



WEST KENT WI NEWS

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

March 2025

**Lifestyle Annual Day
Wednesday 7 May
See inside for speaker details**



Katherine Hook



Michelle Ernoult



Mig Kimpton

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



The month of March is probably the most important in the calendar of West Kent Federation as its AGM time and I have to say this has been quite a stressful one! The hunt for a new venue better suited to our smaller numbers began in August last year and to be honest took up most of my summer! Venues of the size we wanted are very few and far between but a chance remark by one of my Advisers sent me to the Woodville. From that moment on everything fell into place and I could then start to put the day together. I'm very pleased to say that numbers are picking up and offers of gift baskets are going well. All the Trustees are involved on the day along with Advisers and of course our wonderful Stewards. There may only be a few of us on the stage but there is a small army in the background ensuring that the day goes well, and everyone has a good time.

I'm lucky enough to be invited to other Federation's AGMs and I'm always struck by the opportunity it gives for members of different WIs to come together and renew old friendships and make new ones. We all have the common bond of sisterhood and WI membership and ours is no different!

You may be thinking that this is my last AGM as normally my term of office would be for 3 years but both Rita, our Federation Treasurer and I have agreed to serve one more year to ensure a smooth handover in 2026. This is allowed and not unusual.

So, you have us all for one more year and I'm hoping this will be the best yet!!

If you are coming to the AGM please come and say hello...

Take care,

Amanda

Treasurer's Corner



For the ladies that use a Federation IFE, please note the change of email address for Gillian Neville, our IFE co-ordinator, shown on the back page. You should have received the information you require for when you have completed your Year End.

Thank you to the ladies that attended the End of Year training session in February, I hope that it helps, especially if it is your first year end as Treasurer. Should you have any problems, please do not hesitate to contact me.

It is always worth exploring myWI, it has a wealth of information for officers and it is also where you can obtain a copy of your membership. It can be printed or better still saved on your mobile phone.

Kind regards

Rita King

MCS Reps

As we are coming up to the new subscription year, MCS Reps please ensure you select the tick box to indicate that a member has paid, which will keep the database up to date. Last year our records stated over 1,600 members had not paid, which was not accurate.

Kind regards

Keeley Smart

Systems Administrator

FEDERATION NOTICE BOARD

List of Speakers 2024/2025

Please note that Mrs Julia Davies has changed her email address to:-

juliad-48@outlook.com

Please note that Ms Diane Kenyon has now retired and no longer wishes to be included as a Speaker.

At South Park's craft meeting some of the ladies made cloth (with beads inside) necklaces.

At the February meeting they all wore their necklaces and this photo was taken of them proudly showing their work.

Amanda Bird



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

MARCH

Weds 19 West Kent Federation AGM Gravesend

APRIL

Thur 24 ACWW Afternoon Tea Paddock Wood

Tues 29 Women Walk the World Near you

MAY

Weds 7 Lifestyle Annual Day Ditton

Sat 31 Walking Netball Tonbridge

JUNE

Mon 16 Watersports Mote Park

Thur 19 Introduction to Pastels W/shop EHL

Fri 20 Introduction to Pastels W/shop Snodland

Sat 21 Introduction to Pastels W/shop Orpington

SEPTEMBER

Mon 8 Watersports Mote Park

Tues 9 Broderie Perse Workshop EHL

Thur 11 Broderie Perse Workshop Snodland

Sat 13 Broderie Perse Workshop Orpington

Weds 24 Art & Craft Annual Day Ditton

OCTOBER

Sat 11 Auditions Day Hildenborough

Weds 15 Matthew Palmer Watercolour W/shop TBA

Thur 16 Matthew Palmer Watercolour W/shop TBA

Fri 17 Matthew Palmer Watercolour W/shop TBA

Sat 18 Matthew Palmer Watercolour W/shop TBA

Weds 22 Lifestyle Annual Day Ditton

Thur 23 Annual Whist Day Ryarsh

THE WI LOTTERY

Did you know you can sign up for the WI Lottery and pay for just one Saturday or block buy for future Saturdays?

Tickets cost just £1 a week. You can support the Federation here:

www.thewilottery.co.uk/support/west-kent-federation-of-wis



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Woodville

Woodville Place, Gravesend DA12 1DD

Wednesday 19 March 2025
10.45am to 3.45pm (doors open at 10.00am)

COLLECTION

We will be collecting for Gravesend Foodbank 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.

