



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

WEST KENT WI NEWS

October 2021



**CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS WI
AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MAIDSTONE
2PM WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER**

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Ladies,

When you read this we will be at the start of Winter, but we all have a lot to look forward to.

I am most pleased to hear of so many of our WIs meeting again and that so many of the members have re-joined this year. Can I remind you that the NEW CONSTITUTION AND RULES FOR WOMEN'S INSTITUTES which you can see on line or as a hard copy needs to be signed at the back by each President and Secretary.

Have you booked any of our Zoom meetings? There are several coming up very soon some are free some you have to pay for (the Speakers can be quite expensive). Then there are our in "person" meetings over the winter. We have the Art/Craft on October 6/7, Whist November 2/4, Murder Mystery November 19, A Celebration at All Saints Church Maidstone December 8 in the afternoon and finally the AGM at Royal Tunbridge Wells March 21. I do hope to see some of you at these events. All the information about these meeting are in the West Kent News, West Kent Federation Web Site, Face Book etc.

Don't forget Ladies to try the NEW booking system any problem contact the office and I am sure they will be able to help you, we are trying to do our bit to save the planet by doing away with some paper but I would like to reassure those who are not keen on computers we are here to help.

Thank you to those of you that have been coming to the office for training, it was good to see you and gave the building a real buzz and I hear you all learnt something new, we did, how to use the projector with the laptop!

I have been out and about again keep sending in your kind invites to your meetings it is good to see you after such a long break.

Best wishes,

Jane Backshall



Treasurer's Corner



I am this month, going to talk about the financial statement. Last year I planned to hold some training sessions on completion of the statement, but these unfortunately got cancelled because of Covid.

I will be setting up some more sessions closer to the end of the 2021-22 financial year.

The area that seems to cause the most confusion is B1 the section dealing with total cash funds held by the WI and carrying that figure forward.

To achieve the carry forward figure the following calculations in section B1 are carried out.

At B1.1 enter the final bank balance as per the account book. This will include items that are still uncleared.

Then reconcile the bank statement in box B1.2 entering the figures for the appropriate category. Obviously the bank statement may show a higher figure than the account book, but once you have considered uncleared cheques or money paid in that has not cleared yet, the end figure should match the figure in B1.1

For some WIs the figure in box B1.1 will be their carry forward figure and will be entered in Total Cash Funds and should match the figure in A6.

However, for others further calculations need to be made. Therefore, if you have funds in savings/deposit accounts or petty cash these need to be shown in B1.3 and B1.4 respectively.

If a WI still has funds to pay over to Federation as part of the Acting as Agent then this money is shown in B1.5 and deducted from your cash funds – as it's not money that belongs to the WI even if it is still in your bank account at year end.

To summarise, to calculate your total cash funds do the following:

Add B1.1, B1.3 and B1.4 and if relevant deduct B1.5

This will then give you your carry forward figure for your total cash funds and should again match the figure in A6.

However, when starting a new financial year, the figure that is carried forward to the new accounts' spreadsheet/accounts book is the figure in B1.1 as this relates to the WI's current bank account. It may or may not be the same as the Total Cash funds.

Gillian Neville

FEEL GOOD FACTORS—WKFWI ANNUAL QUIZ

1. Do happily for another when asked? Often expressed by Dickens' character (6).....
2. A cup of tea may be said to be one that does (6).....
3. Lightness of spirit when live is mixed before territory limits (6).....
4. Basically the hearth is not empty (8).....
5. Disclosed in summer rye (5).....
6. One is when at peace with the world (4).....
7. A vole in another way(4).....
8. Included with invitation to facilitate reply (10).....
9. An earnest request? Certainly (8)
10. Scrumptious is familiar parent with unknown replacement start (5).....
11. Samuel who wrote an early self help book (6)
12. Cheeky 11 contained by Peregrine sometimes (5).....
13. Involuntary when tickled manually (8).....
14. Can be sung musically with a group (4)
15. Good feeling but where will you eat if someone has done this? (11).....
16. Can be joyful notorious prison with central bend removed (7).....
17. Chore loses direction to be replaced by a junction followed by Erica (9).....
18. Heard the intenti0on after to delight in (9).....
19. M Doyle can create great musical memories (6).....
20. Demorfe arranged a state without restriction.....
21. Lovely firm, very difficult group to replicate in 'lock down' (4,7).....
22. Can bring on a sigh of satisfaction (3,4,4).....
23. Expression and act of acknowledging value (12).....
24. Neither too hot nor too cold ... but...? (4,5).....
25. Rest achieved by many of the above or just pure thought (10).....
26. Balm from nights, oo might just take away the pain (8).....
27. Vera let us know these would be over Dover tomorrow (4,5).....
28. New mown grass might be one of these (8,6).....
29. Remix a unit of heat then I replace the centre, perhaps 14. (5).....
30. Brought at the request of Eric and Ernie (8).....



