



WEST KENT WI NEWS

September 2024



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Well, here we are in September! I know it's been said many times but time really does seem to fly past!! I hope you all had a wonderful August and enjoyed the glorious weather that we had. I was lucky enough to attend the Highgate and Hawkhurst WI garden party again this year. As always, the members were so very welcoming to those of us from West Kent Federation, the food was great, and we even had a salsa dancing session thrown in as well!! If you had summer get togethers I hope they all went well – it's good to sometimes have events where you just get to chat to each other and catch up.

Here at the Federation after a quiet August we are launching into September with not one but five Watercolour workshops and then the Art and Craft Annual Day on the 26 September. October has 3 big events with the always popular Audition Day, Lifestyle Day and Whist Day.

November has Science Day – which I think means that whatever you are interested in we have something for you!!

Please don't forget WI day on the 16 September! A great opportunity to celebrate the opening of the very first WI at Llanfair PG on Anglesey, North Wales in 1915. Let West Kent News know how you celebrated this auspicious day!

Well, that's all from me until next month!

Take care,

Amanda

Treasurer's Corner



As I write, I am going through the annual financial reports that were submitted and keeping very busy, so I will be having a rest from the Treasurer's Corner this month.

I can be contacted via the office if required.

Kind regards

Rita King

Walking Netball Taster Session

24 WI members took part in a Taster Session of Walking Netball at Tonbridge School Sports Centre on Saturday morning 10 August. The lead was Shirley Ellis assisted by Moira Ensoll and Sally Brickman. Shirley had the whistle!

We started off with a warm up by throwing the ball within a small group then progressed to clapping before catching, and finally having a game with six on the court and utilising team members at the court sides.

There were a few 'no running' calls but all took part in good fun and encouragement. It was more active than some had anticipated both physically and also mentally as strategy is part of the game too.

Regardless of age or fitness level. After a cool down session we enjoyed refreshments in the cafe and everyone agreed that we had experienced a really fun way to spend a couple of hours.

Valerie Hesketh, Marden WI



FEDERATION NOTICE BOARD

Nothing to report for this issue.

Are you interested in Art & Craft?

Due to illness, the Federation Art & Craft Committee is in need of new members. If you would like to be involved in finding tutors and arranging workshops in a variety of art and craft media as well as getting speakers for our Annual Days, please get in touch with us. Come to the next committee meeting at Ethel Hunt Lodge on Tuesday 10 September as an observer with no obligation, to see if joining our very friendly team would be suitable for you, or let us know if you would just like to help at events without joining the team.

Contact Paula Bates, Committee chair:
ArtCraft@wkwfi.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

SEPTEMBER

| | | | |
|------|----|------------------------------------|------------|
| Mon | 16 | WI DAY— Arrange your own promotion | |
| Tues | 17 | Watercolour Workshop | Frittenden |
| Weds | 18 | Watercolour Workshop | Ethel Hunt |
| Thur | 19 | Watercolour Workshop | Snodland |
| Fri | 20 | Watercolour Workshop | Hextable |
| Sat | 21 | Watercolour Workshop | Orpington |
| Thur | 26 | Art & Craft Annual Day | Ditton |

OCTOBER

| | | | |
|------|----|----------------------|-----------|
| Sat | 12 | Auditions Day | Orpington |
| Wed | 23 | Lifestyle Annual Day | Ditton |
| Thur | 31 | Whist Day | Ryarsh |

NOVEMBER

| | | | |
|------|----|-------------|-----------|
| Tues | 05 | Science Day | Sevenoaks |
|------|----|-------------|-----------|

Congratulations must go to Pat Roberts, a long standing member of **Hartley Evening WI** who was recently awarded a **BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL** for her outstanding work with Young People and Scouting. The following is an account of her special day which Pat would like to share with you. Our members all feel that Pat's award is well deserved and we are so proud of her!

“Last November I was notified that I had been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to Young People in Kent. I have been in Scouting for over fifty years.

After weeks of secrecy it was lovely to be able to share the news with family and friends, after the publication of the New Years Honours list.

My investiture was held on 25 June 2024 at Knole House, Sevenoaks, where I received my medal from the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, The Lady Colgrain, Lord Sackville read a beautiful citation.

It was a very special day for my family and myself which we duly rounded off with a cream tea!!”



LIFESTYLE ANNUAL DAY WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER Ditton Community Centre ME20 6AH

TICKETS £ 15.00 Doors open 9.30am

Guest Speakers invited to attend feature:

Clare Barton who dreamed of starting a tea shop by the sea but ended up opening a bakery, in Tonbridge, and specialising in Sour Dough bread. She has a gluten intolerance but is able to eat small quantities of her own bread and runs workshops to teach people how to make it. Clare tells of the trials and tribulations of getting the bakery started.



