

EAST KENT FEDERATION

EAST KENT NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026



Contact Information for the Federation Office

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

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

Opening Hours:

Tuesday to

Thursday

9.30am – 3.30pm

(closed for lunch from
1.00pm to 1.30pm)

East Kent Federation [Website](#)

[Ticketsource](#) for bookings

[Members Facebook Page](#)

[Public Facebook Page](#)



NEWS FLASH



We are so excited to announce that our special Guest Speaker at the EKFWI AGM on the 7th April 2027 will be the Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover.

Rose will be joining us to talk about her incredible life story from Montego Bay to a Bishop in Kent. It is quite a story! Do not miss out - put the date in your diary NOW! Get a group of you together - it's going to be a fabulous day.

NEWS FROM ANGELA

What a summer it's been. Your garden party pictures have been amazing. There are some advantages I guess to a record breaking heatwave!

As we reconvene after the summer we are starting a new venture at the Federation. For some time our sub committees have been struggling to find volunteers to help with arranging outings and events. We are currently forming a brand new Event Team combining all our skills to create a great new team. If you have super organisational skills or a passion for arranging events please give me a call so I can talk to you about it? The trustees and team members are all so passionate about our Federation and all our WIs and we want you to join us.



Angela Coleman
Chair

We know that some members feel our events are expensive. Our events are organised as a benefit for our WI members and the price reflects this. Inflation has affected our halls, food and speakers too - there is an easy way to help us to keep the prices down. Please encourage your members and friends to book tickets, this will help us to keep our prices down. The more the merrier!'

We also want to hear your ideas - what do you want us to organise? Where do you want to go? What do you want to learn? Let me know.

Meeting in our individual WIs is brilliant but it's just amazing when we all meet up at events.

We are committed at the Federation to provide you with a wide and varied WI experience - please help us achieve this.

Talking of which we have organised a really great event for WI Day, 16th September 2026. The WI is 111 years old this year and to celebrate we have the incredible Flo McEwan talking to us about the Maunsell Towers, those ethereal towers in the sea off Whitstable. Don't miss it - she is one of the best speakers, followed by a fabulous lunch then music and singing with Sarah Barker - Ms Vintage.

Dress in something (anything!) purple and make sure you get your photos taken for the WI Magazine.

This is going to be a fun day, with a great raffle, meet up with old friends and a chance to make new friends. Get a few of you together or come alone - you'll be very welcome.

Get your tickets now on

Our 2027 AGM is all booked and is going to be very special. Why not be a delegate? But whatever you do don't miss out on this day. Tickets will be available soon - but get the date in your diary now!

Sharon Goff has decided to stand down as joint chair but remains firmly committed to the EKFWI as a member of the Board of Trustees. We are not thanking her yet as she is going nowhere 💕.

Angela

federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 3 September 2026	President and Secretary training CANCELLED	Page 2
Tuesday 8 September 2026	President and Secretary training CANCELLED	Page 2
Monday 14 September 2026	President and Secretary training CANCELLED	Page 2
Saturday 12 September 2026	Quiz Walk Around Sandwich	Page 3
Wednesday 16 September 2026	WI Day	Page 4
Monday 21 September 2026	Top Team Quiz, Canterbury Academy 6.30 for 7pm start	Page 4
Thursday 24 September 2026	President and Secretary training	Page 2
Saturday 3 October 2026	Audition Event	Page 5
Saturday 17 October 2026	Visit to KSSAA	Page 5
Friday 6 November 2026	Craft Day	Page 3
Monday 30 November 2026	KSSAA Carol Service	Page 5
Wednesday 7 April 2027	EKFWI AGM SAVE THE DATE	

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

Deadline for copy to be included in the October EKN Monday 21 September 2026.

THE WINNERS 200+ CLUB

July Draw

1st Prize	£16.50	No 43	Jenny Hobbs	Abbey WI
2nd Prize	£9.90	No 110	Chris Scott	Eastry WI
3rd Prize	£6.60	No 119	Pam Draper	Rodmersham Green WI

August Draw

1st Prize	£16.50	No 83	Kathleen Macphee	Smeeth WI
2nd Prize	£9.90	no 15	Terri Hancock	Seasalter Cross WI
3rd Prize	£6.60	No 119	Pam Draper	Rodmersham Green WI

Are you in the 200 Club? For just £12 a year, your number is entered into 12 draws! The more members, the higher the prize; the more tickets you have, the greater your chances! The forms are available now from your secretary or Lin at the Federation Office, 01227 464106.

