

EAST KENT FEDERATION

EAST KENT NEWS

JULY /AUGUST 2024

Stop Press - EKFWI AGM 2025.

The AGM will take place **on Monday 14th April 2025**
in the Great Hall, Kent College, Whitstable Road, Canterbury, CT2 9AQ



Contact Information for the Federation Office

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

Tel: 01227 464106

Email:
federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

Opening Hours:

Tuesday to Thursday,

9.30am – 3.00pm

(closed for lunch from
1.00pm to 1.30pm)

East Kent Federation
[Website](#)

[Ticketsource](#) for bookings



Word from the Chair



We all had a brilliant day at the Albert Hall on 5th June, even though we arrived late due to the road works in London - we weren't the last either! The 6am departure from Minster services was a challenge but it was worth it, the meeting was interesting and, at times, moving and challenging. You will have received the report from your delegate by now and she will have told you more about the day and the speakers; you will also find a couple of articles in this magazine.

We are all grateful to our delegates for attending the meeting on our behalf and taking the time to send their report; it is however very disappointing to learn from some delegates that they have not had an acknowledgement from WIs that their report has been received! Please do let them know.

Good News! The Charity Commission has notified us that the Unincorporated Federation and the CIO were merged on 7th June 2024 and the Unincorporated Federation is closed. This means that the HSBC bank account will be closed as soon as possible – so please do not try to send any money there.

The Federation Lifestyle and Public Affairs Teams are working hard to arrange events for members, although the Teams are small, but perfectly formed, they would welcome support from members, if you can't join a team but would be happy to help at an event, please let us know.

Have you got your tickets for the craft workshop yet – it looks great fun? The Top Team Quiz is in September (I hope you are all practicing!) and the tutors are being finalised for Craft Day in November.

On WI Day – Monday 16th September – the Public Affairs Team has organised a **Sustainable Fashion Day**, this sounds so interesting, I hope to see you there.

I wish you all a lovely summer and look forward to seeing and hearing of your exploits. We do not produce an East Kent News in August, so see you in September!

Carol

PS Have you started your Adult Learner's Challenge yet? Best get knitting then – mine is underway!

Carol

federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

Treasurer's Chat

Summer has finally arrived hooray!

We are now in the second quarter of the subscription year. Any new members joining now pay £36 of which the WI keep £17.70 and the Federation and NFWI portion £18.30. Can treasurers please check that all affiliation fees for the 1st quarter are up to date. If we keep track each month there is less chance of mistakes being made. We are all busy women and it's easy to forget!



We have received the following notification from NFWI about refunds of erroneous payments of affiliation fees.

Can we please ask for all Federations to remind WIs that NFWI are unable to offer refunds as this is in contravention of the WI Constitution, which states that all funds of the WI can only be used in accordance with the WI's charitable objects. WIs should be informing all new members that when they pay their membership fee this is a charity donation and therefore can't be refunded at any point.

Elizabeth

federation.treasurer@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

The Winners of June 2024 200+ Club draw

1st	No 132	£19.25	Margot Allison	Sheldwich WI on the Green
2nd	No 125	£11.55	Jill Parrett	Whitfield WI
3rd	No 26	£ 7.80	Mrs G Doyle	Sheldwich WI on the Green

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 15 July 2024	New Age Kurling Chartham Village Hall 10-12 FULLY BOOKED
Friday 19 July 2024	Deadline for booking Federation Holiday
Monday 14 August 2024	In House Craft Day EKFWI office Pean Hill
Monday 16 September 2024	WI Day - Sustainable Fashion Day
Friday 27 September 2024	Top Team Quiz 18.45 for prompt start at 19.15
Friday 15 November	Craft Day, Chartham Village Hall
Monday 31 March 2025	Federation Holiday

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

FEDERATION HOLIDAY 2025

31st March – 4th April 2025

The Manor House Hotel, Okehampton, Devon.

This year we will be staying for four nights to enable members to experience more of the activities (including making pottery items) on offer. These activities include crafting, sports, walking, spa and pools; we may also be able to arrange an afternoon trip with the coach. There will also be evening entertainment on offer for those who wish to partake.

