

EAST KENT FEDERATION

EAST KENT NEWS

MAY 2026



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

Friday

9.30am – 3.00pm

(closed for lunch from
1.00pm to 1.30pm)

East Kent Federation
Website

[Ticketsource](#) for
bookings



MEET THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Angela Coleman
Chair

This is the start of my second year as Co-Chair, this year partnering with Sharon Goff. I joined Milstead with Frinsted WI in 2011, joined the committee, became secretary, then President in 2016. I can honestly say I loved every minute of it - I'm an organiser. I resigned, from my WI, this year as I now live in West Sussex looking after my latest granddaughter full time. I also felt my WI needed a change. I truly believe that embracing change is vital.

I joined the Board of Trustees in 2023 when I was invited to observe a meeting. I'm chair of Public Affairs, a Facebook administrator, and I organise the Auditions. I love everything that the WI stands for - community, kindness, empowering women, compassion, and friendship. I am passionate about our campaigning work and believe that the WI has a unique place in the country. We are a massive force for good. I recently heard that 'the WI is the most respected group in the country, the only people that don't believe it are its members'. Well, I believe in it!



Sharon Goff
Chair

After working 46 years in London, I retired and found myself in a new area and bored, so I decided to join the local WI in Chestfield, where I have been President since March 2023. At the recent AGM, I was confirmed as a Co-Chair of the East Kent Federation, working alongside Angela Coleman. Apart from my WI roles, I am a Trustee at Age UK Herne Bay & Whitstable. I started my journey with Age UK as a Befriending volunteer. I then joined the Board of Trustees, where I am Vice Chair, a role I find both fulfilling and challenging.

I enjoy reading; my favourite author is James Patterson, and I listen to a wide range of music. I love dogs, and I have rescued many dogs over the years, including Rottweilers! On a personal note, I have been married to Paul for 27 years. We have one daughter and five grandchildren.

Carol Davidson



I have been a WI member since 2003, joining Newington WI. I was the President there for 13 years until I became a Board of Trustees member in 2017. In 2018, I trained as a WI Adviser. I am now a member at Holm & Danley and Abbey (both on the Isle of Sheppey). My main hobby is sewing, making lampshades and soft furnishings.

Hazel Bentley



I have been a WI member for some 23 years, 10 with West Kent and 13 with East Kent. I have been on the committee of Seasalter Cross for 12 or so years, serving on the general committee, then Treasurer, and now President since 2021. I have been on the Food Gardening and Creative Arts sub-committee for eight years and, in more recent times, on the Board of Trustees. You might also know me as the person that has organised the Federation Holidays to the Manor Resort in Okehampton, where it was great fun to meet members from across the Federation and enjoy 'crafting' and fun times together. This just sums up WI life to me.

Jennie Silk



I have been a member of Chestfield WI for about 15 years. I have been on the committee for most of this time. I have held the post of President, and I am, for my sins, our secretary.

I trained during COVID to become an Adviser in 2020. This is a role I really enjoy, meeting up with other WIs and their members.

I have been on the BOT since April last year.

Sheila Spiers Vice Chair



I joined the WI in the late eighties after moving down to Kent from Scotland. I became President of Great Chart WI and then Great Chart & Godinton WI after the two WIs enlarged due to falling numbers.

I am retired now after working for over 30 years with KCC as Road Safety Officer, a job that I thoroughly enjoyed. After retiring, I went on the Board of Trustees and I am now the Vice-Chairman and also the chair of the PALS Team.

In my spare time, I enjoy gardening, reading, travelling, and spending time with my four grandchildren and, of course, my own WI.

Chris Kerr Treasurer



I have been a WI member for eight years.

Currently, I am the President of Newington WI, and I have also been the Secretary, Treasurer, and Programme Secretary before I became the President. I have been a Trustee for nearly a year, and I was appointed the Federation Treasurer four months ago. I support the WI Treasurers and am the Independent Financial Administrator, and I am an Independent Financial Examiner. When I have spare time, I like to crochet.

Deborah Ashton



After giving up a full-time job, I was keen to find something new to focus on, so I joined my local women's institute. It didn't take long before I found myself meeting new people and getting involved, becoming part of a welcoming and supportive community which I thoroughly enjoyed.

I have developed a real interest in exploring my family history, which has been both fascinating and exciting, although I haven't uncovered any skeletons just yet! I also love getting lost in a good book or immersing myself in a creative project.

