



EAST KENT FEDERATION

EAST KENT NEWS

DECEMBER 2024

The EKFWDI office will close on Thursday 19 December and reopen Thursday 2 January 2025



Contact Information for the Federation Office

Crown House,
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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

Welcome to the December issue of the East Kent News. My fellow Trustees and I should like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and their families an enjoyable festive season and a peaceful and Happy New Year.

I hope you all enjoy the various Christmas parties and festivities you have planned, please do send us photos as it is always lovely to see everyone having such fun. Christmas always seems to come around so quickly!

I was delighted to take part in two very different events recently, Craft Day and First Aid training. I am now the proud possessor of a star decoration, lino cut cards and a First Aid at Work certificate! It was good to meet and chat with members at these events.

You will see that our hardworking teams are preparing a variety of opportunities for members to enjoy next year, please do consider joining us at them to meet members from other WIs in the federation, learn something new and enjoy yourself. Please note that places on the Archery Day are being snapped up quickly so if you are interested it is important to make a booking quickly.

We are starting to receive entries for the Joan Boucher Cup and the photographic competition, but don't despair there is still time to enter, just check the details on page 5 of the magazine.

Please do keep sending your photos to the editor, it is so good to see the many varied activities that are taking place in our WIs and their communities.

Carol

federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 20 December 2024	EKFWDI office closed
Thursday 2 January 2025	EKFWDI office reopens
Monday 31 March 2025	Federation Holiday
Monday 14 April 2025	EKFWDI AGM, Great Hall, Kent College, Canterbury
Tuesday 29 April 2025	Circular walk from Chilham
Wednesday 28 May 2025	Summer Garden Day
Saturday 7 June 2025	Archery Taster Day, The Archbishop's School, Canterbury

Treasurer's Chat

We are aware that Lloyds bank have stated they will be changing accounts from a charity account to a community account, unless the WI can provide a registered charity number. Clubs and groups such as WIs will be charged a monthly administration fee. We understand that for small WIs this is a concern.



NFWI are writing directly to Lloyds bank explaining that all WIs are charities, although some are unable to register with the Charity Commission as they fall below the required threshold. For information, WIs and Federations are separate charitable entities so WIs cannot use the EKFWI or the NFWI charity number. As soon as we hear more from NFWI we will pass on any information.

As you know we are always looking as ways to raise funds to support the federation. We have set up an **Easy fundraising** account. When WI members and supporters shop on line many shops and businesses will donate a percentage of the value to the cause you choose. For example M&S will donate up to 5% many high street shops as well as insurance companies and travel booking sites such as **booking.com** all give something. There is no pressure to buy. You do need to sign up for easy fundraising which can be don't know a computer, tablet or phone. The Easyfundraising website has full details of how it works and what you need to do to start giving. Please have a look and choose **EKFWI** as your **good cause**.

Please remember when paying **invoices** by BACS to use the invoice number as the reference not the name of the WI or 'holiday' or 'tickets'. Our accounting system links the invoice number with the payment, if you don't put this someone has to search through unpaid invoices to link the payment with the outstanding amount.

Public Benefit

As many of you will know, your WI must prepare a financial statement at the end of the financial year and the trustees of the WI (your committee) must produce an annual report to accompany the statement. The report says who the WI is, where they meet, what they do and how they provide public benefit. All WIs have charitable status, whether they are registered with the Charity Commission or not and must be able to prove public benefit.

Our organisation as a whole has a wide range of campaigns in which non-members can engage and from which they benefit e.g. Clean Rivers, Dentistry, Action Against Gender Based Violence, Climate Change, Plastic Soup, Keep Britain Tidy, to name a few – your WI may be working on other campaigns, and they are all aimed at improving things for everyone, not just WI members.

WIs hold events - promotional, celebratory and learning, that are open to all even if they have a small entrance fee for non-members. Many WIs actively work in their community, fundraising, practical support and volunteering to voluntary organisations and community projects.

However the most important thing we do is 'advance the education of women and girls' by having speakers each month, have members (and outside tutors) teach us craft, organise outings and visits to places and gardens of interest and many more things of a similar nature.

