



# WEST KENT WI NEWS

October 2024

**CHANGE OF  
VENUE FOR OUR  
2025 AGM  
DETAILS INSIDE**

**LAST CHANCE TO APPLY  
FOR OUR SCIENCE EVENT  
SEE PAGE EIGHT FOR  
DETAILS**

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



While having a short break in Devon I had time to think that as summer fades and winter approaches, it reminds me of the natural cycles that mirror our journeys. Just as the summer warmth gives way to crisper mornings, so do we transition through seasons of growth, reflection, and renewal.

The growth for Federation needs to be reflected in our Board of Trustees. Next March both Rita and I would have been on the Board for three years, but we have agreed to an extra year to give us time to find new Board members and give them the opportunity to understand the role fully. If you think you might be interested in joining us, please pop along to observe one of our meetings or have a chat with a Board member. They are always around at Federation events!

I strongly feel that reflection is always key to moving on in life and enables us as a Federation to be both relevant and current to our membership.

In March this year it became obvious that we could no longer continue to hold our AGM at the Assembly Hall in Tunbridge Wells as it was a big financial loss. Last year it lost just under a thousand pounds which while being much better than the year before was just not sustainable. As a Federation we sent out questionnaires to all attending delegates asking for feedback on a number of ways forward e.g. going online, half days etc... Everyone who replied were unanimous in wanting to continue with the current format as meeting up with other members and having interesting speakers (with the Federation reports kept short !) was the highlight to the day.

We still needed a hall which could hold about 600 so over the summer the hunt began... and further into this edition of the WKN you can discover the date and venue for our 2025 AGM!!

So we have our growth, reflection and renewal !

Take care,  
**Amanda**

## Treasurer's Corner



The end of September is the financial year end for the West Kent Federation. As with WIs, when they reach their year ends on the 31 March, we are busy making sure all the paperwork is in order ready for our annual inspection. We have a comprehensive filing system and as I recommend to all our Treasurers agree your bank statements every month. It is so important that everything is not left to the year end. As the saying goes "you know it makes sense". Andrew, our Bookkeeper has now completed a full year in his role after taking over from Alan and has been an asset to the Federation, making sure everything ticks along smoothly.

This week was a meeting of our IFEs and clarification was requested from NFWI Finance on the use of Gift Cards as raffle prizes. This is only okay if they are donated but WI funds cannot be used to purchase them. At the meeting the role of the IFE was discussed together with any problems they encountered. It was agreed that having all the paperwork in order and all bank accounts reconciled makes the job so much easier. I am also an IFE and must admit that most of the ones that I examine are a dream, whilst others take a great deal of time but hopefully the time spent explaining what is required will mean that they will all be perfect this year!

Whilst we encourage WIs to use an IFE (Independent Financial Examiner), they are WI members and understand the organisation, we could do with more in order to spread the load. You do not need to be an accountant but you ideally would be experienced in completing WI accounts. Please contact Gillian Neville, whose details are on the back page if you are interested in becoming an IFE.

We are also getting to grips with the WI Lottery that was launched this month and as soon as we have the Federation Lottery page set up, the information will be circulated to our WIs. It will be revenue for WIs and Federation, so do encourage people to join. Information can be found on the WI website.

*Kind regards*

*Rita King*

## FEDERATION NOTICE BOARD

Nothing to report for this issue.

To celebrate WI Day, members of **BEARSTED & THURNHAM WI**, organised a musical afternoon tea. The tables looked pretty, the food was delicious and we were entertained by local musician Karen who played both the cello and the piano.

Diane Parr



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

### OCTOBER

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

### NOVEMBER

Tues	05	Science Day	Sevenoaks
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Maidstone Library Literary Festival is taking place from the 5—13 October. Flyers have been sent to our WIs for forwarding to their members. Hopefully many of you will find something to enjoy, Bookings can be made via [www.maidstonelitfest.org/what-s-on](http://www.maidstonelitfest.org/what-s-on). For group discounts, enter the code groups20% at the checkout.

**CRAYFORD WI** annual outing went to historic Brighton in East Sussex. Some ladies ventured along the famous lanes with a variety of Jewellery, Antique and Boutique shops. Some also went to the famous Royal Pavilion. Many thanks to Doreen Armstrong for arranging this outing. Jean Atkins





West Kent Federation is proud to announce the date and venue for their 2025 AGM.