The full board accommodation at the Manor House Hotel is in shared twin rooms, although there are some single rooms available at a supplement. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Although all activities are included in the price there will be a supplementary charge for craft materials. You can see the activities that are available by going to the hotel webpage - www.manorandashburyresorts.co.uk/

If you are interested in joining the holiday, please contact the Federation office for an application form. The cost of the holiday is £420 for a shared twin room and £550 for a single room, the form and deposit of £150 should be sent to the office by Friday 19th July 2024. The balance may be paid in two instalments, the first of £200 must be paid by Friday 27th September and the remainder - £70 for a shared room and £200 for a single, by Friday 10th January 2025.

We will travel to Devon by coach on Monday 31st March returning on Friday 4th April; pick up places and times will be notified at a later date.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

Sustainable Fashion Day

2-4pm, Monday 16 September 2024
Godmersham and Crundale Village Hall

Do you wonder if your clothing is ethical or sustainably produced?

Would you like to be better informed to make wiser choices?

Why not come along and listen to some of our interesting speakers

We have Helen Howard talking about the environmental impact of fashion and Hannah Temple from TealCo.

You will be amazed and inspired by what you hear.



SATEDA

Faversham repair cafe will be joining us to tell us more about repairing and reusing.

Kent and Medway community sharewear will be attending, they have pop up shops with clothing for women escaping domestic violence and abuse.

So bring along your unwanted good condition clothing to pass on to those that need them.

Tickets £10 (incl. tea and cake)

Tickets are available from ticketsource

Come along, you may look at your clothing in a new light!

The Public Affairs team are really keen on having new members. If you are interested in this aspect of the WI just speak to one of the team anytime.

FEDERATION CHARITY SUPPORT

We should like to thank all our WIs and members who gave so generously to last year's charity, SNAAP. We are pleased to report that we have donated the sum of £300 from the sale of baskets at the AGM and the additional sum of £550.89 was raised in the collection tins.

We have received a lovely email from Carrie, thanking us for our support and saying how delighted she has been to visit and speak to so many of our WIs.

FEDERATION CHARITY FOR 2024-2025

Following the talk by Yolanda Barker at our AGM in March the Trustees have agreed that our Charity for the year will be the Kent MS Therapy Centre in Canterbury.

If WIs wish to collect money for the charity, or hold an event to raise funds, we will be delighted and will pass the money to them after the AGM at Kent College on 14th April 2025

LIFESTYLE TEAM FOOD GARDENING AND CREATIVE ARTS

A Word from the Lifestyle Team

Just a reminder re the **in house craft day** ladies, the materials to make the bowl cosies are all supplied. However you will need to bring your sewing machine loaded with cotton thread. There are only 10 places available so don't miss out! There will be help available to help you carry your sewing machines upstairs.

See advert details. →

Summer Garden Day yes, it is changing months it is all booked with the school for May next year.

It was great to hear from a member, I met whilst out shopping, that she had really enjoyed this year's Spring Garden Day.

If you know of a speaker you would like to hear in 2025 please let the Food, Gardening and Creative Arts Team know by emailing the EKFWI office.

Craft Day in November is also coming along nicely with some really good new tutors and different crafts. Once we have finalised the programme we will let you all know so that you can get booking.

Food, Gardening and Creative Arts Team



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 Etchingill 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!!

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

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

AUDITIONS

The following speakers auditioned at Hythe in May.

Elaine Evans

'Put a spring back into your step'
elaineellenevans@gmail.com
tel: 07921649949

Jonathan Ramsden

'Cats Protection: Helping people by helping cats'
jonathan.ramsden@cats.org.uk
tel: 07585402881

Brian Russell

'Getting paid for seeing amazing things'
brian@brd.uk.com
tel: 07768510930

Geoffrey Lewry

'30 years of the Bell Book and Candle'
geoff.lewry@ntlworld.com
tel: 07967670916

LIFESTYLE TEAM - PALS



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.

TWO REPORTS FROM THE NFWI ANNUAL MEETING

It was a bright chilly morning at 6am. I drove a car full of Hythe WI members to Canterbury to catch the coach which would take us to the Royal Albert Hall.

I was super excited as this was my first time being a delegate and the first time that I had attended an NFWI annual meeting!

I represented 4 WI's – Hythe Morning, Hythe Bay, Castle Green and Dymchurch Synners.

