

EAST KENT FEDERATION

EAST KENT NEWS

MARCH 2025

Happy
International
Women's
Day

International
Women's Day

#AccelerateAction
#IWD2025



Contact Information for the Federation Office

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

Tel: 01227 464106

Email:
[federation.secretary@eastkentfed
wi.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

As the days lengthen, and it is getting warmer (thank goodness) many of us turn our thoughts to holidays and gardens! I am certainly looking forward to our Federation holiday to Devon at the end of the month and the delights on offer, not least of which is spending time with fellow members – and not having to think about planning and preparing meals.

Annual meeting season is in full swing, and we hope that you are all looking forward to the year ahead with exciting and interesting speakers, activities, sub-groups, outings and community involvement providing for all tastes - what a wonderful organisation we belong to.

We know that some of our WIs have requested Annual Meeting visits from our WI Advisers and they are very busy at this time. Have you thought about becoming an Adviser, a job that gives many opportunities to visit WIs, meet and chat with members about all things WI? Why not find out a bit more? Have a chat with an Adviser, visit the WIST table at the AGM and see what's involved.

There is still time to buy a ticket for the AGM in April, not only do we have interesting speakers, our Federation teams and guilds will be there with displays and opportunities to chat; there will also be the usual raffle and baskets and, of course, some really fabulous shopping opportunities. The stalls this year will be in the Green Room on the first floor, this will be well sign posted and easily accessible by lift or stairs.

We are inviting members to be delegates for the NFWI AGM on Wednesday 4th June and we have booked the Mayor's Parlour at the Alexander Centre in Faversham for a 'watch party', an ideal spot with the opportunity to pop out and stretch your legs and get something to eat at lunchtime!

You can join the meeting from the comfort of your own home but perhaps your WI is organising a gathering to watch it together, please let us know what you are planning.



STOP PRESS!

We have just heard that Margate WIs resolution, Bystanders can be Lifesavers, has been selected to go forward to the NFWI AGM in June. Congratulations Margate! We look forward to working with you on this.

Carol

federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

#IWD2025. #AccelerateAction

UPDATING MCS

As our WIs hold their Annual Meetings and members renew their subscriptions it is vitally important that the MCS is updated regularly.

Please make sure that, when a member pays her subs the relevant box in her MCS profile is ticked; NFWI uses this information to check that we are all paying the correct affiliation fees. As NFWI count **all** members -whether the 'paid' box is ticked or not – it is imperative that those not rejoining are removed from the MCS as soon as possible.

It is also very important that changes to the WI's Officers are recorded on the MCS as soon as possible; in the past we have inadvertently contacted someone who is no longer an officer and, in one instance, no longer a member!

If your WI needs some assistance with MCS please do not hesitate to contact the Federation office, there is always someone who knows what to do.

REGISTERING WITH HMRC

All WIs have charitable status but not all WIs have to be registered with the Charity Commission. This only becomes a legal requirement when a WI has an annual income that is at least £5,000.

If your WI has an annual income of over £5,000 and it is not already registered with the Charity Commission, it is imperative that this is done immediately. Failure to do so can result in the trustees (WI committee) being issued with a penalty notice.

For guidance on how to do this please follow the link: www.gov.uk/setting-up-charity/register-your-charity

If there are any questions, please contact the Federation Office.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 31 March 2025	Federation Holiday
Monday 14 April 2025	EKFWI AGM, Great Hall, Kent College, Canterbury
Thursday 24 April 2024	Resolution Meeting, Ashford Road Community Hall, Thanington Without
Tuesday 29 April 2025	Circular walk from Chilham
Wednesday 28 May 2025	Summer Garden Day
Wednesday 4 June 2024	NFWI Annual Meeting - online
7-15 June 2025	Big Green Week
Saturday 7 June 2025	Archery Taster Day, The Archbishop's School, Canterbury

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

The Winners of February 2025 200+ Club draw

1st	£17.00	No 89	Barbara Maguire	Milstead with Frinsted WI
2nd	£10.20	No 33	Sheila Wooliscroft	Wingham WI
3rd	£6.80	No 88	Rosalind Glover	Castle Green WI

To ensure emails from the Federation appear in your inbox add EKFWI to your contacts /address book federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

Tickets still available for purchase

EKFWI – CIO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Monday 14th April 2025

Great Hall, Kent College, Whitstable Road, Canterbury, CT2 9DT.

Every WI should send a delegate to the meeting and, as this venue is slightly smaller, we have allocated each WI 4 observer tickets.

If WIs do not take their full allocation of observer tickets the extra will be made available to other WIs.

Members should apply via their WI to be included on the waiting list.

