



theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

# WEST KENT WI NEWS

August 2023

## ACWW Fund Raising Afternoon Tea

Sutton Valence Village Hall  
Friday 29 September at 2:00pm  
(doors open 1:30pm)  
Tickets £12.50

Hear about the

ACWW Triennial World  
Conference 2023  
Kuala Lumpur Malaysia



Enjoy a social afternoon  
tea with fellow WI  
members

To apply please see page five

## WHIST DAY £13.50

Thursday 26 October

Ryarsh Village Hall, Birling Road,  
Ryarsh, ME19 5LS

10.30 am—3.30pm (Doors open at 10.00am  
for registration and tea/coffee)

Ticket price includes lunch —members only.

*Looking forward to seeing  
you all again this year.*

*Full information on page seven*



Christmas Decorations Workshops In  
English Paper Piecing Patchwork  
Between 15—25 November  
Full information page eight



## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Well, August is here at last and as I'm writing this in early July, I hope the sun is shining! Of course, August also means that the roads are quieter, the shops a bit busier and many of you, with Grandchildren, will be pressed into service to hold the fort looking after them while the schools are off! We will be in Norfolk on our family holiday which, this year, includes a seven-month-old baby and a dog in addition to the three grandsons (three, five, and eight) and their parents! Hopefully everyone will remain calm, and we won't have a repeat of last year when we had been in the holiday house for 30 minutes when Felix (then four) slipped and had a nasty cut on his forehead! Quick dash to A&E at Kings Lynn and four hours later we started our holiday again!! Needless to say, the rest of the family had gone out for a meal and had a great time. On the way back, of course Felix was bouncing around and hungry so we drove to a drive thru MacDonaldis and he was shocked that Grandma had never been to a drive thru before!! So I can now tick that one of my bucket list !!

Now, if you want to try something new (see how I seamlessly did this!) we have some great things coming up in September for you! You might even say its action packed with all our wonderful sub-committees working hard to bring you fantastic events.

So, have a great August everyone and I hope to see you at the various Annual Days!

Take care,

**Amanda**

## Treasurer's Corner



Recently I attended a Zoom meeting with fellow Federation Treasurers that was organised by the National Federation. It was an informal meeting, but it did highlight the problems, trials and tribulations we share. We discussed solutions and swapped ideas. A representative from National was also in the meeting so they were also made aware of the problems we face as well as what worked well.

This made me think that it would be a good idea if West Kent Federation did the same and have the occasional Zoom meeting for our WI Treasurers. The sessions would be informal, and we will be able to discuss the problems that Treasurers face and if the Federation can help in any way.

To include Treasurers that work during the day or parents and grandparents on school duty it will be an evening or weekend Zoom meeting.

Please let me have your thoughts on whether you would welcome this. When would be the most convenient time? You can also submit ideas of topics you would like discussed.

I look forward to hearing from you. E-mail [treasurer@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@wkwfi.org.uk)

A small number of WIs have still to return their subscriptions that were due by the end of May. Your immediate attention would be appreciated.

Thank you.

**Rita**

## West Kent Choir "Unites"

Our West Kent choir had the opportunity to round off their first year singing together in a concert at Walthamstow Hall School in Sevenoaks on 9 July before the summer break.

An annual event organised by our choir leader Michael Grant and his colleague Donna, this was a chance for us to make our third public appearance since forming last year.

We joined forces in the finale with Wealden Vocals, Soul Train and an NHS choir which Michael formed during lockdown.

What a joy to sing with a live band and other singers!

With our last number "This Is Me" from The Greatest Showman ringing in our ears, we left full of enthusiasm for the new term which starts in Orpington in September. Come join us.

Proceeds from the concert were in aid of Tomorrows Warriors.

Anne Willatt, Neville WI

Picture page 11

## MEET YOUR WI ADVISER

### 60 SECONDS WITH:-

**Name:** Rosemary Tidby



**WI and WI Credentials:** I joined WI when I was 47 and soon took on the role of Performing Arts Rep and also represented that WI in helping to co-ordinate District (Group) Events. I served four years as President, before moving to Bredhurst WI. During Lockdown I completed the WI Adviser Training and qualified in 2022. I especially enjoy going to all my WIs, interacting with the members and try to support them in whichever way I can.