Sue Pritchard with “Make Do and Mend”, a popular subject using recycled materials. Sue will be bringing along a patchwork quilt and challenges you to guess what it is made from.



Jo Livingstone, suffers from Prosopagnosia or face blindness. Jo explains what it's like to live with this condition and how it came to be discovered on her. She has had many interesting experiences, appeared on television, even travelling to America to talk about how this affects her everyday life and how she copes with something that most of us will find difficult to imagine.

Members only. Application box on back page. Closing date 7 October

NFWI Public Affairs and Events teams.

Join us for The WI Week of River Action in September

Between 16 and 22 September, we are again making waves for clean rivers during the WI Week of River Action.

Last year in September, as part of the Clean Rivers campaign, members arranged stunts, river cleans, protests and yarn bombing to raise awareness of the state of our rivers in their communities. We also spoke to MPs and gathered members dressed as aquatic creatures for a mini-protest outside the Houses of Parliament.

This year we are repeating the success. It's the perfect opportunity to come together to amplify the message that too little is happening too slowly to clean up our rivers. You can find more information on ways to get involved, including resources such as social media posts, posters, template press releases and more on My WI here: <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/public-affairs-and-campaigns/news-and-actions/join-us-for-the-wi-week-of-river-action>



Green Team

greenteam@wkwfwi.org.uk

We are all regularly faced with disposing of items in our homes which have a plug, battery or cable. This is known as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment, otherwise snappily known as WEEE! Discarded, it makes up the fastest growing source of waste in the UK and the world. The symbol for WEEE is a crossed out wheellie bin i.e. don't place in the bin! So what are the issues with this? If it goes to landfill it can contaminate soil and water. Batteries wrongly thrown in the waste have caused a large number of fires at waste sites recently. Every type and size of battery can be recycled in one of the battery collection containers found in any store which sells batteries.

So what are the choices for your WEEE? Repair, donate, sell or recycle. Repairing saves natural resources and the environment, try the local monthly Repair Cafes, but it can be a challenge and it would be great to see more items designed so that they can be repaired.

Donate—find a local Charity Shop which takes working electrical items.

To recycle your WEEE, it should be easier from now on. Retailers must offer to take back an old item when a new one is purchased. John Lewis/ Waitrose, Robert Dyas, Argos and Currys etc will take your unwanted item free of charge or with a small fee for large items. So, buying a new toaster or a new charger—take along your old ones purchased anywhere, instore or online, up to 28 days later (with the receipt for new item)

For any other WEEE there are places where you can recycle any item, including our Council Recycling sites.

Look at www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk and you have a list of the nearest places.

Finally, consider all these items as a resource for the future, providing valuable materials which can be reused and repurposed, saving the need for new.

Boughton Monchelsea WI
ladies enjoyed some afternoon teas either indoors or in members' gardens during August.



Ightham WI

Despite the dodgy weather, Ightham WI ensured that their summer party required sunglasses. The members responded to the challenge of a maximum of £10 charity shop spend, with aplomb and panache. Hosted in the wondrous setting of Ightham Mote, Bernadette Gillow, the General Manager, judged an amazing, patterned cat outfit to be the best on the "Mote Walk". Our job-share Secretary, Jane Nolan, showed one of her many hidden talents as she compered both professionally and hilariously.



We calculated we raised a whopping £250 at our local charity shops (Sevenoaks was the 'go to' place!) and our raffle raised £163 for a local domestic abuse charity, Rubicon Cares. A fabulous evening.

Karen Williams

President, Ightham WI



ANNUAL WHIST DAY**Thursday 31 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 by the form on the back page any time before **30 September** to PALS@wkfwi.org.uk



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



Twenty four **South Park WI** ladies got together in Sue Lambert's beautiful Garden for our annual Summer Craft day with Lunch.

A number of Garden Tortoises were made, this photo is a completed one, the others were taken home to be soaked in water before they could be planted with Sedums that Sue and Marcia had grown from seed for this project. We also had a lovely lunch



and plenty of time to chat.

Amanda Bird

Detling WI had a wonderful Summer garden party in a member's garden. A delicious picnic followed by strawberries and cream with meringue, non-alcoholic fizz and a bring and buy. It was very well attended with



perfect weather.
Kathy Tanton.



The members of Matfield WI enjoyed an Evening of Walking Netball run by Shirley Ellis



Greenwich "Treasurer Hunt"

A total of 14 teams took part in the Greenwich Treasure Hunt organised by **Catford WI** on Saturday 20 July.

