



# WEST KENT WI NEWS

April 2024

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN



**PALS** sub committee  
invites you to



***A MAGICAL AFTERNOON  
TEA***

On Tuesday 14 May at  
Hadlow Village Hall, please see page four.

*And to join in with*

***WATERSPORTS 2024***

on Monday 10 June at Mote Park



Please see page  
seven.

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



As I sit down to write my April piece for the West Kent News I have just finished filming a clip for a video produced by Crystal Palace FC to mark International Women's Day (IWD) and to showcase the contribution of the women who work at the club. This made me look at the campaign theme of the IWD which is Inspire Inclusion and to realise how apt that is for the WI as an organisation. It is the basis of everything we do and to quote the IWD:-

***'When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world.'***

As always, we have lots for you in this edition of the West Kent News and I'm especially looking forward to meeting up with you all at the Lifestyle Day on the 17 April.

In the May edition we will be looking back at our AGM with photos and a review. At the moment however, we are in the final stages of planning (in other words items are being brought out of cupboards!). Organising the AGM is quite a task, and I must thank my wonderful office 'angels' Miz and Keeley for keeping it all together and my amazing fellow Trustees for their help and guidance. After our AGM we have the NFWI Annual Meeting at the Albert Hall in June – which is another great opportunity to celebrate being a WI member!

Take care,

**Amanda**

### Stained Glass Mosaic Workshop

There are still some spaces left at the workshop on 16 May being held at Ethel Hunt Lodge. Please send the information requested on the application box, from



the back page, to [tickets@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:tickets@wkwfi.org.uk). Full information in the February and March West Kent News

## Treasurer's Corner



It is difficult to write about something different each month but as Treasurers are completing their year end and reconciling, it is an opportunity to recap on the end of year figures. One of the areas that can be confusing is Section B, B1 Cash Funds.

B1.1 is the final bank balance as per the Account Book. This is the figure if everything had appeared on the bank statement. If using spreadsheets, this will have been automatically calculated.

Section B1.2 allows you to agree the bank statement to the figure in B1.1, taking into account any item that has not appeared yet on the bank statement. Enter the final figure from the bank statement. Take off monies that has been paid in but that has not appeared on the bank statement yet (not cleared). Take off any cheques that were written out but have not appeared on the bank statement. The last thing to check is that any cheques that were uncleared in the previous year but have still not appeared, they must also be taken off.

This total should then agree with the account book figure in B1.1 and you heave a sigh of relief!

The above was just for the current account.

In B1.3 enter any money you have on deposit/savings account, remembering to have added any interest in the column in section A.

If you run Petty Cash, the total you have at the year end should be entered in B1.4

B1.5 is for any money received for forwarding to Federation/NFWI and tickets received for Federation events but not yet paid. Acting as agent does not get included in Section A and is not WI money. This amount must be taken off of the cash funds.

This will give the Total cash funds belonging to the WI and should agree to Section A, A6.

Don't panic if things don't balance first time. It is usually something simple and a break with a nice cup of tea is what is called for before rechecking the figures.

For your new spreadsheet/manual cash book, the figure carried forward is the figure in B1.1

As always, we are available to help. If you use our Independent Financial Examiners (IFE) they are also willing to help. Finally, thank you to all Treasurers for all you do, it is much appreciated.

*Kind Regards, Rita King*

**FEDERATION NOTICE BOARD**

**MCS**

Whether it is a contact number, email address, or the officer roles to be changed, please contact your MCS Rep as soon as possible, in order to keep the database up to date.

The Federation Office has had difficulty contacting certain officers/members in recent months as information has been incorrect. Thank you.

**Yearbook**

Please note a change of boundary.

**Spitfires Group**, comprising **Aperfield, Biggin Hill Evening, Downe and Keston WIs** has been formed. **Chislehurst and Chislehurst Village WIs** have now joined **Orpington Group**.

