



WEST KENT WI NEWS

JUNE 2023

ART & CRAFT ANNUAL DAYS

DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER AND THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

Speakers:

Neal Scrase

Artist and Director of the Fine Art Trade Guild.



Neal Scrase
FINE ART SERVICES

Paul Avis



Chair of the Tunbridge Wells Civic Society and the Decimus Burton Society will talk about a proposed new museum featuring the life and work of the famous architect.



Stephanie Smart and the House of Embroidered Paper

The Regency Wardrobe: Fashion house and fine art studio with garments formed from paper and thread, woven through with story and memory



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



After such a busy month of May with Bank holiday visits from family followed by Coronation celebrations and then the NFWI AGM in Cardiff, June promises to be a bit quieter! It is also the start of a new WI year after the Annual Meetings and for many of you a beginning of your role on a WI committee. I would like to say 'thank you' to those members that are continuing in your roles for another year and welcome to new committee members. Without you our WIs would not exist and flourish the way they do! We have training sessions both in person at Ethel Hunt Lodge and on zoom for you all – please book up as dates become available. We can also put you in touch with other members if you need more one to one support. All the roles can seem daunting, and I know I found the support of another WI President when I took on the role of founding President of Petts Wood WI a great help. I was forever grateful. At Petts Wood we have a sub committee for events which brings in members who don't want to be on the full committee but also shares the roles out, therefore avoiding over burdening one person. Even the 3 major roles can be shared- the Treasurer can have an assistant (as we do on the Board of Trustees) and it takes away the pressure and I think makes the role more manageable.

We mustn't forget those committee members who have stood down this year- I'm sure you have had many thanks from your own WIs, but I would like to say how grateful The Federation has been for your service. Never be in doubt how much we have appreciated the work you have done, and I hope you can now sit back and enjoy being a member of your WI.

Now I have some news for your diaries!!

Next year's AGM will be on Monday March 25. I know that there was some criticism of the Federation for always booking a weekday but to have the AGM on a Saturday would double the hire cost of the Hall which would be far too expensive I'm afraid. As a Federation we are holding more events on a Saturday to make them more accessible to our members.

As to who I'm booking well you will have to wait and see...

Have a wonderful month- there is loads to read in this month's copy of WKN and some great Federation events coming up. So get those diaries out and get your ticket requests into your WI!

Take care,
AMANDA

Treasurer's Corner



When you read this edition, your Annual Accounts would have been inspected and signed off. Some of you with a sigh of relief! It can be stressful when the figures just will not agree. I have found in the past that putting the books down, walking away, having a cup of tea and a short break usually helps and when you go back to it suddenly things fall into place. In other words, you cannot see the wood for the trees!

One thing I would like to ask, make sure the figures in A6 and the total of B1 Cash funds agree and that B1.5 is filled in if funds are due to Federation.

Now is the time when many new Treasurers are taking on the role, a daunting task if they have not had a handover period from the previous Treasurer. The new Treasurer may also want to use the WI Spreadsheet and could do with some training. In this edition of the West Kent News there is training for all officers advertised and for the Treasurer's there is one at Ethel Hunt Lodge but also an evening Zoom session for using the WI Spreadsheet. Everyone is welcome to attend either or even both whether you are new to the role, want to convert to using a spreadsheet or just want a refresher. We will be delighted to see you.

We are aware that some of the officers are working ladies, so evening Zoom sessions fit into their busy schedules. Mind you, when I retired, I thought I would have plenty of time! That was before I became a Trustee and then the Federation Treasurer. I must say, helping Treasurers with their accounts is very rewarding, so please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any help.

In MyWI there is also a lot of information on running your WI and a section for Finance . That is where the new Spreadsheet is available to download.

Well done to all committee members who take on Officer roles, you are certainly appreciated in being able to keep your WIs running.

