



WEST KENT WI NEWS

November 2024

What is coming up in early 2025?

Early bird tickets will again be available for our Federation AGM, prices will remain the same as last year!!

At the new venue :
The Woodville, Gravesend.
Wednesday 19 March



**Adam Frost
Gardeners'
World
Presenter**

See page 4

**ACWW
Fund Raising
Afternoon Tea
Paddock Wood Community Centre,
Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6EB
Thursday 24 April at 2 pm**

See page 5

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



It's always said that as you grow older the days and months fly past and that certainly feels true of 2024! Here we are in November already with Christmas just round the corner! In October my mum celebrated her 100th birthday, a very special occasion involving 3 generations of her family, a visit from the Mayor of Bromley and, of course a card from the King! Her nursing home hasn't had a 100th birthday for ages so they pushed the boat out!

On the front of the West Kent News, you will see the announcement of our key speaker for 2025- Adam Frost award winning British Garden Designer and presenter on Gardener's World. We are also very pleased to announce that NFWI CEO Melissa Green will be our morning speaker along with our WI Legend Janie Ramsay, add to this an opportunity to honour our very own Anne Harris in her year!-it is shaping up to be a brilliant AGM!

Ticket information will be sent out soon so don't forget to get those ticket requests in early to get our 'early bird price' and there are NO price increases this year!!

We have already had two annual days and numerous other smaller events, and all have been well attended. Of course, none of these could go ahead without the hard work of our committees and the many WIs who help on the day. You are all amazing and work so very hard for our Federation and our members! Thank you!

So, grab a cup of tea, snuggle down under that throw and enjoy reading all the latest news from across our Federation in your copy of the West Kent News !

Take care,
Amanda

Treasurer's Corner



During October Andrew, our Federation Bookkeeper, has been busy finalising our year end and preparing for our annual audit. The Federation year end is the 30 September each year.

While I was in the office during the month, he mentioned that we sometimes receive online BACS payments for WIs without any explanation and we try and work out what the payment is for from the bank statement. If a WI is just paying for a Federation invoice that is fine and easy to reconcile.

If it relates to a membership subscription, that is not always so obvious, especially as we are in a period of pro rata subscriptions. Regarding membership payments it would be helpful if the WI Treasurer could drop a quick email to accounts@wkfwi.org.uk stating how the membership payment is broken down (many of you do this already—thank you). We are however, always really grateful for your prompt payments.

Bank transfer payments are the most cost effective and efficient way to transfer money to us and is increasingly becoming the most popular, so we encourage payments this way—with just a little extra information. Many thanks.

Kind regards

Rita King

FEDERATION NOTICE BOARD

Yearbook

Page 13: Please see Officer changes at **Harvel WI**.
Change of President to: Sally Smith
Change of Secretary to: Sue Crocker
We would be grateful if you could amend your Yearbook accordingly.

List of Speakers 2024/2025

Please note the following additional speaker in the Fashion, Health and Beauty category

Ms Sandra Porter

Flat 22, The Pavilion, Wrotham Road,
Gravesend DA11 0QG
Tel No: 07725 834461

Email: tropicbysandieporter@outlook.com

Fee: £75 plus 40p per mile travel expenses

Available at all times

- Tropic Skincare – how it started, their ethics and the use of natural products
(talk with PowerPoint presentation)

When organising trips outside of your normal meetings, it is advisable that a responsible person on the trip has the emergency contacts of the members on that trip. Right is an example that can be used as a template.

After the event, any details should be destroyed under GDPR guidelines.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

NOVEMBER

Tues 05 Science Day Sevenoaks

2025

MARCH

Wed 19 West Kent Federation AGM Gravesend

APRIL

Thurs 03 Know your sewing machine EHL

Fri 04 Know your sewing machine Snodland

Sat 05 Know your sewing machine Orpington

Thurs 24 ACWW Afternoon Tea Paddock Wood

Name

In case of emergency

Contact

Relationship.....

Tel. no



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@wkfwf.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

The Woodville, 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 has a capacity of 600, accessible access, train 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!



One of our AGM speakers:

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).

In 2016 he won 'Best New Talent' at the RTS West Awards. Since 2007, Adam has amassed 7 gold medals at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. He regularly lectures on a wide range of horticultural topics, both nationally and internationally and is a regular contributor to **Gardeners' World** and other horticultural magazines.

Early Bird tickets will be available soon, so watch out in your mailboxes for application instructions and further information on the venue, date and other speakers.



GILL BROWN and JEANNETTE SMITH pals@wkfwi.org.uk

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

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.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL

Diane Daniels — pai@wkfwi.org.uk

Kingshill WI enjoying a tractor ride at Kent Fields Farm.

