



WEST KENT WI NEWS

December 2024

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Seasons Greetings and Best
Wishes for the
New Year 2025
From All at West Kent
Federation of WIs

Have you booked your Early Bird Ticket with your Rep for the AGM at the Woodville, in Gravesend on the 19 March yet? Please note earlier start time of 10.45am.



Adam Frost

Adam is an award-winning British Garden Designer and presenter on **Gardeners' World** (BBC2). He regularly presents the BBC's coverage of multiple RHS Flower Shows and has featured on **The One Show** and **DIY SOS** (BBC 1), **The Alan Titchmarsh Show** (ITV).



The National Federation of WIs CEO Melissa Green is one of our morning speakers

Janie Ramsay has been a WI speaker for over 10 years visiting nearly 100 West Kent WIs. This talk is about why she became a WI member, and why a speaker.



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Well, here we are in December already and I know it's a phrase everyone has used but where has this year gone!! As a Federation we have held a record number of events, and we are now seeing a return to pre covid numbers. A big decision was made to change our venue for the 2025 AGM and overall, the reaction has been very favourable and for that I am very grateful. Please don't forget to take advantage of the 'early bird' price – it finishes at the end of January 2025!

On a National level there is a lot going on and I was very chuffed when it was mentioned at a recent meeting that West Kent Federation WIs was one of the top for returning their constitution surveys! Well done everyone! National need to know members' views and are giving all WIs and members the opportunity.

Don't forget to take part in the 'count me in' survey as the NFWI want to collect information about their members, which will enable them to build a clearer picture of WI membership which in turn will assist with future projects, policies and procedures. Its quite easy, just go to- mywi.thewi.org.uk and look at the Add Your Voice page and follow the link. On this page you will also find the Strategy consultation and the proposed changes to the WI constitution. Let's help shape the WI for us and future generations of women.

If you see any of us out and about at various events do please come and say hello!

On behalf of all the staff and Trustees at West Kent Federation I would like to wish you and your families a peaceful and a very happy Christmas!

Take care,
Amanda

Treasurer's Corner



In November, articles have appeared on social media, and also to me by email, of news of Lloyds bank moving WI accounts from a Treasurer Account to a Community Account and that they will incur charges. Many WIs have since received a letter.

A response from Lloyds was posted on Social Media details as follows:

“Change form:

I am a Registered/Excepted Charity:

Please arrange for a Trustee to contact us on 0345 300 0075 before 20 December so that we can update the details we hold for you and ensure you are not moved to the Community Account.

The Trustee will need the following details to hand:

- Sort Code · Account Number
- Charity Name
- Registered Charity Number (If applicable)
- Your mode governing document (this will explain the legal entity of the charity)”

The responses on social media have been helpful and many WIs have been successful. Some WIs have had problems when not registered with the Charity Commission and therefore do not have their own charity number but are advised to state that they are a Federated Charity. You must never use the charity number of any other WI, Federation or National.

Some WIs have not yet been successful and are challenging their branches and making a formal complaint.

The WI constitution is available in myWI, Essential Information, mywi.thewi.org.uk/essential-information/the-wi-constitution. Each WI should also have a copy of their own constitution.

If you have received a letter do act now before the 20 December deadline.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas

Kind regards Rita King

FEDERATION NOTICE BOARD

Yearbook 2024

Please note that Wateringbury WI re-formed on 10 October. They meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2.00pm at Wateringbury Village Hall, Bow Road, Wateringbury, Maidstone ME18 5NL.

