

EAST KENT FEDERATION

EAST KENT NEWS

DECEMBER 2023

The trustees and staff wish all members a very happy Christmas.



Contact Information for the Federation Office

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

Tel: 01227 464106
Email:
federation.secretary@eastkentfed.wi.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

PLEASE NOTE THE
EKFWI OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED FROM FRIDAY
22 DECEMBER TO
TUESDAY 2 JANUARY



EKFWI 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.



Tasmin Maitland
Chief Executive - 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. Tasmin joined Catching Lives in December to lead the charity and brings a wealth of experience in the homelessness sector.

Yolanda Barker of Singleton WI.

Many of you will have seen the photo of Yolanda in the September issue of WI Life. She was invited to speak, at a round table meeting at 10 Downing Street in July, on living with progressive multiple sclerosis. We will learn more from Yolanda at our meeting.

In addition to speakers

- Presentations of Awards & Certificates
- Displays by the Committees & Guilds
- Time to browse the stalls and do some retail therapy
- Filled Baskets to buy (and donate!)
- A raffle (of course!)

More about our main speaker Amanda Tooms

Leaving college at the age of 17, Amanda 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

Observer Tickets are £16 per person (members only).

Booking forms are with WI Secretaries or from the Federation Office

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

You can also book online at Ticketsource via

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

News from the 'VICES'

Our chairman Carol Evans is away at the time of publication.

Hello from the north coast of our federation. At this time of year we are all busy visiting other WIs as guests at their Christmas Activities and too many mince pies and Christmas cake are being consumed but it's a great way to see other ways of doing things. My WI committee know I'm going to come back with new ideas every time I go somewhere new.

My office floor is slowly emptying of bags of items for this or that meeting.

Personally I enjoy this part of the celebrations best as we no longer have family around us so it's a new knitting pattern and the roaring fire to look forward to for me.

New year means new projects, maybe think about Adult Learners week and the challenges that brings or look to visiting your local Craft and Home economics guild. There is a great competition to be judged at Spring Garden Day.

I look forward to seeing you at an event soon. However you celebrate this time of year enjoy and keep safe.

Sandy Brown, EKFWI Vice Chairman, Herne WI



'It's that time of year again when thoughts turn to joining the Federation Trustees.

The post is for two years and during that time many WIs are visited, problems talked through and hopefully resolved and new friendships made.

It can be a very rewarding position so please give it some serious thought.'

Gill Bull EKFWI Vice Chairman, Eastry WI



Treasurer's Chat

I don't have much to say this month other than to remind treasurers and MCS reps to update the MCS and ensure all members are marked as paid. We will be using the data from the MCs to calculate pooling of fares on January 23rd.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas.

Elizabeth

federation.treasurer@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

Fundraising Handbags galore

Thank you to all of you who donated handbags. We had stalls at the Heritage Day in Canterbury and at two of the Craft Markets at Westgate Hall, Canterbury.

The handbags were very popular and as well as raising money we also raised the profile of the WI. Many women were impressed with our reuse and recycle campaign.



The Winners of November 200+ Club draw

1st	No 53	£20.50	Barry Woolgar
2nd	No 107	£12.30	Stuart Pratt
3rd	No 40	£8.20	Jennie Silk – Chestfield WI

Dates for your diary

Friday 5 January 2024
Tuesday 19 March 2024
Wednesday 10 April 2024
Wednesday 17 April 2024

Last date for applications for in person observer tickets NFWI Annual Meeting
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.

Rose Bowl 2024

The Board of Trustees invites nominations from WIs for consideration for the Rose Bowl award

The Rose Bowl is awarded at the Annual Council Meeting to a WI member, members, or a committee who, in the opinion of the Board of Trustees, have given considerable service to the WI movement, or had a particular achievement that relates to the WI. The winner will be announced at the next Annual Council Meeting and will be invited to attend.

Please complete and return the slip below to: EKFWI, Crown House, John Roberts Business Park, Pean Hill, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3BJ by Friday 12th January 2024

EAST KENT FEDERATION ACHIEVER'S CUP



DOES SOMEONE IN YOUR WI DESERVE TO WIN THIS AWARD?

