



WEST KENT WI NEWS

westkentnews@wkfwi.org.uk

November 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



The days are turning a bit colder now and the evenings are getting darker so I think we can definitely say that

Autumn is here! I know that many people love this time of year, but I always feel the loss of the warm, light summer evenings and the early morning birdsong. To lift the spirits, it was great to be able to help out at a formation meeting for a new morning WI in Petts Wood. About 45 ladies turned up and after an introduction to the WI from Bev Wild, WI Adviser for Petts Wood, a quick talk on the Federation from me it was over to committee members from other WIs to explain the three key roles! I'm very pleased to say that a committee was formed, and President, Secretary and Treasurer elected. So, welcome to Tudor Roses and I look forward to visiting you in the next few months.

We also held our first event for the North of our Federation. A quiz was hotly contested by six WIs local to the Charlton Park RFC. A great afternoon was had by all, and the feedback was such that we will try to hold other events targeted to WIs in their locality, as we are aware that due to the large area our Federation covers not everyone can attend our events.

Don't forget to order your tickets for the AGM in March, it may seem a long way off, but the early bird price of £13.50 only lasts til the end of January and they are going fast!

Enjoy your West Kent News and see all the amazing things everyone has been up to!

Take Care

Amanda

Treasurer's Corner



In recent months it has been necessary for the Federation to contact certain WI members and we have had to look up their contact details on the MCS database. On several occasions the vital contact details are not available and in one instance the person we needed to contact was not even listed.

I had one instance when a speaker for a WI that was due to give a talk in an hour needed to contact the WI urgently. Her contact was unavailable but with the help of the Federation and the MCS database we were able to use other committee members details to urgently contact them. It is also important that the subscriptions paid to Federation match the numbers of members on the MCS database. If the Treasurer and the MCS rep are different then please co-ordinate with the information. Do regularly ask members if they have changed any of their contact details.

It is not only the Federation that sometimes has to access the records, it is also vital for National to know the correct numbers from a financial and strategic planning perspective and to monitor numbers.

Rita King

FEDERATION SECRETARY'S CORNER

2026 AGM 'Early Bird' Ticket Offer – Important Reminder for WIs: Please make sure to read and share the email sent on 24 September with your members to avoid missing out.

Congratulations to **Highgate Hawkhurst WI** – you were the first WI to order maximum tickets!

2026 NFWI Annual Meeting – Important Reminder for WIs:

Please also make sure to read and share the email sent on 8 October with your members.

Federation Noticeboard for November 2025

Federation Noticeboard for November 2025

West Kent Federation is pleased to announce a new WI within the Orpington Priory Group – **Tudor Roses WI**.

They meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 10.00am in the Marlborough Hall, Christ Church, Tudor Way, Petts Wood BR5 1LH

Yearbook

Please note that Keston WI's new venue is Keston Parish Church Hall, Church Road, Leaves Green, Keston BR2 6HT. All other details remain the same.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

2026

FEBRUARY

Thur	19	Introduction to Pen, ink and	EHL
Fri	20	Watercolour Wash	Snodland

MARCH

Sat	07	Intro to Pen Ink & watercolour wash	Westerham
Weds	18	WKFWI Annual General Meeting	Gravesend

JUNE

Thurs	4	NFWI Annual General Meeting	Online
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Spring Time - Murder Mystery—date and place to be confirmed

In their September meeting, **Walderslade WI** commemorated the first UK WI meeting held in 1915 at

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch, by learning to say it coached by Vice-President Roma. She had brought us each a sheet with a syllable on it which we learnt to say individually and then brought all the syllables together in order, like a verbal Mexican wave!



Picture caption: Vice-President Roma tutoring Walderslade members

WIA Frances Farley recorded this by taking photos and after this feat we rewarded ourselves by taking a well-earned cuppa alongside some lovely Welsh-inspired baking!

Walderslade WI were pleased to welcome Jim Duncan RVM and his dog Soldier to their October meeting. Jim is a retired Yeoman Warder of the Tower of London and was deeply involved in the installation of the 'Blood swept Lands and Seas of Red' tribute (aka 'The Poppies') back in 2014. He kept us enthralled with anecdotes from his 40 year service in the Army and then his subsequent eight years at the Tower, but especially his involvement with The Poppies and his special encounter with her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the display.

