

# EAST KENT FEDERATION

## EAST KENT NEWS

JUNE 2023



### Contact Information for the Federation Office

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[federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk](mailto: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 the Chair



Last week our Federation representatives and delegates boarded a coach and travelled west – to Cardiff - for the NFWI Annual Meeting. We had a lovely time; great company, the weather was glorious (warmer than here) the hotel very comfortable and just a short walk away in Cardiff Bay a large variety of restaurants where we could find our evening meal.

The meeting on Thursday was inspiring with information about the WI Learning Hub powered by Denman, excellent speakers and a fascinating resolution discussion. We all relished the opportunity to meet and talk to members from other Federations both at the meeting and out and about afterwards. The resolution was passed, and we can now get to work campaigning for clean rivers. You will be receiving a report from your delegate shortly. At the end of the meeting, it was announced that next year the meeting will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> June in the Albert Hall.

Thank you to the WIs who have sent us articles about the different things they are doing outside their meetings engaging with their communities; we hope you have enjoyed reading them too.

I would ask you to take note of the article on GDPR in this newsletter, it is very important that we protect the personal information of all our members.

Carol Evans

### The Winners of May 200+ Club draw

1st Place	£20.75	No 121	Carol Seabrook Hawkinge, Acrise & Paddlesworth WI
2nd Place	£12.45	No 79	Diane Burkhardt Greatstone WI
3rd Place	£8.30	No 101	Christine Jones, South Willesborough & Newtown WI

## Treasurers Chat

As Carol has said we had a really enjoyable time at the NFWI Annual Meeting in Cardiff. I always enjoy meeting with members from other federations. It was also nice to have the opportunity to get to know our members who went as delegates and observers. Next year's meeting is already in my diary.

Following requests from members for us to arrange coach trips we have organised a trip to Hatfield House. We have also arranged a visit to Belmont House near Faversham, but as this is local we have not booked a coach.

As I write this we are approaching the cut off date for booking Hatfield House. We must know that a trip is viable before the date the coach company will no longer accept cancellation without financial penalties. The federation cannot run events or trips at a loss. If you want tickets please book on [Ticketsource](#)

We appreciate that the trip to Hatfield House costs £45 per member, which is a lot of money particularly with the current cost of living but this price does include entrance to the house and garden. Taking the train, off peak and with a senior railcard, plus the entrance ticket costs considerably more than we are charging.

Several members were disappointed that we cancelled the belly dancing event before they had booked. If you want tickets book as soon as possible don't assume that enough people will have booked to make it viable but leaving a ticket for you.

Thank you to all secretaries and treasurers who have sent in their annual report forms and paid affiliation fees. If you still haven't done it please can you do this as soon as possible.

We have now got our registration for Gift Aid accepted, so we look forward to receiving forms from members who pay sufficient income or capital gains tax and wish to Gift Aid their subs to the Federation and NFWI.

Elizabeth

## Dates for your diary

19 <sup>th</sup> June 2023.	Audition Evening at Bobbing
22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023	Outing to Hatfield House & Gardens
14 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Anyone for Croquet
27 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Visit to Belmont House, Faversham Book by 30 June
4 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Federation Holiday
6 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Craft Day – change to advertised date!

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

**Performing Arts, Leisure & Sport  
Committee**

**LAST DATE FOR BOOKING  
TODAY 1 JUNE**

**VISIT TO HATFIELD HOUSE &  
GARDENS**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023  
£45 for members & £50 for non-  
members**



**Pick Up Points:**

7.45am – William Street Car Park, Herne Bay  
8.20am – New Dover Road Park & Ride, Canterbury  
9.00am – Sittingbourne Railway Station  
**The coach will leave Hatfield House at 4.00pm**

**AUDITIONS EVENT FOR  
SPEAKERS**

**Bobbing Village Hall, Sheppey Way, Bobbing,  
Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8PL**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
Doors open 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm start  
Close approx. 9.30 pm  
£4 for the evening**



Raffle – tea and coffee available on  
arrival and at coffee time

No pre-booking – just turn up, please note that  
this is for members only.

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

*We look forward to seeing you.*

*Gill Bull, Speakers' Coordinator  
01304 614184 or gill4auditions@gmail.com*

**EAST KENT FEDERATION DAY OUT  
BELMONT HOUSE  
Throwley, Faversham ME13 OHH  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 10.00am**

**Book by 30 June**

**£25.00 per person, includes entry to the  
Gardens, House and Gardener's Tour**

*Make your own way there and bring your lunch!*

Start your visit at 10.30am with a WI Members  
only "Meet the Head Gardener and Senior  
Gardener Tour".