Early Bird observer tickets purchased prior to 31st January 2025 - £18

Tickets purchased after 31st January 2025 – £20

Our afternoon keynote speaker is Dr Annie Gray – one of Britain's leading food historians. She is an author, broadcaster and consultant, specialising in the history of food and dining from c1600 to the present day.

In the morning, our speaker will be Dr Graham Jones – military music historian.

Free onsite parking, bus stop outside school - busses from Canterbury Bus station (via St Dunstan's- Canterbury West Station), and Whitstable.

Bring your own packed lunch to eat in the venue or, if the weather is nice, outside on the grass. Tea and coffee will be available to purchase before the meeting and at lunch break.



TREASURER'S CHAT

Subscriptions

We are fast approaching the new subscription year and we ask not only that subs are collected promptly but that the affiliation fees are paid to the federation as soon as possible after 1 April. NFWI do not consider any of us as 'paid up members' until they have received their portion of the affiliation fees with an accompanying MCS report from the federation with a breakdown of numbers.



The first quarter is straightforward but we do ask if paying by BACS - preferred method - that you email the office with a note to explain exactly how many members you are paying for and for which quarter. Those sending in a cheque should also ensure that a clear breakdown is sent with it. A list of members would be even better so we can cross reference if need be. Treasurers should find this useful to ensure they are paying the correct amount. If members pay by various means I recommend marking each receipt with cash, cheque or BACS, it makes it easier to cross reference.

WI Insurance 1 March 2025

With the recent change in subscription year it makes sense to change the insurance year to 1 May - 30 April instead of 1 March - 28 February. WIs will have collected in subs and know that they are viable. Insurance renewal quotes are only firmed up in the month prior to renewal and I'm pleased to say we are now negotiating this with our NFU broker. As soon as we have confirmation of the cost which is likely to cover 14 months March 2025 to April 2026 we will be invoicing the WIs. Once payment for invoices has been received you will be sent a copy of the policy.

Elizabeth

federation.treasurer@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

LIFESTYLE TEAM



EKFWI

LIFESTYLE TEAM

Invite you to
SUMMER GARDEN DAY

On Wednesday 28th May 2025

At the Canterbury Academy,
Knight Avenue, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8QA
Doors open 9.30am for 10.00am start

Tickets £16

Non members £18

Available from [Ticketsource](#)
or from the Federation office

Complimentary tea and coffee on arrival and at lunchtime.
Please bring your own mug or reusable cup if possible.

Remember to bring your lunch

Morning speakers

Joy Hardinge OBE, BSc, CSci, FIFST - Food Additives

Donna Truwhyte from THE ENCHANTED GARDEN – Pollinators for Wildlife

Afternoon flower demonstration by

**Trudie Easton - Local florist, teacher and demonstrator
Enititled “ Nature’s Pharmacy “**

Stalls and raffle

All tickets are sold on a non-returnable, non-refundable basis unless the event is over subscribed or the event is cancelled by the Federation.

GROUP WALK

**A circular WALK from CHILHAM
Meet in the village square by the castle gates.
There is free parking in Taylor's Hill Car Park,
Chilham, CT4 8BZ
Tuesday 29th April 2025 at 10:00**



Join us for a walk from Chilham, one of the most attractive villages in Kent. Using public footpaths, we will discover the beautiful countryside and some lovely views including the Jacobean Chilham Castle and Chartham Mill

We will be walking 8km (5 miles)

Paths can be rough and wet in places (not suitable for wheelchair users), so sturdy footwear and appropriate clothing for the season is necessary. We will be going over stiles, crossing pasture with livestock and there will also be some short stretches on roads.

There will be a photographic competition, so charge up your phones before leaving! The winning pictures will be published in East Kent News.

There are two pubs in Chilham village and tea rooms so anyone wanting refreshments after the walk can use these. There are no amenities on the way round so please bring your own water/thermos! There are public toilets in the car park area

Dogs welcome but please ensure they are kept on a lead at all times and please bring poo bags,

Non-members welcome, tickets £5, non-members £7

Closing Date: 10th April 2025

Tickets are sold on a non-returnable/non-refundable basis and can be booked on [Ticketsource](#)

Or by contacting the Federation Office by telephone or email

TIP OF THE MONTH

“Granddaughters welcome!”



This was our call out to members at **Tankerton Bay WI** last Easter.

As the Easter school holiday coincided with our meeting, we thought it would be nice to welcome young guests to accompany their Grannies, Aunties or family friends to find out more about the mysterious WI they'd often heard mentioned!

We limited the age group and numbers as we are at capacity in our hall. We also put the idea to our members first and stressed that whoever invited a young guest would need to act as their responsible guardian throughout the visit.

We will do the same again this year, based largely on the response from one lovely granddaughter, who was so inspired by being with her Nanna that she wants to join us when she is 18, in just 5 years' time!

If the WI is to remain healthy for another 10 years, we felt that this was a gesture that might spark an interest in the minds of our young charges.

