



WEST KENT WI NEWS

December 2023

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



**Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for the
New Year 2024**

From All at West Kent Federation of WIs

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



This December is a quiet one for the Federation as we have no events planned this year. This gives the office staff time to prepare for next year's calendar and allows the Trustees more opportunities to attend Carol services and Christmas lunches across the Federation.

My own WI doesn't have a meeting in December, but we still come together for a Christmas lunch and a pantomime, put on by the committee! For this I must thank the PALS committee for putting on a Pantomime workshop a few years ago- we are still using the scripts from there although some committee members may wish we weren't!

Many families have traditions at Christmas – for some it's going to the Pantomime, having a Christmas Day walk or watching a favourite film. In our family we go to St Nicholas Church Tableau in Chislehurst. For me it's the start of Christmas, we meet up with friends, sing carols and watch the Christmas story unfold before us. A small moment of calm after all the Festive preparations.

On behalf of the Trustees and the staff at West Kent Federation I would like to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and I would like to leave you with this quote from one of my favourite books-

'Christmas is a togethery sort of holiday. That's my favourite kind.'

A. A. Milne, *Winnie the Pooh*

Amanda



Treasurer's Corner



At the time of writing this article, the Federation year end has been completed and the audit carried out by our accountants. I am now busy preparing next years budget, the same as the WI Treasurers will do at the start of their next financial WI year starting in April. I am using the MCS database to estimate next year's income and the shortfall required to raise additional funding.

It is imperative that the MCS database is kept up to date by the WIs within the Federation for us to make any assumptions. The MCS database is also used by National Federation WI to do their national budget. They also use the database to send out their WI Life magazine to members.

October was MCS month and many of you would have updated the database, if not we would be grateful if that could be carried out at the earliest opportunity. The WI Treasurer will have details of current members should the MCS representative be independent of the Treasurer. Both Keeley or Miz in the Federation office, are able to assist anyone that has difficulty accessing the database.

Budgets are the best estimates of income and expenditure and thankfully the last year was free of the anomalies of the recent past pandemic, which made budgeting extremely difficult. Hopefully for your WIs this will also be the case when the time comes. It is not my favourite task but it is essential to plan for the coming year.

Have a very happy Christmas!

Rita King



A reminder that the WI Advisers have arranged a **Zoom Meet Up** On Thursday 7 December at 7pm. If you have any concerns or queries with regard to WI issues this is the time when our WI Advisers can assist you. We are also aware that Officers and Committee members will be stepping down at their next Annual Meetings and often find it difficult to get members to come forward to take on those positions. We would suggest that January is the time when you should be looking at your succession plans for the future of your WI. This is an ideal opportunity for you to discuss how we can assist you so that your WI can continue in 2024. Please contact Bev Wild to reserve your place by emailing wildy3@icloud.com or leave a message on 0208 289 3533.

60 SECONDS WITH:-

Andrew Shopland

Bookkeeper



WI and WI credentials: I have just started working for the WI since the beginning of October with a few weeks handover with the previous bookkeeper

Hobbies/Interests: I love the outdoors and belong to an all year round outdoor/indoor tennis club; enjoy walking and watching rugby.

Last book read: Computerised Accounting (Sage) – refresher for this role!

Favourite film: The Jason Bourne series

Music choices: Jules Holland rhythm and blues band – and he is local to Kent.

Most memorable holiday: A week in the French Alps in the summer a few years ago; very high up, great visibility all week and spectacular walks.

What do you love about the WI: Early days – but very friendly working atmosphere in the office and with the Trustees

Marmite: No thanks!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2023

DECEMBER

Thur 7 Meet the Advisers Zoom

2024

MARCH

Sat 23 Introduction to Quilling Orpington

Mon 25 WKFWI AGM Tunbridge Wells

SEPTEMBER

Mon 16 WI DAY– Arrange your own promotion

Federation Notice Board

List of Speakers

Please note that **Green Street Blues Chorus** have moved. Their new address is 16 Watercroft Road, Halstead, Sevenoaks TN14 7DP. Please contact Caroline Harrison, Bookings Secretary on Tel No: 07887 823848. All other details remain the same.