The photo shows Jim and member Sara after setting up his items – Soldier sneaking into the picture. The flags represent all the commonwealth nations which provided the combatants who were commemorated by The Poppies. On the side table you can see a last for and Jim's actual Tudor Bonnet which he wore on duty.



Many congratulations to **JEAN AND MICHAEL HALL** who celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary on 11 December 2025. Jean is a much valued member of **St George's WI Beckenham**. She is our hard working secretary and has been so for the last seven years.

Allington Castle WI enjoyed a lovely afternoon crafting with Karen Montgomery making a "Book Hedgehog"! The results were pleasing and enjoyable. Earlier this year we celebrated two members birthdays, Stella Annis was 94 and Shirley Tipping was 90! I think we should be renamed The Golden Girls! Congratulations to these wonderful members .



Judith Bishop



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.



Abraham Babalola (Project Administrator/Publicity Officer, Gravesham Foodbank) and Jeannette Smith (WKF Trustee) and the carload of your foodbank contributions from the 2025 WKF AGM that was very gratefully received.

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.

On 11 October 1925 the first meeting of Hollingbourne WI was held at 6.00 p.m. In The Institute, Eythorne Street, Hollingbourne. Mrs G Young was the Founding President and 35 members attended. On Friday 10 October 2025, 23 members of **Hollingbourne WI** celebrated the 100th Anniversary of that meeting with an enjoyable afternoon birthday tea at The Mercure Hotel (formerly The Great Danes) Hollingbourne. None of our current members is actually 100 years old, although a few of us are gradually approaching that magic number, not that you'd have guessed from the jolly atmosphere and this happy photograph. A display board was set up showing some of our group activities in past years, and three other display boards showing 100 photographs and writings of hobbies and activities by all current members. It was a very impressive variety of hobbies and pastimes by our very friendly WI group.



President Sue Roberts and Vice President Julia McGuinness cutting the splendid birthday cake made by Penny Smith.



National Federation of WIs Annual Meeting

Thursday 4 June 2026
Online

NFWI Annual Meeting Details

As with the 2025 NFWI Annual Meeting, this event will be held online. The linking list will remain at a ratio of 1 in 4.

We have 36 Delegates. If no one in your WI is able to act as the Delegate for your Link Group, please let the Federation know as soon as possible. This will allow us to contact the next WI in line without delay. If someone is able to take on the role, please let us know before the closing date.

Even if your WI is not first in line, please do discuss within your WI whether anyone would be willing to act as a Delegate, in case no one from the first WI is able to attend.

We will email the WI Mailbox if the WI in front of you cannot send a Delegate. Please look out for this email.

The First Notice, Linking List and Application forms were emailed to the WI Mailboxes on 8 October.

WIs have until **Friday 30 January** to inform the Federation who the Delegate is. While most WIs notify us promptly, we will email you after your WI meeting to check if anyone is willing to take on the role.

Once again, WIs need to vote on the Resolution following their May meeting. Please inform Federation how your WI wishes to vote via email **fedsec@wkwfi.org.uk**.

We will then inform the Delegate so they are ready to vote on the day.

The Link Delegates for this year are:

Ash & Ridley
Badgers Mount
Barming
Bearsted & Thurnham
Chipstead
Chislehurst Village
Christ Church Tunbridge Wells
Cobham & Luddesdown
Crockham Hill
Cuxton
East Malling
Eltham Palace
Eynsford
Gillingham
Greenslade
Hextable & Swanley Village
Highgate Hawkhurst
Honor Oak
Hucking
Iden Green & Benenden
Ightham
Leamington Ladies
Lyghe
Madginford (Bearsted)
Maidstone Chocolate
Nashenden
Nuxley Village
Petts Wood Evening
Ravenswood (West Wickham)
Shorne & Thong
South Park
St Georges (Beckenham)
St Mary's West Wickham
Sutton Valence
West Peckham
Wilmington

The full Linking List can be found in your WI Mailbox.

