



WEST KENT WI NEWS

westkentnews@wkwfi.org.uk

September 2025

In this edition:



Art and Craft Annual Day



Lifestyle Annual Day



ANNUAL WHIST DAY



**News from WIs in the
West Kent Federation**

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



I hope you all had a wonderful August, as I write this the month is only just beginning so I'm hoping it was a sunny one! The Breaches had our annual family holiday to Brancaster in Norfolk during which we had glorious weather and lots of beach days! Which was just as well as we included five grandchildren from ages ten years to seven weeks!! It wasn't restful but lovely to see everyone. Nothing brings a family together more than a game of beach cricket!

Before I went away West Kent federation sadly had to cancel two events through lack of interest which was a great shame for those that had booked but also for the committee members who work so hard to put events on. We can no longer afford to run events that will make a loss, and hence difficult decisions must be made. As a Federation we will look at what the possible reasons were and learn from them.

This month we have Broderie Perse workshops and the Arts and Craft Annual Day. Something for everyone we hope!!

I'm also very proud to be able to announce the line up for the West Kent Federation AGM next March! As it will be my last one, I hope you will be pleased with the choice of speakers. In the morning, we welcome NFWI CEO Melissa Green. Melissa was unable to join us last year, so she has definitely agreed to attend this time! Melissa is my WI Legend this year following on from our amazing Archivists, the hilarious Lindsey Barrell (aka Ms Cherry Bombe) and the wonderful Janie Ramsay. All WI members!

One in four children will leave primary school unable to read to the expected standard- a shocking statistic I'm sure you will agree and as a retired Primary school teacher I know only too well that time to hear children individually read is difficult to find. The charity Schoolreaders aims to recruit volunteers to go into local primary schools to give children one to one support. They will be telling us all about this wonderful charity and how we can get involved. Also look out for their flyers at the Lifestyle Day in October and at other events.

Our main afternoon speaker will be Judith Holder. As her biography states- Judith has spent most of her career making peak time entertainment programmes and has produced some of the most talented names in the industry – Victoria Wood, Billy Connolly, Lenny Henry, Dame Edna, and Clive James to name a few. Which is code for she has never really had a proper job. In the last few decades, she has concentrated on writing and performing comedy about growing older... notably the internationally successful TV series Grumpy Old Women which was then turned into a four sell out stage shows and six books. She is currently podcasting weekly with Jenny Éclair-Older and Wider (note wider not wiser) which they explain is the podcast for people who don't really know what a podcast is. They have had 2.8 million downloads so far and have been nominated in this year's podcast awards. Judith recently spent a year as Visiting Research Fellow at Oxford University's Institute of Population Ageing where she looked at the phenomenon of later middle age and spent a lot of time in the Bodleian pretending to be 18 again. Her hobbies include lockable Tupperware and liquorice all sorts.

What a stellar line up – so please look out for all the information re tickets and come along if nothing else to say goodbye!

Take Care

Amanda

Treasurer's Corner

September has come around very quickly and for the Federation it is our year end at the end of the month. It would be good for Andrew, our Bookkeeper, if WI accounts were paid and any Quarter 2 subscriptions were also forwarded for us to then forward the NFWI portion.



When sending in subscriptions, if you do not have a copy of the form, please state clearly what you are paying e.g. 1 x full member, 2 x Q2 pro rata etc. It is really frustrating when we receive a sum without the full information and we usually have to refer back to the WI to clarify.

Rita King

Federation Noticeboard for September 2025

List of Speakers

Please note the following additional speaker in the Music, Dance and Entertainment category

• **‘Music and Fun’** – A Very Lively and Entertaining Performance with Violin

Ms Victoria Frances Chapel Cottage, Stocks Green Road, Stocks Green, Hildenborough, Kent TN11 8LT Tel No: 01732 838348 email: jackiesimmondstillergirl@talktalk.net Fee: £120 plus £10 travel expenses Available at all times and at short notice

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

SEPTEMBER

Tues 9	Broderie Perse Workshop	EHL
Thur 11	Broderie Perse Workshop	Snodland
Sat 13	Broderie Perse Workshop	Orpington
Weds 24	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton

OCTOBER

Sat 11	Auditions Day	Hildenborough
Weds 15	Matthew Palmer Watercolour W/shop	EHL
Thur 16	Matthew Palmer Watercolour W/shop	Hextable
Fri 17	Matthew Palmer Watercolour W/shop	Snodland
Sat 18	Matthew Palmer Watercolour W/shop	Orpington
Weds 22	Lifestyle Annual Day	Ditton
Thur 23	Annual Whist Day	Ryarsh

NOVEMBER

TBC	Murder Mystery	TBC
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Back by Popular Demand!

