



A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

What a lovely day we had in Folkestone last week – well, not the weather of course but the occasion! It was good to see so many of you, and thank you for the messages telling us how much you enjoyed the meeting. We were very grateful to our speakers, Sally Kettle was inspiring and amusing and Carrie Wood from SNAAP gave a speech from the heart that was so moving I saw more than one member surreptitiously wipe their eyes. Carrie was overwhelmed by your welcome and support.



I was privileged to attend the West Kent Annual Meeting with Carol Davidson on Monday 27th March, it was so nice to join with members of another Federation and to find out what they are doing.

As many of you know, by the time you receive this newsletter, we will have said goodbye to our Federation Secretary, June Allan. June has been with us for nearly 9 years, 7 of those as Federation Secretary and we are going to miss her greatly, her expertise, knowledge of the WI, willingness to go the extra mile to help the members and, of course, her good humour. Thank you, June, we will miss you and look forward to meeting up with you at various events. All is not lost however, Alison Baker is going to be our new Federation Secretary, commencing 1st April 2023, so we know that our office is in very good hands. We are looking for someone to work in the office with Alison, a temporary role in the first instance, the advertisement is below so if you know of anyone who may be interested, please let them know.

I should like to thank members for their support in my attempt to walk 100km for Ovarian Cancer Action in March, at the time of writing I have 3.81km left and will complete it in time. I have raised £589 so far, so thank you all.

Carol Evans, Federation Chairman

TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The East Kent Federation of Women's Institutes is seeking a well-qualified person to work in our Federation Office on a Temporary Part-Time basis. The post is for 3 hours per day on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; the hours are flexible between 9am and 4pm.

Applicants should have good computer skills with a sound knowledge of spreadsheets.

The successful applicant will be required to undertake general administrative duties and have some knowledge of bookkeeping and data entry and processing.

Application and CV should be sent via email to the Federation Chairman, Carol Evans
ecarolevans@hotmail.com

Contact Information for the Federation Office

Crown House, John Roberts Business Park, Pean 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)

THOUGHTS FROM THE TREASURER

It was so nice to see familiar faces in the audience at the annual meeting. Many of you who have contacted me by email also took the time to introduce yourselves which was lovely.



Like Carol I have also attended other Federation Annual meetings and although sad it has been reassuring to hear that other Federations have similar financial issues to us.

On a positive note it was very pleasing when I banked the takings last week to see that the raffle and basket stall had taken almost exactly the same amount as last year despite the reduced numbers of attendees. Thank you everyone who supported all the stalls.

Those of you who listened to what I had to say will agree with my point that inspiring speakers do not have to be 'celebrities' nor charge a small fortune. Wasn't Sally inspiring?

Some WIs claim Gift Aid on your subscriptions As you know it can now be claimed all all parts of your subs so even if your WI doesn't claim please consider completing the federation and national positions, providing you pay sufficient income tax of course!

Over the last few weeks we have held a couple of Treasurers Chats on Zoom. These have been very enjoyable and I hope they can be repeated. If you would like to come to the next one get in touch. Don't be afraid to join us.

Elizabeth Lansman, Federation Treasurer

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3 rd May 2023	Bluebell Walk at Challock – page 9
11 th May 2023	Belly Dancing at Dunkirk – page 12
25 th May 2023	NFWI Annual Meeting in Cardiff
19 th June 2023	Audition Evening at Bobbing – details to follow!
22 nd June 2023	Outing to Hatfield House & Gardens – page 8
14 th July 2023	Anyone for Croquet – page 11
27 th July 2023	Visit to Belmont House, Faversham – page 7
4 th – 7 th September 2023	Federation Holiday
6 th October 2023	Craft Day – change to advertised date!

