



WEST KENT WI NEWS

westkentnews@wkwfi.org.uk

OCTOBER 2025

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Woodville

Woodville Place, Gravesend DA12 1DD

Wednesday 18 March 2026

10.30am to 3.45pm (doors open at 10.00am)

See page four
for all information

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



As the days grow shorter and the leaves begin to turn, there's a certain magic in the air that October brings. It's a time for cosy jumpers, warm drinks, and a chance to reflect on the wonderful sense of community we share within the WI.

This month, I want to extend a huge thank you to all of you who have dedicated your time and energy to our various events and initiatives. From local group meetings to our federation-wide gatherings, your enthusiasm and commitment are what make our WI so special. Your hard work in supporting local causes, sharing skills, and simply being there for one another truly embodies the spirit of our organisation and if you have never thought about helping out why not give it a go- you won't regret it!

As we look ahead, let's carry this momentum with us. Whether you're planning a harvest festival, a craft workshop, or a speaker event, remember that every single contribution, no matter how small, helps to strengthen the bonds of friendship and learning that define us.

As always, I look forward, as do my fellow Trustees, to seeing you at future events or at your WI meetings.

Take Care

Amanda

Treasurer's Corner



There is a lot of talk about scams and keeping your data safe. It's smart to password-protect and save your work to the cloud, but what if the person with the passwords isn't around? At my WI, we use two memory sticks. The Treasurer swaps the most up-to-date one with the Secretary at every Committee meeting. This way, only a month's worth of data would be lost if something happens. It's a good idea to have a backup plan to secure important information. This can also include minutes from the Secretary.

I'm all for using technology, and it's definitely the way to go these days. If your WI isn't doing internet banking yet, you should seriously consider it. Writing cheques is a hassle – it's time-consuming, expensive, and slow. You have to write the cheque, post it, and wait for it to arrive. Then, we have to process it and post it to the bank, which doesn't have branches. It's a lot of work!

On the other hand, with internet banking, the payment is processed and authorised immediately. The recipient gets the money right away, and a quick email confirms the transaction. No stamps, no postal delays. It might be a bit tricky to switch, especially dealing with banks, but the benefits are totally worth it

Rita King

Federation Noticeboard for October 2025

Many congratulations to Keeley, Federation's Systems Administrator, and Jamie on the birth of their new daughter, sister to Anneliese.

We wish them every happiness.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

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

2026

FEBRUARY

Thur	19	Introduction to Pen, ink and Watercolour Wash—	EHL more dates to follow
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MARCH

Weds	18	WKFWI Annual General Meeting	Gravesend
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Spring Time Murder Mystery—date and place to be confirmed

The ladies of **HARVEL WI** held a 'Summer Party' at the Vigo Rugby Club in August. The itinerary for the day was a 'Fun Produce Competition', which had a fantastic turnout with categories such as 'Something you have grown', Biscuits, 'Strawberry Surprise' which was served as the dessert and a 'Homemade Card'. All kindly judged by Rosemary Tidbury and Sue Boner. Lunch was served which was a cold buffet of lovely fresh salads all homemade and a selection of meats. After lunch we all enjoyed a fun game of 'Bingo'. It was lovely to see so many members and also ladies from other local WIs. The room was full of chatter and laughter and a good time was had by all. Photos of some winning entries. Sally Smith



A belated Golden Wedding anniversary to **HELEN and DAVID SWAN**. With love from all at **The Farleigh's WI**.

Coney Hall Village WI offers warmest congratulations to our member **MARION HIRST**, and her husband, **RICHARD**, on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on Thursday 6 November.

All the members of **Greenslade WI** send their love and congratulations to **JUNE and JOHN MILLER** on their Golden wedding anniversary on 4 October. Wishing you continued happiness for many years to come.

Congratulations to **RICHARD & JACKY LEMAN** at **Matfield WI** who will be celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 9 October.

Frittenden WI sends warmest congratulations to **JENNIFER and STEPHEN JEFFERY** on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 29 September. Jennifer has been a faithful member of our WI for almost 50 years and has served as President several times.