List of Speakers 2024/2025

Page 4: Please note that Andrew Salter's email should be andrew@must-chup.co.uk

Please note the following additional speaker in the Photography category

Landscape and Travel Audio Visual Presentation (talk with PTE AV Studio 11)

Mr David Brooker

1 Shrublands Cottages, Coopers Wood, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1SP
Tel No: 07836 285356 Email: dave@mappingideas.co.uk
Website: www.mappingideas.co.uk

* PLEASE NOTE THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER AND WILL RE-OPEN ON THURSDAY 2 JANUARY 2025*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

MARCH

Weds 19 West Kent Federation AGM Gravesend

APRIL

Thur 03 Know your sewing machine EHL
Fri 04 Know your sewing machine Snodland
Sat 05 Know your sewing machine Orpington
Thur 24 ACWW Afternoon Tea Paddock Wood

MAY

Weds 14 Lifestyle Annual Day Ditton

JUNE

Thur 19 Introduction to Pastels W/shop EHL
Fri 20 Introduction to Pastels W/shop Snodland
Sat 21 Introduction to Pastels W/shop Orpington

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

Sat 11 Auditions Day Hildenborough
Weds 15 Matthew Palmer Watercolour W/shop TBA
Thur 16 Matthew Palmer Watercolour W/shop TBA
Fri 17 Matthew Palmer Watercolour W/shop TBA
Sat 18 Matthew Palmer Watercolour W/shop TBA
Tues 21 Lifestyle Annual Day Ditton

New Safeguarding Documents added to West Kent FWI Website

As Federation Safeguarding Officer (FSO), I invite members to look at two new documents which have recently been added under the Safeguarding tab on the WKFWI website.

These two documents are:

WKFWI Safeguarding PowerPoint V04a
WKFWI Safeguarding Adults Quiz V03

They join other resources already on the website and can be used by WIs in their monthly meetings or by individual members.

These two documents, along with the Quiz Answers document, will be posted to each WI Mailbox in early December. Please note that the answers will NOT be added to the website and so if you do the Quiz you can only get the answers from your WI or from me (safeguardingofficer@wkfwi.org.uk).

The WKFWI Safeguarding Procedure is nearing completion and will be added to the website shortly.

If you have any Safeguarding questions, please contact me on the designated email address shown above and in the contact box on the last page of West Kent News.

Jeannette Smith
Federation Safeguarding Officer

Please find below the bio's for the nominations for the Federation Board of Trustees for 2025-27. The forms have already been sent to all WIs and this information will help you make an informed choice.

The closing date for the completed form is 17 January 2025.

TRUSTEE BIOS

AMANDA BREACH

Amanda joined the WI in 2015. She was founding President of Petts Wood WI and later Secretary and was a member of West Kent Zoomers Virtual WI. Amanda was first on the PALS committee and became a Climate Ambassador six years ago. She is now joint Chair of the Green Team. Amanda became a Trustee seven years ago and was Vice Chair and then became Chair three years ago.

BARBARA BICKELL

Barbara joined the WI in 2015. She was founding Secretary at Petts Wood WI and later President. Barbara is joint Chair of the Lifestyle committee and became a Trustee seven years ago. She is now Federation Vice Chair.

GILL BROWN

Gill joined Hadlow WI in 2011. She has been both President and Treasurer and is currently Secretary. She is currently Chair of the PALS (Performing Arts Leisure & Sport) committee. Gill has been a Trustee since 2018 and is a Federation Vice Chair.

DIANE DANIELS

Diane joined the WI in 1984 and is a member of South Park WI. Positions held have included President and Secretary. Diane is currently Chair of the PA&I (Public Affairs & International) committee and is also our KVSEG Co-ordinator (Kent Voluntary Services Emergency Group). Diane has been a Trustee since 2023 and is currently a Federation Vice Chair.

CAROL GUPWELL

Carol joined South Park WI in 1974 and has been President throughout those years about 11 times in all! She also belongs to West Kent Zoomers and Surrey Vixens Virtual WIs. Carol is a West Kent Federation Adviser and was Chair of Advisers for six years until 2022. She is on the Federation PA&I committee and has been a Trustee since 2019. Carol is also ACWW representative for the Federation.

RITA KING

Rita joined Lenham WI in 2016 and has been President twice. She is also a member of West Kent Zoomers Virtual WI. Rita has been a Trustee since 2020 and has been Federation Treasurer for three years. Rita is also an Independent Financial Examiner, and a member of the West Kent News Editorial Team.

