

EAST KENT FEDERATION

EAST KENT NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025



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East Kent Federation
Website

[Ticketsource](#) for
bookings



WORD FROM OUR CO - CHAIRS

The year is speeding by and the clocks have gone back giving us lots of time for indoor pursuits such as crafting, knitting, reading, watching a good programme or film and taking part in offerings on the Learning Hub. I'm also hoping for some bright days so we can go out for a brisk walk, I always feel better having been out in the fresh air and seeing the changes the season is bringing.



It was great meeting up with members from WIs around our federation on Margate sands to take part in the Restart a Heart week stunt organized by NFWI. I am very proud to be Co-chair at this time when the Margate resolution has sparked so much interest across the WI. We can see on social media that this campaign has really taken off, and it is brilliant that it has been embraced by WIs up and down the country who are learning CPR – we really can make a difference.

I am also looking forward to taking part in the Silent March in Canterbury on Saturday 29th November which supports our campaign No More Violence Against Women and Girls. I hope that some of you will be able to join us. Please let the office know if you intend to come so that we can meet and walk together.

The trustees have become aware that not all members are receiving their copy of the East Kent News so have decided to trial a return to sending it to WI secretaries, or a nominated member, and ask them to forward it to their members; this way we hope to ensure that it reaches everyone. We do suggest that WIs print a copy to have available at meetings, this is a legitimate expense, and the cost of paper and ink can be paid for by the WI. Members who have requested and paid for a printed copy from the office will continue to receive it.

Carol

federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk



Where has the time gone since last month? It's been a busy one.

I visited Newington WI after a busy few WI days where I was made welcome by their fabulous president, Chris, and their members. Not long ago, Newington were facing the very common problem of a shortage of officers. Chris and Di stepped up, and the rest, as they say, is history. EKFWI are very pleased that they did! They are 105 years old. Here's to another 100 years. Their speaker is a friend of mine, Simon James, is a volunteer teaching CPR and life-saving.

I attended the Kent Police VAWG meeting this month, and my very concerning report is further on in this month's EKN.

Carol and I attended our auditions meeting at Seasalter; thank you to Deborah and the team, it was jam-packed and very enjoyable. If you've not been to one yet, please join us in February at Sheldwich. They are a fun event.

Margate WI are super busy promoting their Bystanders can be Lifesavers. They have so many innovative ideas! The event on Margate Sands this month was organised by NFWI; we joined forces with St John Ambulance, Kent, Surrey, and Sussex Air Ambulance, and spread the word on Restart a Heart Week. ❤️❤️❤️

Working together is so rewarding. Following the event, St John Ambulance are going to manufacture their brilliant sports-bra tops for sale. These bras advertise the fact that women die from cardiac arrest because people are worried about removing a bra!

More details to follow. Angela

EAST KENT FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES - CIO

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 2nd April 2026, 11.00am – 4.00pm

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

OBSERVER TICKETS - **£18 when booked before 31st January 2026**
 - **£20 after 31st January 2026**

DELEGATE TICKETS **free of charge**

This is a member only event and tickets are sold on a non-returnable, non-refundable basis (unless the event is oversubscribed) Tickets can be purchased through [Ticketsource](#) or by contacting the federation office.

Transport: There is a large car park at the venue but it would be helpful to car share where possible. The busses from Canterbury and Whitstable stop outside the school.

Refreshments: Tea and coffee will be on sale before the meeting and at lunch time. It is advisable that members bring a packed lunch as the venue is not close to shops or cafes/restaurants.

OUR GUEST SPEAKERS WILL BE:

KEJI MOSES



Keji is currently Lord Mayor of Canterbury, she is the founder and CEO of a charitable organisation to empower and educate those affected by pregnancy loss with the tools they need to make their voices heard. She lives in Canterbury with her husband and children and enjoys writing inspiring blogs, podcasting and spending quality time with friends and family.

Keji has a particular focus on empowering women to overcome adversity. She interviewed more than sixteen guests on her social media on topics such as grief, loss, self-esteem, impostor syndrome, mental and emotional well-being, and other more relevant topics.

Keji is passionate about self-advocacy and takes a holistic approach to providing support that considers the whole person, not just their mental health needs. She is a former civil servant who has worked for the Metropolitan Police and Department for Work and Pensions. She is an active member of the community and sits on a number of Local Committees and Boards.