HAM HILL AND SNODLAND WI spent a sociable and creative evening making colourful wreaths for their front doors. Starting with a circle of woven twigs, these were decorated with artificial autumn leaves, berries and fresh fir cones. A fun activity with an attractive end result. Helen Orme



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Woodville
Woodville Place, Gravesend DA12 1DD

Wednesday 18 March 2026
10.30am to 3.45pm (doors open at 10.00am)

PRESENTATION: Annual Report & Accounts for 2025

SPEAKERS

Melissa Green, CEO of NFWI

Melissa has a professional background in the third sector, with senior leadership roles in a number of national membership and volunteer-led organisations and with a focus on children, families and communities.

As Chief Executive, Melissa's role is to lead and support the NFWI staff team and work in partnership with the Board and Officers in supporting members and ensuring the continued strength and ongoing development of the organisation.

Schoolreaders

One in four children leave primary school unable to read to the expected standard. This means they are unable to fully access their secondary education which will have a life-long impact on their opportunities.

Schoolreaders is a national child literacy charity that recruits volunteers to go into local primary schools to listen to children read. The more people our children can read to, the better. It increases their confidence, their self esteem and their fluency.

Judith Holder

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, Judith has concentrated on writing and performing comedy about growing older, notably the internationally successful TV series Grumpy Old Women which was then turned into four sell out stage shows and six books. She is currently podcasting weekly with Jenny Eclair 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.

DELEGATE TICKETS ARE FREE however you still 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 and **Delegates are free to sit anywhere in the hall.**

NON-VOTING MEMBERS TICKETS – 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 **Friday 13 February**.

However, we are offering an 'Early Bird' booking price of **£13.50 per ticket** if received in the office by **Friday 30 January**. Please note there is a **maximum of 10 tickets per WI**. If the event is oversubscribed, we will go to ballot and let you know your allocation after the second closing date.

Please complete the Ticket Application form and email to Tickets@wkfw.org.uk or post to the Federation Office. All ticket applications, whether received by email or post, will be acknowledged. If you do not receive an acknowledgement, please contact the office to check we have received your request. As always, your WI will be invoiced for tickets after the event.

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

MEMBERS WITH LIMITED MOBILITY

Please indicate on the Ticket Application form if a reserved seat is required for member(s) with limited mobility. Seating will be at the end of a row and space is limited, but we will do our best to accommodate you. There is also limited space available for wheelchairs, so please let the Federation Office know if wheelchair access is required. Please note if you bring a rollator or mobility scooter to the event, these will need to be stored in the Kent Room.

HEARING IMPAIRED

The main Auditorium has an infrared hearing system which is available for those sat in rows D to P in the stalls. Please let us know your requirements when booking your tickets.

STALLS AND BASKETS will be situated in the Kent Room which is up the stairs on the right.

COLLECTION

We will be collecting for Gravesham Food Bank 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.

RHS WISLEY DRAW

As a Federation we are Associate Members of the RHS which entitles us to 50 tickets for a visit to RHS Wisley. Remember, this is for a **one** group visit of up to 50 people and you are welcome to include members from other WIs to use all the tickets.

BURSARIES

(1) Three Bursaries for Individual Members

These are not subject specific and can be used for any course chosen by the member as long as it meets the WI charitable objectives. The course can be residential, non-residential, or online.

- a) Each bursary will be for a set figure of £200. If the course costs more than that then the member should pay the balance.
- b) Winners will have two years to take up the bursary.
- c) Winners will need to check with the Federation that the course meets WI objectives.
- d) If possible, the Federation should pay the provider direct. If not, we will refund the member on production of confirmation paperwork.

Members will have to apply for entry into the individual bursaries using the application box in either the October, November, and December/January West Kent News, or email or write in with your details.

Please note members can only apply once and winners will be chosen by draw.

Please also note that if you have won a bursary within the last five years, you are not eligible to enter.

(2) Two Bursaries for WIs as follows:-

NFWI Raffle

One bursary to be funded from the proceeds of the NFWI Raffle.

Memorial Bursary (formerly the Denman Memorial Bursary)

The winning WIs can decide whether to use these bursaries to book a specialised tutor/workshop that would be open to all its members to attend, or hold a draw for an individual to have a chance of winning the bursary.

All WIs will be entered automatically for these bursaries and winners will be chosen by draw.