OFFICER ZOOM DROP IN SESSIONS



Our next officer Zoom In Session will take place on **Friday 11th September** will start at 11.30. If you have anything you want to ask, please let us know - if you just fancy a chat, that's great too. Please let Alison know if you wish to attend, and she will send you the link.

BOOKING TICKETS EKFWI EVENTS



East Kent Federation has undertaken a thorough review of Ticketsource and our events booking process. The Board of Trustees have agreed that we can no longer subsidise the tickets by paying the booking fee. This will start from the 26th of September 2026 for all new events.

All customers will now pay the booking fee for their tickets bringing us in line with theatres, cinemas, and all other ticketing services. The booking fee will automatically be added to the cost of your ticket when you book online or by phone through Ticketsource.

We use a ticketing system, like all other organisations, because it also provides us with a list of all attendees for each event which covers the Federation under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

To book an EKFWI ticket

Go to www.ticketsource.com/east-kent-federation-of-womens-institutes to order online. Ticketsource is available 24/7 to book your EKFWI events online and receive immediate confirmation of your order. Once you have located the event by date and name and made your payment you will receive immediate confirmation from Ticketsource with all the event details. Please note that you do NOT require a printed ticket for EKFWI events.

You can also call the free Ticketsource booking line on **0333 666 3366** to order by phone. Telephone booking is currently available Monday-Friday 9am -5pm. Please note that the telephone line operators are not part of EKFWI team and are only able to share the information they have been provided with. They will check the event date, name, and venue with you and will ask you for the names and email address for each ticket. You will then receive a link by email or text to make your payment. They will stay on the line to guide you through the process and are very helpful. If you have any queries that they are unable to answer they will ask you to email East Kent Federation for assistance.

You can pay for Ticketsource Insurance when you purchase your tickets. All refunds from Ticketsource will be governed by their policy, please read their conditions carefully, hospitalisation is covered but not change of plans. If EKFWI cancel the event, you will receive a refund even if you haven't taken out the insurance.

If you are unable to use Ticketsource online or by phone tickets can be obtained from East Kent Federation office. We will not be able to reserve tickets from now on and will only issue tickets once funds have cleared. There will be an administration fee automatically added to your purchase in line with Ticketsource.

There may be certain events, such as Craft Day, that can only be booked via the Federation office at present.

The Board of Trustees want to keep all events affordable, and we will try to keep next year's ticket prices the same as this year's. Thank you for your understanding. We are very happy to answer any questions or assist you in any way we can.

Chris Kerr
East Kent Federation Treasurer

CRAFT DAY FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER

AT

CHARTHAM VILLAGE HALL

Tickets - £30 (this includes the cost of the kits)
10.00am to 3.45pm, DOORS OPEN AT 9.30AM

Select 2 from the following, 1 for the morning, 1 for the afternoon: -

Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee on arrival included in ticket price, further cups available to purchase during the day.

There are a limited number of places which will be allocated on a first come first served basis.
Please book through EKFWI office ASAP

Paper Piercing decorations



Mini Stitchery



Fabric Covered Wooden Beads



Glass Art



Decoupage



Beaded Tea light Holder



Lino printing



Flowers



Light Catchers & Bookmarks



Limited tickets still available

QUIZ WALK AROUND SANDWICH



Meet at
St Clements Church Hall, Church Street, Sandwich CT13 9EH
On

Saturday 12th September 2026 at 1.30pm

Come and explore the quaint Cinque Port Town of Sandwich with us!

Route takes 1.5 – 2 hours to compete and paths around the town can be uneven and very narrow in places so please bear this in mind when booking and not suitable for young children

Emails will be sent to those who book with exact start times and best places to park. At the end of the walk light refreshments will be served at the Church Hall where answers and winners are announced! Car parking in Sandwich is limited, so please car share where at all possible.

£8 PER PERSON

Closing Date: by **20th August 2026**

For further information please contact:

Lin Gates in the Federation Office Tel: 01227 464106

Email: assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

Or: Book directly on Ticketsource:

EAST KENT WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Let's Celebrate
WEDNESDAY!
together

Limited tickets still available

Wednesday 16th September	Woodchurch Memorial Hall, Front Road, TN26 3PB	12pm to 3pm	£ £22
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 A fun and fascinating talk with Flo McEwan
about Mansell Towers

 Sharing platter lunch with tea and coffee

 Entertainment and songs by Ms Vintage

Join us for a fun afternoon of inspiration, history, and style

Tickets available **Ticketsource**

TOP TEAM QUIZ

Limited tickets still available

Calling all members who love quizzes!

