



WEST KENT WI NEWS

August 2024

LIFESTYLE ANNUAL DAY



Baker Clare Barton



*Sue Pritchard's make do and mend.
What is the quilt made from ?*

Wednesday 23 October
Ditton Community Centre ME20 6AH

Doors open 9.30am



Jo Livingstone

Living with Face Blindness



See page 4 for full information

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



This will be a short 'View from the Chair' as I take a break to recharge the batteries!

However, I do want to welcome three new WIs to our West Kent Federation family – Aylesford Poppies, Hurst and Wrotham Roses. I have been lucky enough to have visited all three and was bowled over by the enthusiasm and friendliness of members who have only known each other a short time. All these WIs have great committees and I wish them all well in the future.

I hope you all have a great summer,

Take care,

Amanda



ANN FRANCE

Ann was a member of Bearsted & Thurnham WI and I first met her in the 1990s when I joined the Executive Committee now called The Board of Trustees; she was also a VCO Voluntary County Organiser now called WI Advisers.

Ann was on the Sports and Leisure Subcommittee and she read for the Home & Country tapes for the blind.



Ann enjoyed figures and was on the Office and Finance Committee, she was Federation Treasurer for a while as well as assistant treasurer. At the Kent Show she was to be found in the caravan behind the WI Marquee counting the money taken from the refreshment area, which could be more than £4,000.00 over the three days.

Ann was Editor of West Kent News for some years and oversaw the first time it looked like a magazine with photos and adverts. This was before computers were common place and there was much cutting and pasting with scissors and glue.

Ann joined Brenda Young as a Federation Archivist and between them they sorted out years of paperwork as well as some old banners and craft items found in a store room at the top of Hunt House. The Federation still has most of these items. She passed on her knowledge to the current Archivist Team which they really appreciated.

Chris Klempau

Treasurer's Corner



It is important to note that if a WI's income is £5,000 or more, they must register with the Charity Commission. There is some confusion as to what is included in income.

ACTING AS AGENT

There are three types of receipts/payments that this applies to:

The share of the membership subscription that is to be passed onto the Federation and the NFWI

Payment or booking by individual members on Federation events where members book and pay as individuals and the WI is doing nothing more than acting as a conduit to pass on information from the Federation and member's payment to the Federation.

Payment for the NFWI or Federation raffle tickets that are collected and passed to the raffle operator.

These receipts/payments are **NOT** included in your Financial Statement.

A WI IS NOT ACTING AS AGENT in the following situations.

The WI organises an event or visit for a group of members and charges members a fee. In this case the WI committee is exercising discretion in organising the event and the booking is made in the name of the WI (include under activities and events). If you are not sure, then you should assume the WI is not acting as agent.

The WI is paying for members to attend a Federation event from WI funds (include under activities and events).

The WI orders and purchases diaries, calendars and other items from the Federation and sells to members where there is a single order in the name of the WI (include under publications)

The WI raises funds and donates them to another charity (include under WI fundraising).

These receipts/payments are included as income and expenditure and are included on the Financial Statement which could mean that the WI income exceeds £5,000.

I hope this clarifies the difference but please do check your income for last year recorded on your Financial Statement and make sure you comply with Charity Commission regulations.

Kind regards

Rita King

FEDERATION NOTICE BOARD

Yearbook

Please note that Dulwich WI have changed meeting week and venue and now meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7.00pm at 11B Barry Road, London SE22 0HX.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

AUGUST

Sat 10 Walking Netball Taster Tonbridge

SEPTEMBER

Mon 16 WI DAY— Arrange your own promotion
Tues 17 Watercolour Workshop Frittenden
Weds 18 Watercolour Workshop Ethel Hunt
Thur 19 Watercolour Workshop Snodland
Fri 20 Watercolour Workshop Hextable
Sat 21 Watercolour Workshop Orpington
Thur 26 Art & Craft Annual Day Ditton

OCTOBER

Sat 12 Auditions Day Orpington
Wed 23 Lifestyle Annual Day Ditton
Thur 31 Whist Day Ryarsh

NOVEMBER

Tues 05 Science Day Sevenoaks

DETLING WI held their June Meeting in the garden of our longest serving member Margaret Cooke.