SPEAKER



Help Select our Speakers

St John's Church Hall

20 Foxbush, Hildenborough, Tonbridge TN11 9HT

Saturday 11 October 2025

Doors open at 9:30am with the first speaker at 10:00 am and the day will finish at 3:00pm

Tickets are £10 and includes tea or coffee on arrival and during the lunch break

Please bring your own mug and 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

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

As part of our commitment to "helping others", the committee of PA&I will be collecting for the Foodbank run by St John's Church.

Some of the items most needed are:-

Small tins of corned beef or lean ham,

jars of tomato pasta sauce, spaghetti or penne,

tins of sweetcorn, readymade custard, Weetabix, honey

and drinking hot chocolate powder

If you would like to take part,

contributions can be brought on the day

Thank you



Catford WI send many congratulations to member **KAREN DUGGAN** on being awarded an **MBE** in the King's Birthday Honours list.

The Members of **Walderslade WI** send warmest congratulations and best wishes to **PAT WINDSOR AND HER HUSBAND JIM** as they celebrate their Golden Wedding.

Congratulations to **SHEENA AND DENNIS O'KILL** on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary from all at The **Farleigh's WI**.

Members of **Leeds WI** send congratulations and best wishes to **BARBARA and TONY TURNER** who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 11 September.



Members of **Ightham WI** supported Ightham Mote, on Tuesday 6 August, to celebrate their 40th anniversary of inclusion into the National Trust. Our



Honor Oak WI spent an amazing day on 17 August at Chelsea Physic Garden's four acres for our annual August outing. The sun was high in the sky with a hot, hot, hot 28°, so the trip included a delicious lunch in the cafe and the shade!



ladies rose to the challenge when we were invited to provide afternoon tea for over 300 guests and dignitaries invited by Ightham Mote. As well as a celebration cake, crafted by our member Anne, our ladies made a wide array of sandwiches as well as a delightful spread of celebratory cupcakes. We supported local small businesses in resourcing most of the ingredients. Many of our members are previous or current volunteers at the Mote, so they were able to see both sides and to enjoy the celebration event. We had a wonderful day and enjoyed being part of something special for the local community.

Members of **Coney Hall Village WI** took advantage of the recent sunny weather and walked a part of the London 'Waterlink Way' alongside the river and the railway, starting at Lower Sydenham Station. The walk takes in the River Pool Linear Park and Ladywell Fields, and eventually carries on to the Thames, although we finished at Ladywell, where you can find the site of the original 'Lady Well' (a mineral spring) marked with a blue plaque. Some of us enjoyed refreshments at a French cafe/patisserie near Ladywell station before heading home.



Christine Burch,
Secretary
Coney Hall Village WI



South Park WI had a NFWI AM party on the big screen in the Hockey club where we normally meet. Thirty six ladies attended from our WI and three or four other WIs in our local area. We served tea, coffee and cake throughout the day. We found this was a good social way of watching the event and eating cake.
Amanda Bird



On a warm day in late May, **Chelsfield Evening WI** along with members of Hurst, Ladycroft, Catford and Farnborough WIs enjoyed a relaxing and leisurely day at Arundell Castle. Steeped in history, the house offered rare examples of furniture, stunning tapestries and art work dating back thousands of years.



Gillingham WI member Michelle, giving us a demonstration of how to make a pom-pom flower. She found the tutorial online and decided this would be a great way for us to spend our craft meeting this month. With much enthusiasm we got onto making our own flowers, as you can see in the photos, they turned out rather well. What a great introduction for our two new members to WI life in our group.

Outside the gardens did not disappoint with borders of wild grasses filled with blooming Allium's, a highly scented rose garden and secret corners and pathways with an array of flowering borders at every turn.



