

EAST KENT FEDERATION

EAST KENT NEWS

JUNE 2025

WORD FROM OUR CO - CHAIRS



Contact Information for the Federation Office

Crown House,
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Tel: 01227 464106
Email:
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



This month I have started to visit WIs.

We are really keen to meet as many of you as possible and seeing you in your own WI is really lovely. In the distant past a visit from 'The Federation' felt like an Ofsted inspection! It is not like that - we want to know you and celebrate the diversity and similarities in our Groups.

In the last few weeks I have visited Lynsted w Teynham where we had seated yoga with Kelly, a fabulous WI who provide refreshments at so many community events. My next visit was Faversham Pearls , a new group with a very dynamic president and members. We played African drums with Rich Sounds until our hands were tingling! A really exciting group who are at the start of their WI journey.

Borden WI was next, it was lovely to see members from a local closed group had moved to Borden. True WI members! I received a really warm welcome , we had a fabulous quiz as they discussed the resolution and constitution changes. Lovely to see members taking part in their monthly competition.

Next on my tour was Cherryhill , another lively group with a deep sense of friendship. I met up with an old friend, Darren Bovis who spoke with such dignity about being a wheelchair user. If you haven't had Darren you must!

Yesterday was a trip to Herne WI who had 4 new visitors . They had Blood runners as their speaker. Once again an amazing charity providing essential work - their volunteers are incredible and don't even charge petrol expenses. They spend hours meeting at 24 hour petrol stations across the South East collecting and delivering blood products and baby milk! Another great speaker.

Aren't we lucky to have such fabulous speakers - every day is a school day in the WI.

Five WIs with such a different feel but with a wonderful feeling of friendship running through them.

So if you get a last minute phone call from me asking if I can come as a visitor don't be alarmed - I'm just there to enjoy your meeting.

Angela

It was a great privilege to attend Hastingleigh with Elmsted's 100th birthday celebrations on 10th May; it is a wonderful achievement and, in a way humbling, to think that the WI has made a difference and touched the lives of many in the area for so many years. I was made so welcome and shared a lovely tea with members and their friends. It is amazing that 2 of our WIs were celebrating their centenary on the same day and my fellow trustees, Sharon Goff and Jennie Silk thoroughly enjoyed celebrating with the members of Hoath with District WI. Congratulations to you all and long may you continue.



I was also made very welcome at Woodnesborough WI where I judged their members' show and at Ash with Westmarsh WI for their VE day celebration. Thank you all.

I am looking forward to the Auditions meeting on 11th June and the Faversham Walk on 17th June; details can be found in this newsletter.

I am also looking forward to the NFWI Annual Meeting on 4th June, it will be very different to last year but interesting nonetheless and of course we are all rooting for a positive vote for the resolution 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers'.

Carol

federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 POSTPONED
Wednesday 11 June 2025	Auditions Evening
Tuesday 17 June 2025	Faversham Walk
Saturday 6 September 2025	Archery Taster Day RESCHEDULED DATE
Tuesday 16 September 2025	WI Day, 110th Anniversary of the WI
Thursday 13 November 2025	Craft Day
Thursday 2 April 2026	EKFWI AGM, Kent College, Canterbury

The Winners of May 2025 200+ Club draw

1st	£17.00	No 18	Kathleen Grieg	Barham with Kingston WI
2nd	£10.20	No 38	Ellen Martin	SWAN WI
3rd	£6.80	No 16	Sarah Mayberry	Brenzett & District WI

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

We are delighted to announce that the EKFWI Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd April 2026 once again in the Great Hall at Kent College, Canterbury.

We are now busy seeking interesting speakers for the day!

SAVE THE DATE

WI DAY – TUESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER.

Join us to celebrate the 110th anniversary of the Women's Institute

At Godmersham Village Hall between 2pm and 4.30pm.

Details will be sent to WIs shortly.

CHILHAM WALK

After meeting up in Chilham square the group had a safety talk and then proceeded to walk the circular five mile walk.

It was a glorious sunny day and as we walked through fields and woods it made you appreciate the glorious Kent countryside.

It was lovely to walk with members from other WIs and chat.

We walked through fields, over rivers, saw sheep and lambs and encountered a few stiles, which caused a lot of hilarity! Everyone walked at their own pace and it was a thoroughly enjoyable morning.



AUDITIONS EVENT FOR SPEAKERS

**GODINTON VILLAGE HALL
LOUDON WAY, GODINTON PARK
ASHFORD, TN23 3JJ**

Wednesday 11 June 2025

**Doors open 6.45 pm for 7.15pm start
Finish time – 9.30 pm**

Ticket price £4 payable on the door.