The coach was running late as there was so much traffic en route. Several ladies realised we were going to miss singing Jerusalem, so we had our own resounding sing along on the coach!

We eventually arrived at the venue and were shown to our seats.

Our first speaker was **Nazir Afzal OBE** – a solicitor and former prosecutor within the Crown Prosecution Service. He led on topics such as violence against women, child trafficking and child protection.

He was an amazing speaker and advocate of women's rights.

He gave us harrowing examples of violence and abuse against women and children.

He was instrumental in bringing in national guidelines against forced marriage and honour killing.

He believes in 'working together for a purpose as this equals success'. The most important thing for a 'survivor' of abuse is for someone to believe in you.

This man has a passion for justice and equality.

Some frightening facts:

- 9 out of 10 violent acts against women are by men.
- 9 out of 10 violent acts against men are by men.
- 2 women every week are killed by their male partners.
- 10 women every week kill themselves.

Our resolution '**Dental Health Matters**' was then introduced.

Eddie Crouch - Chair of The British Dental Association

He told us that 12 million adults currently have no access to NHS dental care in the UK. Funding is capped to only cover half of the current NHS patients and that more 'timely care is needed closer to home'.

There was then a WI member who gave a speech pro the resolution and another member that was not in agreement with the resolution.

The questions that I considered were:

1. Could WI's make a difference?
2. Is it bold and inspiring?
3. Is there enough potential at a local level?

There were questions raised and really eloquent support from a WI member who was in fact a dentist. There was a 95.53% majority in favour of the resolution.

Our second speakers were:

Melanie Brown MBE (Scary Spice) and journalist Victoria Derbyshire who asked the questions.

Mel B told us about her 10 years in an abusive relationship.

She spoke about 'gaslighting' – how she was undermined and thought she was going mad. His coercive control over her.

She spoke about her involvement with the charity Women's Aid and the petition that she has been involved in to get better training for Family Court Judges on domestic abuse and coercive control.

She said, "we are surrounded by abuse".

What can we do to help?

- Be a listener.
- Have compassion.
- Let these women feel safe.

Mel only started to heal when she was believed.

Questions were then asked from members and Mel B was asked which was her favourite Spice Girls song? She had 2, Wannabe and Mama!

Our third and final speakers were Timothy Watson who played a role on domestic violence in The Archers and Teresa Parker from Women's Aid.

Who knew there were so many closet Archers listeners in the WI?!

Teresa said 'the work that the WI and Women's Aid did in writing a report in 2009 on domestic violence, supported the storyline in The Archers'.

As soon as the storyline came out, the Women's Aid helpline was inundated with calls.

The storyline raised so much awareness that £150,000 was raised for Women's Aid.

What was the legacy of the storyline? That it happens in middle-class, middle-aged society – so it can happen anywhere. It's also changed the way that we tell stories about abuse – that it's not just about one-off behaviour.

We then had closing remarks from the current Chair – Ann Jones – who is stepping down.

She spoke about her term and her leadership role.

She spoke about fun and friendship in the WI and the support she has had from the 'sisterhood of fellow members'.

She spoke about kindness, reflection, and helping leaders to become leaders.

Her last remark was "to say thank you to someone in your life who has made an impact to you".

She thanked everyone for coming.

A great day had by all!

Though I enjoyed the day I think next time I will take the train!

Tracie Dempster
Hythe Morning WI

My alarm goes off at 04.50 and I jump out of bed and realise that the day has arrived for me to travel up to London to the Royal Albert Hall for the Annual Meeting. Excitement takes over and I don't think of the unearthly hour and get ready to be picked up for 06.00 and then onto Wincheap Park and Ride for the East Kent Federation coach. Well, I could say what a quick journey this was but unfortunately, we were held up here, held there and when we got to Blackheath, we realised that we would not get there in time. In true WI style when it got to 10.35 there was a rumble of 'And did those feet in ancient time' and the whole coach joined in the singing of Jerusalem. For me personally, it was the real start of the day. We eventually got to our seats for 11.00 and Ann Jones was about to finish her address to members.