Book online via: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/east-kent-federation-of-womens-institutes>
or fill in the form on page 13 and send to the East Kent Federation Office

WINNERS OF THE MARCH 200+ CLUB DRAW

1 st	No 119	£23.50	Rodmersham Green WI
2 nd	No 26	£14.10	Mrs G Doyle of Sheldwich WI on the Green
3 rd	No 117	£9.40	Anne Newington of Temple Ewell WI

WINNERS OF THE ACM 200+ CLUB DRAW

1 st	No 29	£25.00	Gill Bromley of Smarden WI
2 nd	No 83	£15.00	Kathleen MacPhee of Smeeth WI

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – UPDATE

Your Public Affairs Committee meets every other month and one strand of its work is to continue to raise awareness of recent NFWI Health Resolutions. This month we are revisiting the NFWI Resolution 2019 ‘Five Minutes that Matter’. You may recall Cervical Screening SAVES LIVES. The screening test only takes 5 MINUTES and is one of the best ways to protect yourself against cervical cancer. Do be aware - Cervical Screening is not a test for cancer. It’s designed to help PREVENT cancer by checking for abnormal changes caused by the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) so that they can be monitored or treated early if necessary. Anyone with a cervix regardless of their sexual orientation is eligible for cervical screening. This is because the Human Papilloma Virus which causes almost all cases of cervical cancer can be passed on through any type of sexual contact. Cervical screening can be uncomfortable for some people but it shouldn’t be painful. If you do feel any pain during your test please do tell your doctor or nurse.

Remember that there are lots of ways to make cervical screening more comfortable. The NHS recommends asking the nurse to use a smaller speculum and bringing something to listen to or read for example. We can all help to challenge the myths around cervical screening by speaking to friends and family about the test and why it is so important. The NFWI worked closely on this campaign with the national charity Jo’s Cervical Cancer Trust and their helpline is 0808 802 8000. For information and support about any aspect of cervical cancer including HPV cervical screening (smear test) results and treatment for cell changes; Jo’s Cervical Cancer Trust offers a wide range of online and offline services including a free helpline. Their website is www.jostrust.org.uk-support/helpline. We do hope this brief update will continue to prompt all our WI members to keep this important aspect of health prevention uppermost in their thoughts and actions.

CHERRYHILL WI

Some Cherryhill WI members attended a pastel class in March at a local studio in Sittingbourne. They had a lot of fun albeit it was a bit messy!



**IN CELEBRATION OF THE CORONATION
OF KING CHARLES III**

CREATE A CONGRATULATIONS CARD!

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO 8TH APRIL



The card can be in any medium you desire and must be of a suitable standard to send to His Majesty, it must have an accompanying quality envelope or card box. It must measure 5" x 7" (13cm x 18cm) and be in colour, the original design, style and decoration is down to the card maker. **No computer art card will be accepted.**

The greeting inside the card must read:

"The Board of Trustees and members of the East Kent Federation of Women's Institutes would like to send their greetings and good wishes to His Majesty King Charles III on the occasion of his coronation".

Finished entries should either be delivered, or packed and sent, to the Federation office, Crown House, John Roberts Business Park, Pean Hill, Whitstable, CT5 3BJ by Friday 31st March 2023.

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Name: WI:

Email: Tel:

I agree to allow the East Kent Federation to publish my entry in East Kent News

Signature Date

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – 22ND MARCH 2023

At the Annual Council Meeting various trophies and certificates were handed out. For those of you who were unable to attend the winners of the various trophies were:

Wigfall Cup – This is awarded to the WI that achieved the greatest increase in membership numbers in the preceding year. The winner was Margate WI and the trophy was collected by Carolyn Doyle.

Rose Bowl – This is awarded to a WI member or group of members who have given considerable service to the Federation or the WI movement. This year's winner was Diane Lane of Newington WI for all her hard work and long service during her time at Newington WI. She has served as Treasurer and Secretary and many of you may have met her if you attended the Wisteria or Witch Hazel Walks.

Achievers Cup – This is awarded to a member who has gained success in any form of learning. This year's winner was Beverley Williams of River WI who recently completed her Arts Degree. You may have seen a past article on her about her exhibition at the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel le Ferne WI.

