

EAST KENT FEDERATION

EAST KENT NEWS

JULY/AUGUST 2026



Contact Information for the Federation Office

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

Tel: 01227 464106
Email:
federation.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

Opening Hours:

Tuesday to

Thursday

9.30am – 3.30pm

(closed for lunch from
1.00pm to 1.30pm)

East Kent Federation
Website

[Ticketsource](#) for
bookings



NEWS FROM OUR CHAIRS



Angela Coleman
Chair



Sharon Goff
Chair

Welcome to the July/August edition of the EKN.

From this month the magazine will always be available on our Facebook group. The Group is our members only space where all your posts, all our events, and all posts from National including information relevant to our Resolution work are shared.

It is an instant way of staying in touch.

If you are not a member why not?

If you are please let all your friends at WI know that we are here too?

We hope that you think our new posters are more lively and are easier to read, with our new Events team starting in September there will be some exciting changes coming.

The Board of Trustees are thrilled to announce the appointment of Joan Lawrence, Willesborough WI as our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion lead and advisor to the Board.

If you have any skills that we don't know about and would love to share them with us please contact us. Your Federation needs YOU!

Angela and Sharon

federation.chairman@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

THE WINNERS 200+ CLUB JUNE DRAW

1st Prize	£16.50	No. 82	Margaret Smith	Barham w Kingston WI
2nd Prize	£9.90	No. 89	Mrs Barbara Maguire	Milstead w Frinsted WI
3rd Prize	£6.60	No. 104	Mrs B Wimble	Newchurch WI

Are you in the 200 Club? For just £12 a year, your number is entered into 12 draws! The more members, the higher the prize; the more tickets you have, the greater your chances! The forms are available now from your secretary or Lin at the Federation Office, 01227 464106.

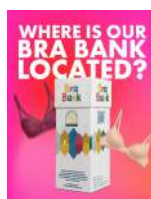
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 1 July 2026	Auditions Event, Dover	Page 3
Tuesday 7 July 2026	Betteshanger Mining Museum Visit	Page 5
Friday 10 July 2026	Anyone for Croquet?	Page 4
Thursday 23 July 2026	WI officer Zoom meeting	Page 2
Tuesday 25 August 2026	Deadline for copy September issue EKN	
Thursday 3 September 2026	President and Secretary training	Page 3
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Monday 14 September 2026	President and Secretary training	Page 3
Saturday 12 September 2026	Quiz Walk Around Sandwich	Page 5
Wednesday 16 September 2026	WI Day	Page 5
Monday 21 September 2026	Top Team Quiz, Canterbury Academy 6.30 for 7pm start	Page 4
Thursday 24 September 2026	President and Secretary training	Page 3
Saturday 3 October 2026	Audition Event	Page 3
Saturday 17 October 2026	Visit to KSSAA	Page 5
Friday 6 November 2026	Craft Day	Page 3
Monday 30 November 2026	KSSAA Carol Service	Page 5
Wednesday 7 April 2027	EKFWI AGM	

OFFICER ZOOM DROP IN SESSIONS

We have had two WI officer drop-in zooms. The next one will take place on Thursday, 23rd July at 14.00. If you have anything you want to ask, please let us know - if you just fancy a chat, that's great too. Please let Alison know if you wish to attend, and she will send you the link.

BRA COLLECTION



Please keep the bras coming into the office. ♻️♻️♻️

We have three bra boxes in the office. If you want to take/borrow one, please let Alison know.

— ★ ★ ★ —

AUDITION EVENT

★ **FOR SPEAKERS** ★



— AT —

**Church House,
Kent Gardens,
Birchington,
CT7 9RS**

 **Saturday 3rd October**

 **10.00 am – 12.30 pm**

Ticket price **£6** payable on the door



Raffle



Tea and coffee
will be available
on arrival



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

WIST TEAM

Great news. You will be pleased to hear that we now have the dates and venues for the **Presidents and Secretaries training**.

- ❖ **3rd September 2026 – 6.30pm – 8.30pm**,
Bobbing Village Hall ME9 8PL
- ❖ **8th September 2026 – 2pm – 4pm**
SWAN Centre, South Willesborough
- ❖ **14th September 2026 – 9.30 am – 11.30 am**
Whitfield Village Hall CT16 3LY
- ❖ **24th September 2026 – 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm**
Chestfield WI Hall CT5 3LD

This training is not confined to those members holding these positions at present, although of course, they would be most welcome. Have you ever thought you might be interested but were not sure what is involved? Come and find out! Also, think about succession planning. Who could be ready to take over when the current officers step down?

