



WEST KENT WI NEWS

May 2021

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear ladies,

Here we are in May and almost free. I do hope that, like me, you are looking forward to meeting up with your WI Friends. The Trustees and I would like to join you at your meetings when we are allowed to gather either inside or out. If you are having a gathering in the open let the Office know and we will try and join you to say hello. I cannot believe it is over a year since I have been to a meeting.

The Trustees and WI Advisers are still meeting by Zoom which is very good but not the same as in person, which I hope we shall be able to do soon.

I think the WKN is looking very good, of course that is thanks to you for sending in interesting items and photos. Some of you certainly do a lot each month to keep in touch.

As I put on Facebook, the office is back to normal times now. Keeley our newbie has settled in well. I expect some of you have spoken to her on the phone. If for any reason you would like to come into the office, please ring first. We do have some Rapid Tests as well as sanitiser etc.

We have had some calls regarding meeting up as a WI. All I can say is, listen to the Government, look at their Road Map and check your Risk Assessment for the Assembly hall you use as a WI is up to date with all the new rules. If in any doubt ring or email the office for advice.

By the time you read this I hope we will have booked the Assemble Hall in Tunbridge Wells for next year's Annual General Meeting in March. What joy it will be to be able to get together.

I will stop now with a thought why not ring someone you know who is alone for a chat. I have never seen the Queen looking so alone as at the funeral of Prince Phillip. I am sure you are all with me when I say Happy Birthday Ma'am to her just to show we are all thinking of her.

Yours in friendship,

Jane Backshall

It is with sadness that I have to write to you to say that both Sue Hollings – Matfield WI and Chris Linley - Ladycroft WI are retiring from the WI. Some of you will know Sue from her talks as well as an Adviser/Trustee and a member of the WKN team. Chris was an Adviser who many of you will remember. I would like to thank them both for all the hard work and hours they have both put into West Kent Federation.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY All activities subject to change

MAY	Tues 18	Maytime Walk	Hopehill
JULY	Tues 6	Paddle Boarding	Mote Park
SEPT	Tues 21	Home Economics Annual Day	Ditton
SEPT	Wed 22	Home Economics Annual Day	Ditton
OCT	Wed 6	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton
OCT	Thur 7	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton

Treasurer's Corner



In last months Treasurer's Corner I said I would outline the procedure for online banking authorisation if your bank insists on only one signature for online payments.

As you know WI requirements are for two signatures and obviously this is not a problem for cheques or the majority of online transactions. In this scenario one person, sets up the on line payment and a second signatory authorises it.

However, some banks allow payments on one signature and despite representations won't add a second signature.

There is an NFWI approved procedure, which is outlined below. It can be a bit convoluted but here goes.

Set up a payment authorisation form that is completed with the payments that you are going to make. This is then authorised by two of the cheque signatories, preferably not the person that will be making the payments.

When the payment is made a receipt is printed showing the details of the payment, one receipt for each payment rather than a screen shot of a group of transactions. These receipts are attached to the authorisation form.

The form and receipts are then given back to a signatory who checks the receipts against the list and initials against each payment on the list.

The payment authorisation form can be set up as a straightforward template in whatever format suits you but showing the following information:

Payment to
Reason for payment
Amount
Date of authorisation

Finally, some more good news on the WI insurance front.

You will remember last June at renewal, because it was envisaged September would be when meetings might start up again, the insurers gave a refund/reduction on the 2019 and 2020 premiums respectively from March – September 2020. As such, rather than the normal pro rata rate based on membership, the Federation charged each WI £10.

In January I started discussion with our insurers as to whether it was possible to get some more refund on the 2020 WI insurance, given that WIs had not really met since September and were unlikely to do so till after June.

I am pleased to say that NFU have now paid us back £2,119.61p This, means that through the various refunds we have had the vast majority of the premium paid back to us. Therefore, the Federation will be refunding WIs the £10.

This will be made in the normal way as a credit on the Federation statement.

Gillian Neville



Dear Members

WIAs are waiting to hear from you should you require their assistance with Annual Meetings this May.

Please would you contact the office and put your request into to the Federation Secretary, or if you prefer request a visit from your own Adviser, please contact her direct.