*** PLEASE NOTE THE OFFICE
WILL CLOSE ON FRIDAY 22
DECEMBER AND
RE-OPEN ON TUESDAY 2
JANUARY 2024 ***



Display cabinet in Ethel Hunt Lodge Meeting Room

The current contents of the display cabinet at Ethel Hunt Lodge will shortly be returned to **Walderslade WI** who have been proudly showing off some of their craft handiwork over the last few months. The Board of Trustees and the Art and Craft sub-committee are now seeking another WI to submit some craft items made by their Members for wider enjoyment by the WK Federation. Please contact Sue Boner (Art and Craft sub-committee) via sh.bon@hotmail.co.uk to discuss submitting your wonderful creations.

Ladies Representing **SOUTH PARK WI** in the Remembrance parade in Maidstone.

Amanda Bird



As Poppy Appeal Organiser our WI President, Chris Gentry, again organised the annual poppy collection around Snodland. With the involvement of many members of **HAM HILL AND SNODLAND WI**, 55 poppy trays and collection tins were distributed and later collected, to local schools, clubs and businesses around the Town. A 'poppy table' with poppies and sundries was also manned for a week in the local Co-op. The 'Big Count Day', both hectic and great fun, involving about 15 WI members who counted and bagged approximately £5,000 in cash donations with more to be added from the large amount donated by card. A fine total of money to support the work of the British Legion. A splendid effort from members and general public alike.



Ann and Linda

Helen Orme

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE ASSEMBLY HALL, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Monday 25 March 2024

11.00am to 4.00pm (doors open at 10.00am)

SPEAKERS

Dr Annie Gray

Dr Annie Gray is one of Britain's leading food historians, specialising in the history of food and dining from c.1600 to the present day. She is an author, broadcaster and consultant.

She has published numerous books, including: *Call the Midwife – The Official Cookbook*, *The Greedy Queen*, *The Official Downton Abbey Cookbook* and *Victory in the Kitchen – The Life of Churchill's Cook*. Annie contributes to many publications such as *Delicious Magazine*, *The Telegraph*, *The Guardian* online and *BBC Good Food*.

She has been the resident food historian on BBC Radio 4's culinary panel show, *The Kitchen Cabinet*, since its inception in 2012 and published the show's companion book. Annie has also been a consultant and presenter on many BBC Two shows such as *Victorian Bakers* (BBC Two) and has appeared and consulted on *A Merry Tudor Christmas with Lucy Worsley* (BBC Two) and *Victoria and Albert: The Royal Wedding* (BBC Two), as well as appearing on *James Martin's Saturday Morning* (BBC One), *James Martin: Home Comforts* (BBC One) and *The Great British Bake Off* (BBC) among others.

Lindsey Barrell (aka Ms Cherry Bombe)

'Burlesque, Me and the WI!'

WI President Lindsey's fabulously funny and heart-warming talk covers how she first discovered burlesque, closely followed by the WI, and then brought the two worlds together.

From empty nest to huge success, and via dance classes and craft sessions, Lindsey will take you on a journey that a lot of you will be able to relate to.

Recently described as 'The best speaker I have ever heard in 38 years of being in the WI', this is a humorous talk that illustrates how even the most diverse of topics can epitomise the Fun, Friendship and Education ethos of the Women's Institute.

ENTERTAINMENT

Women in Harmony are a mainly a Cappella choir and have just celebrated 25 years of singing together. They have performed at the Tram Shed, in Tetbury, the Menin Gate and also won the first Hospice in the Weald choir of the year award. They are looking forward to performing for the West Kent Federation AGM and are putting together an uplifting programme.

DELEGATES TICKETS ARE FREE however you will need to complete and return the Ticket Application form and provide a name. The Delegate WI will be printed on the front of your ticket, **but Delegates are free to sit anywhere in the hall.**

NON-VOTING MEMBERS TICKETS including Group Co-ordinators and Federation Sub-Committee Members – Admission will be by ticket only at a cost of **£15.00 per ticket** and WI Reps should apply to the Federation Office for these by **Thursday 29 February**.

However, we are offering an 'Early Bird' booking price of **£13.50 per ticket** if received in the office by **Wednesday 31 January**. There may be a second release after the closing date. **There is no restriction on ticket numbers.**

**ADMISSION TO THE MEETING WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED ON PRODUCTION OF A TICKET
TICKETS ARE SOLD ON A NON-RETURNABLE, NON-REFUNDABLE BASIS**

NFWI ASSOCIATES are entitled to apply for one ticket at a cost of either **£13.50 or £15.00**. If you would like to attend, please contact the Federation Office.