ART AND CRAFT



Paula Bates

artcraft@wkfwi.org.uk

Matthew Palmer Watercolour Workshops

Oast Houses on Wed 15 October at Ethel Hunt Lodge

Lavender Basket on Thurs 16 October St. Peter's Church, Hextable

Dungeness on Fri 17th October at Bowls Club, Snodland

Narrowboat on Sat 18 October at St. Nicholas Church Orpington

10 am to 3:30 pm, Doors open 9:30 am

Cost of ticket £ 36. priority to members,

Non-members £5 surcharge

Please bring a packed lunch and a mug for coffee



Popular professional artist Matthew Palmer will be returning to teach us more watercolour

workshops suitable for beginners to the more experienced improver.

No need to buy any supplies in advance, Matthew will supply a sketch for you and all the paint you need to complete your painting. He will lend boards, palettes and brushes.



Please bring a pencil, eraser, water container and kitchen roll. If you have your own painting kit please feel free to bring it. We will need 3 round brushes - a large size 16/18/20, a medium size 10 or 12 and a small size 4 or 6, and a rigger brush might also be useful. Primary colours will be used: red, yellow and blue and all other colours can be mixed from those but bring others if you have them. He will bring his art shop so that you can top up your supplies if you wish. **Kit charge £5.**



Closing date 26 September



Frindsbury Extra WI celebrated their 59th birthday on the 19 May. There was a lovely meal and lots of laughter. The ukulele band played a variety of music with members and their guests singing along. The event was enjoyed by all those present. They are now heading into their 60th year.



On the 14 June, **South Park WI** ladies yet again ran the Refreshments for the Loose Fete, as well as a cake stall.

The Pavilion next to the King George V playing fields was decorated for VE day and everyone that helped dressed in 1940's style, and all looked great.

We had a very enjoyable day and sold loads of our home made cakes and savouries, as well as being very busy making Tea and Coffee. Amanda Bird



Wrotham Roses WI has over the last year been collecting used stamps to help raise funds for an organisation called Against Breast Cancer.

We received a lovely response from the recycling team following our first delivery of used stamps. Each kilogram of stamps they receive helps raise around £10. The funding then goes towards research into new treatments, tools for earlier diagnosis and advice to reduce the recurrence and secondary spread.

If you get the opportunity thought we'd share the organisations website details in case your WI might want to get involved with this very worth while cause. www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk

Thank you . Julia, Secretary - Wrotham Roses WI



After a week of rain the sun made a welcome entrance for our first fundraiser as the newly reformed **Wateringbury WI**. Our members put on their aprons and got out their mixing bowls and produced some of the best bakes for miles around. We had a fantastic day . Centre stage was a magnificent fete themed celebration cake which we

raffled. Well done everyone.

Sharon Goshawk, President



Honor Oak WI held our first ever jam making workshop on Friday 6 June. A member very kindly gave us the run of her kitchen for the duration. While members learnt how to make jam in two different ways as well as enjoying plenty of scones, clotted cream and, yes, jam!



Bridget Rogers
President Honor Oak WI



The ladies of **Crayford WI** group enjoyed a superb talk on Henry VIII (by speaker Tony Harris). Henry arrived in full costume. His talk on HENRY VIII was full of humour and also very informative about his reign and his six wives. It was a most enjoyable afternoon for our ladies.



LIFESTYLE ANNUAL DAY

Wednesday 22 October

Ditton Community Centre ME20 6AH

10:30 am to 3:30 pm, doors open 9:30 am

Please bring your own mug for coffee and a packed lunch.

Members Tickets £15. Non-members £20.

Our October Lifestyle Annual Day has some interesting speakers lined up for you this year:

Our first speaker, Stephan Moehrke, is the lead physiotherapist for Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone hospital. He will be telling us how to look after our bodies and, hopefully, keep them maintained for the future. Having been under Stephan's care, I can confidently vouch for his methods, his care and the results.



Our next speaker is Bob Ogley. He will be telling us of his experiences, as lead reporter, for Kent, during the great storm. His story is fascinating to listen to and very apt for the time of year. Let's hope there are no winds forecast for our day!

Our final speaker is Chris Murphy; Chris started the Repair Cafe, in Tunbridge Wells, and will talk to us about the trials and tribulations of making this work. It has been a great success and has surpassed everyone's expectations. Fits in very nicely with the WI ethos of Make do and Mend.