Please note that the following WI has suspended  
**North Heath** March 2024

**List of Speakers 2024**

Please note that Richard Winston's fee is now £70 inclusive of travel within 10 miles, otherwise 45p per mile.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024**

**APRIL**

Wed 17	Lifestyle Annual Day	Ditton
Fri 19	Auditions Day	Ryarsh
Mon 29	Women Walk the World	Near You

**MAY**

Tues 14	PALS Afternoon Tea	Hadlow
Thur 16	Stained Glass Mosaics	Ethel Hunt
Fri 17	Stained Glass Mosaics	Snodland
Sat 18	Stained Glass Mosaics	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
Weds 12	Green Team Walk	Tonbridge
Tues 18	Learn to play Whist	Ethel Hunt
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
---------	-----------	--------

**NOVEMBER**

Sat 16	Art & Craft Dabble Day	Snodland
--------	------------------------	----------



**WI ADVISERS**

Bev Wild 0208 8289 3533

I hope that you are all well and looking forward to some sunnier weather as we move into the Spring season. The WI Advisers have been busy sourcing locations for new WIs to open and I am pleased to say that we can look forward to three WIs being formed in the next two months. The first is at Wrotham Village Hall which had its preformation meeting on Tuesday 12 March, second is at the British Legion Village in Aylesford and their preformation meeting was on Wednesday 13 March and the third is at Hurst Community Centre Sidcup on the 18 March. We hope to form all three in April, so if you have a waiting list please advise these ladies that there are new WIs forming in the hope that they will be able to visit and join in this wonderful organisation.

Bev Wild

WI Adviser Chair

On the 6 of March, **CROCKENHILL WI** celebrated our 67th birthday. To highlight the event and celebrate Easter, some of our members came in their very own Easter Bonnets or wore a Spring flower corsage. We also had an Easter Quiz and of course birthday Cake!

As well as the birthday celebrations, members generously donated enough gifts to fill eight large shopping bags. These were filled with Easter Eggs and Chocolate gifts for the women and children within the care of Bexley Women's Aid. A charity we have supported for over 33 years. I am so proud to be part of such a wonderful women's group here in Crockenhill. Cheri Yeates



P

A

L

S

GILL BROWN 01732 850571 pals@wkwfi.org.uk



## Magical AFTERNOON Tea



**TUESDAY 14 MAY**

Come and enjoy an afternoon tea and learn about the History of Magic  
Nigel Roberts will entertain and educate you with his magical skills  
at Hadlow Village Hall, TN11 0HQ



Doors open at 2pm

Tickets £13.50

Closing date Friday 26 April.

Please see the back page for ticket applications

Please advise of any food allergies or restrictions—with your member's name/s

## LEARN TO PLAY WHIST

June 18 10am to 1pm. Tickets £7

Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4, Hawkwell Business Centre,  
Pembury, Kent TN2 4AG



Perhaps you have always wanted to learn to join in when others play Whist and feel awkward not knowing quite what to do. Whether to lead with trumps or not, wary of playing with a partner. This is your chance to learn how to play this very social game or perhaps brush up on some rusty skills.

Hopefully you will leave the session with confidence to join in with a group at your own WI or other organisations.

Sheila Miles will be the coach to guide you through the game, she is also the lady who supervises play when we have our Whist Day in October.

Please see the application box on the back page which requests the information you need to give for a ticket for this activity. Come along with a friend or by yourself, as there will be someone to partner you to play Whist with.



## BIGGIN HILL EVENING WI FIRST LONDON TRIP OF 2024



On Thursday 8 February, 23 ladies travelled to London for a tour of Middle Temple, one of the four Inns of Court, professional associations for barristers in England. Originally opened in 1573, the building has an interesting history, explained by our official guide, Susan. A

tasty lunch followed in the grand dining room. Afterwards we went to the Hunterian Museum nearby, the museum of Surgeons. Not for the faint-hearted, but fascinating! We had a 'grand day out' and would recommend it to other WIs.



Sue Ede, President.

## 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.



Project 1095: Economic Empowerment for the Olmarurui Woman Organisation: Elite Community Development Empowerment Programme (ECODEP)

Description: Project participants sign agreements to join village savings and loans group. VSL groups allow women in to make small regular contributions and take out with no interest.

Project 1119: Intercropping for Increased Small-scale Farming

Organisation: Youth and Women for Social and Economic Empowerment

Description: Female farmer and project participant shows off her pineapple and banana crop. Intercropping bananas and pineapples maximizes production and allows farmers to sell surplus at market.