COLLECTION

We will be collecting for St Mark's Community Larder in Tunbridge Wells and would be grateful for any non perishable donations. If your WI would like to make up **one** bag of items – a strong bag for life could be used, maximum size 18 x 15 x 8 inches. This is a voluntary collection and WIs can participate if they wish.

CLOSING DATES

Wednesday 31 January 2024

Wednesday 31 January 2024

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Thursday 29 February 2024

Thursday 29 February 2024

'Early Bird' closing date for ticket applications

RHS Wisley Draw applications

Bursary applications

First release closing date for ticket applications

Receipt of stationery orders in the office orders to be collected at the AGM

Full details are available via your WI Secretary.

ART AND CRAFT



Paula Bates 01892 327863

artcraft@wkwfi.org.uk

Introduction to Quilling

Quilling Workshop with Stephanie Smart: Come and learn the art of paper quilling in this introductory class, following on from the fascinating talk that Stephanie gave at the Art & Craft Annual Days. You will be taught how to produce a range of shapes which can then be applied to make this beautiful star, as seen on the train of the Symphony of Stars Regency design gown from the House of Embroidered Paper. No previous experience needed. This workshop is also open to those who have previously attended a beginners workshop and would like to do more. All tools and materials supplied. Agile fingers required



SATURDAY 23 MARCH ST NICHOLAS CHURCH HALL, ORPINGTON, BR6 9QB

10:30 am to 3pm doors open at 10:00am Tickets £ 25.00. and a kit charge of £4 cash on the day for materials. WI MEMBERS ONLY

Please bring a packed lunch and a mug for hot drinks.

Apply to: tickets@wkwfi.org.uk

with your WI, Contact Name, Telephone number and Number of Tickets Required

Tickets will be emailed after the closing date Alternatively, please complete the form below and send to:- Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Maidstone Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells TN2 4AG Postal tickets will be charged an extra £1 for postage

WI Name

Email Tel

Address & Post code.....

.....

Number of Tickets required..... Closing Date: Friday 2 February.

Your WI will be invoiced on the monthly account for the number of tickets ordered

RHS Wisley Draw

As a Federation we are Associate Members of the RHS which entitles us to 50 tickets for a visit to RHS Wisley.

If your WI would like to enter into the draw for these tickets, which will be held at the AGM on Monday 25 March 2024, please complete the entry form.

Remember, this is for a ONE group visit of up to 50 people and you are welcome to include members from other WIs to use all the tickets. The tickets will show the 'shelf life of the offer' usually the current year and you will have to arrange your own transport. This would be deemed an educational item and your WI could pay transport costs.

Applications can be submitted either by using this form or by letter or email.

Please make sure that all the information requested on the application box is included: WI, Contact Name, Address and Postcode.

WEST KENT FEDERATION OF WIs

WISLEY TICKETS

Please submit only one WI application – thank you

WI

would like to be included in the annual draw
for tickets to visit RHS Wisley
No transport is included in this offer

Contact Name

Address & Postcode.....

.....

Tel No

Email

Apply to: FedSec@wkfwi.org.uk

or to the Federation Office at Ethel Hunt Lodge clearly marked 'Wisley'

Closing Date: Wednesday 31 January 2024

WEST KENT FEDERATION OF WIs

2024 Annual Bursary for Education in any subject

Please submit only one personal application – thank you—either on this form, email or letter

WI

Contact Name

Address & Postcode

.....

Tel No Email

Apply to: FedSec@wkfwi.org.uk

or to the Federation Office at Ethel Hunt Lodge clearly marked 'Bursary'

Closing Date: Wednesday 31 January 2024

Please note if you win a bursary at the 2024 AGM, you will not be eligible to enter again within the next five years.

Chatham & Aylesford MP Tracey Crouch hosts regular Pensioners Advice and Information Fairs across the constituency. Tracey invites all pensioners, their families, friends and carers in the local areas of Medway and Tonbridge & Malling to attend these free events which shared information and advice about the local services, support and activities available locally. Carol Gupwell, Di Daniels and other WI members from Snodland WI were there to represent our West Kent Federation and let people know of what being part of the WI can offer.