GERALDINE MARTIN

Geraldine has been a member of Walderslade WI since 1962 where she was a founding member. Geraldine has been both President and Secretary and is currently on the committee. Geraldine is on the PA&I committee and has been a Trustee since 2016.

JEANNETTE SMITH

Jeannette joined Walderslade WI in 2002 and is a past President and current Secretary. Jeannette is on the PALS committee, became a Trustee in 2023 and is Federation Safeguarding Officer. She is also an Independent Financial Examiner and completed her training to qualify as a WI Adviser for West Kent Federation this year.

SARAH SUDLOW

Sarah has been a WI member since 2011. She is currently President of Nevill WI, a committee member, magazine representative and a past Treasurer. Sarah is joint Chair of the Lifestyle committee. Sarah has been a Trustee since 2018 and is an Assistant Federation Treasurer and is also an Independent Financial Examiner.

WEST KENT FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES
Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Maidstone Road
Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4AG
Registered Charity No. 1188341



**BASKETS FOR THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THE WOODVILLE
WOODVILLE PLACE, GRAVESEND DA12 1DD
WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2025**

This year we're 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 basket with you on the day.

ART AND CRAFT



Paula Bates 01892 327863
artcraft@wkwfi.org.uk

Kay Moore Cup Art & Craft Competition

Works to be displayed at the Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 19 March 2025

Theme: **FAVOURITE PLANT or FLOWER**

Your Original Art or Craft work in any medium

No computer art will be considered.

Work on paper to be presented in a mount.

Maximum size 12" x 12"

**To be judged on the day by Gardeners' World Presenter
ADAM FROST**



Examples only



Send your entries to: the Art & Craft Committee
West Kent Federation of WIs
Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Centre
Maidstone Road, Pembury
Tunbridge Wells TN2 4AG

By the closing date of Friday 28 February

Attach a label to the back of your work stating clearly your name, telephone number and name of your WI.

REPORT OF A RECENT EVENT**WHIST DAY AT RYARSH**

How quickly a year goes by, once again it is Whist competition at Ryarsh, and true to form WI ladies from all over West Kent arrived in anticipation of what the day will bring, some ladies who have never been before had their nerves settled by the friendly welcoming atmosphere. The day commenced, the cards were cut, and off we go, before we knew it it was lunch, and to our surprise the lovely ladies from PALS waited on us with a delicious ploughman's lunch followed by fruit and cake. The game commenced once more everyone concentrating with the occasional jolly banter and laughter. The game has ended the scores were checked and amazingly it was a draw, Ros Meredith and Joan Cook from Gates Green WI and Kay Gordon and Lynn Dempsey from West Wickham WI were all winners on 213 points well done to you all. They were presented with their trophies by PALS Chair Gill Brown. Thank you to all on the PALS team for their hard work organising this day and also to Sheila Miles for keeping order, just to add Sheila is looking for an apprentice to help run whist for next time, any Volunteers? A great day was had by all. Chris Basden
Tenterden Glebe.



Left to right Joan Cook & Ros Meredith from Gates Green WI.
Kay Gordon & Lyn Dempsey from West Wickham WI.



Above Players receiving their instructions from co-ordinator Sheila Miles.
Below engrossed in play.



On the 11 November a dozen or so South Park ladies gathered around the Poppy decorated Fountain in the Park to mark the 11th hours two minutes silence. After, in true WI style, we retired to a member's home for a cuppa and wonderful homemade cheese and fruit scones. Amanda Bird

PUBLIC AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL

Diane Daniels – pai@wkfwi.org.uk

ACWW**Fund Raising
Afternoon Tea**

Paddock Wood Community Centre,
Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6EB

Thursday 24 April at 2 pm

(Doors open 1:30 pm)

£15 members £20 non members
Members will be given priority

**Speaker : Casey Daudelin, ACWW
Engagement Officer talking on Project
and work of ACWW.**

Enjoy a social afternoon tea with fellow WI members.

