

**WELCOME TO THE**

**WEST KENT FEDERATION OF WIs**

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**Federation Headquarters:**

**Ethel Hunt Lodge**

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[**www.thewi.org.uk/westkent**](http://www.thewi.org.uk/westkent)

**search for West Kent Federation **

**Office hours: Tuesday to Friday 9.00am-4.30pm**

Registered Charity No: 228183

**Welcome to West Kent Federation. You have joined the 6,657 members who make up the 158 WIs in our Federation and which are to be found in both towns, villages and also in South London.**

**Where to find us:**

**Ethel Hunt Lodge is our Federation HQ in Pembury where we employ 3 staff who are happy to deal with any queries you may have (see front cover for contact details).**

**How do we operate?**

**Everyone else involved in running the Federation are volunteers, headed by:**

* **The Board of Trustees which is elected every two years by you the members**
* **WI Advisers are the people trained by NFWI, the National Federation, to open new institutes, and provide help and assistance whenever required by an institute or member**

**There are also 5 teams:**

* **PALS (Performing Arts, Leisure and Sport)**
* **PA&I (Public Affairs and International)**
* **Lifestyle**
* **Art and Craft**
* **The Green Team**

**all of which arrange popular events for members to attend. You are welcome to come and observe at any of these meetings, and you never know you might like to join one of them.**

**In addition, the Federation has a team who produce our newsletter the West Kent News and two archivists.**

**So much to explore!**

**As well as a large number of events organised by the Federation sub committees such as cookery demonstrations, classes to learn watercolour painting, speakers on topical matters like climate change and the plight of the honey bee, the opportunity to try out sailing or archery, there are also competitions at both Federation and National level that you can enter.**

**Campaigns have always been an important part of the WI and each year members vote nationally to decide on which resolutions will go forward to the Annual Meeting. Delegates representing all the WIs vote on which issue (or sometimes more) will be the one on which we campaign. These are issues which are important to members with the whole process instigated by them from the very start. In recent years issues such as the need for more midwives, the closure of public libraries, plastic soup, and persuading more people to agree to organ donation have all been promoted by WI members.**

**Your own WI**

***Every WI is different* but all provide at least 11 meetings a year for you to attend when there will be a speaker, demonstration or workshop as well as social time. Many WIs also have sub groups such as book clubs, walking groups, craft groups and in addition arrange theatre or cinema visits, pub lunches etc. The list goes on and on.**

**Your WI may also be part of a Group – Groups are made up of neighbouring WIs who meet up from time to time to share activities and have an opportunity to meet other members.**

**How do I know what is going on?**

**Within your own WI you will have a part of each meeting devoted to telling you about future events, opportunities, and campaigns. Your WI may also have its own Facebook page, email account, etc. to keep members informed.**

**The Federation has its own Facebook page and website (see front cover for details) and also produces a monthly magazine, the West Kent News, which advertises all Federation events with details of how to apply for tickets.**

**News from the National Federation comes via WI Life magazine which all members receive through the post 8 times a year, the cost being covered by your annual subscription, and by logging in to the My WI website.**

**WI terminology which you may come across**

**AGM: Annual General Meeting held by the Federation once a year to deal with official business such as adoption of the annual accounts and learn about future plans, but also to hear excellent speakers, and to meet up with fellow members as approximately 950 WI members get to attend.**

**ACWW: Associated Country Women of the World. The NFWI is a member of this charity which aims to help and educate women worldwide. WIs collect PENNNIES FOR FRIENDSHIP to help administer ACWW projects with West Kent supporting one project in particular each year.**

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: Open to anyone interested in the WI but who may not be able to attend meetings at their local WI.**

**BURSARY: Money from a WI or Federation given to enable a member to attend an education course.**

**DUAL MEMBERSHIP: Allows a member to belong to a second WI paying a reduced membership fee to the second WI but only having the right to vote on resolutions at the first WI where she pays the full subscription rate.**

**KENT VOLUNTARY SECTOR EMERGENCY GROUP: West Kent has a list of WI members who feel they want to support this important organisation by volunteering to help at both training session for the emergency services and by manning canteens, shelters etc. at times of local emergencies such as flooding.**

**NFWI ANNUAL MEETING: The Annual Meeting of the National Federation of Women’s Institutes held in June each year when WIs have been grouped together and send one delegate per group who votes on the resolutions on each WI’s behalf and subsequently reports back to all the WIs in her group.**

**May 2021**