Thanks once again to Jean Parrott from Ravenswood WI for her entertaining quiz. Please do not send in your answers to Ethel Hunt Lodge. This is just for your entertainment. Answers will appear in the January 2022 WKN.

FEDERATION NOTICEBOARD

Yearbook:

Page 21: From October **Bexley Village WI** have a change of venue to Bexley United Reformed Church Hall, 500 Hurst Road, Bexley DA5 3JN. They still meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month but their meeting time is now **1.30pm**.

Page 56: **Northfleet Perry Street WI** have a change of venue to Dene Holm Methodist Church Hall, Dene Holm Road, Northfleet DA11 8LG and now meet on **4th Wednesday** of the month at **2.00pm**.

Page 68: **Tenterden Glebe WI** also have a change of venue to Highbury Hall, Highbury Lane, Tenterden TN30 6LE and now meeting on the **2nd Thursday** of the month at **2.00pm**.

List of Speakers:

Pages 6 and 35: Miss Lesley Broster has moved. Her new contact details are :
Flat 1A Burlington Drive,
Herne Bay CT6 6PG,
Tel: No: 01227 365611.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCT	Weds 6	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton
OCT	Thurs 7	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton
OCT	Thurs 21	Alex Green—Let's go Zero	Zoom Talk
NOV	Tues 2	Annual Whist Day	Ryarsh
NOV	Thurs 4	Annual Whist Day	Lenham
NOV	Tues 16	Ingrid Jansen	Zoom Talk
NOV	Fri 19	Murder Mystery	St. Mary's Platt
DEC	Wed 8	All Saints Church	Maidstone
MAR	Mon 21	AGM	Tunbridge Wells

All activities subject to any change in Covid restrictions.

CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS WI

WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER, ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MAIDSTONE.

For our **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION** we need to hear from you! This is an opportunity for us to celebrate friendship and coming through the last 18 months together.

We would like to hear how you coped, helped as an individual, as a group of friends or as a WI through the pandemic. What skills did you learn? Any stories to tell? How your WI helped?

These writings would become part of our Federation celebration in December, read out by the authors so we can all share our experiences.

To add to the idea of celebration we are putting out a call to all WI's, craft groups' Needles and Natter etc. to bring along a decoration for the pew ends of the church.

This can be any media – knitting, crochet, fresh or dried flowers etc. In any form – wreath, hanging etc. but it must be able to hang from the pew end and be within 12 inches long and 9 inches wide.

Please send any written items and if you are willing to make a decoration to Miz by Friday 12 November with your name WI and contact details.

fedsec@wkwfi.org.uk

Please see photos of the pew ends at the church.



CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS WI - AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MAIDSTONE.

Wednesday 8 December at 2.00pm

All Saints Church, Mill Street, ME15 6YE, Doors open 1.15pm | Tickets £5.00

WI.....Tel No:.....

Contact Name:..... Email:.....

Address & Postcode.....

.....No. of Tickets req:.....

Apply online to: FedSec@wkwfi.org.uk

Or by Post to: Maidstone Celebration, WKFWI, Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells TN2 4AG

Do not enclose a stamped addressed envelope. This will be supplied and WI accounts will be billed £1.00
Your WI will be invoiced for the number of tickets supplied.

