, after retraining to what is now her 'new' career, she graduated as a fully qualified Psychotherapeutic Counsellor and Hypnotherapist.

A Speaker from Catching Lives

Catching Lives is an independent charity aimed at supporting the rough sleepers, homeless and vulnerably housed in Canterbury and East Kent; those who have, for many reasons, fallen through the gaps in society and feel they have nowhere else to turn.

Their vision is of a society where all are included and all, no matter how disadvantaged, can make a contribution.

Yolanda Barker from Singleton WI
Speaking about Multiple Sclerosis

We have some interesting new stalls this year to satisfy your desire for retail therapy, these include

- *Soapy Herbs
- *Little Shop of Fabrics
- *Helen Hodsdon crochet scarves, Jewellery and more
- *The Chocolate Pig
- *Gwen Owen (handmade jewellery and flower fairies)
- *Kevin Groves – (ethical perfumer)

Treasurer's Chat

Just a reminder that subs are due on 1 April. I have had confirmation from NFWI that affiliation fees should be transferred to the Federation by the end of April. We, the Federation, are expected to forward on the NFWI share in April so it is a tight turn around.

Therefore can I ask you all to pay your subscription fee at your April meeting at the latest.

Elizabeth

federation.treasurer@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

Annual Meeting To be held at The Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone Tuesday 19th March 2024

Once again, we will welcome donations of 'Baskets' which will be sold at **£10.00** each.

We are hoping that each WI will donate a basket filled with themed items of 'goodies' for gardening, cooking, craft, pampering, colour or in fact anything you feel someone would like to buy.

Deliver your Basket on the day; it does not matter if you come a little later as we need more baskets to replace the ones already sold.

This year a portion of the takings will be donated to SNAAP.



PHOTOGRAPHER

Unfortunately, the person who took the photographs last year is unable to join us this time, so we need a photographer for the Federation Annual meeting Tuesday 19 March.

We are looking for someone who can capture the atmosphere of the event.

If you are interested or would like more information please contact the EKFWI office
federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 5 February 2024	Show the Love Craft Workshops, EKFWI office
Tuesday 19 March 2024	EKFWI Annual Meeting, Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Wednesday 10 April 2024	Spring Garden Day
Wednesday 17 April 2024	Literary Lunch - Godmersham and Crundale Village Hall
Thursday 25 April 2024	Resolution Meeting Godmersham Village Hall
Monday 29 April 2024	In House Craft Day EKFWI office Pean Hill
Monday 24 June 2024	In House Craft Day EKFWI office Pean Hill
Wednesday 13 November	Craft Day Date TBC

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

PALS COMMITTEE

The Joan Boucher Writing Competition

Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to write your short story for entry in the annual Joan Boucher Cup. We had a bumper number of entries this year and the subcommittee enjoyed reading them all, so varied which was lovely.

This year entrants were asked to write a story up to 600 words that had to contain certain words (robin, candle, showing, yoga, shimmering, & King Henry VIII) so this made for very varied and interesting stories to the subcommittee to choose from.

The winner was Kath Tuck from Minster in Sheppey WI, with a story entitled Busy Doing Nothing!

Second was Love Me, written by Mary Adamson from Capel Evening WI and third place A Shining Light written by Norma Wright of St Peters Village WI.

Congratulations to the winners!

We obviously have some gifted writers here and we hope that you will continue to write. What about the Lady Denman competition set by NFWI later this year?

The winning short story can be found on page 10.

SPEAKERS

- We have been informed that one our speakers Paul Harris has recently died. Please will you remove him from your yearbook.
- Several WIs have been getting promotional mail and emails from speakers and from Charities. If you do not wish to receive this type of correspondence don't hesitate to tell speakers or why not add a line to your speaker booking form

PERFORMING ARTS LEISURE SPORT COMMITTEE

Following on from the success of our last literary lunch we invite you to join us again!

LITERARY LUNCH



At GODMERSHAM AND CRUNDALE VILLAGE HALL

Canterbury Road, Godmersham, Kent CT4 7DR

Easy free parking and a bus stop right outside the hall

DO COME AND JOIN US ON

WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2024

10:30 am – 14:00 pm

Speakers:

Carol Creasy – who will be talking about getting inspiration for creative writing

Bernie Pendle – will tell us how she went about writing a book about her grandmother, one of India's first female lawyers

Cecilia Chatterjee and what she learnt along the journey. She will also tell us how she managed to get the book published and sold via amazon and booksellers

This promises to be an interesting and inspiring morning of talks so don't miss it!