Be aware even if requested it might not always be possible to have your own Adviser as she may well be already booked . We will always endeavour to allocate an Adviser for your meeting.

Some of you may wish to hold your Annual meeting later in the year, due to the continuing covid restrictions we understand this.

If you have already made your decision, it would be helpful for us to know, again please inform Federation.

Thank you for holding your WIs together through this very difficult time. We really do look forward to meeting you all again soon

Kind Regards

Carol Gupwell

WIA Chair and Fellow Advisers .



ACWW

TRICIA ASHDOWN triciaashdown@yahoo.co.uk

ACWW fund another round of Projects helping women in seven countries

Last year West Kent WI members donated just over £2,500 to ACWW. Members had decided that we would support Sustainable Water and Sanitation projects. Details about the latest round of projects that have been granted funding has just been published so I thought members would like to learn of the projects that their money is helping to fund.

There were four Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Energy projects, and these will help women in four different countries.

1. Over 1,600 people will benefit from a safe drinking water system from new borewells in the Tamil Nadu area of India. Project beneficiaries will attend sanitation and hygiene awareness events and community members will be trained in the maintenance of the borewells.
2. 700 rural women and their families will benefit from safe water in Mindanao, Philippines. Also latrines are being provided for 55 households.
3. In Uganda 2,900 people from five villages will have new spring wells, and community members will be trained on water sanitation and hygiene as well as given guidance on routine maintenance of the wells.
4. A borewell in the Mabuye village Tanzania will provide safe water for over 4,000 people. The environment around the borewell is to be planted with trees to provide shade and make use of overflow water.

As well as these 4 projects a further 19 projects covering the other Women Empowered Fund areas were approved by the ACWW Board. A total of £82,00 has been distributed in grants to organisations in 7 countries to improve the lives of 21,000 people.

Details on all the projects funded in the latest round can be found on the ACWW website acww.org.uk. Click on Membership and follow the link to the latest edition of The Countrywoman, where you will find the complete list of new projects. It is difficult to fund raise at the moment when we can't meet but remember you can donate direct to ACWW via their website. You can also become an individual member



of ACWW for £27 and receive regular updates on their work as well as receiving copies of The Countrywoman, which comes out four times a year.



The **Public Affairs and International** Sub-committee are delighted to announce yet another ZOOM talk to interest our members.

On **Tuesday 25 May at 7.30pm** we will host a talk –

“Weather forecasting - the history and what the science tells us about the future.”

Our speaker will be the BBC weather presenter **Sarah Keith-Lucas**.

Sarah has a degree in Geography from Durham University and started working with the Met Office in 2007, joining the BBC team in 2008.

Her talk covers the history of public weather forecasting through to current Climate Change concerns.

This will be a free zoom meeting.

Please register for the meeting by sending your name, WI name, personal email address and telephone number to Carol Gupwell at carolagupwell156@hotmail.com or write to Carol at 156 Loose Road, Maidstone ME15 7UD by 20 May.

Carol will forward log in details as soon as possible.

The PA&I sub-committee held a Zoom meeting on 22 April with talks supporting the Ovarian Cancer Resolution from a representative of the charity Target Cancer and a couple whose family have lost a loved one to Ovarian cancer. We apologise that we were too late to announce this in the April West Kent News. We did send out information in the Mailboxes. We do hope to have a recording of this meeting available for WIs. Please watch out for information in your mailboxes.

Caroline Davis



Green Team

greenteam@wkwfi.org.uk

Make your plastic work for you

With online supermarket shopping, I have never had so much plastic. Initially, I was washing everything to disinfect, but found decanting so much easier. This makes your shopping “Covid-safe”, and by making your plastic work harder, it can feel quite rewarding. Here are some tips:

Keep **plastic bread packaging**. After three days you can re-use, decanting new bread into the safe bags for immediate use or freezing.

Loaf packaging can be used for many other items: large veg / bakery items / cakes etc.

Clear **plastic vegetable containers**, keep as for bread packaging and decant the new vegetables into the stored containers for easy access. Now keep the new containers for the next delivery.

