



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

WEST KENT WI NEWS

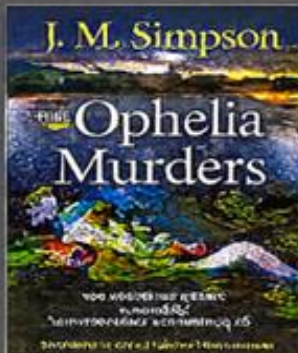
westkentnews@wkfwi.org.uk

March 2026

WEST KENT EVENTS COMMITTEE PRESENTS **AUTHORS DAY 2026**

Friday 15th May
Bat and Ball Centre,
Crampton's Road
Sevenoaks TN14 5DN

MEET OUR FEATURED AUTHORS



JOIN US FOR A DAY
OF STORIES,
INSPIRATION
& CREATIVITY

- Live author talks
- Q&A sessions
- Book signings
- Behind-the-scenes insights into-the writing process

🎉 **Doors**
open 9.30am
• **Kick-off at**
10.30am
• **£15 to join**
the fun



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



age!

Well, here we are at the end of my fourth year and time for me to say farewell! When I look back over the past four years it seems to have flown by – or is that a sign of old

Thank you all for your support of these last few years, it's always been a joy to meet up with you all at events and the welcome has always been warm! Not only am I standing down but Rita King our Honorary Treasurer has also reached the end of her term of office though she will remain a Trustee. Rita has helped so many Treasurers with their accounts, and I cannot thank her enough for all her hard work.

My fellow Trustees have been so very supportive, and they will always have my sincere thanks. I know there are exciting times ahead for the Federation and I know you will support them all by attending events. Behind every Chair there are the important people who run the office and keep the wheels turning! I will miss my daily emails from Miz and football chats with Keeley. Andrew has been a wonderful addition to the team, and all have always so helpful.

I mustn't forget the Advisers who have undergone a few changes recently and continue to work so hard for the Federation.

I apologise if this is beginning to sound like an Oscars acceptance speech- if you are attending the AGM on the 18th I will see you there if not look out for me at the forthcoming events as I maybe the one putting out the chairs!

Take care and goodbye!

Amanda

Treasurer's Corner



As Amanda has pointed out, this month I will hand over the role of Honorary treasurer after the West Kent AGM at Gravesend.

It has been enjoyable working with Amanda and the other Trustee's, past and present plus getting to know the inner workings of the WI.

I have mixed feelings in that I have enjoyed the role but I will not miss the travelling to Ethel Hunt Lodge most weeks, being just short of a sixty mile round trip!

It does not seem like four years since I started the role! Working with Andrew, Miz and Keeley has been a pleasure and certainly at first a steep learning curve when I relied on their extensive knowledge.

I will be staying on as a Federation Trustee and I have also agreed to take on the role of IFE administrator after Gillian Neville steps down this month. That will mean that I will keep in touch with WI Treasurers but in a different role. I will also continue as one of the West Kent News editors together with Linda Wills and also Keeley now that she is back from maternity leave.

Any problems with your year end, please do not hesitate to contact me on my new email address ritaking@wkwfi.org.uk.

Rita King

Please note that we will **never** ask you to purchase vouchers on our behalf or request changes to banking information through informal communication channels (such as personal email, text message, or phone). If you receive such a request, do not act on it and report it immediately through your service supplier channels .

Events 2026

In 2026, a new sub-committee will oversee all Federation workshops and events. Lifestyle, Art & Craft, Green Team, PALS, and PA & I will come together under one banner: **“Events”**.

This change responds to challenges, limited coordination, and the pressure on trustees and committee members serving on multiple groups. One larger committee will strengthen collaboration, creativity, and workload sharing.

Planning for the 2026 calendar is already underway, including favourite events such as Whist Day and Speakers Auditions, alongside new ideas like a Murder Mystery event.

Members are encouraged to get involved—join the Events committee, volunteer at an event, or share ideas on what you’d like to see. Below are some “dates for your diary”, be part of making 2026 a great year of events.