The Achiever's Cup is awarded to a member who has learnt a new skill during the past year, achieved something special or attained recognition for doing something unusual? **If so, tell us about it.**

The emphasis is on learning in the broadest sense (not just academic). Achievements could include passing exams, winning medals or creating a significant item or items.

The WI is an educational charity and learning has always been an important part of WI life. We look forward to hearing from you.

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.

Silver for SNAAP

In November 2022 we said we would review our ACWW Membership. With all the radical changes that ACWW have put in place and the fact we are still very unsure as to where the money raised would be going, the Board of Trustees have made the decision not to renew our ACWW Membership, a decision that has not been made lightly.

After some discussion the Board thought that it would be a nice idea if we supported local Charities and it was mooted that we select a different Charity each year.

At the 2023 ACM we had a wonderful and inspiring talk from SNAAP. A Charity that supports families and children who have any additional needs or disabilities. A Charity which offers a helping hand to thousands of families who need support.

A lot of Wis have shown interest in raising money for this Charity. So, between now and the 2024 ACM, we are asking members to collect SILVER FOR SNAAP and the money will be collected at the 2024 ACM. So, come on, lets help this Charity by collecting some silver. Have a raffle, auction a cake or just collect a little silver each month.

A proportion of the income from the sale of the baskets will also be given to the Charity.

The Charity for 2024/2025 will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

If your W.I. still want to send money to ACWW please send the cheque directly to
ACWW
The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London, SE11 5RR

FOOD GARDENING AND CREATIVE ARTS

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

This year the first prize will be is 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 .

Save the dates

Spring garden day is booked for 10th April tickets will be available in the new year. We have Steve Edney and the Wonkey Parsnip Lady as morning speakers with Jo Taylor as your flower demonstrator.

There will be stalls and time for lunch and this year we will be holding the Guilds Challenge cup so plenty to see and do please support this popular event with a twist.

We have been asked to rerun craft day at Chartham for 2024 and we hope to be offering a November date as we already have tutors who are offering Christmas crafts once the hall is booked and confirmed we will get this in your calendars.

We are also in the early stages of planning **craft days at Pean Hill** (EKFWI office) hopefully the first will be a machine sewing day making fabric boxes and bags there is also a box making workshop in the offering more details in the new year .

Craft and Home Economics Guild Challenge Cup 2024

Calling all members of our wonderful guilds these are special to East Kent and we need to preserve them.

Details of their events are usually in the East Kent news and any paid up member of the WI can attend their events for a fee on the door.

In 2024 the Challenge cup is returning and entries are invited from all guild members. More details will be sent out to the guild leaders to confirm final details.

The title is "A journey" any medium not to exceed 2'x2'x2' there is no limit to items put forward for judging however each guild has the right to do their own selection process first. Judging will take place at Spring Garden Day 10th April 2024 items will be passed by a qualified craft judge to ensure they adhere to the schedule but final judging will carried out by the visitors. So get thinking and we look forward to seeing your journey.

PERFORMING ARTS, LEISURE & SPORT PALS

Zoom Talk Duchess of Windsors Jewels.



There was a good response to the zoom talk organised by PALS about the Duchess of Windsor and her jewels. The talk was presented by Janie Ramsay, who was a director of Sotheby's auction house prior to her retirement and was working there when they held the icon sale of these jewels. Janie had done extensive research in the royal archives to find out many interesting pieces of information not generally known and the talk was most interesting. The sale took place in April 1987 raising 31 million pounds for the Pasteur Institute which is a hospital and research centre located in Paris, France. The jewellery was simply fabulous. The picture shows the stunning Cartier flamingo brooch which was commissioned by the Duke of Windsor for the Duchess in 1940 as a birthday gift, composed of diamonds, emeralds, rubies, sapphires and citrine. Some of the jewellery is now owned by the likes of Madonna, Shirley Bassey, and Joan Collins. As well as the individual members who linked in, Great Chart & Godinton WI held their birthday meeting with us – happy 102nd birthday ladies! Mary Telford, Chairman of PALS gave the vote of thanks to Janie.

