

# EAST KENT FEDERATION

## EAST KENT NEWS

APRIL 2025

### WORD FROM THE CHAIR

By the time you read this I will have completed my March challenge to 'Walk in Her Name for 100km, raising money for Ovarian Cancer research and supporting the WI campaign 'See the Signs' (which seeks to raise awareness of the subtle signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer to help ensure that more women are diagnosed earlier). We were very fortunate with the weather and enjoyed the views and birdsong when walking from St Nicholas at Wade (very good pub lunch), Bishopsbourne, Sandwich Bay, from Ash to Sandwich for a cup of tea and home on the bus and many more!

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April at Kent College, our beautiful new venue. Don't worry if you haven't got a ticket yet, there are still a few available and you can get them either on Ticketsource or by contacting the Federation Office. We had the opportunity to speak with Dr Annie Gray last week, she is lovely, and I am so looking forward to her talk.

This month also sees our Resolutions Meeting, it is open to all members so do come along and hear all about 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' from Margate WI. A gentle reminder that delegates are expected to attend this meeting. We are still in need of delegates for the NFWI AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> June so please contact the office for more information.

Now that all WIs have held their Annual Meetings new officers and committee members will be finding their feet, if you are not sure about something, need a little help or just a sympathetic ear please contact the office, there is always somebody who knows the answer!

Finally, we are hearing from some of our WIs with Lloyds Bank accounts that they are having charges made on their accounts. We have contacted NFWI about this and they will be checking with Lloyds. Please let us know if you have paid bank charges so we can inform NFWI; we will let you know when we have a response.

*Carol*

[federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk](mailto:federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk)



### 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](mailto:federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk)

### Opening Hours:

Tuesday to Thursday,

9.30am – 3.00pm

(closed for lunch from  
1.00pm to 1.30pm)

East Kent Federation  
Website

[Ticketsource](#) for bookings

### UPDATING WI RECORDS & GDPR

As we enter a new WI year it is time to think about updating WI records. It is important to make sure that the following items are done:

- All new committee members should complete a Trustee Declaration Form which must be kept until they leave the committee when it should be returned to them.
- All members should be asked to complete a Photography and Video Consent form when they join the WI, and it is a good idea to confirm their agreement annually.
- If photos are taken during a meeting or event members should be notified of this and reminded that they can opt out if they wish. No photographs should be published without members' consent.
- The WI email distribution list is the property of the WI and must be used solely for WI business; all members email addresses must be Bcc'd – blind copied - so that they cannot be seen by anybody else.

Please contact the Federation Office if there are any questions or any help needed.



## TREASURER'S CHAT

No it's not an April fool but it really is the first day of the WI subscription year. NFWI changed the start date during Covid to extend the 2020 year by three months. This appears to have been a good move as many members are not only paying on time but early allowing treasurers to transfer affiliation fees before the end of March. **THANK YOU** to WI Treasurers who have paid their affiliation fees.



It has come to light during the examination of WI accounts that some WIs are using online banking facilities without dual authorisation. All online transactions should be authorised by two members, in the same way cheques need two signatures. Dual authorisation is a recommendation of the Charity Commission, the WI requires it to ensure protection of treasurer.

This is my last missive as I will be stepping down as treasurer in a couple of weeks. I will no longer be a trustee but I look forward to continuing to support the Federation as a member. I would like to thank you for your support over the last three years and know you will welcome my successor and support her as she finds her feet.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 14th at Kent College

Elizabeth [federation.treasurer@eastkentfedwi.org.uk](mailto:federation.treasurer@eastkentfedwi.org.uk)

## TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

### EKFWI – CIO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

**There will be the usual sale of baskets, raffle and some excellent stalls to browse.**

**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.**

## The Winners of March 2025 200+ Club draw

1st	£17.00 - No 159	Sue Maylam	Faversham Gunpowder WI
2nd	£10.20 - No 144	Melanie Gibson-Barton	Newchurch WI
3rd	£6.80 - No 84	Fiona Steward	Hastingleigh with Elmsted WI

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The Lifestyle team (Performing Arts, Leisure and Sport) really enjoyed receiving the entries for this year's competition called 'Women and Leisure'.

