

Annual Report for the year 2024-2025 of Bearsted & Thurnham WI

We started the year with our new President, Val Keeler and welcomed Sherralyn Franklyn on to the Committee. At our Committee Meeting in May we welcomed Jane Heeley from Plastic Free Bearsted who was asking local community groups to sign up to be Plastic Free. We agreed that we would sign-up and reduce our use of plastic and encourage our members to do so too. Our Recycling Stall which was available each month at our meetings helps members to upcycle unused items that others may like.

In May we had a Picnic on the Green and during the summer months made use of the Green by meeting each month under the trees when the weather was fine. A visit to Great Comp Garden in all its glory was enjoyed by several members with lifts provided to those who could not drive. Once again, we had a stall at Bearsted Fayre with a massive jar tombola as each member had donated a glass jar full of goodies. The proceeds we shared with the Fayre Committee. We also had a display at the Holy Cross Flower Festival in aid of the roof repairs and this year the theme was Musicals ours being The Wizard of Oz with the Art Group painting an amazing backdrop and all the craft group and members knitting or crocheting flowers which were attractively displayed to tell the story.

Several activities and events were arranged during the day throughout the year to enable those members who do not like coming out in the evening get together with other members. We had a Coffee Morning at the Oak on the Green, an Afternoon Tea in September where we had a celebrated cello player, an early Fish & Chip Supper with games, and Lunch Club visits to the Yeoman Pub and the Oak on the Green. There was also another opportunity for members to enjoy the Pudding Club with several delicious desserts

During the year we purchased a WI Flag and Jean Collie knitted us a mascot which was called Dorothy the Caterpillar.

Our members as always have been very generous donating each week and at Christmas for the Salvation Army Food Bank; the Craft Group knitted vests for babies in Sierre Leone, and all members collected Tubs4Pubs for Cancer Research.

We also supported the Angela Rippon "Let's Dance" campaign with an afternoon of Line Dancing inviting other WIs and members of the community to join us. Everyone wanting another session in the future.

Our WI has as part of its aims and objectives to educate and train women and girls through our speakers and through the various activity groups. The Programme Planning group work together to plan the programme of speakers and the Members Evening. The speakers this year have been wide ranging and interesting from local charities such as Spadework and the Dogs Trust, to our own Bearsted Woodland Trust, Great Mysteries and Conspiracies, Forensic Investigation, Monet the Gardener and Painter as well as William Morris & the Art & Craft Movement. As always members enjoyed a Christmas Party with a roast dinner and accompaniments.

Each month the Walking Group have found local places to visit such as Cobtree Manor, Bearsted Woodland Trust, West Malling Country Park and several visits to Mote Park. In April they supported the ACWW Walk the World by asking members to donate towards their work in helping women around the world to be self-sufficient.

We had a display of Art & Craft work that the members had been doing throughout the year to both highlight their lovely work that had been done but to also encourage new members to join the groups.

Our Book Group continues to provide members with interesting books to read and a delightful afternoon every six weeks where they can discuss the book and learn from each other.

Twinning has been on our mind this year especially in terms of outings where we could twin with Kennington WI on some activities. Several members attended their Bacon Butty morning, and we hope to progress this in the future. Other members attended a Fashion Show at Boughton Monchelsea WI. We have also continued to support the West Kent Federation Lifestyle and Art & Craft Days, and 14 members attended the West Kent Annual Meeting.

The WI Hall is an amazing resource which we can enjoy for meetings and activities and this had a fresh coat of paint, the floors refreshed, together with new curtains which were funded through a generous donation from the estate of Jean Corps. A refrigerator and microwave were also purchased for the kitchen.

Unfortunately, our Sunshine Club has been busy taking flowers and cards round to members who have had a spell in hospital or are ill. We have also celebrated 80th birthdays, and 65th wedding anniversaries with flowers. Sadly, we lost three very long-standing members of our WI this year Anne France, Joan Faulkner and Rosemary Smith all of whom achieved a good age.

Once again it has been a successful year with average attendance at 34 with numbers increasing recently to 40 and above. We have also seen an increase in visitor numbers 23 of whom visited during the year, and we hope that they will join us.

WI name
Charity number (if registered)
Federation

Bearsted and Thurnham
228182
West Kent



Please review the 'Notes to Financial Statement' sheet before completing this Statement.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the period

from 16.03.24

to 15.03.25

Section A

Receipts and Payments

A1 Receipts	Total £	Last year £	A2 Payments	Total £	Last year £
Receipts at meetings	1,833.17	1,657.41	Meeting expenses	2,496.17	2,321.51
Subscriptions (WI share)	1,398.30	1,424.15	Committee Members' expenses	85.02	220.03
Gift Aid	-		Pooling of fares / expenses	-	40.00
Publications	-		Publications	16.50	7.15
Activities & events	693.25	586.50	Activities & events	822.76	1,214.01
WI fundraising	-		WI fundraising	-	
Interest received			Insurance	25.00	
Paid into current account	-		Donations made	-	
Paid into deposit account	31.10	28.62	Other payments	1,078.35	370.09
Grants and donations	5.80		WI-owned hall - total payments	25,932.28	22,004.56
Other income	1,179.44	649.50			
WI-owned hall - total receipts	20,827.37	24,492.51			
Total Receipts	25,968.43	28,838.69	Total Payments	30,456.08	26,177.35

