

EAST KENT FEDERATION

EAST KENT NEWS

MAY 2025

WORD FROM OUR CO - CHAIRS



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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



I'm Angela Coleman, the new Co-Chair alongside Carol Evans. I'm excited to be able to help Carol. It's a huge task so I hope to be able to alleviate some of her workload.

I have been a member of the WI for 'just' 14 years. I joined Milstead with Frinsted after some life changes and a house move to make friends. I didn't realise how much more the WI is. I soon joined the committee, then became the secretary and then the president. I've loved being the president since 2017. I have found the more I've put in, the more I have learnt, the more I've got out of the WI. I love the annual meetings, meeting

women from all the country and the federation AGMs and events.

The WI is what you want it to be - and I want it to be amazing.

A lot of members think the trustees are slightly out of touch - we are not. We just love the WI and can't say no!

I would like to challenge you to contact us and come and see what we do and what you could do for the East Kent Federation. You may have skills that we need.

If you would like us to visit your WI please ask - we want to see your fabulous WIs.

I'm looking forward to an exciting year.

Angela

I am delighted to be sharing the role of Chair with Angela. I am a member of Eastry WI and a dual member of Sandwich WI; being Federation Chair has given me the opportunity to meet many members from WIs in the Federation and I look forward to seeing many more of you during the year.



I feel very privileged to have been invited to attend Hastingleigh with Elmstead WIs 100th birthday celebration on 10th May, it's a wonderful achievement and so encouraging to know that the WI has played such an important part in the lives of the women of Hastingleigh for so many years.

I am looking forward to the events planned, the first of those being Summer Garden Day with its fascinating speakers and stalls and hope to see lots of you there.

Carol

federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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
Tuesday 16 September 2025	WI Day, 110th Anniversary of the WI

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

The Winners of April 2025 200+ Club draw

1st £17.00 No 16 Sarah Mayberry	Brenzett & District WI
2nd £10.20 No 84 Fiona Steward	Hastingleigh with Elmsted WI
3rd £6.80 No 159 Sue Maylam	Faversham Gunpowder WI

WIST TEAM

The Advisers enjoyed meeting many members at their Annual Meetings and also at the Federation Annual Meeting.

We are currently working on dates and venues for training sessions on the President and Secretary roles. We hope to deliver these later in the year. This training is not confined to those members holding these positions at present, although of course they would be most welcome. Have you ever thought you might be interested but were not sure what is involved? Come and find out! Also think about succession planning. Who could be ready to take over when the current officers step down?

Come and join us for informative sessions that will be fun!

Gill Crone

Please note my new email address is gillbc9@gmail.com

PS just a gentle reminder that all WI bank accounts should have at least two people sign cheques or approve online payments.

East Kent Federation Trustees and Officers 2025



Carol Evans

Angela Coleman Milstead with Frinsted WI, Co-Chair



Angela Coleman

Carol Evans Eastry WI and Sandwich WI, Co-Chair



Julie Driver

Julie Driver Hythe Morning WI and Dymchurch Belles WI, Federation Treasurer



Sheila Spiers

Sharon Goff Chestfield WI, Vice Chair

Sheila Spiers Great Chart and Goddington WI, Vice Chair

Hazel Bentley Seasalter Cross WI

Sandy Brown Herne Drive WI

Jennie Silk Chestfield WI



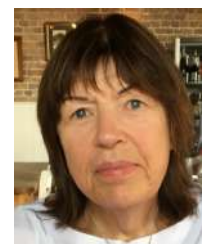
Hazel Bentley



Sandy Brown



Jennie Silk



Sharon Goff

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 we don't think we have had any big cash winners yet but 🙌.



ROSE BOWL

The following people were nominated for the Rose Bowl, Jane Graham, Faversham Gunpowder WI committee and Sharon Goff. The winner this year is Jane Graham from Smeeth WI.

Jane was nominated by Joy Taylor and Wendy Allen

Jane joined Smeeth WI in 1980. She has been a supportive and enthusiastic member with interests including cookery and flower arranging.

She was a WI advisor for twenty years and is still a member of the of the Leisure Team. She has been a Smeeth WI committee member for a very long time and has served as President.

Jane was for some years a Federation Trustee and was also a Vice Chair. She is a Cookery judge and has run cookery classes for young mothers to help them provide a good diet for their families.

Jane has overcome the disability of profound deafness and has a terrific warm personality, willing to do anything for the WI that is asked of her and truly merits recognition of her contribution to service in the WI over the years.



ACHIEVERS CUP

This year the following people were nominated for the Achievers Cup by their WIs, Glenda Langford, Gill Ross, Melissa Prince and Jean Rouse.