Glass jam jars and similar, use exactly the same way, washing / storing / decanting the new jam into the washed pot and keep the new jar for next time.

Spread pots: wash and store with lid. Use for freezing small portions of left overs. Remember to label or you might get bread and butter pudding instead of lasagne!

Ice cream pots: Good for freezing when batch cooking. Re-use as often as you like after washing.

Yoghurt pots and similar. Wash and store and use as for the glass jars, decanting new yoghurts, cream, etc into the clean pots. Some don't have a proper lid so use a silicone lid* to seal.

Used paper towel sheets, keep and wipe clean the frying pan before washing so fat or oil does not go down the drainage system.

Cling film on vegetable packaging – this can be rolled on to paper towel tubes and re-used for items for the microwave etc.

***Silicone stretch lids**: washable, re-usable and replace cling film.

So try to re-use before you recycle. Do you have some more re-using tips...

email: Greenteam@wkwfi.org.uk

ISOLATION CREATIONS



BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA WI - ISOLATION CRAFT -

MARCH 2020 TO MARCH 2021

Barbara's teddies, Kaye's bracelet, Jo's hot water bottle, Barbara's bag, Margaret's dress, Kaye's knitting. Barbara's collage x 2 and bags, Wendy's teddies, Joanne's bags, Marilyn's cacti.



Star Wars quilt and boys jumper.
Pat Buss



Rowhill WI

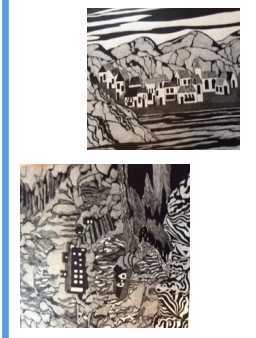


Baby clothes and Greeting cards by Aneta Godwin, Frittenden WI.





'Exploding' box cards I have been making during isolation containing a faux cupcake inside.
Elaine King
Chiddingstone WI
President

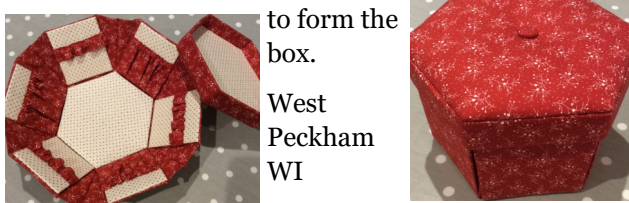
Pen and ink artwork by Judith

Quilts by Ros Bowles
Frittenden WI



Hand stitched box by Ann Payne. It is made by covering card with vilene and then your chosen fabric. The pieces are then hand stitched to form the box.




West Peckham WI



Farleigh WI

Made by Pam Ormiston. Bredhurst WI for St. Margaret's Church, Rainham. White vestment set. Design based on Psalm 150.



210 chicks for East Farleigh School for the children's Easter eggs.

GILL BROWN 01732 850571

STAND UP PADDLE BOARDING TASTER SESSION

Mote Park, Mote Avenue, Maidstone, ME15 7SU

Tuesday 6 July 11am-12noon or 1pm-2pm

Members only £12.00 per session

Stand Up Paddle Boarding, learn to paddle or develop your skills on the beautiful, scenic Mote Park Lake in Maidstone.



All instructors are fully qualified, insured and DBS checked, this sport is regulated by British Canoeing who will advise whether or not this activity will go ahead. As WI cogs move fairly slowly we do have to start thinking ahead and an outdoor activity in small groups seems to be the way forward. Traditionally the groups have been six in number, so encourage a friend to join in and lodge your interest with us.

Hopefully, by the closing date (1 June) we will know if the activity is permitted in July when it will be confirmed with you. On 31 March our contact at Mote Park said that the area was opened to the public from 29 March – so all is looking well.

Facts and information! The lake is river fed, and mainly two-three foot deep, 6 foot at its deepest. Footwear, shoes with a closed toe, old trainers are ideal, a change of clothes and a towel. There is parking on site at a cost of £2 or you can use the Willington Street Park and Ride.

Watching, on TV, the various around Britain walks and river locations paddle boarding seems to be growing in popularity, so why not join in with this activity and when you are allowed to visit further afield you will hopefully have the confidence to hire boards in other locations – or continue with other sessions at Mote Park!