We hope that this brief explanation will help and shows what an amazing organisation we belong to.

I wish you all a very happy and relaxed festive season. Elizabeth

federation.treasurer@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

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

EKFWI – CIO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Monday 14th April 2025

Great Hall, Kent College, Whitstable Road, Canterbury, CT2 9DT.

Every WI should send a delegate to the meeting and, as this venue is slightly smaller, we have allocated each WI 4 observer tickets.

If WIs do not take their full allocation of observer tickets the extra will be made available to other WIs.

Members should apply via their WI to be included on the waiting list.

Early Bird observer tickets purchased prior to 31st January 2025 - £18

Tickets purchased after 31st January 2025 – £20



Our afternoon keynote speaker is Dr Annie Gray – one of Britain’s leading food historians. She is an author, broadcaster and consultant, specialising in the history of food and dining from c1600 to the present day.

In the morning, our speaker will be Dr Graham Jones – military music historian.

Free onsite parking, bus stop outside school - busses from Canterbury Bus station (via St Dunstan’s- Canterbury West Station), and Whitstable.

Bring your own packed lunch to eat in the venue or, if the weather is nice, outside on the grass. Tea and coffee will be available to purchase before the meeting and at lunch break.

SILENT MARCH

On Saturday 30th November members of WIs in the East Kent Federation joined the Canterbury branch of Soroptimist International to take part in a Silent March through the streets of Canterbury; this was part of 16 days of activism against Domestic Abuse.

The speech before we set off was very moving and the silent group moving through the streets caused people to stop and look at the signs we carried. We do hope that reading those signs will make people think about the dreadful things that are happening every day to women and girls all over the world and take action that will help to alleviate the damage and suffering it causes.



WI SUPPORT TEAM - WIST

Just a reminder that ALL members of the WI’s committee are (charity) trustees of the WI.

It’s that time of year again – the end of the financial year for WIs which means Treasurers are busy getting the WI accounts finalised and the Financial Statement ready for the Independent Financial Examiner (IFE). The letters informing each WI of their appointed IFE will be sent out shortly. If any WI has any issues with the Financial Statement then please contact the allocated IFE or message the Federation Office staff who will be able to forward the query to the appropriate person.

CRAFT DAY

Well didn't we have a lovely day when we finally got the key to work !

Just one hall this year but it was soon filled with Christmas spirit as the tables were spread with foliage ribbons, bags, cards and of course the pile of jigsaw pieces.

Our lovely tea ladies got to work and kept us supplied with tea and coffee all day. how we rely on our volunteers to keep these events running, thank you ladies. Soon the doors were open and familiar faces and some new ones were ready to enjoy their day with a cuppa in hand.



Lino-print cards

This year we had some new, to us, crafts as well as some from the past. The lino cutting cards were soon filling their space with a wonderful range of cards and colour covered their area. Rebecca was a new tutor for the team and I am so glad she came on board.

The mouse lady and her table worked quietly and I'm told, by one of my members, that she was put to ease and so enjoyed her morning.

Hazel and her star was also very popular, each one different and beautiful.



Christmas Stars

Linda and her bags achieved so much on both her sessions with members taking extra kits home.



Angels

The jigsaw wreaths were all very different and my fairy and angels ladies worked well from their kits again each one bringing their own take on their little beauty.

I hope that each attendee enjoyed their day I have had lots of yeses and so far no nos.

This sort of event cannot not take place without a good team. FGCA team is a very small one and I thank them all for their time and dedication to keep this popular day going. Thanks to Christine Maxwell for being raffle queen for us.



Printed Bags

This year we have to say a massive thank you to our Federation Chairman, Carol Evans, who stepped in to help with table and chairs as a few of us were 'post op' and unable to lift. To her and everybody who came together to get that hall ready my grateful thanks.

Why do we do it? Because we love it and want to keep crafts alive in East Kent.

If you look at the EKFWI Facebook page there are some good pictures of the event.