**Hobbies / Interests:** I enjoy all kinds of reading, through different genres, fiction and autobiographical. I make simple cards, enjoy cookery, socialising with friends and family. I take part in Walking Netball, swimming, Pilates and Yoga and recently joined the Federation Choir.

**Last book read:** Educated by Tara Westover, currently reading Operation Mincemeat by Ben Macyn tyre. Our WI reading Group also offers a wide variety of books for us to read and discuss.

**Favourite film:** Difficult to decide as there are many good ones. Star Wars, especially the first three, Lord of the Rings, "The Hobbit" and Avatar, but also Rom Coms such as Pretty Woman and Sleepless in Seattle and most films with Harrison Ford in them

**Music choices:** The Osmonds and the Jackson 5 were my earliest pop favourites. Also still enjoy Stylistics, Earth, Wind & Fire, the Commodores, Diana Ross, Whitney Houston, Status Quo, Fleetwood Mac, Elton John and Motown Music. However, I do like more recent artists such as Pink, James Blunt, also English folk music such as Steeleye Span and The Fisherman's Friends, songs from musicals and some classical music.

**Most memorable holiday:** Most fun was Florida; scuba diving in Malta was amazing and seeing the sights in Egypt and the camel ride experience and pony trek across a piece of desert was also incredible. I also love going to Greece.

**What do you love about the WI:** the ethos of the WI, how it offers education and skills its development opportunities, friendship and support for women.

**Marmite:** Not a fan but okay with cheese on toast.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2023

### SEPTEMBER

Tues 12	Watercolour Painting	Frittenden
Wed 13	Watercolour Painting	EHL
Thur 14	Watercolour Painting	Snodland
Fri 15	Watercolour Painting	Hextable
Sat 16	Watercolour Painting	Orpington
Wed 20	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton
Thur 21	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton
Thur 28	Hand bells Workshop	Hope Hill
Fri 29	ACWW fund raising afternoon	Sutton Valence

### OCTOBER

Tues 17	Lifestyle Annual Day	Ditton
Thur 26	Whist Day	Ryarsh

### NOVEMBER

Wed 15	English Paper Piecing	EHL
Thur 16	English Paper Piecing	Frittenden
Fri 17	Science Day	Ryarsh
Fri 24	English Paper Piecing	Snodland
Sat 25	English Paper Piecing	Orpington
Sat 25	Entertainment Day	St. Mary Platt

## Federation Notice Board

### List of Speakers 2023

Please note under Section 12 Music, Dance and Entertainment, the contact for **East Kent Chorus** is now:-

John Jordan, Chairman, Old Thatch, 21 Swan Street Wittersham, Tenterden Kent, TN30 7PH  
Tel No: 01797 270897  
Email: [Usdownsouth@gmail.com](mailto:Usdownsouth@gmail.com)

### WEST KENT CHOIR UNITED

Our West Kent Choir will now be united and meet at Orpington for 6 sessions up to December 2023. We will benefit from all the physical, mental and social aspects of singing together  
So we will now be able to meet as one choir at Orpington Village Hall on a Wednesday from 1.15 till 2.45pm.  
20 September    4 October    18 October  
8 November    22 November    6 December  
Please come and join us, contact Gill Brown through the office email for further details

**DOGS TRUST FREEDOM PROJECT** is a dog fostering service for people fleeing domestic abuse, we are in urgent need of new foster carers who are able to open their heart and home to a dog in need. Our foster carers are not only helping a dog but also in turn supporting a family to escape domestic abuse. If you would love to have a dog in your life without the expense and long-term commitment, then fostering may be perfect for you. Foster placements generally last around 6-9 months and during this time, all equipment is provided, and food and veterinary treatment is covered. You will also receive support throughout the placement from our experienced and friendly Freedom Project team.