STAND UP PADDLE BOARDING TASTER SESSION

MOTE PARK, MAIDSTONE, ME15 7SU

Tuesday 6 July 11-am–12noon or 1pm–2pm

Members only £12.00 per session

CONTACT NAME.....WI.....

Email Address.....phone number.....

Address.....

.....

To Apply Email to: lindagwills2@tiscali.co.uk Phone: 01474 834163

Or Post: Linda Wills, 31 Castlefields, Istead Rise, DA13 9EJ please enclosed a stamped addressed envelope.

Your WI will be invoiced on the monthly account for the number of tickets issued.

Closing date Tuesday 1 June

Kemsing Evening WI

We have not been able to meet face to face since last September when we had a lovely afternoon tea in a member's garden, but have kept in touch with newsletters and a gift for each member at Christmas and Easter. But our members are an enterprising lot, and many have taken up new hobbies, including Margaret Parker who was unable to go out and buy cards, so has taught herself Quilling from demonstrations on the internet, and here are a couple of examples of her lovely work.



We are looking forward to starting our meetings again in July with an outdoor meeting, and in our Hall with a speaker hopefully in August, restrictions permitting. We are planning a whole evening dedicated to 'What we have been up to in to in lockdown' and I'm sure we'll be surprised at what we've achieved.

Janet Eaton
President.



ISTEAD RISE WI

At the end of March, surprise Easter gift bags were distributed to the 67 members of Istead Rise WI. All were gratefully received, and it gave an ideal opportunity for a catch-up doorstep chat with everyone. Our Yarn Bombing group also delighted the whole community with their Easter post-box topper.

Anne Cudd,
President IRWI



Reading about Victoria Lochhead's work in "*Wear what you love*" WI life April 2021 led to a lightbulb moment for me which suddenly joined so many dots!

Several of our members in Lenham WI have been volunteering for years in our village charity shop raising funds for the Heart of Kent Hospice at Aylesford. It suddenly occurred to me that by doing this enjoyable and rewarding work selling pre-loved clothes, shoes and bric a brac we are also supporting WI campaigns aiming at reducing climate change and "addressing the global burden of fast fashion" as Victoria calls it. By helping to prolong the life and value of pre-owned textiles and plastic items this reduces waste and pollution and hopefully the demand for new cheaply made items which encourages modern slavery in the fashion industry.

Lenham WI is definitely "Showing the Love"!

Sue Beacher
Secretary
Lenham WI

Detling WI produced Easter Tray themed exhibits when our village announced a competition. Sheila Williams created a beautiful, colourful arrangement. Mary and Steve West and the Committee exhibited two other Trays. The event was well supported and all displays were on view in the Church. A time slot was booked to enable safe distance viewing following strict Covid regulations.

Kathy Tanton
Secretary
Detling WI



Stop Press!!

Change to Monthly Meetings:

Nashenden WI are changing their evening meeting from the 3rd Wednesday of the month to the 1st Wednesday of the month commencing July, dependent on lockdown having finished. All other details remain the same.

Ryarsh WI are changing their meeting time from 7.30pm to 10.00am commencing June. All other details remain the same.

Hadlow Highlights

Red Nose baking session

Shirley Ellis

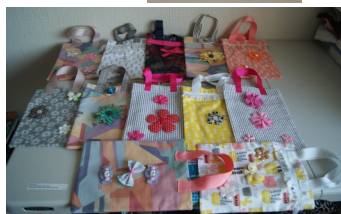
Hadlow WI



Photos of pretty handmade bags and their lovely contents the committee of Boughton Monchelsea WI made to give to the members to bring them some Easter cheer.



Anthea Springett
Secretary
Boughton Monchelsea WI



After a very interesting year, we held our first Zoom meeting in February for a social, before having a quiz in March. The committee had kept in touch with members with newsletters and just before Christmas committee members

delivered a pot of bulbs which included Iris, Scilla, Daffodils and Tulips. Then during February the committee again distributed to our members, this time a Heart sewn by one of our ladies, both have been really appreciated by our WI and for many came at a time they were struggling with the restrictions. We hope small groups will be shortly be able to meet for coffee in the local recreation ground before having an "in person" meeting later in the year.