PALS are always looking for ideas for speaker at events either in person or via zoom, so if you have a subject relating to their remit of Performing Arts, Sport and Leisure that you would like to learn more about then do please let us know

Clare Boggia – PALS Secretary
(boughtongreys@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 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: federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

HELP

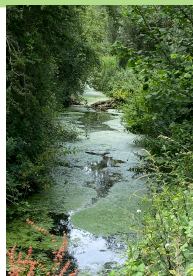
We received an entry in the post on 22nd November for the Joan Boucher Cup Competition.

It was dated and a little note inside said it was 596 words and was called "ON THE SHELF".

Unfortunately no name of the person or WI were mentioned.

If this is your entry please contact the EKFWI office and speak to Lin.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



The Good, The Bad, The Ugly of East Kent Rivers and Waterways

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.

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

MEMBERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Welcome to our newest WI – Dymchurch Belles. Thank you to the new committee for all of your hard work to make a new WI a reality and the WI Advisers who assisted with the formation.

Thank you to all of our WI members who have been involved in making our first three Treasures Training courses such a success. Over 40% of the East Kent Federation WIs have sent a representative or more to the training – well done. A special thanks to all who provided the refreshments, those who set out and put away tables & chairs, those who sorted out the halls and negotiated hall hire costs too. Lastly, a huge thank you from all to Chris Kerr for providing and leading the training in a very informative and friendly manner.

Following on from the Treasures training (which will be repeated next year in different areas and at different times), we are looking at potential new training courses for 2024. We would like to hear your requests. Please email the Federation Office with any ideas for further training you may have.

If any WI or WI member has any issues, please contact the Federation Office immediately by email (if possible) and an Adviser will get in touch as soon as they are available.

AUDITIONS EVENT FOR SPEAKERS

The Autumn Auditions were held on Friday 3rd November at Ash village hall. 37 members from 18 WI's attended this afternoon event.

The first speaker was Liz Garnett giving us an insight into Pilgrimages and this was followed by Jonathan Patch telling us about the work done by doctors and nurses on the Mercy Ships.

Guy Bartlett was our third speaker with his talk on Concorde which was accompanied by slides and a video.

John Black gave a helpful and positive talk on Anxiety which is very topical.

Our final speaker was Helen Sharp who is a silversmith. She showed us how to make a silver ring in 20 minutes.

All the speakers were approved by the Board of Trustees and will be in the next edition of the Yearbook.

Liz Garnett	lizgarnettart@gmail.com	07802365438
Jonathan Patch	jonathanpatch@hotmail.com	07845754483
Guy Bartlett	Mr.Guy.Bartlett@gmail.com	07960449494
John Black	beechwoodtherapies@gmail.com	07983471336
Helen Sharp	helensarp1108@gmail.com	07973353079

News from around the Federation

Kennington WI.

We held really enjoyable Quiz Night, with lots of friends and family, it was a fun evening, finished nicely with a delicious ploughman's supper.



Kennington WI GROUP EVENT

We were joined by members from our local groups, and enjoyed a very entertaining evening, Dave Chisholm gave his fun talk on cartooning, we had a quiz, and a mask Competition and lots of lovely cakes.

Hythe Morning WI marked the beginning of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence by wearing something orange to the November meeting (see the October issue of WI Life). We also had beautiful orange cup-cakes with our teas and coffees together with other 'orange' snacks. A voluntary collection raised £50 to support the work of the Refuge charity locally.

Technically we were a bit early as the sixteen days run from 25 November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until 10 December (Human Rights Day).

This was just part of the meeting, as members also enjoyed a talk on Silversmithing.



News from Stubbs Cross WI.