We have booked a larger venue this year with easy parking
This is an evening event, alternating time each year, to hopefully suit all!

Can your WI win the coveted TTQ winners shield?
Institutes are invited to enter teams of up to six members per table.

**Monday 21st September
2026**

The Canterbury Academy, Knight Avenue, Canterbury,
Kent CT2 8QA

6.30pm for prompt start at 7pm
Tea/Coffee and biscuits at half time
£9 PER PERSON

Book via [TicketSource](#) or the office
Deadline for bookings **TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2026**

There is a maximum capacity of 120 in the hall, so once this number is reached bookings will not longer be taken.
Please do not leave it too late as last year several teams were disappointed not to get a place.

Contact the Federation Office:
assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk Tel: 01227 464106 for further information

MCS AND AFFILIATION FEES

Some of you will be aware that I am undertaking a review of 2026/27 Affiliation fees received by the federation compared to the record of members on the MCS.

The MCS is the system that has all our members' details. It is the only record we have of members.

The joining date is very important as it tells us (the Federation) how much we should be receiving from your WI. I use these figures to pay NFWI their share. If these figures are wrong, we end up paying NFWI too much or too little.

Please can you ensure that the joining date corresponds to the date that the member joined - either in quarter 1 or quarter 2, etc., to ensure the fee is in the correct quarter.

Completing this ensures that all new paid members are receiving their WI Life and that former members who are no longer with the WI have been removed.

It's so easy to forget to remove a member from the MCS when they retire for whatever reason, but if they are on the MCS, they are receiving all the benefits of membership and costing the Organisation a lot of money nationally.

I will be holding training sessions for Treasurers and then training sessions for your MCS rep by Zoom, hopefully starting at the end of October. At this time, I will do my best to answer all your questions. We know it is a tricky system at times!

We will email you regarding the dates shortly.

A big thank you to all the Treasurers and MCS reps that have been helping me to confirm member numbers; it is very much appreciated.

Chris Kerr
East Kent Federation Treasurer

TIP OF THE MONTH

When taking a bath or shower put your mobile phone close by on a stool or somewhere you can reach it easily should you have a fall.

If it will get wet put it in a waterproof pouch!

If you have a smart watch which monitors falls put it on waterproof mode when showering so if you fall it will send an alert.

THE FEDERATION NEEDS YOU



!! WE NEED YOUR EXPERTISE !!

We are looking for someone with a passion for the WI to edit the website and someone to assist with Grant Applications.

- Do you edit or have you edited your WIs page in the NFWI website?
- Are you interested in developing this skill to edit the EKFWDI pages?
- Are you a confident website editor for another organisation?
- Do you have experience in grant applications?

If so we would like to talk to you.

Enquiries about these voluntary roles are welcomed from both WI members and non members.

For more information please contact Angela, EKFWDI Chair, for an informal, no obligation, chat.

federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

AUDITION EVENT FOR SPEAKERS

AT
**Church House,
Kent Gardens,
Birchington,
CT7 9RS**

Saturday 3rd October
10.00 am – 12.30 pm

Ticket price **£6** 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



KSSAA NEWS UPDATE

The trustees are so excited to see how many WIs are raising incredible amounts of money for KSSAA. You are absolutely amazing!

If you want to send your money directly to KSSAA make sure you let them know that you are a part of EKFWDI. You can always send it to the office and we will send it on for you. Do let us know how much you are raising- we want to let everyone know.

On Saturday 17th October 13.00-14.30, we have been invited to the Redhill Base for a unique opportunity to see the incredible work that the team do there. This will be an inspiring experience and it's all free!
Let Alison know asap before all the places go. 01227 464106 federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

Don't forget to get your tickets for the Carol Service at Canterbury Cathedral early! This will be a wonderful experience.

On Saturday 1st August **Milstead W Frinsted WI** held a Coffee Morning in aid of the Kent, Sussex & Surrey Air Ambulance, the EKFWDI's Charity of the Year. Milstead Village Hall was filled with wonderful cakes, produce, jams, arts, crafts and local honey for sale. There was a Bottle Tombola and a "bumper" Raffle. All washed down with refreshments and homemade cakes.

