



WEST KENT WI NEWS

July 2022

Art & Craft Annual Days Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 September

Janie Ramsay: The Jewels of the Duchess of Windsor



Alison Le Fevre (Alf) is The Soldersmith
a Kent based jewellery designer and maker.



Wendy Dolan: Layer, Paint and Stitch - My
World of Stitched Textiles

See page 7 for details

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Hello everyone!

In the new recruitment flyer for the WI is this statement-

Our members include women of all ages, and we are first and foremost a place of friendship.

Having just returned from the Annual Meeting in Liverpool, I feel there was never a truer statement! We met women from all over the country all with a smile and a "what WI are you from?" question. The WI was the common thread that ran through us all and created this wonderful extended family.

My proudest moment was definitely the overwhelming support from conference for the resolution about Women and Girls with ASD & ADHD Under-identified, Under-diagnosed, Misdiagnosed, Under-Supported. Alison Long, who proposed the resolution is a member of Honor Oak WI (in West Kent Federation). Alison and her seconder Rebecca Chauhan spoke with a passion and the experts, both for and against, gave us all food for thought. There were many insightful questions asked by the members on the floor. The resolution was carried by a 96% vote. It was lovely to see so many members congratulating Alison and Rebecca, many with their own personal stories. We now wait for the campaign booklet so we can play our own part in raising this issue both locally and on a national level.

There is a wonderful phrase 'every day is a school day', and I'm a great believer that you never stop learning, be it a new skill or an interesting fact! Our Federation Days give you that opportunity with activities such as paddle-boarding, water-colour painting, hearing from expert speakers on a variety of topics, singing, fun orienteering photo trails and learning about Green issues, to name just a few! If there is something that you think would interest fellow members do let us know. We are always open to new ideas!

Have a lovely July everyone and enjoy reading your West Kent News!

Take care,

Amanda Breach

Treasurer's Corner



ACWW is changing the name of their fundraising funds. From the end of June there will no longer be Pennies for Friendship, or the WE Fund. The new fund is called Women in Action. All monies held by West Kent Federation at the start of June from donations were sent to ACWW under their respective funds. All new donations will be sent for their new fund, "Rural Women in Action".

It is not too late to book your place on the Treasurer training day on 20 July, as this date has the most spaces. Just email me if your preferred date is the 18 July and I will try to fit you in. Thank you to the ladies who have asked for certain topics to be covered.

We have now renewed our insurance policy and this year again, West Kent Federation will be subsidising the amount paid for WI cover. WIs will be charged a portion of the premium on their quarterly invoice.

Public and Product liability: This provides cover up to £5,000,000. As well as public liability cover provided by this policy your meeting hall should have its own and depending on the circumstances it might be their policy that would come into play for any accident occurring on their premises, providing all health and safety advice has been followed. Theft of member's personal items at a meeting is a 'grey area' and would depend on the insurance held by the hall. Meetings taking place outside and away from the hall are covered. The insurance covers outings so long as it is within the geographical limits of the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Your WI is covered for any claims arising as a result of homemade goods and goods provided or sold at your meetings and other events you may run in the future. Please be aware that this only applies if the sale of such goods is completely under the control of the WI and your WI retains 100% of the profits. If a member is selling produce independently of the WI and then donating a percentage of their sales to you then they should check with their existing home and contents insurance provider to ensure they are suitably covered. If you need a copy of the public liability certificate please contact the office who can email or post a copy to you.

For help in running your WI accounts, please contact me directly at treasurer@wkfwi.org.uk. If you have queries regarding the invoices/statements received from West Kent Federation, then please contact Alan Whiteley at accounts@wkfwi.org.uk.

Thank you to all the WIs who have submitted their subscription fees to us. If you still have subscriptions to send we would really appreciate your attention.

Thank you.

Rita King

MEET YOUR TRUSTEE, VICE CHAIR AND PALS CHAIR

60 SECONDS WITH:-

Name: Gill Brown



WI and WI Credentials : I never imagined myself as a WI member but when I moved to Hadlow in 2010 the WI there was just reforming and I saw joining as a way of making friends in my new home. I went straight onto the committee and I have been on it doing different jobs ever since, President, Treasurer, Events Co-ordinator and whatever else needs doing. I joined the Trustees about 6 years ago (kidnapped by Annette Smith) and am now a Vice Chair and Chair of the PALS committee.