Having recently moved house, I was excited about planning and creating a new garden, which is starting to come together.

I like to keep busy and now look forward to my new role as a trustee and supporting the East Kent Federation.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 27 May 2026	Garden Day, Canterbury Academy	Page 4
Thursday 4 June 2026	NFWI AGM - Watch Parties	Page 8
Tuesday 16 June 2026	Visit to KSSAA	Page 3
Wednesday 1 July 2026	Auditions Event, Dover	Page 8
Tuesday 7 July 2026	Betteshanger Mining Museum Visit	Page 7
Friday 10 July 2026	Anyone for Croquet?	Page 4
Saturday 12 September 2026	Quiz Walk Around Sandwich	Page 7
Saturday 17 October 2026	Visit to KSSAA	Page 3
Monday 30 November 2026	KSSAA Carol Service	Page 3
Wednesday 7 April 2027	EKFWI AGM	Page 3

NEWS OF UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

We are excited to announce several events:

There will be a KSSAA **Carol Service** at Canterbury Cathedral on November 30th- further details to follow. As soon as the tickets go on sale, we will let your secretary know.

Head of fundraising at **KSSAA**, Fran, has organised two dates for members to visit the **Base at Rochester**. On Tuesday, June 16th, and Saturday, October 17th, there are two sessions, 10.30-12.00 and 1.30-3.00pm for 20 people on each session. It will be a first-come, first-served event. This will be hugely interesting and totally inspiring, a unique opportunity to learn just how they do what they do. Don't miss out. Please contact the office as soon as possible to reserve your space.

AGM 2027, 7th April. The Great Hall , Kent College Canterbury. After this years' amazing meeting make sure you put the date in your diary .

FEDERATION TREASURER



A big thank you to everyone who for supported Christine Maxwell's Charity, Cancer Research UK. The Bric a Brac stall at the AGM raised £164. Amazing! All together with other items sold and donations we received, the total amount to the Cancer Research UK was £337.50. The raffle at the AGM raised £413, and the basket were breathtaking. Thank you so much for all your hard work in creating and bringing them to the AGM, The baskets raised £865.00 . When I have collated the amounts donated to Kent NeuroTherapy Centre, I will update you all. All the left over bric a brac and raffle prizes were donated to our charity Neuro Therapy Centre to sell in their shop.
Thank you all for support, you are all stars. Cheers Chris

Well done to you all for having your Annual Meetings, appointing your new committees, and updating your MCS. It's been a challenging time for you all. We really do appreciate your efforts.

One of the roles that you need to fill is that of Delegate. It is a constitutional obligation. It's a great opportunity for a member to take part in the Annual Meetings both at NFWI and EKFWI. Remember that as a delegate, you can claim back all your expenses! Please ask your members for a volunteer and add it to the MCS. They will be made very welcome - and tickets are free! Who knows, they may love it. The East Kent AGM this year was great fun, and the board is busy arranging great entertainment for next year's AGM on the 7th April 2027.

We are aware that many of you have been having trouble with the MCS. We have advised NFWI, and we have been told that they are working on it. Please let us know if you are still experiencing issues

Angela and Sharon

LIFESTYLE TEAM

SUMMER GARDEN DAY on

Wednesday 27th May 2026
at

The Canterbury Academy
Knight Avenue, Canterbury, CT2 8QA
Doors open at 9.30am for 10.00am start
Non-members welcome.

Tickets – Members £18, non-members £20
SPEAKERS

**1st Speaker is author Nan Eshelby with
her talk 'Hello Nature Lovers'**
**2nd Speaker Neil Franklin - a Trustee of
the Brogdale Collections.**

**Afternoon flower demonstration by:
Blooming Green Flowers from Maidstone**



Complimentary tea & coffee available on arrival & at
lunchtime

Please bring your own mug or reusable cup if possible
Remember to bring your lunch!

**There will be Plant and Craft stalls to browse &
buy**
Bring 'n Buy Scarf Stall (bring a scarf you don't want
& buy a new one!)
Raffle & Flower raffle

Closing Date: **20th May 2026.**

Tickets can be purchased on [Ticketsource](#) & are sold on a
non-returnable, non-refundable basis unless the event
is oversubscribed or cancelled by the Federation.

**For further information please contact
Federation Office**

Email: assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk or
Tel: 01227 464106

LIFESTYLE TEAM - PERFORMING ARTS, LEISURE AND SPORT



ANYONE FOR CROQUET?