## The Woodville Halls, Gravesend, Wednesday 19 March

Our last visit here was a few years ago for a West Kent Federation half year event and we are pleased to be returning. The Woodville Halls has a capacity of 600, accessible access, station, and parking very close by. There will be more details over the coming months - so don't forget to look out for them in the West Kent News and in your WI mailboxes!



**CROCKENHILL WI** held its 6<sup>th</sup> Recruitment Fair this month. We had a great day, fabulous weather plus lots of interest in WI! With hopefully new members taking away our information sheets. I would like to thank everyone that came and helped on the stall, for all our members that contributed the jam jars and sweets for Linda's amazing Lucky Sweet Dip. We will be doing that one again! Plus thanks for the other games from Sylvia, Pat and Carol. And last but not least thanks to West Kent Federation for delivering the fabulous posters that adorned our backing boards and encouraged many women to come and take a look and find out more about the WI.  
Cheri Yeates

## REPORT OF A RECENT EVENT

Ethel Hunt Lodge was filled with laughter, enthusiasm and creativity during the Watercolour Workshop led by artist, Matthew Palmer. He demonstrated his expertise and guided us with patience and a great sense of humour, through the skills and techniques we would need to complete our own individual version of one of his paintings. For me, it was a wonderful introduction to painting with watercolours and, judging from the vibe in the room, we were all feeling the same way. Who'd have thought a simple nectar card could be used as a painting tool! A thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile experience.

Jackie Dover. Matfield WI



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

TICKETS £ 15.00      Doors open 9.30am

**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.

**Sue Pritchard** with "Make Do and Mend"

**Jo Livingstone**, suffers from Prosopagnosia or face blindness.

Members only. Application box on back page.

Have you applied for your tickets? Closing date 7 October

### BURHAM AND WOULDHAM WI

In July, Burham and Wouldham WI celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a wonderful birthday party. Together with lovely visitors we enjoyed singing and dancing, feather boas, much laughter and a splendid cake. Margaret Mather wrote and read a celebratory poem (to match the one she wrote 25 years ago!) and Jill Allonby made every member a commemorative bookmark.



Remember dancing to "The Locomotion"?

welcoming friendship. **Happy Birthday to us!** Margaret Wood – Secretary.

It also provided a splendid setting for us to say thank you and bon voyage to Heather Brown, who diligently served as Secretary for 15 years before moving across the border to Sussex (pictured in blue with President, Eileen Smith )



Another exciting craft afternoon at Barbara's, this time painting in acrylics. Didn't the ladies of **BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA WI** do well?!  
Anthea Springett



**OTFORD OAST WI** had great fun with a quiz and our ideas for change board to support The Great Big Green Week. Our quiz challenged our knowledge of the impact on the environment and wildlife arising from human activity and climate change. Congratulations and the prize went to our quiz champion Margaret Relton, pictured with President Fiona Currier. Well done to all our members for their ideas of things we can all do to protect our world.







## Green Team

greenteam@wkwfi.org.uk

### HOSTING A GREEN EVENT.

As I write this article I am part of a team busy planning a “Big Green Weekend” to be held at the end of September in Ightham, a village outside Sevenoaks. Although organised by the Parish Church of St. Peter’s, we have approached a wide range of organisations and individuals both inside the village and beyond, asking in what way they might be interested in taking part and the response has been tremendous.

WI, Cubs, church flower arrangers, bee keepers, the Dandelion Trust, the Parish Council and the village school are amongst those contributing in a wide variety of ways, all keen to demonstrate the benefits of having a healthy environment, what we have to celebrate and what more we can do.

With a programme running over 48 hours we have a Bioblitz in the churchyard for children from the village school, an evening Bat Walk, a Parish Council organised litter pick {an event that happens regularly but organised on this occasion to fit in with Big Green Weekend}, some of the village school children are taking part in a poetry competition, which has an environmental theme, Cubs making bird boxes as part of their Environment Badge, organised tours of a local apple farm and wood carving demonstrations by a local craftsman.