Raffle

Tea and coffee will be available on arrival

No pre-booking required – please note that this is for members only.

*This is the way YOU choose the Speakers as recommended in the Speaker's List.
Use your talent spotting skills not just for your WI, but for the WIs across East Kent.*

We look forward to seeing you.

*Any queries, please contact the Federation Office
01227 464106 or assistant.secretary@eastkentfedi.org.uk*

2026 NFWI Diary Order Form



The **2026 NFWI Diary** has a **jazzy green and flowered** cover that is completely recyclable and contains all the usual features such as notable events and information on the WI.

The price is **£7.00** each.

Additional diaries will not be available in the office this year.

**Orders should be submitted to Lin Gates by
Friday 19th September 2025.**

**Orders and queries can be emailed to Lin at
assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk**

We have had a request from the **Good Neighbour Service Befriending Team at Kent Coast Volunteering in Deal.**

They cover a large area of the East Kent Coast and provide a befriending service for older people, many of whom have become very isolated and lonely often due to becoming housebound as a result of health issues. They are desperately in need of more volunteers to brighten up their week by popping in for a cuppa and a chat or perhaps to support them on a short walk. For the volunteer, an hour or so of their time once a week can be so rewarding and can make the difference to someone who is otherwise extremely lonely. They are finding it increasingly tricky to find volunteers so are reaching out to us.

They are very happy to come to our meetings and tell us a little more about what they do and how it benefits everyone involved.

Michaela Luckett
Good Neighbours Service Co-Ordinator
Office Hours: Tue, Thu, Fri 09:00-15:00
01304 367898 / 07855 209510
gns@kcv.org.uk

Calling all members who love quizzes

Afternoon
Quiz

TOP TEAM QUIZ

New Central
Venue

Can your WI win the coveted TTQ winners shield?

To be held at

**Ashford Road Community Association,
Ashford Road, Thanington Without, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 3XR**

On

Monday 22nd September 2025

1.30pm for prompt 1.45pm start.

WIs are invited to enter teams of up to six members

Tea/Coffee and biscuits at half time

Tickets: £8 PER PERSON

Deadline for bookings - Monday 8th September 2025

Please do not leave it too late as last year several teams were disappointed not to get a place.

Tickets can be booked on Ticketsource:

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

Or contact the Federation Office: Tel: 01227 464106

Email:

QUIZ!

assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

FROM OUR CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

Earth Day this year was on April 22nd. The theme was Our Power, Our Planet and the aim was to call everyone to unite around renewable energy so we can triple clean electricity by 2030. Unfortunately I don't think it got the publicity it deserved - drowned out by all the other things going on in the world at the moment.

However, this prompted me to look at the Earth Day website and I was amazed at the number of resources there - including quizzes, fact sheets and tool kits. Why not have a browse, test how much you already know and learn something new? [Earth Hub - Earth Day](#)

On the subject of renewable energy, your local district council may be part of the Solar Together scheme. Solar Together is a group buying scheme for Solar PV and batteries and may be an easier and cheaper way to install solar panels on your home. More information here: <https://solartogether.co.uk/> If you scroll down the page you can check to see if your local council is part of the scheme.

Lesley Whybrow

lesley.Whybrow@yahoo.com

LIFESTYLE TEAM - PALS

FAVERSHAM WALK

Meet at Guildhall Market Place Faversham

Tuesday 17th June at 10:00



Photographs ©Tripadvisor



Photographs ©Tripadvisor

Following excellent feedback from the recent Chilham walk we have organised another walk for you, starting in the centre of historic Faversham by the Guildhall. Using public footpaths we will discover some historic buildings, walk along the creek with views of over the marshes in a circular route back to the Guildhall. **We will be walking 8km (5 miles)**

The walk is level beginning and ending on pavements with uneven grassy track and narrow dirt paths beside the creeks, these become muddy in wet weather. Walking boots or suitable stout footwear is recommended.

Please make sure you bring a bottle of water with you and if sunny bring sunscreen!

An email will be sent with full details to all those who book.

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

£5 PER PERSON via Ticketsource

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

Closing Date: **Thursday 12 June 2025**
For further information please contact
Federation Office

CHANGE OF DATE

ARCHERY TASTER DAY

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

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

There may be a couple of tickets still available.

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 31 JULY 2025

Tickets available from Ticketsource or the EKFWI office

For further information please contact Federation office

Handy hints for secretaries storing minutes.

