



WEST KENT WI NEWS

January 2024



Happy New Year to
all our WI members

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Happy New Year everyone and I hope that you have all survived the festive period!

Well, 2024 is kicking off with a bang as far as the WI is concerned- the long-awaited roll out of the WI Learning Hub is happening and if you haven't already done so please sign up to the new WI Learning Hub Newsletter to be kept up to date, weekly, with new courses, projects and activities. This will enable all members to have access to a range of online courses, the majority of which will be completely free! The Hub launches on January 24 for booking, with the first courses taking place from January 29. More details can be found in your November/December edition of WI Life.

I would also like to draw your attention to the Million Women Rise march to end male violence against women and girls which is taking place on Saturday 9 March. It's a sad state of affairs that we even have to have this march but sadly violence of this nature is still very much with us and there aren't many communities that haven't been affected. Last year we had a small contingent from West Kent Federation but this year I would like us to attend in force! It's easy to meet up before the march and there's a great sense of sisterhood to be marching alongside each other in unity and solidarity. The NFWI Public Affairs team will be holding a pre meet with a panel discussion at a venue near the starting point, which gives you an opportunity to hear from expert speakers and engage in a Q&A session. If you are worried about coming on your own just drop me an email and we can arrange a meet up. So, please come and let's all take a stand against such violence and champion a society that promotes equality, justice, and respect for all women and girls.

Take care

Amanda

Treasurer's Corner



Welcome to 2024. I cannot believe that another year has seemed to whizz past! Time really does seem to go faster and before we know it, it will be the Financial Year End for our WIs.

It will soon be time to refresh our memories on what is required but do not panic, I plan to have a Year End training session before the Year End and an email will be sent out to Treasurers when I have confirmed the date. I will most probably do the training on Zoom. It is not always convenient to travel to Ethel Hunt Lodge and also at a time to suit the majority of members.

The subscription rates have been issued for the 1 April 2024 renewal and are as follows:

WI portion:	£23.60
Federation portion:	£11.30
NFWI portion:	£13.10
Total subscription for the year =	£48.00

This represents an increase on the 2023 rates of £1 for the WI and 50p each to the Federation and NFWI.

The WI portion remains flexible and will be at the discretion of each WI.

Many Treasurers prefer the renewal to be paid on the 1st April being the start date of the WI's new financial year.

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year for 2024.

Kind regards

Rita King

Federation Notice Board

Yearbook

Please note that **East Dulwich WI** has changed meeting day and venue and now meet on the **2nd** Wednesday of the month at The Castle, 280 Crystal Palace Road, East Dulwich, London SE22 9JJ. All other details remain the same.

Detling WI held a brilliant Christmas party with scrumptious food and really fun games.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

2024

MARCH

Sat 23	Introduction to Quilling	Orpington
Mon 25	WKFWI AGM	Tunbridge Wells

APRIL

Wed 17	Lifestyle Annual Day	Ditton
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JUNE

Wed 5	NFWI AGM	Royal Albert Hall
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SEPTEMBER

Mon 16	WI DAY— Arrange your own promotion	
Thurs 26	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton

At their December meeting the ladies of **Boughton Monchelsea WI** celebrated their 90th birthday and also enjoyed their Christmas party. We dressed in the costumes of the 1930s and enjoyed a sumptuous supper. The birthday cake was cut by Christine Attwood watched over by President Sue Townsend. Anthea Springett



Christmas decorations or Gnomes and stars that we made at our November craft group meeting.

Amanda Bird

South Park WI



BADGERS MOUNT WI recently celebrated their 70th anniversary along with their Christmas celebrations whilst being entertained by Miss Vintage. Everyone had a great time enjoying plenty of food and lots of dancing. This is an afternoon WI meeting on 2nd Wed of each month and new members would always be very welcome.

Karen Lagarde



Poirot evening at **The Farleighs WI**



Another fun craft afternoon for the ladies of **Boughton Monchelsea WI** making Christmas wreaths.

Anthea Springett



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE ASSEMBLY HALL, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Monday 25 March 2024

11.00am to 4.00pm (doors open at 10.00am)

SPEAKERS

Dr Annie Gray

Dr Annie Gray is one of Britain's leading food historians, specialising in the history of food and dining from c.1600 to the present day. She is an author, broadcaster and consultant.