With the overwhelming support from our members, their families and our local community and we are pleased to announce that we are able to donate £1,054.41 to KSSAA
Jen Harper



PROSTATE CANCER

Whilst Prostate Cancer is not a woman's issue - it is. They are our husbands, fathers and sons. According to Kevin (below) it is only women who take his leaflets when he's standing outside a supermarket! We are the ones who encourage the men to get help. Why not book Kevin as a speaker - it may just save someone you love!

Prostate Cancer Support Association Kent is a volunteer led not for profit local charity.

We support men and their families who have been affected by Prostate Cancer via our monthly meetings on the last Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Old Gate Inn New Dover Road Canterbury.

Our key aim is to make men from 45 years of age upwards aware of the need to get tested for this disease especially if there is a family history of Prostate Cancer.

We also raise money for the Kent and Canterbury hospital to purchase vital specialist equipment that they need in the fight against Prostate Cancer via our outreach fundraiser events.

We are all volunteers at PCSA Kent and have no salaries or expenses to pay out so all monies raised goes directly to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

Kevin McNamara
f.mcnamara@talk21.com

PORCHLIGHT BIG SLEEP OUT

Why don't you get together with your WI or even with friends and family to raise money for Porchlight? Let us know if you are getting involved.



We will be releasing details next month and on FB of Paws for Porchlight- a sponsored walk where dogs can take their human!

In the meanwhile all donations to a foodbank will get to Homeless people.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUNKEN GARDENS WESTGATE ECO EVENT SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

Sunken Gardens Westgate Eco Event Come along and see us at these beautiful gardens , its important to remember that the WI is an Enviromental Group too! We were a founding member of both The Climate Coalition and Fairtrade. This is a great free event!

If you've not already been, do join us at this fabulous event. It really is a great day out. More details on their [website](#).



Whitstable Harbour Day and Boat Show



East Kent Federation enjoyed a busy and successful day at the Whitstable Harbour Day and Boat Show, where we had the opportunity to meet women of all ages and tell them more about the benefits of belonging to the WI.

Our stand attracted plenty of attention, particularly from families. A lucky dip game for children, with a fun theme of rescuing unwanted plastic from the sea, proved a great way to engage mums and their children while also highlighting an important environmental issue.

Our display board featured a wealth of information about WI campaigns, both past and present, and this too generated lots of interest and conversation. We also found that giving away back copies of *WI Life* was a particularly effective way to start conversations and give women an insight into the wide range of activities, interests, and campaigns that make up WI life. The magazines were very popular!

It was wonderful to spend the day sharing what the WI has to offer and meeting so many interesting people. We felt the event was a great success and look forward to taking EKFWDI out on the road again at our next promotional event on Sunday, 20th September, at The Sunken Gardens, Westgate-on-Sea.

SPEAKERS GUIDANCE

Recently we have been asked by members if we can provide some guidance for welcoming speakers to your meetings. There is advice on myWI on how to book speakers but here are a few extra tips

- Check their fee and mileage then ensure your committee agree before confirming booking.
- State exactly how much time is available for them to talk.
- Ensure they know they have to pay the WI 10% from any sales made.
- Agree the topic on which they talk - most prefer to do their presentation after the president has welcomed everyone before the business
- Ask exactly what they will require on the day ie projector, screen, table etc
- Give them the address and what3words/// if possible plus a landmark to help them, it can be hard to find village halls in the dark
- Check a week or two beforehand that they are still available
- Ensure that someone is prepared to do the thank you
- Always follow up with a email to say thank you and give feedback
- Make sure you sign in the speaker for H&S
- Always give them a mobile number to contact you on the day and make sure you have theirs
- Appoint one person to welcome them, give them a glass of water and a space to sit whilst waiting.
- Make sure the activity is accessible to all your members
 - Most of all welcome them and make sure that nobody talks over the speaker!

If you have good feedback put it on FB if you have bad feedback then let us know in the office. If you come across an amazing speaker please encourage them to contact Federation so we can get them in the Speaker Book.

Our speakers are such an important part of our meeting- we have some amazing ones!

MELINDA DENTON REPORTS ON KNITTING FOR ' FISH AND CHIP BABIES'



Rwanda is known as the land of a thousand hills, and with its stunning scenery and warm, friendly people, it truly is a remarkable place to visit.