Closing date 5 November



LYGHE WI have enjoyed having small friendship meetings in members' gardens and homes, as restrictions decreased over the last few months. On 4 August we also had a bring your own picnic on Leigh Village Green which was great for members to get together as a group. We included a challenge of no single use plastic which was adhered to.

Chris Woodgate (Sec)



COP26

In November the UK will be hosting the COP26 in Glasgow, **the UN's climate conference.**

While climate change has negative consequences for all groups of people, there is evidence to show that some groups are more effected than others and this is particularly true of women and girls. Women and girls disproportionately confront a range of barriers which can hamper their ability to adapt to, or mitigate the effects of, climate change in their day to day lives.

As the largest women's voluntary organisation in the UK, the NFWI will be using its platform to stand shoulder to shoulder with women and girls around the world to call upon the UK Government to deliver a COP26 that provides a fair deal for women and girls everywhere in the fight against climate change.

The NFWI will be urging the UK Government to:

Host COP 26 with a gender equal negotiating team

Deliver a COP26 conference that is driven by and responsive to the needs of women and marginalised communities.

Work with women - led organisations and groups to deliver targeted capacity building programmes on all levels.

A common criticism of COP conferences is that they 'manufacture loopholes', delivering agreements which allow national Government's worldwide to avoid fully implementing high ambition climate agreements or emission reductions. As COP26 hosts, the UK Government has a responsibility to make sure all agreements are without these loopholes.

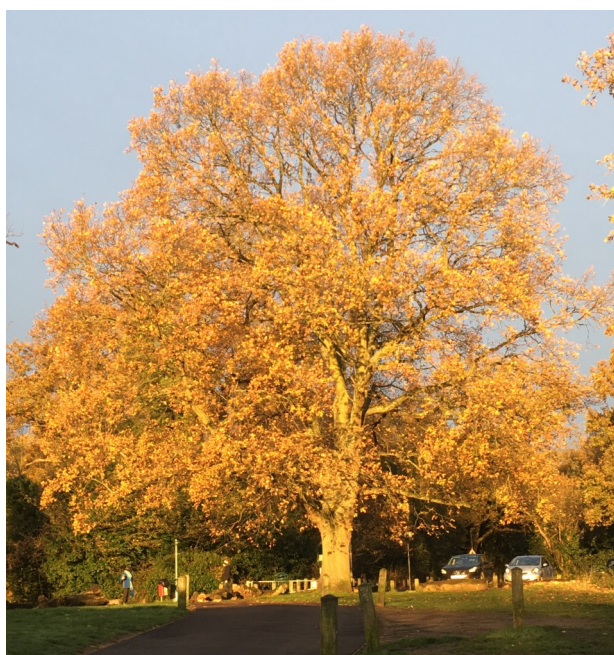
The NFWI has produced a Campaign action pack 'The Whole Story' (from which this article is taken) and it includes a pattern for a 'No More Loopholes' bracelet. These bracelets are a physical representation of the situation- crochet is formed by creating a series of loops using a hook. Our design also features a series of square holes, which are closed using wooden beads.

You can send these bracelets to your Member of Parliament to call for a COP26 that works for everyone or give them to your friends and fellow members to raise awareness of COP 26.

Please look at the Campaign Action Pack for more ideas and information on both COP26 and the Big Green Week which is available on the MY WI website.

If your WI is getting involved in Great Big Green Week or COP26 please let the Green Team know by sending photos to our mailbox- GreenTeam@wkfwi.org.uk.

On Thursday 21 October at 7.30pm we will be spending time with Alex Green from the climate solutions charity, Ashden. Information about joining this Zoom talk will be sent to your WI



Golden Oak—Oxleas Wood Nov 2020 Liz McDermott, Deepdene WI Welling

Pumpkins at Chartwell by Sarah Sudlow WKFWI Trustee





MY 2019 MUSIC BURSARY



I was able to enjoy using the Music Bursary which came out of the hat for me at the very last Tunbridge Wells Annual Meeting in 2019. During the first week - this past August, the Yarn Market Hotel in Dunster, Somerset, held a number of 'Special' Holiday breaks and the one I attended was the special Music Break which caters for orchestral players and singers and happens to be mainly run by people from the Bromley area. There is a daily programme of learning music in the mornings, outings in the afternoon (choice of walking or being taken somewhere of interest) and then entertaining ourselves together in the evenings with what we have learnt or other 'party' pieces. Since I have a daughter who plays bassoon we have been before and it is a very enjoyable intensively organised few days. It turned out to be a real pot-pourri of different music with us singing all of the Mozart Requiem, four Holst part songs, Pie Jesu and a Japanese Lullaby, plus a Beatles medley, and a few other 'pop' ballads in a similar genre. Indeed something for all. The orchestra did most of the classical accompaniments and more of their own specialties.