Project 1120: Economic Empowerment for Survivors of Domestic Violence.

Organisation : Sain Tus Development Bridge

Description: Project participant sells crops at market. Survivors of domestic violence received seeds and training in order to earn independent income.



# ART AND CRAFT



Paula Bates 01892 327863

artcraft@wkwfwi.org.uk

## Introduction to **Drawing Flowers**

With tutor Jan Moffitt

**Tuesday 18 June at Frittenden**

**Thursday 20 June at EHL**

**Saturday 22 June at Orpington**

Workshop from 10 am to 3:30 pm. Doors open at 9:30

Please bring a packed lunch and a mug for coffee.

**Ticket price £29. Members Only**

Classes are centred around positivity, creativity and enjoyment – an encouraging space to learn, practice and experiment. They are for all creative abilities – including beginners.

Jan will be doing demonstrations, drawing along with you and coming round to give individual advice.



We will start our drawings by observing and drawing the big shapes that form the flower. Then learn to create shading to give the illusion of form and practice different drawing techniques to create texture.

The second part of the class will be using coloured pencils and learning how to build up depth of colour by overlaying a mixture of colours.

You will need :-

Cartridge paper or pad - ideally A3

Pencil – ideally 4B or softer, eraser

Coloured pencils - a set of about 12 pencils is suggested – Derwent is tutors preferred make.



Jan will bring paper and **graphite** pencils for you to use if you need them.

During the day we will work from work-sheets and real flowers – some flowers will be supplied but please bring your own flowers if you'd prefer.

**Ticket application form on back page.** Closing date 9 May.



**HAVE YOU VISITED THE LEARNING HUB YET?** Gill Tomlinson of **ISTEAD RISE WI** was able, at their March meeting, to show fellow members craft items she had made whilst watching the on-line courses.



## WATERSPORTS 2024 - MONDAY 10 JUNE

Mote Park, Mote Avenue, Maidstone, ME15 7SU  
 Each Session - either Paddle Boarding or Kayak £15

Back by popular request fun and games on the lake at Mote Park. Stuart and his fully trained and insured crew will be on hand to instruct and guide you. The lake is only shallow but buoyancy aids are available for those who wish to borrow them. Please bring a towel and a change of clothing, footwear - closed toed shoes only please.



Please indicate on your application (see back page) your preferred instruction times.  
 Paddleboard 10.30am - 11.30am or 12 noon - 1pm

Kayak 1.30pm - 2.30pm

Paddleboarding, as kneeling is involved regret this sport is not advisable for anyone waiting for or who has had knee replacements, Kayaks because of the sitting position, not suitable for those with replacement hips. Kayaks if you have a Pilates block or can bring a towel to pad your lower back against the kayak, it will be more comfortable. You are very welcome to join in with both the Paddleboarding and the Kayaking.



Not up to joining in with the instruction? Why not come along watch the fun or hire one of the pedalos. Photos of the activities please forward to pals@wkwfi.org.uk.

Closing date Wednesday 1 May, there may be spaces after the closing date but we do need to ensure that the size of each session is not too

large. Looking forward to seeing regular participants and meeting the 'newbies'.

**LENHAM WI** had a really lovely afternoon visiting DSI. Founded by Peggy Spencer to make dance dresses, it continues to make a variety of costumes



for Strictly Come Dancing, Dancing on Ice, and costumes for West End Shows to name just a few. We thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. Well worth a visit.  
 Rita King





## Green Team

greenteam@wkfwi.org.uk

# THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

The Great Big Green Week is when we come together across the country to take part in community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. Our WIs are in the centre of our communities so what can you do to mark Great Big Green Week which is running from **8 to 16 June**.

Can your WI host an event to raise awareness and bring together people of all ages to inspire change and help our ailing planet?

This year's theme is ***Let's Swap Together for Good*** – from clothes or book swaps, to skill swaps in allotments or upcycling workshops, to knowledge swaps. One area where our WI member's excel is in crafting so could you host a crafting skills swap by opening up your usual crafting session to the community. Perhaps hold a session to show your community how to mend or upcycle clothes. Or hold a clothes swap to circulate clothes and accessories with other members of your community, and a fun and sustainable way to refresh your wardrobe.

