

EAST KENT FEDERATION

EAST KENT NEWS

APRIL 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

Opening Hours:

Wednesday

and

Thursday

9.30am – 3.00pm

(closed for lunch from
1.00pm to 1.30pm)

East Kent Federation
[Website](#)

[Ticketsource](#) for
bookings



WORD FROM ONE OF OUR CO - CHAIRS

As this goes to print, the Board of Trustees, Alison and Lin, are busy getting ready for the AGM on the 2nd April. A huge amount of work goes into this; we are very excited and are looking forward to seeing lots of you there. We have great speakers and guests, and it will be a chance to meet up with other WI members and raise money for Christine Maxwell's charity - Cancer Research on the bric-a-brac stall.



This will be Carol Evans' final AGM as she is retiring as Chairman after four years. Carol was responsible for changing us to a CIO, which protects the trustees from any liability. It was a lot of work but benefits us all. She has worked tirelessly and has met every challenge with gusto - trust me, there is always a new challenge! We know you'll all join us in saying thank you to Carol and wish her lots of happiness and peace in her 'retirement'.

We have also said goodbye to Sandy Brown. Sandy was President of Herne Drive and has also been on the Board for many years. She has organised the Spring Garden Day and Craft Day for years. Sandy was a hilarious member of the Board and is a really kind and caring woman. We will miss her and wish her all the best.

We would like to acknowledge the extra work that the new Membership form has caused. We know it came out to you after many of you had already collected your subs (as we urge you to do) and it has made it tricky for you. We really do appreciate all of your efforts. If you need any assistance or advice, please call or email us as soon as possible. We are here for you and have lots of advice we can give you. In the meantime, we look forward to receiving your subscriptions by the end of March. I'd like to say thank you to all the Presidents (and others) who have contacted us for advice- it has been a pleasure talking with you all.

We know that some WI secretaries are finding it difficult to send out the EKN to all their members. We had to do this as many of you weren't receiving it, and your secretaries should have accurate membership information. We are working on this and hope to be able to return to the original system of sending it out directly. Please let us know if this is causing you issues. We don't make these decisions lightly; we are all WI members and understand how you feel. Please bear with us while we work on this.

We have lots and lots of great events this year and really want to see you all at them. We have two great speakers for the Resolution meeting on the 14th April. If you have not been to a Resolution meeting before, why not come along this year? Tickets are on ticketsource or from your treasurer. The brilliant Literary Lunch on the 22nd with two great speakers will be a fantastic day. Check out all the events that are coming up.

The NFWI virtual AGM on 4th June is fast approaching too. We NEED delegates for this. You don't have to prepare a report this year, and you can even watch it from your own home - with or without your WI friends. If you want advice, just call Alison at the office. Last year was the first time we did it this way, and it was actually very easy to do. We have a watch party booked at the Alexander Centre in Faversham too if you want to watch it with others.

Angela

coleman642@btinternet.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 2 April 2026	EKFWI AGM, Kent College, Canterbury	Page 2
Tuesday 14 April 2026	Resolution Meeting, ARCA Hall, Thanington	Page 6
Wednesday 22 April 2026	Literary Lunch, Godmersham And Crundale Village Hall	Page 4
Wednesday 27 May 2026	Garden Day, Canterbury Academy	Page 6
Wednesday 1 July 2026	Auditions Event, Dover	Page 5
Tuesday 7 July 2026	Betteshanger Mining Museum Visit	Page 3
Saturday 12 September 2026	Quiz Walk Around Sandwich	Page 3

LAST CHANCE

EAST KENT FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES - CIO

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday 2nd 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. Lord Mayor of Canterbury

LINDSEY BARRELL, AKA MS CHERRY BOMBE

REVISED OFFICE OPENING HOURS.

To help our secretaries we are closing the office to visitors and phone enquiries on Tuesdays from April. You are welcome to email absolutely anytime and Alison and Lin will answer these as soon as possible. If your enquiry needs an immediate response just mark it Urgent. This will help them enormously. Alison and Lin work incredibly hard for all of us, they are a credit to us and look forward to hearing from you on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

EKFWI Charity 2024 - 2026

Please note that our current charity, the Kent MS Therapy Centre, has changed it's 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

THE WINNERS 200+ CLUB MARCH DRAW

1st prize	£14.75	No 54	W Marshall	Saint Martins WI
2nd prize	£8.85	No 123	Hilary Clarke	Minster-in-Thanet WI
3rd prize	£5.90	No 2	Sandra Blackman	Becket WI

QUIZ WALK AROUND SANDWICH



QUIZ WALK AROUND SANDWICH

Meet at
St Clements Church Hall, Church Street, Sandwich
CT13 9EH

On
Saturday 12th September 2026 at 1.30pm



Come and explore the quaint Cinque Port Town of Sandwich with us!