Mouse Gift Holders

Sandy Brown FGCA

LIFESTYLE TEAM - PALS

LIFESTYLE TEAM

ARCHERY TASTER DAY

At The Archbishop's School, St Stephen's Hill,
Canterbury, CT2 7AP

Saturday 7th June 2025 13:30 – 15:30
£20

We have been very lucky to secure a group session just for WI members hosted by Canterbury Archers Club. In order that everyone has tuition this event is strictly limited to 24.

These sessions get booked up really early, so to ensure we have a fun afternoon together, the booking for this will close much earlier than usual.

Canterbury Archers club have full insurance however, everyone attending must adhere to these basic rules please

- Close fitting clothing needs to be worn, to prevent bowstring snagging
 - Long hair must be tied back
- All jewellery needs to be removed (including body-pins etc – if applicable)
 - No open toe footwear

CLOSING DATE IS 30TH MARCH 2025

Tickets available from Ticketsource or the EKFWI office
For further information please contact Federation office

The Joan Boucher Cup for Writing



It's that time of year again, shorter days and longer evenings, more time indoors. So what can be better than to release your talents and write a short story? This year we are asking for not more than 600 words ending with "Why do I always do that?"

Write your own appropriate title and submit by 3rd January 2025 either by email giving your name, WI and contact details or in writing using the form provided (ask your WI secretary). Please write the number of words used at the end.



LIFESTYLE TEAM PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



This is a free to enter competition, suitable for those who just point and click as well more advanced photographers!

We would love to see your photographs that capture the competition title of

WOMEN AND LEISURE

The top five will be on display at the EKFWI AGM at Kent College on 14th April. and the winner will feature in East Kent News

Please submit your photographs via email to assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk or in hard copy to the federation office by 27th February 2025

For further information please contact Federation office.

For Sale



The federation has a projector for sale. This is surplus to requirements so if a WI is interested please contact the EKFWI office.

The projector is an OPTOMA Model No: is: EX531p Although not marketed for use in daylight the lamp is very bright.

Price £60

Sale of craft items

- Do you have a stash of craft items you no longer need?
- Are you interested in selling your surplus 'stash'?
- Would your WI like to have a table at a craft sale?

If you as an individual or your WI are interested in a sale of Fabric, wool, papers or other craft items please contact the EKFWI office.

FEDERATION HOLIDAY 2025

31st March – 4th April 2025

There are a **couple of places** available on this trip so if you find that you are now able to go or would like to go, please contact the office for details and an application form

It would be great if a few more members could join us for a fun crafty break. This holiday is open to members and non members so why not come with your sister, cousin or neighbour - women only though!

More information in the [July Issue of the EKN](#)

A members point of view

You may have seen in the EKN the advert about the Craft Holiday to the Manor Resort and thought, would I like to go? You bet I would as there are so many activities not just the craft ones. You can choose to swim in the heated pools, have a treatment and /or have a session at the spa. There is Zumba, dance classes, curling, bowls and archery on offer too. Outside activities like walking the moors with a guide and two crazy golf pitches.

Last year a great group of ladies chose a mixture of activities during the holiday. In the evening you can sit and relax in the bar area, participate in a game of bowling or make your own entertainment. The hotel serves three meals a day, buffet style, with a wide variety and all diets are catered.

Contact Federation office if you and /or a friend are interested - the dates are Monday, 31 March to Friday, 4 April with coach pick-up point of Ashford, Canterbury and Whitstable at a cost of £425.00 per person in twin share accommodation.

This extract is by Linda Shaftoe - Seasalter Cross WI from her recent post on the EKFWI facebook page.

From our Climate Ambassador

I've now received the results of the Great UK Water Blitz. Worryingly it showed that 61% of data points showed poor water quality with significant regional variation. You can read the full report here: [Great-UK-WaterBlitz-report-Sept24_WEB.pdf](#) Earthwatch will be organising some more citizen water testing next so do consider taking part.

The water we drink comes from the same groundwater sources that also flow through local rivers and streams. So the less water we waste, the more stays in the local environment.

My local water company has some useful information to help you calculate and reduce your water usage. They will send out some free devices eg bags to put in the toilet cistern to reduce the amount of water in each flush. Take a look at your supplier's website to see what they offer. Affinity are also running a leak repair service - even a small leak or dripping tap can waste a huge amount of water.