Joan Boucher Cup – This is the Federation's writing competition and the title of this year's competition was "Until now I believed then I found out". The winner was Norma Wright of St Peters Village WI and the winning story is printed below:

Until now I have believed that fairies were a figment of one's imagination then I found out that they really do exist and live in the orchard at the bottom of my daughter's garden. Let me introduce myself, I am Hilary Jackman, of sound mind but worn out body; my daughter persuaded me to come and live with her family last year and the arrangement has worked well. Today I am following my usual routine; I'm sitting huddled up in my garden chair just a shapeless bundle of coats and blankets, Dan my grandson, will be out soon with my morning coffee and rich tea biscuit; but first I must say Good Morning to my tiny friends. There they are as usual swinging on the lower branches of the apple tree, their pretty, bright dresses contrasting with the glow of rosy white blossom and the dark wood. Primrose waves first, with her pale yellow dress and auburn hair she is like a flashing ray of sunshine. Exuberant Bluebell blows me a kiss, her dress reminding me of walks in the woods each Spring through carpets of blue. Finally little shy Daisy peeps out from behind a branch and smiles, she is so sweet in her white dress and corn-coloured hair; I smile and wave and suppress the thought that Daisy is my favourite.

I have tried over the past months to share the fairies with my family but they nod and roll their eyes and after I had all those tests done at the hospital, they put it down to the DIAGNOSIS. Early onset dementia they called it but I knew that was just part of getting old, the fairies had always been there. In the past I'd shared with friends the experience of going upstairs and forgetting what I'd gone for, searching for keys when they were in my pocket, looking for reading glasses only to find them perched on my head and the number of times I'd said "know the face but the name has gone".

Like everyone else until I began to sit quietly in the garden I believed that fairies were part of childhood, inhabiting stories and films but like Santa Claus we put these beliefs away as we grow up. Now I know they are very real, but not to everyone. If it's warm enough I set out

every morning except Sunday when my family take me to church. I never complain, I know how well looked after I am, I've seen care homes on the TV. UGH! Day after day I was happy sitting on the patio, then when I found out that fairies live near the bottom of the garden in what used to be a very productive orchard I was ecstatic.

The first time I saw them there must have been about twenty girls and boys dressed in an artist's palette of colours, holding hands and dancing, weaving in and out of each other creating a rainbow of patterns and colours. Then my daughter come to take me in for lunch and like a stroke from a magician's wand they were gone.

Oh, that sounds like the doorbell, that will be my friend Enid. The fairies like Enid, they'll probably put on a dancing display for us. If you believe in fairies you will be welcome, you pop round anytime and I'll introduce you.

Federation Competitions - A new accumulative competition had been launched by the Food, Gardening & Creative Arts Committee and certificates were awarded to the winners.

The joint winners of the individual competition were:

- Claire Greenhead of Herne WI
- Gaye Mutton of Willesborough WI
- Julie Board of St Stephens WI

The joint winners of the WI competition were:

- Herne WI – collected by Sandy Brown
- Broadstairs WI – collected by Anne Nichol
- Chartham WI – collected by Bronny Slowe
- Sandwich WI – collected by Barbara Aster

GOODBYE!

Thank you so much for all the lovely emails and cards I've received wishing me well for the future (and of course the lovely flowers I was presented with at the Annual Council Meeting!).

It will certainly be a different pace of life looking after my in-laws but am looking forward to a new challenge and spending more time with my husband!

Hopefully I will bump into some of you at a WI event in the future as I am remaining a WI member in East Kent though I am tempted to join one in Reading as well!

June Allan
Federation Secretary (until 31st March!)



EAST KENT FEDERATION DAY OUT

BELMONT HOUSE

Throwley, Faversham ME13 OHH

Thursday 27th July 2023 at 10.00am

£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 tea room 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.

SHELDWICH WI ON THE GREEN

Sheldwich WI on the Green have planted a tree on the village green in memory of the late Queen. With the help of Lady Sondes and a class from Sheldwich Primary School, on a very windy day the tree was planted on the edge of the green. Every child was given the chance to add some soil to the planting hole before the attendees escaped the wind to enjoy tea and cake in the village hall. WI President Sandy Moriarty thanked Lady Sondes for joining in the planting and asked the children to help keep an eye on the tree and make sure it flourished in the years to come.



