



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

WEST KENT WI NEWS

April 2023



*The Board of Trustees and all the members of
the West Kent Federation of WIs
would like to extend their greetings
and best wishes to
His Majesty King Charles III
on the occasion of his Coronation*



Surrounded by hops and fruits from the Garden of England,
the White Horse of Kent pays homage to the newly crowned King.
Designed and created by Laura Horner— A member of West Kent Zoomers

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



After what seemed a slow start to spring, I'm hoping that as you read this, we really are into one of my favourite seasons. During lockdown I started a little vegetable plot and I'm now the proud owner of a potting shed and love nothing more than spending time looking after my seedlings and watching them grow. Both my parents were big gardeners and fresh vegetables were something we just took for granted (though the digging up and cleaning were not!). However, the sheer sense of achievement you get from just popping into the garden and picking your own lettuce is something else!! I know many of you will be rolling your eyes at my enthusiasm but remember I am very new to it all!

As April marks a new year at our Federation a bit like my seedlings I think I am now growing into my role as your Chair. The Federation year never stops and as you can imagine you hit the ground running and at times, I have felt like I was playing catch up! But in my second year and going forward the aim of the Federation is to increase our membership which has fallen considerably over the last few years. Obviously Covid had a big effect on many WIs with members not returning after the lockdown. We are also suspending WIs due to a lack of officers, and this is something we really need to address as a Federation. To suspend a WI with over 30 members just because they can't find a volunteer to be either the President, Secretary or Treasurer seems wrong and I shall be asking the WI Advisers what more we can do to make these roles easier for members to take on, be it more training, buddying up with another WI or even a Whats App support for the particular role. We do have a few of these things already in place but seems its just not enough.

Recruitment can also be a problem for many WIs and as a Federation we have ordered leaflets etc. from National which we can send you and we are also happy to advise any WIs who wish to try Facebook or other social media outlets.

I know that I have many very successful WIs out there and would love to learn about the ways you increased your membership and filled some of those key roles on the committee. Please email me on chair@wkfed.org.uk and together we can support each other!

Take care,

Amanda Breach

Treasurer's Corner



In time for the new financial year, NFWI has issued an updated spreadsheet to use at the start of the 2023-2024 year. The new spreadsheet can be downloaded from MyWI. Log onto the WI website and onto MyWI. On the heading "Running your WI" choose "WI finances" where you will find the computer version of the Account Book and Financial Statement spreadsheet (Mar 23 Excel Version) ready to download and use.

There are some cosmetic changes, e.g. colour coding the "Acting as Agent" column headers but more importantly, there is a sheet containing notes on what to do before the end of the financial year and the start of the new year, plus many helpful notes on what should and should not be entered. There are too many items to be put into this column, so I would sincerely suggest you read it prior to completing the year end and starting the new year.

If you are using the paper version of the Financial Statement, this has not changed but the guidance notes have been updated.

One of the areas of confusion is when transfers from one bank account to another take place. There have been several instances when a transfer from a deposit account into the current account has been included in income. Whilst it needs to be entered in the receipts book in order to reconcile the bank statements, it is not included in the Financial Statement as income for the year.

If you are in any doubt, please do not hesitate to ask your IFE for help or if you do not have a WI IFE then you can contact me at treasurer@wkfwi.org.uk.

It is advisable for Treasurers using the spreadsheet, to back up their spreadsheet on a regular basis and if possible give the President a copy. This will ensure that if a computer fails, or if the Treasurer is absent for any reason, then someone can take over readily and easily.

Please do not stress about anything, we are here to help.

Kind regards

Rita King

MEET YOUR WI ADVISER

60 SECONDS WITH:-

Name: Sue Boner

WI and WI Credentials: : Secretary of Royal Eltham WI, WI Adviser for West Kent, Secretary of the West Kent Arts & Crafts Sub Committee, Member of West Kent PA&I, past member of West Kent Home Economics Sub Committee

Hobbies / Interests: Dogs, Historical Liners & Cruise Ships (especially Titanic), Cinema, Theatre, Concerts, Travel, History,

Last book read: The Complete Olive Series Collection by Carol Drinkwater

Favourite film: Gone With the Wind, The Amazing Mr Blunden, The Railway Children & The Sound of Music, are my go to films .