Margaret has won a Gold Award for her Wildlife Garden in the past and keeps an area especially for the benefit of wildlife. Her many Orchids are amazing and she also has some Bee Orchids which are quite rare. We also had a garden themed treasure hunt and an amazing tea, such a wonderful afternoon. Thank You Margaret Kathy Tanton Sec. Detling WI



Common Orchid Pyramid Orchid Bee Orchid

Are you interested in Art & Craft?

Due to illness, the Federation Art & Craft Committee is in need of new members. If you would like to be involved in finding tutors and arranging workshops in a variety of art and craft media as well as getting speakers for our Annual Days, please get in touch with us. Come to the next committee meeting at Ethel Hunt Lodge on Tuesday 10 September as an observer with no obligation, to see if joining our very friendly team would be suitable for you, or let us know if you would just like to help at events without joining the team.

Contact Paula Bates, Committee chair:
ArtCraft@wkwfi.org.uk

TENTERDEN GLEBE WI had a wonderful day, at Knole Park, the weather was perfect. We had previously had a talk by Natalie Cohen on the restoration of Knole House so this was the perfect trip to go and see the restorations in person. We all had a lovely day walking around the house and grounds, a few of us even climbed those narrow steps to the clock tower. Christine Basden, Tenterden Glebe



WI.

On Saturday 29 June, **BIGGIN HILL EVENING WI** set up its colourful 'Make or Bake' stall at our annual Biggin Hill Carnival. It was a bright, sunny & breezy day which brought out the crowds to enjoy stalls and events in our local community. We also had the opportunity to display our silk flags, produced in a project with Chartwell House, National Trust, for their

Easter Parade earlier this year. Many thanks to all our WI ladies for their contributions and help for our most successful event so far. Sue Ede - President



The 'Old West Kent News Team' would also like to acknowledge the passing of **ANN FRANCE**. She organised the West Kent News for many years. Janet Buller worked with her originally at Hunt House, Maidstone. Linda Wills and Sue Hollings joined the team in 2007/8. Everything in those days was sent by snail mail, but with Ann at the helm it all went well. Ann kept her connection with the PALS Committee as she was until recently, 'Director' of many a Whist Day.

LIFESTYLE ANNUAL DAY WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER Ditton Community Centre ME20 6AH

TICKETS £ 15.00 Doors open 9.30am

Guest Speakers invited to attend feature:

Clare Barton who dreamed of starting a tea shop by the sea but ended up opening a bakery, in Tonbridge, and specialising in Sour Dough bread. She has a gluten intolerance but is able to eat small quantities of her own bread and runs workshops to teach people how to make it. Clare tells of the trials and tribulations of getting the bakery started.



Sue Pritchard with “Make Do and Mend”, a popular subject using recycled materials. Sue will be bringing along a patchwork quilt and challenges you to guess what it is made from.

Jo Livingstone, suffers from Prosopagnosia or face blindness. Jo explains what it's like to live with this condition and how it came to be discovered on her. She has had many interesting experiences, appeared on television, even travelling to America to talk about how this affects her everyday life and how she copes with something that most of us will find difficult to imagine.



Members only. Application box on back page. Closing date 7 October

Whilst visiting their WI President in France, some members of the **WEST KENT ZOOMERS WI** paid a visit to Notre Dame Church in Carentan and the exhibition of The Longest Yarn. There were 80 3D knitted/crocheted works depicting The Longest Day 6 June 1944, bringing to life the D Day Landings and the stories of the 80 days to the Liberation of Paris. Inspired by Tansy Foster, who was the WI speaker for June, over 1,000 knitters from across the world recreated real scenes from D-Day in wool.

Thanks to Sarah Seabrook for an entertaining weekend
Rita King





Green Team

greenteam@wkwfwi.org.uk



The Theme this year for **Big Green Week** was 'Let's Swap together for good'. Here the West Kent Green team lead by Alison Williamson and Caroline Coplestone chose a walk and picnic at a local Nature Reserve 'HAYSDEN COUNTRY PARK', an area of about 161 acres, in the Medway Valley. We all enjoyed the walk and were mesmerised by the beautiful lake, flora and wildlife, a true treat.