Please contact the Federation if you or your WI would like to have a stall on any of our Federation Day’s .

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2026

April	Wed	29	Federation Day 1	Ditton
May	Fri	1	Murder Mystery	St Mary Platt
	Fri	15	Authors’ Day	Bat & Ball, Sevenoaks
June	Mon	1	Water sports	Mote Park
	Thurs	4	NFWI AGM	On-line
	Sat	20	Dabble Day	St John's Hildenborough
July	Tues	7	Federation Day North	Bat & Ball, Sevenoaks
August				
Sept	Sat	12	Speaker Auditions	St John's Hildenborough
	Wed	23	Federation Day 2	Ditton
October	Tues	6	Singing Day	Hadlow
	Thurs	29	Whist	Ryarsh Village Hall
November	Wed	11	Quiz North	Tbc
	Mon	16	Quiz South	Tbc
December	Wed	2	Carol Service	All Saints Church, Maidstone

BOOK C

O R N E R

Using the Libby App I have been re-reading the James Oswald books featuring Detective Inspector Tony McLean. They are a bit quirky as always have the atmosphere of the unexplained about them. He, of course, always solves his cases despite the attitude of others at Police Scotland.

Other excellent Authors, Cynthia Harrod Eagles, Lesley Thomson and M.J. Arlidge. Enjoy

Linda Wills,
Istead Rise WI

Please contact Keeley Smart
sysadmin@wkfwi.org.uk
with your suggestions



Anne Harris CBE (1925- 2026)

NFWI Chair 1981 -1985

Anne's WI links went back to her earliest years, her mother having been a founder member of Lyghe WI in 1919. After training in horticulture Anne ran her own plant nursery in Paddock Wood where she joined the WI in 1948. Marriage and four children meant that she eventually gave up her business. However, her commitment to the WI was always there and she became very involved with the WI Country Markets. From this position she was co-opted on to the NFWI board, being elected as NFWI Chair in 1981.

Serving from 1981 to 1985 was by no means an easy time to be in such a post, with falling numbers, rising subscriptions, plus an increasingly ageing membership and a major battle within the organisation over proposed boundary changes to the Federations. An in-depth survey of the WI as an organisation was commissioned from Strathclyde University. This confirmed that members sought friendship from belonging but also wanted to feel they had some effect on decisions passed by the NFWI Board. This second point in particular led the Board to realise they were not communicating well enough with members and a new project "Women in the Community" was launched.

Despite describing herself as "a very ordinary Chairman", some spectacular events were staged to raise the NFWI profile and attract new members. A special bus loaned by National Express and fitted out in eye-catching colours, was seen off by the Lord Mayor of London from the steps of the Guildhall. Visiting over 200 towns and cities in a nine-month period with companies such as BHS giving space in their stores for a WI promotion stand manned by local WI members, it



Unveiling of bus 1983

attracted new members and helped pinpoint potential new sites for WIs. The bus also attended a huge "Life and Leisure" exhibition staged at Olympia. Visited by 55,000 people including Queen Elizabeth, herself a member of Sandringham WI, it had at its centre a specially constructed village hall acting as an information centre.

Never one to shrink from actions to raise the WI profile, Anne went up in a hot air balloon emblazoned with the wording "Fly high with the WI" (although apparently strong winds meant it had to remain tethered to the ground). At an AGM at the Albert Hall she went out in a rainy lunch hour to

greet members sitting on the steps of the Albert Memorial and happily agreed to a press suggestion that she should dance under an umbrella thus gaining further publicity for the WI in the national press.

After standing down from her role on the National Federation Anne continued to be a keen WI member, and also served on the boards of both the National Trust and Help the Aged. Honoured with a CBE, Anne was a member of Matfield WI to the very end of her life and was a much-loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.



Queen Elizabeth II at Royal Show with WI Members



Events 2026



MURDER MYSTERY

Upper Chattering WI has been serving the women of its local community for decades, but all is not well the outwardly calm and cordial appearance of the group hides a seething mess of unspoken offence, jealousy and high dudgeon and now **MURDER** is on the agenda at the AGM!

