

EAST KENT FEDERATION

EAST KENT NEWS

JULY 2025



Contact Information for the Federation Office

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

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



WORD FROM OUR CO - CHAIRS

The NFWI AGM on 4th June was a very different experience to last year, I think we all missed the buzz and fellowship of gathering together to celebrate. Meeting in smaller 'watch parties' to take part in the meeting was fun, even if technology can always catch you out! We certainly have some ideas for next year.

I enjoyed the meeting and the speakers and was delighted at the overwhelming support for the resolution. Isn't it good to see that so many WIs – and not just those in East Kent – are embracing the training to make sure that Bystanders can be Lifesavers.



As a CIO we had to hold a General Meeting of the federation to adopt the new constitution as that of East Kent Federation of Women's Institutes – CIO and this took place on Wednesday 25th June via Zoom. The resolution was passed, and the relevant documents have been sent to the Charity Commission. On behalf of the trustees, I should like to thank all those who took part and those who worked so hard to make it run smoothly.

The WI celebrates 110 years on 16th September.

To mark this momentous milestone, we have arranged an afternoon tea for everyone at Godmersham Village Hall. Dress up or dress down but please come along and celebrate with us.

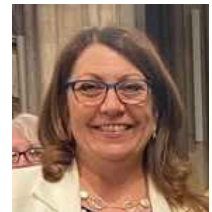
Carol

federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

This month I have visited six fabulous WIs. So lovely to meet you all.

June started with a bang at the Faversham Gunpowder WI. I was made very welcome even though I came without cash. They started by presenting a cheque to the Major of Faversham for his charities. He said that they made Faversham a better place and thanked them for their service to the community. The speaker was

Francis Rook, a member's husband who talked about his time as a galley boy on a fishing trawler, it was one of the best talks ever. He painted an exceptional picture of his experience and we all felt as if we were there! The meeting ended with the president showing off the certificates the WI and two members received from Helen Whately MP for being local hero's. They are an exceptional WI supporting their town in every way.



A visit to sunny Herne Bay was next. Although they are a smallish group they had 2 visitors and a new member. They had a lovely speaker, Dean who gave a fab talk on the history of the Victoria Palace theatre, he had visited the group a year ago and was obviously very well liked. Whilst I was there a member approached me with an idea for a resolution. She said that the 'buy two get one free' offers on fresh produce not only encourage food waste but discriminate against single people. She's quite right!

If you have something that you are passionate about why not get together with your committee and write a proposal for EKFWI to look at.

Herne Bay Belles was next. I chose the right day as I spent an hour line dancing with

the members which was a treat! Kim Holden, their treasurer, and daughter of the secretary Joy, had very recently passed away at a young age. Joy talked about the 'elephant in the room' and urged members not to feel bad or avoid her daughters name. Joy thanked everyone for their support and help at such a difficult time, she invited everyone to Kim's funeral. What a warm, caring supportive WI. They have a welfare officer too. A great example of WI at its best. Can I just say on behalf of EKFWI our deepest thanks for your daughters work as treasurer and our deepest sympathy for your loss Joy.

Whitstable WI were next on my itinerary. I was made very welcome and shown their beautiful table cloth which was made when they formed featuring everything Whitstable and a new banner celebrating the WI and Whitstable. A member had brought in a cake for her 90th birthday but didn't feel well enough to stay and celebrate but what a lovely thing to do. The speaker was Sue Shaw with a fabulous talk about her trips to Tanzania. I met some lovely ladies who had been WI members for a longtime and had all been officers at some time.

What a great day to choose to visit Rodmersham Green. It was their annual picnic on the Green by the duck pond. It was scorching but under the shade of the trees it was wonderful. A lovely chance to talk and relax, Rodmersham WI have been flexible over the years and have kept their WI alive and vibrant. Well done ladies and thank you.

Angela

AUDITION EVENT WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2025

The audition evening at Godinton went very well - all four speakers turned up so it was a good start. We had over 40 members present.

The first speaker was Lee Goodman from St John's Ambulance. Several ladies already knew him as he had visited their Groups. He provides CPR and defibrillator training and was voted unanimously by the members.