Hobbies/ Interests: I read a great deal, usually novels, belonging to a book club. I love to cook and entertain friends. I am a volunteer at Knole House as a room guide which has fulfilled a long term ambition of mine and it is great fun talking to all the different people that wander through the House.

Last Book Read: The Island of Missing Trees by Elif Shafak.

Favourite film: Any Jimmy Stewart film, when feeling miserable I would choose to watch Harvey. Another favourite is "Some Like It Hot"

Music choices: Songs from the 60's and early 70's especially Nina Simone and lots of classical as well.

Most memorable holiday: There are so many but an American trip where we started in Florida and worked our way North to Boston seeing friends and family travelling by car and train.

What do you love about the WI?: Friendship and that sense of belonging.

Marmite? Horrible especially the smell

REMINDER—EMMIE SHIPMAN AWARD 2022

*Music will be my first love, and it will be my last
Music of the future, and music of the past*

In five hundred words how do these words relate to you? Full information March WKN

Closing date Friday 29 July.

JULY 2022 FEDERATION NOTICEBOARD

The Federation is pleased to announce that our next Annual General Meeting will be held on **Monday 27 March 2023** at the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

Yearbook: Page 24: **Sennocke WI** have a change of venue to Riverhead Parish Hall, Amherst Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 2EL. All other details remain the same.

List of Speakers 2022

Pages 9 and 29: Please note that Ms Jane Cullen has now retired and no longer wishes to be included as a Speaker

Art & Craft Competition

Design a Christmas Card for the Federation 2022

Following the success of the 2021 West Kent Federation Christmas Card Competition, we would like you to design another one for us to use in 2022. The winning designs will be chosen by the Trustees and will be professionally printed.



Your artwork can be in any media, painted, drawn, stitched, etc but must be original, entirely handmade, and suitable for reproduction, no computer art will be considered. The size of the card must be 5" x 7" or 12.5 cm by 17.5 cm in portrait or landscape format. To enter in the first place, please send a jpeg photograph of your card design in medium resolution to the Art & Craft Committee at: ArtCraft@wkfwi.org.uk, giving the details of how the work was made along with your name and the name of your WI by the closing date. We will ask you to send us the original work, of those short listed, for further consideration.

The designs this year do not need to be on a WI theme as we would like to make them available to purchase by all our members as well as being used by the Trustees. The winning designs will each receive a free pack of printed cards.

Original artwork can be returned to you, but copyright in the winning designs will remain with the Federation. The closing date for card entries is 26 August 2022.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JULY

Fri	15	Women in Politics	Ryarsh
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AUGUST

Sat	6	Town Trail	Rochester
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SEPTEMBER

Weds	7	Watercolour workshops	Frittenden
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Thurs	8	Watercolour workshops	Ethel Hunt Lodge
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Fri	9	Watercolour workshops	Hextable
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Sat	17	Speakers Auditions	Orpington
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Weds	28	Art & Craft Annual Days	Ditton
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Thurs	29	Art & Craft Annual Days	Ditton
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OCTOBER

Thurs	27	Whist Day	Sutton Valence
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NOVEMBER

8-12	Christmas Flowers Workshops
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DECEMBER

Weds	7	All Saints Church	Maidstone
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STOP PRESS!!

Amanda Breach was proud to present the Federation Darts winning medals to the **Spitfires** Darts Team from **Petts Wood WI**.

A full write up and photos will be in the August West Kent News.





Platinum Jubilee Celebration Tea

Wednesday 15 June – Hildenborough Village Hall



On a lovely warm, sunny afternoon, we gathered in the Village Hall where beautiful flags and handmade bunting of recycled leaves, from West Kent WIs, adorned the hall. It looked very festive. Ladies were asked to dress to impress or come dressed from their favourite decade. Outfits, from the 1940's to the 80s, were represented and there were also lots of beautiful outfits and hats.



We were served delicious sandwiches and, of the cakes, the winner for me were the scones. Vintage china with delicate cups, plates and decorated cake stands adorned the tables with beautiful flower arrangements, courtesy of Annette Smith and Union flags. We drank copious amounts of tea whilst listening to Lyrae performing songs from around the British Isles with a variety of classics, including Elgar, and folk songs.

The raffle was drawn and the best dressed were given prizes, the winner having made her own dress which stood out with a jubilee theme. After which everyone made their way home feeling very full of tea and cakes and having had a very enjoyable afternoon.