Rita King

**MEET YOUR WI
ADVISER**

60 SECONDS WITH:-

Name: Carole Powell



WI and WI Credentials: I have been a member of Badgers Mount WI since 2004 when I retired and am also a Dual Member of Pratts Bottom WI. I am Treasurer of Badgers Mount WI. I am also a Federation IFE as well as being a WI Adviser since 2018

Hobbies / Interests: I like to dabble in all sorts of crafts such as card making, crochet, dress making, cross stitch.

Last book read: “Deadland” by William Shaw. I bought it from the author when he visited my WI.

Favourite film: It has to be “Pretty Woman”, I can watch it over and over.

Music choices: Light classics and music from the shows. Also I have always liked Johnny Mathis.

Most memorable holiday: : Definitely the Maldives and Singapore for 25th Wedding Anniversary and six weeks in New Zealand in the early 2004.

What do you love about the WI: Making new friends and knowing that there are people out there who think the same way as I do. Enjoying visiting Wis in my role as WIA.

Marmite: A newly baked crust of bread spread with butter and then Marmite has to be the best snack there

MAY 2023

FEDERATION NOTICEBOARD

Please note that the following WIs have suspended

- Rowhill** 27 March 2023
- Hayes** 2 May 2023
- Chevening** 3 May 2023

WI OFFICERS TRAINING WORKSHOPS to include a reminder how to access your WI mailbox.

These will take place either at Ethel Hunt Lodge or by Zoom

PRESIDENTS TRAINING
MON 19 JUNE
10am to 3pm, Ethel Hunt Lodge Pembury.

PRESIDENTS TRAINING
THURS 22 JUNE
7pm by **ZOOM**

SECRETARIES TRAINING
MON 10 JULY
10am to 3pm, Ethel Hunt Lodge , Pembury

SECRETARIES TRAINING
THURS 13 JULY
7pm by **ZOOM**

TREASURERS TRAINING
MON 12 JUNE
10am to 3pm, Ethel Hunt Lodge Pembury

TREASURERS TRAINING
MON 26 JUNE
7pm by **ZOOM** Using the WI Spreadsheet.

If you would like to attend or join in by Zoom please email the following details, as soon as possible, to fedsec@wkwfi.org.uk

NAME.....

WI.....

WORKSHOP.....

DATE

EMAIL.....

PHONE NO.....

Please bring your packed lunch to the Ethel Hunt Workshops—tea and coffee will be provided.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2023

JUNE

- 10–18 Great Big Green Week
- Mon 12 Watersports Mote Park
- Thur 15 Meet the Green Team Bore Place

JULY

- Thur 6 Guided Walk Mote Park
- Sat 8 Auditions Day Hildenborough
- Thur 13 Guided Walk Mote Park
- Weds 19 Machine Embroidery Snodland

SEPTEMBER

- Tues 12 Watercolour Painting Frittenden
- Wed 13 Watercolour Painting EHL
- Thur 14 Watercolour Painting Smarden
- Fri 15 Watercolour Painting Hextable
- Sat 16 Watercolour Painting Orpington
- Wed 20 Art & Craft Annual Day Ditton
- Thur 21 Art & Craft Annual Day Ditton
- Thur 28 Hand bells Workshop Hope Hill
- Fri 29 ACWW fund raising afternoon Sutton Valence

OCTOBER

- Tues 17 Lifestyle Annual Day Ditton
- Thur 26 Whist Day Ryarsh

NOVEMBER

- Fri 17 Science Day Ryarsh
- Sat 25 Entertainment Day St. Mary Platt



Back by Popular Demand! **SPEAKER**



Help Select our Speakers St John’s Church Hall 20 Foxbush, Hildenborough, Tonbridge TN11 9HT Saturday 8 July 2023

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

Tickets are £5 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@wkwfi.org.uk with your WI, Contact Name and number of tickets required or complete the ticket application

SPEAKER AUDITIONS

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.

Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Maidstone Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4AG

The closing date for ticket applications is Monday 19 June

WI:.....