Debbie Greensmith works for Volker Fitzpatrick, she said that only 10% of their staff are women. She wants to encourage women and girls to get into the construction industry. The company are backing her work as she visits schools and women's groups such as ours!

Nicholas Woodward began making candles during lockdown. He talked about how he sources the pots and containers for his Wacky Candles.

The final speaker was very popular, Liza Mayne Hooks provides several talks around decluttering and the many reasons we end up with clutter. She is a very competent speaker.

The successful speakers are being added to the speaker book as we speak.
Thank you to the members of Godinton who supplied us with lovely tea and cake.
The next speaker auditions are being planned, watch this space for the date.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 details to follow
Tuesday 25th November 2025	Zoom talk 'The Disgraceful Sons of King George III
Saturday 29 November 2025	16 Days of Activism March organised by Canterbury Soroptimists
Thursday 2 April 2026	EKFWI AGM, Kent College, Canterbury

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

The Winners of June 2025 200+ Club draw

1st	£17.25	No 74	Gill Cooke	Newchurch WI
2nd	£10.35	No 8	Mrs Cheesman	Sheldwich WI on the Green
3rd	£6.90	No 132	Margot Allison	Sheldwich WI on the Green

TIP OF THE MONTH

Donna Truwhyte was the speaker at the Summer garden day this month from The Enchanted Gardens Kent . She has invited WIs to visit her in Whitstable.

If you fancy a WI visit contact Donna on 07967917161 or donna@enchantedgardenskent.co.uk

ARCHERY TASTER DAY

We are sorry that, due to circumstances beyond our control, the date of this event has had to be changed.

This will now take place on **Saturday 6th September** from 1.30 – 3.30pm. Details the event are as shown on the original poster.

There are some places available so if you would like to take part please contact the office for further information.

ARCHERY TASTER DAY

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

Saturday 6th September 2025 13:30 – 15:30
£20

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

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

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

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

CLOSING DATE IS 31 JULY 2025

Tickets available from Ticketsource or the EKFWI office

For further information please contact Federation office

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

EAST KENT FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

**Join the Board of Trustees on WI Day
to celebrate the 110th birthday of the
amazing Women's Institute**

Tuesday 16th September 2025

at

**Godmersham Village Hall
Canterbury Road, Godmersham, CT4 7DR**

From **2pm**

for

A glass of PJMMS on arrival (non-alcoholic options available)

***Cream tea with fresh strawberries
Tea and coffee***

(please inform us of any special dietary requirements when booking)



Dress to impress

Reflect an era of the WI



***There will be a presentation by
Judi Knight***

Displays

***See some of our
amazing archive
material***

Preserves Competition

In recognition of the important role the WI had in preserving home grown produce during the wartime years we would love you to bring your best pot of jam for our competition.



Tickets – £15

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

Or direct from the EK Federation Office: Email: assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

Calling all members who love quizzes

Afternoon
Quiz

TOP TEAM QUIZ

New Central
Venue

SOLD OUT
Contact EKFWI office to be added to
waiting list.

ed 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: assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

QUIZ!

FROM OUR CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

In April I once again took part in Earthwatch's citizen science project to measure the water quality in my local canal. I was pleasantly surprised that there was next to no phosphate or nitrate. Given that the canal runs through a lot of agricultural land on Romney Marsh I was expecting evidence of run off from the fields. Unfortunately the results for the country as a whole were not so good - 66% of the data points showed poor water quality with unacceptable levels of nutrient pollution. Kent was even worse with 86% tests showing unacceptable levels of water pollution. You can read the full report here : [Great UK WaterBlitz - Earthwatch Europe](#)

Unfortunately the sea where I swim is not so clean. The Safer Seas and Rivers app shows 346 sewage alerts this year and 1691 alerts for 2024. Surfers Against Sewage recently organised a Paddle Out Protest. I went along and was encouraged by the fact that both our MP and our local councillors are putting as much pressure as they can on Southern Water and organisations like the Environment Agency.

On a slightly different note. I've just finished reading Just Earth by Tony Juniper. I would definitely recommend it. If you are new to climate concern it is a good summary of why climate change is such a problem and the attempts to get international agreement to resolve it. He then goes on to suggest some changes to the way we run and measure our economies that would help us better protect our environment. He focuses very much on a fair transition ie making sure that the earth's resources are allocated more evenly.

