



WEST KENT WI NEWS

westkentnews@wkfwi.org.uk

May 2026



Watersports Monday 1 June



Dabble Day Saturday 20 June





VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Hello, ladies

My very first “View from the Chair” almost didn’t happen! Like all organised people, I’d written, it well in advance, and had filed it somewhere safe! I may never find the original but here I go again.

I’ll start by thanking all of my fellow Trustees for the sterling efforts they put in making sure that everything functions. And, the Advisors, who also work extremely hard on behalf of all of our members. Without these two groups of ladies, there would be no Federation.

I must also thank Amanda, for all of her work and input, over the last four years. As she left her last Trustees meeting, I did whisper in her ear that I knew her phone number and where she lived. That’s was just in case I need help in my forthcoming term.

I look forward to all the upcoming events and meeting you all as time marches on.

Sarah

Treasurer’s Corner



Following on from the recent AGM I was nominated as Treasurer by my fellow-Trustees and have now started to find my feet in the office. Rita has kindly volunteered to help me with all those ‘firsts’ that occur when taking on a new role and Andrew has been a great source of help and advice.

If you’re wondering what has qualified me to be the new Federation Treasurer, I have to answer honestly and say, ‘I’m not sure’. Some of you will know me as your IFE, so I’m clearly at home with handling finances on paper; but strangely although I’ve been President and am currently Secretary of my WI, I’ve never been Treasurer of it!

Other than that, I’ve officially been a Federation Trustee since the 2023 AGM and took on the Federation Safeguarding Officer role a few months later. I was accredited as a WIA at the beginning of last year and was PALS Chair before the Events Committee came into being.

Looking forward, we are entering May which is a busy time for Treasurers as you have to use your examined accounts to create an interesting and meaningful verbal report to your fellow members at your WI’s Annual Meeting. Hopefully you will have a positive and strong message to give as to the health of your WI’s finances.

Each month going forward I will try to find an interesting WI Finance related topic to discuss. If anyone (not just Treasurers!) have any specific topics you want covered or have general questions about WI finances, please do drop me an email to Treasurer@wkfwi.org.uk and I will do my best to cover them off in a later edition.

In the meantime, good luck with all your Annual Meetings.

Best wishes

Jeannette Smith

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

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 Days .

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2026

June	Mon	1	Water sports	Mote Park
	Thurs	4	NFWI AGM	On-line
	Tues	9	Great Big Green Week Walk 2026	Starting at Chislehurst Station
	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

If you haven't got your Observer ticket for the NFWI Annual Meeting online on Thursday 4 June you can get an individual ticket or a group ticket via Eventbrite here: www.eventbrite.com/e/nfwi-annual-meeting-2026-observer-tickets-registration-1541107226199?aff=oddtcreator



Everyone at **Frindsbury Extra WI** would like to congratulate member **MAGGIE HALLS** and her husband **IAN** on 50 years of marriage.

Federation Noticeboard for May 2026

We are sorry to share that the following WIs have now suspended

Ash & Ridley	March 2026
Badgers Mount	March 2026
Frindsbury	March 2026
Hartley Afternoon	March 2026
Larkfield	March 2026
Maidstone Chocolate	April 2026
Ravenswood (West Wickham)	April 2026
Wells Angels	March 2026

Yearbook:

Please note that **Beckenham Belles WI** are moving venue. From 8 June, they will be meeting at Beckenham Rugby Club, Balmoral Avenue, Beckenham, BR3 3RD. All other details remain the same.

Please note that with effect from their May meeting, **Bexley Village WI** will be moving venue until the end of the year to the 1V1 Club, 151 Broadway, Bexleyheath DA6 7EZ, whilst the United Reform Church Hall is refurbished. All other details remain the same.

We had a lovely afternoon making paper flowers at **Madginford** Craft Group today led by Sue, one of our members.



Events 2026

Art & Craft Dabble Day 2026

Saturday 20 JUNE – St Johns Church Hall, 20 Foxbush, Hildenborough TN11 9HT

Members £15/Non-Members £20

plus kit charge payable to each craft leader on the day

Priority given to Members

Doors open 9:30 am

Morning session 10:00 am to midday

Lunch break – please bring packed lunch

Afternoon session 1:00pm-3:00pm

Please bring a mug for your tea/coffee which will be served on arrival and at lunchtime.

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.

We have secured the following crafts that we hope will be new to you and you will want to try

Fondant flowers (kit charge approx. £9.25)

Bead Jewellery (kit charge £5—£8 for necklaces and bracelets £3 for earrings)

Para-rope knotting (kit charge less than £5)

Patchwork (kit cost up to £4)

Please will WI Reps indicate on the application (see back page) the first, second and third choice crafts of each named applicant. We will try to accommodate first and second choices but need to ensure each craft has a manageable number of participants.

Closing date Monday 1 June.

The Events Committee are offering the opportunity to try one craft in the morning and a different craft in the afternoon

For the kit costs, please bring cash on the day for the various tutors.

