



# WEST KENT WI NEWS



February 2024

LIFESTYLE ANNUAL DAY  
WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL  
DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

See Page 7

**Janie Ramsey** will talk on the disgraceful sons of George 3rd, all fascinating and entertaining.



Stunt Women **Lucy Allen** will tell us about her action packed life.



Get into the mind of Crime Writer **William Shaw** how does he write the **Who Done It?** Come Along and find out!



## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Well, the new year is up and running and Christmas has faded to a distant memory, it's time to look forward and look for those early signs of spring. It's, also the time for Federation sub-committees to start finalising plans for 2024 and from what I have heard we have a bumper year ahead for you! The sub-committee members are committed to bring you, our members, interesting events, that educate, entertain, keep fit and offer new experiences. They work incredibly hard and as a Federation we are so grateful to them.

Having attended a few events, I'm always struck by how much fun the sub-committee members are having on the day! Working as a team brings great rewards – friendship and a job well done! Many have already been on their own WI committees and know how rewarding it can be. I know it's not for everyone and I'm often told that for some members it's enough just to come out once a month, however, helping out at your own WI even if it's just to make a cake every few months can make a huge difference and be a small step to becoming more involved.

So, if you think now is the time to help out either at your own WI or at Federation level give it a go! I know you won't regret it and if you have already made that step then –

**Thank You** – you're a star!!

(If you are thinking about helping out at Federation level either on a sub-committee or even want to come along to see what we do at Trustee meetings you're more than welcome to come along as an observer. Just contact the office at Ethel Hunt Lodge for more details and dates. Some of our meetings are now on Zoom!)

Take care,

**Amanda**

## Treasurer's Corner



Every month I try to address topical subjects and address common queries. This month I have had several concerns about being registered on the Charity Commission website.

Whether a WI is registered or not, all WIs are charities and are all governed by Charity Commission rules and regulations. Getting answers from the website can be very frustrating and time consuming but hopefully once sorted, straightforward. Once income has reached £5,000, WIs must register. Income does not include any income that is "Acting as agent" and this income also does not get included on your year-end Financial Statement, so please do not include that in your assessment of your income. Once registered, it is up to the WI to make an annual submission of details that are available on your year end financial statement together with details of the Trustees of your WI. These will be your committee members.

Saying that, I have just had a very frustrating conversation with a Pension company that is making my blood boil and I could do with having a good rant!! So believe me, I do sympathise with how frustrating it can be dealing with some large organisations.

Now that the financial year end is approaching, it may be worth making it trouble free by making sure of a few things. Are your bank statements all reconciled, all necessary paperwork filed and in order, any petty cash receipt and payments duly reconciled? It will make things easier in the long run. Do ask your committee or members to submit expenses in plenty of time prior to the year end.

Again, please make sure the office is notified of any change of details. We use Sage Software for our accounting system and that is not linked to the MCS system, so please bear that in mind for any change in Treasurer.

*Kind regards*

*Rita King*

## FEDERATION NOTICE BOARD

Following the success of online booking of tickets, in another change to procedure we have also decided to now use one ticket application form for all Federation events. This can be found on the back page of West Kent News every month and as well as the usual information we request for ticket applications, the form will include Event, Date of Event and Venue.

This is a photo of some of the 64 **BEXLEY VILLAGE WI** members at Danson Boathouse on the 6 December. We were entertained by Miss Vintage, you can just see her in a sparkly outfit singing all the Christmas songs. We had a most enjoyable lunch followed by a raffle, raising funds for Speakability our charity this year. Patricia Ladbrook  
President



Another photo from the **HARTLEY AFTERNOON WI** group, once again eating! We are a small group, and 18 of us (including two husbands) had our Christmas meal at our local Country Club venue. It was a lovely afternoon.

Wendy Weedon

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

### 2024

#### FEBRUARY

Tues 13 Shrove Tuesday—Your Pancake Event.

#### MARCH

Wed 13	Singing Afternoon	Bat and Ball
Sat 23	Introduction to Quilling	Orpington
Mon 25	WKFWI AGM	Tunbridge Wells

#### APRIL

Wed 17	Lifestyle Annual Day	Ditton
Mon 29	Women Walk the World	Near You

#### MAY

Thur 16	Stained Glass Mirrors	Ethel Hunt
Fri 17	Stained Glass Mirrors	Snodland
Sat 18	Stained Glass Mirrors	Orpington

#### JUNE

Wed 5	NFWI Annual Meeting	Royal Albert Hall
Sat 8 - Sun 16	The Great Big Green Week	
Mon 10	Water Sports	Mote Park
Tues 18	Drawing Flowers	Frittenden
Thur 20	Drawing Flowers	Ethel Hunt
Sat 22	Drawing Flowers	Orpington

#### SEPTEMBER

Mon 16	WI DAY— Arrange your own promotion	
Thur 26	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton

#### OCTOBER

Thur 31	Whist Day	Ryarsh
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#### NOVEMBER

Sat 16	Art & Craft Dabble Day	Snodland
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**SHROVE TUESDAY—PANCAKE DAY TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY**— remember to tell us about your activity on that day.