This was a country I had to look up on a map when it was first mentioned that Hawkinge Evening WI might like to knit some jumpers for the 'Fish and Chip babies'. These were the babies that would often leave hospital without any proper clothing. As always, when set a challenge, the WI rise to the occasion, and this was no different. Within a few months, I started to send parcels out via www.Azizilife, who, through a beautiful woman called Venantie, were able to distribute the jumpers to women at the local clinic. News came back that this was increasing the numbers of mums visiting the clinic and therefore resulting in more babies getting vaccinated. I was initially sending the jumpers in shoeboxes, twenty at a time, but with a hike in postal costs, this was becoming difficult to maintain.

Money was raised through a summer fair and donations, and this meant I could send larger boxes of around 120 jumpers in each.

Then came a visit from the charity www.amoreurope to one of our monthly meetings. They were closely linked with Azizi life and were saying that one of the biggest problems facing women in Rwanda and around the world was the lack of affordable, available sanitary products. Without these, they were unable to go to school or work. They explained that, as well as water filters, they were encouraging groups of sewers to make pad packs that could be taken out annually with their organisation. Hawkinge Evening WI then began making these by holding pad parties once a month in the local church.

I was intrigued by what was happening on the other side of the world and decided that I would like to be part of the next trip. So, this year on 27th June, with the support of Pub Church Hawkinge, I joined a group of volunteers at Gatwick Airport and flew out to Kigali.

From start to finish, the whole trip lived up to any expectation I had. We went into three villages and delivered pad packs to the women and talked about menstrual hygiene and care of their disposable pads. They were so grateful. Most had to resort to rags or even grass during their period and couldn't work. We also went to a school and talked to teenage girls and gave them their packs. In total, we gave out 400 pad packs, all made in the United Kingdom, and 69 of them made at Hawkinge Evening

WI. I also managed to take 140 of the baby jumpers and had the privilege of giving them to new mums at the clinic. I will never forget the joy on their faces. Some even stood to thank us with tears running down their faces.

As well as giving out jumpers and pad packs, I was invited to run a sports day for the children of a nursery. This was an absolute highlight. These children, who have so little, just dance, sing, and smile.

It may not have changed the world, but it changed the lives of many women, children, and families in Rwanda, and I feel so grateful to have been part of it.

More information can be found at www.amoreurope, emailing jsavage@amor.org, or looking at the Hawkinge Evening HEWI Facebook page.

Melinda Denton



SPEAKERS DIRECTORY UPDATE

Great news ladies we have three new speakers to add to the speakers directory. See details below and contact the speakers directly for more information.

Deborah Castellino

Brambly Hedge, 11 Wye Green, Herne Bay, Kent CT65UF T: 07512821071
Hello@emunahnutritionalwellbeing.com. www.emunahnutrition.com

- Acid Reflux and digestive issues - Tame the Flame ; A Calm Stomach Starts Here
 - Protect Your Heart , naturally
 - Focus, Mood & Memory ; The Food-Brain Link
 - Bones of the Matter; How to Support Strength & Stability at Any Age
 - Food for Clearer, Calmer, Growing Skin
 - Sweet Enough; How to Reduce Sugar, Balance Moods and Feel Amazing
 - The Real Secrets to Energy that Lasts
 - Food, Mood & Stress; Supporting your Nervous System Naturally
 - Rest, Restore, Recharge; Tools for a More Peaceful Night
 - Behind the Loo Door; What's Really Going On in your Gut
 - Your Everyday Immune Toolkit; Nourish, Support, Protect, Optimal Nutrition for healthful ageing
- £75 Plus travel

Top Conservation

Alex Page and Becky Odd
12 Radcliffe Court, Sir John Moore Ave, Hythe CT215DA T:0771516118/ 07582123815
Topconservationofficial@gmail.com

- Wildlife Conservation
 - Zoos and the Role in Conservation
 - Animal Behaviour
 - Weird Wildlife
 - Bespoke (on request)
- £80 plus mileage

Susan Mattocks

Upchurch, Near Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 7AE. 07707 051 695 mattocksfab4@bigpond.com

Everyday Life Down Under: The Funny, the Surprising and the Unexpected!!

An entertaining glimpse into the realities of domestic life in tropical Australia – where sharing your home with wildlife is part of everyday life!!

Slides: Yes

Equipment Required: Digital projector and screen, plus mic if necessary.
£60.00 plus mileage.

Dreda Van Beer – 40 Colorado Close, Dover, Kent CT16 2AY 07966 874181 :hello@dredavanbeer.com
www.dredavanbeer.com

Fee £99.00 Travel £0.55 per mile.