We were happy that our friends from seven WI's entered a total of eleven teams. Thank you to Petts Wood, Lee Green, Chelsfield, Halling Sapphires, Biggin Hill Evening, Eltham Palace and Bexleyheath & Crayford Waterside WI for all taking part. It was great to see some old friends and meet new ones.

The weather was on our side and Greenwich, as always, showed herself in a good light!

All the teams completed the "Treasurer Hunt" and received their medals and a goodie bag!

Kay Gobins
Catford WI



Meopham WI have had an eventful couple of months supporting different charity events - Lullingstone World Garden with Tom Hart Dyke in aid of Hospice of Hope and Spadework, Offham where we had a guided tour of the grounds and shown the work carried out by and supporting adults with additional needs.

We have also been promoting the work of NFWI, the Learning Hub and the speakers and events taking place in our own group by being part of an event which was promoting a range of groups who meet in the local area. We are continuing our WI promotion by having an "Open Meeting" in September with a local historian speaker, Christophe Bull, who is going to speak about the A-Z of Meopham Parish. There will of course be tea and cake.

Suzanna Downing



Another very successful craft afternoon for the ladies of **Boughton Monchelsea WI** making bags to put our mobile phones in - what a great idea! Huge thanks to Barbara.

Anthea Springett
Boughton Monchelsea WI





PUBLIC AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL

Diane Daniels — pai@wkfwi.org.uk

HOW IS SCIENCE AFFECTING OUR EVERYDAY LIVES?

Come to learn and enjoy, it will be an interesting event.

Tuesday 5 November
13:00 to 16:00 (doors open 12:30)
Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat and Ball, Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN

Tickets £12.50 Closing Date 12 October

Please book your space via your WI Rep using the application form on the back page.

We do not often realise how much science plays a part in in our everyday living.



This day will give you an insight into several different areas:

You will hear from **KATY LEWIS**, who is a Monitoring Field Team Manager at the Environment Agency. Katy is a fisheries scientist by background and now manages environmental monitoring. Her teams collect samples from rivers, lakes and seas around England. She is going to talk about how the Environment Agency uses molecular techniques in their work. She will discuss examples of how DNA is used to monitor invasive species, to tell how much nutrients are in the rivers and track viruses, like COVID, in the sewage systems.

DAVID TADD was, prior to retirement, Head of Forensic Investigation and Operations at New Scotland Yard. He served with the Metropolitan Police for over 40 years, time spent entirely within Forensic Services. In the post of Head of Forensic Investigation he was responsible for an operational unit .

Back by Popular Demand! SPEAKER



Help Select our Speakers

St Nicholas Church Hall

14 Leamington Avenue, Orpington BR6 9QB

Saturday 12 October 2024

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

Tickets are £8 and include tea or coffee on arrival
and during the lunch break (bring your own cup if you wish)

Please bring a packed lunch.

If you would like to come along, please email

tickets@wkfwi.org.uk with your WI, contact name, email address,
telephone number, event, date of event, venue and number of tickets
required or complete the ticket application form on the back page

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

Consisting of a multi disciplined forensic workforce of 950 officers in this role he undertook the strategic lead for the delivery of the forensic response to the investigation of crime in London

DAVID BROWN is an Environmental Health Manager part of the Food and Safety Team at Medway Council. They cover all aspects of environmental health regulations for businesses operating within Medway. Their officers visit a full range of business premises to provide a range of interventions including : Conducting food hygiene standards and health and safety inspections. Providing advice to businesses and consumers, taking samples of food and water, investigating complaints and cases of infectious diseases. David also investigates serious work-related accidents.

50 members and guests attended **Tenterden Glebe WI** Garden party, held in their president's beautiful garden.



We were so lucky with the weather, the only day of the week the sun shone. Starting with a glass of bubbly or something softer, going on to sandwiches, savouries, then cake, followed by strawberries and cream , one of our

guests sang a few songs beautifully and we sang along , finishing with a raffle. It was the perfect day enjoyed by all.

Christine Basden



Tenterden Glebe WI.



Twenty members of **South Park WI** celebrated World Embroidery day.

Sue Lambert opened her garden for this event where, along side a lot of chatter, sewing, cross stitch, knitting, crochet and quilting took place in the sunshine.



Highgate Hawkhurst WI and our guests from West Kent Federation and the Magnificent Seven WIs had a lovely time in Sheri & Tony's beautiful garden with Salsa dancing and a delicious lunch.



The week ended with the Swishing Sale in Frittenden with clothes and shoes being sold !



Chalk WI was set up in 1949 and we celebrated our 75th birthday in July and eight members of WIs within our group attended. We had a strawberry tea and a celebration cake was made by Di, decorated with a posy of sugar flowers. This posy was given to Marion Boston, our longest serving member, who joined the WI in 1965. Entertainment was in the form of music and a quiz of events in the 1940s and 1950s and various other games organised by our Treasurer Liz. Fresh flowers were supplied by Janet and we were very pleased to have many helpers on the day. A wonderful afternoon enjoyed by us all.

