

# EAST KENT FEDERATION

## EAST KENT NEWS

MARCH 2026



### Contact Information for the Federation Office

Crown House,  
John Roberts Business  
Park,  
Peas 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



### WORD FROM OUR CO - CHAIRS

As I drove to Sussex this afternoon the snowdrops were in full bloom, this year is whizzing by as they seem to nowadays! My ambition to visit each WI has ground to a halt as I am now living in Sussex during the week - all I can say is thank goodness for Zoom meetings! I will start to visit again during the school holidays, I love nothing more than seeing how each WI is so different and yet so alike.

At the federation office we are busy finalising the details for our AGM. If you haven't got a ticket it's definitely not too late. You may not have heard of the speakers but you will be very glad that you came along as they are both incredible women with great stories. Please come and support us in our second year at Kent College, Canterbury. We are committed to providing in person meetings in East Kent and we love seeing you all there. This year we removed the need for delegates to sit apart from their friends! You can sit wherever you like.

We eagerly await the results from the Resolution Votes and are planning the Resolution Meeting on April 14th. Tickets are available for both the meetings on [ticketsource](#), the office or your secretaries.

Happy International Women's Day to you all on March 8th - this year's theme is 'Give to Gain', something that we all do. It's why we are a part of the WI.



*Angela*

Today, as I write this, the sun is shining and there is a degree of warmth in the air – thank goodness! It certainly lifts the spirits and encourages us to get out and about.

We are saddened that several of our WIs have closed, either due to dwindling numbers or because they are unable to find one or more of the officers necessary to remain open. Joining the committee and becoming an officer can be so rewarding when you make it possible for others to enjoy the advantages of being a WI member. Being an officer should not be an onerous task and roles can be shared with friends in the WI. If you are concerned or would like to know more about being an officer, please contact our Advisors who are only too happy to help keep our WIs running.

This is my final contribution to the East Kent News as I am standing down as Co-Chair and Federation Trustee at the AGM. I have enjoyed my time on the Board, it has been a privilege to serve, I look forward to my continuing membership of the WI and seeing lot of you at Federation events in the future.

*Carol*

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



### Warning of Potential Scam Messages.

Dover WI have let us know of a possible scam. Some members have received a text asking them to respond to a message about joining the WI.

Don't respond - don't forward.

## FUND RAISING FOR THE FEDERATION



### Movement for Good

It takes one minute to nominate East Kent Federation. Any money will help us to help you. Just click on this [link](#).

easyfundraising

**You spend,  
retailers donate**

Sign up to easyfundraising  
and see your favourite  
retailers donate to  
**EKFWI - East Kent Federation  
Of Wom...**  
whenever you shop with them

Sign up and get started

**Easyfundraising** is such a simple way to raise funds for the Federation. Once you've registered all you do is buy goods online or in store using the Easyfundraising App.

<https://apps.apple.com/app/id915474725>

Most retailers are registered now everyone from John Lewis to Curry's. The retailer donates a percentage to the Federation whilst the cost of the goods remains the same. Let's all do our part and help the Federation 💰



## THE WINNERS 200+ CLUB FEBRUARY DRAW

1st prize	£14.75	No 30	Christine Woolgar	Kennington WI
2nd prize	£8.85	No 146	Kathleen Terrett	Wingham WI
3rd prize	£5.90	No 124	Margot Allison	Sheldwich WI on the Green

### What is the 200 + club ?

It's a lottery with an annual ticket and a monthly draw. Each draw, which takes place before each board meeting, has three prize amounts. Anyone who is a member or works for the federation can purchase a ticket for the 200 Club. The more people that buy a ticket, the higher the prize. You can have as many entries as you like. Why not buy several? Your chances will be so much better.

The cost for 12 months is just £12. That's the same as one month of the Postcode Lottery, and the chance of winning is so much higher.

Your secretary should have a supply of the entry forms. If she hasn't, we can send it over to her. Alternatively, if you would like an application form, please contact the Federation Office, and a copy of the form will be emailed to you. It is a very simple way of supporting your federation, as all profits go towards assisting with the running of the Federation.