Mrs Gillian Williamson
Secretary, Pembury Evening WI

Harvel WI Committee have been busy and not stopped our contact with all of our ladies. They have received monthly phone calls to make sure all is well with our members. Also all members have received an Easter gift of chocolate (always welcome) Easter card and some Sunflower seeds to plant and enjoy. This is Sheila one of our committee doing the rounds as are many more of the committee. We are so looking forward to seeing everyone soon but in the meantime we continue to support all our ladies and wished everyone a healthy and sunny Easter. Well done Harvel WI.



Chipstead WI holds a variety of meetings on Zoom every month, including Book Club and our Pins and Needles craft group in addition to our monthly meetings. At our February Pins and Needles, we made pretty little boxes out of strong paper (a very easy and quite addictive activity) with the aim of filling them with little Easter eggs and distributing them to all our members.

This idea grew, so that we eventually included our monthly newsletter, an Easter quiz, and 3 Springtime poems, printed on colourful paper, all wrapped together in cellophane, with coloured ribbon and a personal Easter label for each member. These were delivered to all our members, and much appreciated by all. Grateful thanks are due to Christine Smith, who wrapped the gifts so skilfully.

Incidentally, due to the wonders of Zoom, our Book club is able to welcome ex-member Pat McGregor in Australia. It's 10am for us but 9pm for her. What a lovely way to be able to catch up on news and gossip!

Best wishes,
Janet Sharp,
President, Chipstead WI



EMMIE SHIPMAN ENTRIES:

It's best to be happy as you are
And not to yearn to travel far
It's best to stay within your limits
And not to roam for any minutes
It won't be for ever that's for sure
You will find out what the world is for
It may be changed from your last visit
But you can return happily again
Your friends and family help to keep you sane

Christmas is coming—we will celebrate
Jesus was born—whatever our fate
We will count our blessing and prepare as best we can
In readiness to see our merry band
We will rejoice with a Christmas song
Knowing that it won't be long
Before we meet again with family and friends
Meanwhile good wishes and love we can send

The subtle decorations are up and cards ready
The gifts distributed, even the teddy
The turkey prepared and ready to cook
I've even chosen a really good book
To read whilst spending time on my own
I shall still open presents from under the tree
And dance and sing carols, alone. I am free
It will not be so enjoyable nor even the same
But onwards and upwards, bright spirits we'll maintain

Jackie Liffese
Iden Green & Benenden WI

What I have learnt in lockdown

The golden opportunity to re-invent myself,
Mind and body energised, bursting with good health.
Time to concentrate on me, but where oh where to
start,
What needs the most improvement, the brainbox or the
heart
Every morning half the country tuned in to Joe Wicks
I would have joined but at that time I'm eating
Weetabix.
Other online classes seemed to clash with lunch or
dinner
I'd need a lot of willpower if I want to get much
thinner.
I could put on some walking boots and have a little hike
Or conquer instability and learn to ride a bike.
Or just forget the physical and use my brain instead,
Learn to play the xylophone or bake a loaf of bread.
Perhaps a foreign language or maybe take up art,
So much that I could teach myself, I don't know where
to start.
Tomorrow's got to be the day I make that vital break
But for now I'll just keep sitting here with chocolate
and cake.
So, what have I learnt in lockdown, sadly not a lot,
Except I now appreciate the life that I have got.

Eileen Kelly
Rowhill WI



Strange Times—Lockdown Blues 2020

We first saw cruise-shop passengers suffering with a virus
Little did we know Covid would soon be amongst us

We found ourselves in lockdown and life began to change
Food shop began to empty, everything seemed strange

Suddenly we all had time, I've cleaned my kitchen twice
We found playing board games really very nice

Summer passed into Autumn, nights are drawing in
And as I look around my house still sparkles, like a new
pin

Then the country was divided, into separate tiers
That left us in a tizzy and ended up in tears

Christmas came and went, a solitary affair
Although we zoomed with family, I began to despair

Our hopes are pinned on the future
Hoping there will be some cheer
And I say to all WI members
Good luck for a Happy New Year

Christine Anderson
Bexleyheath & Crayford Waterside WI

Some Days Are Better Than Others

There once came a horrid new virus that WI meetings denied
us
We made a newsletter which made us feel better
This covid will never define us !