If you think this could be the volunteering opportunity for you, or just have any questions about the service please don't hesitate to get in touch by calling 0800 298 9199 or emailing [freedomproject@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:freedomproject@dogstrust.org.uk). You can also apply to foster on our website: <https://www.dogstrustfreedomproject.org.uk/foster-a-dog/sign-up-to-volunteer>

We look forward to hearing from you.

Louise Gostling ([she/her](#))



## TICKETING BOOKING PROCESS

After successful trials of predominantly using online booking of tickets, West Kent Federation is going over to online booking for all future specific events.

Please note from 29 September all Annual Days will be booked in this format so please be aware there will not be application forms in the West Kent News (does not include Art & Craft Annual Days this year).

Bookings should be made via your WI rep who will apply to the ticketing email address – [tickets@wkfwi.org.uk](mailto:tickets@wkfwi.org.uk) – with WI name, contact name, email address and number of tickets.

### **Points to remember:-**

To go in every event advert in West Kent News and on each ticket – ‘Speakers can be subject to change without prior notice’.

No tickets are issued before the closing date, but please book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Should an event be oversubscribed your WI may not get all of the tickets applied for, but each WI will receive some tickets.

Please note that tickets will be invoiced to your WI.

Please be aware that tickets are non-refundable and non-returnable.

Once tickets have been allocated they will be charged to your WI and if you can no longer attend it will be your responsibility to find a replacement.

Each ticket has a unique code to prevent fraudulent use.

**Please remember to bring your ticket – failure to do so could result in entry being refused.**

If you do not have a pre-ordered ticket, ID will be required so that the correct WI can be contacted and charged for extra tickets.

If a day is oversubscribed and members turn up who have not been allocated tickets, they will only be admitted if space has become available due to non-attendance and proof of ID will be required.



## **Green Team**

[greenteam@wkfwi.org.uk](mailto:greenteam@wkfwi.org.uk)

### MEET THE GREEN TEAM - WALK AND PICNIC, 15 JUNE

After a few days feeding visitors I looked in the fridge to see what was available for my “no single plastic” picnic. Great, I can have smoked salmon and salad (homegrown, no plastic, no chemicals) sandwich but the fruit corner yogurt in its plastic pot won’t pass muster so it will have to be an apple for pud. And there’s some homemade cake left .. yippee! With the sandwich and cake wrapped in baking paper (no cling film) and put in my cool bag off I set with another Chislehurst WI member for Bore Place.

As we were getting the walk map and directions from the “green team” some ladies returned, having already done the walk. Considering the hot, sunny weather they didn’t look as if the walk had been onerous although they did agree they were ready for a coffee. We set off and after a couple of false starts we were happy that we were following the written directions. We found the way-marker post at the gap in the hedge ahead and the small footbridge but there’s nothing said about the tree that’s barring our way. There’s only one thing to do and that is to bend double and go under. We continued along the edge of the field as instructed, keeping our distance from the electric wire that would surely finish by that hedge in the distance. Wrong!, the only way to get out of this field and to the pond and picnic area is to lay down and roll under! Which is exactly what we did. After catching our breath we carried on our way but the picnic area or pond was not yet in sight. However, we soon spied a colourful sunhat through the trees .. hooray we’d reached the pond and joined the ladies eating their picnics. Had they rolled under the wire too, we asked? Yes, and crawled under the tree!, came the answer. No wonder they needed that cup of coffee. Despite the “obstacles” all 22 members from 12 different WI’s had enjoyed the event.

Christine Britton, Chislehurst WI.





WI Adviser Carol Gupwell enjoyed a picnic at the Peony Fields with **HUCKING WI** Amazing sight seeing all the Peonies, a real summer evening - enjoying good company, with fantastic picnic. Of course I had to buy my favourite ..Bridal Icing..

Well done Hucking WI  
Carol



### KEMSING WI RELAUNCH



From left Louise Parker (President), Kylie Rea (presenter) , Sarah Bailey (Treasurer)

It was all change for Kemsing WI this month who have relaunched under a new team, with a new fresh programme and lots of new members to join an already great group of ladies.

This month they were joined by podcast broadcaster Kylie Rea who hosts 'Living The Life Of Kylie'. She shared her anecdotal stories and observations of living with ADHD with extraordinary wit and wisdom, it was like a cocktail of stand up comedy with so many important messages about ADHD hidden into the mix.