Swap out cars for sustainable travel. Could you help your local school to arrange a walk to school event? Or do tours of some local community hotspots via public transport. And on this theme, West Kent Federation Green Team would like to invite you to join us on a walk to Haysden Country Park, just a 20 minute walk from Tonbridge Rail Station where we will meet at 11 am on Wednesday 12 June. Save the date and look out for more details in next month's West Kent News.

You will find lots of inspiration and guidance to organise your Big Green Week event at <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/> including a more comprehensive list of ideas and templates to publicise your event. Lastly, don't forget to invite your MP to your event as we really need politicians to speed up climate change mitigation initiatives.

Last Month, the ladies of **CHELSEFIELD EVENING WI** were honoured to welcome the Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Mike Botting and funnily enough one of the Chelsfield Village councillors too!



Mayor Botting met and chatted with the ladies of the group and WI Adviser Bev Wild before explaining about his career as a Police Officer raising to the rank of Inspector before retiring, getting involved in local affairs and subsequently becoming a councillor. He described the pathway to Mayor (but gave away no secrets about next year's Mayor who had been voted in the previous evening!) and then proceeded to talk to us about the formation of the London Boroughs. Apparently, the Bromley mayoral chain is relatively

new in comparison to some Mayoral chains in both London and Kent which date back to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century.



# WKFWI POETRY COMPETITION WINNER

As announced and read at our Federation Annual Meeting the winning entry of the new Poetry Competition was - Journey of Rediscovery written by **Miriam Ramshaw** of **Hadlow WI**



## JOURNEY OF REDISCOVERY



It was his idea to begin with  
now that the boys had grown,  
to buy a soft-top sports car,  
take off for a time on our own.

By plundering boring savings  
we bought ourselves some fun,  
an old, soft-top MG Midget,  
set off in search of the sun.

The car was slow but amazing  
like the tiny Sprite we once had.  
It took 3 days to get there  
using maps – no phone or sat nav.

And so to San Gimignano  
in the beautiful Tuscan hills,  
to a villa in a vineyard  
where time and our lives stood still.

Transported back to the couple  
we were before Mum and Dad,  
confirming our love for each other,  
celebrating all that we had.

To this day whenever we travel  
we prefer an open-top car,  
a legacy from that journey  
rediscovering who we are.

There were eight entries to the Competition and it was a hard choice to make—so very well done to all who entered. Miriam received a trophy to keep for a year together with a certificate of her achievement.

Keep an eye out in the Autumn for the WKFWI Poetry Competition for 2025, please join in.

**NUXLEY VILLAGE WI** walking group were fortunate to have a very interesting guided tour of Arsenal's Emirates Football Stadium. The grandson of one of the walkers works for Arsenal and



was able to show the group all around the stadium. We were able to walk through the tunnel and onto the pitch. Unfortunately there wasn't a cheering crowd waiting, but we did get the sense of what it would be like! Sitting in the dug-out made us realise just how close to the play that seating is. Our changing room photo makes us look as though we were trying to get head-hunted for a new Vets team but it wasn't to be! Good photo though & a great day out!  
Rosemary Webdale



## OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that **Fairfield (Dartford) WI** has to announce the death of **CAROL COLLIER** after a short illness. She was a very active member who was always willing to lend a hand and often won prizes in the gardening section of our Produce Show. She was also a core member of hard-working volunteers for the Temple Hill Lunch Club which **Fairfield** runs for older people in our community. She will be greatly missed.

**Coney Hall Village WI** announces the death of a much-loved founding member, **MAGGIE MAIZELS**, after her two-year battle with cancer. A stylish, lively, brave and warm lady who was a regular at our Book and Walking Clubs. We send our condolences to her family.

Members of **Gates Green WI** are sad to announce the sudden death of **YVONNE JONES**. Yvonne had been an active member since 2012, had served on the Committee and was always willing to help. Being extremely creative, she ran our Craft Group for many years and we have some lovely pieces of her work which we will treasure. Our thoughts are with her family at this sad time.



**Welling WI** sends love and congratulations to **IRIS and MARTIN MILNER** on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 29 March. Iris is a Founder Member of Welling WI, and also on the Committee and a popular WI Member. Again, love and congratulations to you both.