We also have the WI sharing useful tips on leading a greener lifestyle, an official coming from Tonbridge and Malling Council Environment department to answer any questions people may have and advertisements from local businesses and organisations such as The Eco pantry refill shop at Seal Chart and the Repair shop Café at St. Luke’s Church Sevenoaks.

Luckily I am part of an enthusiastic team who all feel strongly on this topic so we are able to organise an event on this scale but surely anything we do big or small is worth doing as it all makes a difference!

*Annette Smith.*



**TENTERDEN GLEBE’S** September Meeting was fantastic. With 15 guests from Stubbs Cross Frittenden, Wittersham, and St. Michaels, the atmosphere was amazing enjoying tea and cake and then on to our wonderful speaker Paul Read dresser to the stars. Paul had story after story of the stars he has dressed and the different shows he has worked in, finishing with some inside stories. He certainly met our expectations, it was a wonderful meeting, a lovely time enjoyed by all.

Christine Basden



On an early September afternoon, fourteen of **HOLLINGBOURNE WI** members enjoyed a lunchtime picnic, in the sunshine, on our village Millenium Green. For most of us it was our annual picnic, but, this year we were happy to be joined by two of our new members. We exchanged news of our time spent during the August break, some on holidays, others visiting relatives etc. and one member had us in stitches about her exploits involving a skip and its contents!!

Before making our various ways home, some of us 'tidied up' one corner of the Green by collecting the fallen fruit from the apple trees. No doubt there will soon be a few delicious apple pies or crumbles being enjoyed in several homes.



Barbara Gibbs.

**SOUTH PARK WI** visiting Elmley Nature Reserve. Following our talk from Simon Ginnau earlier this year 10 of us visited Elmley for a very interesting guided walk with Simon. We had a slight delay reaching the starting point due to these handsome beasts having the right of way !



We learnt the history of Elmley and about lots of the flora and fauna. Along the way we spotted a Little owl on the old school roof, a hobby flying high as well as more common birds. Some of us saw two young Merlin, hare, a kingfisher, kestrel as well as an enormous bull that was thankfully behind a fence! It was such a peaceful place and a lovely afternoon enjoyed by all.

Sue L



### THE FARLEIGHS WI

To celebrate National WI Day on September 16, we have had great fun yarn bombing our hall. Over the past weeks our crafty members, guided by our creative guru, Annie Thomson, have knitted, crocheted and sewn hundreds of sunflowers which will decorate the hall for the next month. They picked the sunflower as its meaning is 'long life and lasting happiness' which is perfect for celebrating the WI's 109 years.

Judy Balchin





## 2025 WEST KENT FEDERATION OF WIS ANNUAL POETRY COMPETITION

Members are once again to compose a poem—the title this year is ***MOVING ON***.

Please interpret this how you wish in **12 to 24 lines**, perhaps a change of lifestyle, moving house, a new job, learning to tow a caravan or horsebox. Going from Junior to Senior School or even University.

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

You can mail to

Ethel Hunt Lodge

4, Hawkwell Business Centre

Maidstone Road,

Pembury

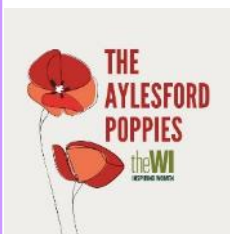
TN2 4AG



Or email to [FedSec@wkfwi.org.uk](mailto:FedSec@wkfwi.org.uk)

Closing Date End January 2025

Winner to be announced at our WKFWI AGM 2025 and will be presented with a trophy (to keep for a year) and a certificate.



### FOUR GENERATIONS ALL BELONGING TO ONE WI

Jean Arnold, the Matriarch of our family and my dear Grandmother is featured in this photo. Jean was born in 1937 and is now 87 years old. Jean used to work at Clarence House in the kitchen supporting the chef for the Queen Mother. Jean also worked at Sandringham, Birkhall and she visited Balmoral. At Birkhall, Jean met Winston Churchill. Jean's dad Duncan was a game keeper and he was with the late Queen when she shot her first stag. Now Jean spends her days keeping us all in check!

