

Welcome to the  
**Kent-West Kent Federation of WIs**



**Federation Headquarters:  
Ethel Hunt Lodge**

**4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Maidstone Road,  
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[www.thewi.org.uk/westkent](http://www.thewi.org.uk/westkent)**

**Office hours: Tuesday – Friday 9.00 am to 4.00 pm**





## Welcome

We are delighted that you have joined one of the WIs in Kent-West Kent Federation. We have 172 WIs and approximately 7,000 members in our Federation.

## Your Federation – Kent-West Kent

The headquarters is at Ethel Hunt Lodge in Pembury, where the Federation secretaries and book-keeper are employed. The Board of Trustees oversees the activities of the Federation and the Federation Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Treasurer are often to be found at Ethel Hunt Lodge. The Board of Trustees meets every month and all are WI members elected by the membership every two years. Some members of the Board of Trustees are chairmen of the specialist sub-committees, which arrange many varied events. The other sub-committee members are drawn from interested members from all over the Federation.

## Your District

Neighbouring WIs are grouped together to form Districts. These Districts arrange many activities that individual WIs might not be able to manage on their own, covering a wide range of activities such as art and craft, home economics, performing arts, sports and leisure and public and international affairs. The Districts are run by District Secretaries, usually with the help of a team. Look out for District events mentioned at your WI meetings. They are always worth attending and will enable you to meet other groups of WI members with similar interests to yourself.

## Your Local WI

For the Annual Subscription members are entitled to attend at least eleven monthly meetings at the WI they have joined, without further payment. These meetings usually involve a speaker, demonstration or workshop together with WI business and a social time. Your WI should have a varied programme which caters for all interests and is educational, informative and fun.

It is traditional to start the meeting by singing Jerusalem but some WIs now just do this on special occasions. Most meetings serve refreshments, often home-made by WI members, but this is up to the individual WI. Many WIs also have a raffle, competition and trading stall to help increase their funds.

As well as the monthly meetings, most WIs organise other groups, depending on the interests of their members, eg walking, art, craft, reading, scrabble, theatre etc and also go on regular visits and outings to places of interest.

Members may also visit other WIs or even become a dual member of another WI by paying an additional but reduced fee.

## Services available to Members from the Federation Office

### WI Advisers

A WI Adviser will be happy to attend your WI's annual meeting to oversee the election of your president and committee and to assist with the business of the meeting

### West Kent News Magazine

The Federation's own monthly magazine containing details of all the forthcoming events and news from the WIs. All tickets for meetings, day schools and special events are ordered by using forms on the back of West Kent News. The magazine is available from every WI so order it now so that you do not miss out.

### Diaries and Calendars

Order forms for WI diaries and West Kent Calendars are sent to your WI for you to order.

### Stationery

To help to run your WI.

### Website

For news, photographs and information visit the Federation website at [www.thewi.org.uk/westkent](http://www.thewi.org.uk/westkent).



## Fun and Learning

The Federation also has sub-committees to arrange events for you:

### Art and Craft

Organises two annual days every year as well as many events with workshops and speakers on a wide range of craft topics.

### Home Economics

Organises two annual days each year as well as events covering many interests from cookery to gardening, which always prove popular.

### Performing Arts

Organises music and drama workshops, events, performances as well as arranging the Carols at Rochester.

### Public Affairs and International

Organises talks and events covering local and international themes. Also supports causes and NFWI campaigning on such subjects as the environment, Fairtrade and ACWW.

### Sports and Leisure

Arranges a wide variety of both indoor and outdoor activities. These range from darts, bowls and whist to cycling and walking. Events are also arranged with specialist guides and instructors.

*For more information listen to announcements at your WI meeting, check your West Kent News magazine and look at the Federation website. You can also attend to observe a committee meeting. You will not be pressured to join the committee, so feel free to phone Ethel Hunt Lodge for an agenda.*

*Volunteers are also warmly received and this is another way of getting to know more about your Federation.*

## Campaigns

The WI offers the opportunity to be active in the community and internationally.