1. How to Declutter Your Wardrobe, Identify What's Missing and Discover New Outfits Using The Clothes You Already Own,
 2. How To Dress For Your Body Shape and Choose Styles That Flatter You,
 3. How to Incorporate Colour And Personal Style Into Your Wardrobe,
 4. Travel Style. The Sudoku Packing Method: Create 27 Holiday Outfits With Just 9 Pieces,
 5. A Tailor-Made Personal Style & Image Presentation Designed to Meet Your Group's Needs.
- All talks include a demonstration. Available to Speak: am, pm and evenings, and at short notice.

EKFWI are delighted to announce that NK Holidays are sponsoring the Annual General Meeting at the Great Hall, Kent College on 7th April. This is a new venture for us and we are very pleased to be able to recommend them to all our intrepid members.



NK HOLIDAYS
Relax While We Plan Your Perfect Coach Trip

WHY CHOOSE US?
Let us handle the logistics while you enjoy the journey!

Visit Best Travel Company for Coach Holidays 2025

Call Today to Discuss Your Next Trip
01795 899099
Or Visit: NKHolidays.co.uk

AGT Approved Travel Agent

AN EKFWI INSPIRING WOMAN

Sam Secomb is a WI member, our Financial Planner and embodies the same values as our founding members.

The Money Is About to Become Female. Is Financial Services Ready?

Something big is heading our way, and most of us haven't been told about it.

Within the next few years, the majority of the UK's wealth is expected to sit in women's hands. It's being called the Great Wealth Transfer, driven by two simple facts: women tend to outlive their husbands, and a vast amount of money is now passing down from the baby boomer generation. The Centre for Economics and Business Research has put a figure on it: over 60% of UK wealth is predicted to be controlled by women.

That is not a small shift. It's a complete change in who is making the big financial decisions in this country, from pensions and property to investments and inheritance.

The Women's Institute has spent over a hundred years doing exactly this kind of work: noticing where women were being left out of something that mattered, and quietly getting on with fixing it. From the earliest campaigns for better rural services to decades of encouraging women into public life, the WI has always understood that progress for women rarely arrives on its own. It has to be organised for. This is one of those moments.

Here's the problem. The industry meant to guide people through those decisions still looks like it did fifty years ago. Around 60% of financial advice clients are already women, yet only 18% of financial planners are women. We are about to hand the majority of the nation's wealth to a group of people who are chronically underrepresented among the professionals advising them.

Why this matters beyond the numbers

I sit on the board of the Women's Wealth Alliance, a nonprofit working to change this, and I run my own female-first financial planning firm. So I'll admit this is personal. But it isn't just a fairness argument. It's a quality argument.

Women and men tend to think, feel and do money differently. Research consistently shows women are more inclined to plan for the long term, to weigh up risk in the context of family and care responsibilities, and to want a relationship with their adviser rather than a transaction. A profession designed and delivered almost entirely from one perspective is not well placed to serve a client base that increasingly isn't that perspective at all.

This shows up in ordinary, damaging ways. Women describe feeling talked over, patronised, or given advice that assumes a life shaped like a man's career, with none of the gaps for raising children or caring for elderly parents. It isn't usually deliberate. It's what happens when a room stays too similar for too long. And it means women are too often disengaged from decisions about their own money, at exactly the moment they're about to be handed more of it than ever before.

Where does this leave us?

The honest answer is: with a pipeline problem. If financial services genuinely wants to serve its future client base well, it needs many more women inside it, designing products, sitting on advice boards, and giving advice directly.

The good news is that when women do go into the profession, the experience of it is far better than its reputation. The Women's Wealth Alliance surveyed over 500 women currently or previously working in personal finance, in partnership with YouGov. The findings were striking: 93% of financial planners said they'd recommend the career to other women. Most reported strong flexibility, good support from colleagues, and a genuine sense of progression.

So what's holding women back from even considering it? Not capability. The same research found that 84% of women see the sector as male-dominated before they've even looked into it, and 49% simply don't know what the roles involve. Nearly half assume, wrongly, that it's "not for them."

That is a solvable problem. It just needs the profession, and the women who might join it, to see each other properly.

A guide, and an invitation

To help with that, the Women's Wealth Alliance has published a free career guide mapping out the different routes into financial services, from paraplanning and mortgage advice to financial planning and coaching, along with real accounts from women already working in the sector. It's aimed at anyone curious about a career change, returning to work, or simply wondering whether this world might have a place for them.