The red bag for good causes will be available plus pre loved costume jewellery will be on sale.
Proceeds to ACWW

Please see back page for ticket applications. Please state any dietary requirements / allergies.
Closing date : 31 March

A reflective time at the FARLEIGHS WI. It is indeed a 'time to reflect' with all the unrest in the world at this moment. In most countries Remembrance Day is observed on 11 November to recall the end of the First World War hostilities. In honour of this, and with a great deal of thanks to Annie Thomson for organising the



purchase of our forces silhouette, 'Mabel' has been installed outside our WI hall and decorated with our hand-crafted poppies.

Judy Balchin



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 19 March 2025, 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.

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@wkwfi.org.uk
or to the Federation Office at Ethel Hunt Lodge
clearly marked 'Wisley'

Closing Date: Friday 31 January 2025

WEST KENT FEDERATION OF WIS

2025 Annual Bursary for Education in any subject

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

WI

Contact Name

Address

..... Postcode

Tel No Email

Apply to: FedSec@wkwfi.org.uk
or to the Federation Office at Ethel Hunt Lodge clearly marked 'Bursary'

Closing Date: Friday 31 January 2025

HOLLINGBOURNE WI

On Saturday 19 October we held our annual Barn Dance in the local Windmill Hall. This is always a popular event and attracts many dancers both young and not so young. The very experienced callers, John and Karen, choose dances suitable for all ages, ensuring almost everyone can join in. The less mobile non dancers, contribute to the evening giving encouragement to those on the floor by smiling, sometimes laughing, and clapping to the music, so ensuring a lively, happy evening is enjoyed by everyone. During the interval John and Karen give a dance demonstration after which the anticipated raffle is drawn. We have a reputation for a splendid selection of very good raffle prizes. Then after a refreshing drink and a few nibbles we are ready to continue dancing the evening away. Barbara Gibbs



A member of **HILDENBOROUGH EVENING WI** Jan Powis, volunteers and helps the foodbank based at the church in Hildenborough. She mentioned that recently they have seen a reduction in items being donated so she asked if our members would be able to donate anything to give them a boost. We held our November meeting on 12 November and had 12 members attend, and were really happy to make our first donation to the foodbank. Here is Jan showing the items we collected, we had a selection including breakfast cereal, toothpaste, pasta, teabags, lots of tinned food and even a Christmas pudding! This is going to be a regular part of our meetings from now on.



MARCH FOR CLEAN WATER SUN 3 NOV

A small group of us from West Kent had an amazing, inspiring day, when the WI was one of about 140 organisations gathering on the Thames Embankment, then marching, with the common purpose of calling for action on river water quality. Our day started with briefings (and breakfast!) setting the scene for WI's long involvement in clean water campaigning, first mentioned in 1927! A group photo, then we made our way to our allotted place in the march. Around us, people representing swimmers, anglers, surfers, passionate supporters of their local rivers – all with inventive placards, banners and props! A long slow walk, everyone smiling, chatting to new friends, before arriving at Parliament Square for a rally. There we were treated to short, passionate speeches from a range of people ending in a call to action from Chris Packham. A reminder that our rivers have no voice in law, we must speak for them, and the real aim for the day was to call for a huge clean-up by water companies, giving more protection for wildlife and for those who use the water. In the last few years the WI have campaigned for an increase in sites where bathing water is monitored for pollution, and highlighted the problem of micro-plastics in rivers and sea shed by our washed clothing. The campaigns continue! Caroline Copleston, Kensing Eve WI



LIFESTYLE ANNUAL DAY PHOTOS—REPORT ON PAGE 10





Green Team

greenteam@wkwfi.org.uk

As the festive season approaches, The Green Team would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. May your holidays be filled with joy, peace, and sustainability.