Performing Arts, Leisure & Sport Committee

Contact Clare Boggia

07912 038891 or boughtongreys@gmail.com

VISIT TO HATFIELD HOUSE & GARDENS

Thursday 22nd June 2023

£45 for members & £50 for non-members



Come and join us with a visit to this fine Jacobean House built in 1611. It is surrounded by beautiful grounds and parkland. The gardens date from the early 17th Century when John Tradescant the Elder was employed to collect plants from all over Europe for the house.

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

WOODCHURCH WI

Woodchurch WI recently celebrated its 96th birthday. Using a vast collection of family photographs and family memoirs, member Josie gave a snapshot of what life was like for those living in the village and for the ladies who joined their WI during the 1920s.

Life may have progressed, lifestyles changed, communication faster but they all agreed the camaraderie and friendship of the WI is just as strong today as it was in 1927.



MEMBERSHIP AND ADVISORY

Firstly, welcome to all of the new Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Committee members. Also, thank you to all of the Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Committee members who are continuing for the coming year.

Like all WI's, the Membership and Advisory Sub Committee held elections, with the retirement of Gill Crone, I was elected the Chairman. Briefly, I have been a WI member for 20 years, a WI President for 13 years and an Adviser for 4 years. Thank you Gill for all of your work over the years and we are all pleased that you will continue being an Adviser.

As we currently only have five Advisers to assist 99 WI's, we are trying to help as many WI's as possible – if you need assistance, please contact the Office first. Thank you.

We hope to bring more training to the Officers and Members of the WI's throughout the year. It may take time to get it all organized. However, to assist, there will be more details included in the East Kent News.

Our marvelous Treasures all need thanks from everyone, so I have started with an article to help you all in next month's edition. They all need our support for the job they do.

Carol Davidson, Chairman Membership and Advisory Sub Committee.

Performing Arts, Leisure & Sport Committee

Contact Clare Boggia

07912 038891 or boughtongreys@gmail.com

BLUEBELL WALK

Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at 10.00am
£4.00 per person

Kings Wood, Challock, TN25 4AR – free parking!



Join us for a walk and quiz around the 3.5 mile sculpture trail in Kings Wood.

Paths can be steep and rough in places so sturdy footwear and appropriate clothing will be necessary!

There will be a photographic competition so make sure your phones are charged!

Dogs are welcome but must be kept on a lead.

There is no tea kiosk so please bring your own drink

Closing Date: 24th April 2023

GUILD & GROUP MEETINGS

ASHFORD CRAFT & HOME ECONOMICS GUILD – 24th April – Stocking the Nations Larder by Judi Knight. Meet at 2.00pm on the third Monday of the month (4th Monday this month) at Kennington WI Hall, 228 Faversham Road, Kennington TN24 9AN. Contact their Secretary, Pat Owen-Smith on 01233 630134 for further details.

DOVER CRAFT & HOME ECONOMICS GUILD – 26th April – Mercy Ships by Gerhad Homsey. Meet at 2.00pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Whitfield Village Hall, Sandwich Road, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3LY. Contact their Secretary, Mary Gardner on 01304 820886 for further details.

SHEPPEY CRAFT & HOME ECONOMICS GUILD – 27th April – Easter Tea & Quiz. 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.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP – We start the season with a walk at Hythe, where members of the Civic Society will be telling us about the Canal History and local developments, on Thursday 27th April. In May we go to Newington for a Wisteria Walk, following the interesting talk at the WI Garden Day last year. June sees us at the Monckton Nature Reserve looking for orchids. All these events need to be booked in advance. Further details from Janet Adamson, by telephone: 01304 784267 or email: janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com

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. We hope to have a stall at the Annual Council meeting in March, if you would like to have a go and see what you could make.

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.

NEEDLECRAFT GUILD

I'm sure many of you are aware of the Guild and Group meetings that take place every month at various venues in our area. I was very fortunate to be able to attend the Needlecraft Guild meeting on Wednesday 22nd February 2023 at Chartham Hatch Village Hall.

With slight trepidation I turned up just before 10.30am and was greeted by a lovely friendly group of ladies. Tea was made and we then set about making the project of the day which was Tulips. What a great day we all had with plenty of laughter and help on hand if you weren't quite sure what you should be doing (me!) together with lots of chat putting the world to rights in traditional WI fashion.