I hope you will be able to join us for our day. As usual, there will be Country Markets and some independent stalls to shop at. And, of course, it wouldn't be an Annual Day without a raffle.

We look forward to welcoming you to Ditton.

Closing date 17 October. Ticket application details on back page.



Highgate Hawkhurst WI had a most enjoyable evening with Rose Hudson-Wilkin, who spoke about growing up as a child in Montego Bay, Jamaica, her life in ministry, and the many roles she has held, including Chaplain to HM Queen Elizabeth II, Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons and in 2019, Bishop of Dover. She is an inspiring speaker and many of us have now ordered her book, *The Girl from Montego Bay*



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GILL BROWN and JEANNETTE SMITH pals@wkfwi.org.uk

ANNUAL WHIST DAY

Thursday 23 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, as per the back page, by supplying the required information by **3 October**.

We require the following information: Name of person applying and a contact phone number. Your WI, the number of tickets requested 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.

Debbie Jackson member of CEWI describes her experiences of joining the WI.

“Before joining the **Chelsfield Evening WI**, I never imagined how much a simple shared interest could grow into something so meaningful. I started a sewing club now known as ‘In stitches’ through our WI, and what began as a hobby quickly became a source of real friendship and connection. Running the group helped me build my confidence, but even more importantly, it brought together a wonderful group of women who now mean so much to me. We don’t just meet for sewing anymore — we catch up outside of the club, support each other through life’s ups and downs, and always find time for laughter. The WI has given me a space to belong, and these friendships have truly enriched my life. I’m so grateful for the friendships we’ve built together”.



A popular stall at the Boughton Monchelsea Village Fete this year was the one run by the ladies of **Boughton Monchelsea WI** supporting our community with the sale of delicious home made cakes and teas, coffees and squashes. A very successful event!



ART AND CRAFT

Paula Bates

artcraft@wkfwi.org.uk

Art & Craft Annual Day

Wednesday 24 September

Ditton Community Centre ME20 6AH

10:30 am to 3:30 pm, doors open 9:30 am

Please bring your own mug for coffee and a packed lunch.

Members Tickets £15. Non-members £20.

SPEAKERS:

Wendy Andrade, NDSF AIFD CFD FBFA has a passion for all things floral and would love to share her story about how she became a published author through the love of crafting. Join Wendy as she takes you on her journey of creating two floral crafting books that have sold worldwide and have led to many fun adventures .



Kate Marlborough-Fletcher dresses as Anne Boleyn for an entertaining talk to take us back to the sixteenth century with a live demonstration of how and why Queen Anne would have dressed and the significance of certain colours, weights and fabrics of the apparel worn.

Curtis Tappenden: The Art of the Circus. Curtis is an author and illustrator who has for many years been drawing for magazines, books, advertisements and newspapers. He has written books and visits art clubs around the country with his unconventional presentations. Curtis is a performance poet and painter and has been drawing live in Britain's circuses. He will give an entertaining talk about the history of the circus and his own passion and involvement with them, finishing off with an art demonstration.



Our ever popular Bring & Buy stall will be there as well as the excellent supplies from Rainham Sewing and artisan retail stalls.

Ticket Application on back page. Closing date **Friday 5 September 2025.**



Green Team

greenteam@wkfwi.org.uk



Twenty West Kent members came on a sunny day in June for a lovely walk around the beautiful village of Shoreham. Having its own railway station, a lot of the participants travelled there by train, and on arrival were greeted by West Kent Chair Amanda Breach before being provided with a written guide detailing a choice of three different walks offering varying degrees of length and difficulty

With the church close by the station many first of all stopped to visit this beautiful and very historic building and it had been arranged that a Churchwarden was on hand to give a brief history of just some of its many treasures. After that people walked at their own speed, stopping for lunch at either one of the pubs along the way or enjoying a picnic lunch they had brought with them.

Many thanks to the Green team for arranging this lovely trip with especial thanks to Caroline Coplestone and Carol Campbell who were responsible for all the planning.



In July 44 members of **Bearsted Green WI** enjoyed a meal at The Fox & Goose, Weaving to celebrate its 45th Birthday. Many thanks to Sue, Marilyn and Pam for organising.