Let's make this Christmas a greener one! Here are a few ideas to inspire you:

- Sustainable Decorations: Use natural materials like pine cones, berries, and dried oranges to decorate your home.
- Eco-Friendly Gifts: Consider giving handmade gifts, experiences, or donations to charity.
- Conscious Consumption: Be mindful of your purchases and opt for sustainable and ethically sourced products.
- Green Your Feast: Incorporate locally sourced, seasonal ingredients into your Christmas dinner.



Let's come together to celebrate the festive season responsibly and protect our planet for future generations.

Happy Christmas from The Green Team

REPORT ON THE SPEAKERS FROM THE OCTOBER LIFESTYLE DAY

CLARE BARTON said that as a child, when on holiday with her family, they would visit a tea shop and have a cream tea and **this was her dream**. However, when she left school she worked for Laura Ashley, John Lewis and in Australia. She loved making cakes so enrolled in an extensive ten-month course in Nottingham. Her main interest was in bread and sour dough.

Sour dough is the oldest form of bread, it is pure (no additives only flour, water, salt) takes longer to ferment, with lower GI good for diabetics. Opened her Tonbridge bakery, The Bakehouse, which opens Tuesday-Saturday and makes only sour dough bread and cakes (British bakes such as Bath Buns, Devonshire Splits) Her yeast (the starter 'Mother') is 100 years old and you take out the amount you need and then feed it with flour, salt and water. Different regions give the starter a different flavour so sour dough tastes different in each area.

JO LIVINGSTON *Living with Prosopagnosia (Face Blindness)*

Jo did not know for years that she only got half the information and would recognise people by their clothes, hair, voices but not their face. Everyone looked the same to her. Until she read an article by Mary Ann Seigent and found out the Fusiform area of the brain sends different signals about identity, this also explained that it was a genetic issue (her mother, daughter, grandmother all had this same gene).

Bill Choisser found his father and grandfather also had the same gene. He unfortunately joined the navy and almost had a breakdown, everyone wore the same uniform and same haircut. Everyone looked the same and he couldn't find anyone. He eventually worked in Engineering.

Brad Dichaine has produced a test which has proved 1/50 have this condition. If you have this condition don't consider a job as a Waitress or Receptionist!!!

SUE PRITCHARD *Make do and Mend*

(for this talk known as Lily Quinn as didn't have any Sue's in WW2).

As Lily, in WW2 she went to see a film A Canterbury Tale. The actress wore a beautiful dress and hat. As LILY, she used old curtains to make a dress and hat. People became used to restyling any clothing they could obtain.

Unwinding jumpers, or lengthening the sleeves. Clothing coupons were meant to make the situation the same for everyone, however Lady Smith with coupons plus money could make a better purchase than Mrs. Mopp's coupons for items made from shabby recycled material. Lily would have joined the WRVS and made blackout curtains and gone into schools to help children to pass clothes on and remake clothes

1966 WRVS was the largest women's voluntary service in the country. In 1990 they lost the W and just became RVS.

Factories were needed for the war effort and toys had to be made or passed down. Leather shoes had thick heels (thin heels needed steel) mostly T-Bar shoes as they needed less leather. Men's clothing (most men were away at war) was used to make women's clothing

Sandra Hicks—Hamhill and Snodland

Our WI family and friends in **ST. MICHAELS** have been working for months to pull these displays together. We managed three post box toppers, a range of displays at our village hall, a display for the local pub on request and some in St. Michaels church. We are so very humbled and proud to be part of the Remembrance weekend. Brigitte Watkins



SPITFIRES' GROUP HARVEST LUNCH

In January 2022, with the assistance of Bev Wild, an endorsement by Amanda Breach, and with four local WI Presidents, a Group was created between Biggin Hill Evening, Aperfield, Keston and Downe WIs, with a total of over 200 members within West Kent Federation. The purpose of the Group was to share information between us and to create events which could be shared between the individual groups.