Route takes 1.5 – 2 hours to complete and paths around the town can be uneven and very narrow in places so please bear this in mind when booking and not suitable for young children

Information about the quiz will be given out at the meeting point. Emails will be sent to those who book with exact start times and best places to park. At the end of the walk light refreshments will be served at the Church Hall where answers and winners are announced!

The car parking in Sandwich is limited, so please car share where at all possible.

£8 PER PERSON

Closing Date: by **20th August 2026**

For further information please contact:

Lin Gates in the Federation Office Tel: 01227 464106

Email: assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

Or: Book directly on [Ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.com):

Please note Tickets are Non-Refundable unless the event sells out.

VISIT TO BETTESHANGER MINING MUSEUM AND WALK

VISIT TO BETTESHANGER MINING MUSEUM AND WALK



Betteshanger Park, Sandwich Road, Deal, CT14 0BF

Tuesday 7th July at 10:30

Tickets - £10.00 Non-members welcome

If you have not been here before Betteshanger Park is the perfect blend of heritage, recreation, and relaxation. We will meet at 10:30 and start with a guided tour of the mining museum with an ex-miner which takes about one hour. Before we walk, you can get yourself a quick coffee in the excellent café at the venue. The walk is around a nice, easy trail exploring Betteshanger Park. It visits the pond and meanders through the woodland and open fields, taking in the lovely scenery and is just under 4 miles. For those who wish there are shorter routes that can be walked

Please note parts of this route are multi-user with hikers, runners, and mountain bikers all using the trails. Care should be taken to accommodate all who want to enjoy these paths, and appropriate footwear should be worn. Stay safe, please bring a bottle of water and sunscreen with you!

We will be walking 6.3km (3.9 miles)

Closing Date: **Thursday 4th June 2026** (book early to guarantee places on the mining museum tour).

Tickets can be purchased on [Ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.com): and are sold on a non-returnable, non-refundable basis, unless the event is oversubscribed or cancelled by the Federation.

For further information please contact Federation Office –

Email: assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk or
Tel: 01227 464106

WIST TEAM

Just a reminder for the future. If your Financial Statement finishes at the end of December, then your Annual Meeting will be held in February. If your Financial Statement finishes at the end of January then your Annual Meeting will be held in March.

Thank you to all retiring Officers for your service to the WI. We really do appreciate everything you have done.

Gill Crone
WIST Chairman

LIFESTYLE TEAM - PALS

JOAN BOUCHER CUP

Each year, the Lifestyle Team (Performing Arts, Leisure and Sports sub-committee) try to come up with an interesting and appealing title for the annual Joan Boucher Writing Cup. January this year marked the 50th anniversary of the death of Agatha Christie, and all these years on, she is still known as the Queen of Crime! To celebrate, the theme for this year was a mystery short story. We were thrilled with the response, not having had so many entries for a very long time, so thank you all for participating!

There can only be one winner, and that was a story called The Picture, submitted by Mary Adamson.

Mary writes: 'I have been with the Capel WI for eighteen years or so and during this time have enjoyed using my love of writing to contribute sketches and pieces for entertainment.

I originate from Yorkshire and in the past have written articles of travel and local interest for various magazines. With just a few days now to my ninetieth birthday, it is a thrill to have achieved this success'.

We are hoping to see Mary at the ACM where her cup and certificate will be presented.

Runner-up was Kay Langridge from Egerton WI with her story entitled Among the Bluebells.

Third place was The Crossword Puzzle written by Penny Cavill, member of Goodnestone WI

Well done to you all, we really enjoyed reading the entries, all very different!

If anyone has any suggestions for the next annual competition, then please do let the office know.

The literary lunch is on Wednesday, April 22nd, at Godmersham and Crundall village hall, and we do hope many of you will join us there with two interesting authors speaking.

See page 9 for Mary Adamson's story 'The Picture'.

LITERARY LUNCH

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 9th April 2026**

Places 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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

If you watched the drama Dirty Business and were shocked. This Citizens Science poll, which has just been published by Surfers Against Sewage, is equally shocking.

For years, the world's biggest brands have told us they're tackling plastic pollution. They've made bold promises. Claimed they're "part of the solution."

🔍 Not one of these brands **met their 2025 plastic targets.**

🔍 Many quietly **abandoned or watered them down.**

🔍 Some even **increased their plastic use.**

🔍 All while pushing **responsibility onto you**— the consumer.