£15 to include tea/coffee on arrival and a light lunch

There will be a second hand book stall and we will be happy to receive books on the day or at the office prior to the event. Deadline for bookings Tuesday 2nd April

Available from Ticketsource

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/east-kent-federation-of-womens-institutes>

or from the Federation Office

FOOD GARDENING AND CREATIVE ARTS

FOOD GARDENING AND CREATIVE ARTS COMMITTEE

Invite you to

SPRING GARDEN DAY

on

Wednesday 10th April 2024

at The Canterbury Academy, Knight Avenue, Canterbury,
Kent CT2 8QA

Doors open 9.30am
10.00am start

Tickets - £14.00

Available from Ticketsource

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/east-kent-federation-of-womens-institutes>

or from the Federation Office

Complimentary tea and coffee on arrival and also on sale at lunchtime. Please bring your own mug or reusable cup if possible
Remember to bring your lunch.

Morning speakers:

Steve Edney - The No Name Garden - his new project
Laura Brady - The Wonky Parsnip Lady. Her journey so far.

Afternoon Flower Demonstration by

Helga Cukure – Demonstration entitled ‘Air Waves’

Stalls and raffle

and back after a long rest **The Challenge Cup** for all Craft and Home Economics Guild members, this is to be judged by attendees on the day.
The title is ‘**A journey**’

IN HOUSE CRAFT DAYS

EKFWI OFFICE

SAVE THE DATE

29th April 2024

24th June

Please put these dates in your diary more information to follow.

Adult Learners week is back after a long time on the shelf due to the great pause.

This year the first prize will be a £25 voucher. This prize comes from a donation of £75 from Etchinghill Guild which closed. The theme is learning a skill to create an item that is useful to others. Hats scarves and mittens/ gloves sets are the order of the day learn a new pattern, try a new way, anything that achieves a beautiful but welcome gift for someone. All items will be donated to various charities so please be aware that no items will be returned. Items for consideration need to be in the office by the 1st September 2024.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Power of Green Hearts (The Climate Coalition) SHOW THE LOVE

Since 2015 the climate coalition has used green hearts to send the message of green hearts to those in power that we need a safer, greener future for future generations.

Join us at Pean Hill on 5th February to make green hearts that can be sent to your MP or others in authority or kept as a constant reminder that we need to care for our planet.

Tickets are available on [Ticketsource](#) £8 per session.

(each session will have the same crafts - cards, felt hearts and button pictures)



Cutting down on plastic packaging

Local businesses where you can get household products.

The Refillery, Sun Street Canterbury [website](#)

Catherine is willing to speak at local WIs
"An Introduction to The Refillery and how to be part of the Plastic Pollution Solution"
catherine@therefillery.co.uk

RE:STOCK, Guildhall Street, Folkestone [website](#)

MEMBERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Should your WI need assistance at your upcoming Annual Meeting, please email the Federation Office as soon as possible with your request.

The all-new Treasurers' Guidelines has been completed and has now been emailed to each of the WI Officers. It is a large document and should always be read online if it is possible. From 1st February 2024, all WIs may request and pay for a copy from the Federation Office. The cost will be £10.00 per copy, including postage. Please be aware that it may not be by return post. However, if you wish to print a single copy for your WI to use, a print cartridge is an allowable expense to be claimed from your WI, provided that it has already been discussed by the WI committee. Should you have any questions, please once again, contact the Federation Office.

Please remember that our organisation is non-sectarian and non-party political. This does not prevent WIs from concerning themselves with matters of a political and religious significance, provided the views and rights of minorities are respected and provided the organisation is never used for party-political or sectarian purposes.

TREASURERS TRAINING 2024

First Date for 2024

**If you are a long-standing Treasurer, a new Treasurer or simply interested in WI money
This is for all of you.**

**Whitfield Village Hall, Sandwich Road,
Whitfield, Dover Kent CT16 3LY**

**Friday 5th April 2024 – Start at 1.30am, finish
approximately 3.30pm**

Covers complying with WI Constitution and requirements, Charity Commission Law and completing the Account Book or Spreadsheet.

Includes the how, when and why – and more, including hints and tips. Sounds difficult, however, we are making it all easy as possible (hopefully some laughs along the way too). Even more, how to get help too.