You don't need a maths degree, and you don't need to have always known you wanted to work in finance. Some of the most successful women in this profession came to it sideways, from teaching, from caring roles, from admin, from raising a family and then rejoining the workforce.

The wealth is coming. The question is whether enough of us will be in the room, on both sides of the desk, to make sure it's handled with the understanding it deserves. It's exactly the kind of gap the WI has spent a century closing, and exactly the kind of moment its members are well placed to help with now.

[Author bio: Sam Secomb is a Chartered Financial Planner, founder of Women's Wealth, Moral Money Columnist for The Telegraph, and a board member of the Women's Wealth Alliance. The WWA Career Guide is available at [consumerduty.org](https://www.consumerduty.org).]

News from around the Federation

GARLINGE WI recently had the pleasure of a guided tour around Monkton Nature Reserve. Director Clive Nuttman did the honours, leading us around the orchid fields pointing out these delicate objects before we headed towards the cool of the cafe.

Clive, also does lots of talks so



Rodmersham Green WI sadly said goodbye to Barbara Wills one of our founder members at our meeting on the 18th June, Barb is moving to Essex to live with her daughter. Kay Hubbard another founder member, left us in March due to health issues, both will be missed and we wish them both every happiness.



Newington WI had the pleasure recently of welcoming Derrick and Ann Stevens from Sheppey Honey Producers, who gave us a fascinating insight into the world of beekeeping and honey harvesting.

We learnt all about the structure of a beehive, the different roles of the Queen, worker bees and drones, and the incredible life cycle of honey bees, including what happens to the drones once they have mated with the Queen!! It was amazing to discover just how organised and hardworking a hive really is!



To top off a really informative evening, we had the chance to taste some delicious local honey and even make our own beeswax candles to take home.

A huge thank you to Derrick and Ann for sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm with us. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening,

and we all came away having learnt something new!

At **Sheldwich WI** on the Green's July meeting we had a very interesting speaker on Saving Lives at Sea. Terry Stefani who is a volunteer at the RNLI came to give us a fact filled talk about improvements to marine safety and as a woman of traditional build myself, I was delighted to learn that in the event of an accident, fatter people last longer in cold water than thinner ones. I shall use that argument the next time the GP gives me grief.

At the Sheldwich Fete we assembled photos showing all the various activities we have done as an Institute and handed out fliers. We also had a bottle stall and sold baked goods raising £262. We have since had two enquiries about meetings which is encouraging. Instead of meeting in August we have organised a pub lunch for anyone interested in a meet up.

At **Singleton WIs** 5th Birthday Meeting, everyone had a lovely evening, with Boogie Bingo, cup cake competition, raffle and cakes



In July, **Kennington WI**

members were busy, having several stalls at the local Fete. It was a very well supported afternoon. We sold lots of our delicious cakes as well as books, jewellery, and a Bottle Tombola.

It was a very hot afternoon, but we raised a good amount towards our funds, and still kept smiling.



Kennington WI enjoys a different sort of monthly Book Group. Each member brings a book they have read recently and summarises how they found it - no spoilers allowed! This usually leads to

a discussion about the author or similarities with other stories. Books are loaned within the group, so members returning a borrowed item will also offer their, sometimes different, opinion. Members feel this type of meeting works well as we all enjoy reading and talking about books but without the obligation to have all read the same one. With quite a few group members, if a meeting is occasionally missed, it really doesn't matter.

Woodchurch WI welcomed James Dickinson to their July meeting with a talk on "Ancient Canterbury". There has been a settlement in Canterbury since the Bronze and Iron Ages. The Romans built a more substantial town and by the 6th century the Anglo Saxons under Augustine had begun the first Cathedral. Maynard and Cotton established Almshouses and Hospitality for those on Pilgrimage such as Chaucer's pilgrims. To ensure hospitality for the evening the travellers needed to arrive before sunset.

James also introduced the story of Thomas Beckett, and his death on 29th December 1170 by four assassins. Miracles and healings began to take place in his name and he was made a Saint in 1170. A candle now marks the site of his assassination.

26 members and guests of **Smeeth WI** recently enjoyed a lovely afternoon at Doddington Place Gardens near Lenham. We were amazed at the beautiful cloud hedges, the giant sequoia red wood trees and the colourful flower borders; some of us even climbed the 'wobbly tower' to view the surrounding countryside. Of course, true to WI, we finished the afternoon off with tea and cakes but sadly we forgot to take a group photo.