There were 22 West Kent members in all, from Sennocke, Chipstead, Staplehurst, Chislehurst, Ladycroft, Nevill, South Tonbridge, Crockenhill, Kemsing and Hadlow and we all ditched the car and came by public transport. It was a super opportunity to meet other West Kent members, which is always inspiring.

Personally, I am aware of my carbon footprint and made my lunch up accordingly with GI bread brought from a local bakers, English tomatoes and carrots, delicious Kent strawberries and home grown lettuce. I packed them up in cereal box inners and wax wraps and drank from a thermos flask. Another gem from the trip was passing a 'refill' shop 'Zilch' (a Zero Waste shop) in Barden Road and certainly worth a visit.

Walking is Free and one of the easiest ways to become more active and healthier. During this day I had walked about 7 miles which could burn approximately 600/800 calories and to top it all I slept well that night.

Carol Campbell, Crockenhill WI

BEARSTED AND THURNHAM WI threw themselves wholeheartedly into **Green Week** by making pledges to change 'Just one Thing'. Pledges were very varied and included changing to refillable deodorants and bathroom products, swapping to compostable pan scourers, reusing washing up water on the garden, making our own cleaning products, replacing plastic sandwich bags with paper, having a meat free meal each week and even to installing solar panels. We also considered how we cook, what we cook and how we store food and other goods. Jam jars can be used in cupboards, fridge and freezers and there's nothing wrong with the traditional fridge storage method of a bowl with plate over it! Hopefully, we've all made the world just a little bit greener!

Gilly Tully



ANNUAL WHIST DAY**Thursday 31 October****Ryarsh Village Hall, Birling Road, Ryarsh, ME19 5LS**

10.30 am—3.30pm (Doors open at 10.00am for registration and tea/coffee)

Ticket price £15.00 includes lunch —members only.



Our Whist Day, with Ploughman's lunch and dessert, is always popular. We look forward to welcoming many familiar faces and hopefully some new players. You do not have to attend as a pair, single players are welcome and you will be put with another solo member. The cards will be shuffled, score sheets named and play will commence at 10.30 am sharp, Sheila Miles will be on hand to oversee the play and answer any queries.

When applying for tickets **please** let us know of any special dietary requirements, we need to know for when we go shopping, not as a surprise on the day.

Please apply for tickets by the form on the back page any time before **30 September** to PALS@wkfwi.org.uk



We require the following information: Name of person applying and a contact phone number. Your WI, the number of tickets required, the name of the players and if they have any special dietary requirements - thank you. Your WI will be invoiced for the number of tickets issued.

If you can, please bring your own mug/cup for your hot drinks—that will be most helpful.

To the Green Team, I hope the article in the June WKN on the shocking waste of clothing hits home.

I have never bought much clothing and I have lots of well-loved and often worn jumble sale and charity shop items in my wardrobe.

When I was told on 2006 I was being made redundant, buying few new clothes accelerated into buying hardly anything new. Since that date I have only bought new clothes in 2009, 2010 and 2015 (a pair of everyday shoes and three wedding outfits for my children's weddings -these have all been worn at other weddings and on special occasions). Via nectar card free reward points (since 2015) and a few M and S gift cards (since 2019) I have had "free" a few new clothes including underwear and swimming costumes.

I also do not do much shopping beyond food as a protest as I do not have rail therapy.

Diana Beamish, Eynsford WI

MATFIELD WI was delighted to welcome back Kate Marlborough - Fletcher, this time to tell us about the Dressing of Georgian Nobility.



Chris Klempau

ART AND CRAFT



Paula Bates 01892 327863

artcraft@wkfwi.org.uk

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING WORKSHOPS

For beginners and improvers

TUTOR: MATTHEW PALMER

September: Tues 17 Memorial Hall, Frittenden, TN17 2DD

Wed 18 Ethel Hunt Lodge, Pembury, TN2 4AG

Thurs 19 Snodland Bowls Club, ME6 5DP

Fri 20 St Peter's Church, Hextable, BR8 7RH

Sat 21 St Nicholas Church Hall, Orpington, BR6 9QB

10am to 3:30 pm, Doors open at 9:30 - Cost of ticket £ 33.

