

EAST KENT FEDERATION

EAST KENT NEWS

JUNE 2024



Contact Information for the Federation Office

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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

This month we welcome two new WIs to the Federation, **Marsh Marigolds** who meet at 2.15pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month in the Methodist Church Hall, New Romney and **Hythe Seagalls** who meet at 2pm on the 4th Monday of the month at Hythe URC, we are sure that the members will enjoy the friendship and opportunities that the WI has to offer and look forward to meeting them in the future.



We were very sorry to learn that the NFWI Board of Trustees did not accept our proposed amendment to the Dental Health Matters resolution; they said that, in their opinion, it materially changed the resolution rather than enhance it. It will be interesting to hear the debate in the Albert Hall on 5th June.

We are sorry that there have been some problems with our email communications recently, we are working hard with our technology support team to rectify this, and we ask you to bear with us whilst we do so.

We are aware that cybercrime is an ever-present threat and would like to take this opportunity to suggest to our WIs that they set up a dedicated email address/addresses for their WI, this is easy to do on one of the free platforms. It could be one email address for the WI that can be accessed by the officers, or each officer could have their own, as we do at Federation, in this way, when officers change, the email address can pass on so that valuable information about the WI is not lost. If you would like some help or advice, please do contact the federation office and somebody will be in touch with you.

We do try to keep our emails to a minimum but there are times when we need to contact you and we would be grateful if you could respond, even if it's just an acknowledgement of receipt!

I should like to introduce you to two of our trustees who have taken on extra responsibilities:

Carol Davidson is a WI Adviser, Chair of the WI Support Team and has undertaken the training to be the Federation Safeguarding Officer.

Angela Coleman is Chair of the Public Affairs Team and has taken on the role of Resolutions Officer, if you have any questions about resolutions or the process, please contact the federation office and your questions will be passed to her.

Let's hope that the weather will improve so that we can enjoy our summer outings and garden parties and we look forward to receiving your pictures and stories of the summer.

Carol

federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

The Winners of May 2024 200+ Club draw

1st	No 40	£19.25	Jennie Silk	Chestfield WI
2nd	No 46	£11.55	Jan Luckhurst	Temple Ewell WI
3rd	No 31	£7.70	Kaye Merrywest	St Stephens WI

Treasurer's chat



Thank you, thank you, thank you. You have one very happy treasurer.

The 31 May was the deadline given by the NFWI to the federations for transferring the affiliation fees. I am pleased to report this has been done! It has not been easy for some WI treasurers particularly those who are new in role and didn't have access to online banking or weren't yet signatories on the WI account. Thank you 🌻

As with many organisations the WI has had to start being much stricter about subscription payments and until NFWI has received the affiliation fees we are not considered to be paid up members. I am pleased to say that almost all WIs managed to get their payments through to us and finally the spreadsheets that Alan and I were working on matched.

Elizabeth

federation.treasurer@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

FEDERATION HOLIDAY 2025

Our next federation holiday will take place in March 2025 and we will stay for four nights giving members an extra day should they want to make pottery items, and try more crafts and we can possibly arrange an afternoon trip with the coach.

We hope it will be an opportunity to spend time with friends old and new and have some fun. At the resort we have the chance to take part in a variety of activities – crafting, sports, relaxation, walking, spa and pools. There will also be evening entertainment for those who wish to partake and maybe a game of ten pin bowling.

We would travel to Devon by coach on a Monday (date to be confirmed) and return on the Friday in March 2025. Pick up places and times will be notified at a later date.

The full board accommodation at the Manor House Hotel is in shared twin rooms, although there are some single rooms available at a supplement of £70 for the holiday. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Although all activities are included there is a supplementary charge for craft materials

If you would like to join us, contact the EKFWI office. Full details will be sent to WIs and those who have expressed an interest shortly.