She has published numerous books, including: *Call the Midwife – The Official Cookbook*, *The Greedy Queen*, *The Official Downton Abbey Cookbook* and *Victory in the Kitchen – The Life of Churchill's Cook*. Annie contributes to many publications such as *Delicious Magazine*, *The Telegraph*, *The Guardian* online and *BBC Good Food*.

She has been the resident food historian on BBC Radio 4's culinary panel show, *The Kitchen Cabinet*, since its inception in 2012 and published the show's companion book. Annie has also been a consultant and presenter on many BBC Two shows such as *Victorian Bakers* (BBC Two) and has appeared and consulted on *A Merry Tudor Christmas with Lucy Worsley* (BBC Two) and *Victoria and Albert: The Royal Wedding* (BBC Two), as well as appearing on *James Martin's Saturday Morning* (BBC One), *James Martin: Home Comforts* (BBC One) and *The Great British Bake Off* (BBC) among others.

Lindsey Barrell (aka Ms Cherry Bombe)

'Burlesque, Me and the WI!'

WI President Lindsey's fabulously funny and heart-warming talk covers how she first discovered burlesque, closely followed by the WI, and then brought the two worlds together.

From empty nest to huge success, and via dance classes and craft sessions, Lindsey will take you on a journey that a lot of you will be able to relate to.

Recently described as 'The best speaker I have ever heard in 38 years of being in the WI', this is a humorous talk that illustrates how even the most diverse of topics can epitomise the Fun, Friendship and Education ethos of the Women's Institute.

ENTERTAINMENT

Women in Harmony are a mainly a Cappella choir and have just celebrated 25 years of singing together. They have performed at the Tram Shed, in Tetbury, the Menin Gate and also won the first Hospice in the Weald choir of the year award. They are looking forward to performing for the West Kent Federation AGM and are putting together an uplifting programme.

DELEGATES TICKETS ARE FREE however you will 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, **but Delegates are free to sit anywhere in the hall.**

NON-VOTING MEMBERS TICKETS including Group Co-ordinators and Federation Sub-Committee Members – 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 **Thursday 29 February**.

However, we are offering an 'Early Bird' booking price of **£13.50 per ticket** if received in the office by **Wednesday 31 January**. There may be a second release after the closing date. **There is no restriction on ticket numbers.**

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

NFWI ASSOCIATES are entitled to apply for one ticket at a cost of either **£13.50 or £15.00**. If you would like to attend, please contact the Federation Office.

COLLECTION

We will be collecting for St Mark's Community Larder in Tunbridge Wells 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.

CLOSING DATES

Wednesday 31 January 2024

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Thursday 29 February 2024

Thursday 29 February 2024

'Early Bird' closing date for ticket applications

RHS Wisley Draw applications

Bursary applications

First release closing date for ticket applications

Receipt of stationery orders in the office orders to be collected at the AGM

Full details are available via your WI Secretary.

ART AND CRAFT

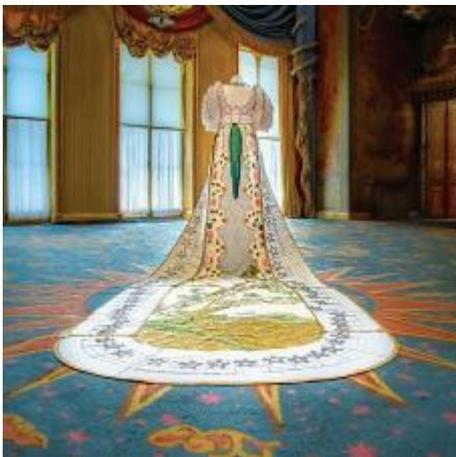


Paula Bates 01892 327863

artcraft@wkwfi.org.uk

Introduction to Quilling

Quilling Workshop with Stephanie Smart: Come and learn the art of paper quilling in this introductory class, following on from the fascinating talk that Stephanie gave at the Art & Craft Annual Days. You will be taught how to produce a range of shapes which can then be applied to make this beautiful star, as seen on the train of the Symphony of Stars Regency design gown from the House of Embroidered Paper. No previous experience needed. This workshop is also open to those who have previously attended a beginners workshop and would like to do more. All tools and materials supplied. Agile fingers required.