The many entries showed a great variety of leisure interests. These photographs are the winner and runner up. At the AGM we will have the top five on display. Congratulations to all those who entered. Certificates have been sent to the top two – well done!



The winner was Beth Kendall from Graveney and District WI. Last year she sailed around the UK during the summer, although with the clouds in the background it does not look very warm! Apparently the camera (phone!) was carefully balanced, after docking for the night with the magnificent background of Ben Nevis in the background and a well deserved cup of tea in her WI mug!



Runner up was the fun image submitted by Lin Gates of Cherryhill WI. Lin and her friend Linda Jeffrey (also a Cherryhill member) are members of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) and this image was taken at the Munich Beer Festival last October.

What fun our WI members have! Thank you to everyone who submitted pictures. If you have any ideas for future photographic competitions, please let the office know.

## THE WI LOTTERY

Taking part in the WI lottery is an easy way to support the Federation, but the more members who take part the better. Use the QR code to take you straight to the EKFWI page of the WI lottery - this ensures we receive a portion of the money raised.

Several of our members have won extra draw tickets I don't think we have had any big cash winners yet but 🍷.



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

**LAST FEW TICKETS AVAILABLE**

## **LIFESTYLE TEAM**



### **SUMMER GARDEN DAY**

**WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025**

At the Canterbury Academy,  
Knight Avenue, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8QA  
Doors open 9.30am for 10.00am start

**Tickets £16**

**Non members £18**



Available from [Ticketsource](#)  
or from the Federation office

Complimentary tea and coffee on arrival and at lunchtime.  
Please bring your own mug or reusable cup if possible.

**Remember to bring your lunch**

#### **Morning speakers**

**Joy Hardinge OBE, BSc, CSci, FIFST - Food Additives**

**Donna Truhyte from THE ENCHANTED GARDEN – Pollinators for Wildlife**

**Afternoon flower demonstration by**

**Trudie Easton - Local florist, teacher and demonstrator**

**Entitled “ Nature’s Pharmacy “**

#### **Stalls and raffle**

All tickets are sold on a non-returnable, non-refundable basis unless the event is over subscribed or the event is cancelled by the Federation.



### **Service of Thanksgiving for Volunteers**

Members from East Kent Federation attended a special **Service of Thanksgiving for Volunteers** on 20th March. The Lord-Lieutenant of Kent, The Lady Colgrain, and The High Sheriff of Kent, Dr Gill Fargher, hosted the event which was held in the beautiful surroundings of Rochester Cathedral. Volunteers from across Kent attended, and speakers from Maya’s Community Support, Dartford Park Run, and SATEDA Domestic Abuse Charity spoke movingly about the power of volunteering. The Cathedral and Voluntary Choir and The Central Band of the Royal British Legion made it a

very memorable occasion.



## GROUP WALK

**A circular WALK from CHILHAM  
Meet in the village square by the castle gates.  
There is free parking in Taylor's Hill Car Park,  
Chilham, CT4 8BZ  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 10:00**



Join us for a walk from Chilham, one of the most attractive villages in Kent. Using public footpaths, we will discover the beautiful countryside and some lovely views including the Jacobean Chilham Castle and Chartham Mill

### **We will be walking 8km (5 miles)**

Paths can be rough and wet in places (not suitable for wheelchair users), so sturdy footwear and appropriate clothing for the season is necessary. We will be going over stiles, crossing pasture with livestock and there will also be some short stretches on roads.

There will be a photographic competition, so charge up your phones before leaving! The winning pictures will be published in East Kent News.