Another way of saving water is to use the Eco setting on your washing machine or dishwasher. The wash cycle is longer so the water doesn't need to be heated up so much and a longer soak means that less water is needed.

Lesley Whybrow [07920 769397](tel:07920769397) lesley.Whybrow@yahoo.com

PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

Resolution

Margate Women's Institute are working hard to be prepared for 'when' their resolution gets a mandate from the members at the AGM.

When you get the list of resolution choices in the WI life magazine this month it is your chance to vote for something which can really make a difference. Each and every vote gets added up across all the WIs and the one with the most votes gets taken to the AGM. The resolution vote is your individual chance to influence the WI. Whilst we cannot suggest how you vote, the trustees at EKFWI feel really strongly that Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers is one resolution that everyone of us can act upon individually and within our WIs without having to write to MPs, petition, or battle with the government.

Each of us can find out where to locate the nearest defibrillator is, not just at home but when we are out and about, <http://defibfinder.uk/> will tell you where the nearest one is, when it's accessible and how far it is to get there. We can easily apply for funding if we find that we do not have one nearby.

However, the main reason behind the resolution is increasing confidence in using a defibrillator. We can easily book one of the many local groups such as community lifesavers, St John's Ambulance or the British Heart Foundation to come to our meetings and show or remind us how to use it. Remember even if you are unable to get down on the floor to use it you can instruct somebody else. We can tell our families what to do. It may save our life!

This resolution will save lives, and it will cost us nothing, it is hoped that it will make a women's chance of survival higher. Let's get an East Kent resolution through, Margate are a dynamic group who can really make a difference! Let's help them do just that.

End Domestic Abuse

This month members of the PA team attended a Women's Aid webinar for the 16 days of activism to end Domestic Abuse against Women and Girls. We also attended a meeting organised by Kent Police outlining their plans to tackle Domestic Abuse including Coercive control. Women's Aid have declared this a national emergency. Did you know that a woman is three times as likely to die at the hands of her partner than she is by not wearing a seat belt? She is twice as likely to die at the hands of her partner than she is from smoke or gas inhalation. Yet road safety and fire safety have national public safety campaigns as they are considered a national safety problem. Women's Aid are trying to get Domestic Violence on a par with these. Check out their website womensaid.org.uk to see what you can do to bring about change. Look out for the advertisements on TV and on social media.

The Winners of November 2024 200+ Club draw

1st	£17.00 No 15	Terri Hancock	Seasalter Cross WI
2nd	£10.20 No 46	Jan Luckhurst	Temple Ewell WI
3rd	£6.80 No 104	Brenda Wimble	Newchurch WI

Why we need to love WI Life!

By Jane Napper. Tankerton Bay WI

Many of you will have just received the latest edition of WI Life, perhaps you really enjoy reading the articles or perhaps not.

In the past, I too have been critical of the magazine's content, particularly the advertising which seems so heavily weighted toward older people. So I invited Sarah Drew-Jones, who is the Editor, to give a zoom talk on the background of WI Life and having heard her I'd like to enlighten you just a little in defence of the magazine.



The number of hard copies printed and posted to members is important as, like most UK magazines and newspapers, it is monitored by The Audit Bureau of Circulation and the figure is published each year. That total figure is hugely important in attracting advertisers because brands want to reach as many readers as possible but in recent years the number of members receiving WI Life has declined which has reduced the chances of attracting the kinds of interesting, quality brands that many members would like to see. Every year, the very small team at WI Life (only four people), approach large advertisers in the hope of attracting those brands. But the WI is still perceived by many big organisations as a 'jam and Jerusalem' organisation and because all brands need to make sales from advertising, WI Life tends to attract businesses that sell to an older demographic.

Another challenge for the team at WI life is that they have no knowledge of the demographic of its readers. At one time this information was provided on our membership application but of late this has not been the case. This is why we have been asked to complete the Count Me In survey as these details will be very important in helping both the Organisation and WI Life to appeal to its members.