Since Covid, we have struggled to bring in funds through events. Times are hard for charities. Please consider buying a ticket ( or two). It will make a difference to us, and you will be in with a chance of winning!

## FEDERATION TREASURER



As I have recently taken over the role of Federation Treasurer, I'm looking for your support in getting our MCS correct.

In May I will be undertaking a review of all affiliation fees received at federation and the data stored on MCS.

Once completed the Board of Trustees and the Advisers will be assisting, and we will contact all WIs where the figures don't match. Don't worry if yours isn't entirely correct, it's easy to rectify.

Between us we will ensure our MCS is correct.

These reviews will be undertaken every quarter.

We greatly appreciate your assistance. Cheers, Chris Kerr

**EAST KENT FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES - CIO**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026, 11.00am – 4.00pm**

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

**OBSERVER TICKETS            £20**  
**DELEGATE TICKETS        free of charge**

This is a member only event and tickets are sold on a non-returnable, non-refundable basis (unless the event is oversubscribed) [Ticketsource](#)

**Transport:** There is a large car park at the venue but it would be helpful to car share where possible. The busses from Canterbury and Whitstable stop outside the school.

**Refreshments:** Tea and coffee will be on sale before the meeting and at lunch time. It is advisable that members bring a packed lunch as the venue is not close to shops or cafes/restaurants.

**OUR GUEST SPEAKERS WILL BE:**

**KEJI MOSES**



Keji is currently Lord Mayor of Canterbury, she is the founder and CEO of a charitable organisation to empower and educate those affected by pregnancy loss with the tools they need to make their voices heard. She lives in Canterbury with her husband and children and enjoys writing inspiring blogs, podcasting and spending quality time with friends and family.

Keji has a particular focus on empowering women to overcome adversity. She interviewed more than sixteen guests on her social media on topics such as grief, loss, self-esteem, impostor syndrome, mental and emotional well-being, and other more relevant topics.

Keji is passionate about self-advocacy and takes a holistic approach to providing support that considers the whole person, not just their mental health needs. She is a former civil servant who has worked for the Metropolitan Police and Department for Work and Pensions. She is an active member of the community and sits on a number of Local Committees and Boards.

**LINDSEY BARRELL, AKA MS CHERRY BOMBE**



Essex based Lindsey has been a WI member for many years and her alter ego, Ms Cherry Bombe, has been a regular speaker on the WI circuit since 2014. More recently her talk entitled 'Burlesque, Me and the WI' has been wowing audiences far and wide, both via Zoom and face to face, and the feedback has been fabulous.

Recently described by one WI member as 'the best speaker I have ever heard in all of my years as a WI member' and by another as 'an amazing lady and gifted storyteller', Lindsey leads two troupes of Burlesque dancers, who are all WI members and are aged between 40 and 82! They travel the home counties giving talks and performing and raising funds for local worthy causes.

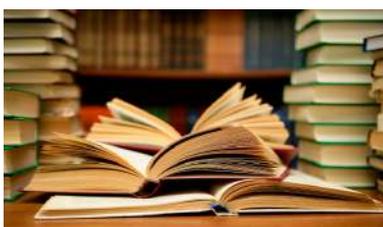
## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 2 April 2026	EKFWI AGM, Kent College, Canterbury	Page 3
Tuesday 14 April 2026	Resolution Meeting, ARCA Hall, Thanington	Page 5
Wednesday 22 April 2026	Literary Lunch, Godmersham And Crundale Village Hall	Page 4
Wednesday 27 May 2026	Garden Day, Canterbury Academy	
Wednesday 1 July 2026	Auditions Event, Dover	Page 6

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

Deadline for copy to be included in the April EKN Monday 23 March 2026.

## LIFESTYLE TEAM - PALS



After the success of our last literary lunch, we invite you to join us again.