ART AND CRAFT



Paula Bates

artcraft@wkfwi.org.uk

INTRODUCTION TO PEN AND INK AND WATERCOLOUR WASH tutor Victoria Wainwright

Thursday 19 February 2026 at Ethel Hunt Lodge, Pembury TN2 4AG
Friday 20th February at Townsend Hook Bowls Club, Snodland ME6 5DP
Saturday 7th March at Westerham Hall, TN16 1BJ

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 note : new dates added this month

Broderie Perse workshop review



Broderie Perse (French for Persian Embroidery) is a form of appliqué that involves cutting out printed motifs from one fabric and applying them on a different background to create a new design, adding embroidery and beading. The technique originated in the 17th century and became popular in Europe during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Federation workshops took place at Ethel Hunt Lodge, Snodland and Orpington. Maxine Keeble formerly Head of Textiles at a Kent Grammar School and a Qualified

Adult Education Tutor guided members to create their own works from fabrics that they brought and also a selection of fabric samples donated by The House Interior Design Company in Southborough.

Ladies were rightly very proud of their creations which can now be used in frames for beautiful pictures or panels for cushions or bags.



The Farleighs WI Autumn Fair.

October found us busy setting up for our first Autumn Fair at our WI hall in East Farleigh. With much excitement at 1pm the doors were opened and we had the most wonderful afternoon. We sold tea, cakes, preserves, crafts, candies, jewellery and gently used items. All this plus a bottle tombola, a raffle, guess the weight of the cake and the name of the teddy.



'Dude' the petting pony was a great attraction for all and behaved impeccably! A big thank you to all who supported us! Judy Balchin



Madginford (Bearsted) WI

hosted their third yearly Pie Lunch in September. Unfortunately, due to emergency building work, their hall could not be used so a switch to another



hall took place. We welcomed 54 people, mainly other WI members in our District and their families plus our members (AKA waitresses!!). We served them a delicious main salad lunch and included the famous pies from the Bearsted village butcher, followed by a selection of delicious desserts. Everything but the pies was made and supplied by Madginford members.



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,

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.

During the summer **Wateringbury WI** met for a cream tea at Where Memories Meet, our lovely village Tea Shop and Antique Emporium. And we kick started the Autumn season with Jill Eagleton, a life coach, who explains how the importance of colour and a positive mindset helps to fulfil our lives. Happy Autumn everyone

Sharon Goshawk

President



A very good response from the members of **Boughton Monchelsea WI** to the request for dental supplies and bags in support of Dental Health Matters. Barbara and Joanne took our contributions to the local Family Hub who provide support and services to local families and these were gratefully received.



In support of the WI campaign "Bystanders can be Lifesavers" Mick Abbott, a local First Aid Trainer, gave the ladies an excellent presentation of how to give CPR and how to use a defibrillator. He was ably assisted by our President Amanda Waugh. Should the need arise, we now feel much more confident in knowing what to do and hopefully will be "Lifesavers".



Anthea Springett

ACWW



Rural women are at the heart of global food production. Despite their crucial role, rural women continue to face persistent barriers including limited access to land, credit, education and technology. Advancing gender equality and women's empowerment is essential for achieving sustainable and inclusive food systems.

I was lucky enough to hear excellent speakers on this subject whilst attending the European Conference in Bucharest. Carol Gupwell.



Green Team

UPCYCLING CHRISTMAS

Recycle specific Christmas decorations like real trees at collection points, electrical lights at recycling centres, and paper cards at home, but generally, items like tinsel, glitter-covered baubles, and plastic decorations cannot be recycled and must go in the general waste bin. Many decorations can also be reused, donated to charities or friends, or upcycled into new crafts or centrepieces.

Items that can be recycled:

Real Christmas Trees: Many local councils offer special collection or drop-off points for natural trees to be composted or mulched.

Christmas Cards: Paper-based cards and envelopes are recyclable, though any glitter, gems, or ribbon must be removed first.

Christmas Lights: Faulty or broken lights are waste electrical and electronic equipment and should be taken to a specialized recycling centre, not put in your general waste.

Cardboard Packaging: Remove any plastic wrapping or excess tape before recycling cardboard packaging.

Natural Wreaths: Glitter and glue-free natural wreaths can often be added to your garden waste.

Items that cannot be recycled and should go in general waste

Tinsel: This is not recyclable.

Glittery/Plastic Baubles: Glitter contaminates the recycling process, so these must go into your general waste.

Broken Decorations: Wrap broken baubles in newspaper before placing them in the general waste bin to prevent injuries.

Don't forget to reuse and donate

Donate: If decorations are in good condition, donate them to charity shops.

Reuse: Store items carefully for the next year.

Upcycle: Get creative by using old decorations for new craft projects, such as making centrepieces from ornaments or repurposing ribbons for other holidays. Use spare material or bottle tops at home to make a Christmas tree. See photos.