Friday 10th July 2026 at 10.30am to 3.00pm
4 Town Lane, Chartham Hatch, Nr Canterbury
CT4 7NN

Come to the croquet lawn at Chartham Hatch to learn
or perfect your mallet skills!

Mallets and balls will be provided. There will be
players on hand to explain the game and help you.

Ticket includes tuition, coffee, tea, cake, biscuits and
fun! Please bring a packed lunch.

£15 PER PERSON

**This is always a very popular event with limited
places,**

**please book early to secure your place and avoid
disappointment!**

In case of inclement weather, the croquet lawn has
also been booked for Monday 13th as a back up plan!

Limited parking available on the drive, however there
is also parking in village hall car park which is just the
other side of the road in Bigbury Road, CT4 7NH.

Tickets available on [Ticketsource](#)

For further information please contact the office

Tel: 01227 464106

Email: assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

THE GREAT BRITISH SEWING BEE

IS YOUR SOUL FED BY NEEDLE & THREAD?

We're looking for the next bunch of talented home sewers to showcase their creativity and technical skills on the new series of BBC 1's The Great British Sewing Bee!

If you or someone you know is a brilliant amateur sewer then apply now

applyforsewingbee.co.uk

Deadline: 8pm Wednesday 13th May 2026

LOVE

LIFESTYLE TEAM - PALS LITERARY LUNCH



Thank you to everyone who attended the popular literary lunch at Godmersham and Crundall village hall on 22nd April. It was well attended. Both speakers had very different starts in life to their writing careers and both gave insightful and interesting talks with some useful tips. Karen Stanley spoke about how she created her own creative writing academy and publishing business following writing many novels of her own.



Speaker Karen Stanley

Gordon Henderson spoke about getting ideas for his various collections of short stories as well as full length spy stories.

After the first speaker and to get people mingling there was a guess the book cover and author pictures round on the walls of the hall. Lunch followed and another short quiz for each table commemorating the 50th anniversary of Agatha Christie's death. The group who attended from Hawkinge, Acrise and Paddlesworth WI won - which was

apt, as each table was named after a female author and their table was the Agatha Christie table!



Speaker Gordon Henderson with two members who had bought one of his books

Thank you all for coming and making it a fun day. The PALS subcommittee are a very small group and would like to say a big thank you to Susan McCarthy from Thannington WI, Angela Piers from Eastry WI and Ailien Meyer from Graveney WI for all the help you gave on the day - we could not put on events such as this without help from our lovely members

If anyone has any ideas for speakers for future literary events, or indeed any others event, please let the office know.



Members of Hawkinge, Acrise and Paddlesworth WI

EKFWI Charity for 2026-2028

At the AGM, we were delighted to announce that the Kent, Surrey, and Sussex Air Ambulance is our charity for the next two years. We know they are a charity that is very loved and hugely appreciated by all of us. They are a great (free) speaker for your meetings. Just contact them on the number on the poster. If you want a poster for your WI, just ask the office. We have KSSAA charity collection pots for you to take to your WIs. If you didn't get one at the AGM please contact us at the office. When your pots are full just bring them to the office and we can give you another one.

WIST TEAM

It was great to see so many old friends and new at the AGM.

The WI Advisers would like to thank you for supporting Christine Maxwell's Charity (Cancer Research UK). £164.00 was raised from the sale of the Bric-a-Brac.

A great day was had by all those who attended.

Gill Crone
WIST Chairman

EKFWI AGM Cups and Presentations

The special 200+ Club Draw took place at the March Board Meeting in the Federation Office and the winner of £25 was Gill Cooke of Newchurch WI No 74.

The National Federation of WIs awards certificates for milestone anniversaries. Certificates were handed to the following WI

Celebrating their 100th anniversary: Willesborough WI – Collected by Joan Lawrence, President

The Rose Bowl is awarded to a WI member who has given considerable service to the Federation or the WI movement. This year the winner was Joy Taylor of Smeeth WI. She also received a £25.00 M & S voucher.



Ms Cherry Bombe



The Achiever's Award is given to a member who has gained success in any form of learning. The winner this year was Glenda Langford of Chestfield WI. She also received a £25.00 M & S voucher.

The 2026 Joan Boucher Cup competition asked for a short story to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Agatha Christie and was won by Mary Adamson of Capel le Ferne with Alkham WI. As Mary was unable to be at the meeting her award was collected by Alison Carruthers.. The winning entry was published in the April issue of the East Kent News.