Jean was nominated by the President and Committee of Faversham Gunpowder WI.

Jean started running six years ago when she did a 'couch to 5k' course at her local running club. Her only goal was to make new friends and get fit enough to do a charity run in aid of the hospice who had cared for her husband John in his final days. She managed to complete that run and made some lovely friends along the way, so she just kept on running!

She has now completed four marathons including three London Marathons. An amazing achievement in itself but she has also completed 36 half Marathons including both North and South Runs. In this last year she has completed her first Triathlon in July and a one mile swim in the Serpentine in September. She readily admits the water was freezing! As a result of her endeavours she has raised over 26500 for charities close to her heart including The Pilgrims Hospice, Smile Train, Bowel Cancer UK, Teenage Cancer Trust, Links International and New Leaf who support victims of domestic abuse and violence in Kent.

Jean herself would admit to not being 'sporty' but with good friends running along side her and lots of moral support from our WI this gives her the incentive to keep going to raise funds for worthy causes. She has even been known to take her running kit on holiday and has run the perimeter of Central Park, the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, Niagara Falls Park and around some beautiful lakes in Alaska.

This year our little 'Pocket Rocket' gave a highly amusing speech at one of our meetings about her last Marathon and she left the audience in awe of what she has achieved since turning 60 and what you can achieve if you are determined. She is already planning next year's Runs with her running partners with a hope to raising even more money to worthwhile charities. We cannot praise her enough and I'm sure you will readily agree that she is a worthy nominee for the Achievers Award.



LIFESTYLE TEAM



LAST FEW TICKETS



SUMMER GARDEN DAY

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

Entitled “ 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.

LIFESTYLE TEAM - PALS

LIFESTYLE TEAM

ARCHERY TASTER DAY

At The Archbishop's School, St Stephen's Hill,
Canterbury, CT2 7AP

Saturday 7th June 2025 13:30 – 15:30
£20

We have been very lucky to secure a group session just for WI members hosted by Canterbury Archers Club. In order that everyone has tuition this event is strictly limited to 24.

These sessions get booked up really early, so to ensure we have a fun afternoon together, the booking for this will close much earlier than usual.

Canterbury Archers club have full insurance however, everyone attending must adhere to these basic rules please

- Close fitting clothing needs to be worn, to prevent bowstring snagging
 - Long hair must be tied back
- All jewellery needs to be removed (including body-pins etc – if applicable)
 - No open toe footwear

CLOSING DATE IS 30TH MARCH 2025
Tickets available from Ticketsource or the EKFWI office

For further information please contact Federation office

TIP OF THE MONTH

SPEAKER IDEA:

If you would like St John’s Ambulance to attend your meeting to demonstrate CPR and defibrillator use just contact Lee Goodman lee.goodman@sja.org.uk 07804531173 he is volunteering his services . They do not charge but are happy to take a charitable donation.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

Are you passionate about the environment and public affairs? The PA team would love to have new members. We meet just 6 times a year and would love some fresh ideas. If you want to come and observe a meeting just let the office know. You would be made very welcome.

A MEMBER'S VIEW OF THE EKFWI AGM

Monday April 14th saw members from East Kent WIs descending on The Great Hall at Kent College, Canterbury in bright sunshine which bode well for the rest of the day. The Great Hall is a new venue for the Federation and proved an excellent choice being smaller, more central and with good facilities.

The meeting opened with Jerusalem followed by a welcome from our Chair, Carol Evans, who introduced the Lady Mayor of Canterbury who stressed how important our organisation has been in the past and continues to be - she came across as genuinely understanding what the WI is about- not spouting the usual 'thank you for coming here and for having me'.

The business part of the meeting was dealt with efficiently. East Kent has just over 3,000 members but is struggling financially. We have investments and Federation is now going to take the yield/dividends from these to help cash flow. Sam Secomb from Pentins investments then ran through the portfolio stressing that our investments are in a healthy position.

Carol Evans, as Chair, then gave her report celebrating the members and our own individual committee members adding that more WI Advisers are needed. She drew attention to the difficulty in offering events which will cover costs as support for some hasn't been forthcoming. Elizabeth Lansman is stepping down after three years as Treasurer, as are Sue Hankins and Gill Bull, Carol thanked them for all their help and support.

We were then introduced to Corine Dorard of the Violence Against Women and Girls unit of Kent Police who are keen to spread the word of what they do. Stressing to us that any information passed to them will be listened to and will be dealt with, she added that the media makes much of what is perceived to be poor handling but this is a very, very small minority, The already shocking statistics are worsening. One female each week dies because of violence by a partner. This was just a 10 minute slot but quite impactful all the same.