Contact Name:.....

Address:.....

..... Postcode:

Email:

Tel No.....

No of tickets required:.....

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A MAXIMUM OF TWO TICKET APPLICATIONS PER WI



The booked speaker cancelled the day before **EYNSFORD** WI’s April meeting and instead committee member, Diana Beamish, stepped in and talked about the history of the local schools in the recently published book which she has researched and written, “Anthony Roper Primary School: a history”. The book covers not just the present school in Eynsford, which is 50 years old this year, but also the history of the schools in Farningham and Eynsford from the early nineteenth century. The talk was enlivened with a number of slides to make a very interesting evening. The book, which costs £14.99, can be bought locally from Anthony Roper Primary School in Eynsford or via the publisher’s website

www.canterley.co.uk

Diana Beamish



PETTS WOOD WI (AFTERNOON) celebrated their 8th Birthday in April. The Committee planned and held a great party for the Members consisting of lovely food (including scones made by the Committee), drinks, a Quiz based on the initials “W” and “I”, games and lots of laughter. The photo shows our President, Carol Elliott holding the Birthday cake with Amanda Breach, who was our founding President eight years ago and is currently a Member (oh, and you may recognise Amanda as the current West Kent Federation Chair). Thank you to the Committee for such an enjoyable afternoon.

ROS COPELAND



Mud, Mud glorious Mud, **ISTEAD RISE** WI members slipped around the paths of Trosley County Park, admiring the bluebells and raising money for ACWW Women Walk the World .



Green Team

greenteam@wkwfi.org.uk



Come and Meet the Green Team in the great outdoors to mark Great Big Green Week on Thursday 15 June.

We invite you to join us for a walk and a plastic free picnic at Bore Place, between Sevenoaks and Edenbridge.

Last year the CEO of Bore Place gave us a talk for Great Big Green Week and explained how the estate is striving to be sustainable and aiming for net zero. It seems appropriate to now visit this beautiful corner of the countryside and benefit from being in nature for a few hours. The estate is open to the public and there are very well marked walks to follow. One is 2 kms (~ 40 minutes) and the other is 4 kms (just over an hour). Both are fairly easy and no difficult stiles to get over. If walking is not for you, just come along for a picnic -there's a great spot about 10 minutes' stroll from the carpark.

The details:

- Venue - Bore Place, Bore Place Road, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 7AR. <https://www.boreplace.org/visit/visitor-information/>
- Getting there – you will need to drive but please car share to minimise your carbon footprint. On arrival follow the signs to the carpark where we will meet you.
- Walk – arrive anytime between 10.30am and 11.30am to start the walk. A map and instructions will be provided.
- Picnic – bring your own food and drink but no single use plastic. If you are only coming for the picnic, arrive between noon and 12.30pm
- Nearby – Chiddingstone is a beautifully preserved Tudor village and often used for period dramas. It is lovely to wander around, not forgetting it has a great café. Also Hever Castle and Gardens and Penshurst Place are both within 5 miles if you want to make more of a day out.

This is a free event – just turn up.

More info greenteam@wkwfi.org.uk

How Green will your summer wardrobe be?

Hopefully the sun is shining as you read this piece and thoughts of finding something new to wear are on your mind. Before you head off to the shops or order something new on-line please just stop and consider some of the following statistics.

Every year of an estimated 100 billion garments produced globally, 92 million tonnes end up in landfill 10% of global carbon emissions come from the fashion industry.

It takes approximately 800 gallons of water to produce one pair of jeans.

Synthetic fibres are made using fossil fuels which when washed release tiny particles of plastic into our water supply.

Alternative ways of pepping up your summer wardrobe which are far kinder to our suffering planet include:

Renting an outfit for a special occasion rather than buying something which potentially only has one outing.



Buy something second hand. You will be amazed at what is available via on-line clothing sites, or on the rails in charity shops. Consider visiting charity shops in other areas to where you live.