The new team were feeling the pressure having taken on the task to save their local WI having never been members before. Sarah and Louise needn't have worried Kylie went down a storm as did their home baked cakes, they were absolutely thrilled with the feedback and praise they received. Sarah Bailey

## ACWW Fund Raising Afternoon Tea

SUTTON VALENCE VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER AT 2:00PM (DOORS OPEN 1:30PM)

TICKETS £12.50



### ACWW Triennial World Conference 2023 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

and updates on the work of ACWW

TWO ticket applications per WI

Please indicate if you would like more tickets as these may be available after the closing date. Apply to: [tickets@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:tickets@wkwfi.org.uk) with your WI, Contact Name, Telephone No., Number of tickets required, and any special dietary requirements. Tickets will be emailed after the closing date.

Alternatively, please complete the form below and send to:  
Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Maidstone Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells  
TN2 4AG

Postal tickets will be charged an extra £1 for postage.

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

Email.....Telephone No:.....

Address.....

Postcode..... No Tickets Required.....

Special Dietary Requirements.....

**Closing Date 8 September**

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

## LIFE STYLE ANNUAL DAY TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER

**Ditton Community Centre ME20 6AH**

TICKETS £ 12.50      Doors open 9.30am

### Guest Speakers invited to attend feature:

**EMMA COX, our Genealogist speaker** Are you on a quest to discover more about your family and your past? Or have you inherited someone else's research?

Perhaps you've got lots of information yourself such as photographs, a partly completed family tree, family letters and other treasures and need it tidying up or a book to be created? Or a DNA result that puzzles you or lots of new DNA matches whom you would like to approach. Or maybe you've come to a dead end and can't get any further? Emma gives us a brief guide into the wonderful world of Genealogy.



**SARAH SLATER is a Hampton Court Tour Guide and Guide Lecturer.** She joins us to give an illuminating insight into the ghostly residents of Hampton Court.

**"I'm a tulip, what are you?"** is designed to entertain and enlighten. We are sworn to secrecy to the full content of Jaqueline's talk but it does promise to be amusing and entertaining. She will also be bringing plants, to sell, on the day.

**JAQUELINE AVIOLET** joins us from the world of plants. Her talk



### LIFESTYLE ANNUAL DAY TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER

Ditton Community Centre, Kiln Barn Road, Ditton, ME20 6AH, £12.50

10.30am—3.30pm Doors open 9.30am please bring a packed lunch and your own mug.

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

Address & Post code.....

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

No. of tickets required .....closing date: 17 September

Email: Tickets@wkwfi.org.uk With Lifestyle Annual Day as the subject heading.  
The tickets will be emailed

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

In June, **BEXLEYHEATH AND CRAYFORD WATERSIDE WI**



celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Golden party. We were pleased to welcome our longest serving member Win, who travelled from Whitstable to join in the celebrations and has been a member for 45 years. Entertainment was provided by the Singing Cabbie and a sumptuous buffet and Pimm's punch was provided by our members. Photos from the 1970s and past scrapbooks were displayed, and it was fun trying to recognise everyone. A cake with our new 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo was enjoyed by everyone. Each member was given a gift of a pen with a commemorative message on for our WI.



- Susan Harvey



Southfleet has for years, appreciated the daffodils along the roadside planted, many years ago, by a **SOUTHFLEET WI** member. So we thought it apt to compliment this by

spreading some wild flower seeds around the area by our current members to add to the beauty of our surroundings and to aid the environment. Carole Dick



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GILL BROWN 01732 850571 [pals@wkfwi.org.uk](mailto:pals@wkfwi.org.uk)

## WHIST DAY £13.50

Thursday 26 October

Ryarsh Village Hall, Birling Road, Ryarsh, ME19 5LS

10.30 am—3.30pm (Doors open at 10.00am for registration and tea/coffee)

Ticket price includes lunch —members only.