You can see all the activities that are available by going to their webpage – www.manorandashburyresorts.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 15 July 2024	New Age Kurling Chartham Village Hall 10-12
Monday 14 August 2024	In House Craft Day EKFWI office Pean Hill
Monday 16 September 2024	WI Day - watch this space
Friday 27 September 2024	Top Team Quiz 18.45 for prompt start at 19.15
Friday 15 November	Craft Day, Chartham Village Hall

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

To ensure emails from the Federation appear in your inbox add EKFWI to your contacts /address book federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

LIFESTYLE TEAM - PALS

Beth Chatto Garden

Sadly, we have had to cancel this outing. For those of you who have booked and were looking forward to it I am sorry, it is very disappointing. Your money should have been refunded by now.

With the rise in fuel prices and other costs, coaches are becoming much more expensive and they are anxious to have firm bookings. We needed 35 members to break even and had only half that number signed on, we could not risk losing the coach company's good will by waiting any longer to pay the non-returnable deposit. With numbers being in doubt we had no choice but to cancel.

It is advisable to book your place on any event as early as possible, if it is cancelled your money will be refunded. Also, if you are unsure whether you might have to withdraw then there is an insurance that can be taken out to protect your money.

Mary Telford

Why not try something new.....

NEW AGE KURLING TASTER DAY



Monday 15th JULY 10:00 -12:00

There are still a few tickets available to purchase

Kurling is a form of the original curling game, but adapted so that it can be played indoors on any smooth, flat surface, such as a sports hall, rather than on ice. It can also be easily adapted for those less mobile so do come along and join us for a friendly morning. Our tutor for the morning is Carol Godden.

If you would like a Saturday session please contact the federation office. If there is enough interest we will put on a second session and who knows we can then have a full competition in the future!

At Chartham Village Hall

£14 PER PERSON

(deadline for booking is Wednesday 26th June)

[Ticketsource](#)

Please wear Flat Shoes

For further information please contact: The Federation Office.



NEW VENUE
and TIME!

Calling all members who love
quizzes!
TOP TEAM QUIZ IS BACK!

Can your WI win the coveted TTQ winners shield?

Chartham Village Hall Station Road, Chartham,
Kent, CT4 7JA
WIs are invited to enter teams of up to six members
per table

Friday 27th September 2024
6.45pm for prompt start at 7.15pm

Tea/Coffee and homemade cake or biscuit at half
time

£8 PER PERSON

Closing date Friday 6th September 2024

Please book via Ticketsource

[Ticketsource](#)

One person to book for a team via Ticketsource
Alternatively book via EKFWI office you will be
invoiced for the number of tickets ordered.

Voting - Don't forget your ID.
Full information regarding
accepted forms of photographic
identification can be found on
the reverse of your Poll Card.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

The new Public affairs team have just met and would like to introduce themselves to you.

- **Angela Coleman** is the chair - Angela is president of Milstead and Frinsted WI and on the Board of Trustees at EKFWI.
- **Julie Driver** is our financial planner, she is on the Board of Trustees, she is treasurer at Hythe Morning and a member of Dymchurch Belles WI.
- **Fiona Pointer** is a member of Birchington WI
- **Jan Taylor** is a member is Minster in Thanet
- **Joyce CoomberSewell** is from St Peter's Village WI and on the Board of trustees.

We are all very keen to get on with organising some fun and informative events for you all and would love to hear what you would like.

If you are interested in environmental issues and public affairs and would like to get involved please let us know and you can come along and see what we do!

Monday 16th September is WI day - save the date for a special event.

The PA team are eagerly awaiting the results of the Dental Health Matters resolution vote at the Annual meeting in London. We will keep you informed.

WI Climate Ambassador

A couple of weeks ago I attended some on line training about having climate conversations. It was organised by Public Affairs in conjunction with Larger Us. It was a brilliant event attended by WI members from all over the country. The emphasis was on listening to people and telling them stories rather than hectoring them. Being positive and hopeful rather than focusing on doom and gloom.