The Hotel is now busy advertising next year's holiday in this series stressing the need to book and pay early to avoid increased VAT rates which are sadly promised. Might be too much for me at my age but I hope they can continue.

Jean Parrott, Ravenswood WI.

LOCKDOWN CREATIVITY

Not only does Jean enjoy music and compile quizzes for us, she has found time to produce some delightful quilting. First two 8x16" pictures for the International Quilters Guild Picture Exchange this year - 1. My picture taken from the Sept.2020 WK News and other half being done by a Spanish quilter. 2. Half picture from Iceland, told it is somewhere in vicinity of main Reykjavik Airport where there has been recent volcanic activity! This one will be sent back to Iceland eventually and I should receive the other half of the West Kent News picture (with balloons) as inspiration. This once all entries have been made public by the Quilters Guild in the next few months.



The others are the back and front of the quilt made for the newest great grandchild in our family eta 5 September, plus picture of the quilt with Jenni, the expectant Mum. You might also see a dark blue matinee jacket especially made by my daughter Hilary and a small knitted toy fox I'd worked from a kit of three animals some time ago which just seemed a good idea to include in the same parcel.

OTFORD OAST WI

Great Comp Garden in Platt was chosen for our informal August meeting this year. A sunny afternoon and wonderful setting gave members the opportunity to admire the colourful borders whilst catching up with friends. Surprisingly we all ended up at the tearoom to enjoy tea, cake and more chatting before we made our way home.



SUNFLOWER PRIZE WINNER Following on from the success of our Christmas Meeting in a bag. **CHELSEFIELD EVENING WI** repeated the concept again at Easter. This time, sunflower seeds were included in the bag and our ladies were asked to grow them with a prize being awarded for the largest sunflower head. As you can imagine, the final flower heads were in all shapes and sizes. However, there was one overall winner and that was garden loving Jean Pemberton. Well done, Jean!



Lisa Hutchins-Lobb



Dear Members,

I am so pleased to see and hear that many of you are now testing the waters and making plans to restart your WIs, getting back into monthly meetings. It's been a long time coming and I hope that you have all read the NFWI guidelines about returning to your meeting venues.

The guidelines are there to help you understand the legal requirements along with the rules implemented by your venues. As long as all appropriate care is taken and members are encouraged to follow these arrangements, then I hope we can all enjoy our coming back together again. Please be sure to keep a record of your Risk Assessments.

Many members may still feel unready to return to normal meetings yet so please keep them informed as to how meetings have gone and what is planned for the future.

Committees have worked really hard to keep WIs going and it's now up to us as individual members to play our part and rejuvenate the WI movement.

If in doubt stay away – do not put your fellow members at risk – none of us know if a tickly cough or sore throat may turn into something more serious.

Do please let me know if you would like another get together via zoom to chat “about all things WI”. I would be happy to arrange something in October.

In the meantime have some fun.

Best wishes to you all from your team of Advisers

Carol Gupwell Membership Chair



PUBLIC AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL

Caroline Davis—01892 725571

WELL DONE AND THANK YOU

Ladies, we think you are wonderful! You have responded so well to our appeal for jumpers for ACWW and hats for children and grown men. But now we have enough. Owing to the Covid Pandemic, it has been impossible to transport the jumpers to the different parts of Africa. Tricia Ashdown, our ACWW rep has a spare room full of bags of beautifully knitted jumpers waiting to be sent off. The hats have been given to the Street Pastors, the Foodbank Groups in Maidstone and some reserved for the Christmas Boxes Appeal. If we hear of another definite appeal, we will let you know. We are looking into the Afghan Appeal but as yet cannot specify what they need. So, if you have some items in the making, or already finished, please keep them for now or give them to a group or cause in your area. Please don't send any more to Ethel Hunt Lodge.