Our Whist Day, with Ploughman's lunch and dessert, is always popular. We look forward to welcoming many familiar faces and hopefully some new players. You do not have to attend as a pair, single players are welcome and you will be put with another solo member. The cards will be shuffled, score sheets named and play will commence at 10.30 am sharp, Sheila Miles will be on hand to oversee the play and answer any queries.



When applying for tickets **please** let us know of any special dietary requirements, we need to know for when we go shopping, not as a surprise on the day.

Please apply for tickets by email, any time before **30 September** to [PALS@wkfwi.org.uk](mailto:PALS@wkfwi.org.uk) Using WHIST as the heading for your email. Jeannette Smith tel: 01634 869 580 will answer any queries

We require the following information: Name of person applying and a contact phone number. Your WI, the number of tickets required, the name of the players and if they have any special dietary requirements - thank you. Your WI will be invoiced for the number of tickets issued.

If you can bring your own mug/cup for your hot drinks—that will be most helpful.

# ART AND CRAFT

Paula Bates 01892 327863



## Christmas Decorations Workshops In English Paper Piecing Patchwork



### NOVEMBER

**Wednesday 15: Ethel Hunt Lodge, Pembury, TN2 4AG**

**Thursday 16: Memorial Hall, Frittenden, TN17 2DD**

**Friday 24: Bowls Club, Snodland, ME6 5DP**

**Saturday 25, St Nicholas Church Hall, Orpington, BR6 9QB**

Come and spend a fun day making cute, hand-sewn Christmas Ornaments with Nancy Adamek. This workshop is suitable for all sewing abilities - even if you are new to English Paper Piecing (EPP)! A complete kit to make the ornaments will be supplied on the day and you can choose 2 designs (out of 4) to make. They will be the talking point of your Christmas décor this year for sure!

10am to 3:30pm, Doors open at 9:30am Cost of ticket £29 to include the kits and everything you need to make these, and tea or coffee.

Please bring a needle threader, your glasses if you need them, a packed lunch and a mug for your hot drink.

WI.....Name.....

Address & Postcode:.....

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

No of tickets.....Date.....Venue.....

Please apply to: Mrs Derry Fleisig, 7 Brownelw Copse, Walderslade,

Chatham, Kent ME5 9JQ, tel: 01634 660940

Closing date for tickets: Friday 29 September

Please enclose an appropriate size SAE for your tickets

YOUR WI WILL BE INVOICED ON THE MONTHLY ACCOUNT FOR THE TICKETS ISSUED



**ART AND CRAFT** - The Closing Date for both the September **DITTON ANNUAL DAYS** and the **WATERCOLOUR PAINTING DAYS** has been extended to **11 August**. Please see June and July WKN for full details, please apply before the new closing date. Paula Bates 01892 327 863



The chance to view the Sistine Chapel without travelling to Rome! Members from **ISTEAD RISE WI** were delighted to visit the Church of the English Martyrs at Goring by Sea, Sussex, and gaze in awe at the two/third replication of the curved ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. In 1987 Gary Bevans went on a pilgrimage to Rome and returned home convinced that he had to reproduce this ceiling in his own parish church. It took five and half years working mainly in the evenings to complete his project.



Also to view was his rendition of a painting of the Last Supper, and beautiful stain glassed window based on Peter the Fisherman with references to the local sea fishing etc.

On the other window, glass was etched to depict the images of the Ten Martyrs to whom the Church is dedicated.

Our group continued to Worthing to enjoy lunch, stroll in the sunshine and admire more stain glass images displayed on the pier donated by local people, groups and charities. Our thanks to Maggie Hart for organising the excursion. Linda Wills



June was a busy month for the ladies of **HIGHGATE HAWKHURST WI**. We continued the theme of our 'Chelsea Flower Show' meeting on the 14 with a visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew on Thursday 15 a fabulous day which saw 35 of us explore the amazing grounds, glasshouses and arboretum by foot and train. We were fortunate enough to see the Ghost Orchid which has flowered for the first time in the UK.

We supplied seedlings and plants to the Hawkhurst in Bloom team (amongst whom

our ladies number) at the village fete on Saturday 17 and, on Sunday 25 our 'bakes and cakes' were hugely appreciated by the 270 runners at the Hawkhurst 5&10km Run, a wonderful community event we have supported for the last three years. Rachel Fagg



**BARBARA & PETER DARVILL** were awarded the Dartfordian Award for services to the Local Community from the Leader of Dartford Council, Councillor Jeremy Kite.