The present layout of the grounds dates from 1790  
and you will find out more about the history and  
design of the gardens. All of your questions will be  
answered in a friendly manner.

*After lunch (don't forget yours as there is only a  
tearoom available),  
from 1.30pm to 3.30pm, Belmont House will be  
open for a self-guided tour.*

*The House was built in 1769 and has an  
extraordinary collection of clocks,  
Cazabon paintings and fine furniture.*

**Competition review**

We should like to thank all the members who  
have entered the Federation competitions.

We are aware that taking part in a competition  
needs careful planning and considerable hard  
work to achieve a result we are proud of and  
are happy to share with others. We really  
appreciate the effort you make, sadly there  
can only be one winner, but we do hope that  
you enjoy the challenges competing brings  
and that you will continue to take part.

The current photographic competition runs  
until the end of September, and we are really  
looking forward to some amazing pictures.

## Data Protection

Are you handling personal data correctly?

- Does your WI use the WI Member Registration Form? In addition to asking for the personal details you will need to upload to the MCS (central database of members), the form explains how personal data will be used, how to access the Privacy Policy and an instruction for the completed form to either be destroyed or returned to the member once data has been entered into the MCS.
- Do you remember to use the BCC (blind carbon copy) facility when sending emails to members? Doing so means that you are not disclosing members' email addresses to all other members (and it also saves having to see a long list of email addresses before reaching the actual message). Ask another member if you need guidance on how to use BCC in your emails.
- If your WI takes photos of members at events it's important to get consent from each member (and to avoid taking photos/videos of any individual who does not give their consent). A 'Photography and Video Consent Form' is available on My WI.

## Food Gardening and Creative Arts Committee

The Food Gardening and Creative Arts Committee would like your help.

The WI Craft Roadshow could be coming to you. Have you got a hall you use for your meetings that would be suitable to hold a crafting session?

Committees always need new ideas; do you have an interest/skill in food, gardening, flowers, craft? Why not pop along to a meeting to see what goes on and share ideas? To quote a phrase - 'Many hands make light work.'

If you think you can help please get in touch with either

Sandy Brown [sbrown6524@icloud.com](mailto:sbrown6524@icloud.com)

Gill Bull [gill.bull57@btinternet.com](mailto:gill.bull57@btinternet.com)

## Membership and Advisory Committee

Welcome to our newest WI - Three Bays WI has now been officially formed. They are meeting at the Catholic Church in Birchington, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. Well done to all members involved in forming the WI. Members of nearby WIs are welcome to join as dual members.

Should there be any other members who see a need or would like to form a new WI, please contact the Federation Office. The Advisers will assist in answering all of your queries.

Attached to this edition of East Kent News is more assistance for all our hard-working Treasurers. For many it may just be a refresher, however for others it may be a great deal of help. Please ensure that your Treasurer is aware that has been attached.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



Yes members, it's that time of year again when we are asking you to send in your photographs - portrait layout please - and the theme this year is:-

### WATER

There is plenty of scope for your ideas here.  
ENTRIES MUST REACH THE EKFWI  
OFFICE BY 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Email and hard copy  
portrait only

non returnable photographs

One entry per member

Photographs can be emailed to:  
[assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk](mailto:assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk)

## Public Affairs Committee

### Big Green Week 10<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> June 2023

When I realised The Big Green Week was approaching I thought rather than reinventing the wheel I'd write about some of the events taking place around East Kent. Unfortunately the website <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/> shows nothing in our area which I find incredible. Maybe communities have organised something but not put it onto the website.

Hopefully your Public Affairs committee can change that next year. But if you know of something happening this year please let us know or put it onto our EKFWI Facebook page.

### Climate Change

EKFWI Public Affairs are looking for someone with a passion for talking to others about climate change and advising members on how we can all become aware of environmental issues

There is a lot of advice and resources on MyWI

Being a WI Climate Ambassador means taking more of an active role in the WI's climate change and wider environmental campaigns. The WI's Climate Ambassador Scheme is for all WI members, everyone, no matter your prior knowledge of climate change campaigning. There is no set time commitment, and you can give as much or as little time as you like to the scheme depending on your other commitments.