So look ahead and maybe in just a few short years you'll have some fresh new members in your own WI!

WI LIFE

There have been problems with the distribution of WI Life recently. NFWI have been working with the distributors to solve the problem. However they need our help. If you have not received your copy please report this direct to NFWI.

Please use this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/waVWLss7s2>

NFWI are hoping to understand the distribution issues better, so they can get to the root of the problem.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

Huge congratulations to everyone at Margate WI for receiving the most votes in the resolution vote for 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers'. They were a clear winner. Now the fun begins as they prepare for the East Kent AGM, the Resolution meeting and then the National Annual Meeting in June. Don't forget to book your tickets for the AGM 14th April, the Resolution discussion meeting on 24th April and the Annual Meeting on the 4th June to see the Margate Mermaids in action. Let's all get behind them and put East Kent on the map!

See [MyWI](#) for details.



- Have you arranged your WIs litter pick during the Great Big Green week 7-15 June? Of course you can do it anytime! If you chose a different event to mark the week send us those photos too. If you call your local Council they will provide a risk assessment and all the equipment you need. Let's get lots of pictures - we started Keep Britain Tidy in 1954, every member was urged 'to make it a personal matter'. Let's keep it going.
- This month I took part in a panel of WI staff and members discussing the pros and cons of HPV self testing kits following on from our successful Don't Fear the Smear resolution. There are a lot of women not taking up the smear due to various reasons; time, embarrassment, fear and being unable to make appointments. Self testing would target this group. It would work like the bowel cancer testing kit and is even more simple to perform. It is NOT a cervical smear but a simple swipe inside the vagina to detect the Human Papilloma Virus which may indicate potential cancer. Watch this space!
- I am sure most of you remember the 2019 Resolution on microplastics. The NFWI public affairs team has been working on this ever since. They have been asking washing machine manufacturers to fit a filter to machines at production. Microplastic pollution is everywhere - and it's not just an environmental issue- it poses a huge risk to our economy and our health. It threatens our health, economy, and ecosystems. Delay means more microplastics in our bodies, waters, and fields.
 - We can stop this. Support the Microplastic Filters (Washing Machines) Bill and tell the government to act NOW
 - The closing date to add your support is the 7th March.
 - It takes a second on FB, instagram or go to my WI

Angela Coleman

Public Affairs Team



RESOLUTIONS MEETING

**Thursday 24th April 2025
at**

ASHFORD ROAD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION HALL

151 Ashford Road, Thanington Without, Canterbury
CT1 3XR (on A28)

**Doors open at 9.30am for 10.00am start
(until approx. 12.30pm)
Tea & coffee available on arrival.
TICKETS £10.00**

Join your Public Affairs Team to learn more about this year's resolution, submitted by Margate WI, to be debated at the NFWI Annual Meeting in June – we have speakers ready to leap into action for this meeting.

This is your chance to find out more about the selected resolution, ask any questions, etc ready for discussion at your WI in May.

Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers

This meeting is open to all members. Delegates are reminded that they may claim the cost of the ticket from the WIs they represent.

Tickets available via Ticketsource or the Federation Office.

All tickets sold on a non-returnable/non-refundable basis unless the event is over-subscribed.



7th-15th June 2025

The UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

Your Public Affairs Team invites all WIs to organise or take part in a litter pick during the Great Big Green Week.

Keep Britain Tidy and the Women's Institute have been collaborating for years. Lots of you already do litter picks throughout the year and this is your opportunity for us to do it at the same time.

It can be big or small, you can join in with another organisation or organise it yourselves.

Bags and pickers may be available from your district or parish council, don't forget gloves for safety and a risk assessment to ensure the wellbeing of your members. Check with your local council for further requirements.

Send us lots of photos of your litter pick for East Kent News, we'd love to hear from you.

FROM OUR CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

Kent County Council is working on a local nature recovery strategy - Making Space for Nature. I attended one of the workshops last year which was mainly about setting the priorities for the strategy. Since then a lot of work has been done to consider potential measures that could improve biodiversity as well as mapping those areas most in need of support. The intention is to direct action and investment to where it is most needed and where it will achieve the most.

The draft strategy is now out for consultation and I would urge you to take a few minutes to look at it and respond to the consultation. The deadline is 12th March. More information here: [Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) | [Let's talk Kent](#)

Lesley Whybrow [07920 769397](tel:07920769397)
lesley.Whybrow@yahoo.com

THE WI LOTTERY

Taking part in the WI lottery is an easy way to support the Federation, but the more members who take part the better. Use the QR code to take you straight to the EKFWI page of the WI lottery - this ensures we receive a portion of the money raised.

Several of our members have won extra draw tickets I don't think we have had any big cash winners yet but 🙌.