LINDSEY BARRELL, AKA MS CHERRY BOMBE



Essex based Lindsey has been a WI member for many years and her alter ego, Ms Cherry Bombe, has been a regular speaker on the WI circuit since 2014. More recently her talk entitled 'Burlesque, Me and the WI' has been wowing audiences far and wide, both via Zoom and face to face, and the feedback has been fabulous.

Recently described by one WI member as 'the best speaker I have ever heard in all of my years as a WI member' and by another as 'an amazing lady and gifted storyteller', Lindsey leads two troupes of Burlesque dancers, who are all WI members and are aged between 40 and 82! They travel the home counties giving talks and performing and raising funds for local worthy causes.

NFWI ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

You will all know that the subscription is increasing next year to £54. This is a three-pound increase. We know that lots of you feel this is a big increase. We understand but would like to add some context to it.

- We all have lots of memberships; the National Trust senior membership is £72, the RHS is £79.99.
- For your WI membership of £54, you get 11 or 12 free monthly meetings with superb speakers; we have access to outings, events, and meetings all organised by your committees.
- There is so much to do! We can access everything that NFWI and EKFWI organise; there are so many learning opportunities for us—craft days, summer garden days, archery, resolution discussions, art days, literary lunches, and so many more. It works out at £4.50 a month, which is about the same as a coffee.
- We get friendship, support, education, and fun, fun, fun.
- The cost of living increases affects the WI too. I understand living on a budget, so I put aside my subs and budget for my WI activities because I value the opportunity of being a WI member.
- Don't forget that your committees can decide to reduce the WI share of the subscription finances permitting.

We do understand at EKFWI we are all in the same boat.

Angela Coleman, Federation Co-Chair.

PUBLICITY OFFICER

We are desperately seeking someone to help the federation publicise our events and the federation itself. We know our members are super clever and super skilled - one of you will have the skill set we need. 🧐

At present we have a member's only Facebook group and a public Facebook page which we use to share information. Are you a wiz on FB? Do you love making snazzy posters? Are you brilliant at making reels?

Your Federation needs you! 🙌

It is a role that is outside the Board and that can be done in your own time to suit. If you are interested in finding out more just call the office.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Elections are coming up soon for members to serve as trustees on the East Kent Federation Board of Trustees ((BOT).

Up to 10 elected trustees will take office following the Annual General Meeting on 2nd April 2026. Under the terms of the updated CIO constitution, they will serve for 3 years until March/April 2029.

Details and nomination forms have been sent to WIs, if more than 10 nominations are received before the closing date of 12th December 2025 a ballot will be held.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 13 November 2025	Craft Day	Page 5
Friday 17 November 2025	President and secretary training	Page 4
Wednesday 19 November 2025	President and secretary training	Page 4
Tuesday 25th November 2025	Zoom talk 'The Disgraceful Sons of King George III	Page 6
Thursday 27 November 2025	President and secretary training	Page 4
Saturday 29 November 2025	16 Days of Activism March organised by Canterbury Soroptimists	Page 7
Tuesday 30 December 2025	Closing date for photography competition	Page 6
1st February 2026	Joan Boucher Cup Deadline	Page 6
Friday 21 February 2026	Auditions Event, Faversham	Page 5
Thursday 2 April 2026	EKFWI AGM, Kent College, Canterbury	Page 2
Wednesday 22 April 2026	Literary Lunch	

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

THE WINNERS OF OCTOBER 2025 200+ CLUB DRAW

1st Prize:	£14.75	No 41	Wendy Pitts	Upchurch WI
2nd Prize:	£8.85	No 74	Gill Cooke	Newchurch WI
3rd Prize:	£5.90	No 144	Melanie Gibson-Barton	Newchurch WI

WIST TEAM

Deposits to Speakers

It has come to the WI Advisers' attention that some speakers have required deposits in advance of their presentation. On the occasions this has happened, and the speaker has been unable to attend, it has been difficult for the WIs to obtain their money back. Therefore, we strongly recommend that no deposit is given. Speakers should only be paid in full on the night by cheque or online payment.

Training Dates Reminder

Great news. You will be pleased to hear that we now have the dates and venues for the **Presidents and Secretaries** training.

17th November 10 am – 12.00 noon
Whitfield Village Hall CT16 3LY

19th November 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
Bobbing Village Hall ME9 8PL

27th November 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm
Chestfield WI Hall CT5 3LD

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?

Please contact the Federation Office to book a place on the training. The cost will be £12.00 per WI for up to four members.