Lesley Whybrow lesley.whybrow@yahoo.com

PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

This month I attended another online event organised by Kent Police on Violence against women and girls, VAWG. This is the fourth event I've attended.

Kent police are taking it extremely seriously, especially after the murder of Sarah Everard by a serving officer. They started by showing a slide of all the women murdered recently. It was shocking. 20% of all crime is VAWG.

These sessions are multi agency and are to educate service users. They spoke of many of the services they offer. Violence against women and girls is at the same level as terrorism ! It is recognised as a National Threat.

Sophie Scott is the DA and stalking lead.

- 2.1 million people 16+ experience some form of DV
- 94% of cases are against women
- 92% of people accessing the IDVA (domestic violence advisor) are women
- 827,000 children exposed to DV
- 28,026 recorded cases last year
- 89% of perpetrators are male
- As reports of DA is decreasing (slightly) coercive control and stalking is increasing.

The main theme this time was the education of young boys and girls within schools and the community and the education programmes available for men who have been identified as using domestic abuse, coercive control and stalking of women. There are several one to one programmes for serious offenders and group sessions for less serious offenders. There are different courses for young people too. The aim is to prevent further abuse of a new partner and keep the offender out of prison. These sessions are voluntary. The speaker said that some offenders agree to attending to lessen their sentence with no intention of changing - these men are spotted immediately.

Kent Community DA programme is another service working with men to prevent abuse by education and giving them strategies to behave differently in the future.

Technology facilitated abuse was discussed. Refuge are dealing with online harassment and abuse. Many abusers use technology to perpetuate abuse once a relationship is over. Post separation abuse is a common tactic once a woman has mustered the courage up and left an abusive relationship.

An IDVA from Oasis DA service gave an explanation of the many ways abusers use abusive power to control victims. She talked about the process people go through from recognising they are experiencing abuse , to leaving, and restarting their lives. Oasis also provide a service for primary school aged children.

Kent police are working very hard with multiple agencies and charities and organise meetings like this as a way of sharing good practice.

A survivor of domestic abuse gave a personal account of her situation. It took her 4 years to leave and she explained how she found herself in the situation and how she left.

Kent Police are working extremely hard to make a difference to women's lives. However they are very aware of the challenge.

Angela Coleman

Public Affairs Team

Last month all across East Kent many of you donned Hi Vis jackets and tidied up your local areas as part of The Great Big Green week litter pick. Well done everyone and thank you.

Seasalter and District WI did
Our Beach Clean at Seasalter 13th
June for The Big Green Week. Well
Done ladies



**Seasalter and District
WI**

Willesborough
WI taking part in NFWI
green month.... Cleaning up our
local community! So many people
passed by and said thank you and a
local parish counsellor even
offered his support. Hope
to do this again!



Willesborough WI



Cherryhill WI



Shepherdswell WI

Ten
members from Churchill
Sittingbourne took part in the Big
Green Initiative on Saturday 14th and
collected 10 Bags of Litter around
Sittingbourne Town, not bad in just an hour
and half. Members feedback was that they
thoroughly enjoyed the morning and
said that it was "quite addictive"
and "therapeutic" !



Tunstall Evening WI

Tunstall Evening WI
members went on a litter pick,
with our council issued Hi Vis vests, litter
pickers and bags. After just over an hour of picking
we had filled 7 bags. With everything from cigarette
buts to takeaway wrappers and underpants to a rubber
duck!!!

Leaving our council approved bags by a bin (black
bags = fly tipping) we returned home hot and
with a bad case of picker thumb but
satisfied with our haul.

On Wednesday 11th June **Lynsted
with Teynham WI** did our bit for the Big
Green Week, by organising a litter pick around
our village.

With 9 members, 2 villagers and with Angela Coleman
joining us, we worked for nearly 2 hours and collected
enough rubbish to fill 14 bags.

With the weather on our side and finding aching muscles
we didn't know we possessed, we were then treated to
a well-deserved rest with tea, coffee and biscuits,
at member Nicole Clarke's house, sitting
out in her garden. Well done ladies.