Friday 1 May, 7:15 pm Doors open 6:30 pm
Platt Memorial Hall, Platinum Way, St Mary's Platt, TN15 8FH

£15 WI members £20 non members. Priority to members

Closing Date 10 April

Please bring your own nibbles, mug etc. Tea/coffee and cake will be served at the interval

Ticket information on back page

FEDERATION DAY

Wednesday 29 April

Ditton Community Centre ME20 6AH

10:30 am to 3:30 pm, doors open 9:30 am

Please bring your own mug for tea/coffee and a packed lunch.

Members Tickets £15. Non-members £20. Priority to members

Some interesting speakers lined up for you this year:



Our first speaker is **Beth Hilton** whose life's passion is fostering dogs for the last fifteen years. She tells us how she came to be a dog fosterer, some of the highs and lows and how this has affected her life. She will also be bringing her latest foster, Willow, to meet you all.



Our next speaker, **Pete Benson**, is giving his talk Tales of a Film Prop Man. "Experience the glamour and excitement of the film industry through the eyes of a film prop man. From sharing a pint with Elizabeth Taylor and Rock Hudson to maintaining the balance of a normal life and demands of a young family". Pete will be bringing his book to sell but is only able to take cash.



Our final speaker, is **Lucy Lewis**. Some of us will have seen and enjoyed the TV series Trigger Point. Lucy is the first female bomb disposal expert and will be regaling us with tales of her life and experiences and dispelling some of the myths. Lucy will also be bringing her book for sale.



Closing Date 10 April

Ticket information on back page

I hope you will be able to join us for our day. As usual, there will be some independent stalls to shop at. And, of course, it wouldn't be an Annual Day without a raffle.

Please contact the Federation if you or your WI would like to have a stall for the day.

Events 2026

AUTHORS' DAY

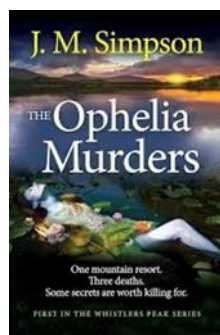
BAT & BALL CENTRE, CRAMPTONS ROAD, SEVENOAKS, TN14 5DN
FRIDAY 15 MAY - Doors open 9.30am starts 10.30am
Tickets £15. members only

Come along and meet the authors, hear their stories—their books will be on sale.



Charlotte Drew— will share her research into women's campaign banners for her book **Women For Peace: Banners From Greenham Common (2021)**, exploring their themes and how they were made, as well as their place in the history of women's banner making in the 20th century, from the suffragettes to the #MeToo campaign. A range of original Greenham Common badges will be available to view after the talk.

Jennifer Godfrey, author of **SUFFRAGETTES OF KENT**, will talk of stories of hope, determination, courage and sacrifice of those campaigning for women's suffrage in Kent. Topics covered will include: a peaceful suffrage pilgrimage, suffrage van tours, militant action in Kent, the previously untold story of a Kent working class maid arrested and imprisoned for window-smashing in London and forcible feeding. Jennifer will also touch on her second book, **SECRET MISSIONS OF THE SUFFRAGETTES: GLASSBREAKERS & SAFE HOUSES** sharing details of how Suffragettes used disguises, codes and alias names to complete their missions.



J.M. Simpson (Jo) was born in Essex, but was raised primarily in the West Country, never far from a rugged coastline, a sandy beach, or harbour. With a degree and PhD, much of Jo's working career has been spent undertaking research in a variety of subjects; most notably in construction and new development where her expertise lies. Staying in the Welsh town of Tenby some years ago and watching the local lifeboat launch one stormy winter night, gave Jo the beginnings of an idea for a book for her debut novel 'Sea State.' Jo has since published six crime suspense thrillers set against the backdrop of a lifeboat crew in a coastal town called Castleby.



Information on Sarah Solway will appear in April WKN

As usual there will be a raffle, also a **Pre Loved Book Sale** for which you can bring along four books to donate which will be sold at 50p each, this money will go to Federation to help fund further events. Please, at the end collect any unsold books.