CLOSING DATES

Friday 30 January 2026

‘Early Bird’ ticket applications and
Applications for the RHS Wisley Draw and Bursaries

Friday 13 February 2026

Ticket applications and
Stationery orders to be received in the office for collection at the AGM

RHS Wisley Draw

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

If your WI would like to enter into the draw for these tickets, which will be held at the AGM on Wednesday 18 March 2026, please complete the entry form.

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

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

Please make sure that all the information requested on the application box is included: WI, Contact Name, Address and Postcode, Tel No and Email.

West Kent Federation of Women's Institutes

WISLEY TICKETS

Please submit only one WI application – thank you

WI

would like to be included in the annual draw for tickets to visit RHS Wisley

No transport is included in this offer

Contact Name

Address

..... Postcode

Tel No

Email

Apply to: FedSec@wkfwi.org.uk

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

Closing Date: Friday 30 January 2026

WEST KENT FEDERATION OF WIs

2026 Annual Bursary for Education in any subject

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

WI

Contact Name

Address

..... Postcode

Tel No Email

Apply to: FedSec@wkfwi.org.uk

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

Closing Date: Friday 30 January 2026

Please note if you win a bursary at the 2026 AGM, you will not be eligible to enter again within the next five years.



West Kent Federation was pleased to have a stand at the Charlton Park RFC open day at the end of August. The Impact25 Community Collaboration between Rugby Clubs and the WI has been at the forefront of promoting walking rugby to WI members. One spin off from this initiative has been for Rugby clubs to open their facilities to local WIs for meetings and events. At West Kent Federation we are pleased to be using the hall at the club to hold some events for our members in the north of the Federation. We had a lot of interest about the organisation and handed out leaflets for local WIs. Many thanks for Moira from Petts Wood WI and Chislehurst evening WI and Sian from Hurst WI for helping out on the day with Amanda and Barbara from West Kent

BASKETS FOR THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THE WOODVILLE
WOODVILLE PLACE, GRAVESEND DA12 1DD
WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2026

This year we're again inviting all WIs to donate a basket filled with 'goodies'.

Theme ideas could be seasonal – springtime or summer, and don't forget Easter is just round the corner.

Or they could be items for gardening, the home, cooking, pampering or craft. In fact, anything you feel someone would like to buy.

A good place to find a basket is the local charity shop; it can be big or small with a handle or without. YouTube has plenty of ideas if you're looking for inspiration.

Please price your basket at £5, £10, £15 or £20. Money raised will go towards contributing to cover the cost of the day.

We are sure you will think of some lovely ideas and will enjoy seeing and buying an unusual gift either for yourself or a friend.

Please bring your WI basket with you on the day.



THE FARLEIGHS WI INDIAN EXPERIENCE

And now for something completely different! This month Shruti Dave visited us with her wonderful array of saris. Not only did she tell us about her Indian culture and show us how to wear the sari, but she also taught us an Indian dance. A big thank you goes out to Shruti for making our evening go with a swing!
by Judy Balchin



BEARSTED & THURNHAM WI held an enjoyable Musical Afternoon Tea to celebrate 110 years of the WI.
Diane Parr



During August, several members of **BEXLEYHEATH & CRAYFORD WI** visited the Metropolitan Police Museum in Sidcup. We found this a very interesting, informative and in places humorous talk and were fascinated by the exhibits from the 'Black' museum – so called by a journalist as the darkest in human nature. We heard the story of the Rillington Place murders (John Christie), also evidence from the Great Train Robbery. On display were exhibits from the Krays, burglars' tools, fake IDs counterfeit money, perfume and war coupons, Jack the Ripper, spy paraphernalia, gunshot testing and so much more. It is well worth a visit, entry is free, but you do have to book for the 90-minute tour and plenty of time for questions afterwards. Next year there will be a forensics exhibition, and we will be booking our places to go.