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

Gill Crone
Chair of Advisers (WI Support Team)

GDPR

We should like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of protecting members personal information.

The information we collect is used to keep members informed and up to date with everything that is going on. It is not shared with outside agencies, unless for a specific reason such as booking hotel rooms.

It is important to remember that the WI email distribution list is the property of the WI and must be used solely for WI business; all members email addresses must be Bcc'd – blind copied - so that they cannot be seen by anybody else.

All members should be asked to complete a photography and video consent form when they join the WI. If photos are taking during a meeting or event members should be informed, they may opt out if they wish and no photograph should be published without member consent.

All WIs were sent a copy of the EKFWDI Privacy Policy, it is on our website and copies can be requested from the federation office if required.

BANKING ISSUES

Lloyds Bank - We have been notified by NFWI that Lloyds bank has informed them that the Treasurer's account would be removed from their suite of products. We know that some WIs have already received letters from Lloyds informing them of this.

If a WI does not have a charity number i.e. is not registered with the Charity Commission, their account will be moved to a Community Account and Lloyds have said that the monthly fee will be waived for a period of 12 months.

If a WI is registered i.e. has a charity number their account will be moved to a Charity Account.

NFWI is meeting with Lloyds and the Charity Commission and will let us know when they have further information.

Santander – has recognized our federated charity structure and will not be charging WIs a monthly fee. If anyone has been charged, please let us know and we will forward the information to NFWI

LIFESTYLE TEAM – FOOD, GARDENING AND CREATIVE ARTS

CRAFT DAY
Thursday 13th November 2025
CHARTHAM VILLAGE HALL
10.00AM – 3.00PM
TICKETS £28

Choose two crafts from the list, one for the morning and one for the afternoon.
 Details of any equipment required will be sent to you nearer the date.



Flowers in a box



Li...



Shashiko



Silk painting



Resin Dip



Sugar Craft

Tickets still available

Ticket price includes the cost of materials for the two craft sessions, tea, coffee & biscuits on arrival.

Please bring a packed lunch and a mug if possible.

Tickets are sold on a non-returnable/non-refundable basis, unless the event is oversubscribed. Tickets for this event should be ordered from the Federation Office.

Email - assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk;

Telephone – 01227 464106

AUDITIONS EVENT FOR SPEAKERS



AT
SHELDWICH VILLAGE HALL
LEES COURT ROAD, FAVERSHAM, KENT
ME13 0LG
Friday 27th February 2026
Doors open 1.00 pm
1.30 pm – 5.00 pm

Ticket price £5 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@eastkentfedwi.org.uk*

Volunteers
 COFFEE MORNING

Friday
7th NOV
 10am-12pm

Do you volunteer for Pilgrims Hospices?
Are you thinking of volunteering?
 Pop along to our friendly coffee morning to meet fellow volunteers, put names to faces, have a chat and enjoy complimentary tea/coffee and cake on us!
Meet at Canterbury Pilgrims Hospices
 Please RSVP: ellie.timms@pilgrimshospices.org
 or phone our fundraising team on
 01227 812 621 for more details

LIFESTYLE TEAM - PALS

The PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



I N S E C T S

This is a free to enter competition, suitable for those who just point and click their phone as well as more advanced photographers! The balmy days of summer are a great time to get snapping those insects around us!

We had a super response to the previous competition, and this year from the suggestions given by members at the AGM, we have chosen the theme... **INSECTS**.

We are so looking forward to seeing your entries, the only stipulation is that the photograph is taken by a WI member. Please put your name and WI on the reverse of the image if sending in via post. Sorry but images sent by post cannot be returned.

The office looks forward to receiving your images via email – please head the email INSECT entry and send to assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

Closing date: 30th **December 2025**

The top five will be on display at the EKFWI AGM at Kent College in April 2026 and the winner featured in East Kent News. Certificates will be issued to the top three winners

For further information please contact the federation office.

With the winter approaching we invite you to attend a **Zoom Talk**

Tuesday 25th November 2025 at 19:30



The Disgraceful Sons of George III

Speaker: Janie Ramsay

Janie makes a welcome return to East Kent, this time with this intriguing and informative talk!

With over 50 illegitimate children, 5 illegal marriages, countless mistresses, possible poisonings, parliamentary enquiries, court cases and even a stabbing – what a family to share an interesting evening with!

£5 PER PERSON

Non members welcome.

Please contact the office if you wish to arrange a Watch Party.