On a more local basis I attended a Making Space for Nature workshop arranged by Kent County Council. The aim is to create a priority list of habitats and species that need protection in Kent. This will then be used as an evidence base when planning and funding decisions are being made. You can find out more about this here: [Homepage | Making Space For Nature Kent](#)

Last week I attended a meeting in Sandgate (Folkestone) to discuss the ongoing problem of sewage in our seas. The organisers were very well informed and had done a lot of research. They are particularly campaigning for better information on our beaches about the cleanliness of our seas and also upgraded pumping stations - something that has been achieved in other parts of Kent.

The WI is a non-political organisation but we are encouraged to lobby our MPs and councillors on relevant issues. So if any prospective parliamentary candidates come knocking on your door please do ask them what they will do to protect our environment and what actions they will take to reduce carbon emissions if they are elected [on July 4th](#).

Lesley

lesley.Whybrow@yahoo.com

TIPS FROM THE PA TEAM

We all know that turning the thermostat down a degree can save you money on your bills and help the planet with little impact on our lives, but what are some other changes we can make easily to save our world and our pocket?

One family in Broadstairs has some tips and tricks to share:

1. Invest in solar charging devices rather than battery or USB charging. Solar power banks are available from as little as £20 and can be charged on the windowsill even when the weather is bad. From these you can charge any USB connected device – phones, lights, headphones etc. On a sunny day, these charge quickly. It's just a matter of remembering to put them out and seagull proofing them!
2. Driving anywhere? Charge something. USB chargers for the car are commonplace – you can even get splitters. However, experience tells us that anything more than a double makes it ineffective.
3. Sign up for your energy company's saving challenges and take part - this might mean moving when you do the washing by a couple of hours but can save you pennies to pounds.
4. Read by solar lamp, or go for an evening/dawn walk rather than sitting in front of the telly – good for mind, body, soul and wallet!
5. Most importantly, most of this doesn't cost much, but does take a flexible attitude and a few moments planning each day. Once you get used to it, it's just part of the routine.

LIFESTYLE TEAM FOOD GARDENING AND CREATIVE ARTS

LIFESTYLE TEAM (FG&CA)

Invites you to join a Craft Workshop where you will create

2 insulated bowl cosies.



From 10.00am to 3.00pm
on
Monday 14th August 2024 at

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

You will need a sewing machine threaded with COTTON thread; this will enable the cosy to be placed in the microwave.

There will be assistance available to help carry the machine if required.

Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be available.

Cost - £12.50 to include materials

Book online via – <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/east-kent-federation-of-womens-institutes>

or contact the EKFWI office



Adult Learners week is back!

The theme is to learn or develop a skill to create an item that will be useful to others.

Hat, scarf and mittens/gloves sets are the order of the day so find a new pattern, try a new skill to achieve a beautiful result that will be a welcome gift for someone.

All items will be donated to charities so please be aware that no items will be returned.

The prize for the winner will be a £25 voucher, this is from a donation made by the Etchinghill Craft and Home Economics Guild which unfortunately had to close.

Items for consideration should be delivered to the federation office by 1st September 2024.

So, don't delay – get knitting today!!

Craft Day November

If you are interested in being a tutor at our next Craft Day please contact the team by email federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk



Some of us from Milstead with Frinsted WI went along to Bobbing Village Hall for the Mature Drivers Course run by KCC.

We watched some short films which highlighted situations we might find ourselves in whilst driving.

The main message was Space and Time, if we adopt this strategy allowing more time to reach our destinations and allowing space for what other road users may do, we can expect many more years of safe driving.

It was very informative, we all came away with a folder containing amongst other things, the latest version of the Highway Code, which we all agreed has changed somewhat since some of us passed our tests some 50 years ago!

We were made very welcome by the ladies of Bobbing WI

ARCHIVING WI MINUTES AND CULTURAL MATERIAL

I have been helping the Federation office to archive our records with the Kent History and Library centre at Maidstone.