A3 Restricted funds included in total receipts	1,453.46	927.46	A4 Restricted funds included in total payments	976.06	615.00
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Total Receipts less Total Payments (Surplus/Deficit for the year)

A5 Total cash funds brought forward from last year (equals last year's total at B1)

A6 Total cash funds carried forward at this year end

A7 Total restricted funds at year end included in total cash funds above

-	4,487.65
	76,974.51
	72,486.86
	£477.40

The main purposes of the Women's Institute organisation are:

- (a) to advance the education of women and girls for the public benefit in all areas including (without limitation): (i) local, national and international issues of political and social importance; (ii) music, drama and other cultural subjects; and (iii) all branches of agriculture, crafts, home economics, science, health and social welfare;
- (b) to promote sustainable development for the public benefit by: (i) educating people in the preservation, conservation and protection of the environment and the prudent use of natural resources; and (ii) promoting sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration;
- (c) to advance health for the public benefit; and
- (d) to advance citizenship for the public benefit by the promotion of civic responsibility and volunteering.

WI name

Bearsted and Thurnham

Section B

Statement of assets and liabilities at the year end

B1 Cash funds

		Total £	Last year £
B1.1	Final bank balance as per Account Book, including uncleared items	4,276.29	3,853.73
B1.2	Reconciliation of final bank balance from Account Book to bank statement		
	Bank statement total at year end	4,276.29	
	Plus amounts paid in to bank but not cleared		
	Less cheques written but not cleared		
	Less any cheques still uncleared from last year		
	Total (should equal balance at B1.1)	4,276.29	
B1.3	Savings / deposit account balance	2,233.16	2,202.06
B1.4	Petty cash in hand	33.26	33.26
	WI Hall funds	65,178.05	70,282.96
B1.5	Less any funds held as agent for federation/NFWI, i.e. subscriptions received but not yet paid over enter as a negative amount	766.10	602.50
B1.6	Total cash funds	72,486.86	76,974.51

B2 Investments (if any)

--	--

B3 Other monetary assets (e.g. any money owed to the WI)

--	--

B4 Other assets held by the WI

e.g. WI owned hall, other equipment

	Value (optional)*	Original cost (optional)*

* cost / value should only be completed if meaningful information is available

B5 Liabilities

Payments due immediately but not paid, or due at a future date, e.g. loans

	Date due (optional)*	Amount due (optional)*

* amount / date due should only be completed if meaningful information available

Signed on behalf of all the trustees (WI Committee members)

Signature

Name

Date of approval

Vanne Keeler

V. KEELER

23.4.25

President

Susan Murray

S. MURRAY

24.4.25

Treasurer

Independent financial examiner's initials:

JB

WI name

Bearsted and Thurnham

Section C

Notes to the financial statement

C1 Funds received and paid as agent

Complete this section with total amounts received and paid over to the federation in the year

	Receipts this year	Payments this year	Any balance held at year end
	£	£	£
Federation / NFWI share of subscriptions	1,396.90	1,494.50	97.60
Federation event bookings by individual members	699.50	765.50	66.00
NFWI and / or federation raffle	31.00	31.00	-
Outstanding balance brought forward from last year			602.50
Total	2,127.40	2,291.00	766.10

C2 Details of restricted funds

Complete this section if the WI had any restricted funds during the year

	Receipts this year	Payments this year	Any balance held at year end
	£	£	£
Name or description of restricted fund:			
District	1,187.40	760.00	427.40
Art Group	100.00	100.00	-
Bring and Take	166.06	116.06	50.00
Total	1,453.46	976.06	477.40

C3 Further details of WI activities /fundraising /other

Include additional details that would be helpful to WI members or other readers of the financial statement

	Receipts this year	Payments this year
	£	£
Activities & events (description)		
Total WI activities	-	-
WI fundraising description)		
Total WI fundraising	-	-
Grants & donations		
Total grants & donations	-	-
Other income / expenditure		
Total other income / expenditure	-	-

Independent financial examiner's initials:



Guidance on completing the WI Financial Statement is available on the My WI website

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the Trustees of

Charity number (if registered)

Bearsted and Thurnham

228182

WI

I report on the Receipts and Payments Accounts set out on the attached Financial Statement pages 1-3 for the above named WI for the year ended ...15-3-25

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention, (~~other than disclosed below~~*):

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Please delete the words in brackets if they do not apply.

Comments:

Signed:

Name:

Address:



Date: 19-4-25

GILL BOWDEN
36 QUEENDOWN AVENUE
RAINHAM KENT ME8 9NU

WI name

Charity number (if registered)

Federation

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Date of approval

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V. KEELER

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S. MURRAY

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Signed:

Name:

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Date: 19-4-25

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RAINHAM KENT ME8 9NU