Please book via [Ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk) or contact the office by Thursday 13th November 2025

JOAN BOUCHER CUP for WRITING

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the death in 1976 of popular author Agatha Christie, this year we are inviting you to write your own.....



MYSTERY SHORT STORY

The winner will be invited to read their story at the very popular literary lunch to be held on 22nd April 2026 at Godmersham Village Hall. It will also be published in East Kent News

Simple Rules:

- 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 to assistant.secretary@easkentfedwi.org.uk or post to the Federation Office

Closing Date for Entries is 1st February 2026

For further information please contact the Federation Office

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

On **Saturday 29th November** EKFWI are joining the Canterbury Soroptimists for a peaceful march through Canterbury for '16 days of activism'.

This is a national event organised by Women's Aid saying NO to Violence Against women and girls.

We will be there - will you join us in standing against this national emergency? We will be meeting @10am at the Buttermarket, Canterbury with the march starting @11am. Let the office know if you will be there.



FROM OUR CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

Bringing Choughs Back to Kent

The other day my husband, who is a keen birdwatcher, told me that two choughs had been seen in Folkestone. And then the next day I met a lady from Kent Wildlife Trust (also a WI member) whose job is to publicise the Bring Choughs Back to Kent project. So I thought I just had to write about it.

Choughs are a rare species of crow with glossy black feathers and a bright red beak and feet. They were lost from Kent for more than 200 years because in the 1600s people thought they were vermin and killed them. They also lost lots of habitat, including chalk grassland like that found on the White Cliffs of Dover.

Kent Choughs even get a mention in King Lear!

In spring 2022, choughs started to be bred at Wildwood Trust's Park in Herne Bay and at Paradise Park in Cornwall. Eight birds were released in July 2023, and similar releases are planned to continue for about five years.

Earlier this year, a chough's nest was found at Dover Castle. This nest produced a chick which successfully fledged this summer. A real milestone and a real boost for biodiversity.

You can find out more about the project here: [Chough Reintroduction Project | Kent Wildlife Trust](#)

If you would like the KWT to come and talk to your WI, please contact chough@wilderkent.org.uk

The Resolution shortlist for 2026 is in!

At a recent meeting, members from all over the country chose these five resolutions below.

The details will be in WI Life next month. You will each have a vote at your November meeting to select the resolution that you feel is the strongest, most suitable, and most achievable for the WI. The winning resolution (or two if the votes are close) will then be discussed at our Resolution meeting on Tuesday, 14th April, 10-12 at Thannington Without ARCA Hall. Details will follow later in the year.

In the meantime, these are the brief details:

1. Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health, and social inclusion

This resolution is a call for accessible, clean, free public toilets which are fundamental to inclusion and wellbeing, especially for women, older people, disabled individuals, parents, and carers.

2. Action on women's homelessness

The NFWI echoes the calls of homelessness charities and urges all levels of government to take action to reduce women's homelessness, reduce the number of women at risk of homelessness, and improve the quality of temporary accommodation.

3. Every child needs a friend

We call on all WI members, the care system, and government to raise awareness of the independent visitor system for children in care in order to increase the number of volunteer Independent Visitors and the children in the care system who are befriended by them.

4. Love Your Vulva – Self-checking is your best defence against vulval cancer

Self-checking your vulva is important in ensuring the earlier detection of vulval cancer and to enhance survival chances.

5. Nearer to Nature

There is a growing body of evidence that getting closer to nature is of great benefit to physical and mental health as well as to the environment. This is called 'green health'.

KENT POLICE VAWG MEETING

I attended a further meeting in October organised by the VAWG team at Kent Police. This is a regular public meeting attended mostly by stakeholders and service users, aimed at educating and signposting users.

This month the subject was ONLINE ABUSE, led by POLIT – Police Online Investigation Team.

I must say I was shocked from the outset of this meeting – it was horrific. As women of a certain age, most of us are completely unaware until this affects our own families. You may be thinking that it wouldn't touch your family, but unfortunately, 90% of all sexual images online are self-generated. You may be thinking your grandchildren are too young, but there is a 'shocking rise' in the number of under-10-year-olds posting these photos. They are promised all sorts of things, including concert tickets, and by the time they realise that they have made a mistake, it is too late – the image is out there.

Young people between the ages of 16-18 often don't realise they are committing a crime when they post photos until a police officer contacts them.