Susan Harvey



SOUTH PARK WI ladies had a summer outing day trip to Broadstairs,. It was a lovely day, where we did our own thing during the morning walking along the beach up into the town, and visiting the Folk festival. Some had an early Fish & Chip lunch before the coach took us all to St. Peter Village. We were then split into groups and had a two hour guided history tour of the village starting and ending in the Church St. Peter-in-Thonet. This was a very good tour where we were guided between sketches and vignettes, with costumed characters dressed in costumes from Medieval times to around the 1800's to tell and show us the area's history. Everyone enjoyed this trip saying it's the best we have had since the Dreaded Covid. Amanda Bird



GILLINGHAM WI was asked to provide tea and cake for the third year running at the Teynham ISP School Fostering family day Event on 25 July. This was a fun day open to foster children and their families to enjoy the outdoor activities available at the event. The school provided the tent, and we provided the home-made cakes along with tea and coffee. It was a busy day, in which we survived the heat, and we all had a great day . Julie Diamond



On one of the warmest days in August being 34 degrees **DOWNE WI** held their annual garden party in one of its members beautiful garden.



Starting with Pimm's we enjoyed sandwiches, home-made cakes and strawberries with cream, followed by a raffle in aid of ACWW. It was a lovely day only slightly marred by the host being in hospital following an accident but kindly still gave us use of her garden. Some of the ladies really dressed to impress! Jeannette Histed

A group of us from the **CORBETT WI** recently visited Bonham's saleroom in New Bond Street to see the fabulous iconic props, costumes and set pieces from the six series and films of the much-loved Downton Abbey ahead of their auction. There were more than 260 memorable items from the Crawley family to look at, including Lady Mary's wedding dress, outfits worn by the Dowager Countess, the beautiful 1925



Sunbeam car, the servants' bell wall, as well as hats, shoes, kitchen equipment, menus, recipes, and even letters. All proceeds from the auction are being donated to the children's charity *Together for Short Lives*, a very special charity that supports children with life-limiting conditions and their families.

Afterwards a few of us finished off the day with a lovely Italian meal – the perfect ending to a very memorable trip. Christine Tedder

Members of Keston WI were so impressed by the article in WI Life (July/August) about dental health washbags that they decided to have a go. Carole Hart made 63 adult bags and 16 for children. Helen Best made 14 adult bags and 16 children's bags. Carole also donated toothbrushes and toothpaste along with her friend Victoria Maxwell. Other members also contributed toothpaste. Our local food bank was thrilled with the donation. Judith Gault



ART AND CRAFT



Paula Bates

artcraft@wkfwi.org.uk

INTRODUCTION TO PEN AND INK AND WATERCOLOUR WASH

Thursday 19 February 2026 at Ethel Hunt Lodge, Pembury

Further dates and venues to be confirmed

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

Cost of ticket members £29.00, non members £34.00, Priority to members.

Kit charge £5 per person to include all materials required

Please bring a packed lunch and a mug for coffee

DOODLING, SPLATTING, INKY TREES & BOATS

We start the day with some messing about with mark making and colour and looking at the different types of ink. We then move on to some still life, colouring outside the lines, loosening up before tackling two actual pictures, one birch trees with quink and cocktail sticks and a lot of splatting and chucking of inks and then to finish a nice bit of boat. This workshop is aimed at any level so is very mindful and will give you some key sketch-booking skills and some ideas that you can try again and again.



Closing Date Friday 23rd January 2026

Ticket information on back page (Please also include contact details for each member)

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.

As part of our commitment to the Dental Health Matters Resolution, **HIGHGATE HAWKHURST WI** delivered a further 200 toothpastes to our local primary school at the start of the Autumn Term. We used funds raised



from our support of the WI Lottery to do this - keep buying those tickets ladies! (Rachel Fagg)

Members of **GATES GREEN WI** recently visited the Cockney Museum at Stoneleigh (near Sutton) and what a wonderful experience and interesting



day out we had. The Museum, although small, is packed full of memorabilia of life in the East End including a wonderful collection of Pearly Kings & Queens costumes. This is a gem of a museum that needs support, tickets are only £5 and it is well worth a visit

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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.

West Kent Federation Annual Poetry Competition 2026

Members are once again invited to compose a poem—the title this year is **NEW LIFE**.

Please interpret this how you wish in 12 to 24 lines - perhaps the birth of a long awaited new addition to your family, thinking of plants breaking through the winter soil in the spring, your interpretation of AI, rekindling an old skill or past-time. Let your imagination run riot as you interpret this fascinating theme.

Please supply two copies - one with just your poem, the other with your poem and also your name, WI and contact details.