Carol Gupwell



REPORT OF RECENT EVENT

What a fantastic turnout to the Whist day at Ryarsh, all the tables were filled and the cards were playing, Thank you to all the ladies who prepared our lovely ploughman's lunch, and that delicious cake, not to mention the teas and coffees. The raffle was called and scores checked. Congratulations to the winners, with 204 points, Joan Golding and Barbara Schultze from Joydens Wood WI who were presented with their trophies by PALS Chair Gill Brown. Runners up with 201 points Ros Meredith and Joan Cook from Gates Green WI. Thank you to all on the PALS committee for organising this day and also to Sheila Miles for keeping order—a great day.



Chris Basden Tenterden Glebe WI



REPORT OF A RECENT EVENT

On Wednesday, 15th November, 16 members met up at Ethel Hunt Lodge for a workshop on **English Paper Piecing Patchwork**, led by Nancy Adamek. Nancy supplied lovely kits containing the paper templates, pre cut fabric pieces and all the additional sewing notions needed to complete two Christmas tree ornaments. Her instructions and demonstrations were clear and easy to follow and one to one help was always available. Even those of us who were totally new to this kind of craft went home with very pleasing decorations. Some of us also went home considerably poorer having purchased numerous wonderful kits to carry on with at home! Nancy certainly inspired us all!



It was my first visit to Ethel Hunt Lodge and for those of you who've never been, it is in a beautiful location, makes an excellent venue for a course and we were very well cared for. Everyone said what an enjoyable day they had had.

Many thanks to the Art & Craft team for organising the workshops.

Gilly Tully Bearsted/Thurnham WI



Di Hickman from **FRITTENDEN WI**, has suggested that smaller WIs should remember the old District now Groups format and share more events and costs to ensure that members get to meet and the WIs thrive. Join forces and continue rather than think about closing if things become difficult. Barbara Dunn is now arranging crafts, as a Group, with their neighbouring WIs

All helps with everyone's well being and sense of purpose.



Green Team

greenteam@wkfwi.org.uk

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT RECYCLING

We all try to recycle as much as possible, which is great, but not everyone out there does and you will undoubtedly see the results wherever you go. Rubbish thrown in the streets, verges, hedges where does it all come from?

But you **CAN** do something about it. Why not get yourself a simple litter picker-upper and a black sack. That is really all you need. Or join one of the many Council organised litter picks and they will supply you, along with the loan of a very fetching yellow vest.



This is one of many that are run on a regular basis to help keep the Tunbridge Wells Common clear of cans, bottles, empty vaping tubes, plastic, bits of foil, polystyrene take-away containers and all sorts of weird and extraordinary things people just throw away as they walk.

The most unexpected things I have found? Firstly a Bible, and then a mobile phone (which I took to the local police).



I cannot tell you how good you feel when you have spent just an hour, yet filled up a complete sack. Getting plastic out of the soil is even better than recycling, and doing it in a group is very rewarding.

And once you have got yourself into the swing of things, why not take your sack with you whenever you are out walking and just do a bit each time. You really will be making a difference as particularly the plastic you rescue will be out of the earth and no longer breaking down into micro plastics which could never be recovered.

P.S. I promise you that in KENT you will not be treated as someone who is "fly-tipping". A small council in Sussex took this view but has now lost in the Courts and changed its policy. Kent has confirmed it welcomes litter pickers ... just leave the bag tied up near a roadside litter bin.

Denman at Home On-Line Courses:-

In May 2022 I was lucky enough to win the **BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA WI** bursary and decided to enrol on "Tracing your Family Tree for Beginners" - a 6 part course running fortnightly which was run by a lovely lady called Jessica. She told us how to get started on researching our family history, how to get organised as we gathered information, the best online sites to use and how to search the different types of records available. This was an excellent course and has set me on the path of researching our ancestors (something I have been meaning to do since I retired) and it has already thrown up some surprising information.

Denman at Home On-Line courses can be found at www.denman.org.uk and it is useful to join their email list as they send out interesting courses every week.