There will be tea/coffee on arrival and at lunchtime (please bring your own mug) and your packed lunch.

Please note closing date for booking is **17 April** — so don't delay and be disappointed! The Application form is on the back page.

For more information on our exciting authors please visit our website thewi.org.uk/westkent and look on the Noticeboard

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Woodville

Woodville Place, Gravesend DA12 1DD

Wednesday 18 March 2026

10.30am to 3.45pm (doors open at 10.00am)

PRESENTATION: Annual Report & Accounts for 2025

SPEAKERS

Melissa Green, CEO of NFWI

Melissa has a professional background in the third sector, with senior leadership roles in a number of national membership and volunteer-led organisations and with a focus on children, families and communities.

As Chief Executive, Melissa's role is to lead and support the NFWI staff team and work in partnership with the Board and Officers in supporting members and ensuring the continued strength and ongoing development of the organisation.

Schoolreaders

One in four children leave primary school unable to read to the expected standard. This means they are unable to fully access their secondary education which will have a life-long impact on their opportunities.

Schoolreaders is a national child literacy charity that recruits volunteers to go into local primary schools to listen to children read. The more people our children can read to, the better. It increases their confidence, their self esteem and their fluency.

Judith Holder

Judith has spent most of her career making peak time entertainment programmes and has produced some of the most talented names in the industry – Victoria Wood, Billy Connolly, Lenny Henry, Dame Edna, and Clive James to name a few – which is code for she has never really had a proper job.

In the last few decades, Judith has concentrated on writing and performing comedy about growing older, notably the internationally successful TV series Grumpy Old Women which was then turned into four sell out stage shows and six books. She is currently podcasting weekly with Jenny Eclair Older and Wider (note wider not wiser) which they explain is the podcast for people who don't really know what a podcast is. They have had 2.8 million downloads so far and have been nominated in this year's podcast awards.

Judith recently spent a year as Visiting Research Fellow at Oxford University's Institute of Population Ageing where she looked at the phenomenon of later middle age and spent a lot of time in the Bodleian pretending to be 18 again. Her hobbies include lockable Tupperware and liquorice all sorts.

DELEGATE TICKETS ARE FREE however you still need to complete and return the Ticket Application form and provide a name. The Delegate WI will be printed on the front of your ticket and **Delegates are free to sit anywhere in the hall.**

NON-VOTING MEMBERS TICKETS – Admission will be by ticket only at a cost of **£15.00 per ticket** and WI Reps should apply to the Federation Office. Please note there is a **maximum of 10 tickets per WI**. If the event is oversubscribed, we will go to ballot and let you know your allocation after the second closing date.

Please complete the Ticket Application form and email to Tickets@wkfwi.org.uk or post to the Federation Office. All ticket applications, whether received by email or post, will be acknowledged. If you do not receive an acknowledgement, please contact the office to check we have received your request. As always, your WI will be invoiced for tickets after the event.

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

MEMBERS WITH LIMITED MOBILITY

Please indicate on the Ticket Application form if a reserved seat is required for member(s) with limited mobility. Seating will be at the end of a row and space is limited, but we will do our best to accommodate you. There is also limited space available for wheelchairs, so please let the Federation Office know if wheelchair access is required. Please note if you bring a rollator or mobility scooter to the event, these will need to be stored in the Kent Room.

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.

STALLS AND BASKETS will be situated in the Kent Room which is up the stairs on the right.

COLLECTION

We will be collecting for Gravesham Food Bank 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.

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. 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.

BURSARIES

(1) Three Bursaries for Individual Members

These are not subject specific and can be used for any course chosen by the member as long as it meets the WI charitable objectives. The course can be residential, non-residential, or online.

- a) Each bursary will be for a set figure of £200. If the course costs more than that then the member should pay the balance.
- b) Winners will have two years to take up the bursary.
- c) Winners will need to check with the Federation that the course meets WI objectives.
- d) If possible, the Federation should pay the provider direct. If not, we will refund the member on production of confirmation paperwork.