**Lynsted with
Teynham WI**

UPDATE FROM MARGATE WI

Margate WI, which is celebrating its tenth year in 2025, came up with the idea for the resolution Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers after a meeting where members learnt how to recognise a cardiac arrest, deliver CPR and use a defibrillator. They realised that these simple skills used quickly by anyone could save a life.

Since then, members have been encouraging people to learn these skills and find out the location of their nearest defibrillator and to check how accessible it is.

As part of the campaign, members have:

- Made and given out wallet-sized heart-themed fabric stamps, featuring details of a website (defibfinder.uk) to help people find their nearest defibrillator.
- Sewn a patchwork block which was selected to be part of a large patchwork house, to mark the 150th birthday celebrations of London-based store, Liberty. The patchwork can be seen on display in store until 24 July.
- Worked with locally based group Community Lifesavers to help deliver CPR and defibrillator training in Kent.
- Plans are also underway to get more defibrillators installed in and around Margate.

On Wednesday 4 June, *Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers* was debated at the National Annual Meeting of WIs and got the final seal of approval to become the next campaign.

Margate WI President Hilary Askew said: 'We are thrilled that our idea will be the next big campaign for the Women's Institute. There are over 30,000 out of hospital cardiac arrests a year in the UK and less than one in ten people survive. Women have a lower chance of surviving than men.'

'The resolution was created to raise awareness of how easy using a defibrillator is - time is everything, and the quicker the response is, the higher the chance of survival.'

'We would love to see more 24/7 public access defibrillators available throughout the country, and we want more people to feel confident in offering help during a cardiac arrest. Don't wait for someone else to do it.'

'Our members will continue to campaign for better survival rates and we are so pleased that our message will now be heard throughout the UK.'



Liberty's London

JAM COMPETITION – HELPFUL HINTS.

Jars

- Can be reused but try not to use ones bearing trade names.
- Sterilise before use. Check that there are no strong odours in reused jars as this can taint the jam.
- Label should state contents and date, month and year of making.
- Jars should be filled to within 3mm of the top to allow for shrinkage.

Lids

- Lids can be either a twist top, or the jam can be covered with a wax disc and cellophane cover.
- The wax disc should be put on, smooth side down when the jam is hot, this will cause an effective seal when the jam cools.
- If possible, use a new twist top lid to ensure an effective seal.
- Lids should be put on immediately each jar is filled when the jam is hot.

Jam

- Colour should be bright and even.
- Fruit evenly distributed.
- Skins tender and not too many stones in stone fruit jam.
- Consistency jellified – not too runny or sticky.
- Full and fresh flavour.



NFWI Annual Meeting via Zoom Wednesday 4 June 2025

I attended the watch party hosted by Hythe Morning WI at the Tin Tabernacle in Hythe. Forty members from several WIs in the area attended. We all brought a picnic lunch and Hythe morning proved a delicious selection of cakes. I believe everyone enjoyed the day, I certainly did. The technology worked but we know what we can improve on for next year.

The day started with Jeryl Stone, NFWI chair, opening the formal Companies Act meeting with the appointment of tellers. Delegates voted electronically to approve.

The current trustees were introduced by name and their roles on the board. Jeryl introduced the resolution but explained to avoid confusion voting would be during the afternoon session rather than in the morning.

All WIs had received copies of the proposed new constitution ahead of the meeting. Delegates could only vote on the changes to the WI constitution not those for NFWI or Federations.

The new constitution is on MyWI and following the vote it is now the current one. NFWI and Federation trustees will now have maximum terms but this does not apply to WI trustees.

The AGM opened with the singing of Jerusalem. Jeryl explained why we were holding the Annual Meeting virtually, the financial saving being £65,000. Over two hundred watch parties has registered for the meeting in addition to individuals watching from home. Jeryl reported that there are 22,000 new members and 59 new WI groups opened since the last AGM. The collaboration with Hobbycraft, Emma Bridgewater and Teemill were all mentioned. Unfortunately I had already put in an order for a T shirt earlier in the day before the AGM discount was announced and my preordered mug didn't arrive till after the meeting.

The first speaker, Emma Bridgewater, was a pre-recorded discussion with NFWI chief executive Melissa Green at the Stoke on Trent pottery. Emma was at NFWI HQ for the meeting to take questions from the 'floor'. Emma has designed the special mug to celebrate 110 years of the WI. The pottery mug is available to purchase from the WI website.