So, the bits that I did get were that the speakers main focus was Violence Against Women and Girls and Ann has been very pro-active in this matter. She was extremely happy to report that the WI Learning Hub with unlimited free access to learning is proving to be really successful with some 3884 members accessing the Hub per month with 6000 bookings. There are currently 64 courses plus 'On Demand'. There are support courses and there is a Federation Grant which offers £10000.00 for Face-to-Face training and this will be available for educational activities from October 2024. There will be another new initiative which will be a WI Lottery and will be launched on 16 September 2024 which is WI Day.

Nazir Afzal OBE, Former Chief Prosecutor, Chancellor University of Manchester, Chair Hopwood House, Chair CSSA, Chief Executor of the Police & Crime Commission and his theme was 'No More Violence Against Women and Children' from an expert prosecution/law perspective and what a refreshing and what an enlightening talk it was. Nazir is 61 years old and from Birmingham and always wanted to be a lawyer and his inspiration was Atticus Finch from *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the other was Ghandi – follow your passion and give a voice to those that have no voice. He was involved in so many high profile cases, Princess Diana's stalker which led to Anti-social Behaviour Guidelines. The Rochdale Grooming case was one that Nazir was directly involved in and told the harrowing ordeal that these young women experienced. Nazir, although of Muslim parentage queries a culture of arranged marriage. Manchester 2009 -11 and another girl is abused some 47 times but no-one believed her. Eventually because Nazir did believe her, justice was given and those involved were sent to prison in 2012. These girls/young women are exploited but not believed. His role was to believe them and help them get the justice they deserved. The victims have said that their relief was profound by having someone who believed them.

Nazir thought that the only way to change this dreadful pattern is for young boys to be educated from an early age to respect girls. Girls do have to be included in this and taught their rights too. There was a standing ovation for Nazir at the end of his speech. Exceptionally moving.

Lunch had to be outside, no eating in the auditorium, so it was over the road to the park and then thousands of ladies sitting on the Albert Memorial steps with their various packed lunches. It's all so friendly with lots of selfies with the Memorial coming out of your head and taking photos for others.

Our first speaker in the afternoon was an abuse survivor - Mel B (Melanie Brown MBE) as of the Spice Girls. She has been a TV talent show judge, Broadway star has been a global icon since her late teens. She was interviewed by Victoria Derbyshire who has had 25 years in journalism and TV presentation, a brilliant idea and worked really well for us, the viewer, their dynamics worked well. It was rather thrilling to see and listen to Mel to the Annual Meeting and I never thought I'd see a Spice Girl up-close; our seats were level with the stage. Mel is a Patron of Women's Aid and speaks from personal lived experience as part of the theme on Anti-violence against women.

Mel opened up about her devastating experience of coercive and controlling behaviour in her ten-year marriage, she wouldn't even say his name! She spoke of writing her 2018 memoir *Brutally Honest*. With deep personal insight, remarkable frankness and trademark Yorkshire humour, she went from Girl Power to powerlessness during a ten-year emotionally abusive marriage, and told how she finally left that relationship after the death of her father in 2017. *Brutally Honest* was not initially that well received; however, it was republished this year with three extra chapters and has been well reviewed.

There are refuges run by Women's Aid which Mel said in the main show compassion to women that are being abused and believe them. One of her moments of calm came when she actually knew that people believed her. She is reconnecting with her family and learning to trust and love once more. Excellent speaker and she looks in control of her life now.

There is an on-line petition that Mel is directly involved in and that's the Family Courts Petition and can be found on <http://takeactionwomensaid.org.uk/melaniebrownpetition>

Timothy Watson was the next speaker along with Teresa Parker from Women's Aid and Melissa Green from NFWI and again it was an interview style session which worked really well and less arduous for the speaker.

In 2012 Tim was approached by the BBC's Radio Drama section as asked if he would like to play the part of Rob Titchener who was to be the partner of Helen Archer (Titchener) in the Archers. I have not personally listened to this programme so was slightly disadvantaged as to the story line. It would appear that the character Rob was playing the classic good/bad guy role in a domestic coercive abuse situation.

Teresa said that so many women came forward once the storyline of the Archers was broadcast and it was even mentioned on Countryfile. The legacy of the storyline is that it highlighted domestic abuse in not only deprived areas where it is more prolific but in a rural environment.

Teresa pointed out that it was the parental responsibility to teach their children and fathers to be involved in this. Education again at the heart of the issue and more mums and dads should be involved in education their children to respect each other.