Margaret Bailey



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

ISTEAD RISE WI Yarn Bombers and
friends were again in evidence with their
beautiful post box topper to celebrate 75
years of WI at Istead Rise.



Bexley Village WI visited Ham House on 4 September, we had hoped to travel by boat as the house is on the river but unfortunately no boats stopped that side of the river. The house was closing the next day as it was being used for a drama series, none of the guides would let on which it would be. We had an enjoyable day, but we were very tired as we decided to walk back to Richmond station to catch the first of two trains home.

Patricia Ladbrook,
President Bexley
Village WI



ISTEAD RISE WI celebrated their **75th Anniversary** with a delicious buffet and much enjoyment. Local singer Chris Till entertained our members, with familiar songs to which everyone was singing along and dancing. Having everyone on their feet to round of the evening with New York—New York. President Lesley Bouchard cut the birthday cake, members were each given a beautiful pin cushion, with our WI frog emblem, crafted by a few of our ladies. Thank you to the Committee for all their hard work.



Linda Wills



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@wkfwi.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@wkfwi.org.uk

or to the Federation Office at Ethel Hunt Lodge clearly marked 'Bursary'

Closing Date: Friday 31 January 2025

On the 11 October 1925 **Hollingbourne WI** held their first meeting in the long since demolished village Mission Hall. On Tuesday the 8 October we celebrated our 99th anniversary with a midday meal in the Hollingbourne Signal Box café. It was good to support this recently established village amenity and nineteen of our members were able to attend and enjoyed a lovely light lunch served by the cheerful village volunteer waitresses. Now we are in the process of planning and looking forward to our centenary celebration in October 2025.
Barbara Gibbs.



Boughton Monchelsea WI craft group very much enjoyed making these fabulous padded fabric frames at their October meeting. Huge thanks to Barbara for her inspirational ideas.

Anthea



On 4 October **Pembury Evening WI** celebrated its 60th Birthday. Forty one members and guests attended and the celebration started with the presentation of a bouquet of flowers to Rosemary Hanes, a member for over 50 years, having joined in 1973. We all enjoyed a cold buffet, prepared and served by Stephanie's Cordon Bleu Catering while Sarah Barker as Miss Vintage sang classic songs, old and new, by current female artists and the jazz legends that have inspired them.



Once the cake had been cut and distributed, Claire Knoops, our President, gave a speech to mark our milestone and highlighted changes not just within our WI (talk topics have changed and yet many have stayed relevant for example, "How to make a lamp shade" is no longer relevant, but "Make up and Fashion" still are.) but also to how women's lives have changed in the last 60 years. It was a lovely evening rounded off by everyone receiving a Tote Bag with "What the WI means to me" designs printed on them. The designs had been chosen by our members in a competition at one of our meetings.



Dear WI Members

Firstly thank you for your continued support of ACWW.

We now have two projects approved .

1(**RURAL WOMENS HEALTH**) Towards health Equality for marginalized Women and Girls in Tanzania to have access to Health Services .

2.(**Climate Smart Agriculture**) Sustainable Cultivation of Vegetables and Greens. This is by 50 Dalit Women Farmers in India. Fits well with our hope to reduce food waste. Grow what you can , eat it or pass it on.

Really proud that West Kent Federation can and do support Women and Girls less fortunate than ourselves .

Please be assured that what ever Funds we raise does make a big difference to so many.

Carol Gupwell

Co Ordinator ACWW





Green Team

greenteam@wkwfi.org.uk

Make the money you spend at Christmas work for the environment!

Christmas is rapidly approaching, and with it the annual present dilemma! How can we still make green choices?

First of all, instead of a physical present, one idea might be to adopt an animal and follow its life, a fun way charities are making a difference for endangered species; a dolphin or orca with the Whale and Dolphin Soc, a tiger with WWF--there's a huge choice of species available, something for everyone! Look as well at the websites of local zoos and wildlife parks for animals to sponsor. Several charities offer the chance to Sponsor a Tree, eg the National Trust or the Woodland Trust, or costing a little more-- buy an acre of rainforest with the World Land Trust. Oxfam Unwrapped gift cards offer the chance to sponsor various useful items for developing countries such as seeds....or a goat!

Other gift ideas might be a National Art Pass or a Theatre Voucher, or an annual membership to a chosen charity.