Nicola Melia, Nevill WI

Jubilee Congratulations card sent to Her Majesty The Queen:

The Trustee's would like to thanks all the entrants for their wonderful efforts. Choosing the winner was an unenviable task.

From **Elaine King**, President, **Chiddingstone WI**:

"The card is representative of the Queens favourite colour, purple and represents 4 elements pertinent to the WI. The cake is for cake making, the jam for jam making, the butterfly represents the environment and the flower is for flower arranging. All of this is backed with platinum coloured cardstock and embossed lettering."



Runner Up from Bredhurst WI. The tune of Jerusalem with an apply named rose "Rosa Queen Elizabeth II"



Green Team

greenteam@wkwfi.org.uk



Packaging, particularly the type that is not easy to recycle, is now in the ground, in our rivers, our oceans, and even the soil in our gardens. So what can we do about it? Here's some solutions you can try but you may have others locally so let your WI members know about anything you have found.

Firstly **REDUCE**. Try not to buy things that are over-packaged. Go to a greengrocer or pick loose veg in the supermarkets. Some butchers and fishmongers will also allow you to bring your own container.

There are quite a few shops now where you can take your own containers and fill up various things. These can be a little on the pricey side so pick and choose what works for you.

REUSE Save small bags and take them with you to put items into if they need weighing. Sainsbury sell small string bags for veg you can use time and again.

The frozen pea packs and similar items with plastic zips can be re-used for freezing small amounts of other foods as can ice cream cartons and butter-spread cartons for smaller amounts.

RECYCLE: Read the labels on the back of items before you buy as to whether you can recycle the packaging but beware of the labelling

But this symbol does NOT mean it can go into your recycling.

A number of the larger supermarkets now have schemes for recycling some of their packaging so have a look around and again, check the label on what you are buying.

Check the internet for special schemes near you particularly for crisp packets, blister packets for pills and so on. Many charities are collecting these.

Finally look up <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB> who have various recycling drop off point for items that your local council may not take. It's free and their website tells you what they can recycle near you.



There are over 220,000 WI members and if we all did just a couple of extra things to either **Reduce, Reuse or Recycle**, we really can make a difference.



Ladies from the Gates Green WI Craft group, Yvonne Jones, Carole Smith and Christine Burch, proudly displaying their Platinum Jubilee Banner.



Look who we found in Crockenhill WI
Please meet our very own Crockenhill WI Queen ~ Who would have thought it? Right in our midst while masquerading as Shirley Abbot, was all along which is the real Queen?

Will the real Queen Elizabeth step forward please?
Sylvia Halls
President on the right with the her Majesty.



A very talented and dedicated team of WI members created some of the most spectacular flower arrangements as part of the Jubilee Flower Festival at All Souls Church in Crockenhill.



CROCKENHILL WI JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2022

Our Jubilee party was held at our monthly meeting. We were requested to wear a crown if possible and to wear red, white, and blue outfits. The evening provided games, quizzes sandwiches, cakes, tea and of course the toast to her Majesty the Queen. Cheers!



Back by Popular Demand! SPEAKER AUDITIONS

Help Select our Speakers/

St Nicholas Church Hall
14 Leamington Avenue, Orpington BR6 9QB

Saturday 17 September

Doors open at 9.30am with the first speaker at 10am
and the day will finish at 3pm.

Tickets are £5 and includes tea or coffee on arrival
and during the lunch break (bring your own cup if you wish)

Please bring a packed lunch.

Limited parking is available next to the hall.
Please check the church website for directions and buses.

If you would like to come along, please either complete the
ticket application or email tickets@wkwfi.org.uk with your WI,
Contact Name and number of tickets required.

**PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A MAXIMUM OF
TWO TICKET APPLICATIONS PER WI**

Please **DO NOT** enclose a stamped addressed envelope.
Your WI will be invoiced on the monthly account for the
number of tickets issued and billed £1 for postage.