The winner of the photographic competition was Jackie Thomas of Smeeth WI, and the runner up was Mandy Jarvis of Margate WI. The photographs were featured in the February edition of the East Kent News.

Report of EKFWI AGM by Wendy Healey Hythe Bay WI

Six members of Hythe Bay WI attended the AGM this year.

The meeting opened with Jerusalem and introduction to Federation staff and Trustees. The Lady Mayoress of Canterbury welcomed the members to Canterbury by singing a song of solidarity : Ain't No Mountain High Enough.

Standing orders and the annual review of 2026 were adopted. Financial accounts were reviewed and discussed and an update given on the portfolio by Sam Secomb from Pentins Financial. The funds are diminishing as number of members has reduced. Four WIs have suspended due to lack of officers. The lack of attendance at events organized by EKFWI impacts funds and so attendance is actively encouraged. The number of members attending the AGM had once again reduced. Income raised enables training for officers, and affects the ability to provide events for members. The main expenses for EKFWI are primarily two staff members and the rent on Crown House. Using Zoom and email are helping reduce costs.

Carol Evans, outgoing Chairman, emphasised that a drop in members results in a drop in funds, WIs are encouraged to raise their profile, encourage new members. A thank you was given to the WI advisors who have been particularly busy lately.

There were plenty of beautiful baskets donated. Ours were fabulous! The funds from the baskets sold at the AGM will go to the Kent Neuro Therapy Centre and anything leftover from the bric a brac stall would be donated to the Charity shop at KNTC.

We were reminded of a few upcoming events: A Resolution meeting is being held in Canterbury on 14.04.26, National AGM : 04.06.27 and the next EKFWI AGM : 07.04.27.

A talk from Kent Neuro Therapy was very interesting making everyone aware that the former MS Centre near Canterbury Rugby Club now offers, by self referral, access their physio, gym, hydrotherapy facilities.

Next was the address by Keji Moses- Lord Mayor of Canterbury. Her talk was based on how to cultivate the seeds of your garden to help in navigating your way in life. It was a hard hitting talk dealing with grief.

Following lunch, awards were handed out by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Kent and then an hugely inspiring talk from Margate WI and how their resolution of Bystanders can be Lifesavers has impacted the region and grown a wider base of informed people in the area. Cont. next page

St John Ambulance has now adopted mannequins with breasts to ensure training deals with bras in the event of a cardiac arrest and use of defibrillators. Congratulations to Margate for such a successful campaign.

Next was the talk of the day: Ms Cherry Bombe. A President of an Essex WI who is also a burlesque artist. On stage in her corset, lame and suspenders, she held the audience in awe for an hour with her comedic and inspiring delivery. Her overall message was - say YES - and you never know where it might take you. Her burlesque career came from "empty-nesting" and a need to make friends. Her fairly new WI has taken on the say YES mantle and she now has 12 ladies who regularly attend events plus she trains a group of ladies some aged over 75 who now turn up in macs with their corsets on ready to have fun with friends. The afternoon ended with the whole hall doing a few burlesque moves. Very amusing.

Is these our new road ladies? Ha ha- watch this space. Overall it was a well organised AGM . Let's see what happens in the next year of the WI .

Wendy Healey Hythe Bay WI

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 complete 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

Information about the quiz will be given out at the meeting point. 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](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk):

Please note Tickets are Non-Refundable unless the event sells out.

VISIT TO BETTESHANGER MINING MUSEUM AND WALK

VISIT TO BETTESHANGER MINING MUSEUM AND WALK



Betteshanger Park, Sandwich Road, Deal, CT14 0BF

Tuesday 7th July at 10:30

Tickets - £10.00 Non-members welcome

If you have not been here before Betteshanger Park is the perfect blend of heritage, recreation, and relaxation. We will meet at 10:30 and start with a guided tour of the mining museum with an ex-miner which takes about one hour. Before we walk, you can get yourself a quick coffee in the excellent café at the venue. The walk is around a nice, easy trail exploring Betteshanger Park. It visits the pond and meanders through the woodland and open fields, taking in the lovely scenery and is just under 4 miles. For those who wish there are shorter routes that can be walked

Please note parts of this route are multi-user with hikers, runners, and mountain bikers all using the trails. Care should be taken to accommodate all who want to enjoy these paths, and appropriate footwear should be worn. Stay safe, please bring a bottle of water and sunscreen with you!