Please contact the Federation Office to book a place on the training. The cost will be £14.00 per WI for up to four members.

Come and join us for informative sessions that will be fun.

Gill Crone
WIST Chairman

 East Kent Federation

Craft Day



 **Friday
6th November**

 **10am – 3pm**

 **Chartham
Village Hall
Station Road
Canterbury
CT4 7HZ**

£30 including all the kit for two crafts

Tickets available now via the EKFWI office contact
assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk
01227464106

 *Let's Celebrate*
WI DAY!
together


Wednesday
16th
September


Woodchurch
Memorial Hall,
Front Road,
TN26 3PB


12pm
to
3pm


£22



A fun and fascinating talk with Flo McEwan
.....
about Mansell Towers



Sharing platter lunch with tea and coffee



Entertainment and songs by Ms Vintage

Join us for a fun afternoon of

[Ticketsource](#)

LIFESTYLE TEAM - PERFORMING ARTS, LEISURE AND SPORTS

ANYONE FOR CROQUET?



Friday 10th July 2026 at 10.30am to 3.00pm
4 Town Lane, Chartham Hatch, Nr Canterbury
CT4 7NN

Come to the croquet lawn at Chartham Hatch to learn or perfect your mallet skills!

Mallets and balls will be provided. There will be players on hand to explain the game and help you.

Ticket includes tuition, coffee, tea, cake, biscuits and fun! Please bring a packed lunch.

£15 PER PERSON

This is always a very popular event with limited places, please book early to secure your place and avoid disappointment!

In case of inclement weather, the croquet lawn has also been booked for Monday 13th as a back up plan!

Limited parking available on the drive, however there is also parking in village hall car park which is just the other side of the road in Bigbury Road, CT4 7NH.

Tickets available on [Ticketsource](#)

For further information please contact the office

Tel: 01227 464106

Email: assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUNKEN GARDENS WESTGATE ECO EVENT

Sunken Gardens Westgate Eco Event Sunday 20th September

If you've not already been, do join us at this fabulous event. It really is a great day out. More details on their [website](#).

TOP TEAM QUIZ

Calling all members who love quizzes!

We have booked a larger venue this year with easy parking
This is an evening event, alternating time each year, to hopefully suit all!

Can your WI win the coveted TTQ winners shield? Institutes are invited to enter teams of up to six members per table.

Monday 21st September
2026

The Canterbury Academy, Knight Avenue,

Canterbury, Kent CT2 8QA

6.30pm for prompt start at 7pm

Tea/Coffee and biscuits at half time

£9 PER PERSON

Book via [Ticketsource](#) or the office

Deadline for bookings **TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2026**

There is a maximum capacity of 120 in the hall, so once this number is reached bookings will not longer be taken. Please do not leave it too late as last year several teams were disappointed not to get a place.

Contact the Federation Office:

assistant.secretary@eastkentfedwi.org.uk Tel:

01227 464106 for further information

PRIDE PARADE CANTERBURY

On a very wet, very cold day in June, three hardy WI members joined the hundreds of local organisations marching through Canterbury for Pride 26. Huge thanks to Wendy Bennett and Joan Lawrence. It was such a positive, inspiring day. We were very proud to be there.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

At the NFWI Annual Meeting last month, the two resolutions: Action on Women's Homelessness and Accessible Public Toilets were both passed 92% and 95% respectively.

The Accessible Public Toilet resolution is something that we can work on in our local areas using our local knowledge. We are awaiting advice from NFWI. However, if you have any ideas for your local area, Raymond Martin from the British Toilet Association is a great resource and is very happy to help.

<http://www.btalooos.co.uk>

Porchlight Charity are currently discussing how we can work together with them. We want to come up with something that will make a difference.

The most important thing we can do initially is find out more about this awful situation. Homeless figures are calculated by counting rough sleepers. As most women don't sleep on the streets, their numbers are not included in figures, and the true extent of the problem is not known. Women are homeless for many reasons, often including domestic violence, and there are often children involved.

Porchlight has a dedicated women's worker. This is unusual; she is a great resource for us.

Foodbank donations are given to homeless charities and shelters, so this is an easy way to support the charity, but of course, most women are not known to them.

At this point, I think the most important thing we can do is learn about the current situation and educate ourselves.

<https://www.porchlight.org.uk>

<https://www.crisis.org.uk>

As soon as Mim gets back to me, I will update you on FB and in next month's EKN.