Only £12.00 per WI

Each WI can send more than one person

Please register your WI as soon as possible with the Federation Office by email to federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk or telephone 01227 464106. Your WI will be invoiced for the training.

WI FUND RAISING

WIs are able to raise funds for causes that are in line with the WI's charitable objects, this includes raising money for national and international charities whose charitable objectives are in line with those of the WI.

All WI assets, including funds, are considered charity funds and must therefore only be used for the charitable objectives set out in the constitution or to support a charity with comparable objectives.

There are many types of projects, causes or appeals that fall within the objectives. As well as falling within the objectives of the WI constitution any cause a WI supports should benefit as many people as possible. Some examples of projects we can support are:

- Raise funds for bursaries or scholarships for women.
- Raise funds for an events day where women are given personal development activities.
- Provide facilities or equipment at a community resource e.g. local hospice, hospital, school or play area,
- Raise funds for another charity whose activities reflect a WI mandate and campaigning priority.
- Raise funds for efforts to tackle global health issues.

The WI cannot support:

- Projects to create better facilities for animals or prevent cruelty to animals.
- Raise funds to help an individual rebuild a damaged house.
- Raise funds to help an individual pay for hospital treatment.

If members wish to support causes that are outside the WI charitable objects, a group of members can act as individuals organising events to provide funds, but they **must** do so as individuals and not in the name of the WI. They must not use any WI or NFWI trademark for these projects, there should be no cost to the WI funds and any funds raised must not go through the WI accounts.

More detailed information on fund raising, including raffles and lotteries can be found on [MyWI](#).

Please contact the Federation Office if you have any questions or need help with MyWI

SUBMITTING A RESOLUTION

The WI has been campaigning on issues of concern since the first mandate was passed in 1918. Campaigns come from resolutions submitted by WI members. All WIs and federations may submit resolutions. Any member can propose a resolution to their WI, a vote must then be held in the WI on whether to submit it.

It is most important that the wording of a resolution is accurate as future campaigning work is based on it.

A good resolution is:

- Topical – fits with current areas of members and public interest.
- Timely
- Targeted – has a clear and realistic objective.
- Achievable
- Partnership Potential – there is the possibility of working with other groups with the same goals.
- Accurate – reflects the current situation.
- Appropriate – it fits the WIs charitable objects, history and ethos.

A completed submission form must be sent to the federation for checking by the Resolution Co-ordinator who will check whether the wording is clear, does not repeat a mandate already in place and does not go against the charitable objects of the NFWI.

A federation representative cannot refuse to approve a resolution because she does not agree with its contents or aims.

All submissions are considered at the shortlist selection meeting where representatives from all 68 federations and member representatives consider them in depth and decide the shortlist which is sent to the membership for consideration and voting.

Detailed guidance notes and the submission form can be found on MyWi – just type 'resolution guidance' in the search pane.

For any further information or help please contact the federation office.

News from around the Federation

WOODCHURCH WI

At the first meeting of 2024 David Holman, a local author from High Halden, gave an informative presentation on "The Anatomy of a Thriller" He described and provided examples of the elements which are necessary to create a successful novel in the Thriller Genre. Likening the writing process of that of baking a cake, he suggested that the ingredients were the setting and characters, the plot being the recipe and the denouement the finished cake. Doubtless we shall be looking out for David's Alex Swan series in the future.

The competition for January was something beginning with "I". The previous day's snow showers had turned minds to all things icy! Ice trays and buckets were prominent but there were amusing items such as an insect instrumental band and a packet of icing sugar. However, coming first was miniature carved igloo followed by an original identity card and a pottery ink well. The miniature Canadian silt-stone carved igloo was a souvenir from a settlement in Resolute Bay in the Nunavut Territory on the south coast of Cornwallis island. With the top removed inside were two tiny Inuit people with all the trappings of life far beyond the Arctic Circle.

The winner of the 2023 Competition Cup was Josie, Nicole 2nd and Barbara was third. Josie will be presented with the Cup at our next meeting.



GARLINGE WI were entertained at their January meeting by fellow member Louise Woodcock. A member of the Broadstairs Dickens Players theatre group, Louise had surrounded herself with Victorian clothing, made by her own fair hand, because she had come to tell us how a Victorian lady dressed. Of course she had her lady's maid with her and between them they started a process that was both funny and a revelation: bone-crushing stays deforming the chest, killing babies in the womb and their mothers, and don't even ask what the multitude of petticoats were used for, but they were very smelly by the end of the day! However, it took so long to get dressed that you would have lost the will to go out long before you were ready. What a joy to live in the twenty-first century!