🗑️ Plastic was found in **85% of all outdoor cleans.**

🗑️ **60% of plastic was single-use.**

🗑️ Just **12 brands** are responsible for over **half (52%) of all branded pollution.**

Can you guess which brands these are?

For the fifth year running, the same names dominate - including Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Cadbury, Tesco, Red Bull, Walkers, and Haribo, to name a few.

Instead of real action, they've hidden behind "recyclable" labels and stalled the very laws designed to hold them accountable. This is greenwashing at scale. And it's happening while communities, ecosystems, and our wild waters pay the price.

SAS are asking people when you spot branded plastic in places where it shouldn't be,

- Take a photo,
- Post it online, tag the brand, and use



#ReturnToOffender and #SurfersAgainstSewage

There is now a bra bank in the Federation office, and we will bring it to all events. Old bras will be recycled, and the good-quality ones will be sold at a very affordable price to women in countries where they are needed. The added bonus is that the Federation will receive a little money from it too.



Recycle and Reuse 

Please bring all your bras and those of your friends and families.

FROM OUR CLIMATE AMBASSADOR

With spring approaching I thought it would be a good idea to talk about what you can do in your garden to encourage wildlife.

There is some really good advice on designing a wildlife garden on the [RSPB website](#). You don't have to do everything it suggests - every little thing helps. It is a good idea to provide some shelter (such as a log pile) for wildlife as well as a source of water, and to plant as many native plants as you can with the aim of having flowers, seeds, and fruit for as much of the year as possible.

There's more good advice on the [RHS website](#), including the suggestion that you make your own compost and don't worry too much about having a really tidy garden. And of course, it's best to avoid synthetic pesticides. Every year, I take part in No Mow May - not the whole garden but patches of the lawn. As the Plantlife website says, "A healthy lawn with some longer grass and wildflowers helps to tackle pollution, benefits wildlife, and can even lock away carbon below the ground. There are more than 20 million gardens in the UK, so even the smallest grassy patches can add up and deliver enormous gains for nature, people, and the climate."

I'd be really interested to know how you are adapting your gardens for nature - it would be good to share some more ideas.

This will be my last contribution as Climate Ambassador, if you are interested in taking over the position please feel free to ask me about it.

Lesley Whybrow

lesley.whybrow@yahoo.com

AUDITIONS EVENT FOR SPEAKERS

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

LIFESTYLE TEAM

SUMMER GARDEN DAY on

Wednesday 27th May 2026
at

The Canterbury Academy
Knight Avenue, Canterbury, CT2 8QA
Doors open at 9.30am for 10.00am start
Non-members welcome.

Tickets – Members £18, non-members £20
SPEAKERS

**1st Speaker is author Nan Eshelby with
her talk ‘Hello Nature Lovers’**
**2nd Speaker Neil Franklin - a Trustee of
the Brogdale Collections.**

**Afternoon flower demonstration by:
Blooming Green Flowers from Maidstone**



Complimentary tea & coffee available on arrival & at
lunchtime

Please bring your own mug or reusable cup if possible
Remember to bring your lunch!

**There will be Plant and Craft stalls to browse &
buy**

Bring ‘n Buy Scarf Stall (bring a scarf you don’t want
& buy a new one!)
Raffle & Flower raffle

Closing Date: **20th May 2026.**

Tickets can be purchased on [Ticketsource](#) & are sold on a
non-returnable, non-refundable basis unless the event
is oversubscribed or cancelled by the Federation.

**For further information please contact
Federation Office**

Email: assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk or
Tel: 01227 464106

RESOLUTIONS MEETING

TUESDAY 14th 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 resolutions and ask any questions, etc.
ready for discussion at your WI in May.

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

- **Action on women’s homelessness**

We have booked speakers from The British Toilet
Association and Porchlight”.

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

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

News from around the Federation

In March, **Woodchurch WI** celebrated its 99th birthday with an *eggcellent* demonstration by Jane Napper on “Chocolate”. Focusing on Easter eggs, Jane explained how to ‘temper’ chocolate, before pouring it into moulds or making chocolate bark. She showed how to fill moulds, creating shallow shells which, when set, could be filled with Biscoff caramelised biscuit spread. Coloured cocoa butter is very useful for adding further decoration to the outside shell. Jane recommended the type of solid chocolate to use, the equipment required, before letting us know useful tips she has discovered whilst being involved with chocolate. We then had the opportunity to try the delicious finished products. Following this superb demonstration, members went on to enjoy birthday cake, wine, and nibbles.