Music choices: In the words of John Miles - Music was my first love ... Vidor's Toccata to Guns n Roses and everything in between regardless of genre!

Most memorable holiday: Holiday was Florida 2001, we flew over the twin towers two weeks after they were destroyed and from 5 miles high we could still see the smoke rising toward the plane. It put life into perspective! My children's faces when they saw their favourite Disney characters was just the best feeling.

What do you love about the WI: WI gave me confidence to change myself and my mental health, its members supported and encouraged me to be my best person and gave me the desire to give back to others in the WI and beyond. I love all the opportunities it has given me and all I have learned from its lovely members and experiences.

Marmite: Food of the devil! Far too salty, I love Bovril on my toast!



APRIL 2023 FEDERATION NOTICEBOARD

Donations

Many thanks to **West Peckham WI** for its kind donation. As always, the Trustees are most grateful for the support they receive from the members of the West Kent Federation and very much appreciate these generous donations.

Yearbook:

Page 12: Please note that from April, **Edenbridge Evening WI** will now meet on the 3rd Monday of the month. All other details remain the same.

List of Speakers 2023

Please note the following additional speaker:

Ms Jane Scotchmer

Lynton, Station Road, Staplehurst, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 0QG

Tel No: 07772 065353

Email: jscotchmer@hotmail.co.uk

Website: www.jscotchmer.wixsite.com/talks

Fee: £60 plus 40p per mile travel expenses

Available at all times and at short notice

Fear and Desire: The History and Mystery of the Garden Grotto.

Up the Garden Path.

Guatemala: A Land of Terrible Beauty.

Burma/Myanmar: A Journey through this Captivating and Enigmatic Country.

From Farm to Jungle in Colombia.

(all talks with PowerPoint presentation)

Please see Speaker's website for full range of talks

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2023

APRIL

Wed 19	Lifestyle Annual Day	Ditton
Sat 29	ACWW Women Walk the World	Near YOU

MAY

Tue 9	Acrylic Painting for beginners	Ethel Hunt
Wed 10	Acrylic Painting for beginners	Frittenden
Thur 11	Acrylic Painting for beginners	Snodland
Fri 12	Acrylic Painting for beginners	Hextable
Sat 13	Acrylic Painting for beginners	Orpington
Thur 25	NFWI AGM	Cardiff

JUNE

10-18	Great Big Green Week	
Mon 12	Watersports	Mote Park

JULY

Weds 19	Machine Embroidery	Snodland
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OCTOBER

Thur 26	Whist Day	Ryars
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Looking forward to receiving articles and photos of your **CORONATION CELEBRATIONS**

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD 2023

29 APRIL = SOMEWHERE NEAR YOU!



Well Ladies, time to get your trainers on and enjoy a walk, through a local wood, around a park, perhaps along a river doing your own Spring Watch. Maybe a ghost walk in a local town, check out a local library for leaflets on a walk.

Whether you pay to go on the walk, or ask family to sponsor you, you are raising funds for women elsewhere in the world, whose lifestyle is completely different to yours.

Every year, on or around ACWW Day, the 29 April, ACWW members all over the world join together to raise funds for ACWW and share information about our work with their communities. This event is called Women Walk the World and has been going since 2012.

Contact ACWW at sydney@acww.org.uk to set up a fundraising page or make it a separate donation to ACWW on your WI accounts.



Green Team

greenteam@wkfwi.org.uk

Get Gardening with Greener Fingers!