Sort through what you already have and rather than binning items you no longer wear take them to a charity shop or sell on-line.

Have you got a favourite dress etc that needs some repairs? Look out for the growing numbers of repair sites that are springing up either on-line, at repair shop cafes or in some cases are offered by clothing shops .



WATERCOLOUR PAINTING WORKSHOPS

For beginners and improvers

TUTOR MATTHEW PALMER

10am to 3:30 pm, Doors open at 9:30am - Cost of ticket £39 to include tea/coffee, watercolour paper with sketch already drawn and paints. Please bring a packed lunch. Priority to members.

Popular professional artist Matthew Palmer is returning to teach us more watercolour workshops suitable for beginners to the more experienced improver.

No need to buy any supplies in advance, Matthew will lend boards, palettes and brushes. Please bring a pencil, eraser, water container and kitchen roll. If you have your own painting kit please feel free to bring it. We will need 3 round brushes - a large size 16/18/20, a medium size 10 or 12 and a small size 4 or 6, and a rigger brush might also be useful. Primary colours will be used: red, yellow and blue and all other colours can be mixed from those but bring others if you have them. He will bring his art shop so that you can top up your supplies if you wish.



September:

- Tues 12 Memorial Hall, Frittenden
Wed 13 Ethel Hunt Lodge, Pembury
Thurs 14 Snodland Bowls Club
Fri 15 St Peter's Church, Hextable
Sat 16 St Nicholas Church Hall, Orpington



WI.....Name.....
Address & Postcode.....
Phone No.....Email.....
No of tickets.....Date.....Venue.....
2nd choice date and venue.....

Please apply to: Mrs Paula Bates, 13 Copperfields, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5HZ

01892 327863 email: brian.paula@btinternet.com

Closing date for tickets: Friday 28 July

Please enclose an appropriate size SAE for your tickets

YOUR WI WILL BE INVOICED ON THE MONTHLY ACCOUNT FOR THE TICKETS ISSUED

ART AND CRAFT

Paula Bates 01892 327863



Art & Craft Annual Days

Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 September

DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, KILN BARN ROAD, AYLESFORD ME20 6AH

Start 10:30am—3:30pm / Doors open 9:30 am

Tickets £12.50 to include tea/coffee. Please bring your own cup.

Non-members are welcome but priority will be given to members.

The following will be speakers at our Annual Art and Craft Days:

Neal Scrase: A talk about the business of Art and being an artist against being a business, in his case a fine art printer; modern giclee art printing and framing to the art community. Neal will also talk about being the Director of the Fine Art Trade Guild and how that works within the art business.

Paul Avis, Chair of the Tunbridge Wells Civic Society and the Decimus Burton Society

A talk about the plans for a proposed new museum in Tunbridge Wells dedicated to the famous architect Decimus Burton. The buildings he designed will show his life and work, and be repurposed and furnished to show a house of the Regency period.

There are plans for a sensory garden and disabled access.



Stephanie Smart and the House of Embroidered Paper

The Regency Wardrobe

Fashion house and fine art studio with garments formed from paper and thread, woven through with story and memory



Our usual well known Bring & Buy will be there in addition to Rainham Sewing, Alison Le Fevre — Silversmith, Sue Roberts paper flowers, Search Press books, Lina Patchwork, Wood turning, Love that Stuff Fairtrade and Snobb high quality unique hand crafted items.

Art & Craft Annual Days

Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 September 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. Doors open 9:30 am

Tickets £12.50 to include tea/coffee on arrival and at lunchtime.

Please bring a packed lunch and your own cup.

Non-members are welcome but priority will be given to members.

WI:.....Contact Name.....

Address:

Tel No:..... Email.....

No. of tickets: **20 Sept** MembersNon-Members..... **21 Sept** MembersNon-Members.....