In August members got together for a local walk at Bearsted Woodland Trust and afterwards joined others at The Oak on The Green for chatter and refreshment. A lovely way to spend a summer afternoon.



It was a glorious sunny day when we met at Ethel Hunt Lodge to take part in the first Introduction to Pastels workshop taught by Kim Langford, an expert on this technique.

Once coffee had been drunk and introductions made, Kim talked us through the various methods employed to produce the many effects possible with the use of pastels. After a trying out her suggestions, we were then encouraged to try out our own ideas. It was then clear why the tables had been covered with paper and a roll of paper towel was available – this is quite a messy craft!

Kim then distributed a drawing she had made of the still life picture we were going to complete with pastels. The various items in the picture had been placed on a table in the middle so we could see for ourselves their shape with light and shade and we all settled down to produce our version of the picture.

The rest of the day passed quite quickly with everyone engrossed in their work. When all the pictures were completed Kim sprayed them so as to retain their colour and to stop smudging.



she



We all agreed this was a most enjoyable and instructive workshop.

Gill Bowden
Bredhurst WI

Pictures are from Orpington workshop.

Highgate Hawkhurst WI ladies held their Inaugural Magnificent Games with teams from Frittenden, Marden & Tenterden Glebe WIs

Events included welly wanging, egg & spoon, ball bouncing, corn throwing, hitting through croquet hoops and egg whisking. Medals were awarded to all and a cup for the winning team. Highgate Hawkhurst WI allotment group provided some vegetables, flowers and cake.



Frittenden WI Having been inspired by this year's Resolution "Bystanders can be lifesavers" we asked our local First Responder to come to a meeting and demonstrate the defibrillator. I had never seen one and would have been rather nervous about using it in a real situation but having tried it, I now feel confident and so do our members who attended.

We strongly recommend this to other WIs as it was not only informative but also fun. Aneta Godwin, President

A small group from **Catford WI** and members from **Hurst and Petts Wood WI** joined John Baker and Alex McMillan in Greenwich Park to learn about Dowsing. It was such a surprise



when your dowsing rods crossed in answer to a question or to lead us to the ruins of a roman villa! It really does work- we also tried to find water and with John's expert help a few did and were able to determine the depth the water was at! A great day out that had us all wanting to do more- many thanks to Kay Gobins for organising.

In June **Rainham WI** held a 'Picnic in the Park' at Rainham Cricket Club (our meeting venue). We invited other local WIs, including Jeannette Smith & Wendy Keast. 'Two's Company' entertained us. We had our own picnics, followed by home-made cake's, Strawberries & Ice-cream. Lynne Puplett, President



KENT VOLUNTARY SERVICES EMERGENCY GROUP

To all those who have been registered or helped with the West Kent Federation WI group as part of KVSEG. This has involved over 300 members over the years.. Thank you

We have been involved with the above group for possibly the last 20+ years. Helping as welfare support at welfare centres when Yalding was flooded, Canterbury had a major fire, and a gas explosion in Maidstone, to name but a few. We have provided volunteers for training at a chemical spillage on the coast, fire in the tunnel, a train derailment, incident at a music event and terrorist attack at a major shopping centre.

With the increased support from local centres used for welfare, the age of some of our volunteers and the fact that the support we are able to offer is limited, we have decided to disband our register of volunteers.

Where we are asked for volunteer support for Kent Resilience Forum eg training, we will email secretaries and anyone volunteering can message me then on: westkentwikvseg@gmail.com this is also in West Kent News under my name.

Again a big thank you for all your support in the past—Diane Daniels and Jill Fissenden





PUBLIC AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL

Diane Daniels — pai@wkfwi.org.uk

BYSTANDERS CAN BE LIFESAVERS

This campaign calls on WI members to work together to increase public confidence and training in the delivery of CPR and to work with local organisations to help improve access to defibrillators in their communities.

See Page 21 of July/August WI Life for further information.

British Heart Foundation offer a free online course for CPR under the title RevivR.

Emergency First Aid and/or CPR

From what I can see all other companies charge for a demonstration evening or training course. There are many private companies offering bespoke training courses.

If WIs wanted to follow up an evening of training, info for their area is online:
British Heart Foundation, British Red Cross, St Johns Ambulance

Members of **St George's Beckenham WI** and their guests enjoyed a coach trip to the Kent coastal town of Deal on 10 July 2025. Unbeknown to them their visit coincided with that of the King, who was there to support a community beach clean by young military cadets. Some members were lucky enough to catch a fleeting glimpse of him walking on the beach with the volunteers.