If you think you would like to become involved but would like to know more about it I can be contacted via the Federation office

### Watch This Space

NFWI have announced 'A week of River Action' from 11th - 18th September. More on what your Federation will be arranging will be in the next newsletter.

Sue Hankins

Public Affairs Committee

## News from around the Federation



### Margate WI coronation swim

#### Mersham WI

Mersham WI were 100 years old in July 2020 but due to the pandemic restrictions we were not able to celebrate.

It had been our plan to plant a tree to commemorate our centenary but this had been put on hold. Then last year with the extreme weather conditions we decided not to plant a tree.



The spring of this year seemed to be OK so we purchased a tree and asked permission

to plant it on the Cherry Tree green in Mersham. Permission was granted and we were asked if we would like the Mayor of Ashford to attend a commemorative ceremony to dedicate the tree. We agreed that this would be a good idea and it was arranged that the Mayor would attend on Monday 8th May.

Pauline Grant  
Secretary

## Upchurch WI 'Grand Day Out'

On Saturday 22nd April members and friends of Upchurch WI boarded a coach in the village and set off at 9.45am for their day out to Greenwich.

Arriving in good time after a speedy journey we got off right outside the National Maritime Museum. Everyone on board had an entry ticket to visit the museum and then were free to spend the day as they wished. The museum was fascinating and took a while to get round. Some groups headed off to the Cutty Sark, some to The Queens House and then had a wander looking at the amazing building and sights.

Luckily the weather was kind and even quite warm in the afternoon. Globe sculptures were dotted around the lawns to be admired and there were so many places to choose for lunch or a snack.

The coach returned to pick us up at 4.30pm and we were home safely an hour or so later.

It was a wonderful day and many of us will be returning to visit other attractions in the summer.

Wendy Pitts  
Secretary



Hythe Bay WI Discovering Hythe

## Whitfield Evening WI,

Double Whammy for Whitfield Evening WI, at their Sponsored knit last month.

The money raised over £1000, and will go to Breast Cancer Now.

The result of all that knitting will be seen into a blanket and sent to Ukraine.

## Woodchurch WI

King Charles, resplendent in his royal regalia was knitted by one of our members, Brenda Crane. The King presided over our May meeting, where, following the Resolution discussions, we enjoyed a both a royal quiz



and tested our knowledge on Eurovision. Then committee member Gillian gave us her extremely humorous party piece - "Ron E Corbett". After which we all enjoyed cup cakes, drinks and nibbles.

WHITFIELD EVENING WI  
ARE HOLDING A  
SUMMER TEA & CONCERT  
MONDAY 14TH AUGUST 2023  
IN  
WHITFIELD VILLAGE HALL  
TICKETS ARE £7.50 PER PERSON  
CONTACT CHERYL FOR TICKETS ON 01304 820444  
START 2pm-4pm



## Tunstall Evening WI

On Monday 8th May Tunstall Evening WI took part in the Tunstall Coronation Festival, in Tunstall Kent.

Our current table cloth was hung as a banner on the gazebo, with copies of some of the WI's past campaigns pinned below. We set up our stall covered with our original table cloth (from 1965), jams and chutneys to bring the punters in, details of our WI and crafts made at some of our subgroups. Some of our members had also donated back copies of WI life which we gave out to interested customers and explained about the WI as a whole. Our next meeting is the resolution meeting, so



using this and the posters on our banner we could explain about WI campaigns.

We spoke to people who pulled faces at the mention of the WI, but who after talking to us were much more interested. Some people weren't from our area, so we directed them on how to find WI's close by. No one to look after the children - how about a zoom WI? Can't make our day/time, we told them of other WI's in the area. We even had a few people who said they were definitely interested in joining our WI.

I can't remember the last time I talked so much, the time just flew by, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we managed to blow away some of the negative ideas about the WI that still seem to be hanging around.

Then after our resolution discussion at our Thursday meeting on the 11th, we rounded off Coronation Week with the help of the ladies from Fancy Tat who showed us how to make felt brooches and hand warmers in Union Jack colours. We split into two groups, one making the brooches and the other the hand warmer. Every member was given two kits to complete. Anyone who was unable to complete both on the night could take the kit home to finish. We had fun crafting, chatting and finished the evening having a cuppa and a biscuit.

Gillian Poluchowicz, Secretary

## KENNINGTON WI

On Wednesday 24th May, Chris Tester (President) and 4 of our committee members attended the Kennington Community Council Annual Assembly, where we had the opportunity along with other local voluntary groups to display and discuss how our friendly and lively WI has lots to offer, with lots of groups, i.e Calligraphy, Arts & crafts, Darts, Gardeners, Home economics to name just a few. Offering a warm welcome to new members.