What about the notion of a gift-wrapped present--can that be ethical? Patrick Grant of Sewing Bee fame urges us to spend well, buying fewer but better items. Make your money have impact by thinking about where the items have been made, and whether they're made from long-lasting materials? Look for Fairtrade items, or buy direct from producers eg at Craft Fairs so your money supports local businesses and crafters. Support the local High Street traders if possible, and look for gifts in your local Charity Shops.

Lastly, making an investment for the future is a great gift, it's possible to invest up to £9000 per year in a Junior Ethical ISA, those funds will be used to improve the future world.

Spending our money thoughtfully can have positive benefits for the environment at any time!

Caroline Copleston

Green Team Talks 2025 Please note that the Green Team will not be taking on any further requests for talks next year. If your WI has already booked one in this will be honoured.

Thank you for requesting our talks and the Green Team hope that they were informative and interesting. Certainly, the feedback was positive and the welcome always warm! We have now decided to move in a different direction!

On 22 September Carole Challingsworth, a member of **St George's Beckenham WI**, took part on their behalf in a survey for the Great UK Waterblitz. Carole chose the river Beck, which runs along the bottom of her garden into the river Quaggy at Lewisham, for the water samples. With the help of her neighbours, including their children, she was able to understand the technology, logging the GPS location, taking photos of the surroundings, and uploading the information. They took samples and compared them to the charts provided. They uploaded the results, and the samples showed moderate nutrient concentration, bearing in mind recent heavy rain. More samples were taken and posted to Imperial College. Carole is personally concerned about river quality because her grandson kayaks in competitions all over the UK. Twice he has been ill after coming off a river where it was believed sewage had been discharged. Doing the survey with the children aged 7 and 5 has hopefully given them an interest in looking after our rivers in the future.

Gillian Spence



St. Michaels WI were involved with a beach clean organised by 'Strandliners' at Winchelsea Beach on Thursday 26 September. All the rubbish collected was counted and recorded and weighed.

Information is now forwarded to the relevant agencies in support of 'action against river water and sea pollution'.

Although a blustery day, a very interesting exercise.

Brigitte Watkins
St. Michaels WI



To help monitor water quality in our rivers, **Sole Street WI** were happy to take part in the Great UK WaterBlitz as part of the WI Week of River Action. We took samples of the River Darent at Horton Kirby and sent our results to Earthwatch Europe. Following our stint as "citizen scientists" we walked to Farningham for lunch - a productive and enjoyable day.

Pam Hodge
Sole Street WI





The Farleighs crafty day out

Judy, Trish and Penny spent a really enjoyable day at the **Annual WI Art and Craft Day** at Ditton Community yesterday. As usual it was bursting at the seams with avid crafters. Our first speaker was Elaine Gill who gave a very entertaining talk of her life and artistic pursuits. She was followed by Becky Cole who talked about her passion for sewing and also how her autism and ADHD have affected her life and career, culminating in her writing her book 'All Access Sewing'. After lunch, Dave Brooker gave an illustrated talk on his world wide travels with his camera. A few tips on taking good shots on a mobile phone were thrown in for good measure which created a really interesting talk. There were quite a few lovely crafting stalls, from quilting to ceramics, semi precious stones and jewellery and for those of us who have the crafting bug, the bring and buy stall was a must and we all came home laden with books and materials which will no doubt keep us going until next year. A good day out all in all and

thoroughly recommended!

Judy Balchin



thoroughly recommended!



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Feel the fear and do it anyway! Yesterday I stood up on stage in front of 250 WI ladies at their annual Art & Craft Day. Wired up, AI cameras, every screen possible and 45 minutes to chat about my art and

collaborations! What a day, thank you for all the kind messages, morph selfies, heartfelt chats and thank you's, a very special day.

Elaine Gill



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Crockenhill WI October meeting was a busy but fun evening. We were delighted to have had two guests joining us, who we hope will become members, both having heard about us at our recruitment fayre last month.

The two prizes given out, were to Angela Andrews for the 2024 WI member to have received the most points overall at the annual Crockenhill Harvest Fayre in all categories, of which there are many, from fresh grown produce, to homemade wine, cake and jam to paintings, flower arranging and photography etc. The competition was first started by Hilary Latter a founding member of our WI.

The second prize was for our monthly meeting competition which this month was "Paint a Pebble". The skill and talent of our members is outstanding. And the winner was Lynn Etheridge with her fabulous owl.

Well done & congratulations to Angela and Lynn

Cheri Yeates



Photos from **South Park WI**, knitting ladies, who for the Maidstone literary festival in early October, was visited by the wonderful jumper wearing Giles Brandreth. To support this event we



made this wonderful post box topper showing a range of jumpers,. It is sighted at the Archbishops Palace, if you wish to see it. Direction:- coming in to town on A229, it's on the left as you join the one way system.