Apply to: Jenny Way, 27, Veles Road, Snodland ME6 5RB. Telephone 01634 241791

Closing date: **Friday 28 July.** PLEASE ENCLOSE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

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

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GILL BROWN 01732 850571 pals@wkfwi.org.uk

GUIDED WALKS AROUND MOTE PARK

MOTE PARK, MOTE AVENUE, MAIDSTONE, ME15 7SU

THURSDAY 6 JULY AND THURSDAY 13 JULY

STARTING 10.30am or 1pm Tickets £5.00 members only

A countryside estate in Maidstone was transformed into a beautiful public park in the 18th Century. Now you have the opportunity guided by a Karen—a Mote Park Ranger to learn about the fascinating history of Mote Park. The walks will take place using paths, no rough ground.



For the 10.30am walk please arrive no later than 10.15am and for the 1pm walk by 12.45pm. PALS Committee members will be by the café to sign you in. The walk will take about one and half hours. Parking for the day is £2.00

As Karen has stated that heavy rain will result in the walk being cancelled, therefore we will require please, a contact

GUIDED WALKS AROUND MOTE PARK

MOTE PARK, MOTE AVENUE, MAIDSTONE, ME15 7SU

THURSDAY 6 JULY AND THURSDAY 13 JULY

STARTING 10.30am or 1pm Tickets £5.00 members only

WI.....Contact Name.....

Number of tickets: **6 July** 10.30am 1pm..... **13 July** 10.30am..... 1pm.....

Or whether can do either day or time

Please state in your email application members name's and contact telephone numbers

Apply please to pals@wkfwi.org.uk

Further information Linda Wills, Phone 01474 83 4163

Your WI will be invoiced on the monthly account for numbers of tickets issued.

Closing Date 5 June



WI Adviser Carol Gupwell visited **HIGHGATE HAWKHURST WI** and admired their beautiful embroidered oak leaves.

DETLING WI supported our Village to celebrate King Charles III and Queen Camilla on the Wonderful occasion of the Coronation. WI did Tea, coffee and cakes. Children made Crowns, Lunch was served by The Cock Horse, Detling. Lots of events 10.30-4pm. Kathy Tanton Sec. Detling WI



On Coronation Sunday the ladies of **BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA WI** volunteered to serve refreshments in the village hall in support of the village Coronation Picnic on the recreation ground. A very busy and fun afternoon!
Anthea Springett

ALLINGTON CASTLE WI Celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III, with cake in true WI style. Carol Gupwell



CRAYFORD WI held a celebration for King Charles III on May 11 at their meeting hall. The members had a traditional fish and chip lunch and jelly for dessert. Afterwards entertainment was provided by a singer "Miss Vintage" who sung songs through the decades. A great time was had by the ladies of



ACCW Walk the World Day is a popular fixture in **CHISLEHURST WI** calendar. This year we walked through Petts Wood, part of which was purchased by public subscription as a tribute to William Willett, the untiring advocate of **SUMMER TIME**, and we had perfect **SUMMER** weather. This is the William Willett memorial. Soup and cake were enjoyed after the walk at a members garden and £110 raised for **ACWW**.



www.acww.org.uk

The Power of *KIND*

Never under estimate how powerful we can be when **KIND** people help each other. The ladies of **STAPLEHURST WI**, took to heart a request to Walk The World for **ACWW**. Having divided the village into nominal continents, they set out to walk them. They baked, sponsored, walked, and ate cakes. The 3 amigos ran the café. A toddler, toddled Outer Space in Maidstone. Friends, relatives and canine guests came with us. And we raised funds for ladies across the world, who we will never meet. How kind is that? So proud to be a member of Staplehurst WI. A huge thanks to you all

WOW and they raised £460.06—
WELL DONE





HANDBELL WORKSHOP

Bells To Go

Join tutor **SANDRA WINTER** from the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain and her Mobile Workshop.