HEARING IMPAIRED

The main Auditorium has an infrared hearing system which is available for those sat in rows D to P in the stalls. Please let us know your requirements when booking your tickets.

RHS WISLEY DRAW will be made on the day. 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.

BURSARIES to be drawn on the day

Four Bursaries for Individual Members, two Bursaries for WIs as follows:-

NFWI Raffle One bursary to be funded from the proceeds of the NFWI Raffle.

Memorial Bursary (formerly the Denman Memorial Bursary)

The winning WIs can decide whether to use these bursaries to book a specialised tutor/workshop that would be open to all its members to attend, or hold a draw for an individual to have a chance of winning the bursary.

All WIs will be entered automatically for these bursaries and winners chosen by a draw.

If you are having a stroll in Gravesend during the AGM lunch break, then just a short distance away, in Windmill Street you will find the family run art, craft and gift shop Munns. A real treasure trove. From there continue to the cross roads with Costa on one corner and Starbucks on the other. Continue straight down the High Street into the Heritage Quarter.



Halfway down on the right, is the old market now a cosmopolitan eatery place where you could enjoy a light lunch, or just a little further on Marie's Tea Emporium where you can purchase packs of tea and coffee or enjoy refreshments with delicious cakes. Continue on down to the river where the worlds oldest iron pier juts out as it has done for centuries, into the everchanging water of the river Thames. By there is the Three Daws one of the oldest smugglers pubs in Gravesend. If the tide is up, there will be plenty of ship traffic heading into Tilbury

We have suggested that WIs might like to bring a filled basket to be sold on the day and look forward to seeing your ideas being brought for sale. Please price your basket at £5, £10, £15 or £20. Money raised will go towards contributing to cover the cost of the day. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.



Lifestyle

Sarah Sudlow and Barbara Bickell Lifestyle@wkfwi.org.uk

LIFESTYLE ANNUAL DAY

WEDNESDAY 7 MAY

Ditton Community Centre ME20 6AH

TICKETS £ 15.00 Doors open 9.30am

We have several stalls for you to peruse. Don't forget your packed lunch, tea and coffee will be available.

Guest Speakers invited to attend feature:



Katherine Hook. Ladies may remember her from last year when she had a stall at our October Day. Katherine will talk to us about gin, sloe gin and chocolate. What's not to like? Katherine has been making award winning sloe gin chocolates for many years. She will also have a stall on the day.

Michelle Ernout, will be talking on "Around the Beehive". Have you ever wondered what goes on inside the hive? Or why bees swarm? Michelle will be answering these questions and more. And talking to us about the importance of bees in the natural world, very important in these changing times.



Mig Kimpton, our third speaker, will be doing some arrangements, which will be part of our raffle, and chatting to us about his life as a florist and all the wonderful arrangements he makes. The testimonials on his website are fabulous. We look forward to welcoming Mig to Ditton.

Members only. Application box on back page. Closing date 23 April

WATERSPORTS 2025 - MONDAY 16 JUNE**Mote Park, Mote Avenue, Maidstone, ME15 7SU****Each Session - either Paddle Boarding or Kayak £15**

Back by popular request fun and games on the lake at Mote Park. Stuart and his fully trained and insured crew will be on hand to instruct and guide you. The lake is only shallow but buoyancy aids are available for those who wish to borrow them. Please bring a towel and a change of clothing, footwear - closed toed shoes only please.

Please indicate on your application (see back page) your preferred instruction times.

Paddleboard 10.30am - 11.30am or 12 noon - 1pm

Kayak 1.30pm - 2.30pm

Paddleboarding, as kneeling is involved we regret this sport is not advisable for anyone waiting for or who has had knee replacements. Kayaks because of the sitting position, not suitable for those with replacement hips. Kayak if you have a Pilates block or can bring a towel to pad your lower back against the Kayak, it will be more comfortable. You are very welcome to join in with both the Paddleboarding and the Kayaking.

Not up to joining in with the instruction? Why not come along watch the fun or hire one of the pedalos. Photos of the activities please forward to pals@wkwfi.org.uk.