The closing date for ticket applications is Friday 26 August

PA&I SUB-COMMITTEE

SPEAKER AUDITIONS

St Nicholas Church Hall,
14 Leamington Avenue, Orpington BR6 9QB

Saturday 17 September

10.00am – 3.00pm (doors open at 9.30am)

Tickets £5 | Members only

Includes tea and coffee (bring your own cup if you wish)

Please bring a packed lunch

WI:

Contact Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Tel No: No of tickets required:

Apply to:

Mrs Di Daniels, 39 Holtys Crescent, Maidstone ME15 7DB
Tel: 01622 674494 or email: tickets@wkwfi.org.uk
with your WI, Contact Name and number of tickets required

Please **DO NOT** enclose a stamped addressed envelope
Your WI will be invoiced on the monthly account for the
number of tickets issued and billed £1 for postage

Closing Date: Friday 26 August

Recycling items to raise funds for ACWW. Record amount received!

I've just received a cheque from Recycling for Good Causes made out to ACWW for £381. This is for the items given to me at the Federation Annual General Meeting in Tunbridge Wells, and the highest amount of money I have received in one cheque. Many thanks to all those who donated unwanted items to raise money for ACWW.

Earlier in the year I received another cheque for £192.40 for the items donated at the Afternoon Tea event attended by the World President, Magdie de Kock.

So keep saving up your unwanted items as this is an excellent way of supporting ACWW. Recycling for Good Causes collects the following:

Jewellery – can be broken
Stamps
Electronic gaming devices
Sat Navs

Watches
First Day Covers
Cameras
Tablet Computers

Foreign Banknotes and coins – and old British coins
Mobile Phones
Video cameras
Ipdos/MP3 players



Tricia Ashdown

ACWW Rep triciaashdown@yahoo.co.uk



Tricia Ashdown has served as the ACWW Rep for many years and we are actively looking for a replacement (or 2 people to share the position). The ACWW have introduced a new role for a Rep and a Coordinator. Please find below some of the key requirements of the role:

Coordinator Responsibilities

Distribute ACWW information to her society
Attend monthly Coordinator meetings with her Area President and Central Office. (This could be via zoom or a mixture of zoom/in person)
Organise an event for Women Walk the World
Coordinate responses from her society to ACWW surveys and requests for information
Encourage fundraising and donations
Encourage individual membership
Facilitate participation in ACWW events
Attend training and information sessions. (This could be via zoom or a mixture of zoom/in person)

ART AND CRAFT

Paula Bates 01892 327863

artcraft@wkfwi.org.uk

Art & Craft Annual Days

Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 September

DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, KILN BARN ROAD, AYLESFORD ME20 6AH

Start 10:30am—3:30pm / Doors open 9:30 am

Tickets £10 to include tea/coffee. Please bring your own cup.

Non-members are welcome but priority will be given to members.

The following will be speakers at our Annual Art and Craft Days:

Janie Ramsay: The Jewels of the Duchess of Windsor

Her magnificent jewellery, designed by the 20th century's most iconic jewellers and sold for record prices, still fascinates today. The list of who bought some of the pieces, and what they had to pay, is equally fascinating.



Alison Le Fevre (Alf) is The Soldersmith - a Kent-based jewellery designer and maker. Her work is an eclectic mix of statement sterling silver pieces that are raw, organic, unconventional and bold. Alison will explain and demonstrate how to make a stunning leaf pendant. Made entirely from a single sheet of sterling silver, the full process involves heat, acid solution as well as simple hammering and metal manipulation techniques.

Wendy Dolan, Textile Artist: Layer, Paint and Stitch - My World of Stitched Textiles

Wendy will share with us her exciting world of stitched textiles, combining fabric, paint and stitch. Inspiration for her design work comes from the world around us, landscapes, natural forms and architecture. She will discuss how she develops ideas, translating them into stitched artworks combining a variety of techniques, illustrated with examples, including pictures, wedding garments and large commissions.

Some items by Wendy and Alison will be for sale, as will our usual interesting retail stalls including Rainham Sewing, Search Press, Ceramics, Wood Turning, Sue Roberts flowers and the fabulous Bring & Buy. Do bring your chequebook or cash as not all stalls can take cards. We would like to invite you to take a voluntary Lateral Flow Test before the event and we, the Art & Craft Team, will also take a test.



Art & Craft Annual Days

Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 September 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. Doors open 9:30 am

Tickets £10 to include tea/coffee on arrival and at lunchtime. Please bring a packed lunch and your own cup. Non-members are welcome but priority will be given to members.

WI:.....Contact Name:.....

Address:

Tel No:..... Email.....

No. of tickets: **28 Sept** MembersNon-Members..... **29 Sept** MembersNon-Members..