# 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.

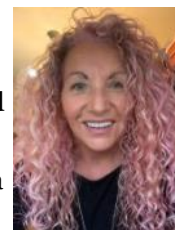
## Lindsey Barrell (aka Ms Cherry Bombe)

'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**.

**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

Thursday 29 February 2024

First release closing date for ticket applications

Thursday 29 February 2024

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

Full details are available via your WI Secretary.

*Back by Popular Demand!*

## SPEAKER



*Help Select our Speakers*

**Ryarsh Village Hall**

**Birling Road, Ryarsh ME19 5LS**

**Friday 19 April**

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

Tickets are £5 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@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:tickets@wkwfi.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

**PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A MAXIMUM OF  
TWO TICKET APPLICATIONS PER WI**

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 22 March*

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD 2024

29 APRIL = SOMEWHERE NEAR YOU!

Well Ladies,  
time to get your  
trainers on and  
enjoy a walk,  
through a local  
wood, around a  
park, perhaps  
along a river  
doing your own  
Spring Watch.



Maybe a ghost  
walk in a local town, check out a local  
library for leaflets on a walk.

Whether you pay to go on the walk, or  
ask family to sponsor you, you are  
raising funds for women elsewhere in  
the world, whose lifestyle is completely  
different to yours.

Every year, on or around ACWW Day,  
the 29 April, ACWW members all over  
the world join together to raise funds for  
ACWW and share information about our  
work with their communities. This  
event is called Women Walk the World  
and has been going since 2012.

Monies raised can be a separate  
donation to ACWW on your WI  
accounts.



**INFORMATION ON ACWW PROJECTS— THANK YOU ALL  
FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND SUPPORT DURING 2023.**

The ACWW Afternoon Tea Raised £900 — Thank you so  
much.



**Project 1054: Safe Drinking Water for Families of Low Caste  
Arunthathiyar and Dalits**

**Organisation: Women's Organisation for Rural Development (WORD)**

**Description: Project participants celebrate at the handpump of one of  
the new borewells in their village. Tamil Nadu, India. Five borewells  
were installed across five villages.**



**Project 1057: Women-Led Climate Resilient Farming; Supporting  
Vegetable Gardens in Monde Village, Hwange District in Zimbabwe**

**Organisation: Ntengwe for Community Development**

**Description: Female farmer inspects her amaranth crop. Ancient  
grains like amaranth provide food security due to their drought  
resistance and nutrient density.**

# ART AND CRAFT



Paula Bates 01892 327863

artcraft@wkwfwi.org.uk

## Stained Glass Mosaic Workshop

With Anna Conti who taught this at Denman

Choose to make a mosaic mirror or several smaller pieces

Ticket £36 plus £15 for the kit including the mirror and the glass.

Kit charge to be paid to tutor in cash on the day. Tools to be loaned. Members only.

**Thursday 16 May at Ethel Hunt Lodge**

**Friday 17 May at Snodland**

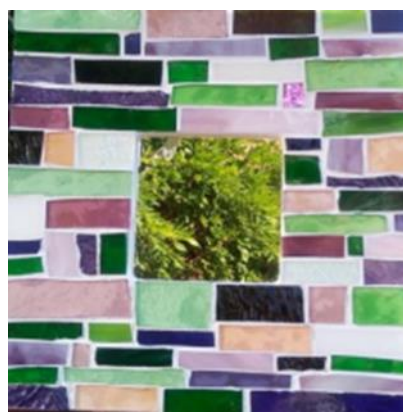
**Saturday 18 May at Orpington**

**Please note later start time:**

**Workshop from 10:30am to 3:30pm**

**Doors open 10am**

**Bring a packed lunch and a mug for coffee**



**Mosaic mirror, mini window and coaster workshop.**

Use an array of beautiful stained glass off cuts to create your unique mosaic mirror (26 x 26cm) or make as many mini windows (glass on glass), coasters and decorations as you like. Glue, grout and polish up until it shines! Go abstract or come up with a simple design. Anna will have examples to show you. Gain an insight into the craft. Learn how to cut and shape glass but if you have problems with your hands, no problem as there are enough smaller off-cuts to complete your own project.

Optional: bring special coins, stones, sea glass, jewellery etc. to add to your design.

**Please bring:**

Safety glasses or Anna will have new pairs for £3 on the day. Plasters just in case. Bubble wrap or newspaper to protect your work. Dress down, you might be grouting. Please note on your ticket application (see back page) if you wish to make the mirror or smaller pieces so the tutor can bring the correct supplies. You may still be able to change on the day.