Kit charge £ 5. in cash to tutor on the day. Members Only. Bring a packed lunch and a mug for coffee.



Full information in June and July WKN.

Ticket application form on back page. Closing date Friday 9 August.

ART & CRAFT ANNUAL DAY

Thursday 26 September DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, ME20 6AH
10:30am to 3:30pm, doors open 9:30am

Speakers:



Elaine Gill— Artist and
Illustrator



Becky Cole— Costume designer
and accessible sewing for all.



Dave Brooker—Landscape and
Travel Photographer

Elaine will have a sales table of her beautiful artwork cards, Dave will sell his stunning photos printed as cards, and Becky will sell her books. There will also be our usual sales stalls from Rainham Sewing, Mary McFadden Ceramics, Lina Patchwork, Love That Stuff Fairtrade, Rao's Crystal Rarities and our well known bring & buy. Please bring your own mug for coffee and a packed lunch.

Full information in June and July WKN

Tickets £15. Members only. Application box on back page. Closing date Friday 30 August.

REPORT OF A RECENT FEDERATION EVENT

Introduction to Flower Drawing



Entering a light airy room on one of the first hot sunny days of the year, we were welcomed by our tutor, Jan Moffitt. The surroundings were ideal for our Drawing Flowers tutorial. From the start, Jan gave everyone a high quality colour printed sheet of flowers to work from. After a demonstration that from a few competent graphite pencil lines, she was able to draw a three dimensional picture of a poppy, we all had a go, while Jan toured the room giving us invaluable, individual tuition. Looking intently at a poppy we drew a basic shape and then through shading, contouring of lines, soft smudges, we were able to draw a three dimensional impression of it.



Throughout the morning we had demonstrations and then created further pictures from the worksheet, a daffodil, tulip, and lily. We were shown how to use colour pencils to make different colour combinations and achieve realistic tones, shading and shaping. The last piece from the worksheet was an extremely ambitious subject; a white rose, and we then moved on to working from fresh flowers.



Jan brought vases with lovely fresh flowers that we worked from next and some members brought flowers from home. The day finished with working from some beautiful flowering fuchsia plants.

This class was ideal for true beginners and also improvers; it was apparent throughout the day that Jan was able to cater for all abilities. It was a wonderful 'study day' and everyone was pleased with the flower studies they took home. We also gained confidence in creating further independent works of our own.

Joanna M. Cole Nevill WI

Members of **ST GEORGE'S WI BECKENHAM** enjoyed a trip to Hythe, Kent in June. Quantities of fish and chips and ice creams were consumed. We strolled along the canal path and promenade, visited St Leonards Church with its ancient ossuary and rummaged in charity shops in the sunshine. Thank you to our member Barbara who organised this event.



West Kent News when first edited by Ann France.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL

Diane Daniels — pai@wkfwi.org.uk

HOW IS SCIENCE AFFECTING OUR EVERYDAY LIVES?

Come to learn and enjoy, it will be an interesting event.

Tuesday 5 November
13:00 to 16:00 (doors open 12:30)
Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat and Ball, Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN

Tickets £12.50 Closing Date 12 October

Please book your space via your WI Rep using the application form on the back page.

We do not often realise how much science plays a part in in our everyday living.



This day will give you an insight into several different areas:

You will hear from **KATY LEWIS**, who is a Monitoring Field Team Manager at the Environment Agency. Katy is a fisheries scientist by background and now manages environmental monitoring. Her teams collect samples from rivers, lakes and seas around England. She is going to talk about how the Environment Agency uses molecular techniques in their work. She will discuss examples of how DNA is used to monitor invasive species, to tell how much nutrients are in the rivers and track viruses, like COVID, in the sewage systems.

DAVID TADD was, prior to retirement, Head of Forensic Investigation and Operations at New Scotland Yard. He served with the Metropolitan Police for over 40 years, time spent entirely within Forensic Services. In the post of Head of Forensic Investigation he was responsible for an operational unit .