Apply to: Jenny Way, 27, Veles Road, Snodland ME6 5RB. Telephone 01634 241791

Closing date: **Friday 17 August**. PLEASE ENCLOSE A SUITABLY SIZED STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

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

Back by popular demand.

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING WORKSHOPS

TUTOR MATTHEW PALMER returns, priority for those who missed out due to workshops being over subscribed. Members who attended the previous workshops are welcome to apply for a second opportunity to paint with Matthew. Suitable for beginners and improvers



10am to 3:30 pm, Doors open at 9:30am Cost of ticket £29 to include tea/coffee.

Kit charge £4 cash on the day for the drawing supplied on watercolour paper, all paint needed and the loan of boards, palettes, brushes, etc. Please bring your packed lunch and mug.

Further to Art & Craft Annual Days, our speaker and No.1 selling author, art TV host and professional artist Matthew Palmer will be teaching watercolour workshops suitable for beginners to the more experienced improver.

No need to buy any supplies in advance, Matthew will supply a sketch to work on and paints, as well as lend boards, palettes and brushes. Please bring a pencil, eraser, water container and kitchen roll. If you have your own painting kit please feel free to bring it. We will need 3 round brushes, a large, a medium, a small, and a rigger brush might also be useful. Primary colours will be used: red, yellow and blue and all other colours can be mixed from those, possibly an opaque white, but bring other colours if you have them.

Matthew will bring his art shop with his range of artists quality paint, brushes and paper as well as other art supplies, books and DVD's if anyone wishes to purchase them. The member who won the painting from the previous watercolour days came from Frittenden.



Wednesday 7 September
Cottage in the snow



Thursday 8 September
Christmas doorway



Friday 9 September
Autumn Woodland with stream



WORKSHOPS WITH TUTOR MATTHEW PALMER 10am to 3:30 pm,

Doors open at 9:30am Cost of ticket £29 to include tea/coffee. Kit—on the day £4 cash.
Please bring your packed lunch and a mug. Priority given to members.

Please tick here if you did not get a ticket to previous workshops.....

Wednesday 7 September at Frittenden Memorial Hall TN17 2DD

Thursday 8th September at Ethel Hunt Lodge, Pembury, TN2 4AG

Friday 9 September at St Peter's Church Hextable, BR8 7RH

Note: There could be stairs at Hextable depending on which room we are given. If this would be an issue for you please contact us.

WI.....Name:

Address and Post code:.....

Phone No:.....Email:.....

No. of tickets..... Date.....venue.....

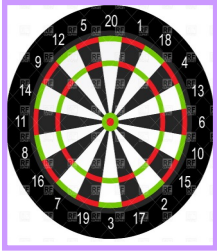
2nd choice date and venue

Please Apply to: Mrs. Paula Bates, 13 Copperfields, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5HZ Tel: 01892 327863

Closing Date for Tickets Friday 22 July.

Please enclose an appropriate size SAE for your tickets.

YOUR WI WILL BE INVOICED ON THE MONTHLY ACCOUNT FOR THE NUMBER OF TICKETS SOLD.



WEST KENT FEDERATION DARTS TOURNAMENT 2022-2023

Reminder to enter your teams : please refer to the June West Kent News for details.

Whist training was held at Ethel Hunt Lodge on 22 June. Sixteen ladies are now ready and prepared to join the Whist Day on 27 October at Sutton Valence. Look out for the entry forms in next month's West Kent News.



We decided to combine our AGM with Jubilee celebrations, by serving our members with coronation chicken rolls, Victoria sponges, berry patriot cakes. Everyone enjoyed decorating the hall and we had a Royal Quiz at the end of the AGM. It was a most enjoyable afternoon.



Pat Ladbrook
President
Bexley Village WI



The EPWI Jubilee Crowns went up in the centre of the village! Picture showing committee looking smug (and so they should!!)

Connie Newman
East Peckham WI



'The Gillingham WI group were given permission from their local council to decorate a tree in one of their fabulous parks for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration. They

voted to knit chain links in the colours of the Union Jack and join them together, which formed quite a long chain, to wrap around a tree that is viewed by many families and dog walkers on the main footpath in the park. A few of the ladies made pompoms in the same colours, which were used to decorate another tree close by. We had much fun decorating the trees, as you can see in the photo.'