But this was not the whole story of the day. The weather was sunny but thankfully

not as hot as in the London left behind. Members walked the seafront promenade and pier taking the air. Historic sites were also visited by some. Lunch was traditional seaside fare. There was even time for a paddle on the beach, which members who had forgotten their beach shoes found painful! And yes – it was spotlessly clean too! Overall, it was a memorable day with much left undone for another visit to this historic Cinque port (technically a limb of Sandwich). King Charles would have liked it too.

Twenty **South Park WI** ladies, celebrated World Embroidery day, with a day in Sue Lamberts lovely garden, with of course—cake.

Some worked on the poppy banner that needed repair from last year, this is put up round the South Park fountain in November, others worked on their own embroidery, and stitch work.



On a lovely warm July afternoon **Ladycroft WI** held a strawberry tea in June's garden - something that has become an annual event! 20 members enjoyed homemade sandwiches, scones (with jam & clotted cream of course!) & cakes with lots of tea!

The wasps were a bit annoying but a good time was had by everyone. The afternoon was rounded off by a raffle & a big 'thank you' to June.
Anne Bush



A Memorable Day for **Corbett WI** Members at the Epsom Derby



On 6 June, several members of Corbett WI enjoyed a fantastic day at the Derby in Epsom. Everyone looked wonderful and was fully ready to enjoy the special event.

Adding to the excitement, they were lucky enough to meet JB Gill from the popular band JLS. As if that wasn't enough, JB's PR team kindly gifted them a complimentary bottle of

Prosecco to mark the occasion. It was an unforgettable day, full of style, good company, and a few lovely surprises along the way.



In June the ladies of the **Harvel WI** were busy baking for the Harvel 5 which is local run with over 800 entries! In July they also baked for the Harvel Village Fete. Also in July they

hopped on a coach for a mystery tour organised by one of the members which took them to a huge garden centre for a coffee stop, then off to the English Martyrs Catholic Church and finished up at Highdown gardens for an afternoon tea and tour of the gardens.



Crockenhill WI are delighted and honoured to wish a very happy birthday to wonderful members Shirley Abbott and Christine Wyeth on celebrating their 90th birthdays. Christine and Shirley have been a members since Crockenhill WI was founded in 1958. They have always and still continue to be active members of WI. Shirley is still a committee



member. She hosts our committee meetings. She also hosts and runs the 'Crafty Afternooners' group. Both Shirley and Christine are keen members attending the WI Book Club and 'Ladies That Brunch' sub groups. Christine delivers the Robbie Burns prayer or grace at our annual Burns Night and New Year dinner plus her Scottish shortbread biscuits are always supplied for after dinner enjoyment. Both Christine and Shirley are also active supporters at our village church too.

Shirley ensures that members and friends who are in hospital or unwell at home get a visit from her. And is still involved and supports the Village Hall.

At our last meeting we presented Shirley with bouquet of flowers wishing her a very happy birthday and thanking her for her friendship and support. Unfortunately Christine has been in hospital for a few weeks but we look forward to seeing her and presenting her with her birthday bouquet on her return home very soon.

Happy 90th Birthday to our fabulous members Christine and Shirley. Thank you for all you both do for Crockenhill WI.

Chrissie Wyeth is 2nd from the left front row and Shirley Abbott on the far right of the front row.

Cheri Yeates

South Park WI were joined by some ladies from **The Farleigh's WI** for a lunch time Bowling session at the Hollywood Bowl Maidstone.

16 of us over 3 lanes adjoining lanes, all had lots of fun and laughs. Amanda Bird

To win a Best Kept Village competition, one needs community involvement.

Eynsford WI members enjoyed knitting many flowers in two of the WI colours, purple and white, and for the remaining WI colour, green, they made "leaves" from used green bags. The striking display was erected above a grassy bank in the centre of the village.



The results of the competition are in September.

Wateringbury WI 's July meeting was with Tim & Paul from the NHS who came along with their mannequins to demonstrate CPR. They also advised us about wills and the importance of having a power of attorney as we age.