There are two pubs in Chilham village and tea rooms so anyone wanting refreshments after the walk can use these. There are no amenities on the way round so please bring your own water/thermos! There are public toilets in the car park area

Dogs welcome but please ensure they are kept on a lead at all times and please bring poo bags,

**Non-members welcome, tickets £5, non-members £7**

Closing Date: **10<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**Tickets are sold on a non-returnable/non-refundable basis and can be booked on**  
[Ticketsource](#)

**Or by contacting the Federation Office by telephone or email**

## TIP OF THE MONTH

### **FREE SPEAKER IDEA:**

Kent Police Fraud Protect, if you want the latest information about fraudulent calls, emails or texts, romance fraud, rogue traders, impersonation and investment fraud contact Sophie Day.

[KFAS@ecis.police.uk](mailto:KFAS@ecis.police.uk)

## WIST TEAM

Currently the Federation does not have many WIAs. This means that unfortunately there are not enough WI Advisers for WIs to have a designated Adviser. However, if you need an Adviser's help, please contact the office and one of us will get in touch.

Please visit us at the advisers stand at the Federation AGM, We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Jeanne Doorne Former VCO**

Jeanne died peacefully in Ashford on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Jeanne joined Castle Green WI in 1976 when subscription was £1.50. She served as President for 4 years; Vice President for 5 years and Hon Secretary for 5 years. During her time in WI we understand she was a VCO, what we now call a WI advisor. Jeanne had an extensive knowledge of the WI and could be relied upon to give excellent advice and was always willing to listen with patience to any questions about the WI.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

Have you got your ticket for the Resolution Meeting on Thursday 24th April? The meeting is from 10 -12 at Thanington Without. This hall is by Wincheap in Canterbury and very easy to access. The tickets are on Ticketsource now. It's £10 but delegates can claim the ticket cost back from the WIs they are representing.

Margate WI will be there talking about their excellent resolution, 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' telling you everything you need to take to your May meetings. Please support us and Margate WI at this exciting time.

Why not do as many other WIs are doing and book CPR and Defibrillator training. It could save someone you know.

### Update on Dental Health Matters

970 members nationwide completed the WI dental survey. These responses form the WI report being sent to Parliament.

They need your help to make sure members of Parliament read the report and take action to revolutionise how dental care is provided and accessed. The report will be officially launched at a Parliamentary event on Wednesday 23rd April, 13:00-15:00, and we want your MP to be there. It is essential they understand why the WI is committed to fighting this crisis and how they can play a role in supporting vital reform. You can make a difference by writing to your MP and urging them to read our report, attend our Parliamentary event, and stand behind our campaign.

There is a template to invite your MP to the Parliamentary Event [here](#). This is our chance to make a change.

*Angela Coleman*

Public Affairs Team

## RESOLUTIONS MEETING

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**at**

**ASHFORD ROAD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION HALL**

151 Ashford Road, Thanington Without, Canterbury  
CT1 3XR (on A28)

**Doors open at 9.30am for 10.00am start  
(until approx. 12.30pm)**

**Tea & coffee available on arrival.**

**TICKETS £10.00**

Join your Public Affairs Team to learn more about this year's resolution, submitted by Margate WI, to be debated at the NFWI Annual Meeting in June – we have speakers ready to leap into action for this meeting.

This is your chance to find out more about the selected resolution, ask any questions, etc ready for discussion at your WI in May.

### **Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers**

This meeting is open to all members. Delegates are reminded that they may claim the cost of the ticket from the WIs they represent.

Tickets available via Ticketsource or the Federation Office.

All tickets sold on a non-returnable/non-refundable basis unless the event is over-subscribed.

# THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

7<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**The UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.**

**Your Public Affairs Team invites all WIs to organise or take part in a litter pick during the Great Big Green Week.**

Keep Britain Tidy and the Women's Institute have been collaborating for years. Lots of you already do litter picks throughout the year and this is your opportunity for us to do it at the same time.

It can be big or small, you can join in with another organisation or organise it yourselves.

Bags and pickers may be available from your district or parish council, don't forget gloves for safety and a risk assessment to ensure the wellbeing of your members. Check with your local council for further requirements.