Closing Date: Friday 5 April.

## LIFESTYLE ANNUAL DAY

WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL

**Ditton Community Centre, ME20 6AH**

Tickets £15.00 Doors open 9.30am

The first speaker is our very own Janie Ramsey, who is giving her talk on the Disgraceful sons of George 3rd. It promises to be full of salacious gossip, scandal and facts to fascinate and entertain.



Next up is Lucy Allen, a stunt woman who has starred in many big films, and TV productions, from Meg 2 to Titanic. She takes us through her working life and gives us a thorough insight into the world of entertainment.

Our final speaker is William Shaw, a popular, fictional crime writer. He will be talking on why murder fiction is so popular, especially amongst women. He gives an entertaining peek into the world of journalism and book writing.



Please apply via [Tickets@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:Tickets@wkwfi.org.uk) as per the instructions found on the back page. Closing date is Wednesday 13 March.

We do hope that you will come along and join us on what we feel will be an informative and entertaining day. Please remember your packed lunch and your own mug for refreshments on arrival and at lunch time.

We look forward to meeting you.

**KESTON WI** celebrated its **CENTENARY** with a special lunch on 10 January. The occasion was especially emotional as the group had been suspended and then reopened in 2022. We welcomed Amanda Breach (West Kent Chair), Rita King (West Kent Treasurer), our Advisor Bev Wild, Caroline Assirati, (President of Downe), Sandra Atkinson (Secretary of Biggin Hill Evening) and Tricia Coward (Lay Preacher of Keston Parish Church). Our ladies enjoyed their choice of lunch provided by a local pub followed by entertainment by Dame Nitty Nora. The afternoon was filled with happy memories and laughter. Our cakes were cut by Shirley Newman and Sheila Adcock, the ladies with the longest membership, each more than 50 years! Our celebrations will continue throughout the year with visits and other activities.



Judy Gault



## WI ADVISERS Bev Wild 0208 8289 3533

### Meet the Adviser Session

WI Advisers, Bev Wild, Carole Powell, Rosemary Tidby and our Federation Chair Amanda Breach were present, and 18 WI Members attended. A number of questions were raised in relation to encouraging members to take up Committee roles, understanding how WIs can regenerate to aid recruitment and retainment, financial queries with regard to subscriptions. These are questions that come up frequently and following group discussion some good advice was put forward. It is always good to meet up with members from our Federation and hear how we can assist them in order that their WIs can continue to flourish. Sadly, there will be WIs that will struggle to get Committee members and particularly Officers to stand at their May Annual Meetings. If you wish an Adviser to attend, the visit forms have been sent out to your Secretary. If you need advice before then please do contact your Adviser. The earlier we can support you, the better the outcome.

Bev Wild WIA Chair

REMINDERS OF WHERE WIS WENT IN 2023 DOES YOUR WI WANT TO GO THERE IN 2024 ?  
**Downe WI** visited DSI and saw the costumes from Strictly and other shows. **Biggin Hill Evening WI** visited Chartwell and attended a workshop. **Lyghe WI** enjoyed the flowers (and food) at the Pashley Manor Tulip Festival. **Pratts Bottom WI** visited the Brick Lane Music Hall Theatre. **Hartley Afternoon WI** admired the Art Deco Mansion of Eltham Palace. **Nevill WI** and **Bexley Village WI** joined in with the Call the Midwife tour when they visited Chatham Dockyard. **St. Michaels WI** went to Rye Harbour Nature Reserve as part of Green Week. **Huckling WI** admired the flowers at The Peonies Field. **Istead Rise WI** went to the Church of the English Martyrs at Goring by Sea and marvelled at the replication of the curved ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. **Highgate Hawkhurst** travelled to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. **Frittenden WI** celebrated their 75th Anniversary with afternoon Tea on the Tenterden Railway. **Hollingbourne WI** went *down* to Margate, then went all posh and visited the Walpole Hotel. **Rainham WI** spent a lovely day at Teapot Island. **Bexleyheath & Crayford WI** enjoyed themselves at the Greenwich Naval College. **Tents in Kent run by Maidstone Chocolate WI** enjoyed a weekend in August. **Burham and Wouldham WI** enjoyed Tram Hatch Gardens. **Shipbourne WI** crossed County lines to visit Merriments Gardens, East Sussex. **Tenterden Glebe WI** had fun at the Bredgar and Wormshill Railway. **West Wickham WI** visited the Biggin Hill Museum. Sorry run out of space rest next month - Linda Wills



Members (and guest) of **WATERINGBURY WI** enjoyed afternoon tea at The North Pole Public House, Wateringbury, to celebrate Christmas.