Coming to Hopehill, Wrotham Road,
Meopham, Kent DA13 0QJ

Thursday 28 September Tickets £25
Members only

You will have the opportunity to try different types of bells and by the afternoon you and your new friends will be making music together



LONGFIELD WI One of our members went on a cruise & made a necklace. She kindly held a workshop to show some of our members how it is done., thank you Jilly. Pamela Smith



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HANDBELL WORKSHOP

Thursday 28 September

Hopehill, Wrotham Road, Meopham Kent
DA13 0QJ

Start 11am—3pm. Doors open 10.30am

Tickets £25 to include tea/coffee on arrival and at lunchtime. Please bring a packed lunch. Members only

WI

Contact Name.....

Email

Phone Number.....

Please give the name/s of the members applying

Please apply at tickets @wkwfi.org

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

Tickets will be sent out by email.

Closing date 1 August

Happy evening with **HADLOW WI** members . Learning all about cheeses. Most enjoyable.

Carol
Gupwell
WI Adviser



Types of chees



Your samples: Camembert, Cheddar, Gruyere, Roquefort

'UNDER THE ARCHES' AT CHARTWELL HOUSE

In 1950, Winston Churchill wrote a letter to his beloved wife Clementine, in anticipation of her return to him at Chartwell after a long holiday in Madeira. It was Spring, and the beautiful apple blossoms and spring flowers were in full bloom. The sight inspired him.

This was the motivation, 73 years later, to create colourful flower arches to adorn selected benches overlooking the gardens and the wonderful Kent countryside that Winston so loved.

Working with local willow and Origami artists, the Chartwell staff invited various groups to participate in the creation of the flowers, constructed with waxed tissue paper to withstand the inclement weather, to apply to the willow arches.

A small group of BHEWI ladies initially attended a workshop at Chartwell and learned how to construct the flowers. We then met at a local pub to make more than 100 blooms to adorn our arch.

Following that session we went back to Chartwell, working as a team we wired our flowers to the arch. A few days later, we were able to see our creation with the other flower arches, all slightly different, but beautifully decorated. It was very satisfying watching the public sitting on the benches reflecting on the wonderful view.

Sue Ede – Secretary, **BIGGIN HILL EVENING WI**



PUBLIC AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL

Diane Daniels – 01622 674494

On March 4 some members from West Kent Federation of WIs (clad in shades of red to symbolise the blood from the violence but also the fire, passion and power of women), marched in sisterhood with other organisations; empowering each other to demand the end to the individual and institutionalised male violence against women and girls worldwide. Many came with their own banners and instruments and were chanting 'One Woman, One Body, One Song, One Love', others walked tearfully in silence.



For WI members, this march was preceded by an informative meeting organised by the National Federation of WIs' Public Affairs Team and hosted by the Chair Ann Jones. Anneliese Dodds MP (Shadow Women and Equalities Secretary) delivered the keynote speech and made up the panel consisting Lizzy Dobres (Women's Aid England) and Dr Hannah Siddiqui (Southall Black Sisters). The panel highlighted the pandemic of violence against women and constrictions to the efforts to end it.

One thing we all took away was that at a time where there is an increase of domestic violence, due to a lack of government funding, support programmes and refuges have had to close. This, on top of the failing justice system means that the need for the voice of the WI is essential; we need to be stronger together and in masses and hold organisations accountable. Small changes are happening in Kent. Let's hope

that our dialogue isn't the same next year when we march again on 9 March 2024. For more information about local involvement, please contact the Public Affairs Teams at West Kent Federation of WIs (WKFWI) and National Federation of WIs (NFWI).

Thushara Kasturiratne (South Tonbridge WI and West Kent Federation Public Affairs Team)



REPORT OF A RECENT EVENT

Lifestyle Day at Ditton, Wednesday 19 April - Alison Whittle, Nevill WI

The day started in sunshine and with a cold wind as five ladies from Tunbridge Wells shared a car to Ditton. We were looking forward to an interesting day with the variety of speakers on offer. As always there were attractive stalls around two sides of the hall with jewellery, books, plants, honey, cards and other novel items on sale. I was particularly taken with pots made from felted wool.