Closing date Wednesday 1 May, there may be spaces after the closing date but we do need to ensure that the size of each session is not too large. Looking forward to seeing regular participants and meeting the 'newbies'.

Cannot make the 16 June? We are repeating Watersports on Monday 8 September – please apply later in the year for that date.

**Walking Netball Event**

You've heard about walking netball, but have you tried it?

Walking netball is suitable for all ages and abilities, it's an opportunity to exercise in a relaxed, fun and supportive way. You do not need to have any netball experience or know any of the rules to participate in this fast-growing sport.

So why not come along and join us for our 2nd Walking Netball event on Saturday 31 May at Tonbridge School Indoor Sports Centre, London Road, Tonbridge, TN10 3AD.

Time: 10.30-12.00. Cost: £8. Free car parking and refreshments afterwards included in the price.

Please bring a bottle of water to have during the session.

Please book your space via your WI rep. See back page. Closing date: 9 May

We look forward to meeting you and possibly a friend or two at our next walking netball event.

Shirley Ellis shirleyellis@yahoo.com



Honor Oak WI held their first ever Craft Day on 1 February at the local Here for Hope centre.

Honor Oak is a small London city WI with 27 members but 19 members and friends tried out sewing Sashiko & Boro, carving Linocut & printing greeting cards and making Resin jewellery.

Each group was brilliantly led by very talented members: Marie, Diana and Bridget. Everyone had a great time and produced some amazing pieces!

There was lots of tea, coffee and cake and a warm atmosphere all day, despite the room being a little chilly at times!

We're going to use the left over materials at our monthly Craft Club to make things to fund raise at our two community fairs in May and July, so an added bonus.

It was so successful we're already planning the next one!



Bridget,

Honor Oak
President

The members of **Edenbridge Evening WI** were treated to a gripping talk by Sarah Slater (dressed in beautiful historical costume) about 'Working with the Ghosts of Hampton Court'. This was followed by a group visit to Hampton Court Palace. It was a full and enjoyable day, and we are pleased to report there were no ghostly encounters!



Crockenhill WI celebrated New Year & Burns night on Saturday 25 January at the Bo Peep Pub. A great time was had by one and all. Janet our president organised the event which included a "Scottish Quiz" and Carol, our Treasurer and Climate Ambassador made the fabulous Scottish table decorations.

Christine Wyeth read the Scottish Grace "The Selkirk" before our meal and provided an old family recipe of Scottish Shortbread to finish the meal with our coffee. A fantastic way to start our new year off in style.

Happy New Year to all West Kent WIs



Great fun was had making these lovely felt robins at our February craft meeting. Spring is certainly on the way!

**Boughton
Monchelsea WI**



**ITS SHROVE TUESDAY ON
THE 4 MARCH**

Are you running around your village green, tossing a few pancakes or do you take it more seriously and get the community involved?





Resolutions 2025-26

Whilst you are considering this year’s resolution choices, some of you may be considering proposing a resolution of your own for next year. You do have time to prepare your proposal so I am offering some advice to help you in the process.

Every year members from every Federation are invited to submit resolution proposals on issues that are topical to the current time. All resolutions that meet the criteria will be considered and when submitted for final discussion to the NFWI, the WI is identified rather than the proposers so it is judged on the resolution itself.

It is worth watching the online presentation on “How to write a Resolution” and if you are further interested, in doing the WI online “Resolution Co-Ordinator” training which will provide more helpful information on what the NFWI and Federation Resolution Coordinators are looking for in a successful proposal for submission. Your Federation Resolution Coordinators are here to help and support you when you need us.

Whatever you are thinking of proposing please do check that any proposal would apply to the whole of the UK as several resolutions discussed in 2024 could not be moved forward because the changes asked for would not apply across the whole country. The devolved governments of Scotland, Wales and the Islands often do things differently from England.

I hope these suggestions are helpful. Our best wishes to any of you preparing to put forward a Resolution for next year. If I or Thushara can be of any help, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

Rosemary Tidby - West Kent Federation Co-Ordinator

Email: resolutions@wkwfi.org.uk

Mobile phone: 07307184019

HOLLINGBOURNE WI

Every month, except December, or during extreme weather conditions, our ‘Sunshine’ Committee member organises a pub lunch, which members can choose to attend. This is no easy task as she spends much time finding and checking different venues within easy driving distance, which also provide suitable menus, in variety and price, to accommodate everybody. Usually about twelve members enjoy the outing and this month on a dull January day, eleven of us met up at The George, in Leeds, and spent a very sociable couple of hours together whilst enjoying a very tasty lunch. Thank you Susan for giving us the opportunity to enjoy these monthly outings.