<https://www.thewilottery.co.uk/>



News from around the Federation

Orlestone WI looks back to going out. In February 2014 we travelled in the snow to Sutton Valence to see a garden of snowdrops and thus began our programme of monthly outings. We mostly visit gardens but in the winter months we explore local businesses, indoor venues and pub lunches. Having just completed our February 2025 visit that brings us into our 12th year and I've been counting up and to date I'm fairly sure that we've arranged 119 outings. We managed 2 in the never-to-be-forgotten year of 2020 and began again in July 2021. Occasionally an outing has to be cancelled, usually sickness or weather but that's very rare and we still have an outing in August despite not holding a meeting.

Why am I thinking about this? Because this year we revisited a woodland garden filled with snowdrops and hellebores and mentioned to the owner that we'd been before although it was some time ago, we couldn't remember exactly when. One of our members pointed out a large pine tree and recalled that we'd taken a photo under the tree. When he heard that, the owner immediately said 'I've still got that photo - I use it in my talks!' The photo was found and revealed that our visit took place in 2016. There are 3 of the same people in both photos and I'm sure you'll agree that we don't look a day older!



Then



Now

This month 2 of **KENNINGTON WI** members, Julia & Janice, gave a talk to our Gardeners group. A very interesting and entertaining talk about a 578 mile road trip they took together, with the aim of seeing as many National Trust gardens, on the way to the RHS Bridgewater Garden in Manchester. Julia drove with Janice navigating they managed to see:

Upton House NT Warwickshire, & Durham House NT Cheshire, on the way up to Manchester. Then on the return journey back to Kent they called at Shugborough NT in Staffordshire, then finally Polesden Lacy NT Surrey.



Following the normal business and annual meeting at **Woodchurch WI** February meeting Mike Rose, gave a heart warming and often humorous account of his journey from a career in the navy to becoming Associate Priest at All Saints Church.

Mike joined us for tea and biscuits. This month's competition proved quite a challenge, being items related to the county of Yorkshire. Gillian came first with her "Moggy Cake" a type of Parkin which we all had the opportunity to try. Second was Kathy with a Yorkshire terrier dog in a tea cup, and in third place was Barbara's cricketing pin tray.



Great Chart & Godinton WI spent a most enjoyable evening 'up-cycling' empty tins, jars and packaging into decorated useful items as part of February's 'Share the Love' campaign. We thought it was a little different from the green heart theme but our members can continue to up-cycle items at home to support the 'green' week later in the year.



Upchurch WI President Helen Eldridge presented our annual Flower of the Month Yearly winner prize to member Mary Stone. The winners vase was bought with a bequest left to us by former President Sue Dorsett and is given in her name. On a monthly basis members can bring in a single flower which is then voted for by leaving small coins next to it. The monthly winner is the one with the most coins and then a points system determines the yearly winner. The money collected boosts our funds.

NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

Our season starts with a visit to the Elham Valley Railway Museum and Craft Barn at Peene, near Cheriton on Tuesday 8th April. Other events include a walk on Hothfield Common, and visits to St Margarets at Cliffe and Faversham. Full details of our Programme and to join are available by contacting the Secretary --or meet us at our table at the Annual Council Meeting in April.

For any details, please contact the federation office who will forward your message to Janet Adamson, Hon Secretary.

DATES FOR CRAFT & HOME ECONOMICS GUILD IN DOVER MEETINGS & SPEAKERS FOR 2025

MEETINGS ARE EVERY 4TH WEDNESDAY IN THE MONTH AT 2PM.

2025

March 26	Julie Goodburn Talking About Stroke Awareness (A Member Of Whitstable)
April 23	Dee Wickham Making Twiddle Blankets
May 28	More Craft Demonstrations (By Various Members)
June 25	Frances Smith Her Trip To Japan
July 23	Christine Duchemin Picking Up Were She Left Off
August 27	Our Summer Tea. No Speaker.
September 24	Daniel Welsh From Dover District Council Talking About Our Waste & Recycling
October 22	Martin Newcombe Talking On Local Ghosts & Folklore.
November 26	Annual Meeting. Plus Our Birthday. So No Speaker.
December	T.B.A.

Any Suggestions For Speakers Are Welcome

SHEPPEY CRAFT & HOME ECONOMICS GUILD Meet at 2.00 pm on the fourth Thursday of the month at The Bethel Church Hall, Chapel Street, Minster on Sea, Sheerness ME12 3QF. Contact the federation office who will forward your message to the guild's Secretary, if you want further details.

LACEMAKERS GUILD – We are a small group of enthusiastic lace makers, who meet monthly, at the Bean Bliss Cafe, 9 Tyler Hill Rd, CT2 9HP

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 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.

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,, 2 - 4pm. Demonstration of Chocolate Work by Jane Napper Monday 17 March.

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.

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