If you haven't yet taken part in the survey check the September edition of WI Life (page 37) or use the following link: <https://sprw.io/stt-lGOey>

In East Kent we have many small rural WI's whose members may feel far removed from highly populated cities and urban areas. Campaigns that the magazine informs us of seem remote to many members but for the WI to survive new members are needed. This follows a gap of several generations, when membership fell away and WI Life now has to appeal to women who have very different interests. Younger women are wanting to have their voices heard in our changing world and WI Life has to appeal to us all, every age group, all social backgrounds and cultures, those that work and those that have long retired.

Some of you might use MyWi, the on-line platform for WI members but in my experience many of you do not. If paper editions of WI Life disappear those members will have no knowledge of issues that are important to women nationally.

This is why we need to love WI Life, it is essential for the survival of the WI.

So, even if you don't particularly want your copy why not leave it in a local business; GP, dentist, salon, spa or sports club (you could add your own WI's contact details on a sticker if you're searching for members)? Give it to female friends. Cut out the recipes and recycle the rest. Use the paper for crafts or kindling!

The magazine isn't just for members: it's a promotional tool and a sneak peek into the WI movement, so sharing it in your community may help the entire organisation AND you will be helping improve the advertising many of you are so critical of.

If you would like to arrange a zoom talk from Sarah Drew-Jones email sarah@malthusmedia.co.uk she will do this free of charge and in her own time. Or to give feedback or suggestions for articles in the magazine email directly to: WILife@nfwf.org.uk.

News from around the Federation

This photograph shows the patchwork quilts that have been made by members of the **Castle Green WI** patchwork group and also 2 knitted blankets made



from donated yarn. These will be soon be travelling out to an orphanage in Ukraine so that they arrive in good time for Christmas.

96 tooth brushes and 50 tubes of tooth were donated by members at our recent November monthly meeting. We all felt that this would be a very practical way to show our support for the NFWI's 2024 campaign – 'Dental Care Matters'. They have now been passed on to our local food banks for distribution with a note saying who they are from and why we are making this donation. We do hope that they will be of value to the food banks in helping to improve the dental health of their clients who may otherwise struggle to afford these items.



At **Hythe Morning WI's** 30th birthday in November, we celebrated by enjoying a breakfast of prosecco, pastries and a delicious cake made by our VP, Tracie.



We also wore our pearls and a prize was given to the "best dressed pearly girl". The committee acted out the first ever meeting in



November 1994, which included some other big events that happened the same year.

Each member received a gift of a tote bag and pen, and a good time was had by all. Here's to another 30 years!



Members of **Thanington Without WI** were welcomed to the Hotter shoe shop in Canterbury on 22nd October by store manager Colin Garner and his staff for a VIP evening. We were greeted with a drink, which we enjoyed whilst being treated to an excellent presentation covering the history of the Hotter brand from its beginnings to the present day, after which our taste buds were tempted by a selection of sweet and savoury treats. Staff were on hand to serve those who wanted to take advantage of the generous 25% discount offered on everything in the store, and most of us left with carrier bags! All agreed it had been a most enjoyable evening and would highly recommend it to other WIs.



18 **Upchurch WI** members and friends made a visit to the Kent Police Museum in Faversham on Monday 21st October.

It was a very enjoyable visit. Although small it is packed full of interesting information about policing in Kent as well as lots of fun activities, sitting on the bike, trying on uniforms, being locked in a cell etc..

We all had a good time and afterwards we went to the Leo Lounge for some nice refreshments.

A very worthwhile thing to do on a rainy Monday afternoon.

The Museum is now closed until 10th April 2025

The Museum is free, open to the general public Thurs - Sat and available for pre arranged group visits of up to 20 on Mon - Weds.

Contact is Paul Upton museum@kent.police.uk or 01795 433028.



Ash with Westmarsh WI

Members of our WI Knit and Natter group (and family and friends) have spent many hours making a poppy display for the Ash Village War memorial for the Remembrance Day Service.





Committee members representing **St Peter's Village WI and Broadstairs WI** at the Pierremont memorial Broadstairs for the laying of wreaths at the service of Remembrance.



Kennington WI and their sub-groups have been very busy. A Flowering Cherry tree was planted to commemorate 100 years since the start of the building of the WI hall. Festive wreaths made, Rainbow Highland Cows painted, Z Fold & Easel cards made.