Carole (my mother) and myself, Sharon are committee members of the newly formed **Aylesford Poppies**, I am also the treasurer. Carole is always involved in the cakes and cooking for our WI where her passionate love for cooking is duly welcomed by our members. Kinza my daughter is our book club queen, bringing her experience from publishing into our WI with great passion. We have a very successful book club in operation where the members meet up with Kinza once per month to discuss their latest book.

Our members are a true inspiration, we have lots of ladies with lots of great life experience and stories to tell.

Sharon Arzira







## PUBLIC AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL

Diane Daniels — [pai@wkfwi.org.uk](mailto: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 .

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.

On Monday 9 September the newly formed **HURST WI** held its first outing to Buckingham Palace. Sixteen of us ventured up into central London for what turned out to be a very enjoyable and informative day. The state rooms were stunning and were interesting to see and to learn the history behind each of the rooms. The day ended with a spot of lunch and well needed coffees before heading back home.  
Jackie Greenwood





## OBITUARIES

We were all sad at **Allington Castle WI** to hear of the passing of **BERYL FLETCHER**.

A longstanding member and keen pianist: we will always remember Beryl for her wonderful rendition of Jerusalem. She will be sadly missed.

### A PRICKLY MORNING FOR THE FARLEIGHS

After a talk on the art of needle felting this month by Woolly Felters, Roz Dace and Judy Balchin. Our craft group was inspired to have a stab at it. Over the course of the morning, with Judy at the helm, a herd of hedgehogs gradually emerged all with their own unique personalities. The concentration and cake consumption was impressive and it is good to know that twenty little woolly hedgehogs now have new homes and a new skill has been learned

Judy Balchin



A photo from **SOUTH PARK WI** Craft Afternoon where hearts, attached with poppies, were made. The ladies who created them had a lot of fun. All enjoyed the afternoon of craft and of course, cake and chat.

Amanda Bird



This year **CONEY HALL VILLAGE WI** held a competition to see who could grow the tallest Sunflower. We handed out seeds and our keen gardeners got going. Conditions were difficult—wet, windy and a battle against slugs—but against the odds our member, Mary Dalman, managed to get her sunflower to the heady heights of 56 1/2 inches, narrowly beating Jackie Willis who was a worthy runner up. Photos show Mary receiving her prize from our President Christine Burch, and Jackie proudly displaying her sunflower, which, although a couple of inches shorter than Mary's had multiple flower heads.

Chris Jones Secretary



**LONGFIELD WI** members decided they wanted to plant a new blossom tree at the Longfield & New Barn village hall. Only a few members could make it but we enjoyed tea & cake afterwards.

Thanks to Paula the Parish clerk for taking the picture. Pam Smith, President Longfield







## OBITUARIES

The members of **Meopham WI** are sad to announce the death of **SUE SELFE** who was an active member a keen crafter, running the knitting group and previous committee member until her failing health. She will be sadly missed.

It is with much sadness that **Royal Eltham WI** advises of the death of **JEAN FORSHAW**. Jean was a delightful lady who despite her advanced years was game to try anything and especially loved her days out and holidays. Our sincere condolences go out to all her friends and family.

**Southfleet WI** is sad to announce the loss of two long-standing members of our WI, **BARBARA ALLEN** and **BARBARA HARRIS**.

Barbara Allen was our chief tea provider for 30 years and had a long 48 year affinity with the WI and members. She was a quiet lady but was always on hand to help out. Our thoughts go out to her family at this sad time.

Barbara Harris spent over 50 years on the committee in various roles but mainly as President and was so integral to us that we have a Barbara Harris Award which we will fondly continue. She had a lust for life and was an active member until failing health meant she could no longer make it to meetings. She was a kind, gentle and very supportive member and will be missed by us all. Our thoughts and sympathies are with her family.

It is with great sadness that **Larkfield WI** announces the sudden passing of **JOAN BRETT**. Joan had been an active member until an unfortunate accident which resulted in her being hospitalised and then transferred to a care home. Where, after a few weeks she suddenly passed away. Our thoughts and sympathies are with her family at this sad time.

## WHO TO CONTACT

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Amanda Breach

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Rita King

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01892 354454 Weds or Thurs

### CHAIRMAN OF WI

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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](mailto:westkentnews@wkfwi.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@wkfwi.org.uk](mailto: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.

**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.