Barbara has been a long time member of **Longfield WI** & was on the board of WI Trustees. She attended public speaking courses with the WI which gave her the confidence to become the first woman chairman & took on the chairmanship of the Council and there have been many other things she has been involved in including the church.

Many congratulations Barbara

Pamela Smith  
President Longfield WI



2023 is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of **FRITTENDEN WI**. In celebration of this momentous occasion we had Afternoon Tea on the Tenterden Railway with a stop at Bodium.

In July, we visited the Darvell Community Centre in Robertsbridge for an excellent guided tour followed by lunch with the community members. Our guides were happy to answer our questions, enabling us to learn a great deal about the community lifestyle. The tour of their workshop which produces beautifully crafted children's wooden playthings was fascinating.



Other events planned include a talk on the lifestyle of the Windsor's and, as part of our Produce Show in September, there will be a slide show and talk on a Canal Boat Holiday. October is "A taste of Thailand" with a cookery demonstration which promises to be very tasty. Aneta Godwin

**NORTH HEATH, BEXLEYHEATH WI** has been delighted to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. We were pleased to present Certificates to three members who attended the very first meeting and three members who joined in the first year. Long may we continue. Doris Grimsley - Secretary



### MARDEN WI GARDEN PARTY

Lovely evening, spent in Sarah's garden. Frances gave a report of AGM Conference in Cardiff. Pimms and Strawberries and cream enjoyed by all.

Carol Gupwell WI Adviser



Eight members of **BEXLEY VILLAGE WI** visited Chatham dockyard on the 28 June visiting the sets of 'Call the Midwife' which is filmed there. The 13th series is being filmed there at the moment and of course there will be a Christmas Special with snow. WIs please visit the dockyard there is so much to see and do and you can have a good lunch there. The guides want people to visit and asked us to mention this to other WIs.

Patricia Ladbrook  
President

**REPORT OF A RECENT EVENT** Eight members from different WIs met on Thursday 6 July for a beautiful sunny walk with our Guide Karen. She told us the history of Mote Park and pointed out some of the 54k trees (some of which were 300 years old).

It consists of 450 acres, previously a country estate and now surrounding the 1790 country house. We had a leisurely walk around the 30 acre lake.

Thank you PALS for organising this activity.

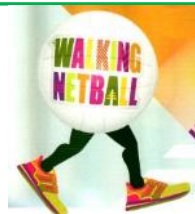
Mary Henderson

Hollingbourne WI



## WALKING NETBALL

Walking netball was first mentioned in West Kent News back in 2019 and more recently in WI Life magazine in 2022 introducing the Walking Netball Ambassadors.



## ENGLAND NETBALL/NFWI PARTNERSHIP

It was in 2018 that England Netball & NFWI joined forces to engage older women in activity through netball, so they could experience the physical, social and mental benefits enjoyed by 100's of 1000's of women across the country.

To date this has been the most successful sporting partnership seen in the WIs. WI members across the country have taken to walking netball with enthusiasm and passion and have been a leading force in demonstrating the sport can be inclusive to all women, regardless of age or ability.

## AMBASSADOR ROLE

As one of seven Walking Netball Ambassadors across the country, my job is to visit as many WI groups, promoting walking netball, supporting & encouraging the start-up of new walking netball groups and or signposting interested members to those groups already in existence.

I'm the only Walking Netball Ambassador in Kent and have my work cut out trying to contact the 153 WIs in West Kent, let alone the whole of Kent! So I could do with some help getting the walking netball message out there.

If your WI group would like me to visit and give a short walking netball presentation, or would like to know where the current WI walking netball groups meet, then please do get in touch with me [shirleyellishost@yahoo.com](mailto:shirleyellishost@yahoo.com) or via HO.