In November, **Woodchurch WI** learned all about silver-smithing with a talk and demonstration given by Helen Sharp. A fascinating talk!

The committee and members wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. For more information about us visit our Facebook page or website Woodchurchwi.weebly.com



Glitter and sparkle was the theme for the **Hythe Bay WI** Christmas Dinner and it was wonderful to see everyone looking so glamorous. This year our venue was The Red Lion in Hythe where we had a lovely festive menu. Lots of fun was had by our members.



Smarden WI were delighted to welcome Paul Hollywood to their November meeting as our guest speaker. His talk, entitled "The Bread of Life", covered his career from being born and brought up in the Wirral where his father was a baker.

His first TV venture was with James Martin on "Use Your Loaf". He was invited to discuss a new show which was to become "The Great British Bake Off", and the rest is history. The show had record audience figures of 23 million and successfully transferred from BBC to Channel 4. Both Mary Berry and Prue Leith received their damehoods whilst working on the show with Paul.



The competition was a small plaited loaf which Paul was asked to judge which he did with typically direct commentary! The well deserved recipient of a Hollywood Handshake was Shirley Cowles whose loaf was

judged the best for colour, texture and quality of plaiting. Paul was kind enough also to sign books – surely to be treasured and handed down the generations

Margate WI has raised over £800 by holding a pop-up dinner evening to support a local good cause.

Proceeds from the ticketed meal and raffle will benefit the Garden Gate Project, which is based near Northdown Park and assists those with mental health issues and disabilities through the power of gardening. The organisation will receive £820 as Margate WI's chosen charity of the year.

The Autumnal-inspired three-course meal was held on Saturday 9 November 2024 and was hosted by the WI's president, Hilary Askew, with assistance from WI members and Hilary's family



Hilary in the kitchen cooking up a storm

The latest fundraising efforts by the WI received a lot of support from local businesses, including the International Food Centre in Northdown Road who donated a lot of ingredients, helping to keep costs to a minimum and ensuring more money raised for a good cause.

Hilary said: 'We've been so overwhelmed by the brilliant support from the store – their staff also worked with us and advised what ingredients would work with our meal ideas. That, coupled with the donations for our raffle from other businesses, meant it was a real community effort.

'Diners also got a reminder of the great work carried out by the Garden Gate Project, as they donated butternut squashes to help us create a real seasonal feast for all.'

Margate WI would like to thank: Garden Gate Project, International Food Centre, Youngs Nursery, Simply Floral, and Image Hair Stylists.

NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

We have recently held a successful AGM, with interesting speakers on the biodiversity and drainage measures on the river Stour, as well as a number of suggestions for our Programme for 2025. However, we welcome more members joining us, or contacting the Secretary with ideas for visits, guides and speakers. We hope to prepare our programme in January for the summer season. We wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all, together with friends in the New Year.

DATES FOR CRAFT & HOME ECONOMICS GUILD IN DOVER MEETINGS & SPEAKERS FOR 2025

MEETINGS ARE EVERY 4TH WEDNESDAY IN THE MONTH AT 2PM.

2025

January 22	No Speaker At This Meeting, As Its Our Social & Bring & Buy
February 26	Alison Shopland Old Fashioned Cooking. (A Member Of Whitfield Evening)
March 26	Julie Goodburn Talking About Stroke Awareness (A Member Of Whitstable)
April 23	Dee Wickham Making Twiddle Blankets
May 28	More Craft Demonstrations (By Various Members)
June 25	Frances Smith Her Trip To Japan
July 23	Christine Duchemin Picking Up Were She Left Off
August 27	Our Summer Tea. No Speaker.
September 24	Daniel Welsh From Dover District Coucil Talking About Our Waste & Recycling
October 22	Martin Newcombe Talking On Local Ghosts & Folklore.
November 26	Annual Meeting. Plus Our Birthday. So No Speaker.
December	T.B.A.

Any Suggestions For Speakers Are Welcome

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,, 2 - 4pm. at the meeting on 9 December November members will be making wreaths and table decorations.

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