Our WI is very involved in our local community

We were also able to discuss our problem with the floor in our nearly 100 yr old hall, this is going to cost in excess of £30.000. We are actively fund raising i.e. Raffles,

Buy a Plank, Quiz nights and more, & requesting grants to help get the repair.



## Smeeth WI

At the beginning of March Smeeth WI were asked along with other organisations and thespians in our Village if we would be able to participate in the entertainment for the Coronation Celebration Village Supper on the evening of Coronation Day. After some thought it was felt perhaps we could sing a few well known songs. We were fortunate we have a very musically talented lady, Tessa Fineman in our Village and she was asked if she could help us prepare for the entertainment event. Tessa was very willing to be our Musical Director and the W.I. Warblers were formed. There were nine W.I. members who formed the group.

During the coming weeks we had nine mostly 45min/1hour rehearsals. It was not possible until the last two rehearsals in the Village Hall that we were able to be all together.. A medley of nine songs were chosen including 'Consider Yourself', 'Almost like being in Love', 'Spread a Little Happiness', 'Moon River', 'Sing', 'Wish me Luck as you Wave me Goodbye'.

We rehearsed until the final week with our folders. However Tessa thought some choreography/movement would enhance



our performance and our folders were discarded. We were to be the entertainment after Supper and before a Singalong. Could you believe we were the 'Headliners' for this event.

It was a great evening and everything came together so well, the varied entertainment before the excellent supper of turkey and ham pie or vegetarian quiche, salad and new potatoes followed by gateaux with strawberries. The W.I. Warblers sang extremely well and the evening closed with the Singalong and a rousing rendition of the National Anthem.

Joy Taylor Smeeth W.I.

## UPDATE

• NFWI-Wales has launched a new craftivism competition to support the Not in my Name campaign to end male violence against women.

To enter, design and make a tote bag which creatively represents the aims of the campaign. The closing date is 3 November and the winner and two runners-up will receive prizes and certificates. Find full guidelines on My WI: [mywi.thewi.org.uk/wales/nfwi-wales-campaigns-and-projects/not-in-my-name](http://mywi.thewi.org.uk/wales/nfwi-wales-campaigns-and-projects/not-in-my-name)

• The WI's See the Signs campaign to increase awareness of the signs of ovarian cancer inspired Carol Evans, Chairman of East Kent Federation and Erika Brichta, Chairman of West Sussex Federation to walk 100km for charity in March.

'I was supported and sponsored by members of East Kent Federation as well as other friends and have raised over £600 for Ovarian Cancer Action,' said Carol. She added: 'This cause and campaign have become more personal as, after I joined the walks, a friend and fellow member told me that she had just been diagnosed.'

## This months WI Life



## EKFWI Cardiff Bay



## NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

We have two visits planned for June - to Monckton Nature Reserve on 14th, and to Hornby Hobbies on 22nd.

On 11th July we visit the new Kent Mining Museum at Betteshanger for a tour, followed by a walking tour of the site. We need to know numbers in advance - family & friends are welcome. Please contact Janet Adamson [01304 784267](tel:01304784267) or email: [janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com](mailto:janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com)



**Sandy Brown looking for dinner in Cardiff.**

### GUILD & GROUP MEETINGS

#### **SHEPPEY CRAFT & HOME ECONOMICS GUILD**

Meet at 2.15pm on the fourth Thursday of the month at The Bethel Church Hall, Chapel Street, Minster on Sea, Sheerness ME12 3QF. Contact their Secretary, Valerie Chatten on 01795 874634 for further details.

**LACEMAKERS GUILD** – We are a small group of enthusiastic lace makers, who meet monthly, at The Clock Tower Café, Tyler Hill Road, Blean. We would love for some new members to join us. We are happy to help beginners and we have various pillows, bobbins, books and threads to get you on your lacemaking way. Our meeting is on the third Tuesday from 10 am to 1 pm. .

**NEEDLECRAFT GUILD** – The Needlecraft Guild welcomes all WI members who are interested in any form of needlecraft. They meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month (except December) at Chartham Hatch Village Hall, Bigbury Road, Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7NH between 10.30am and 2.30pm. New members are always welcome to this friendly, creative group. To find out how to join, please contact the Federation office.

**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.