In the spring we were unsure what to do to mark the King's Coronation. After a short discussion we decided to plant a tree. This covered three principles of the WI, adding to our green credentials, helping out our community and promoting ourselves. We purchased an apple tree, a Blenheim Orange variety, from the national collection at Brogdale and organised to have it planted in the Kingsnorth community orchard on 12th October. We purchased a plaque to explain what we have done and this has been cemented in by the tree. We were lucky with the weather and were joined by the Parish clerk and his team and several members from other WIs. The tree was planted by Aline Hicks a parish councillor and Stubbs Cross member. Following the planting we adjourned to Kingsnorth church for some refreshments. We would like to thank both Kingsnorth parish council and the other members who joined us on the afternoon for their support. My worries about the tree not getting enough water have been very much unfounded.

Fun and plenty of laughter was on the agenda for the **Woodchurch WI** when their speaker for November was unable to attend. Undeterred the committee set about planning a games evening to stretch our linguistic skills. In a quiz where every answer ended in "ant" our vocabulary was certainly put to the test. "A very little ant" was fairly easily identified as an Infant, however much discussion arose when it came to "An ant that uses a gun"; opinion was divided over combatant and militant. A game similar to the popular TV Pointless set us racking our brains for words beginning with certain letters we hoped other teams would not come up with. The points began mounting up and with a clear winning team, it was time for a cuppa and to judge the competition. "Something White" proved very popular and there was, once again, a large range of entries. Craft skills, including crochet, knitting and sewing plus decorative ornaments and household items were amongst the items. Josie was declared the winner with a christening dress she had made from the fabric remaining from her daughter's wedding dress. A big thank you to the committee for organizing such an entertaining evening at very short notice.



Rodmersham Green WI

24 members from our WI attended the Christmas Beatles Show Party Lunch, at the Mecure Hotel, Maidstone. We sang Christmas carols (a bit early) Beatles songs, had a nice dinner, followed by good entertainment and a bit of dancing.



The 24th November saw **Whitfield Evening WI.** hold their annual 60's night with a full house. Many ladies dressed in genuine 60's outfits from their youth, added atmosphere to the evening.

Proceeds of a raffle held during the evening raised £120 will be benefit local charity the "Dover smArT Project" whose aims are to provide opportunities for disadvantaged children in Dover.



President Sue Maharry of **GARLINGE WI** is seen here surveying our overflowing tables of Christmas food prior to a party full of fun, food and laughter but most of all entertainer Tara who had us dancing in the aisles."



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.

NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

DATES FOR CRAFT & HOME ECONOMICS GUILD IN DOVER (WHITFIELD) MEETINGS & SPEAKERS FOR 2024.

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

January 24th	No speaker . Social time Any Xmas gifts you want to donate for the Bring and Buy
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 Cruse 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.

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.

Ashford Craft and Home Economics Guild

Ashford Craft and Home Economics Guild is a lively and sociable group which is open to all WI members and visitors.

Our programme includes outings, a variety of speakers, craft demonstrations, quizzes and competitions.

We meet on the 3rd Monday, from January to November, at 2.00 pm in Kennington WI Hall, 228 Faversham Road, Kennington, Ashford TN24 9AN. There is an attendance fee of £1.50.

Hon Sec: Pat Owen-Smith 01233 630134 pat.owen-smith@ntlworld.com

EKFWI Board of Trustees 2024-2026	Friday 8 December 2023	Deadline for nomination forms to be received at EKFWI office.	All members are eligible for nomination - forms still available.
East Kent Federation Annual Meeting	Tuesday 19 March 2024	Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone	WI secretaries have received full information.
	Delegate tickets	£0	One delegate per WI chosen from membership
	Non voting member tickets	£16	Open to all EKFWI members
NFWI Annual Meeting	Wednesday 5 June 2024	Royal Albert Hall	WI secretaries have received information.
	Delegate tickets	£0 Travel to London on federation coach - no cost.	Allocation of 1 delegate per 4 WIs (25 EKFWI) All members may put their names forward to EKFWI to be a delegate. Those chosen will need to report back to the WIs they are representing.
	Observer Tickets	£28 plus £16 for coach travel if space available. Last day to apply for tickets Friday 5 January 2024.	Open to all members on first come first serve basis. Travel may be possible if space is available on coach.