When you write your minutes can you make sure you write the year on them along with the date. It's easy when we are writing them to assume it's obvious but when some poor soul from Federation is archiving them years later it makes things very tricky.

On the front of your record books (available from MyWI) can you please make sure you write the name of your WI and the dates of the minutes within the book.

I like many people used to print off the minutes, put them in plastic folders then put them into a ring binder. However the best way to store safely is to stick them into a record book. They can't get out of order or lost that way. It seems a bit backwards but sometimes as we ladies know the old ways are the best way!

WIST

HELPFUL HINTS FOR WIS

Payments

If you're making a payment to East Kent Federation, please don't forget to let Alison or Lin know what the payment is for and which WI it comes from. If you're paying by cheque, please use DARK ink, ballpoint or fibre tip, write clearly with no alterations and make the cheque payable to EKFWI – CIO. These are the bank's requirements, and we must return cheques if they are not written correctly.

Initialled corrections are not accepted by the bank.

Have you got new members (trustees) on your committee?

Don't forget to update your bank signatories – it's best practice to have current trustees as signatories as they should be most up to date with committee plans when authorising payments/ counter-signing cheques.

Banks

We've all experienced difficulties with the banks at some point. Some WIs have been awarded compensation for the delay/frustration caused and this will usually be paid direct to the WI bank account. Remember, as a charity, individuals are not permitted to benefit from any compensation etc, it must remain in the WI bank account for use for charitable purposes.

Expenses

Committee members (trustees) are permitted to claim expenses incurred in their role eg mileage/parking when paying cheques/cash into the WI bank account, buying postage stamps etc. It is always best to mention this at your committee meeting so that everyone is aware. Any other purchases for WI should be agreed by the committee in advance of the purchase.

Have you got **new members** (trustees) on your committee? Don't forget to update your bank signatories – it's best practice to have current trustees as signatories as they should be most up-to-date with committee plans when authorising payments/counter-signing cheques.

Presidents

Your Treasurer should be asking you to check and sign off her bank reconciliation at least quarterly. If you don't receive this, please ask your Treasurer.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

Many of you asked to hear more about the work of Corine Dorard from the VAWG unit at Kent Police after she spoke at our AGM.

Corine is one of the Community Liaison Officers working in East Kent. Here is a short explanation of the work of the unit.

A Community Liaison Officer (CLO) working on violence against women and girls (VAWG) acts as a crucial bridge between vulnerable populations, law enforcement, and support services. Their primary responsibilities include establishing trust and rapport within the community, identifying at-risk individuals, and facilitating access to appropriate interventions. This often involves conducting outreach programs to raise awareness about VAWG, including different forms of abuse, available resources, and reporting mechanisms. The CLO also collaborates with local organisations, shelters, and advocacy groups to ensure a coordinated response to VAWG cases.

The work directly related to VAWG involves actively listening to and supporting survivors, ensuring their safety, and connecting them with counselling, legal aid, and safe housing options. CLOs may also assist with navigating the criminal justice system, providing emotional support during investigations and court proceedings. Furthermore, they play a proactive role in preventing VAWG by organising community workshops on healthy relationships, bystander intervention, and challenging harmful social norms that perpetuate violence. By fostering open communication and collaboration, the CLO contributes significantly to creating safer and more supportive communities for women and girls.

If you would like Corine to come and talk to your WI she would love to hear from you.

Corine Dorard 46061773

Community Liaison Officer – Dover

CSU East Division

Email: corine.dorard@kent.police.uk

Mobile: 07973923696



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.

TIP OF THE MONTH

When the Speaker Cancels

At our last WI meeting we had the situation no one wants. The speaker cancelled at the last minute leaving no time to find some one else. I gather this situation is more common than we would hope. So what do you do when you have got a lot of women who have said they will come to the meeting. There is only so long you can spend on the administrative aspects of running the group. Anyway members expect a bit more than that.

Fortunately two of our committee had very quickly put together a quiz. As we sit at tables we were already in groups and had to find a name for our teams. The first part was a dingbat quiz. For those of you not familiar it a series of symbols and pictures that stand for words. There's a bit of a knack to answering these, but some people were already very good at this. We then moved on to other sections of the quiz where the answers were not straight forward. For example we had a holiday round. One of the clues was bbbbbb- Tenby

We had a round on cheeses or service stations which was actually more challenging than you would think as some of the service stations sound like cheeses and visa versa.