Members will have to apply for entry into the individual bursaries using the application box in either the October, November, and December/January West Kent News, or email or write in with your details.

Please note members can only apply once and winners will be chosen by draw.

Please also note that if you have won a bursary within the last five years, you are not eligible to enter.

(2) 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 will be chosen by draw.

Coffee will be available at the Woodville from 9:30a.m. but would also suggest that to avoid a long queue there are several coffee shops nearby. Entry to the auditorium will be from 10 a.m.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Woodville
Wednesday 18 March



We are sure that you will find just the basket to buy for yourself or for a gift.
Our thanks to the WIs that have generously donated these baskets.

Kaye Moore Cup Art & Craft Competition

The entries to this competition - The Theme New Life — will be on display, so please do not miss the chance to see the skills of our Federation members.



West Kent Federation Annual Poetry Competition 2026

In the *afternoon* session the winner will be reading out her winning entry also entitled New Life.

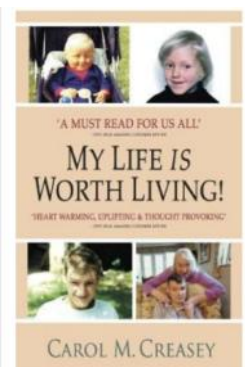


In January, **WATERINGBURY WI** was lucky enough to have Tony Harris come along to its meeting. Tony came as his King Henry VIII character. Not only was he knowledgeable about the six wives of Henry he was so quick witted, and involved us all in his delivery of his anecdotes and had us laughing and eager to ask questions after. He stayed for tea and cake and a chat with the ladies. We look forward to him coming again as one of his many characters .

During the Winter months we have been holding a series of craft workshops. Our members have shown their creativity with all the different things we have had on offer. In January we did painting on ceramics. The bowls were already made and had different designs printed on them. We painted them and they were taken away to be fired and returned at a later date. So many different designs, well done ladies, two more work shops to go.



In February we had Carol M Creasey to our meeting. Carol is an author of fiction and has written an autobiography about bringing up a young family in the 1970s one, with severe Autism. She is a very inspirational lady who helped her Son grow into an independent young man, put herself through evening classes and wrote a real mixed bag of books such a kind, funny lady.



Sharon Goshawk

The Memorial Hall, at Istead Rise once again resounded to the clatter of plastic pancakes being tossed to see who could flip their pancake the most times in a minute—The winner being Janet Jones with 90 tosses, and Liz Fryer was the winner of the walking tossing race. **ISTEAD RISE WI** was pleased to



welcome members, friends from other WIs and members of our local community to something that is a totally British activity.—No Mardi Gras for us. Lets run (or rather walk), in heats, with our frying pans, tossing pancakes laughing a lot, enjoying good company, delicious home baked cakes, pancakes and plenty of tea or coffee. Linda Wills



FAIRFIELD (DARTFORD) WI was pleased to welcome Sue Cameron to our January meeting who gave a fascinating talk about her work for Pyjama Fairies. They are the only UK charity to make pyjamas and surgical gowns for children and babies having surgery or associated medical treatments. If you've ever stayed in hospital you know how dispiriting the standard gowns are. Each Pyjama Fairy garment is colourful, made in age appropriate 100% cotton fabric and has been specially designed to minimise discomfort. They are stitched by volunteers all over the country. There are strict rules about the fabric designs (e.g. no food items shown however small) and are rigorously quality checked. Each popper has to be opened and closed 10 times to ensure it is securely in place! It was an enlightening talk about an inspirational charity most of our members were unaware of. Melissa Cheeseman



It was a busy start to the year for significant birthdays at **CHIPSTEAD WI**, a good few of us being post-war babies. One of our members, Janette, came to our January meeting on her actual 80th birthday, and four of us are new or about-to-be octogenarians, so we celebrated with a lovely cake, kindly made by one of our (younger) members, amid much hilarity. There's another 80th and a 90th later in the year, too! They say being busy keeps you young.... Janet Sharp

Birthday 'Girls' blowing out the candles



EDENBRIDGE EVENING WI had been supporting the 'Dental Health Matters' resolution by sewing dental bags (containing toothbrushes and toothpaste) for adults and children. Committee members delivered the bags to our local food bank in time for Christmas.