There is a network of men, and it is men, that groom children to self-harm, harm animals, commit sexual acts, and even brand themselves to gain 'respect' and 'status' in their network. There is a high risk of suicide following this kind of grooming. The average age of the victim is 11.21 years!!!! The victims are mostly girls, but there are boys too. The average age of the offender is 26! Not the demographic that we would expect.

Even more shocking is that the children are not accessing the Dark Web; this is all available on TikTok, YouTube, genuine gaming apps, Snapchat, and many more, all accessible to children.

- 58% of under-4s have a tablet, and the parents are only watching with them for 17% of the time.
- By the age of 8, 25% of children have a smartphone.
- 90% of teenagers are watching YouTube daily, 63% are using TikTok, 61% Instagram, 55% using Snapchat, and then there are the gaming platforms – Discord, Reddit, and Roblox.

The POLIT team recommends:

- Co-view the child's device
- Checking a young person's phone weekly – before items are deleted
- Checking their friends are known to the parents
- Make rules over where and when a child can use a tablet before they get one.
- Talk and have open, age-related conversations.
- Make punishments proportionate – threatening to confiscate a device is counterproductive.
- Have a family agreement.
- Talk to the child's school.
- Educate yourself using NSPCC, Childnet International, Internet Matters, Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP).

There was a lot more information on INCELS, MANOSPHERE, and more. The one thing I took from this is that it is up to us to educate ourselves. If you are interested in finding out more, contact Kirsty Edwards at the VAWG team, Kent Police.

Angela Coleman, Public Affairs.

BYSTANDERS CAN BE LIFESAVERS

“Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers” Stunt on Margate Beach



Back in June, Ellie Brain from NFWI asked me if I was up for a challenge for a campaign stunt to which I replied, “I am not jumping out of a plane or taking off my bra!!” Fortunately, all I had to do was wear my bra on the outside of my clothes and stand and lay on Margate beach with more than sixty other women in the shape of a heart.



As President of Margate WI, I was delighted to be able to welcome everyone to the beach and to explain how the campaign came about.

Happily, when the day dawned the wind dropped, and the sun came out. The twenty or so members of Margate WI were pleased to be joined by our own Carol and Angela, members of other Thanet WIs as well some from further afield including the President of Waltham Forest WI. Three WI staff organised us all and Erika Brichta NFWI Public Affairs Committee Chair gave an inspiring speech in support of the campaign. She highlighted the fact that women have a significantly lower chance of survival than men as using a defibrillator requires our bras to be removed and that men and some women are reluctant to do this. All the people walking along the seafront that day during the event now have that information thanks to Margate members handing out our information cards and explaining it to them. Wearing a bra over your clothes definitely gets people talking.

We all had a lot of fun and if our campaign and event can save even just one life it will have been worth it.



Hilary, Margate WI

News from around the Federation

Hastingleigh with Elmsted WI hadn't entered the Top Team Quiz for as long as anyone could remember. We were too late with our application last year, so we got in very early this year and were successful. We sat next to Monkton W.I., and marked each other's answer sheets. We could see how close we both were - they were a point ahead of us for most of the quiz, until the very last round. Monkton, you were great opponents, and we look forward to challenging you again next year!

Thank you to everyone for organising the afternoon. Thank you for the tins of biscuits we were given as prizes, and thank you for the amazing trophy which we were very proud to put out on display at our next meeting.

Fiona Steward
President, Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I.

The ladies of **Wingham WI** and friends have been knitting like fiends for most of this year. They have produced 1600 poppies, some with leaves and some purple ones to represent the animals killed in the two world wars.



As you can see from the photographs, a huge amount of dedication and work has been put in to create this amazing installation in our Memorial Garden

Remembrance Sunday will be truly memorable in the village. Well done knitters of Wingham. A truly heroic effort!

Deal Goodwins WI recently hosted Henry VIII at their meeting. Michael Farley entertained us all with a history of the monarchy of England, talking about his ancestors Henry V, VI and VII, their wives and children and their route to the throne. He went on to talk about his wives, how he felt about them all and why they had to go. He has been talking about himself for 20 years and has visited a number of WIs and schools - he regaled us with stories of some of his visits. Here is Henry VIII with our President, Anne Matthews.



Kennington WI Paper craft groups work, this afternoon they made Gift boxes, as shown in the picture.



Members of **Becket WI** recently visited the Whitstable Embroideries and enjoyed a Fish and Chip lunch afterwards.