We then came to the first main speaker Dr Graham Jones, I read he had been appointed Director of the prestigious Coldstream Guards and the Senior Director of Music, Household division which had been unequalled in military music. So, what to expect???

Imagine Trooping the Colour, state funerals and the like. We see the finished, polished article taking it for granted that everything works like clockwork. ...but our speaker took us behind the scenes. Imagine, again, when the troops are forming what is called the 'spin wheel' - he showed us footage of a 'day one' rehearsal which had us all in stitches.

Contrast this with the large stage screen then showing footage from the moment the 9/11 bombers crashed into the twin towers....Dr Jones then told us how he received a message that evening from the late queen asking that the Changing of the Guard the next morning should play the US national anthem. A request which was without precedence but, as he pointed out, our Queen realised the importance of sending out this message to the American people that we were standing with them. Another snippet....the Household Cavalry and their gold livery. Following the death of the queen The ER cypher had to be changed to CR of course. Who knew it's actually stuck on with Velcro!

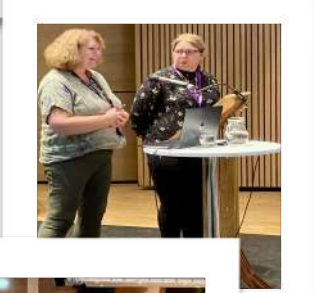
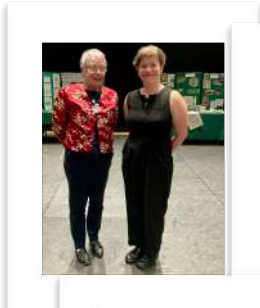
After the lunch break the awards and certificates were presented before we came to our other main speaker, Dr Annie Gray, a food historian and author - again I had no idea what to expect but as soon as she started talking you were immediately drawn in. She spoke about her latest book which was about Winston Churchill's cook. As she pointed out, if she'd written about a Mrs Nobody who cooked during the forties few people would be attracted but mention Churchill and you immediately have an audience. She introduced us to Mrs Georgina Landemare who started as a nurse maid in a big house in London then, following her interest in food, in kitchens working her way to becoming a go-to cook for the hoi polloi of society, ultimately working as full time cook in the Churchill household.

The raffle and 200 club was drawn, a second rendition of Jerusalem and the meeting was officially closed. Finally, The new board of trustees was then introduced with Carol Evans and Angela Colman as Co-chairs.

On a personal note, I joined Eastry WI in 2007 and the first AGM I went to had Simon Weston as the speaker and latterly Jenny Bond, Michael Portillo and John Craven - but I came away knowing that for me this was the best AGM I've had the privilege to attend.

Ann Fordham

Memories of the AGM



PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

This month we held our annual resolution meeting. Usually we have to find speakers for and against but this year we were in a unique position and had the Resolution proposers - Margate WI themselves.

Hilary Askew spoke for over an hour with such depth of knowledge, understanding and passion about this years resolution Bystanders can be Lifesavers.

She answered each and every question and each attendee left with a comprehensive understanding of what they and their WIs can do.

It's the first resolution since I've been in the WI where we are not asking anyone else to do anything, no letters to MPs, no marches or fundraising.

We can have conversations with our friends and families and increase our own knowledge and confidence.

Hilary had a wealth of information and resources that we can apply to our own groups. If you need any information just email us at the office.

Margate WI were the winners of the Public Affairs award at this years AGM at Canterbury for their hard work and determination in getting this far with their resolution. We wish them every possible success. If this resolution saves just one life it will be a fabulous achievement!

Community Lifesavers attended the AGM too with Brabara - the female mannequin. The stand was very popular with everyone. If you want to book CPR or defibrillator training for your WIs please contact them. The British Heart Foundation and St John's ambulance provide training too.

Don't forget to let us see your photos from the Litter Picks during The Great Big Green Week 7-15th June .



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

In the UK the average person's carbon footprint is between 5 tonnes and 12.7 tonnes CO₂ per year. The target is for everyone to have a footprint of just 2.5 tonnes by 2030.

Calculating your footprint is not an exact science but going through the process helps to focus on what more you could be doing to reduce your impact on the planet.

Giki Zero is one of the best websites I have found to help you do that zero.giki.earth

Not only does it have a very detailed calculator which shows you in which areas (eg transport or food) you are producing the most carbon but it also has a wide variety steps that you can take to reduce your footprint. These including cutting out all food waste; buying second hand clothes; reducing the number of flights you use or growing your own vegetables.