The last round sounded straight forward it was general knowledge but with clues like www.info.cern.ch it was easy to be lulled into thinking it was about the nuclear research agency in Switzerland. In fact it was the very first website created in 1991.

At most meetings we sit and listen to the speaker but for this we had to work together in our teams. It was actually great fun and it was enjoyed by all. There was a prize for the winner.

Fiona Pointer

EKFWI FACEBOOK PAGE

We love to receive your posts on our Facebook page.

It's a great way to share what we are all doing and a good place to get ideas from.

If your WI has its own FB page don't forget to share to the EKFWI page so we can all see what you're doing.

It's the East Kent Federation of Women's Institutes - we are a member only group and at present we have 680 members. Please do not send member requests to non members. We would love to 'see' you.

News from around the Federation

KENNINGTON WIs gardening group enjoyed their first "trip out" for the new season. 25 Ladies visited the glorious gardens at Doddington Place, near Faversham.

The sun shone and the gardens were full of new spring foliage, colourful bulbs, sharply trimmed topiary and a few bluebells



Cherryhill Sittingbourne WI members took the service bus from Sittingbourne to Maidstone where the bus stop was conveniently located right outside the Distillery address.

Members learnt about the history of Gin in Maidstone over the years- since 1785 in fact and then had the opportunity to try some samplers!! It was a very enjoyable day 😊!!!



Inspired by the book, *The Book of Beginnings* by Sally Page, in which the main character visits Highgate Cemetery and researches several of those buried there, members of the book club of **Stubbs Cross WI** decided to go there for ourselves. We joined a day trip with Crosskeys Coach tours to London where we first enjoyed a delicious fish and chip lunch before being transported to the cemetery. We had an excellent guide who took us on a two hour tour around the graves in the west cemetery before giving us some free time to explore the east cemetery.

As well as taking us along overgrown paths up steep hills to the graves of well known people like Karl Marx, George Michael and Michael Faraday, she also gave us an insight into the lives of lesser known characters buried there and also took us into the catacombs.

It was such an interesting visit and has inspired some of us to read the book again!

Members of **Becket WI** did a CPR and Defib training morning in April. The ladies had great fun learning about the importance of CPR and how to use a defibrillator.

The morning was very informative and gave everyone the opportunity to try out practical skills as well as ask questions, to help increase their confidence.



It also served to support the "Bystanders can be Lifesavers" resolution.

Becket WI enjoyed their 30th Birthday celebrations, which they incorporated with an indoor VE Day Celebration as well.

A World war 2 singalong was enjoyed at their indoor street party, along with food which would have been rationed.

There was a speaker who talked about "Making do without" including food, furniture and clothing. This prompted some of our ladies to reminisce about their experiences during the war.

A Jolly good sing song with flag waving left everyone feeling really exuberant.

Current and past members of **HOATH WITH DISTRICT WI** celebrated our 100th birthday with an afternoon tea of sandwiches, scones, cakes and fizz at the Hoath Village Hall.

Following a rousing rendition of Jerusalem and a toast to the Hoath WI, we were entertained by Jonathan Burrows, a pianist, throughout the afternoon with a medley of old and new tunes. There was a picture board display of photos as well as photo albums and other artefacts.



Thanks to Jennie Silk and Sharon Goff from EKFWI for joining us on this important occasion.

GARLINGE WI's International Dining Club are seen here, poised for the delicious fare that is on its way at Pan Asian's restaurant in Margate. We had a lovely evening with lots of good food and great company. We've done Turkish and Mediterranean so where will be next?!



The WI enjoyed a lovely afternoon at Quex Adventure Golf and Jane is here proudly holding aloft her winning score. Mind you, it wasn't all plain sailing, with our balls running away and proving difficult to locate!



In mid May 6 ladies from Kennington WI completed an inaugural walk following the circular walk around Chilham previously advertised by East Kent Federation.

They enjoyed good weather, fine views, plenty of exercise and ended with a cold refreshment in the local hostelry (as the tea room was closed on a Wednesday)

Wednesday)

The Kennington ladies hope to meet monthly for a regular, local, rural based walk.



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

On Friday 27th June we are visiting the Franciscan Gardens in the Centre of Canterbury for a guided tour - recently celebrating its 800th anniversary. Then in July we have a walk around Faversham, ending at the recently reopened Kent Police Museum. Other visits will include a garden in Sandwich, a visit to St Margaret's Village and Bay and a Fungus Foray. Full details of costs and essential prior booking are available from the Federation Office. Members, family and friends are all welcome

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

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

2025

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.