### LITERARY LUNCH

At

#### GODMERSHAM AND CRUNDALE VILLAGE HALL

Canterbury Road, Godmersham CT4 7DR

Easy free parking and a bus stop right outside the hall

Do come and join us

**WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026**

**10:30 – 14:00**

**Tickets: £20**

to include tea and coffee on arrival and a light lunch

#### Speakers:

**Gordon Henderson** – During his working life as a store and restaurant manager, and latterly MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, Gordon wrote short stories and full-length novels, most of which were never published. However now retired, he has had several historical fiction books published

**Karen Stanley** is a former teacher and has had 14 books published. She has now set up her own publishing company working with budding authors. Karen will talk us through her journey and how we can take an idea for a book through to a published book

**This promises to be an interesting and inspiring morning of talks so don't miss it!**

There will be a second-hand book stall, and we will be happy to receive donations of books for this on the day or at the office in advance of the lunch.

Deadline for bookings is **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Place are limited so please book as early as possible on [TicketSource](#) to avoid disappointment!

For further details please contact the office: telephone: 01227 464106  
email: [assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk](mailto:assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk)

## RESOLUTIONS MEETING

**TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2026**

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 12.00 noon)**

**Tea & coffee available on arrival**

### **TICKETS £10.00**

Join your Public Affairs Team to learn more about this year's resolution to be put forward 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.

**More details will be available once the chosen resolution is announced**

#### **Will it be?**

Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health, and social inclusion,

Action on women's homelessness,

Every child needs a friend,

Love Your Vulva – Self checking is your best defence against vulval cancer or

Nearer to Nature

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 contact the Federation Office: Tel:  
01227 464106**

**Email:  
[assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk](mailto:assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk)**

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

## EKFWI AGM SALE OF BASKETS 2 APRIL 2026



Once again, we welcome donations of 'Baskets' which will be sold at £5.00, £10.00 and £15.00 each. Please mark your baskets with the price you consider appropriate.

We are hoping that each WI will donate a basket (or more if you wish to) filled with themed items of 'goodies' for gardening, cooking, craft, pampering etc. We know you will have some great ideas and it will be something lovely that people will want to buy.

Deliver your Basket on the day; it does not matter if you come a little later as we need more baskets to replace the ones already sold.

The income from the baskets will be shared with our Charity this year – the Kent Neuro Therapy Centre in Canterbury. Our donation, and any money raised by our WIs, will be used to support the specialist physio-hydrotherapy and exercise services such as mat and seated Pilates, mat and seated yoga, aqua yoga, gym etc.

## EKFWI Charity 2024 - 2026

Please note that our current charity, the Kent MS Therapy Centre, has changed its name to **Kent Neuro Therapy Centre**.

Just a reminder that all monies, cheques, and/or collection cans will be collected at this year's AGM on 2nd April 2026. You still have time to finish collecting for the Charity. So come on, one last push to raise a little more money for this very worthwhile cause. The Charity for 2026-2028 will be announced at the AGM in April.

**Cheques:** Please make cheques payable to 'Kent Neuro Therapy Centre'

Thank you

## FROM OUR CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

This year the Big Plastic Count will take place from 9th to 15th March. The aim is not to make you feel guilty about how much plastic you use but to get an idea of the scale of the UK's plastic problem and lobby the Government to do more about it.

If you want to take part you can find out more information and sign up here: <https://thebigplasticcount.com/>

I know from personal experience how difficult it is to reduce your plastic use but here are a few ideas to get you started:

Use an Eco Egg rather than washing liquid

Buy refill bottles of household cleaning products (Concentrated product that you dilute at home using an old bottle)

Use a shampoo bar

Buy loose fruit and vegetables and take your own bags to the supermarket

Buy loose ingredients (eg flour) from a refill shop - take your own container

Stop buying bottled water

And don't forget that you can recycle soft plastics (film, bags etc) at most supermarkets. Although reducing use is always better than recycling.