KENNINGTON WI.

After hearing that the Friends of William Harvey Hospital were looking for toys and books for the children's wards, and books for their shop that serves visitors and in-patients, our members donated generously, these pictures show a small selection of what was collected by their volunteer Kimberley.



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. Please send as a word document not PDF. Copy should arrive by email one week before the end of the month.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

We are well on our way to finalising our Programme for 2024, which will be available at the Council Meeting in Folkestone on 19th March. Events include visits to Kingsdown, Bilsington Priory, Richborough and Canterbury. Membership of our Group costs only £5.00 Full details from Janet Adamson [01304 784267](tel:01304784267) or email: janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com

CRAFT & HOME ECONOMICS GUILD IN DOVER (WHITFIELD)

Meetings 4th Wednesday in the month 2pm.

February 28th	Bev Williams Talking on the Tapestries at Kernsey Abbey in the Tea Rooms
March 27th	Craft Demonstrations & Displays by members
April 24th	Alison Shopland Member from Whitfield Evening WI, Her years Performing Tap
May 22nd	Frances Smith Her Trip to Nepal
June 26th	Christine Duchemin Talking on her career as a Nurse, Midwife and working in the Army.
July 24th	Jan Taylor, one of our own members 'Can you hear me?'
August 28th	Summer Tea - no speaker
September 25th	Gill Rowland A Cruise Volunteer Supporting people through grief and loss
October 23rd	Hayley from Hayley's Bloomers Demonstrates an Autumn Wreath and maybe something else
November 27th	It's our Annual Meeting plus our birthday meeting so no speaker
December	Tea/dinner date TBA

ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR SPEAKERS ARE WELCOME.

NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

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.

DEAL & SANDWICH GUILD

Deal and Sandwich Guild meet on the third Monday at the Guildhall, Sandwich, 2 - 4pm.
Monday 19th February.
Social afternoon.
Items that you no longer need for sale from your craft and sewing room , plus a Bring and Buy stall.

BUSY DOING NOTHING

Joan settled herself into the large comfy armchair by the window overlooking the garden. She loved the idea of feeling warm and cosy inside whilst looking outside at the coldness on a winter's day. She saw a little ROBIN hopping around, leaving footprints on the sparse blanket of snow. Joan loved the saying 'busy doing nothing' so this afternoon she would do just that! She was experienced in the art of relaxation, as many years ago she had taught YOGA and was fully cognisant of the benefits of deep breathing. Inhale to the count of four and exhale to the count of five or six. Sometimes someone would give her a nudge thinking she had nodded off. She also realised the importance of keeping her brain active, so today's exercise was to reflect on the first two decades of her life.

Joan remembered her happy childhood, albeit a poor one. Everything had to be shared within the family. No sweets or chocolate as a treat – just a nod or a smile from a parent was enough of a reward. Hard up and happy was their mantra. A packet of 'Empress biscuits' were often shared out at teatime and Mum had told them that these were the biscuits that the Royal Family would have, and Joan used to imagine the Queen in her crown of SHIMMERING Gold dunking the biscuits in her tea!

Xmas presents were few and far between – maybe only one for each of them and then a joint family present of a box of games for them all to play together. What would kids' of today think of a cardboard compendium of games such as Snakes and Ladders, Blow Football and card games like 'Happy Families' and 'Old Maid'. Joan remembered how her youngest sister would always cry if she ended up with the old maid card. Nevertheless happy evenings were spent with these simple games that the whole family could play together.

School days are the best days of your life, so they say, and the second decade of Joan's life was largely about her time at secondary school. She was particularly good at English and History and she recalled the Gold Star she attained for her essay on KING HENRY VIII and what it would have been like being married to the King. Joan knew she would have given him a run for his money!

There was nothing wrong with Joan's hearing and she was stirred from her memories with the sound of the clattering of teacups and saucers being wheeled in on the trolley. It must be 3pm – no visitors due today as her great-grandson was brought in to see her yesterday. He tumbled in proudly clutching the Christmas card he had made for her at nursery school. He then bubbled with excitement when SHOWING her the CANDLE and glitter that he had stuck on all by himself – Aah such a genius!

Tomorrow is another day and Joan knew she would be back in that comfy chair recalling the third decade of her life – that should be interesting!