Lifestyle chair Sarah Sudlow welcomed us all and introduced the first speaker, Sarah Poole from 'Blooming Marvellous' who demonstrated two different arrangements – one a table centre in style and the other a Spring themed design in a basket. She used quite a lot of greenery, much from her own garden, as well as roses, carnations, hypericum, hippeastrum and other flowers as fillers and colour. Whilst creating the arrangements she told us a little about where her life had taken her on her floristry journey. She donated the two arrangements to the raffle.



As our next speaker hadn't arrived, Sarah asked if anyone in the audience had questions about the Federation which she answered. Then Will Edge from The Greensand Ridge Distillery was introduced. He gave a very informative talk on the various products his firm make, concentrating on the fruit gins and brandies. His first question to us was how many ladies liked gin and the mass of hands showed that, as a bunch, it was our favourite tippie. We learnt that he sources his fruit (often supermarket rejects) from local farms and his business has impeccable sustainability with regard to the carbon footprint, waste (very little) and use of water. The botanicals for the gin are also locally sourced. His talk was illustrated with some beautiful photographs. Sadly, he hadn't brought any samples as he had to go on elsewhere.

Following this we had an hour's break for lunch, while costumes were hung up on stage which engaged our curiosity. Paul Read, 'Dresser to the Stars' was introduced and launched into a highly entertaining talk on his occupation. Although he started as a dancer, he moved on to be a dresser and has worked on film sets, and in TV and theatre. Discretion, honesty and a keeper of secrets are all job requirements, but there is no job description and no training other than 'on the job'. Actors can be very vulnerable people and you may be seeing them literally in the flesh. He also let us into trade secrets of the 'quick change', mainly due to Velcro and items that look like separates but often made as one garment instead of several. Some of the costumes on stage were examples of this.



Following his fascinating talk, the raffle was pulled and South Park WI was thanked for doing teas and coffees. The Lifestyle team were also thanked for putting on a very enjoyable day.

Many thanks for hosting me at the WI Federation day in April, to speak about Greensand Ridge Distillery and the work we do to produce sustainable spirits.

If you would like to buy any of our range but have been unable to bully your local fine food retailer into becoming a stockist, then I'd like to offer you 15% off all our spirits in June. Just use the discount code WIJUNE to redeem the offer on our website, www.greensanddistillery.com. You can also buy vouchers for our gin making classes here as well.

Many thanks, Will Edge



BEARSTED GREEN WI

It was our May Annual Meeting a few days before the Coronation. It was suggested that members bring along home made cakes to share at the end of business. A delightful selection of cakes were baked and enjoyed by all, together with a glass of Prosecco or soft drink. Floral decorations were made by two very talented members, one of which also made a Crown. A most enjoyable evening.

Rachel Shepherd





DETLING WI has had a busy few weeks. In addition to our normal monthly meeting we have attended the Federation AGM at Tunbridge Wells enjoying talks from the WI Archivist and Rev Kate Bottley. Our WI won the Institute ticket to RHS Wisley, which we look forward to enjoying sometime in the year ahead. In April, we also did very well at a quiz evening, pictured left, hosted by Madginford WI. Celebrations were in order for our Secretary's Golden Wedding Anniversary and another member's retirement from full time work. Many members have re-joined for the coming year including

three new ladies to our group. Our speaker for April was Mr. A. Smith who chatted to us about his memories in the high end jewellery trade. We look forward to participating in the village's Coronation event providing refreshments on arrival at the hall. Our June meeting will be a visit to Sissinghurst.

Kathleen Tanton

HARTLEY AFTERNOON WI enjoying their 60th Birthday Lunch on 20 April.

Wendy Weedon



LYGHE WI



Ten members visited Pashley Manor Tulip Festival on 28 April. We enjoyed our afternoon with a stroll through the garden enjoying a riot of colour with many types of tulips. Who knew there were so many types? We enjoyed the appearance of the sun as well as tea and cake.