V. Pearman



In January **APERFIELD WI** members were joined by members from Biggin Hill Evening, Downe and Keston WIs to participate in a GST training course, when we all had the opportunity to practice CPR and were instructed in the use of a defibrillator. Jennifer Melotte

A very enjoyable morning was spent by members of **BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA WI** at their first "Needles and Natter" meeting. Members took their own craft projects to work on while enjoying a good chat with, of course, tea and biscuits. Anthea Springett



SOUTH PARK WI craft group spent an afternoon in January crafting these lovely green hearts to wear at the February show the love meeting. We had a lot of fun doing this craft and looked great wearing them.

KINGSHILL WI was pleased that the Pearly King and Queen of Woolwich, pictured with President Jan Denton and Secretary Carol Adolphus, were able to join their Christmas Party. Margaret Bailey



On Tuesday 3 February, seven members of **SHIPBOURNE WI** travelled to Canterbury for an overnight stay at the Abode Hotel. We enjoyed not only the wonderful hospitality of the hotel, which included an sumptuous afternoon tea, but also a visit to the Beane Museum. Then to the Marlowe Theatre for the first night of Sunny Afternoon (the Kinks), a pre-theatre dinner in their Green Room, and a guided tour taking in the Cathedral and the ducking stool!! Absolutely wonderful!

Helen Leach



CROCKENHILL WI celebrated 2026 with a joint New Year and Burns night meal at the Fighting Cocks pub and restaurant in Horton Kirby, on 24 January. Twenty-five members attended and enjoyed the meal, wine and a brilliant quiz supplied by Pat Wells our



treasurer. A very enjoyable time all-round with fantastic company.

Our member and past President organises this event at our February meeting every year. The bulbs are given out to our members during the autumn months, with directions on what to do. Well done, to Teresa who won the competition this year beating a very fine turnout of beautiful hyacinths. Sylvia added that members were getting very competitive and are producing better and better results every year. Commiserations to Lisa for being awarded the booby prize. Better luck next year. It can only get better.

Thanks to Sylvia for organising yet another successful Hyacinth competition. Cherie Yeates





Bell ringing at **MADGINFORD WI**. We had an excellent speaker last night and it was due to one of our members, Sonya. She gave us a talk on bell ringing and then produced hand bells for us to play. I don't think we will ever join Sonya in the local churches where she rings the bells, but we had such a good time with lots of laughter. Thank you, Sonya, Carol Page.

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



PETTS WOOD EVENING WI has been involved with the "Standing With Giants"

project which commemorates the 1,475 lives lost on 6 June 1944 under British command on D-Day. Three years on, this ambitious and captivating project is set to return to the meadow fields of the Memorial. In response to the project's appeal to all WIs nationwide, **Petts Wood Evening WI** has produced over 140 knitted and crocheted poppies to be included in the display of restored plinths around the soldier storage crates.

Sue Ingram



A prickle of hedgehogs and some origami butterflies made by the **BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA WI** craft group. Thanks to Marilyn for her tuition and to Barbara for her hospitality. Anthea Springett



Dabble Day – Saturday 20 June 2026 at St John's Church Hall, Hildenborough

The Events Committee are excited to offer this opportunity to experienced and beginner crafters alike to 'have a go' at something they may not have done before.

At the moment we are organising our final lead-crafter, but so far have secured three crafts that we hope will be new to you and you will want to try

Origami flowers
Bead Jewellery
Para-rope knotting

The full details including timing, costs and items to bring will appear in next month's West Kent News and you will be invited to include your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice Craft when your rep applies for your ticket.

Save the date in your diary if you are interested in coming along!



Green Team

greenteam@wkwfwi.org.uk

GREENING THE GARDEN.

Main Principles:

Aim to be pesticide and peat free.