We will be walking 6.3km (3.9 miles)

Closing Date: **Thursday 4th June 2026** (book early to guarantee places on the mining museum tour).

Tickets can be purchased on [Ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk): and are sold on a non-returnable, non-refundable basis, unless the event is oversubscribed or cancelled by the Federation.

**For further information please contact
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AUDITIONS EVENT FOR SPEAKERS

Wednesday 1st July 2026

St Mary's Church Parish Centre, Cannon Street,
Dover, CT16 1BY

6.30-8.30pm

Ticket price £5 payable on the door

Raffle

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

Resolution Meeting follow up

This year we have two resolutions to vote on: Accessible toilets and Women's Homelessness.

At your May meeting, each of your members gets to vote on EACH resolution. Your secretary will send the collective vote on each one to the Federation office. Your votes will be given to your delegate, and she will vote on your behalf at the NFWI AGM on the 4th June. You can vote for or against, and you can also give your delegate discretion to change the vote if she hears information from the guest speakers that changes her mind. Also, if there is an amendment beforehand, she can still vote on your behalf.

At the resolution meeting, Raymond Martin, who is the Managing Director of the British Toilet Association, gave us a huge amount of information to support our decision-making. He will be the speaker at the National meeting too. Many members who had felt it was a difficult subject to facilitate a change on had their minds changed. Our local authorities already have money for community toilets, and the BTA is excited that the WI is talking about it.

We were then joined by Simone and Mim from Porchlight, who were equally pleased that the WI is discussing this hidden problem. There is a lot we can do individually and collectively to support homeless women.

Good luck with your resolution discussions; there are lots of resources on MyWI to help you present a balanced argument. If you are unsure or need any further information, you can contact Angela through the office.

NFWI AGM watch parties Faversham and Hythe

The NFWI AGM is fast approaching on Thursday 4th June 2026.

There are three superb speakers booked and if last years meeting is anything to go by it will be well run and easy to access.

We have a full complement of delegates, thank you to the ladies who volunteered, you will receive your delegate pack shortly but we can all be observers



Anne Boden

If you want to come and join the board at the Faversham Watch Party at the Alexander Centre 10.30-4, just go onto [Ticketsource](#) and get a ticket (this applies to delegates too). It's only £10. It will be a lovely day. Don't leave it too late as seats are limited.

Please support us and let us know if you need any further information. Delegates should charge their expenses - resolution ticket and watch party ticket - to the WIs they are representing.
See you all there!

Faversham too far to travel why not join **Hythe Morning WI** at their Watch Party?

The Tin Tabernacle, Hythe. Tickets available on [Ticketsource](#) just £5.



Professor Michele Dougherty

There is now a bra bank in the Federation office, and we will bring it to all events. Old bras will be recycled, and the good-quality ones will be sold at a very affordable price to women in countries where they are needed. The added bonus is that the Federation will receive a little money from it too.



Recycle and Reuse

Please bring all your bras and those of your friends and families.

THE WINNERS 200+ CLUB APRIL DRAW

1st prize	£15.75	No 84	Fiona Steward	Hastingleigh with Elmsted WI
2nd prize	£9.45	No 134	Shirley Edwards	Tankerton Bay WI
3rd prize	£6.30	No 18	Kathleen Greig	Barham with Kingston WI

What is the 200 + club ?

It's a lottery with an annual ticket and a monthly draw. Each draw, which takes place before each board meeting, has three prize amounts. Anyone who is a member or works for the federation can purchase a ticket for the 200 Club . The more people that buy a ticket, the higher the prize. You can have as many entries as you like. Why not buy several? Your chances will be so much better.

The cost for 12 months is just £12. That's the same as one month of the Postcode Lottery, and the chance of winning is so much higher.

Your secretary should have a supply of the entry forms. If she hasn't, we can send it over to her. Alternatively, if you would like an application form, please contact the Federation Office, and a copy of the form will be emailed to you. It is a very simple way of supporting your federation, as all profits go towards assisting with the running of the Federation.

Since Covid, we have struggled to bring in funds through events. Times are hard for charities. Please consider buying a ticket (or two). It will make a difference to us, and you will be in with a chance of winning!