You Can Post to:
Annual Poetry Competition
West Kent Federation of Women's Institutes
Ethel Hunt Lodge
4 Hawkwell Business Centre
Maidstone Road, Pembury,
TN2 4AG

Or email to: FedSec@WKFWI.org.uk

Closing Date Friday 30 January 2026

The winner to be announced at the WKFWI AGM 2026 and will be presented with a trophy (to keep for a year) and a certificate.

The winner will be offered the opportunity to read their poem at the AGM.



ENJOYING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Simply taking a walk in the countryside at least once a week, or more often, is not only good for your mental health and mindfulness, but really does bring you closer to nature and allows you time to enjoy your environment. But think about leaving your phone in your pocket or better still, at home, or you may well miss some of the sights along the way as well as the bird song.



There are many parks where you can walk for free, and some have free parking.

Here are just a few:

PENSHURST PLACE: park in the free carpark and walk up the hill to the right of the castle. Great views and there's also a café for when you come back down.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMON: free carpark near the cricket pitch up Major Yorks Road. The common stretches into Rusthall with unique features such as the Wellington Rocks, "Happy Valley", natural lakes and ponds, Toad Rock and sandpits. Why not finish with coffee on The Pantiles.

DUNORLAN PARK, Tunbridge Wells. Free parking on Pembury Road, pay and display in main car park. 78 acres including woodland paths, large lake and Café.

BEDGEBURY PINETUM: There is a parking charge per hour but well worth a visit and a nice Café on site.

KNOLE PARK: National Trust car park that you need to book in advance. Parking is free for NT members, OR if you drive around the side road and can park along near the foot gate, there is no charge.

ERIDGE PARK: Free parking at The Deer Park Café. Lots of footpaths, and of course a Café to come back to.

HAYSDEN LAKES, Tonbridge: Pay and display car park but several lovely lakes to walk around. Bring your own water.

IGHTHAM MOTE: Again, parking free for NT members. 500 acres of estate to wander around.

PETTS WOOD: No onsite parking but wonderful area to walk around particularly with children or grandchildren.

Instead of a formal meeting in August, the **HORSMONDEN MORNING WILDLIFE** ladies enjoyed a wonderful afternoon tea at Lamberhurst Golf Club. But life isn't all tea and cake! Recently we organised a meeting open to the village with the Police talking about avoiding scams. Last year we ran a similar open meeting for Mature Drivers. We had a short talk from the First Responders on Defibrillators at our AGM and plan to run a full day of training in the winter, which we will open to the village. Finally we are collecting huge bags full of empty pill blister packs which we take to Boots for recycling. Caroline Davis





BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA WI Summer get togethers - All involved food!!

The July garden parties for the ladies were held in Pat's beautifully sunny garden and in Anthea's lounge due to a downpour. Lots of tea and cake were enjoyed of course!

Our August garden party get togethers were held in Val and Marilyn's gardens. We enjoyed delicious cakes and a good catch up in the sunshine.



The Bookettes met for their August meeting at The Weald of Kent Golf Club and enjoyed a tasty Afternoon Tea whilst discussing our July book. A super afternoon and our thanks to Sheila for organising.

Anthea Springett



In September **BEARSTED AND THURNHAM WI** held a 'Musical afternoon tea' to celebrate **110 years of the WI**. After a delicious tea prepared by the committee, members were

entertained by local musician, Karen, who played popular tunes on the cello and piano. A superb afternoon.

Valerie Keeler



We are pleased to announce that with the support and good-will of many villagers, **CROCKENHILL WI** has now restored its Information Cabinet. It stands proud in the centre of the village providing easy viewing of the latest WI news and information. With special thanks to our President, Janet Brookfield for leading this project and providing a brand-new WI Badge for the restored cabinet.

I and other committee members enjoyed displaying articles and photos etc in the cabinet. All information will be updated monthly. It contains the dates and times of our monthly meetings, subgroups, and other events for all women to see and via an open invitation to come and join us for free for three months.



We are also inviting women to come and meet us at the Crockenhill Village Harvest Fayre on September 13 where we will be hosting our WI stall again with the aim of recruiting new members.

As well as celebrating 110 years of the WI.
Cheri Yeates

PHOTOGRAPHS for WEST KENT NEWS

We love to receive your photos. Please remember that in the magazine they are only going to be four cm tall. So please think carefully about what you attach, are they clear will they show what you want to show? Fuzzy will still be fuzzy. Things are arriving now that require tokens and authorisation, so we have to request replacements. Also regret we are not permitted to include photos of children.