Di Harper
President - Chalk WI



Crockenhill WI had an opportunity to try an evening coaching and mini match for free. Our village Pentanque club invited all WI members to come along and try their skills out one sunny evening. A good time was had by all and we have a few new members ready to play the WI team.

Cheri Yeates



for

Crockenhill WI Magical Mystery Tour

Our 16 intrepid adventurers embarked on a mystery tour, The only clue from our driver was 'may involve buckets and spades' which caused a collective atmosphere of eager anticipation. Where were we going?

50-minutes later we arrived at Whitstable Castle. What a tranquil place it was. The castle is surrounded by beautiful, gardens which you can wander round or just relax. We decided it was time for a light refreshment, at the onsite cafeteria, which was very pleasant, giving us the required sustenance to continue.

Herne Bay, a 20-minute journey was our 2nd stop. By the time we arrived, it had become a very warm, sunny afternoon. A lovely place to spend a couple of hours. The beaches were busy. It was an opportunity to have a stroll along the pier, sample some tasty fish and chips or just have a drink and leisurely lunch.

The final port of call was Broadstairs. Kevin, our driver recommended the ice cream parlour Morelli's, which we all embraced, with a canter to join the queue. Wow what wonderful ice cream. There were lovely little streets with shops to explore, another lovely promenade with a bandstand, where a musician, Nick Kelly, was serenading us with his varied music repertoire This drew a crowd of onlookers, dancing or just watching.

4.15 pm we started home after a wonderful day. What more could we ask for? Another adventure in October of course. Where will that take us?

Janet
Brookfield
President



It is with great sadness that we write to inform you of the passing of Irene Chinje, ACWW's Deputy World President and former Area President for East, West, and Central Africa.



Irene was first elected as Area President and joined ACWW's Board of Trustees in 2016, bringing not only her remarkable skills and expertise but also an infectious enthusiasm and a heart full of kindness. From day one, it was clear that she was committed to ACWW, and held a passion for the empowerment of women across her Area. During her tenure, she was determined to broaden participation, and organised her first Area Conference in Uganda, the first to be held outside of Cameroon for many years.

In addition to her role with ACWW, Irene served her local community and gave great leadership in gender equality, peace-building, and strengthening resilience in rural communities. In 2021, she led a campaign in Cameroon to take toy guns off the market, so children could focus their play and learning in peace not violence.

After serving two terms as Area President, she was elected as ACWW's first Deputy World President for 2023-2026. Sadly, Irene's long battle with cancer came to an end and we all mourn her passing.

Magdie de Kock - ACWW World President



OBITUARIES

It is with much sadness that **Istead Rise WI** announces the passing of **DOREEN GRIDLEY** a member of many years, past committee member and always willing to offer to help at events. Kind thoughts to husband Brian and family for their

loss.

Members of **Halstead WI** were very sad to hear **PAT LEWIS** had passed away. She had been a member for a very long time and will be missed by all.

Coney Hall Village WI



For our meeting in August, we held a Games Afternoon. We started with the 'Build the Tallest Tower to support a ball' challenge. Teams were set up with about six members in each. Drinking straws and masking tape were supplied for the construction. I am glad to report that all the teams managed to build stable towers, even though some were a little asymmetric, ranging from 40 to 72cm high. The tower 'Travesty' won the challenge.

After a delicious cream tea, we

played indoors and outdoors games including cards, magnetic darts, Jenga, Connect 4, giant pick up sticks, boules, croquet and a Scandinavian game called 'Molkky'. We all had a fun afternoon and the weather was good for us.



Chris Jones (Secretary)

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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.

Ticket applications via email:

WI Reps Apply to: tickets@wkwfi.org.uk with your WI, Contact Name, Telephone number , event name, number of tickets required, date of event, and venue.

*Tickets are non refundable and non returnable. * Places cannot be guaranteed until after the closing date. If an event is over-subscribed a ballot will take place* The Federation is not liable for additional costs or changes to a programme caused by circumstances beyond its control. Please apply for your tickets promptly, if an event is under subscribed by the closing date, the event may be cancelled.

Postal applications, please complete the form below for **each event** and send to:- Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Maidstone Road, Pembury Tunbridge Well TN2 4AG. Postal ticket will be charged an extra £1 for postage.

WI.....Name.....

Email.....Tel:.....

Address & Postcode.....

.....No. of tickets req'd.....

Event.....

Date of event..... Venue.....

Your WI will be invoiced on the monthly account for the number of tickets ordered.