Over the years, the WI has campaigned on a wide range of issues that matter to women and their communities, including Equal Pay in 1942, Breast Cancer Screening in 1975, AIDs in 1986 and the introduction of new legislation in the EU to reduce the threat of hazardous chemicals in everyday products in 2006.

Every year WI members have the chance to put forward issues or 'resolutions' on which they would like NFWI to campaign. These resolutions go through a year-long consultation and short-list is drawn up on which the membership can vote, with the successful resolutions being discussed at the Annual Meeting in June. If passed, these then become mandates and form the basis of campaigning activities in the years ahead.

Current campaigns are:

- Time to talk about Organ Donation
- SOS for Honeybees
- More Midwives
- SOS for our High Streets and Town Centres



## More things available to you in the WI

### WI Life

WI Life is the WI's own magazine which is published eight times a year and is delivered directly to your home. It features articles and news stories showcasing the diversity and wide-ranging interests of WI members.

### Competitions

NFWI regularly organises a number of competitions and one-off challenges. Other competitions are organised by the Federation, your District and your own WI. All are great fun and are a way of meeting new friends and widening your horizons.

### Annual Council Meeting

Every year in March the Federation holds its annual meeting. This is a chance to hear of past and future events, WI news and to hear fascinating speakers, as well as to meet members from all over the Federation.

### Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the NFWI is held each June, the venue varying from year to year. Following the presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts, this is the forum for the debating of and voting on the resolutions, which will become the subject of mandates and campaigns. This event is renowned for its excellent speakers.

### WI Moodle

This is the NFWI's own online learning resource and this is where you will find information on running your own WI as well as information on competitions, crafts and leisure activities. There are forums and links to WI blogs, Facebook and Twitter.

## Denman College

The WI's own residential college in Oxfordshire which was founded in 1948. Denman offers a wealth of opportunities to learn new skills on day schools and short residential courses. Everyone is welcome – men and women, members and non-members.



Denman College is situated in the picturesque village of Marcham, near Oxford and is housed in a Georgian mansion set in 17 acres of grounds.

- The WI Cookery School welcomes all with a passion for cooking and offers courses for every level of ability – from novice cook to accomplished chef.
- The WI Craft School brings together experts in their field to offer a wide variety of art and craft courses catering for all abilities and interests.
- Lifestyle Courses are developed to cater for the mind, body and soul and includes something for every interest.

Every bedroom is adopted by a Federation and decorated by them, including pictures and items made by members. You may be lucky enough to stay in one of West Kent's two ensuite bedrooms.

West Kent Federation offers the chance to attend Denman College with the award of various bursaries and your own WI may also award a bursary.

A brochure is published quarterly and is available online at [www.theWI.org.uk/college](http://www.theWI.org.uk/college) where you will find a list of the current courses with vacancies.



## WI TERMINOLOGY

**ACWW:** Associated Country Women of the World, to which NFWI is a member. Its aim is to help and educate women world-wide. WIs collect PENNIES FOR FRIENDSHIP to help administer ACWW projects.

**ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING:** Held by the Federation once a year to review events of the previous year and to adopt the annual report and accounts. Open to all WI members.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** The Annual Meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes is held in June each year and WIs are grouped together with one delegate per group who votes on the resolutions on each WI's behalf and reports back to all the WIs in her group.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:** Is open to anyone who is 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 a course at Denman College.

**DUAL MEMBERSHIP:** A full subscription is paid to the first WI with a reduced subscription paid to the second WI. A dual member may only vote for resolutions at her first WI.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:** Part of the annual subscriptions which is sent to Federation and to NFWI.

**POOLING OF FARES:** Every WI pays the same amount of money into a fund, to pay delegate fares to the National Annual Meeting, no matter how far away.

**RESOLUTIONS:** A resolution on any topic of national importance and of interest to WIs can be submitted for consideration to NFWI by a WI. The most interesting or vital of these are then selected to be debated in each WI and brought to the Annual Meeting for a vote. If they are passed they become mandates for the NFWI to work on.

**WI ADVISERS:** These are trained WI members who can advise on all aspects of the organisation of WIs, can open and close WIs and are always available to help with problems.



**Kent-West Kent Federation of WI**  
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