Anthea Springett

This year **HOLLINGBOURNE WI's** annual Barn Dance was held on 28 October. It was well attended on a very wet evening, and, led by excellent caller John Sweeney, was fun, laughter and dos-a-dos all evening. Even for the few non dancers there was much merriment in watching, especially when their more active friends got slightly muddled on the odd occasion. During the break for refreshments there was a splendid raffle with very generous prizes, so no surprise that everybody had bought tickets, and at the end of an energetic evening everybody went home smiling. Barbara Gibbs



A lovely autumnal afternoon in our Village Hall saw **SHIPBOURNE WI** hosting a very successful and well attended Book Sale with tea and cake. Proceeds will go equally to MacMillan Cancer Support and to our WI. Thank you to all members who turned out in the morning to sort through the hundreds of donated books and stayed to the very end, to everyone who donated and to the many who came and supported this popular and 'possibly' annual event!"

Helen Leach



FEED BACK FROM A FEDERATION BURSARY WINNER—HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR A CHANCE TO WIN ONE IN 2024?

I was lucky enough to win a Federation Bursary in March 21. I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a knife skills lesson and put the remaining money towards an upholstery course. I attach a photo of my first piece I attempted. Since then I have reupholstered our piano stool and my brother's

Parker Knoll armchair. A huge thank you from me. Ann Payne West Peckham WI

The ladies of **BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA WI** spent a fabulous evening making Christmas decorations at their November meeting. Huge thanks to the committee for their tuition!

Anthea Springett



MURDER AT EAST MALLING WI !

Two neighbouring WIs combined their talents with a murder mystery for East Malling's 13th anniversary in October. Written by Jean Larking of **LARKFIELD WI**, now in her 100th year, Reunion at St. Clare's was resurrected with Jean's permission by **EMWI's** Drama Queens. After months of rehearsal, lines learnt, forgotten, many laughs and a few tweaks under the watchful eye of our Director and former President, Kim Hitchcock, we went public with a dress rehearsal for guests, sworn to secrecy prior to the performance at our anniversary meeting. The audience were given a chance to guess the murderer before the final reveal. We were delighted to welcome Jean to see the production, accompanied by Iris Relf, former President of Larkfield WI. EMWI presented Jean with a bouquet. She said she thoroughly enjoyed the event. A wonderful collaboration of talent and friendships within our WIs.



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OBITUARIES

We apologise that when we printed the Apherfield WI Obituary for FRANCES SIMNER, we had inadvertently spelt her name incorrectly.

The ladies of **Royal Eltham WI** were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of **BEVERLEY WEBB**. After a fall at home last year she was diagnosed with Cancer at Christmas which was very aggressive and sadly ended her life in October. Beverley was a kind and generous lady. She purchased a sound system and microphone headsets for our WI but insisted that the President and Secretary did not tell anyone whilst she was still alive. Beverley always was the first to thank people for anything they had done to make her experience of WI more enjoyable and she loved to go on the outings in and around London. Beverley is much missed by us all and will never be forgotten.



Crockenhill WI committee and members would like to send their congratulations and best wishes to our long - standing member **CHRISTINE WYETH** and her husband **ROBERT** on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, which they celebrated on 19 of October. Christine has been a member of Crockenhill WI since the 1960's and was a committee member for many years. Love to Chris and Bob from your WI friends.

YOUR WEST KENT NEWS

To enable WIs to receive their ordered copies of the WKN by the first of the month and for it to be displayed on the website earlier you may find some of your articles will feature in the following month's edition rather than the next month. All appear in the order that they are received.

To save your ink when printing you can always start from page two.

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ARTICLES—YOUR EVENT

Articles, your events Please no more than 150 words and two photographs. Congratulations and Obituaries (no more than 40 words) . If possible email direct to westkentnews@wkwfi.org.uk If not please post to our Ethel Hunt Lodge address see top of page two.

Price increase:

Due to the latest increase in the cost of postage from October 2023, we have no option but to increase the cost of posting out the West Kent News for the WIs that have requested printed copies.

We are mindful that costs seem to be rising for everything but we have to cover the costs imposed on us. We hope that wherever possible, our members enjoy the West Kent News on line. Please note that the West Kent News is published on our website usually by the end of the month.

[West Kent News | West Kent \(thewi.org.uk\)](http://thewi.org.uk) is the link to the website where copies can be viewed going back to **January 2021** when we first started publishing our newsletter. Please be mindful of the environment, the use of paper and other resources.

Our Federation Secretary will email the relevant WIs with the new prices.

It has come to our notice that some Federations charge for copies available to members on their website. West Kent Federation continues to offer the on-line newsletter free of charge.