In December, **HOLLINGBOURNE WI** held a Christmas Craft morning under the expert (and patient) guidance of Gillie, a very talented member, assisted by Lynn, another talented member. We had great fun wedging the clay, before making Christmas tree decorations in various shapes and sizes. We then took the decorations home to dry, so that we could paint and decorate them before proudly hanging them on our trees.

On a separate table another group of members enjoyed the annual tradition of making Christmas wreaths under the patient guidance of fellow member Janice.



A big “thank you” to our tutors for an enjoyable and productive morning.  
Barbara Gibbs.

Members of **Frindsbury WI** send their warmest congratulations to **JACKIE and BARRY PEARCE** who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 5 January’



This years’ annual **Orpington Group** event was organised by **CHELSEFIELD EVENING WI** and took place on Saturday 9 December.

Members from across the group and other nearby WIs within the West Kent Federation that CEWI



have fostered links with over the last few years were invited to join the event too.

Rachel Hovey of Wild Gardeners facilitated

the session explaining the process and supported the ladies in producing the most stunning wreaths.



Interestingly, no two wreaths looked the same even though the same items were provided.

There was plenty of chatting, some laughter and to add some festive spirit mince pies, satsumas with of course tea was served during the event.

*Lisa—Secretary Chelsfield Evening WI*



It was dancing, singing, and a most entertaining December evening at **ISTEAD RISE WI** when members were entertained by Rob Thompsett and his electric ukulele.

**FRINDBURY WI** made some delightful Sock Snowmen at their members craft day at the end of November - Carrie Inge





## Green Team

greenteam@wkwfi.org.uk

As Christmas finishes the Valentine cards are out in the shops, but the WI have a special way of showing the love this February. The WI have joined with many other organisations to form the Climate Coalition and create the 'Show the Love for our World' campaign.



Over the last few years WI members have stepped up to show the love for all that we are set to lose because of the crisis of climate change. A green heart symbolises that we care about what is happening and feel the need for action. This can seem dauntingly huge, but start small and each person can make a difference collectively.

What do we want? When do we want it?



The WI and others are asking for a cleaner, safer world, protecting the things we love. As we head into an election year in 2024, we need to show the politicians, parties and candidates that people support urgent action to address the climate crisis, without division and delay.

What simple actions can we do?

Send the WI postcard or short email to your MP, a few of your own heartfelt words have power.

Make and wear a green heart, and start a conversation about climate change. Green hearts can be crafted in different styles, or simply cut from card; they can be worn or used to decorate a community tree, or shop window, or as a garland.



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GILL BROWN 01732 850571 [pals@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:pals@wkwfi.org.uk)

# SINGING AFTERNOON

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH

BAT AND BALL CENTRE, SEVENOAKS

Doors Open 1.30pm Session 2-4.30

Tickets £10

This singing afternoon is being run by Donna Rudd who runs two choirs in our area. Our members always enjoy the benefits of singing which is good for both your mental and physical health.

As coffee/tea will be supplied please remember to bring your own mug on the day.

Please email the office ([tickets@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:tickets@wkwfi.org.uk)) by Wednesday 28 February to register your interest with your name, WI contact email address and phone number.





## OBITUARIES

The ladies of **Boughton Monchelsea WI** were saddened to hear of the death of their friend

### TRUDY ANNE HEBDEN.

Trudy had been a very active member of our WI for many years until her ill health. She held several posts on our committee and was always to be depended upon for her support. She will be sorely missed.

**North Heath WI** members are sad to announce the passing of one of our longest serving members **DOREEN BROWN**. She was due to have her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday in February but died on New Year's Day. She will be remembered for her kindness and always had a bright smile for everyone.

Sadly we have had another death this month, **BETTY RIDOUT** had been a member for many years and a talented crafter. She worked her magic all through the year to produce lovely items for sale or decoration at our meetings and our hall looks all the more bare without her.

It is with great sadness and shock that **Allington Castle WI's** President **LIN SMITH** has passed away. Lin was President for a very short time, but carried out her duties with dedication. Also she was a committed committee member and attended various AGMs as our delegate. Lin will be greatly missed by her family and friends. RIP dear friend."

It is with great sadness that **Larkfield WI** heard recently of the death of **JANE MOLE**. Jane had recently celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and was a very active member up until she made the decision to go into full time residential care. We send our thoughts and sympathy to her family.

## WHO TO CONTACT

### CHAIR:

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Email: chair@wkwfi.org.uk

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### FEDERATION TREASURER:

Rita King

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01892 354454 Weds or Thurs

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Tel No: 020 8289 3533

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Tel No: 01795 471713

Rita King

Tel No: 01892 354454

### 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.

### Ticket applications:

Apply to: **tickets@wkwfi.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.