Thought everyone would like to see our recruitment stall, which had a 'String Sweet Game' where the kids always won! Plus the 'Buzzer Game' always a favourite to attract the children and their mums to our stall.

Once at our stall they could view our special WI 110th birthday display. Together with information on what the WI is today and what we as a village WI have to offer with photos in our 'What We Have Been Up To' over the last year folder.

We attracted a number of women who actually came to our stall to find out more about us after seeing our advert in our new Information Cabinet in the centre of the village. This was very encouraging together with women we spoke to who hadn't realised what a full programme of activities we have on the village every week. We are now looking forward to a batch of new members over the next few months. Along with committee members we had two new members selling the WI to the crowd. No better way to attract new members to join us. We offer three free months to prospective members which gives them the opportunity to 'Try before they Buy'.

Here is a taster of the day.

Cheri Yeates

Crockenhill WI



At our recent meeting members enjoyed a fascinating talk about "saris" from Sam and her mother-in-law.

Most of us have admired the wearing of the traditional Indian sari, but had little idea of the intriguing patterns, and complicated attire, illustrated by our speaker. There was a queue of willing models to be dressed in these beautiful garments!

Each of the 29 Indian States has a different style, with embroidery and trimmings on the 6-8 metres length cloth, and intricate dressing with only a solitary pin. The evening ended with some Indian dancing, Bollywood style.

Viv Bennet

West Peckham WI

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



Carole and Victoria

bags and 16 children's bags. Carole also donated toothbrushes and toothpaste along with her friend Victoria Maxwell. Other member also contributed toothpaste. Our local food bank was thrilled with the donation.

Towards the end of September a number of **South Park WI** craft ladies met and Marcia showed us how to make these stunning paper flowers from bun / cupcake cases, how wonderful they look and in Christmas colours would make a great centre piece for the table.



In October, a large number of **South Park WI** ladies, met up at Sue Lambert's house for the usual tea/coffee, and a selection of wonderful home made cakes, for craft and natter. During the afternoon a number of us managed to finish a robin which will be used along with more items to decorate a garland or wreath at our all day Craft Lunch very early in December.



Amanda Bird

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

Members of **South Park WI** were sorry to learn of the passing of their fellow friend and member **MARGARET MURRAY**, who was a member from its early days in 1973 and played an active part in its activities including several spells as President. Our thoughts are with her family at this very sad time.

It is with great sadness **Ravenswood WI** announce the death of **WENDY CARVALHO** on 24 July. Wendy was a long term member of WI with many talents including singing soprano in WI choirs, flower arrangements and was a terrific cake decorator. Wendy along with other members of Ravenswood attended 'WI 100 Year' celebration at Buckingham Palace. Her smile and friendship will be greatly missed by her friends and family.



Nuxley Village WI is very sad to announce the death of one of our founder members, **PHYLLIS COLLARD** a President for several terms. She joined lots of groups and was an in demand flower arranger, belonged to Bexley Rose Group, delivered books to housebound library members, went to keep fit/line dancing and many others. When she no longer felt able to walk with our WI group, she and another member, Betty Tite, walked in the local park and one of their walks was in aid of a charity raising £1,700 for Children in Need. Phyllis was a very strong character and one who will be noticeably missed.

WHO TO CONTACT

CHAIR:

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

FEDERATION TREASURER:

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

CHAIRMAN OF WI

ADVISERS:

Beverley Wild
Tel No: 020 8289 3533
Email: wiachair@wkfwi.org.uk

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

ADMINISTRATOR:

Gillian Neville
Email: gillian.neville@icloud.com

JOINT RESOLUTION

COORDINATORS:

Rosemary Tidby and
Thushara Kasturiratne
Email: resolutions@wkfwi.org.uk

ACWW: Carol Gupwell

carolagupwell156@hotmail.com
Tel No: 01622 676600

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:

Jeannette Smith
Email: safeguardingofficer@wkfwi.org.uk

KENT VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY GROUP

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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.

Please only order tickets via your nominated representative. Should this create a problem, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Please note: In the event that a workshop is oversubscribed/cancelled or there is a problem with the Tutor or venue the representative ordering the tickets will be notified. It will be the responsibility of the representative to notify the members wishing to attend the workshop/event. It is therefore important that the representative is aware of who is requesting tickets.

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.