SATURDAY 23 MARCH ST NICHOLAS CHURCH HALL, ORPINGTON, BR6 9QB

10:30 am to 3pm doors open at 10:00am Tickets £ 25.00. and a kit charge of £4 cash on the day for materials. WI MEMBERS ONLY

Please bring a packed lunch and a mug for hot drinks.

Apply to: tickets@wkwfi.org.uk

with your WI, Contact Name, Telephone number and Number of Tickets Required

Tickets will be emailed after the closing date. **Alternatively**, please complete the form below and send to:- Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Maidstone Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells TN2 4AG Postal tickets will be charged an extra £1 for postage

WI Name

Email Tel

Address & Post code.....

.....

Number of Tickets required..... Closing Date: Friday 2 February.

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

Watch for details of the April Lifestyle Annual Day in our February West Kent News:



The first speaker is our very own Janie Ramsey, who is giving her talk on the disgraceful sons of George 3rd. It promises to be full of salacious gossip, scandal and facts to fascinate and entertaining.



Next up is Lucy Allen, a stunt woman who has starred in many big films, and TV productions, from Meg 2 to Titanic. She takes us through her working life and gives us a thorough insight into the world of entertainment.



Our final speaker is William Shaw, a popular, fictional crime writer. He will be talking on why murder fiction is so popular, especially amongst women. He gives an entertaining peek into the world of journalism and book writing.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL

Diane Daniels – 01622 674494

WI Resolution 2023-24

Yes, it is Resolution time again. It comes around so quickly!

159 resolutions were put forward by individual WIs throughout the country and considered at the Short-listing Meeting in October. Each resolution had been researched and presented by a member of the NFWI Public Affairs Department. After discussions amongst the almost 100 Federation Resolution Co-ordinators, four resolutions progressed to the first round of voting. The NFWI solicitors have checked them over and here they are:

Dental Health Matters Impacts of Poor Housing Conditions Say 'No' to Gambling Advertising Improving Outcomes for Women in the Criminal Justice System

Details can be found on MyWI, in the November/December WI Life and in the email sent to all WIs from the Federation Secretary.

The first round of voting gives every member an individual choice as to which resolution(s) are forwarded to the final vote in May/June. You can choose your method of voting within your WI but please only send off the list of votes for the resolutions to the Federation office. Please do **not** send any individual voting papers as they will not be counted. This information needs to be at Ethel Hunt Lodge by post or email by 11 February.

NFWI will count up all of the votes across the country and then at the end of February announce which one (or two) resolutions will go through to the final round. At this point West Kent will try to set up a Resolution background meeting for some time in April. Obviously until we know which resolution has been chosen, we cannot set up the meeting which could be live or on Zoom.

In West Kent, the final round of voting within WIs takes place usually at the Annual Meetings in May. The arguments for and against the resolution are presented to the members and there is a show of hands to vote whether to approve or reject the resolution. You then have either a Yes or No from your WI. This result needs to be sent to the Delegate who will be representing you at the NFWI Annual Meeting at the Albert Hall in June. It is recommended that you approve giving your Delegate a discretionary vote if needed at the Albert Hall.

Whereas no individual votes are counted at WIs in this final round, I was told by a NFWI board member, that it is advisable to note whether the resolution was passed unanimous (or nearly) or just over the 50:50. Give this information to your Delegate as it may have an influence on her discretionary vote.

Caroline Davis – West Kent Federation Resolution Co-ordinator

Don't forget to apply for our Annual Bursaries that will be drawn at the West Kent Federation AGM in March

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 Monday 25 March 2024, 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 WIs **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: Wednesday 31 January 2024

WEST KENT FEDERATION OF WIs

2024 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: Wednesday 31 January 2024

Please note if you win a bursary at the 2024 AGM, you will not be eligible to enter again within the next five years.



Green Team

greenteam@wkwfi.org.uk

Don't bin it, repair it!

We throw away vast amounts of stuff. Even things with almost nothing wrong with them, and which could get a new lease on life after a simple repair. Knowing how to make repairs is a skill quickly lost and is a threat to a sustainable future and to the circular economy, in which raw materials can be reused again and again.