Bystanders can be Lifesavers, the Public Affairs resolution debate followed the lunch break. The resolution, as we know, was proposed by Hilary Askew of Margate WI. It was then seconded by Fiona Pointer of Birchington WI. The expert speaker in support of the resolution was Estelle Stevenson from The British Heart Foundation who gave her total support. As no one could be found willing to speak against the resolution Christie Booth, NFWI vice chair, did her best to give a counter view but as she clearly stated, not her personal opinion. Voting for the resolution took place after discussion and points raised by delegates.

We had a very welcome break with more cake and the meeting resumed with the introduction to the next guest speaker, Angel Strawbridge, who spoke from her conservatory at home in her chateau in the Mayenne, France. Her husband Dick made a brief appearance and then sat in the background monitoring proceedings. Angel was pleasant and for fans of their Escape to the Chateau series, she let it be known that a Christmas special is being recorded. Her talk was unscripted and natural but unfortunately really wasn't very informative, she could have said so much more about their lives in France. She did a lot of praising of the WI and how wonderful we all are!

All changes to the constitution were passed and the Bystanders resolution passed with 97%. I voted as requested by the four WI groups I represented.

Jeryl made her closing remarks covering new strategy, flexibility and review of subscriptions.

I'm sure some of your members who attended will tell you about the things I've missed or totally forgotten to mention but as with all big meetings we have topics that enthrall us or leave us wishing they would move on to the next point. I appreciate that members missed the in person meeting with the opportunity to mix with members and friends from around the country and were reluctant to engage with a Zoom meeting. However having been at most meetings over the last 10/15 years I have seen attendance drop. Last year was particularly disappointing, my previous experience of the Royal Albert Hall for the WI centenary, when every seat was occupied including seating normally reserved for choirs. Last year those seats were not used nor were those in the top balcony plus there were many empty seats in the stalls. Venues are by necessity expensive to hire and if members do not support events they are not financially viable. Jeryl did reiterate the fact that NFWI does not pay the guest speakers a fee as they consider speaking at our NFWI Annual Meeting an honour. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for speakers at Federation annual meetings.

The date for next years meeting has been set for Thursday 4th June. I would encourage all of you to participate next year either with a group of friends or at a local watch party. It may not have quite the same feel but it is still a way of feeling part of our wonderful organisation, still the largest women's organisation in the UK.

Elizabeth Lansman, Hythe Bay and Hythe Morning WIs

News from around the Federation

Shepherdswell WI

had a lovely afternoon playing croquet and boules on our village recreational ground. Great fun was had by all and it was nice to see some visitors from Whitfield Evening WI. There were lots of laughs, head scratching on rules but we made it through, helped by the glorious weather and strawberries. **A great idea for a low budget meeting!**



Kennington WI's June meeting was a very entertaining Members Night organised by 2 of our groups - Catering & Darts - we had the very talented Colby singing for us, songs made famous by the 'crooners' of yesteryear. We were all able to sing along with a few more energetic members enjoying dancing, all with an excellent buffet and a quiz. We would definitely recommend him for groups who would like a quality entertainment.



Three WIs came together for a delightful trip to the Call the Midwife tour experience at the Historic Dockyard Chatham. The trip, organised as part of the ongoing commitment to enriching the lives of women through educational and cultural opportunities, saw members from the **Hythe Bay, Hythe Morning and Hythe Seagulls WIs** board the coach with excitement and anticipation in the air.

Members were greeted with warm smiles and a tour by knowledgeable guide dressed in authentic 1950s midwife costume. The Call the Midwife experience—based on the beloved BBC television series—offered an immersive glimpse into post-war London, complete with recreated sets, props, and behind-the-scenes stories from the show. The day included tea and refreshments in the on-site café, followed by a short time to explore the broader Historic Dockyard, which has its own rich naval history.

The afternoon included a tour of the Women of the Dockyard. The tour guide showed us original naval artefacts, gave us personal stories and showed us photographs, all of which brought the story to life. The tour was a powerful reminder of how women have always stepped forward in times of need, often under challenging conditions. We learnt about how in the late 1700's the ship records show **determined** women acting as men in order to serve aboard ships and how today the Master of Rope-maker is a **women**, traditionally a male position.