News from around the Federation



This month, members of **Woodchurch WI** went to Coleman's Create and Craft Pottery Studio at Bromley Green. Here, we had the opportunity to select an item of pottery and turn it into our very own masterpiece. After an

informative tutorial on paints, how to use a stencil, and creating stippled effects, work began. A couple of hours later, our items were put aside ready for glazing. These included plates, a butter dish, various vases, flower pots, and even a little dog! This proved to be a great afternoon of crafting.

Shepherdswell WI marked World Parkinson's Day. One of our members volunteered to be the speaker at our April meeting. She shared her journey as a Parkinson's UK volunteer, providing insights into the condition and explaining how people can take part in research. It also coincided with the end of our charitable fundraising year, during which we raised over £700 for the Dover Branch of Parkinson's UK. Our chosen charity for the coming year is Dementia and Me. Thanks to all our members and the local community for their support!

On the 4th April **Chestfield WI** held their annual Easter Fair. We were concerned that people might not come as the main road leading to the hall was closed due to a burst water main. We need not have worried because even before the official opening time people from the local community were coming into the hall. Soon the hall was full of people browsing the various stalls, bric-a-brac, craft, jewellery, jigsaws, raffle, tabletop treasure hunt, and tombola.



Throughout the afternoon there was a steady stream of customers who appeared happy with their purchases and winnings at the tombola stall.

At the refreshment area there was a steady queue for the tea/coffee and home-made cakes that people could enjoy seated at the flower decked tables and chat to their friends.

The highlight for the children was the Easter Egg hunt in the garden and no child left without an egg or two and even for some three!

This successful event raised £1050!

Once more a successful Fair made possible by its members but more importantly by the support of the local community that we are happy and privileged to belong to.

St Peter's Village WI adopted the Viking Day Unit for Cancer Care at the QEHM as our charity for the last year. Members of our Committee were pleased to present a cheque for £300 raised by our members.



Bobbing WI spent a very enjoyable evening arranging flowers into a tea cup in April.



Orlestone WI were away with the fairies on their March outing to King John's Nursery, Etchingham. A delicious lunch, shopping for plants, and a wander around the gardens were all very pleasant, but we especially enjoyed spotting the fairies and their houses! The Fairy Hunt (look, don't touch!) was all ready for the school holidays, but we all got quite excited finding lots of doors into tree homes, including one grand mansion with stairs, windows, and a balcony.



Garlinge WI's March speaker, local author Nick Evans, entertained us with the story of his literary career, which started as a sixteen-year-old working for a local newspaper up to the present day as a successful author of twenty-two books, with another one in the pipeline.



Members of **St Peters Village WI** knitted and crocheted spring flowers to display at our St Peters Members of St Peters Village WI knitted and crocheted spring flowers to display at our St Peters Church Memorial.



Becket WI took up the challenge and contributed to the 'Walking with Giants' campaign. 158 knitted poppies were sent to the organisation on their behalf. Well done for rising to the challenge, all of the Becket WI knitters!



This month **KENNINGTON WI** groups have been busy.

Our very talented art group displayed some of their work. They meet once a fortnight and use many mediums: acrylic, watercolour, oils, pastels, colour pencils, collage, alcoholic inks, Brusho. They try anything.



Our newly formed Walking Group is proving very popular. This month, they enjoyed a delightful walk through the bluebells in Kings Wood, Challock. The bluebells seem especially pretty this year.



In April, **Milstead with Frinsted WI** asked Sheila Calufield to give a presentation on colour coordination and building a capsule wardrobe. Sheila, seen here with our new President Jen Harper, explained how decluttering your wardrobe and wearing colours that matched your personality was extremely satisfying. Sheila says that clearing out unworn or unloved items from your collection and matching your outfits to your seasonal colours leads to a greater sense of wellbeing.



The East Kent News editorial team welcome articles from WIs which focus on special events or may be of particular interest to other members. Please limit the number of words to a maximum of 150 and just one or two individual photographs. Please send text as a word document or as an email but not PDF. Send the photos separately not embedded into the text, the photos are better quality and it makes it much easier to edit.

NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

Our visit in May is to Pluckley on Friday 15th, when we meet in the Parish Church for refreshments and a talk before a guided tour of the village.

On Thursday 15th June, we visit Tram Hatch Gardens on the banks of the Great Stour at Charing Heath. Our programme for this year is now complete - full versions, and all booking details can be obtained from Janet Adamson, via the Federation Office. Friends and family are able to join us on most of the events - we look forward to seeing you!

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: EKFWDI 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.