Chris Woodgate—President



Lola, a PAT dog working with Pet Therapy, with her owner Charlotte, joined **ISTEAD RISE** WI Members for their Annual Meeting and a Coronation Celebration Supper



LARKFIELD WI ladies had a double celebration recently when they celebrated the 100th birthday of Jean Larking, pictured cutting the cake with Carolyn Wren. Followed a few weeks later by a lunch to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles



I den Green and Benenden WI is sad to inform everyone that our friend and long -standing member, **PEGGY CHAPMAN**, recently passed away peacefully. Peggy was the Vice-President and backbone of our group for a long time and joined in as many activities as possible. She especially enjoyed singing, as her mother whom Peggy insisted founded our group, was a piano teacher in Iden Green. She will be missed.

It is with great sadness that **Crockenhill WI** announces the death of **LINDA LEWIS-RANWELL** A long standing member who served on the Committee for many years, in different roles from President to outings rep, who liked to be involved in everything. She will be missed by all her friends.

It is with great sadness that **Farningham WI** reports the passing of **BARBARA COOPER**. Fulfilling many roles, Barbara was a past President and remained an active member until ill health made it difficult to attend meetings. She will be remembered for her lovely nature and will be sadly missed by each and every one of us.

Wilmington WI is sad to report the unexpected death of **ANGELA STRACHAN**. Angela was a long standing member of our WI, always cheerful and always happy to help in any way. She will be very much missed by us all.

It is with great sadness that **Walderslade WI** reports the deaths of two of our members. **DOREEN MOORE** a long serving member, a past President and Secretary and **JOAN CORDEAUX** a past Committee Member. These ladies will be sadly missed by all their friends at Walderslade WI. Our thoughts are with their families.

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 they are received.

It is with great sadness to announce the death of **LYNNE MARSH**, she was a much loved, long-standing member of our **Sennocke Institute**. She suffered with continuous ill health, but that never thwarted her enthusiasm for WI. She was extremely supportive in all aspects of our institute. Lynne's open and friendly personality gained her a sense of stability from the friendships she made within our Sennocke family. She is sadly missed. Rest in peace dear friend.



Bredhurst WI congratulate President **WENDY GILES** and her amazingly supportive husband **DAVID GILES** on their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 23 June. Thank you for all you do.

Bredhurst WI congratulate **MAUREEN and TERRY CHIPERFIELD** on their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 30 June.

I am a founder member of **Ladycroft WI** in Farnborough Village Kent. In October 2019 I had a phone call to say I had won 2nd prize in the **NFWI raffle** a holiday for two to the value of £2500 with a Firm called Travel Editions. I was totally amazed. I didn't want to take the holiday that Winter and then in March 2020 Lockdown began and the Travel Company wasn't able to operate again fully until 2022. So Finally the walking holiday in Crete I wanted to go on was offered in April 2023 and I have just returned from it. A lovely week with like minded people. Some of the walks were quite difficult because they were hilly and rocky but alternatives were always offered. It was a lovely time to be in Crete because there was an abundance of wild flowers. So please buy the raffle tickets. You never know when you might win!

Rosemary Fordyce
Ladycroft WI

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:

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

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER ADMINISTRATOR:

Gillian Neville
Email: gneville@live.co.uk

RESOLUTION COORDINATOR:

Caroline Davis Email:
daviscaawkf@gmail.com
ACWW: Mrs Carol Gupwell
carolgupwell156@hotmail.com
Tel No: 01622 676600

KENT VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY GROUP:

Diane Daniels
Tel No: 01622 674494
Jill Fissenden
Tel No: 01622 758251

WEST KENT NEWS: EDITORS

Mrs Linda Wills
Tel No: 01474 834163
Mrs Janet Buller
Tel No: 01795 471713
Mrs 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.