Members of **Woodchurch WI**, and their friends and families, have knitted 50+ “Fish and Chip” jumpers to send to Rwanda. In extremely poor countries or war zones, newly born or orphaned babies often have no clothes and leave the hospital wrapped, like fish and chips, in newspaper. These jumpers are knitted in bright, dark colours as water for washing is often scarce.

This month **Kennington WI** have been busy with Fund Raising events, our Jumble Sale proved popular and was declared successful by all involved, we appreciated the many generous donations, from all our members and friends, it was hard work but enjoyable. Our committee are already busy planning our next Fund Raiser.



Following their AGM, Kennington WI Arts & Crafts group had a great afternoon making things for Easter. From bunnies, chicks and eggs, everyone made something to take home with a smile on their face on a beautiful sunny spring afternoon.



Dane Court Grammer School mentioned **St Peter's WI** on its Facebook page.

A group of our Year 12 students enjoyed leading an ‘access to technology’ outreach workshop for St Peter's WI (Women's Institute) group last week.

The students gave presentations on how to navigate online shopping, download apps and avoid phishing scams



before offering direct advice and support for WI members. The workshop was part of the students' IB CAS (creativity, activity, service) programme which encourages students to make a contribution in their local community through civic engagement and service.

Angela Norman, a former Dane Court alumna and member of the WI said: ‘On behalf of our president Rita and all our members we'd like to say a huge “thank you” for an awesome morning. Our members were buzzing after the help and chats given by your students’.

Our students are looking forward to continuing to work with WI and other community groups in the future.

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.

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.

JOAN BOUCHER CUP

WINNER

The Picture by Mary Adamson Capel WI

District Nurse Lorna was enjoying her visit today. She loved being with Annie in her cottage on the Yorkshire Moors. Eighty-nine now and in poor health Lorna was a regular visitor, but she was concerned as Annie wasn't her usual bright self. She still had her sweet smile and was ready to chat, her faithful Jack Russell Terrier Bobby lying at the bottom of her bed.

"I am going to ask Dr Anderson to call, Annie" Lorna said. "I think you might have to go into the Cottage Hospital for a little while". Annie looked alarmed. "Oh dear, but what will happen to Bobby?" "He can come to me", Lorna smiled. I'll look after him. She looked round the tidy bedroom with its many paintings of local scenes. Annie had been a prolific artist at one time. Well known for her portrayal of the wild moors and the far-reaching views of the Yorkshire countryside.

Lorna walked over to one of the pictures. "I think this is my favourite" she said. "It's fascinating" the way you've chosen to leave the long road empty as if waiting for someone to come along at any moment. It makes me wonder where the road goes to." "Perhaps paradise" said Annie softly. After making Annie comfortable, Lorna took her leave with a feeling of sadness. She couldn't see Annie coming back here once she was taken into hospital. Annie spoke "Lass, if owt happens to me, I want you to have that picture, I can see how much you like it." Lorna felt overwhelmed by the gesture and impulsively gave Annie a warm hug. "Hopefully, it will stay in place for a long time yet" she left.

Next day, a call from Dr Anderson brought the news. He had visited Annie this morning, but it was too late. She had slipped away peacefully during the night. Lorna wasn't too surprised at this, nevertheless, felt sadness at the news. "What's happened to Bobby, her dog?" she asked. Dr Anderson sounded surprised. "Dog? there wasn't any sign of a dog, I didn't know she had one" "Oh dear" thought Lorna "Bobby has obviously slipped out and wandered off, and I had said I'd look after him". Guilt persisted for days when it was pretty obvious Bobby wasn't going to return.

Some weeks later a Solicitors letter arrived on Lorna's doormat. It was to tell her that she had indeed been left Annie's picture. If she would call at the office sometime, she could collect it.

And here it was wrapped in brown paper to be placed in position on the wall in her cosy lounge. The nail was already there. Lorna could hardly wait to see how it looked. She stepped back for a better look and let her eyes take in the familiar scene. She stared in puzzled astonishment. Something was different. It was the road, that long road stretching away into the distance but, it wasn't empty! There were two tiny figures wending their way up to the horizon. A woman and a dog. Where had they come from? They looked familiar. It wasn't? But it was. The more Lorna stared the more she became convinced it was! It was Bobby and Annie! With disbelief, she peered more closely and then felt a warm glow as she finally accepted the whole experience. Not disturbed by the mystery, Annie and Bobby were there, heading together towards Paradise. Exactly as Annie wanted it to be.