On behalf of those receiving your beautifully knitted items, we send you all a very big **Thank You**



Members Centenary Celebrations-at last:



WEST PECKHAM WI celebrated its centenary in 2020 however with the COVID pandemic thrown into the mix all our plans have had to be changed on several occasions. We originally planned to have a catered evening meal for all our members in December 2020, this of course had to be cancelled as the country was still in lockdown. We then decided to move the event to an afternoon tea in a marquee, and this would be located in one of our members gardens which is situated in West Peckham with wonderful views of the Kent countryside. So, the plans were set for Sunday 8 August, we organised the caterer, marquee, decorations, chairs, tables and games down to the last detail. The weekend arrived, and so did the most awful weather, heavy rain and high winds! On the Saturday we



had to make the decision to move the event to the village hall (luckily this was in our back up plan) at short notice. We busily prepared the hall on both the Saturday and Sunday morning and were ready for our members who arrived at 1.45pm to a glass of prosecco and canapes. This was followed by a wonderful afternoon of sandwiches, scones, petit fours, strawberries & cream and copious amounts of tea. There was also a table quiz covering each decade over the past 100 years, a lucky favour box and a game of pass the parcel. All the members had a wonderful afternoon and it was great to hear laughter in the hall once again!



Sarah, Tricia and Viv, Centenary sub-committee, West Peckham WI

During August **BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA WI** hosted afternoon tea parties in the gardens of some committee members. Everyone enjoyed catching up with friends and having a good old natter together whilst enjoying some delicious cake and cups of tea. We are now looking forward to meeting in the village hall on 14 September at 7.30pm for our first 'live' meeting since March 2020.

Anthea Springett, Secretary,
Boughton Monchelsea WI



This is a photo of **SOUTH PARK** at the Coxheath Custard Pie championships on 4 Sept. A number of the ladies made cakes and other goodies, which we sold at this event to raise funds. Other members helped on the day and more turned up to say HI, we all had a great day and it was nice to get out and back to nearly normal, and all items were sold.

Amanda Bird





TRICIA ASHDOWN

ACWW

triciaashdown@yahoo.co.uk

Most WI members know that ACWW funds grass root projects, which help the lives of women around the world, but did you know that ACWW represents rural women at the United Nations?



ACWW has had consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 1949 and through data collected from their members can highlight issues facing rural women and raise them as a priority with policy makers.

Each year the United Nations convenes the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at its Headquarters in New York. This is a two week gathering of Governments, UN bodies and civil society organisations like ACWW. All

brought together to discuss women's rights and agree new standards for action.

2020 was due to be a Review Year but the main conference was not able to happen because of Covid-19, but there was a series of negotiations. In mid-February ACWW attended a private briefing from the United Kingdom Government Equality Office, which gave an overview of the progress in negotiations. ACWW felt there was some troubling indications from the negotiations and draft text, which included removal of references to women's rights as human rights, attempts at changing 'agreed language' which protects rights in existing treaties, and switching the blame for slow progress from governments to women globally.

ACWW represents millions of women worldwide and felt it important that they reached as many members as possible so they could have input into a UN process at this high level. So a letter to the UK negotiators was drafted and circulated to all member societies for agreement. West Kent Federation as a member received a copy, and the Board of Trustees agreed to sign the letter.

In just five days ACWW received a huge response. 185 organisations from 35 countries signed the letter and a copy was sent to the UK negotiator on 24 February. The following is an extract from the reply sent by the UK negotiator.

"As chief negotiator for the UK in the CSW Political Declaration process, I can say that having your letter was useful in showing that the world was watching with keen interest for the outcome of our discussions and that there were expectations to be met."

When the renewed Political Declaration was published on 9 March ACWW was pleased to see that three of the points raised in the letter had been listened to and their impact was visible in the Declaration.