A WhatsApp 'Spitfires Group' was set up to communicate easily and keep us in touch. The Group has quarterly meetings. We organised a coach for WK AGM, in March 2024, and in May, Aperfield WI held a Cream Tea. On 18 October, Biggin Hill Evening hosted a Harvest Lunch for 66 ladies. On a beautiful crisp Autumn Friday, a team of us worked extremely hard to put together an Autumn produce inspired luncheon, and the feedback was very positive. We are looking forward to more events in the future and have set out a programme for the next 12 months. Sue Ede



CROCKENHILL WI started the month with another of our popular Mystery Tours. This time it took us to Blue Town on the Isle of Sheppey, where our members were treated to a very informative tour of the local area, its history, wildlife, and its nature reserve. We viewed the many interesting pieces on show in the Heritage Centre and this was followed by an afternoon Tea in the Theatre Museum. We are now awaiting our next tour in April. Where it will take us? Nobody but the driver knows!

2. Remembrance week was commemorated by our WI with a memorable Post Box Topper made beautifully by two of our very talented members and with Shirley Abbot laying out wreath at the village service. Cheri Yeates





ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CHALLENGE?

We are looking for WI members who might like to train and join our team of WI Advisers.

The new NFWI WI Adviser training programme enables applicants to train online in their own time and once completed they will be supported in the practical training programme by the West Kent Federation WI Advisers.

Although this is a voluntary position expenses such as mileage are paid. WI Advisers are appointed by West Kent Federation and the WIA Committee meets approximately eight times a year either by Zoom or in person at EHL.

What do we do? Each WI Adviser looks after a group of WIs. They assist in supporting WI committees, help set up new WIs, run workshops on committee roles and advise on programme planning. We may have to suspend or enlarge WIs by joining two together when difficulties over forming committees occur. We also run Zoom chat meetings, attend WI meetings, Annual Meetings and attend WI social events.

If you have been a WI officer or committee member and are a car driver it is a great way of making new friends.

Observers are always welcome to our Team meetings. For more information, please contact the office at EHL FedSec@wkwfi.org.uk.

Bev Wild Chair of WI Advisers and Membership

"Seven members from **APERFIELD WI** created three Remembrance wreaths using knitted poppies. The wreaths were hung in the windows of the hall in Biggin Hill"

Jennifer Melotte



BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA WI had a stall at the village Winter Fair this month. The mulled wine and mince pies were very popular as was the raffle and a goodly sum was raised for our coffers. Thanks to Amanda, Angela and Joanne for all their hard work and to all the ladies who kindly provided the delicious mince pies.

The Craft Group, at their November meeting enjoyed making these sparkly stars.

Anthea Springett



The members of **LARKFIELD WI** recently had a visit from Woodland Chiropractic. This was the first time that the staff had been invited to speak to an audience. Despite their nerves, it was a thoroughly interesting afternoon and we all learnt how to look after our bodies in the hope that we may not need to visit a Chiropractor. Members enjoyed the afternoon and it is hope that the team will be invited to return in the future.

Carolyn, President



What do you know about tea? Well **MEOPHAM WI** had an opportunity to sample a range of different teas – black, blue, red, white and matcha tea - at Marie's Tea Shop in Gravesend on 16 October. Did you know that different teas require different temperatures to get the best taste and that some teas need to start with cold water so the hot water doesn't scorch the leaves? Of course our experience was rounded off with a piece of fantastic cake or scone and a pot of everyday English tea.

October has been extremely busy as on 19 October we held a successful Winter Fair with a range of crafts and cakes made by our talented members.

Suzanna Downing



CONGRATULATIONS



Barming WI sends best wishes and many congratulations to **BRENDA & RAY HELLEN** on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on 31 October. Love from all at Barming WI!

OBITUARY



Chelsfield Evening WI is sad to announce that **SHIRLEY WEBB** recently died following a sudden deterioration in her health. As well as being an active member of Chelsfield Evening, she was also on the committee for many years and participated in a number of WI activities. Shirley was very friendly, chatty and always prepared to help and assist with any task at short notice. She will be missed by those that remember her in our WI.