The meetings are held every fourth Wednesday of the month (except December) and there are some very interesting projects planned for this coming year.

If you do decide to go along for a try out you will be made to feel very welcome as I was.

Gill Bull, Federation Vice-Chairman

Performing Arts, Leisure & Sport Committee

Contact: Mary Telford

07400 188159 or mtelford22@gmail.com

ANYONE FOR CROQUET?

Friday 14th July 2023 at 10.30am

£11 per person



Come to the croquet lawn at Chartham Hatch (CT4 7NN) 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.

MARGATE WI HELPS TO SPREAD CHEER IN COMMUNITY QUILT PROJECT

Members of Margate WI have taken part in a special parade to show their support for women everywhere and celebrate joy. On Saturday 11 March, club members joined other community groups in carrying specially-made patchwork quilts in a parade which headlined this year's Power of Women festival in Thanet and celebrated International Women's Month.

During the January club meeting, WI members worked with local designer (who was also the club's founding president!) Zoe Murphy to make blocks of patchwork, featuring individual ideas of what brings us joy.

Some of the members also joined a group of volunteers who worked for three months to help sew together the patchwork blocks into quilts, not just by the WI, but from all of the community groups who had worked with Zoe on the Cheer Quilt Project. Around 20 quilts were made and the final results were displayed and carried in the parade in Ellington Park, Ramsgate.

Some of the quilts will be donated to local good causes and others are expected to go on display locally in Thanet.



Margate WI member Clare with
Ramsgate Mayor Cllr Raushan Ara

Members have also been involved in a ceramics project organised by committee member Jayne Wright. Members took part in the very first workshop to each make a clay tile depicting the subject of joy. From family to gardening to inspirational women in science, the tiles are all unique and will form part of the Thanet Women's Tile Wall. Jayne has also held public workshops during the POW festival and plans are underway to work with other WI clubs in Thanet to make more tiles. When completed, the tile wall will be displayed publicly for all to see.

Performing Arts, Leisure & Sport Committee

Contact Clare Boggia: 07912 038891 or boughtongreys@gmail.com

BELLY DANCING EVENING
Thursday 11th May 2023 at 7.30pm
£8.00 per person

Dunkirk Village Hall, Courtenay Road, Dunkirk, Faversham ME13 9LF
(free parking at hall)



Join us for a fun evening of Belly Dancing.

Turkish Tea and Baklava included!

Places strictly limited!

PHOTOS FROM THE 2023 ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

More photos will be uploaded onto the Federation's Facebook Page. Please feel free to tag yourself in or download any. Thanks to Lesley Loxley of Seasalter Cross WI for being our photographer on the day.



TICKET ORDERING

If you do not wish to book your tickets using Ticketsource please send the completed form below to the Federation Office. Do not send payment with this form as you will be invoiced for the cost of the ticket.

NAME:		
WI:		
CONTACT NUMBER:		
EMAIL ADDRESS:		
DATE	EVENT	NO OF TICKETS

JUST FOR FUN!



CRYPTIC TELEVISION PROGRAMMES!



1	Not the oldies
2	Highest cog
3	A Labrador on your wrist?
4	Ancient act on the street
5	Humpty Dumpty and family
6	Where the chain broke?
7	The American check
8	Female homemakers at wit's end
9	A battle of a place
10	Double move
11	Cockneys
12	Distribute the cards or not?
13	Money in the loft
14	Next door either side
15	Reverse intelligence
16	Staying in
17	5, 4, 3, 2, 1
18	Pete and Mike fighting again
19	Wonderful view
20	Final drink of the season

Answers from the March 2023 East Kent News

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Bats | 11. A Hinny |
| 2. Tasmania | 12. (Central) Asia |
| 3. Aardwolf | 13. A snow leopard |
| 4. (North & South) America | 14. Ruminant |
| 5. A tail | 15. Flying lemur |
| 6. A large Asian sheep | 16. Orangutan |
| 7. Komodo dragon | 17. Ostrich |
| 8. On it's front legs | 18. Red squirrel |
| 9. Red | 19. Ants |
| 10. Moose | 20. (Fat) dormouse |