**Leeds WI** sends congratulations and good wishes to member **SARAH BURN** on the occasion of her marriage to **RICHARD HILTON** on 23 February. We hope the future years will be less accident prone!

**East Peckham WI** would like to congratulate **RITA and PETER BROWN** on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding.

**East Peckham WI** would also like to congratulate **GLYNIS and PETER CHEVERTON** on the occasion of their Golden Wedding

**RAINHAM WI** recently held a homemade vegetable & tomato soup lunch followed by homemade cakes. To help with the cost members had brought along vegetables the month before. Rita King (Federation) Wendy Keast (Adviser) & eight ladies from local WI's joined us. Everyone enjoyed a good lunch.



Lynne Pulett  
President

**BEARSTED & THURNHAM WI** held a Member's Evening an opportunity for new members to get to know one another. The evening included using decoupage to decorate a bottle or jar which could be lit up. It was a lively evening enjoyed by all.  
Diane Parr



What's not to like!! For our March meeting **WELLS BELLES WI** were joined by the lovely Ann Morris from Gin O'Chock. Local mum Ann offers a highly unique tasting experience of two craft locally distilled gins served in a reusable flask, paired with absolutely delicious hand crafted chocolates produced in Kent. Needless to say it was a highly successful and most enjoyable evening, proving that great gin and amazing chocolates complement each other extremely well. Thanks to Ann for all her efforts in providing a fantastic workshop. Cheers!!  
Rachel Rogers



**HAPPY EASTER**  
from the  
**Istead Rise WI**  
yarn bombers.



## OBITUARIES

**Ladycroft WI** lost **MARION PRYAL** as a member when she died in February. She joined Ladycroft when she saw our cake stall at our village fair. She was always helpful even lifting chairs when one arm was in a sling. She also liked to come on our monthly walks.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **BARBARA HILTON**. Barbara has been a member of **Barming WI** and previously **Allington WI** for many years. Barbara was an active member and a guiding light. Barbara was involved in all aspects of the WI including WI markets. Barbara served on the committee for many year, ran the sales table and would support many activities. She is sorely missed.

**Frittenden WI** is sad to announce the passing of former member **JOAN DAY** in her 97<sup>th</sup> year. Joan was our President for several years until she moved away. She spent her last years living in Saltdean – several of our members kept in touch and met up with her from time to time with news of our WI activities.

It is with great sadness that **Loose WI** announces the death of **DOREEN MARSH**. She joined Loose WI in 2001 after the closure of **Linton WI** where she had been a long standing member. She served on our Committee and was Secretary for many years- we all looked forward to hearing her reports as they were always humorous. Doreen was well known for all her lovely knitted items and her beautiful embroidery. She will be sorely missed.

**Frittenden WI** is also sad to announce the death of **MARY-ROSE GIBBINS**. Mary joined our WI when our Choir were looking for a pianist/accompanist twenty-five years ago. The Choir continued to thrive under her direction until lockdown forced us to disband. She served on the committee for a while and was the custodian of our scrapbook, keeping it up to date with photos of our various activities. She will be sadly missed.

## WHO TO CONTACT

### CHAIR:

Amanda Breach  
Email: chair@wkwfi.org.uk  
Tel: 01892 823813

### FEDERATION TREASURER:

Rita King  
Email: treasurer@wkwfi.org.uk  
01892 354454 Weds or Thurs

### CHAIRMAN OF WI

### ADVISERS:

Beverley Wild  
Tel No: 020 8289 3533

Email: wiachair@wkwfi.org.uk

### INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

### ADMINISTRATOR:

Gillian Neville  
Email: gneville@live.co.uk

### RESOLUTION COORDINATOR:

Caroline Davis Email:  
daviscawkf@gmail.com

**ACWW:** Carol Gupwell  
carolagupwell156@hotmail.com

Tel No: 01622 676600

### SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:

Jeannette Smith

Email:  
safeguardingofficer@wkwfi.org.uk

### KENT VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY GROUP:

Diane Daniels

Tel No: 01622 674494

Jill Fissenden

Tel No: 01622 758251

### WEST KENT NEWS:

### EDITORS

Linda Wills

Tel No: 01474 834163

Janet Buller

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 via email:

WI Reps 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.