It is with great sadness that **Pratts Bottom WI** announces the passing of our dear member **FREDA CAMPBELL** just short of her one hundredth birthday. She had spent all her married life in the village and devoted her life to WI, a member for 73 years, being a past President and Treasurer, and most local activities. She was a lovely lady and a tour de force and will be greatly missed by us all.

Strictly we had to go!

Members of **RAVENSWOOD (WEST WICKHAM) WI** travelled by tram to visit the



workshops where the costumes for all the Strictly Come Dancing



dancers are made. It is 'all go', from when the designs for each dancer are received on Wednesday mornings until the costumes are taken

to Elstree for the Friday morning rehearsal on set and any final adjustments are made. Each 'jewel' is applied by hand! A fascinating tour and insight into the skills involved and what goes on "Behind the Seams"! They also make costumes for TV series and West End Shows. It is a shame that very few younger folk from the UK have the skills to do this work and all the materials have to be imported as nothing is produced here any longer.

Linda Haywood





OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that **Larkfield WI** announces the sudden passing of **JEAN LARKIN** at the age of 101. Jean had been a very active member of our WI up until her untimely death. Jean ran our drama group for some years having composed a lot of the plays herself and she had also served as President. She will be very much missed and we send our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to her family.

Meopham WI is sad to announce the passing of **ENID LANDER** in October days from her 101 birthday. A member of our WI for over 50 years and despite mobility issues made every effort to get to our meetings. She will be sadly missed.

ISTEAD RISE WI REMEMBERS

CAROL HILL, who died recently aged 83, will be sadly missed by all at **Chipstead WI**. A long-standing member and a former Scout leader, she was friendly, caring and capable. Carol will be particularly remembered for her card-making presentations and beautiful lacework.

The members of **Staplehurst WI** were so sad to hear of the passing of **ANNA HERRIN**. Anna had been a member for three years and she was always so bright and cheerful. She regularly attended from the Sobell Lodge Home locally and was a very brave, intelligent and independent lady. We will miss her happy smiles and her patience.



WHO TO CONTACT

CHAIR:

Amanda Breach

Email: chair@wkwfi.org.uk

Tel: 01892 823813

FEDERATION TREASURER:

Rita King

Email: treasurer@wkwfi.org.uk

01892 354454 Weds or Thurs

CHAIRMAN OF WI

ADVISERS:

Beverley Wild

Tel No: 020 8289 3533

Email: wiachair@wkwfi.org.uk

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

ADMINISTRATOR:

Gillian Neville

Email: gneville@live.co.uk

JOINT RESOLUTION

COORDINATORS:

Rosemary Tidby and

Thushara Kasturiratne

Email:

resolutions@wkwfi.org.uk

ACWW: Carol Gupwell

carolagupwell156@hotmail.com

Tel No: 01622 676600

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:

Jeannette Smith

Email:

safeguardingofficer@wkwfi.org.uk

KENT VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY GROUP:

Diane Daniels

Tel No: 01622 674494

Jill Fissenden

Tel No: 01622 758251

WEST KENT NEWS:

EDITORS

Linda Wills

Tel No: 01474 834163

Janet Buller

Tel No: 01795 471713

Rita King

Tel No: 01892 354454

ARTICLES—YOUR EVENT

Articles, your events Please no more than 150 words and two photographs. Congratulations and Obituaries (no more than 40 words) . If possible email direct to westkentnews@wkwfi.org.uk If not please post to our Ethel Hunt Lodge address see top of page two.

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

Please only order tickets via your nominated representative.

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

Ticket applications via email:

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

*Tickets are non refundable and non returnable. *

Places cannot be guaranteed until after the closing date. If an event is over-subscribed a ballot will take place* The Federation is not liable for additional costs or changes to a programme caused by circumstances beyond its control. Please apply for your tickets promptly, if an event is under subscribed by the closing date, the event may be cancelled. If open to non-members please state number required for members and non-members separately. Priority will always be given to members.