Barbara Gibbs



Tenterden Glebe WI February meeting was packed with members and guests , it was a gloomy afternoon in Tenterden , until our speaker Alan Haines arrived with his talk on Baby Boomers nostalgia , he had everyone in tears of laughter with his antidotes of the 40s onwards, he brought the members in on his talk giving us all a good laugh, it was so nice to see everyone leaving with a smile on their face, we are all looking forward to next year for Baby Boomers part 2.





WOMEN WALK THE WORLD

Every year, women worldwide celebrate the 29 April as ACWW day. Since 2012, around this date, our members and their friends gather and walk together to raise funds, and share information about work with their communities. We call this celebration 'Women Walk the World'. Supporting ACWW and Women Walk the World creates opportunities for women to mobilise within their communities as leaders participating in awareness-raising, and connect with each other through partnership and friendship. Funds raised are donated to ACWW's Rural Women in Action Fund, which supports all of ACWW's work from development and empowerment projects to advocacy, education and awareness-raising



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

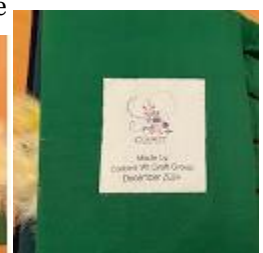
Dear members and
 ACWW supporters,
 received from ACWW
 acknowledging our 2024
 donation:

Carol Gupwell
 ACWW Co-ordinator

I write on behalf of ACWW to thank you for the donation of £3,100.95 received on the 04/12/2024 for our Rural Women in Action fund. This fund is the lifeblood of ACWW, and enables us to work with rural communities around the world through sustainable development projects, produce awareness raising materials on our policy, work with the UN, and advocate for the issues facing Rural Women worldwide. This fund maintains the core of ACWW's work and allows us to facilitate the network that connects women across the globe.

Donations such as these are what enable ACWW to continue our work in empowering women worldwide to make positive and sustainable progress in their communities and I would be most grateful if you would pass on our thanks to the members for their generosity.

The **Corbett WI Craft Group** had great fun designing a tactile children's book that can be shared by visually impaired and sighted children and adults. It is based on the nursery rhyme One, Two, Buckle My Shoe, with a slight variation on the last line. The pages of the book are colourful and have braille, print and tactile objects designed for helping develop the touch skills children need to learn braille. We tried to make each of our objects feel different and interactive by using a variety of materials. For example, the door has a metal knocker, we made a bag full of sticks, the gate opens, and on the last page there is a very colourful and tactile hen. The book was presented to our local education service for children with vision impairment who were delighted with it. You can find more information on similar projects at www.clearvisionproject.org.





Green Team

greenteam@wkwfi.org.uk

What is composting?

Compost is a mixture of ingredients used as plant fertilizer and to improve soil's physical, chemical, and biological properties. It is commonly prepared by decomposing plant and food waste, recycling organic materials, and manure. The resulting mixture is rich in plant nutrients and beneficial organisms, such as bacteria, protozoa, nematodes, and fungi. At the simplest level, composting requires gathering a mix of green waste (nitrogen-rich materials such as leaves, grass, and food scraps) and brown waste (woody materials rich in carbon, such as stalks, paper, and wood chips).



Anyone can get involved in composting, it doesn't matter how big or small your garden is, or if you live in a flat and don't have a garden you can still get into composting. Some communities create their own composting area near their flats, etc. for their communal gardens. Allotments are usually a source of useful information and actual compost from the allotment holders. There are even some "Compost Clubs" in existence where folk get together and collect and manage their own composting arrangements. One benefit of composting is where people get out into the fresh air and take some exercise whilst working on their own piles of compost.

Nature will also help with your composting by having earthworms, ants, grubs millipedes etc burrowing and digesting the compost ingredients and transforming compost materials into more fertile material.