Send us lots of photos of your litter pick for East Kent News, we'd love to hear from you.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 14 April 2025	EKFWI AGM, Great Hall, Kent College, Canterbury
Thursday 24 April 2024	Resolution Meeting, Ashford Road Community Hall, Thanington Without
Tuesday 29 April 2025	Circular walk from Chilham
Wednesday 28 May 2025	Summer Garden Day
Wednesday 4 June 2024	NFWI Annual Meeting - online
7-15 June 2025	Big Green Week
Saturday 7 June 2025	Archery Taster Day, The Archbishop's School, Canterbury
Tuesday 16 September 2025	WI Day, 110th Anniversary of the WI

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

## News from around the Federation



**Tunstall Evening WI** went on an outing to The Criterion Theatre in Bluetown, Sheerness.

We had a great time going round the Theatre and exhibition.

The director Jenny gave us a guided tour and we learnt lots of new things about the Isle of Sheppy and Bluetown in particular.

From its aviation history to its WWI involvement. Why it's called Bluetown. The scorpion's and the docks and so much more.

After the visit we had a cuppa and cake and chat in the cafe. It was well worth a visit.



At **Wingham WI's** March meeting James Lang, a Kent Immediate Emergency Care Trainer demonstrated how 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' Although an important message, taken seriously, there was much laughter and fun whilst resuscitating Annie. At the end of the evening all members agreed they felt more confident about using a defibrillator if necessary.



In March **Woodchurch WI** celebrated its 98<sup>th</sup> birthday with cake and wine plus Kristina Boulden talking about her farming life and the products made from the fleece of their indigenous local Romney Marsh sheep. These sheep have been on the Marsh since the 13<sup>th</sup> century and are dual purpose, providing salt marsh lamb and creamy lustrous wool. The benefits of wool include its being natural and renewable; it is fire retardant, durable and an insulator.



The 3,000 acre mixed farm has been in Kristina's husband Paul's family for at least six generations, but in 2008 they diversified and created Romney Marsh Wools, a collection of handcrafted woven items and lanolin based toiletries. They breed Romney sheep plus Merino; the latter providing hues such as grey and brown. It takes at least six months for the fleece to be turned into their vast range of products. Members were shown different types of fleece and heard about the size of fibres being measured in microns and the process from shearing, washing, carding, spinning to finally weaving.

When **Capel-le-Ferne WI** held its recent Annual General Meeting, "long membership" certificates were given to those members who had been WI members for more than 50 years – Diane Waters, Joy Walker, Patricia Roberts and Ros Chandler – and Jean Bell who has been a member for over 60 years. Jean tells of how when she joined you had to be sponsored and go before the committee prior to becoming a member. Back in 1962 when Jean joined there were over 100 members. It was an evening out for the ladies who took delight in leaving their husbands to look after the children! She never missed a meeting. They often went on evening visits including one to the Shepherd Neame Brewery who gave them a conducted tour after working hours. This was followed by a chip



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.



## NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

Our season starts shortly with a visit to the Elham Railway Trust on 8th April - to see the work done on their craft barn, with a tour of the site and museum - with coffee and cake. In May we visit Hothfield for a guided walk on the 8th, and a visit to the Museum of Kent Life on 22nd.

Members and friends are welcome to join us - we need to know at least 1 week in advance. For full details of our activities, we welcome you at our table at the Annual Council Meeting - or contact the Federation office who will forward your message to Janet Adamson, Hon Secretary.

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

MEETINGS ARE EVERY 4<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY IN THE  
MONTH AT 2PM.

#### 2025

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 Where She Left Off
August 27	Our Summer Tea. No Speaker.
September 24	Daniel Welsh From Dover District Council 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

### 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 the federation office who will forward your message to the guild's Secretary, if you want further details.

**LACEMAKERS GUILD** - we are a small group of enthusiastic lace makers, who meet monthly at Meadow Grange Nursery, Honey Hill, Whitstable CT5 3BP.

We would love for some new members to join us. We are happy to help beginners and have various pillows, bobbins, books and threads to get you started your lacemaking way. Meetings are held on third Tuesday of the month 10 am to 1pm. For further information : contact the Federation office who will pass on a message.

**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 the federation office who will forward your message.

**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.

### 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.