Back by Popular Demand! SPEAKER



Help Select our Speakers St Nicholas Church Hall

14 Leamington Avenue, Orpington BR6 9QB

Saturday 12 October 2024

Doors open at 9.30am with the first speaker at 10am
and the day will finish at 3pm.

Tickets are £8 and include tea or coffee on arrival
and during the lunch break (bring your own cup if you wish)

Please bring a packed lunch.

If you would like to come along, please email

tickets@wkfwi.org.uk with your WI, contact name, email address,
telephone number, event, date of event, venue and number of tickets
required or complete the ticket application form on the back page

If applying by post your WI will be invoiced on the
monthly account for the number of tickets issued and billed £1 for postage.

Please **DO NOT** enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

The closing date for ticket applications is 14 September

Consisting of a multi disciplined forensic workforce of 950 officers in this role he undertook the strategic lead for the delivery of the forensic response to the investigation of crime in London

DAVID BROWN is an Environmental Health Manager part of the Food and Safety Team at Medway Council. They cover all aspects of environmental health regulations for businesses operating within Medway. Their officers visit a full range of business premises to provide a range of interventions including : Conducting food hygiene standards and health and safety inspections. Providing advice to businesses and consumers, taking samples of food and water, investigating complaints and cases of infectious diseases. David also investigates serious work-related accidents.

WEST KENT NEWS GIVES A WARM WELCOME TO AYLESFORD POPPIES WI

The **AYLESFORD POPPIES** debuted in style with their first speaker and dancer, Chloe Shimmy! Chloe gave us a fascinating insight into the world of belly dancing, its beautiful meanings & forgotten history - all rounded off with a fantastic show and a little shimmy lesson. We all got involved and had a chance to show off our moves! Turkish & Arabic food was had by all as we immersed ourselves into the Egyptian and North African roots where belly dancing originates from.



We are proud to have 37 members after just two meetings and are most certainly on the move for bigger things. A full programme of activities has been established for the rest of 2024 and we are already planning next year.

At Aylesford Poppies we aim to provide a friendly and fun environment for all women and our members have already started to set up some sub groups for ladies with specific interests to try. We have a book club and a darts

club already set up so watch this space for more.

Sharon Azira



BURHAM AND WOULDHAM WI The creative juices have been flowing here in North Kent. Our June Meeting was a flower arranging evening with gentle guidance from our President, Eileen Smith and Margaret Older. Despite members claiming they were 'rubbish' with flowers, there were some stunning designs. The photos do not do them credit.



Soon after, we had a pottery class at The Pottery at The Friars in Aylesford, where Alan, master potter, took us through the basics of working with clay. He made it sound, and look, easy. The reality took a lot of concentration – see our Treasurer, Gwen Worcester,



right. Alan is now glazing and firing our work and we look forward to collecting our bowls shortly. This was a highly recommended outing. Margaret Wood—Secretary

GILLINGHAM WI GROUP NEWS – We've had a couple of busy months in our group.



In June we celebrated 15 years as a WI Group. A celebration cake was made by Vera and well received by the Group. We then went onto have some fun making caricature grass heads.



Some of our members volunteered to knit a Post-box topper in commemoration to the 40th Anniversary of the Chatham Historic Dockyard. They enjoyed it so much that they knitted two Post-box toppers, the first theme was 'Call the Midwife' which is filmed in the Dockyard, and the second theme was for the 200yr anniversary of the RNLI.

Julie Diamond—Group Secretary



OBITUARY ANN FRANCE – BEARSTED AND THURNHAM W I

Ann was WI through and through and she will be missed. Even at the end of a long illness which left her incapable of speech or much movement she remained a member and was interested in what went on in her WI.

Ann joined in May 1967, was on committee from 1971 doing various 'jobs' then Treasurer in 1985 and President in 1987, Treasurer again 1997-2007 when she was again President. She was also on the Hall Committee (we own our own Hall) and Chairman for three years. She took part in many of the activities, quizzes etc and played a mean game of whist, and later learned to play Mah Jong having offered her home to the growing group. She was a volunteer reader for the WI Home and Country (later WI Life) which was and is recorded for Blind, Partially Sighted and Dyslexic members throughout the country, and distributed by Kent Association for the Blind.