If you want to speak to them in the meantime, here are the details:

01227 760078

headoffice@porchlight.org.uk

Don't forget that you can continue to work on any resolutions that gained a mandate from any AM. If your WI are passionate about a previous resolution, you can carry on the campaign. Let us know what you are doing.

If you are interested in public affairs, please give me a call. I would love to talk to you about the PA team and how you can help us. We need you!

VISIT TO BETTESHANGER MINING MUSEUM AND WALK

Booking closed



BETTESHANGER MINING MUSEUM AND WALK

Betteshanger Park, Sandwich Road, Deal, CT14 0BF

Tuesday 7th July at 10:30

**Tickets - £10.00 Non-members welcome
Pre booked tickets only.**

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

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! 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.co.uk):

NFWI ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

This year's AM was held on Zoom again this year . Next year we are attending Hull!

The NFWI Chair, Jeryl Stone, opened the meeting and performed all the usual formalities after a rousing Jerusalem .

Her Chair address for this year began with the enormous challenge faced by the WI following the Supreme Court decision last year, but she said whilst our membership must be defined by the law, we remain committed to the belief that trans women are women. NFWI are entitled to hold this view as our organisational belief. There are several virtual and in-person Sisterhood Groups already working. Jeryl said that we are independent thinkers who are informed with differing experiences. She said the WI must lead the way in holding differing views respectfully. We can hold differing views and still be friends.

Jeryl acknowledged the difficulties in finding officers for WIs but said we still managed to open over 50 WIs last year, and virtual WIs are growing in popularity.

The VIA community is growing with over 5,000 online bookings. Jeryl said that the collective power of our Public Affairs team is incredible. The latest resolution, Bystanders can be Lifesavers , has been so successful. Thousands and thousands more people have been trained in CPR. The event on Margate Sands was to highlight the gender disparity in survival rates. Well done Margate WI 🍷👏

Our resolution work on microplastics is having great results as manufacturers are placing microplastic filters into washing machines to prevent microplastics entering the water system.

The VAWG campaign continues to recruit male Ambassadors and reach new audiences - even the Archers.

She said we are the byword for hard work, resilience, and hope - the world would be worse without the work of the WI.

Tracy Baker, NFWI treasurer, presented the accounts.

This year's two resolutions were discussed and the vote took place - 95% for Accessible Toilets and 92% for Women's Homelessness. There is more detail in the report given to your delegate and there is lots on MyWI. EKFWI are talking to Porchlight to see how we can help.

There followed three fabulous speakers, Mary Lewis Chair of Jane Goodall Institute, Professor Michele Dougherty and Anne Boden - these were three exceptional women, and it was a privilege to listen to them.

The meeting ended with two video messages one from Hon Julia Gillard AC - former Prime Minister of Australia and Dame Jacinda Arden of New Zealand. Both sadly said that equal rights are sliding backwards with misogyny increasing. They said we need women in positions of power and urged us to have courage.

Jeryl Stone gave her closing remarks and we all sang the National Anthem.

The watch party at Faversham was a great event, we were even able to help each other with the technology! It was a shame that just 20 of us attended (with another party at Hythe) - these days are an incredible opportunity to hear from some amazing people with friends. I have been to almost every AM since I joined the WI - it's where I learnt what the WI community is all about. It is an incomparable experience.

See you in Hull next year!



Sam Secomb
Chartered Financial Planner and
Managing Director

If you are worried about Inheritance Tax implications, why not give Sam a call on 01227 931531 or email her on sam@women's-wealth.co.uk . Sam manages the Federation's investments at Pentins Financial Planners and is passionate about women's finance. She will happily attend your meeting and give you one of her brilliant talks.



As part of our support this year for the Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance we were invited to visit their base at Rochester where we gained a fascinating insight into the work of this remarkable charity. The highlight of our visit was seeing one of the charity's distinctive yellow helicopters at close quarters and learning about the sophisticated equipment carried on board. We were even fortunate enough to watch the aircraft take to the skies and the familiar sound of those rotor blades took on a new significance, reminding us that, one day, that aircraft could be flying to help a friend, a loved one, or even ourselves.

To visit their Redhill base on 17th October please contact Alison in the EK Federation office.

DID YOU KNOW:

KSS helicopters are effectively flying emergency rooms, equipped with specialist lifesaving medical equipment and the medical team can perform advanced procedures at the scene including blood transfusions, emergency anaesthesia, surgical interventions and even open heart surgery.