The very first Repair Café was held in Amsterdam, on October 18, 2009 . It was a great success, and this prompted the founder Martine Postma to start Repair Café International Foundation. Since 2011, this non-profit organisation has provided professional support to local groups in the Netherlands and other countries wishing to start their own Repair Café. There are now just under 3000 repair cafes worldwide with over 250 in the UK.

At a Repair Café people with repair skills get the appreciation they deserve, and invaluable practical skills are passed on. It teaches people to see their possessions in a new light and, once again, to appreciate their value. In both these ways, the Repair Café helps change people's mindset. This is essential to kindle people's enthusiasm for a sustainable society.

But most of all, the Repair Café just wants to show how much fun repairing things can be, and how easy it often is.

We have one in Petts Wood and unsurprisingly some WI members are involved, especially when it comes to the items that need a sewing repair! It has a wonderful community feel and people are so pleased when their item has been mended. The volunteers doing the repairs bring a wide range of skills and will work with others if needed. A small cheer can often be heard when a repair works! One neighbour took along his mother's record player from the 50's, and after a volunteer who had electronic expertise got it working, he heard it play her favourite song again. It was a moment straight out of The Repair Shop on television!

So, instead of throwing away that radio that no longer works or that teddy bear with the missing ear- why not give your local repair café a visit? Or maybe volunteer at one and keep those precious skills alive!

There are repair cafes starting up all over Kent and your nearest one can be found when you visit repaircafe.org.

In October, **Fairfield (Dartford) WI** celebrated it's 50th Anniversary. Members were joined by our WIA Sue Boner and enjoyed a bring and share buffet with birthday cake made by member Sue Metcalf. This was followed by quizzes themed on 1973. As with all good parties everyone went home with a party bag of goodies including a commemorative pen. This year we have welcomed eight new members and we are looking forward to many more years of friendship.

Melissa Cheeseman
Secretary of Fairfield (Dartford) WI



18 of the **Hartley Afternoon WI** attended a demonstration, by two experts from our local Flower Club, on how to create a Christmas table centrepiece. We were provided with all the greenery and adornments that we needed and were helped to create one for ourselves. It was a lovely sociable afternoon and we all proudly went home with



our own centrepiece with tips on how to keep it going until Christmas.

Wendy Weedon



OBITUARIES

The ladies of **Royal Eltham WI** were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of **GILL (GILLIAN) DABBS**. After a year of poor health and a failed shoulder replacement, Gill passed away peacefully on 29 November. Gill loved the WI and whenever she was able went out of her way to support the Committee and Membership. A keen line dancer and member of her local Rock Choir she lead a busy social life and loved to dress up to attend events. Our sincere condolences go out to her husband Pete and all the family.

Staplehurst WI members are sad to lose **JACKIE PUTTOCK** who had been a regular member until recently. She was a member of our successful Darts Team, played in the local Ukulele Band and quite regularly won our Flower of the Month Certificate. She was a lively lady with so many great ideas. We will miss her.

We have also been so lucky to have known **LINDA HEWISH** as a member. She was a wheelchair bound member from Sobell Lodge who really helped us to understand accessibility issues in our hall for our meetings. She was always happy and cheerful and took part wherever she felt able. We will miss her smiles.

It is with immense sadness that **Southfleet WI** announce the passing of two valued and loved members. **MARGARET MEDLAND** was an interesting lady who passed on her kindness to others and we will all miss her dearly. Another friend **HEATHER WAKEMAN**, a long standing ex-committee member, who continued to assist the WI up until her passing and was very highly thought of. Both Margaret and Heather will be missed and fondly remembered for their constant support, kindness and friendliness.



Harvel WI wish to send belated, sincere congratulations to **SHEILA and ALISTAIR OAG** on their Golden Wedding anniversary on 8 September.

The **ISTEAD RISE** Yarn Bombers placed the Community Christmas Tree by the shops. This is dedicated to Linda Gisby, who initiated the idea in 2022 but who sadly died during 2023—her idea lives on.



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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.

YOUR WEST KENT NEWS

To enable WIs to receive their ordered copies of the WKN by the first of the month and for it to be displayed on the website earlier you may find some of your articles will feature in the following month's edition rather than the next month. All appear in the order that they are received.

To save your ink when printing you can always start from page two.