Members of Minster W.I. were arrested and thrown into jail when they visited the Guildhall in Queenborough. The trip included a tour around the Hall and the museum also lunch at a local public house a lovely outing.



Borden WI Member Pam Rosell asked for her craft supplies to be sold and the proceeds to go to our WI.

Everyone enjoyed a cream tea afternoon along with a presentation of a cheque for £4000 being the amount raised so far from the sale of goods.



Seasalter Cross WI Race Night

The Swalecliffe Community Centre
19 St Johns Road, Swalecliffe, CT5 2QU

Saturday 10th October 7.00 pm £10 per person

Supporting the Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury and our WI

Exciting Horse Races throughout the evening
Place your bets and cheer your favourites

Bar available at this event so no personal drinks allowed
Payable in advance by BACS by 30th September

Members, Partners, Family and Friends but sorry no children

Bring your own nibbles/food



Contact Hazel Bentley 07769 735336

On one of the hottest August days of this summer, members of **Woodchurch WI** went for lunch at the Woodchurch Wine Estate.



Whilst we sipped a cool and delicious glass of sparkling wine, co-owner, John Smith gave us a fascinating and knowledgeable insight into viticulture. He spoke about the types of grapes grown, the wine making process and outlined a brief glimpse of how, in the future, the ways in which British wine making might progress. We then went on to enjoy plates of cheeses and charcuterie. This was a very informative and enjoyable way to spend an afternoon together.



Ann Fright was a founding member of **Deal Goodwins WI** and, to remember her each, we hold a craft competition and the winner is awarded the Ann Fright Cup. The theme this year was Seashore. We invited Cheryl and Wendy from Whitfield WI to judge the entries.



The winner in 2026 was Sandra Goodwin for her entry 'Pirate Pete and Norfolk Nell' made from seashore salvage, here being presented with the cup by President, Anne Matthews.

Deal Goodwins WI has been twinned with Frindsbury Extra WI for 21 years. This year we visited them, with a visit to Rochester in the morning, led by one of our members who had lived there. We then spent the after with Frindsbury Extra WI enjoying a ploughman's lunch and trying our hand at some interesting crafts, such as macrame, story writing and stone painting.

Thanington Without WI is a small WI with just 11 members and always welcome new members into our lovely group.



We thoroughly enjoyed our lunch in Wingham to celebrate the groups 78th birthday and were joined by husbands too.



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.

Tunstall Evening WI held their Summer Social this month and member Diane Dowling received a certificate for her 10 years membership of the WI. As well as a wonderful spread of food, we had entertainment by The East Kent Chorus who serenaded us with songs ranging from Hallelujah to the lion sleeps tonight. We also had a raffle and tombola to raise funds for Cancer Research.



Becket WI ladies took a trip on the Kent and East Sussex railway.

Travelling from Bodium to Tenterden, the ladies then took time to look around Tenterden and have lunch.

There was even the opportunity to shop and visit some of the charity shops to bag some bargains!



The steam train gave some of the ladies time to reminisce, and the diesel train returned us to Bodium a little faster to escape the heat!

A thoroughly good day was had by all.

NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

On Thursday 17th September we are visiting a flower farm in Smarden to learn about regenerative farming practices with a talk on soil health and as tour of the flower field (specialising in dahlias). Lunch can be arranged there, if prebooked, full details from our Secretary.

In October, we have a guided walk around Appledore on **Wednesday 7th** (please note change of date if you already have our printed Programme). Visitors welcome Please contact Janet Adamson (Secretary) via the Federation Office.



SPINNERS AND KNITTERS GUILD

The Spinners and Knitters Guild meets on the first Monday of each month unless it is a Bank Holiday, in which case the meeting takes place on the second Monday, from 10.30 am until 2.30pm in Chartham Village Hall.

Our aim is to have fun spinning and/or knitting in a relaxed atmosphere. We are a self-help group where, in addition to spinning and knitting, we indulge in many associated crafts from crochet, felting, dyeing, locker-hooking, peg loom weaving, etc.

Why not pop along to any meeting and see what we are up to? You can be assured of a warm welcome and the chance to find out more. We have regular workshops in all aspects of woolly crafts.

For further information, contact: EKFWI office and they will pass on your query.

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.

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.**

CRAFT & HOME ECONOMICS GUILD IN DOVER. Meetings are every 4th Wednesday in the month at 2pm

Whitfield Village Hall. Manley Close, off Sandwich Rd, Whitfield. Dover.