Julie Diamond
WI Member



'Toppers' for four of our local post boxes. All four post boxes were decorated last evening in the rain,



President. St. Michaels WI

St. Michaels WI have been knitting and crocheting. With help making the pompoms from Tenterden Glebe, our members had spent many weeks creating

with the yarn bombing projects. We are so delighted with the results.

Bridgitte Watkins





Tuesday 3 May – Art Session with Mathew Palmer

It was lovely to be attending the course at Ethel Hunt Lodge – our West Kent WI

Headquarters on Tuesday 3 May. We were there for a 10.00am start armed with, as

instructed, a pencil, and rubber. Everything else was included in the price. I think I counted 20 of us – all from different parts of West Kent.

Mathew took us through stages of watercolour painting using his paint which he was promoting with his own brand. He brought a range of art equipment for us to try, such as brushes and a good quality paper. He also had a mini-shop which meant we could purchase many items on the day.

Mathew used a projector and big screen so that we could copy each stage. There were several subjects available depending on what day you chose to attend. The day I chose, Mathew was painting a butterfly.

The butterfly was pre-drawn and I would have preferred it if he had shown us how to draw the insect but time was limited.

Starting with the background we used three basic prime colours, red, blue and yellow. The yellow was applied lightly explaining how to apply it on the brush with plenty of water – that was the first wash. As each wash was applied the picture built-up. Mathew also used white paint which I have always been taught not to use, however I broke the rules for the butterfly's wings. The blue was a very vivid and penetrating colour which certainly stood out.

We stopped for coffee break and had a chat with other members. We stopped again at lunch time which gave our work a chance to dry before applying the last wash.

Think we finished about 3.00pm and I think most of us felt mentally exhausted. It takes a lot of concentration. We all went away feeling pleased with our achievements. I went straight to Hobbeycraft to buy a frame and by the evening it was hanging pride of place in our living room. Can't wait for the next one!

Lynda Emberson

Nevill WI



I spent a memorable day at the Arboretum in Staffordshire. It is a must for all to visit. Well done the NFWI for their contribution to where families, friends and comrades celebrate lives lived and remember lives lost.

Angela Sutherland

Pratts Bottom WI



On the 25 May, 10 of South Park Craft Ladies got together to create these stunning Jubilee wreaths for our door or windows for the weekend.



Amanda Bird



Badgers Mount WI ladies celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with an afternoon tea and a royal quiz. Members from Halstead and Pratts Bottom WIs also attended.

Karen Lagarde, President



Members of Ightham WI dressed as Jesters to lead the procession at the Coxcombe Fair on 4 June. Mary Allwood .



Members of Hadlow WI all worked together to make, bake and decorate 372 cupcakes which were then sold at 'The Big Jubilee Community Picnic' in Hadlow on Sunday June 5. An amazing £156.70 was raised, all monies collected went to Hospice in the Weald. Not only did our ladies make cakes for the picnic, join in the Carnival Procession, our Walking Netball group held an hour of fun and games on the community ballcourt during the afternoon. The lines in red, white and blue had been newly painted on for 5 a-side football, basketball and netball funded by 'Involve Kent'. The ballcourt had to be renamed 'Jubilee Ballcourt' in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee! Shirley Ellis. Committee member.



At Hawkhurst village fete on Saturday 4 June. Selling homemade crafts and Jubilee fudge - 'Susan' the corgi was not for sale, though could have been several times over!



On Wednesday 25 May Kings Hill WI celebrated their 20th Anniversary.

The hall was decorated with bunting and balloons.

After the usual business there was a round up of the past year's events and news. The new

committee were voted in and the current President Jan Denton was re elected.

A beautiful, and very tasty celebration cake was made by member Dorothy Wilby. To get the tables talking a body parts quiz was handed out to the members to discuss over coffee and cake.



Member Liz Farndon brought along her guide dog puppy - Vinny and gave a short presentation to the guests and members.

Visitors from Halling WI and West Peckham WI came along and the West Peckham ladies were the tellers.

An enjoyable evening was had by all.



Sole Street WI members worked hard for many weeks before the Platinum Jubilee creating an image of the Queen's head mainly from buttons, which we displayed outside our meeting hall. Like many

others we also knitted figures to top our village letter box, and staged a pop-up museum in the village hall with exhibits showing how life had changed during the 70 years of Her Majesty's reign."

Pam Hodge, Secretary, Sole Street WI.