Lesley Whybrow

lesley.Whybrow@yahoo.com

FEDERATION HOLIDAY REVIEW



On the 31 March 27 members of the Federation set off for four nights/five days of crafting and sporting at the Manor and Ashbury Resort in Okehampton for what would be days of much laughter, friendship and learning new things.



The days were busy with perhaps four craft sessions and these included glass fusion and slumping, resin work, silk painting, ceramics, pyrography and book binding (my favourite). Those that wanted to try out other activities included curling, pickler board, archery, pistol shooting or perhaps a session in the hydro spa or chilling reading in one of the lounges. All these activities and three meals a day were included, great that all you paid for was your consumables (at very reasonable prices). Everyone came away with items that were both useful and unique. In the evening there were organised quizzes, a singer and dancing or a ten-pin bowling session such rivalry you cannot imagine and some of us wanted to bowl like we had done in our youth!



I had the following from one of the members that joined us again Janet Goodwin.

Just a little note to say a HUGE THANK YOU for all your hard work in arranging the Federation trip to Devon, from organising the coach and pick up times, room requirements to the choices, schedules for the workshops, amazing and it all ran like clockwork!!



I had the most fabulous time and realised when I got home that I had actually taken part in eight crafting sessions producing some super pieces of work, my husband was bowled over by the resin cheese board and coaster and very proud of my achievements.

The trip to Tavistock was so enjoyable especially stumbling across several art, craft & sewing shops 😊 - again thank you so much for organising this.

Being the lone member from the Kennington group of WT's, I now must really hammer home to them what they are missing by not joining the trip. I know we were all wondering whether or not it a good idea to attempt a third trip to Manor House but unless we can come up with a suitable alternative, it may well be worth reconsidering but possibly not just yet, ha; ha;



Great trip and the resort staff were all very helpful and coach drive Ian from YMS Travel was brilliant too. Watch this space to see if it will be repeated and we would really like you to join us.

Hazel Bentley



News from around the Federation

GARLINGE WI enjoyed a rare treat at their April meeting, a speaker who was both funny and serious. Step forward Andy Sewell, retired police officer for Margate Constabulary. A lot had happened in his 42 year career, think monkeys and Tonto the donkey, to the IRA and wild car chases with the Met hunting down robbers. Andy had his audience in raptures and is seen here having a well earned cuppa.



May I take this opportunity to say how much President Sue and I enjoyed the EKFWI AGM. Well done to all who organised and took part.

A bit ahead of WI Big Green Week, **Upchurch WI** had already arranged to do a litter pick around our village on Saturday 5th April. It was a lovely morning and we had a good crowd of members and friends. Swale Council delivered litter pickers, Hi vis waistcoats and lots of bags the Friday before. We all met up at 10.00 am and following a safety briefing we set off to the various areas of the village we had identified. An hour and a half later we returned and 35 bags had been put at the designated collection point as well as other odd items. We cleaned and returned the borrowed equipment to the council offices and we reported a few areas of fly tipping. A walk around the village on Sunday was a real pleasure as it looked so tidy after our efforts, let's hope it remains so.



Abbey WI members have been busy sewing and stuffing heart shaped cushions for the Medway Hospital Breast Cancer unit. To date members have made nearly 300 cushions and are now in the process of making shoulder bags also for the Cancer Unit.



News has got around about the cushions and a request has now come from Maidstone Hospital for members to make some for them, so the busy sewers will continue to be busy.

Seasalter Cross WI Continues to help clean the Beach at Seasalter.

Thanks for our beach cleaners good work today . We collected 11.5 kilo which considering it was mostly small pieces of plastic that was very good. This beach is so much cleaner since we adopted this beach in 2011.



At their recent meeting **Woodchurch WI** enjoyed a fascinating talk from Anna Astin about women aviators who have made history in air and space travel.



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.

NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

We are visiting the Museum of Kent Life on Thursday 22nd May. We have arranged a guided tour in the morning, and a session on Owls in the early afternoon. Lots to see, and places to eat. Group rate of £8.50 per person.

In June we visit the Franciscan Gardens in Canterbury, celebrating its 800th anniversary. Further details from a member, or via the Federation Office. All welcome, but prior booking is essential for all our visits.

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

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

2025

May 28	More Craft Demonstrations (By Various Members)
June 25	Frances Smith Her Trip To Japan
July 23	Christine Duchemin Picking Up Where 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.

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 Meadow Grange Nursery, Honey Hill, Whitstable CT5 3BP.

We would love for some new members to join us. We are happy to help beginners and have various pillows, bobbins, books and threads to get you started your lacemaking way. Meetings are held on third Tuesday of the month 10 am to 1pm. For further information : contact the Federation office who will pass on a message.

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.

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.