Now shopping has got very curious, awaiting a 'slot' makes
some furious
You order pineapple and then have to grapple
With 'substitutes totally spurious !

There comes a quick call from the dentist or rather his helpful
apprentice
There'll be no more drillin', take care of your fillin'
'Cos Denplan's gone off the 'events list' !

Cleared out every drawer & cupboard, got a home now like
old Mrs Hubbard
But the tip is now shut, so the garage is full up
And the wheelie bin's stuffed and uncovered !

The grandsons' new homework assignment, pursued on
chrome books in confinement
We meet via Zoom, Grandma's in the room
And their spelling has every refinement !

Thursday evening's reserved for the best, we clap & cheer our
NHS
All the nurses and doctors and valiant key workers
Heroes in this terrible quest !

On Tuesdays yet to come, when in St Mary's Room
We'll sing 'JERUSALEM'
Our friendship will not be denied
Our WI has always inspired !

Molly Isaacs, Sole Street WI

OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that **Gates Green WI** have to report the death of **BETTY WEST**. Betty was one of our long standing members having joined us around 1997 but over the past couple of years had not been able to attend our meetings due to her health. Betty had many friends within our WI and attended meetings, outings and joining in some of our clubs and especially enjoyed our Scrabble evenings where she made us laugh. Betty was also well known within the West Wickham area having worked in the local Toy Shop, she also ran a stall in the local Church on a regular basis and had raised over £10,000 for Cancer Research. Betty always had a smile and will be sadly missed by her friends, family and colleagues.

We regret to announce the death of **JEAN BURGESS, 93, of Chelsfield Evening WI** on 17 March 2021. Jean had a long battle with ill health and is finally at rest. She died peacefully in hospital with her family beside her. After joining the WI, Jean soon became an active member including holding the role of Secretary for more than 10 Years. After her retirement from the committee, Jean continued to enjoy our meetings and always warmly welcomed members. Jean will forever be loved by our membership and be greatly missed.

Rowhill WI is sad to announce that one of its members, **PAULINE PRALL**, passed away on 21 March. Pauline was a quiet-spoken lady and had been a longstanding member of Rowhill. She enjoyed meeting her WI friends and joined in all the activities at the monthly meetings. Pauline will be missed by all her friends and our thoughts are with her family at this time.

Harvel WI is very sad to announce the loss of one of our long standing members **ANNE JONES**. Anne was a much loved and gentle lady who always had a smile for everyone, she will be very much missed.

It is with sadness that **Longfield WI** announces that one of our long standing members **RUBY WHEAL** passed away peacefully at home. She was talented at embroidery and painting. She will be greatly missed by all members. Our condolences to Ruby's family.

CONGRATULATIONS

All the members of **Bearsted Green WI** wish to send congratulations and very best wishes to **JILL and JEFF WINN** on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary June 12 2021



Barming WI regret to announce that **SHEILA MALHOUSE** has sadly passed away. Sheila will be missed by all her friends and our thoughts are with her family at this time.

In March, it was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of our dear President **SYLVIA TONGE**. Sylvia joined **Aperfield WI** in 2009. She was wonderful in so many ways, keen to join in anything and everything happening in WI. Sylvia was a skilled Crafts woman and produced the most beautiful work, including a cushion made from a very old White Work tablecloth. This was exhibited at a federation Craft Day. She was also an excellent cook. Sylvia was one of life's can do people, and in 2018 became our President. She was very popular with our members, full of ideas. Sadly, in December, because of ill health she had to step away from WI. Sylvia will be greatly missed by us all and will be remembered with much affection. Our sincere condolences to her family.



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ARTICLES—YOUR EVENT

Articles, your events, congratulations and obituaries. If possible email direct to westkentnews@wkwfi.org.uk

If not, please post to our Ethel Hunt Address, see top of page two.

Please no more than 150 words and two photographs. Congratulations and obituaries, no more than 40 words. Items will be included as space allows.