As a president of a local group I had archived my WIs records last year when we reached 100 years. I was conscious that the minutes of our meetings tell an important historical story and must be kept safe. It is so easy to lose minutes when officers change. Our minutes were in a loft, and it was pure luck that a relative recognised they were WI minutes.

The Federation office holds the minutes for all the suspended and closed WIs. They also have photos, scrapbooks, banners and lots of material.

Whilst some items can be destroyed after 7 years the committee and monthly minutes must be kept indefinitely.

There are lots of things that you can do to prevent loss of items and to make it easier to locate and store these items.

Initially all minutes were handwritten into minute books. Remarkably these preserve well, with years and years in one book they take up very little space. Minutes are now typed and printed out, often kept in plastic folders in files. These items take up a lot of space.

When you print off your minutes sticking them into a record book or binding them together is a better way of keeping the records. It keeps them together, in order and takes up less room.

One of the most important things to do is to write the date in full. We have so many minutes with just the day and month and it takes a long time to year date them. And of course they must be signed!

It is vital for current committees to know where their records are and to have it recorded where they are being kept. Officers must inform their families about their WI records with instructions on where to send them.

Many WIs have lots of cultural materials, books, photos, scrapbooks, newspaper articles and much more. They can be kept in a memory box and displayed periodically at events but a new way of storing these items is in a virtual memory box. These can be kept and shared easily.

Another important ask is that you label photos with names, event and date- they are useless without this information.

Why not set up an archiving subcommittee and get all your material together. It can be fun looking through everything.

The history of the Women's Institute, the experience and lives of women and an accurate record of social history is all within our monthly minutes. Let's store them carefully.

Angela

2025 NFWI Diary



The **2025 NFWI diary** is a special edition to mark the 110 years of the WI. It will have a **Purple** cover AND is completely recyclable which makes the whole diary recyclable except for the ribbon, and contains all the usual features such as notable events and information on the WI. The price remains the same as the previous two years and they are **£7.00** each.

Orders for the diaries need to be at the Federation Office by **Friday 13th September 2024**. **Additional copies of the diary will not be available in the office this year.**

To order please contact your WI secretary who will either order for several members or use the order form [Please email Lin at assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk](mailto:assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk) **with any queries.**

News from around the Federation

ORLESTONE WI

Members of Orlestone WI have enjoyed a monthly outing for at least the past 6 years, maybe more, interrupted only between April 2020 and June 2021 by the pandemic. Most of the outings are to see private gardens and we've been given a warm welcome by all the owners, who are keen to share their knowledge and their passion for gardening. We've been very lucky with the weather and very few visits have been in the rain and only one was rained off – we went into a garden centre for coffee to let it clear ... it didn't, so we stayed for lunch ... still raining so we spent time checking the antiques and pre-loved clothes that were then a feature of that garden centre before deciding that it was time for tea. Never let it be said that WI ladies can't cope with adversity!



Winter months could be challenging but we turn from gardens until the snowdrops re-appear and instead visit a wide range of other places of interest. We've been to a frozen food company, a rocking horse manufacturer, a private cinema, the Royal British Legion Industries, joined a Christmas Star workshop and enjoyed several meals including a Pizza evening. Our most recent non-garden outing was to the Allington Waste Management Facility which is where the non-recyclable waste collection from Kent and Medway ends up. This was extremely interesting and we were all impressed with the sheer scale of the waste, the efficiency of the operation and the cleanliness of all areas apart from the Tipping

Floor where the lorries empty the waste before it's moved by huge grabbers – each carrying the equivalent of 6 VW Golf cars – on to the next stage of its journey. Safety was paramount as the photo demonstrates.