Improve biodiversity by having a plant in flower every month of the year.

Use what you have in the garden already rather than buying new: re use plastic pots or other containers, use prunings as plant supports.

Make your own compost from kitchen plant waste and weeds.

Planting tips:

1, Sow annual bedding plant seeds. This is a cheap way to grow plenty of plants and grow varieties that are not readily available as plants. Hardy annuals such as cornflower, poppies, calendula (marigold), and Nigella (love in the mist) can be sown where they are to flower. If seedlings grow too close to each other, they can be thinned out and planted elsewhere or grown on in pots until they are larger plants.

2, Hunt for self-sown seedlings in the garden.

3, Collect seed from plants in autumn, store in a cool place in paper envelopes and sow the following spring e.g. sweet peas. Sweet peas grown from seed make a lovely cut flower that cannot be easily bought from a florist.

4, If seed sowing seems difficult then buy tiny plug plants online or from local garden centres and grow them until big enough to plant out.

5, There are usually too many seeds in a packet so seeds or seedlings can be swapped.

6, Containers: use anything that holds soil, e.g. Wooden boxes, baskets. Big containers need less watering. Try to use perennials as much as possible as they can be used for more than one year.

7, You can pick up plants from supermarkets and plant stalls at open gardens such as gardens open for the National Garden scheme which are often less expensive than garden centres

In February **CONEY HALL VILLAGE WI** celebrated their 6th birthday. We were entertained by Lyndsey Burrell aka 'Miss Cherry Bomb' who completed her talk by leading our members in a two minute 'bump and grind' burlesque routine. Our members knitted and crocheted over 200 poppies for the 'Standing with Giants' 2026 poppy appeal, many of which were on display at the meeting. We finished with a wonderful tea put together by the Committee, the highlight of which was a 6th birthday cake - every scrap of which was devoured!

Christine Burch—Secretary





OBITUARIES

The ladies of **Boughton Monchelsea WI** and **Loose WI** were saddened to hear of the death of their friend **MARGARET CROTHALL** at the age of nearly 96. Margaret had been a member of our WI since 1983 until her move to Loose in 2022 where she joined Loose WI. She was a valued member of our committee and very much involved with the catering, craft, drama and walking activities. She will be fondly remembered and sadly missed by us all.



Chipstead WI is very sad to report the death of a much-loved member, **LYNNE MADDEN**. Lynne had been in hospital for some time, but was expecting to return to her care home, when she suddenly passed away in January. She was a very active member of the WI, and was hostess for many memorable tea-parties at her house, with its collection of teapots of all shapes and sizes. She took a keen interest in Drama and Music, and was a member of our Book Club. Lynne and her beloved dog Dottie were regularly at our WI events, and we will all miss her warmth and happy outlook on life very much.

Hartley Afternoon WI is very sad to hear their fellow member, **MARGARET ENTECOTT** had died. She had been a WI member for many years and a very keen agriculturalist. She will be missed in Hartley WI and in the Village.



Warmest wishes to **PRICILLA & PETER HERBERT** on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 5 March. Much love from all at **Istead Rise WI**.

WHO TO CONTACT

CHAIR:

Amanda Breach

Email: chair@wkwfwi.org.uk

Tel: 01892 823813

FEDERATION TREASURER:

Rita King

Email: treasurer@wkwfwi.org.uk

01892 354454 Weds or Thurs

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ARTICLES—YOUR EVENT

Articles, your events Please no more than 150 words and two photographs. Congratulations and Obituaries (no more than 40 words) . If possible email direct to westkentnews@wkwfwi.org.uk If not please post to our Ethel Hunt Lodge address see top of page two.

Please only order tickets via your nominated representative. Should this create a problem, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Please note: In the event that a workshop is oversubscribed/cancelled or there is a problem with the Tutor or venue the representative ordering the tickets will be notified. It will be the responsibility of the representative to notify the members wishing to attend the workshop/event. It is therefore important that the representative is aware of who is requesting tickets.

Ticket applications via email:

WI Reps Apply to: tickets@wkwfwi.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.