It is through ACWW's influence in these processes that real change is achieved, and with all governments now committing to this renewed Political Declaration this gives a mechanism for monitoring their action. It is not a perfect system, but by ACWW members responding, the voices of rural women were amplified and crucially heard at the international level.

Tricia Ashdown

ART AND CRAFT

Paula Bates

01892 327863 artcraft@wkfwf.org.uk



ART AND CRAFT ANNUAL DAYS

Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 October
at Ditton Community Centre 10.30am—3.30pm Tickets £10
Only a few tickets are left for **Thursday 7 October**.

If you would still like a ticket please contact
Jenny Way on 01634 241 791

All tickets must be prebooked

Please bring your ticket, to show at the door
Looking forward to meeting you there

WKFWI Trustee **Geraldine Martin** is



delighted to share with us the special WI inspired cake, which her daughters had made by a family friend.

Her birthday was last January and celebrations had to be cancelled many times due to Covid Lockdowns. Eventually they were able to celebrate in August at Rowhill Hotel and Spa, which included her daughters and granddaughters an all female affair.

Well done



OBITUARIES

Members of **Fairfield (Dartford) WI** were saddened to hear of the death of **JOY HILLS**. She had been a member since 1996 and had

continued her membership even after she was unable to attend meetings due to ill health but enjoyed hearing all the news from Fairfield. She had been an active member who had enjoyed all the WI had to offer and we shall miss her cheerful presence.

It is with great sadness that **Pratts Bottom WI** have to announce the loss of one of our members **ELAINE ELSTON**. Elaine bravely fought a serious illness but sadly passed away at the beginning of September. She was a treasured friend and energetic member of our WI, currently serving as our treasurer and a committee member. Her enthusiasm, ideas and love of the WI were ever present. We will miss her dearly.

It is with great sadness that **Farnborough WI** announces the death of a very dear member, **MAUREEN BRACE**. Maureen joined Farnborough WI in January 1994 and she became a very active member serving on the Committee covering various tasks including being our President in April 1999. She was also Orpington Priory District Secretary. Maureen will be remembered as a gentle fun loving and caring person who always considered our members. She enjoyed walking and loved Classical music and visits to the Theatre. She suffered bad health during the past three years with spells in hospital. She will be sadly missed as a long standing member by her many friends.

It is with great sadness that **Hoo WI** announces the death of **PAULINE WELLER** (nee Plummer) who passed away on Monday 6 September. Pauline was a long term member of both the original **Hoo St. Werburgh WI** of which she was President and the newer Hoo WI formed in 2012. She will be fondly remembered by all, for the active part she always played and for the wonderful garden parties held each year in her beautiful garden. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Bob and the family. Pauline will be greatly missed by all who knew her—as she touched so many lives.

Members of **Ravenswood WI** were saddened to learn of the death of **SHEILA GREEN**. She was a very friendly, caring, and reliable person, who was active in the community and Scouting as well as WI. Sheila was also a good organiser, serving firstly as Craft Rep., then Secretary and finally President. She enjoyed all aspects of WI - Sheila loved acting, reading poetry, and taking the role of Jack in the WI pantomime. She sang with the then Kent Gate District Choir and was also the District Craft Rep for a number of years. Sadly, Sheila had to retire from WI a few years ago, due to ill health but she is still remembered for her enthusiasm and her commitment to Ravenswood and for her smile and courage in adversity.

South Park WI is deeply saddened to announce the death of **MARION BUSH**, a much-loved member. Marion had Scleroderma but she never let it define her. She was very skilled at many crafts including: embroidery, beadwork, patchwork, lace making and soft toys. She was an active member of the Craft group and showed members how to make a beaded bauble for Xmas. Marion had cancer but still showed her very positive, happy attitude to life. We will all remember her with affection for her kindness and for her enthusiasm for everything connected to being a WI member.

CONGRATULATIONS

Rainham WI sends congratulations and best wishes to **LYNNE and JOHN PUPLETT** who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in August.

Eynsford WI sends best wishes and congratulations to **DIANA and JOHN BEAMISH** who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in August.

Special love and best wishes are sent from **Harvel WI** to **DAWN and KEITH FOXWELL** who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in July.

Regret space does not permit us to include Silver Weddings.



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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.