1. Zuzi from Zuzilicious cakes will be showing how to make fondant flowers- she will be bringing tools resources and fondant.



2. Bead Jewellery with Alison



Tools and materials included



3. Para-rope knotting with Sarah

Materials supplied.

Learn the cobra knot and it's many applications - from keyrings and macrame pots to Christmas wreaths.



4. Sew a mug rug with Jo Salter.



Only basic sewing skills required. Kit cost to include material and tools required.

Greenslade WI were pleased to welcome Petra from Margate WI at our February meeting, who spoke about the importance of CPR and defibrillator training for cardiac arrest. She explained how important it was that onlookers were able to act quickly and confidently, and gave out details of DefibFinder.uk which can be used to find the location of the nearest defibrillator. She also discussed the difficulties encountered by females suffering cardiac arrest, due to a reluctance to remove clothing to attach the machine's pads correctly.

The team of instructors then each took a group and demonstrated how to use the machine, following the prompts it gave. Members had a turn at reviving the 'Resusci Anne' model using the defibrillator and chest compressions, and quickly gained confidence in their ability to help if needed.

It was a busy, loud afternoon which was both educational and enjoyable.



Sheila Miles was warmly congratulated as she celebrated 50 years membership of **Ham Hill and Snodland WI**. Having joined in April 1976 she became secretary in 1981 and then president in 1984. Not only has she been a committee member for many years and President 3 times but also had terms as our secretary and treasurer. Between 2009 and 2016 she was West Kent Federation Treasurer and then Chair. We have the good fortune to have her friendship and expertise as our treasurer and advisor in making our 104 year old WI the active, friendly and successful group that it is. Congratulations and thank you Sheila. Photo of Sheila Miles with President Glynis Fell



Madginford WI had a great time experimenting with silk painting last night. Elitta Fell came to us a few months ago as our speaker and showed us her wonderful silk creations and told us a little bit about her life and how she makes the beautiful items. We all enjoyed 'painting' our silk with dye. We were given plain cards to mount our paintings to send to our friends and families.



Highgate Hawkhurst WI are very proud of our new 'merch'. With a beautiful new logo designed by Alison R and a lot of hard work sourcing suitable manufacturers from Dorne, we are now in possession of a fine selection of mugs, aprons and tea towels to be used at meetings... and for sale! Our President Rachel had a fabulous afternoon at the Fortune Theatre where she cashed in her winning NFWI Raffle ticket for a performance of Operation Mincemeat. A brilliantly clever show and top seats... for the princely sum of £1!



Events 2026

WATERSPORTS 2026

MONDAY 1 JUNE

Mote Park, Mote Avenue, Maidstone, ME15 7SU
Each Session - either Paddle Boarding or Kayak £15

Members only

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

Please note the following important health advisories:

Paddleboarding - as kneeling is involved, we regret this sport is not advisable for anyone waiting for or who has had knee replacements.

Kayaking - because of the sitting position, this sport is not suitable for those with replacement hips. 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 to watch the fun or hire one of the pedalos.

Closing date Monday 11 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.

Leeds WI was taught alternative methods of doing abdominal thrusts when text book methods are not possible, to expel a foreign object when choking.



On the afternoon of 1 April, **South Park** craft ladies got together over tea and cake and made these lovely decoupage eggs.



Southfleet WI had a fun afternoon at the Flight Club in Victoria. It is an innovative twist on darts - Social Darts. A really quirky interior. We couldn't believe how competitive darts can be. We played for 1 1/2 hours. Give it a go





Green Team

greenteam@wkfwi.org.uk

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

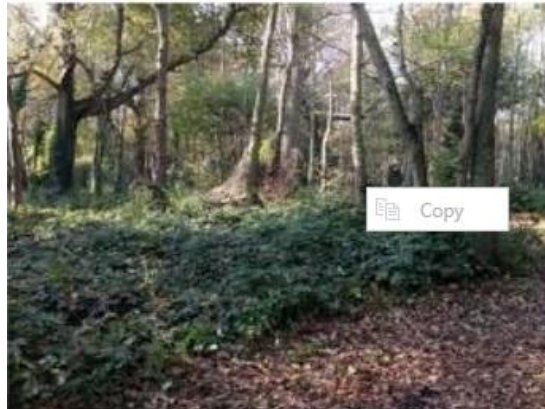
Walk 2026

This year the Green Team mindful walk to celebrate Great Big Green Week will be on Tuesday 9 June at 11 o'clock, meeting at Chislehurst Station and finishing at Petts Wood Station where there are coffee shops and a pub!

Only 13 miles from central London, Petts Wood and Hawkwood is a walk back in time through ancient woods and farmland. With far reaching views to the south, it's hard to believe how close to London you are! We will visit the Willet memorial and see where the idea of daytime saving was born. Please sign up by emailing tickets@wkfwi.org.uk with the title Green Team walk in the subject box. This walk is free and due to the type of terrain not suitable for those that find walking difficult.