Each mission is crewed by two pilots, a doctor and a paramedic and patients across the region can be reached in as little as 20 minutes, bringing hospital-level care directly to those who need it.

This charity responds to more than 3,000 emergency incidents every year across Kent, Surrey and Sussex. The service operates every day, of every night of the year, with the helicopter and rapid response vehicles attending to critical incidents ranging from road traffic collisions and cardiac arrests to serious falls, sporting injuries and medical emergencies.

As technical advances in the design of cars have made them 'safer' injuries to cyclists, pedestrians and motorcyclists have increased, along with injuries caused by knife crime. But, the charity is beginning to work with schools and community groups such as East Kent WIs to educate on their work in prevention.



[carols-at-candlelight](#)



Heli Hike is back in Kent for 2026 - packed with excitement!

[heli-hike-in-kent](#)

News from around the Federation



Woodchurch WI was delighted to have a very fulsome audience at its Open Meeting for Joe Mendell's talk on "The Magical Mystery of Harry Houdini". Joe's talk took us through Houdini's early years as a Hungarian immigrant growing up, firstly in Wisconsin, then New York, his first involvement as a magician before becoming involved in escapology. We went on to hear of Harry's thrilling escapes from what seemed impossible situations, to his rise to stardom, his credo of wanting always to be the best at his trade, and interest in spiritualism.



Castle Green WI had a marvellous time at the Big Green Fair in Sandgate on the first Sunday in June. Treasurer Wendy Richley (pictured with President Christine Farquhar) organised and staffed our stall with environmental themes, making good use of the NFWI resources and attracting lots of attention. It was also our opportunity to raise funds for Rising Sun Kent, supporting victims of domestic violence. Members made jam, cakes and biscuits, plus lavender hearts and seedling plants. Lots of interest in the WI and £205 raised for Rising Sun Kent.



Ladies from **Becket WI** took a trip to the Walpole Hotel to view a napkin which has been framed and hung in their hotel. The napkin depicts various Canterbury landmarks and of course Thomas Becket.

The napkin was created by two of Becket WI's members, Anne Fido and Pam Thomas, who did an absolutely amazing job of creating the masterpiece! Following the viewing, the ladies indulged in a lovely cream tea before heading home again on the bus!



Bethersden WI were thoroughly entertained by Jane Napper from Whitstable, engaging us in the fine art of chocolate tempering. We were fascinated into silence as we watched the glossy liquid chocolate pour into moulds to create stunning chocolates. Enhanced with coloured cocoa butter and salted caramel filling, the chocolates were a big hit with members. Other creative techniques, tips, and ideas were also demonstrated, and we would definitely recommend Jane to your meeting.

Hythe Bay WI had the privilege of participating in the Hythe Armed Forces Day at Oaklands Park, Hythe on 20th June. Our lovely group joined together in supporting either on the stall or messaging. We had a name the Silly Seagull competition that went down well with the crowds - the name chosen being Sandy. We made other fun items to sell, raising funds and promoting our group to the local community. We pride ourselves on being a fun, vibrant, warm, and welcoming WI and ended our day dancing in the park.



We have recently been approached to help the RBL with their Project 35, which will involve helping maintain and make wreaths for local headstones of servicemen and women during Remembrance time.

At our recent monthly meeting **Kennington WI** were entertained by Jackie Simmonds, with very amusing and entertaining stories of her career as a Tiller Girl; she finished with teaching some of our members a short routine. Kennington?



Our arts and crafts group were busy doing block printing and fabric painting a variety of items, including tote bags and pillowcases.

Great Chart and Godinton WI had stall at the Godinton Primary School Summer Fayre, promoting the WI and the various talents of our members.



Whilst out litter picking this morning, **Willesborough WI** members, noticed that the trees we planted last year in Willesborough Recreation Ground are bearing fruit. Such a delight to see.



Our June meeting this year, **Minster in Sheppey WI** was treated to a talk by the Sheppey town crier. He told us about how it was all started and how he became the town crier. He was very interesting.

NEWS FROM OUR GUILDS

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

We have two very different visits arranged for July, following our enjoyable garden visit in June.

On Wednesday 8th July we gather at Samphire Hoe for a guided tour by one of the Rangers, where we will see a variety of plants, including orchids, a number of birds and mammals as well as learning about the inception of the site.

On Tuesday 28th July we visit the Elvington Heritage Centre covering local village life in the local East Kent Colliery area. Members, family and friends are welcome to join us and a full programme can be obtained from the Hon Secretary, via the Federation Office.

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.



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.