A fabulous day was had and we all returned tired but so proud of the difference women make within society.

On the 6th June twenty-six members from **Chestfield WI** went on their annual trip, this year to Eltham Palace and Gardens. The day didn't bode well when we hit torrential rain but on arrival the sun was shining and remained so for the rest of the day.

First stop, the café for a welcome cup of tea. Refreshed and fortified members explored the house and gardens. The house built by the Courtaulds in the 1930s was furnished and decorated in the art deco style and was fascinating. The gardens were in full bloom, and we were able to wander round the many areas, a pond full of lily pads, the rockery and the rose garden.

Finally, we made our way back to the coach and decided to mark a memorable day with a group photo.



Faversham Gunpowder WI worked hard in their "Home & Country Tea Room" as part of the recent "Faversham in the Forties" event. They catered for 100 visitors at two sittings, and offered a ploughman's lunch or afternoon tea. They made the tearoom look as authentic as possible, and also held a tombola and

Pimm's stall in the Market Place. It was a lovely day and raised a huge amount of money for local good causes. Even Winston Churchill dropped in for a cup of tea and slice of cake!



Members of **Becket WI** have been collecting Blister Packs every month.

All of the packs that are saved reduce landfill and are used to help raise funds for the very worthy Marie Curie cancer care organisation.

Members also donated dental health products at their meeting in June. They were donated to the 'Catching Lives' organisation, via St Dunstons Church. These items were to support 'Dental Health Matters'.



On a windswept Ramsgate cliff **GARLINGE WI** battled the weather and each other for the coveted Croquet Cup, with the lucky winners Gill and husband Andy seen here being handed their awards by Ramsgate Croquet Club along with Diane, the longest run winner.



Tally-ho or the Alpaca equivalent! **GARLINGE WI** 'saddled up' for a romp around Quex Park with their Alpaca charges. By and large they were well behaved, especially considering they wanted to chomp their way around on the vegetation, and we won't even mention Guinness who was spooked by a friendly cat. I kid you not, a dear little tabby scaring a great big boy like Guinness!



On Saturday 31st May, 45 members, husbands and friends of **Upchurch WI** went by coach for a day out at The Horniman Museum & Gardens at Forest Hill, London. The Museum is generally free and although not huge is packed full of a range of eclectic items and is very interesting. There are lovely gardens with lots of seats for a little rest or to admire the plants plus the Butterfly House and Aquarium. There is a small animal enclosure with the biggest white rabbit we have ever seen.

Some of us took picnics while others enjoyed a lovely lunch at the really nice and reasonable cafe. Everyone seemed to have room for an ice cream.



This is a great place to visit as there is something for everyone and you can do a lot or a little, as you want. We were very lucky that the weather was perfect. " A



The history of supersonic jet liner Concorde proved to be a popular topic for **Woodchurch WI**'s June Open meeting. The talk by Guy Bartlett was well received by members and guests. They were given a brief history of Concorde's construction, told what made it unique and the history of its.

Although none of the Concorde's are still flying it is still possible to see one. The nearest to us is at the IWM Duxford and another at Brooklands Museum.

Our next meeting is Joe Mendell with a talk entitled "Bob Newhart Rides Again"; the competition will be something synonymous with Nottingham. Our August meeting will be for members only and is a trip on the Tenterden Railway to Bodiam and will include a cream tea en route.

Some of our **Tunstall Evening WI** members attended a paint party held by Heidi Schaffner at Oad Street food and crafts bar, Sittingbourne. Heidi's theme this year was astrology and we opted for Cancer the crab.

We all had a very enjoyable time with wine and chocolate biscuits to keep our strength up. At the end of the evening there were some very exotic looking crabs being taken home.



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.

NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

We continue our summer visits with a guided walk around the town of Faversham, including a visit to the Kent Police Museum, recently relocated here. This is on Wednesday 16th July in the morning. In August we meet Steve Edney for a visit to his private garden which he talked about at the WI Spring Garden Event last year. Full details and prior booking needed. Please contact the Federation Office for contacts.

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

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

2025

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.