Shirley Ellis      WI/WN Ambassador    Tonbridge, Kent      mobile 07746 476071

## REPORT ON THE SPEAKERS' AUDITIONS IN HILDENBOROUGH

On a rather humid and stormy day we gathered in the St John's Church Hall to listen to a good mix of potential speakers who hoped to be chosen to go into our official Speakers' Book for 2024.

The talks ranged from an image consultant who mysteriously showed us how to cleanse her male companion's face - he was very good about it and quite docile - to a lively talk on what makes a Superstar. He did look rather like a superstar himself I thought and he gave an entertaining presentation.

We heard about the importance of writing our memoirs for our families (food for thought), how hypnotherapy can help with our anxieties. The history of the trench coat and its relevance in WW1 followed, delivered by the lady in charge of paintings and artefacts at Ightham Mote.

Following our lunch break, where we sat amongst some very interesting tomb stones in the church yard, we were entertained by a lively gentleman who gave us an illustrated, musical talk on the 1960s. There were many Ooos and Ahs as we recognised various pop stars and other items from that era - all our yesterdays. He was followed by an interesting young man who told us all about the islands of the Medway Valley - who knew?! This talk was also well illustrated.

We made our comments on the sheet provided and thanked the ladies of the West Kent Federation who had worked hard to make the day such a success. All in all it was a very useful day and I think some of the speakers would fit well into our programme.

Anthea Springett      Boughton Monchelsea WI



## UNITE CHOIR

Some very familiar  
West Kent Faces.

Well done Ladies



Here we are enjoying a lovely informative walk at Mote Park on 13 July organised by PALS. Thank you very much.      Aneta Godwin, Frittenden WI



## OBITUARIES

**Catford WI** is sad to report the unexpected death of **SIAN THOMAS**. Sian had been a member for many years, regularly joining our guided walks, passionate about gardening, and a Warrior Princess in the darts team. She will be greatly missed.

**Istead Rise WI** regrets to report the passing of **LINDA GISBY**. Over the years Linda was always willing to assist in so many of our projects. A keen and skilled crafts person and cake maker extraordinaire. We will all miss her, our condolences to her family.

## YOUR WEST KENT NEWS

To enable WIs to receive their ordered copies of the WKN by the first of the month and for it to be displayed on the website earlier you may find some of your articles will feature in the following month's edition rather than the next month. All appear in the order they are received.



Cuxton's Big Lunch 2023

Every year in Cuxton our Parish Council stages a 'Big Lunch' in our recreation ground where everyone is welcome, families take picnics, there is live music, a bar and various stalls sell a variety of wares. There is also an Art & Craft competition which our ladies did very well in, winning several categories.

Our Tea & Cake stall is always there and people look forward to our delicious home made cakes which our lovely members provide in abundance.

After our volunteers last shift we went to the Photo Booth next door before heading home for a well earned rest!

Wendy Stapleford— President



A small group from **ST MICHAELS WI** took themselves off to Biddenden Vineyard for a tour and a delightful wine tasting afternoon. With sunshine and a gentle breeze, what a great time walking amongst vines in south facing fields. Learning the origin of 'grape names' we were joined by a Sparrow Hawk and a Green Woodpecker...what a treat! Then followed the difficult task of which three wines to taste? Plenty

of non alcoholic juices to try if preferred. Well worth a trip. Brigitte Watkins



The **Farleighs WI** sends warmest congratulations to **WENDY and KEN BARROTT** on celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.



## NORTH TONBRIDGE WI TEA AND COFFEE HERO

**Mrs Jean Pierce** receiving a certificate from **Diane Daniels** as she has helped to provide refreshments to the group for over 20 years - we love her....

Karly Davis, President

## CUXTON WI

Every year in Cuxton our Parish Council stages a 'Big Lunch' in our recreation ground where everyone is welcome, families take picnics, there is live music, a bar and various stalls sell a variety of wares. There is also an Art & Craft competition which our ladies did very well in, winning several categories.

Our Tea & Cake stall is always there and people look forward to our delicious home made cakes which our lovely members provide in abundance.

After our volunteers last shift we went to the Photo Booth next door before heading home for a well earned rest!

Wendy Stapleford— President

## WHO TO CONTACT

### CHAIR:

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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.