Lesley Whybrow  
[lesley.whybrow@yahoo.com](mailto:lesley.whybrow@yahoo.com)

## AUDITIONS EVENT FOR SPEAKERS



**Save the date**

**Wednesday 1st July 2026**

**St Mary's Church,  
Cannon Street,  
Dover CT16 1BY**

**6.30-8.30pm**

**Ticket price £5 payable on the door**

Raffle

No pre-booking required – please note that this is for members only.

*This is the way YOU choose the Speakers as recommended in the Speaker's List.*

*Use your talent spotting skills not just for your WI, but for the WIs across East Kent.*

*We look forward to seeing you.*

*Any queries, please contact the Federation Office*

01227 464106 or

[assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk](mailto:assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk)

## WIST TEAM

The WI Advisers are looking forward to meeting you at the Federation Annual General Meeting. Come and see us, we are running the Bric-a Brac (all new) stall in memory of Christine Maxwell who collected all these items. Lots of bargains to be had!

The money raised will go to Christine's memorial charity, Cancer Research.

Gill Crone  
WIST Chairman

## WI OFFICERS ANNUAL RETURN REMINDER

Please complete and return your WI Officers Annual Return promptly after your annual meeting; the form was sent to WIs before Christmas. Keeping our contact information up to date is essential.

Please will you also make the necessary amendments in MCS.

If you do not have a WI Officers Annual Return, please contact the federation office and one will be sent to you.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM



### 2026 NOT IN MY NAME COMPETITION

**Design and create a coaster depicting the theme ending violence against women**



The coaster must be an original design.  
Any appropriate shape and size accepted.  
Any suitable medium and format accepted e.g. hand-drawn, crafted or digital.  
Consideration of the environmental impact of materials used.  
Finished coaster to be submitted by post for judging.

#### Judging Criteria

- Creativity and originality
- Mastery of chosen medium and overall presentation
- Interpretation and clarity of the theme
- Visual impact
- Suitability

**Closing date**  
Monday, 9 November 2026

#### Submission of entries

By post: NFWI-Wales, Suite 5, 11 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9HA

Submissions should include the following information:-  
Name and contact details of entrant, name of WI, name of Federation

This competition is open to members across Wales, England and the Islands.

#### Competition winners

A certificate will be awarded to the winner and two runners up.  
The winner will also receive a gift card to the value of £20.

#### Campaign background

Ending violence against women has been a longstanding priority for the WI. Through our No More Violence and Not in my Name campaigns, we have been raising awareness and taking action to end the scourge of violence against women.

Since 2012, NFWI-Wales has been involved in the Not in my Name campaign which involves WI members recruiting allies from their local community, including men and boys, to help challenge inappropriate attitudes and behaviours and achieve a culture change where violence is not tolerated by society.

Annually the WI takes action during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence from 25 November (White Ribbon Day and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day).

The white ribbon is a symbol of men's opposition to violence against women. Wearing a white ribbon is a promise to 'never use, excuse or remain silent about men's violence against women'.



Find out more about the WI's campaigning on My WI:  
<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/wales/nfwi-wales/campaigns-and-projects/not-in-my-name>  
<https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/public-affairs-and-campaigns/current-campaigns/white-more-violence-against-women>

#### Further information

NFWI-Wales  
Tel: 029 2022 1712  
E-mail: [walesoffice@nfwi-wales.org.uk](mailto:walesoffice@nfwi-wales.org.uk)  
[www.thewi.org.uk/wales](http://www.thewi.org.uk/wales)

## News from around the Federation

**Tunstall Evening WI's** outing to Shepard Neame Brewery, was an informative trip and despite most of the ladies not being beer drinkers it was a good afternoon. We now know the difference between lager and real ale and how each is made. A selection of lagers and beers for tasting at the end of the tour and everyone found at least one sample they liked.

We also had a craft evening (lead by members of our craft sub group) making paper roses. With scissors and pencils brought from home, we folded and cut and glued (with sticks and guns) and gradually our flat paper squares turned into flowers. With lots of chat, then cuppa's and cake and at the end of the evening everyone went home with a rose.