All sorts of containers can be used for composting. Simple wooden frames that separate the different stages of composting work well, as do simple brick or concrete structures. Even large plastic containers can be used in the production of the finished compost.



Yes, it can be a bit smelly at times but the end results of healthier and happy plants is worth the effort, and can be very satisfying.

Shirley Pecover - Pratts Bottom WI

Green Team

A group from **Boughton Monchelsea WI** recently enjoyed a tour of Maidstone Town Hall which included the old town jail with prisoner graffiti on the heavy wooden door to the cells. A very interesting morning. Thanks to Margaret for organising.



On 8 January 2025 **St. George's WI Beckenham** celebrated their 40th birthday ruby anniversary. Nearly 60 members attended and watched and sang along whilst waving props to a well-known musical, after which they enjoyed a lunch including delicious cupcakes made by Marian Smith, who also designed and hand painted a commemorative bag for everyone.





The Craft group at **Bearsted and Thurnham WI** have been busy knitting jumpers for Babies in Need in Sierra Leone. Here are 3 ladies with some of the 80 jumpers.



At their January meeting **Bearsted & Thurnham WI** had a display of the Art & Craft members had completed during the previous year.



At our February meeting **Pratts Bottom WI** our President, Shirley Pecover, asked all our members to bring in anything that they had made in the last year that they are proud of, so that it could be displayed and shown to other members. So at our meeting we had a huge array of arts and crafts displayed. We have a very talented group of ladies and we all enjoyed the afternoon meeting immensely.



Crafts included – Drawings and paintings made in our Art Group; scarves, bags, and other material items; wonderful quilts made in our Quilting Group; Jewellery made by one of our members; Soft toy teddies and other animals in colourful material; a Vase and a Fisherman in pottery; knitted hats made for the Homeless in London; Glass fused items and a needle felt Badger which had been made at one of the WI Zoom craft meetings



South Park WI ladies spent an afternoon learning how to do Sashiko, the Japanese stitch work craft. This was very easy to learn how to do with very impressive results, that we were all pleased with.



Amanda Bird



Maureen Evans
Pratts Bottom WI
Member

During our **Gillingham WI** February meeting our lovely Trudy had us enthralled in a cooking lesson when she took us through a demonstration of how to make a pancake cake. It's a basic pancake mix doubling up on the traditional 2 egg recipe, taking 5 minutes to prepare and 30 minutes to bake. You can see the result below. The pancake cake was



perfect, and you can add any topping you prefer, or even better, cut it up for the family and they can add their own choices.

Julie Diamond

The members of **North Tonbridge WI** enjoyed their annual New Year's lunch together along with a raffle that raised money for Hospice in the Weald





OBITUARIES

The members of **Farningham WI** are sad to announce the loss of a long-standing member and former President, **Mrs PAM FINCH**. She was a kind, gentle and supportive member until failing health meant she could no longer make it to meetings.

It is with sadness that **Pembury Evening WI** has heard of the death of **ANITA BRINGLOE**. Anita had been a member for over 25 years, and although she had been unable to attend meetings in recent years, she did attend our 60th birthday party last October. She will be missed and our thoughts are with her family at this difficult time.

Harvel WI is sad to say goodbye to a long standing member **PAULINE CRISFIELD**. A lady in every sense of the word and our thoughts go out to her children, grandchildren and family. Pauline will be very much missed.



OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that **Joydens Wood WI** announce the deaths of two of their members. **CAROLE HUNT** had been a member of our WI for many years and had been on the committee many times. She had not been well for a while but passed away very suddenly. **JUNE COLLCUTT** was one of our older long standing members and had been on the committee many times over the years. Our thoughts and condolences are with their families at this very sad time. They will both be sadly missed.

It is with sadness that **Keston WI** announce the loss of **JO BLAKE** at the age of 91. She joined Keston WI in 2012 when she moved into the area. The WI meant a lot to her. A trailblazer for women, she joined the RAF at 18 becoming a fighter plotter and then an air traffic controller and reached the rank of Sergeant. She loved her amateur dramatics and even played Scrooge! She also played guitar and would entertain at care homes and sang in various church choirs, lastly here in Keston Parish Church. Always had a smile to pass on, and a kind word. We will miss you Jo.

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: gillian.neville@icloud.com

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.