What can we do as a WI? It is Women's Aid 50th anniversary and she asked us to support their 'Come Together to Stop Domestic Abuse' campaign.

Ann Jones announced that the next two Annual Meetings, next one June 2025, would be hybrid ones and details would be filtered through and this would be her last meeting as Chair. She hoped that she had been instrumental in seeing through the Violence Against Women resolution and it was a safer environment for the Sisterhood. She asked that we be kind and reflect on our part of solidarity. We were to ask ourselves of the relevance of the WI in

today's world and 108 years of dreams. The WI is a force to be reckoned with and that should empower us to not give up on the things we deem important in our lives.

There have been eighty-two thousand new members since Covid and we are consistently changing and emerging. It should reflect fun and friendship and there should be personal achievements along the way. Show kindness to the 180,000 WI sisterhood.

Ann set us a challenge 'to reflect and say thank you to someone who has changed our lives'.

The end of the day was the traditional singing of the anthems, Jerusalem and I defy anyone not to be totally moved by hearing some 5000 members singing along with the RAH organ and then the singing of the Welsh anthem and not to mention the National Anthem to our King. Have you ever seen 5000 women needing a quick trip to the loos before their journey home? It's amazing just how friendly everyone was and the saying goodbyes and safe journey home, fabulous. Can't use that word for our journey home, we must have been one of the nearest Federations but I got home at 9.00 pm still buzzing from the day and needing something to drink, no not alcohol, just anything as the coach was definitely a dry place!

On reflection of my day, I feel that although the speakers had been very good, I did feel very sad that we had spent the whole day of such a sad topic and it could have been lifted and be a bit more light-hearted. I know that this is the world for some members but generally our meetings are full of information and laughter with our friends. That said, brilliant day and would love to be a delegate again.

Hazel Bentley

President of Seasalter Cross WI, EKFWI Trustee

News from around the Federation

Tunstall Evening WI member Jay Collins celebrated 50 years as a WI member at our meeting this month.

Jay started her WI life at Iwade WI, where she was a member for 15 years. Jay is a much loved member of our WI and we look forward to her next 50 years with our group



GARLINGE WI, with guests from other WIs, enjoyed a lovely outing to Chiddingstone Castle and are pictured posing on the steps of the Castle on the hottest day of the year.

Margate WI dusted off their mermaid tails and lobster claws to take part in the town's second mermaid parade.

Dressed as an array of seaside-inspired creatures (real and mythical!), the WI group, who are known as the mermaids, attended Margate on Saturday 1 June and took part in the parade along the seafront with hundreds of other people of all ages.



The annual event was inspired by the Mermaid Parade in Coney Island, and is intended to celebrate our seas and highlight the importance of playing our part to save them for future generations. Funds raised from the day are donated back to seaside good causes like the RNLI and Rise Up, Clean Up

Northwood WI - Cream Tea and Charity

Monday 10th June was Northwood (Ramsgate) WI's annual cream tea meeting. Only this year it was combined with a cake sale to raise funds for the charity Breast Cancer Now.

The members enjoyed scones, jam & clotted cream with fresh strawberries for a nominal donation of £2 which would normally go back to the WI, but this year went to Breast Cancer Now.



Members could also make an additional donation for a piece of lemon drizzle, coconut iced or rich fruit cake, all made by one of the WI Committee members.

A total of £74.03 was raised.

After the cream tea the ladies enjoyed a quiz and a lot of friendly conversation.

NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

Our next visit is to Richborough Roman Fort on Wednesday 17th July in the afternoon.

We have an excellent expert guide who will cover the history and reconstruction of the fort. There is also a new visitor centre and gift shop.

On 15th August we visit the Kent Museum of the Moving Image in Deal. Numbers are needed, in advance.

Please contact Janet Adamson, email: janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com or ring: [010304 784267](tel:010304784267) for full details.

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Deal & Sandwich Craft & Home Economics Guild meet in the Sandwich Guildhall. Meetings

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:Please_email_Lin_at_assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk) **with any queries.**

GUILD & GROUP MEETINGS

SHEPPEY CRAFT & HOME ECONOMICS GUILD Meet at 2.00 pm on the fourth Thursday of the month at The Bethel Church Hall, Chapel Street, Minster on Sea, Sheerness ME12 3QF. Contact 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.