**Kennington WI** have had a busy month, at our February Resolutions meeting we were entertained by our drama group “Footlights”, they are small in number but big in enthusiasm and talent.

On Friday 13th our Catering team treated us to a SOUP & ROLL lunch, they made 3 different soups, every one thoroughly enjoyed by all who came and joined us.



Arts & Crafts group busy doing decoupage and the end results.

**ORLESTONE WI** enjoyed an unusual but fun talk in February when Alan Baines took us back to the 60s and 70s and we joined in completing advertising slogans and pop songs.

The highlight of the month was a visit to Rye Bakery at Jempson’s Supermarket, Peasmarsh. There we sat at an upstairs balcony and heard a very interesting talk while watching the bakers at work. The bakery began in 1935 and now supplies Rye Bakers shops and cafes as well as wholesale trade throughout Sussex and Kent. Two teams of bakers work 22 hours a day, 6 days a week; Jempson’s doesn’t open nor do their staff work on a Sunday.



The talk is available on the 3rd Wednesday monthly for a minimum number of 5; it costs £15 which includes a free mini loaf, a hot drink and a doughnut. Highly recommended!

[www.therebakery.co.uk](http://www.therebakery.co.uk)

**Woodchurch WI** enjoyed a talk by Kristina Boulden in February. Kristina runs Romney Marsh Wools and spoke eloquently about the advantages of using British wool. Romney Sheep have been in the family for at least six generations, possibly more. They currently farm about 1,000 ewes lambing outdoors in the traditional season of March and April. But their farm is a mixed farm, growing crops: wheat, oats, barley, peas, beans, linseed and more, as well as beef cattle and the sheep.

So Kristina took us from Michaelmas (September 29th), the traditional ‘change-over’ period, to August, telling us about the jobs on the farm as the year follows its course. It was a fascinating account of a very busy farm.



For those who wish to know more the Romney Marsh Wools website is: [romneymarshwools.co.uk](http://romneymarshwools.co.uk)

**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. Send the photos separately not embedded into the text, this makes editing much quicker. Please send as a word document not PDF.**

**GARLINGE WI's** International Dining group were out in force recently and can be seen here replete following a fine Indian meal at a local restaurant.



**Stanford with Postling and Lympne WI** enjoyed hearing from Jessica and Wendy about the work of the Sage Network. They have set up community gardens in Lympne, Dover and Canterbury. They organised a workshop for us on a Valentines theme, it being February. Here are some examples of our results.



## NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

Join us as we start our season on 29th April with a guided tour of historic Sandwich, followed on 15th May with a visit to Pluckley, a village also with much history...and legend.

Our Programme for the 2026 season is now taking shape, and will shortly be emailed out to our current members. We welcome new WI members - payment of £5.00 can be paid at the first visit. Friends and family are usually welcome, at a charge of £1.50 per visit if numbers allow. We need events to be booked, at least 1 week in advance. Further details from Janet Adamson, via the Federation Office.

### SPINNERS AND KNITTERS GUILD



The Spinners and Knitters Guild meets on the first Monday of each month unless it is a Bank Holiday, in which case the meeting takes place on the second Monday, from 10.30 am until 2.30pm in Chartham Village Hall.

Our aim is to have fun spinning and/or knitting in a relaxed atmosphere. We are a self-help group where, in addition to spinning and knitting, we indulge in many associated crafts from crochet, felting, dyeing, locker-hooking, peg loom weaving, etc.

Why not pop along to any meeting and see what we are up to? You can be assured of a warm welcome and the chance to find out more. We have regular workshops in all aspects of woolly crafts.

For further information, contact: EKFWI office and they will pass on your query.

**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.

**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.

**CRAFT & HOME ECONOMICS GUILD IN DOVER.** Meetings are every 4th Wednesday in the month at 2pm Whitfield Village Hall. Manley Close, off Sandwich Rd, Whitfield. Dover.