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 e.g. training, we will email secretaries and anyone volunteering can message me then on: westkentwikvseg@gmail.com this is also on the back page of West Kent News under my name.

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

Kent Resilience Forum



PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES IN KENT AND MEDWAY



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

On Monday 15 September, Meopham WI held an Open meeting. Eight visitors attended with four expressing an interest in joining the WI at our October meeting. As well as tea and cakes made by some of our talented bakers,



our speakers were 'Fancy Tat', a mother and daughter who now make a living by upcycling items which would normally be sent to landfill. Such imagination. It certainly got us thinking of how to

use even the minutest off cuts. Our meeting finished with our President talking about the history of the WI as it celebrates it's 110-year anniversary and singing together 'happy birthday' to all the lovely ladies who have made the WI what it is today. We ended our meeting by planting a beautiful red rose to commemorate this special occasion.

Suzanna Downing (on behalf of Meopham WI)



TENTERDEN GLEBE WI ladies had a lovely afternoon on the Tenterden steam train, with a fish and chip lunch included, there was a lot of chatting and laughter to be heard, on the way home there was a surprise birthday cake for Bet our craft group leader who also bakes delicious cakes for our WI happy birthday Bet. Great time had by all and many thanks to Sue G. Who organises our trips out. Christine Basden

GILLINGHAM WI – Summer trip to Greenwich



This year we took a trip out to Greenwich on a recommendation to visit the Fan Museum. We were pleasantly surprised to find it tucked away in a small street 10mins from the train station and just behind the park. The summer exhibition was 'Birds of a Feather' and we found ourselves taking our time perusing the cabinets filled with historical and

modern fans, of all colours and designs, some of which had been donated from across the world. By the time we'd come out of the shop it was lunchtime. We found our way over to the Cutty Sark and found a nice pub for lunch, then took ourselves off to Greenwich Market, exploring the hidden gems on the stalls and looking in the vintage shops. It was then time to go home, just as it began to rain. But that didn't spoil our day out.

On the back of our trip to the Fan Museum, in September we decided that our craft evening should be



to make our own fans. As you can see, the ladies were engrossed in making their own designs, using a selection of card and embellishments, to successfully show off their grand designs. A

great evening was had by all. Julie Diamond



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


Events Committees


Lifestyle | Art & Crafts | Performing Arts | Leisure & Sport
|Public Affairs - Be a voice for change! Champion causes that matter in our community


Bring your ideas to life and create unforgettable experiences!

Why Join?

 Boost your skills and leadership potential

 Make a real impact in your community

 Connect with inspiring, like-minded women

 Build lifelong friendships

Interested? Let's talk!

Email us at FedSec@wkfwi.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 - addressed as Kay Moore Cup

To: West Kent Federation of WIs 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

Istead Rise WI

mourns the passing of their dear friend **ANN DYKE**. A member since 1976.

An excellent President, an efficient secretary and many other roles. Part of drama, whist, badminton, darts & art. Her humour and wit brought joy to our meetings. Much missed, condolences to her family.

It is with great sadness to announce the recent death of **MARION SCHMIDT** who sadly passed away on the morning of **Sennocke WI's** July meeting. Marion was a quiet, friendly lady with a good sense of humour. She had been a member of Sennocke for the past five years. Marion shared a mutual camaraderie with the members, particularly when we had a games evening. Recently, she was unable to attend meetings due ill health. She will be sadly missed. Rest in peace dear friend.



It is with great regret that **Erith WI** announces the passing of our former president **ANGELA LESTER** on

12 August. Angela joined Erith just after it formed, she was on the committee from 1993 until 2023, organising raffles, outings, rambles, well over a hundred, amongst other things and was President for 15 years. She passed away after a sudden short illness, our thoughts and condolences go out to her daughter and grandchildren, she will be greatly missed at our meetings .

Horsmonden Morning WI have lost two valued members.

VENIE FENNING was on our committee when we formed in 2008 - a happy and helpful lady. **MARY WATTS** was also on committee in 2008 and worked on the programme committee, organised get-well cards and our scrapbooks until recent months.

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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.

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