Amanda Bird



Harvest Festival with a Difference

This year the members of **Coney Hall Village WI** decided to get behind the NFWI resolution 'Dental Health Matters', by having a toothbrush and toothpaste collection instead of their usual Harvest Festival food collection. All the generous donations were delivered to the local Bromley Brighter Beginnings charity – these should help put a smile on their faces!

Chris Jones (secretary)



This month's **South Park WI** Craft afternoon was spent crocheting Pumpkins, photo of four of the ladies and a sample of the lovely pumpkins that were made from a simple but very effective pattern.

Followed by Tea and of course Cake!



The Farleighs WI craft group are getting festive!

Christmas is on the horizon and we are beginning to get festive here at The Farleighs WI. After much tea and discussion we came up with the idea of a snowman bauble making session. Wool is needle felted into a polystyrene ball before adding a woolly carrot nose, big eyes and an even bigger smile. A felt hat with a flower added the final flourish to this Christmas character. All good festive fun!

Judy Balchin



CONGRATULATIONS

Highgate Hawkhurst WI send best wishes and congratulations to **VERONICA AND ANTON DANIELS** following the occasion of their **DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** which they celebrated on 3 October. A marvellous achievement!

Harvel WI would like to congratulate **PENNY AND LARRY COOPER** on the occasion of their **DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**. Penny has been president of Harvel WI on two occasions. She has organised line dancing in the past and now runs our patchwork group. She is a font of knowledge and a fun lady to have around. Love from all at Harvel WI.



The ladies of Boughton Monchelsea WI

enjoyed a splendid Harvest Supper at our October meeting. We had an amusing "wonky vegetable" competition, a tricky quiz from our President Sue and purchased a variety of goodies from Amanda on the Produce table which raised a great sum for ACWW. A super evening - thank you to our committee.

Anthea Springett



On 14 September **Madginford (Bearsted) WI** held a pie lunch which was attended by over 50 members of other local WI's. It was a very successful event with our ladies producing a wonderful variety of salad dishes to go with the pies and a great variety of sweet dishes for pudding almost all of which were home made. There was a raffle with lots of interesting prizes.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and asked us to do it again next year. Praise indeed!



At our **Eynsford WI** October meeting member, Diana Beamish, wearing her mother's cardigan bought in Germany in 1936 gave a very interesting talk based on her mother's letters from Germany in the 1930s. In 1935 her mother, Peggy Hoyle, aged 15, went with others from her school to an international gathering of English, French and German students in Oberkassel near Bonn. She enjoyed her holiday immensely and met two German girls, sisters, called Rösl and Lisbeth Rebholz, who invited Peggy to stay with them in Siebeldingen in southern Germany, and at Easter 1936 and 1937 she had very enjoyable holidays with their family, while Rösl and Lisbeth had an enjoyable holiday with Peggy in Kent in the summer of 1936. In the background was the harsh Nazi regime and how a cousin of the sisters suffered in the labour camps. It was also intriguing how Rösl and Lisbeth, who were NOT Nazis, financed their travel to England with Peggy's help. Diana met the two sisters in 1990, and in 2015 met a descendant of a cousin of the sisters.



Detling WI enjoyed a wonderful meal and cake to celebrate our 75th Anniversary. Thirteen members met at a local Pub restaurant decorated with Kent Hops. A cake and an inscribed pen was given to each member, such a lovely time was had by all.

Kathy Tanton

Sec. Detling WI





OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that **Hollingbourne WI** announces the death of **EDNA READMAN**. Edna was a very active and long-standing member of our WI. She was always willing to join in with any activities we got up to. We will all miss her lovely smile and happy disposition. She was a wonderful cook and was well known for her delicious steak and kidney puddings, which she made for many of our events. She ran her own company - Sugar and Spice - making jams and pickles, and was well known for attending Country Markets. Our sincere condolences go out to all her friends and family.

Farnborough WI is sad to announce that **YVONNE SALLIS** has passed away. As well as being a very active member who was always ready to help out, she was our president during lockdown and was instrumental in keeping our institute going. She will be much missed.

Wilmington WI is sad to report the passing of their oldest member, **ELLA PEARSON**, who died in September at the age of 101 years. Ella will be sadly missed by us all and fondly remembered for her eclectic and colourful outfits, made by Ella herself.

Welling WI has sadly bid farewell to our long standing Member, **PATRICIA WATT**. Patricia had held the posts of Secretary and Treasurer and also been a Committee Member for some time. Patricia's family is in our thoughts and Welling WI send them condolences.

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.