The embroideries depict Whitstable through the decades and have been created by very talented local women. Our 'Crafty Divas' group had great fun making Hessian flowers, a huge amount of hilarity was had with a very effective outcome!

GARLINGE WI walking group successfully negotiated this weak bridge; however, they decided to re-route their return journey following a break for coffee and cake and the increased weight!



Abbey WI had a very successful and enjoyable quiz evening at the end of September, attended by many local people, as well as the WI's from the group. Their support was most welcome, helping us through a changeable time. At the October meeting, we made a donation from the quiz raffle to the local charity Harmony Therapy Trust.



Summary of Wingham W.I. Group Meeting 17th September 2025 at 2.30pm

Wingham Group Meeting, comprising members from Ash with Westmarsh, Eastry, Goodnestone, Sandwich, Wingham, and Woodnesborough, met at Ash Village Hall. The afternoon was hosted by Ash with Westmarsh, and all were welcomed by President, Brenda O'Neill.

Everyone was entertained by speaker Alan Haines, who recalled amusing stories of the baby boomer era. The step back down memory lane provided much laughter. Alan judged the competition – the subject being 'An object from the baby boomer period'.

During the refreshment break, members had the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets and items from the bring-and-buy table.

The afternoon continued with the business side of the meeting. Minutes of the last meeting and financial statement agreed and signed. WI Advisor's Report and Federation Co-chair updates provided. Short reports were given by secretaries from Sandwich, Wingham, and Woodnesborough.

Details of the carol concert arranged by Ash with Westmarsh W.I. were given. It will take place at Ash Village Hall on Thursday, 4th December 2025, 7.10pm for a 7.30pm start. Open to everyone.

On Saturday, 18th October, **Bybrook WI** ladies visited the Faversham Police Museum. It was very interesting and enjoyable looking around the museum. They saw how over the years police processes have changed, from police officers using bicycles to attend any crime scenes, and how crime scenes are preserved. Well worth a visit.



Barham with Kingston WI enjoyed an evening learning how to Line Dance. Over 20 ladies were put through their paces learning 5 dances. A great fun way to exercise. Members wanted to support the WI resolution to improve dental health so we have donated 60 packets of toothbrushes and toothpastes to a Domestic violence support centre and Food bank.



This month was **Borden WI's** 76th birthday meeting.

We had a Halloween-themed tea party, and members joined in by dressing up as witches.

The proceedings were completed by a great talk on toys given by Helen Allinson.



Members of **St Peters Village WI** held an Autumn fair on 8th October which was a huge success and was opened by a local celebrity. There were stalls of Christmas goodies, cake stall (all cakes were bought), special raffles, bric a brac,



handmade crochet items and others, all monies going to charities.

Professional photographer for nearly forty years, Brian Russell talked to **Woodchurch WI** about how, throughout his career, he has been "getting paid for seeing amazing things".

Brian showed many of the photographs he'd taken over the years whilst at the same time filling in their back story. His photographs ranged from commissions in Government and Royal buildings to actual building sites. Also over the years his work was varied, Royal events to open heart surgery. His work took him both home and abroad including Nigeria, Turkey and China. Brian shared information on the techniques he used in lighting his shots and stories surrounding the many interesting events he had attended.

This month's competition "Things synonymous with Lincolnshire" proved challenging. However, Barbara's postcard of a WW1 Tank constructed in Lincolnshire was first, Josie asked of us "Who was the famous scientist from Lincoln?" – her clue was an apple, (Isaac Newton and gravity) whilst Gillian's tasty Plum Cake was third.

For their members' meeting in August, members of **Minster-in-Sheppey WI** travelled to Sittingbourne Little Potters. We had a lovely lunch and then proceeded to paint items purchased. It was a really nice afternoon.



NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

We are looking forward to our AGM on Monday, 10th November, where we will be reviewing the year and planning ahead. We have an interesting presentation by John Puckett on 'Bats in Kent', which will include an overview of the habits of bats. This starts at 10.30 a.m., followed by refreshments and our discussions. All welcome, no need to book. We meet at the Ashford Road Community Centre in Thanington. Ideas for future visits will be welcomed.

All welcome, full contact details via the Federation Office.

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

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

2025

November 26	Annual Meeting. Plus Our Birthday. So No Speaker.
December	T.B.A.

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.

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. Send the photos separately not embedded into the text, this makes editing much quicker. Please send as a word document not PDF. Copy should arrive by email one week before the end of the month.