Members of the Knit and Natter group at Burham and Wouldham WI had fun knitting Winnie. One has flown to Scotland; one was a birthday gift to a member in Wouldham and the last little Winnie is still looking for a home.



Halstead WI members were busy preparing scones and muffins as well as helping to serve 100 Cream Teas on Saturday 4 June in the grounds of Adrian and Annie Stevens Village House. There were also around 20 Classic Vintage Cars to view, the weather was kind and the villagers had an enjoyable afternoon. Halstead WI also entered the scarecrow completion, and made a scarecrow of "The Duke of Edinburgh playing Polo". Val Dennett was on hand when "Lightning", the Dukes polo mare, made it clear that she was peckish, so hay was provided.

Carole Sales

On behalf on Halstead WI



Istead Rise Yarn Bombers were part of a Meridian TV programme on Post Box toppers and were also interviewed by Radio Kent.



OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that **Rainham Evening WI** announce the passing of **DOROTHY ANN SMITH (DOT)**. She had been a valued member for thirteen years and enjoyed baking

and crafting, helping towards our fundraising events and always had a smile for everyone. She will be sadly missed.

The members of **Boughton Monchelsea WI** were saddened to hear of the death of their dear friend **JEAN BENTLEY** shortly before her 93rd birthday. A member since 1958 when she joined Yalding WI with her mother. Jean was soon on the committee and also became Chairman of Home & International Affairs. Jean moved to Otham WI in 1971 where she took on many roles until the WI was suspended in 2002 when Jean was President.

Jean became a member of Boughton Monchelsea WI and soon became Secretary and then joint President with Daphne Knight. Jean was a member of our Drama group and loved to take part in the Art and Craft activities. As her mobility became an issue for her Jean was happy to sit at the door, take the Register for us and welcome everyone to the meetings. Jean will be remembered with great affection by our members and will be sorely missed.

Members of **Wilmington WI** are sad to announce the death of our longest standing member,

MRS JOY PERRY. Joy was a lovely lady, WI through and through. She will be sadly missed by us all. Our thoughts and sympathies are with Joy's family at this sad time.

Rowhill WI is sad to announce that one of its former members, **JACKIE WATERLAND**, passed away in June. Jackie had previously been an active committee member and was Treasurer for several years. Jackie was also Rowhill's MCS rep for a short time. She was a happy and friendly lady and will be missed by all her friends at Rowhill.

interrupted. There is something tangible, something to re read as often as you want. Getting the word out was difficult as she wanted to keep it as a free service, so went to social media and the UWI FB group (often referred to as 'The Daisies') for help and a sub group 'The pen pal exchange' was set up. It now has over 1,000 members.

Once successful, National federation promoted it too, it is mentioned on myWI and WI Life has written about it several times.

Although Valerie is aware that potentially the loneliest people are not on line, this is the only way she can accept applications as she is not able to advertise her postal address for GDPR reasons. She hopes that those who do have internet access will apply for those who don't.

How to apply, she asks the following questions and for the answers to be emailed to her. She only shares the applicants addresses with the pen pal she matches them to: Name, age, marital status, present or former employment, interests and hobbies, a bit about your family, full postal address.

She aims to link members at the end of every month, near members live to each other as if too close they may alrehoping that their interests and backgrounds will be a common thread. This is not always easy, she is also mindful of how ady know each other. The hope is that 'just' being in the WI and liking letter writing would be enough of a link.

Her email address is valerie.hughes08@gmail.com. Please mark the email **WI Pen pal**.



Members of Wilmington WI send their warmest congratulations to

JOY AND BOB LINGHAM who will be celebrating their Platinum Wedding Anniversary on the 2 August.

High Halstow WI send congratulations to **MARGARET AND ROGER WHITEBREAD** on their Golden Wedding anniversary

High Halstow WI also send congratulations to **ALISON AND MICHAEL BUCKNELL** on their Diamond Wedding anniversary.

Iden Green & Benenden WI
Celebrating 100 Years.



WI Pen Pals

About 4 years ago, when the WI resolutions of mental health matters and alleviating loneliness had been voted on, Valerie Hughes, from Sutton WI, Norfolk federation, decided that a good way of helping was to set up a WI pen pal group.

It is very therapeutic writing letters, often you may do more or look at things in a different way so that you have plenty to write about. It is also really nice to get a hand written letter as opposed to a bill or circular. Pen pals can be supportive, encouraging, an inspiration, a person to share highs and lows without being

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