Please note there are no toilets or facilities in the woods. We suggest you bring food and drink for a refreshment stop during the walk.

Obviously, this walk is very weather dependant so please include a contact number when applying for a place in case we have to cancel at short notice.



The **West Kent Zoomers Virtual WI** enjoyed a fascinating talk about the work of the Re-cycle: Bikes for Africa charity, who work in partnership with six African countries. The charity ensures that it isn't just reconditioned bikes which are sent out to help rural communities, but every space in the shipping containers is used including sending hygiene products so that students do not miss school each month. As a result of this talk, members of the West Kent Zoomers clubbed together to donate 210 packs of products for shipping to school girls in Zambia.



At our April meeting the ladies of **Boughton Monchelsea WI** were absorbed in the making of flower cards with fantastic results. A very enjoyable and fun evening and huge thanks to Barbara for her very hard work in supplying all the materials for us.



This photo shows some of the donations made to Gravesham Foodbank at the West Kent Federation AGM on 18 March 2026. Your donations were gratefully received.



Events 2026

Federation Day North

Tuesday 7 July – Bat & Ball, Sevenoaks TN14 5DN

Members £15/Non-Members £20

Priority given to Members

Doors open 9:30 am

Hello ladies,

This year we are trying a new Speaker Venue, further north in the county. We're trying the Bat & Ball Community Centre, Crampton's Road, off Otford Road, Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN, which is very easy to reach off Junction 5 of the M25. You can also take the A20 to Farningham and the Eynsford Road will take you to Bat and Ball, or the train station is nearby.



Our first speaker is Chris Conlan, the youngest Town Crier ever to be appointed at the tender age of 38. During COVID, Chris decided to apply to be a Town Crier and Sevenoaks had an opening. He then decided to become a Pearly King and does much work for charity. He is the only Town Crier who is a Pearly King and has been awarded the Freedom of London and the British Citizen Award.

Our second speaker is Linda Murphy-Regan. Linda has had a very successful career as an actress and crime writer, appearing in over a hundred different TV shows. The sharp eyed amongst you, may recognise Linda from Hi-De-Hi. She has many anecdotes of famous people she has worked with, some she liked, others.... Her talk promises to be amusing, entertaining and laugh out loud funny. Linda's late husband was the wonderful Bryan Murphy of George & Mildred fame.



Our final speaker is Lucy Lewis, first female bomb disposal expert. Lucy joined the army in 1989 and, serving in the Royal Engineers, was chosen to join Bomb Disposal. Many of us will have seen the popular TV programme, Trigger Point, and Lucy will be dispelling some of the myths that came with it. Her other claim to fame is that she is also the first female Cambridge University Marshal, heading up their own police force.

The day promises to be informative and entertaining and we hope you will join us at this new, modern venue.

Closing date Friday 5 June. Ticket information on back page.

Our member, Sheena O'Kill, has been a member of **The Farleigh's WI** for a total of 53 years. She has been very active within the group and a very loved member. She still enjoys playing darts with the team and is part of our book club.

Unfortunately, she has decided to step down, she will be missed dearly by all the members, old and new.



Allington Castle WI Members and visitors enjoyed an afternoon of eating, quizzing, music and easter bonnets, celebrating 57 years since Allington Castle WI began. Sandra, pictured, our cake-maker, is now an ex member, but fun was had decorating Easter Bonnets which look splendid. A really lovely afternoon was enjoyed by everybody!





OBITUARIES

Sadly our longstanding member **MAUREEN TRESLOVE** died suddenly after a very short illness. Maureen joined **Detling WI** on 17.03.1999 and was a member of Boxley WI before that until it closed in 1990. A total of 36+ years. God Bless.

DAWN WAKEFIELD of **Detling WI** a past member and President also sadly passed away having resigned some years ago due to ill health aged 95 years.

Frindsbury Extra WI was saddened by the death of **LESLEY WRIGHT**. She was a very active and enthusiastic member until ill health with MND made it too difficult to attend. She stayed positive throughout. She was also District Secretary for several years, a job she did brilliantly. She will be much missed by all who knew her and our thoughts are with her family.

Pembury Evening WI was sad to hear of the death of **IVY DAVIS**, a founding member of our WI. She died shortly after her 99th birthday. A kind, helpful and knowledgeable lady, she always remembered us at Christmas and at our WI birthday.



It is with great sadness that **Allington Castle WI** announce the death of **GWEN WOOD**. Gwen was a prolific reader and a member of our Book Club for many years, she was also an ex-member of Barming WI and on their Committee. Gwen also did a lot for the children of Chernobyl Charity. A lovely lady who will be very sadly missed by friends and family.

Our president Julie Matthews presenting me with the award for the poetry competition.

I read the poem to our WI.

It went down very well. I received lots of compliments and congratulations.

Lindsey Smith

Eden Park WI



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@wkfw.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.

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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@wkfw.org.uk** If not please post to our Ethel Hunt Lodge address see top of page two.