Alongside this she was District Secretary of North Downs 1990-2000 organising District Activities and the Annual District Meeting. Plus being a VCO for 15 years and on the Executive Committee of West Kent Federation and Federation Treasurer for three years and Independent Financial Examiner for at least eight years. She also edited and proof read West Kent News for over 14 years and was the Federation Archivist.

She rarely missed a meeting and believed that the WI way was the only way to do things. She had a wonderful garden and was generous with her plants and advice on all things, whether you wanted it or not, she was WI through and through and definitely a one off, would that there were more like her.

CELEBRATING LIFE FESTIVAL

Flower displays in Maidstone's All Saints Church produced by **SOUTH PARK WI** Ladies. From left to right The WI display by Carol, Birth by Margaret, beneath Confirmation by Pat and Ordination by Di Daniels

Amanda Bird



On an extremely hot Tuesday 25 June, ladies from **SHIPBOURNE WI** travelled to the V&A in South Kensington for a private tour led by Dale Thomas of Plaxtol WI. Dale volunteers at the V&A and what she doesn't know isn't worth knowing!! We had a fascinating morning seeing Dale's favourite exhibits, a really delicious lunch in the beautiful restaurant, followed by a tour of China and Japan, the Medieval and Renaissance galleries, French and Italian paintings, sculptures - so much more to see! Would highly recommend it to other WIs.

Helen Leach



At **CROCKENHILL WI** July meeting, Carol Campbell our Climate Ambassador and Treasurer set up our first collection box for: "Glasses For Gambia". For adults and children in Gambia who do not have access to an optician. After the call to help, our members duly turned out drawers and cupboards at home to find old and unwanted glasses for this wonderful cause. The project will continue every month. The first month's haul was fantastic. Thank you to all the members for the bumper bundle of specs, that will be welcomed in Gambia.

Cheri Yeates

The Bumper Bundle of Specs - is just the start ! For more information email sueingram58@yahoo.co.uk





OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness we announce the recent death of **AASE**

DUNKLEY, she was an enthusiastic member of **Sennocke WI** for several years. Aase was unable to attend meetings any longer due to severe ill health; she valiantly fought cancer for several years. Aase frequently extended hospitality to members; she was incredibly sociable with a good sense of humour. Her Danish open sandwiches were legendary. She will be sadly missed. Rest in peace dear friend.

Keston WI members were sad to learn of **DOREEN SMITH'S** passing. Doreen had been a member for over 30 years. Her artistic talents were appreciated by the Arts and Crafts group. Our thoughts are with her family.

OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness **Royal Eltham WI** announces the death of **JACKIE RENNIE**. A long standing and very popular member who always was the first to volunteer to help out whenever the need arose, who was firm in her beliefs and was a huge advocate for those beliefs. A bright and bubbly lady who will be much missed by all who knew her. Our sincere condolences go out to her husband Tom and her children and grandchildren and all those who were lucky enough to call her a friend.

WHO TO CONTACT

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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@wkfwi.org.uk If not please post to our Ethel Hunt Lodge address see top of page two.

Ticket applications via email:

WI Reps Apply to: tickets@wkfwi.org.uk with your WI, Contact Name, Telephone number , event name, number of tickets required, date of event, and venue.

*Tickets are non refundable and non returnable. * Places cannot be guaranteed until after the closing date. If an event is over-subscribed a ballot will take place* The Federation is not liable for additional costs or changes to a programme caused by circumstances beyond its control. Please apply for your tickets promptly, if an event is under subscribed by the closing date, the event may be cancelled.

Postal applications, please complete the form below for **each event** and send to:- Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Maidstone Road, Pembury Tunbridge Well TN2 4AG. Postal ticket will be charged an extra £1 for postage.

WI.....Name.....

Email.....Tel:.....

Address & Postcode.....

.....No. of tickets req'd.....

Event.....

Date of event..... Venue.....

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