Due to the many years of outings we have occasionally made a return visit to a garden but always at a different time of year. Godinton Park was the latest to see us return but we've made more than one visit to Knowle Farm, Godmersham Park, Merriments, Bedgebury Pinetum and to one of our favourite gardens, Balmoral Cottage, Benenden where Charlotte is not only a renowned topiary expert but also offers the most delicious cakes. Several times we've invited other WIs to join us and have made some good friends from within our group and also from a wider area. In May we'll have a garden outing and also an afternoon tea and look forward to a lot more garden to discover and enjoy. If you can recommend places to visit that have appealed to your members we'd love to hear about them.

Upchurch Horticultural Society have had an annual Spring plant sale in The Paddock for many years.



This year Upchurch WI joined them with a pop up sale of Cakes and Savouries.

Arriving at 8am to get the Gazebo and tables up, we started to sell almost immediately. The main event started at 9.00am and despite the weather being drizzly and cold, we sold out by 10.30am. The plant sales were very healthy too. A success all round which we shall look to repeat next year.

BETHERSDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

WE ARE LOOKING FOR
A WI GROUP TO TWIN
WITH US
WOULD YOU BE
INTERESTED?

WITHIN A 20 MILE
RADIUS OF BETHERSDEN

BETHERSDEN.WI@GMAIL.COM
TRACEY LAWS OR ELLEN MARTIN

Garlinge WI's President Sue Maharry had a special announcement at our recent meeting: pictured here is proud Mum Vi Smith with her daughter Karen Brinkman, the new Mayoress of Margate.



Garlinge WI enjoying lunch at The Fishbone and Grill, Birchington, highly recommended.



Deal Goodwins WI held a fund-raising sale on Saturday morning. After Friday's glorious day, we were disappointed to find that it was an overcast, chilly day with the sea breeze cooling our bare legs and toes! Nevertheless, our customers came to buy cakes, plants, books and jigsaws, scarves and jewellery, bric-a-brac, craft wares and to play on our tombola. It was an exhausting but enjoyable morning and we raised over £650 altogether for our funds. Now we need to decide how to spend it!



Toby Mynott of "Simple Funerals" helped members of **Woodchurch WI** face the difficult topic of how they would like to say the final goodbye to friends and loved ones. He talked about the special things it is now possible to do to make the last farewell both personal and meaningful.



Tony had not intended to be a funeral director and a celebrant. Planning a close friend's funeral and being made redundant led him to start his own business. He holds the strong conviction that there is no right or wrong way to organize a funeral, providing it is individual and apposite for the family. He sees it as his role to make the service germane and individual. He pointed out there are venues other than church and the crematorium where the service may be held, and that it does not have to be a traditional service, many are now humanist, eco friendly and contemporary,

So a big thank you goes to Tony for making a difficult topic so caring, friendly and informative.

On a lighter note the competition was a close run thing! This month the letter "R" saw rabbits, roosters, robins and reindeer. Nicole's crafted rabbit with carrots came first. Joy's photo of a robin was second and Lynn's knitted Rupert the Bear came 3rd. Well done everyone.

Some photos taken at a recent **Alkham WI** meeting - Competition 'Show us your Talent'.



NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

Our event for June is a guided tour of Bilsington Priory with splendid tea on 26th June. Charges apply to all visits.

All events require booking at least a week in advance - so don't leave it too late! Membership is £5 per annum, family and friends welcome to join us. Our visits so far this year have been enjoyable, with good weather, but our numbers have been low, so please get in touch with me. Janet Adamson email: janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com or telephone: [01304 784267](tel:01304784267)



Deal & Sandwich Craft & Home Economics Guild had an enjoyable afternoon making felt flower brooches at their May meeting which is held in the Sandwich Guildhall. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 2pm. Just turn up, you will be made most welcome.



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 Bean Bliss Cafe, 9 Tyler Hill Rd, CT2 9HP 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 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 Christine Maxwell [01795 875095](tel:01795875095) or email christine.maxwell40@gmail.com.

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, Sandwich, 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.

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 photographs. Please send as a word document not PDF. Copy should arrive by email one week before the end of the month.