We had a large collection of medical blister packs which we have taken off for recycling.



We had a lovely cream tea in the village tea shop. Our members are also busy knitting bears for the buddy bag association, for children in emergency care. and we have just sent off our first box full.

Well done ladies. Sharon Goshawk, President

A party of **Shooters Hill WI** went to

Chiddingstone Castle to have a curator-guided tour of the fascinating exhibits on display, followed by a delicious lunch, on a beautiful sunny day this week. See the happy photo above.

The journey to Chiddingstone through the ripening Kent countryside was lovely....Maggy Park.



Detling WI enjoyed their August Summer Party at a member's garden. Great weather, company, food and drink. A wonderful way to enjoy each others company and have a good old get together. Most members were able to come and we missed those who were unwell.



Kathy Tanton





JOIN THE WKF DREAM TEAM!

Are you ready to LEVEL UP your WI journey?

We're on the lookout for passionate, creative, and driven WI members to join our Federation teams and help shape the future of WKF!

Opportunities Available

Board of Trustees

Lead the way! Help guide the strategic direction of our Federation

Advisers

Empower others! Share your knowledge and help members grow


Public Affairs


Be a voice for change! Champion causes that matter in our community


Events Committees

Lifestyle | Art & Crafts | Performing Arts | Leisure & Sport.
Bring your ideas to life and create unforgettable experiences!

Why Join?

 Boost your skills and leadership potential

 Make a real impact on your community

 Connect with inspiring, like-minded women

 Build lifelong friendships

Interested? Let's talk!

Email us at FedSec@wkwfwi.org.uk to find out more.

Kaye Moore Cup Art & Craft Competition

Works to be displayed at the Annual General Meeting
and judged on the day

Wednesday 18 March 2026

Theme: 'New Life'

Your Original Art or Craft work in any medium

Including paint, inks, pastels, sculpting materials, fabric or glass.

No computer art of any kind will be considered.

Any entry must be no larger than 10" x 8" or A4 including mount.

Works on paper to be presented in a mount. One entry per member.

Royalty free images for inspiration from Pixabay

Send your entries to: the Art & Craft Committee

West Kent Federation of WI's. Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Maidstone
Road, Pembury

Tunbridge Wells TN2 4AG

Attach a label to the back of your work stating clearly your name,

Telephone number and name of your WI. Closing date Friday 27 February 2026





OBITUARIES

Highgate Hawkhurst WI is very sad to announce the death of **ROWENA BENNETT**.

Rowena was an active member of our programme committee and her enthusiasm and beautiful smile will be remembered fondly by us all.

Iden Green and Benenden WI is sad to announce the death of **CHRISTA MARSH**, who was a much-loved, long-standing member of our WI. She will be greatly missed.

Bexleyheath & Crayford

Waterside WI is sad to announce the death of **JOY WESTON**, a long-standing past member, serving on the committee in various roles including President, Vice President, Joint Minute Secretary and Welfare. A very active member Joy contributed to our WI in so many ways including arranging local walks and events around London.



Sadly, **Welling WI** has bid farewell to our long standing and Founder Member, **ANGELA CHENERY**. Angela was,

for many years, leader of our Arts & Crafts Section - her expertise will very much be missed. Our sympathy and condolences are sent to her family and friends.

It is with great sadness to report the loss of our member **JOYCE PALMER** who passed away recently at the age of 97 years.

Joyce joined **Crayford WI** in 1993 and was an active member for 32 years. We send our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Leamington Ladies WI is sad to announce the passing of two of their members, **DIANE McEIROY** and **ANNIE O'SULLIVAN**. Annie was also a member of **Ladycroft WI**. They will be missed.

Gillingham WI announce with sadness the passing of one of our founding members and past President **VERA WESTMACOTT**. Vera was a valued member of our committee and would regularly host our monthly craft afternoons. She was an integral member, baker and volunteer at social events. She will be greatly missed by us all.

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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.

The change over the last year in ordering tickets for Federation events has proved a success. However, due to the cost and reliability of the postal service, we propose that in 2025, we will accept ticket applications via email only. Tickets, when issued will be emailed to the WI representative in the normal way.

Please only order tickets via your nominated representative.

Should this create a problem, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

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.
- If open to non-members please state number required for members and non-members separately. Priority will always be given to members.