It's that time of year again when the grass really starts to grow again and needs regular cutting. During the summer months, an estimated 15 million domestic lawns are mowed every couple of weeks. The emissions from petrol mowers each fortnight in domestic gardens alone are thought to be equivalent to the emissions from a 500 million mile car journey, the equivalent of the distance from the Sun to Jupiter. Petrol machinery also produces a variety of airborne pollutants that are harmful to the environment and the human body. If you are in need of a new lawnmower then do consider an electric or battery powered one as a greener option.

#NoMowMay*

I'm taking part
in #NoMowMay
for nature



Better still, give up mowing your lawn and join in "No Mow May" to give nature a boost. <https://nomowmay.plantlife.org.uk/> Letting the grasses and wildflowers bloom not only looks beautiful, it provides food for our pollinators such as bees, butterflies and moths and attracts all sorts of other wildlife. Reducing your mowing will save you money as you won't be using either electricity or petrol and it is labour saving too, giving you more time to spend on other more enjoyable aspects of gardening.

It's also the time of year when you might be sowing seeds or potting up your containers. Please remember to use peat free compost and when buying it, buy the largest bag you can handle to help reduce plastic usage. And lastly, we had record-breaking heat and a prolonged drought last summer. These climate changes present us with the challenge of gardening with less water so choosing plants to suit our growing conditions becomes paramount. The RHS has a great list for every situation - <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/for-places/drought-resistant>



This Post Box Topper was created for the WI '**Show the Love**' climate change campaign by Kate Sims a member of **NEVILL WI** (Tunbridge Wells) Kate is also a member of the Nevill WI Craft Club whose members also made the displayed hearts

Julie Redfern



WATERSPORTS AT MOTE PARK - MONDAY 12 JUNE**Mote Park, Mote Avenue, Maidstone, ME15 7SU****PADDLE BOARDING INSTRUCTION SESSIONS £15****CANOEING INSTRUCTION SESSION £15**

Once again, you are being invited to join in with the fun and games of Water Sports at Mote Park. Stuart and his qualified and insured instructors will guide everyone through how to firstly get on the paddle board, everyone starts by kneeling and then to stand up. The water is only shallow, so your paddle is an ideal prop. Everyone should be paddleboarding efficiently by the end of their session. Two Sessions of Paddleboarding are offered to keep the groups

smaller.

Perhaps you might like to try your hand at Canoeing, or even do both. For this Federation visit the sessions are only offered under instruction. Buoyancy aids are available for anyone to use. The lake is river fed and mainly two-three feet deep at its deepest. Footwear, shoes with a closed toe, old trainers are ideal. A change of clothes and a towel—just in case!

Please put the number of tickets required by the timed activity.



If you would like to join in but do not feel up to the above activities, well, be an independent sailor and come along with a few friends and hire a Swan pedalo.

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

Email:.....Phone Number.....

Address.....

Number of tickets: Paddleboard instruction 10.30am – 11.30am 12 noon – 1 pm.....

Number of Tickets: Canoe Instruction 1.30pm – 2.30pm.....

To Apply Email to pals@wkfwi.org.uk

further information Linda Wills, Phone: 01474 834163

Your WI will be invoiced on the monthly account for the number of tickets issued to you by email.

Closing date Friday 5 May

ART AND CRAFT

Paula Bates 01892 327863

artcraft@wkfwi.org.uk

Acrylic Painting for Beginners Workshop Tutor Charles Evans Tickets £32.00



Back by popular demand, Charlie is a well-known teacher and demonstrator of painting in both watercolour and acrylic and is the main representative for Daler Rowney art materials. The workshop will introduce members to painting in acrylics and will cater for all levels from beginner to the more experienced improver.

Please bring acrylic or watercolour brushes. Members may be able to use what they have or they can buy some inexpensive brushes from Charlie on the day. Painting can be done on watercolour paper supported on a board, or on canvas. Members can

bring their own paper or canvas if desired and acrylic paints if they have them. Charlie will be demonstrating on canvas.

Kit Charge, if required, payable on the day. For £5 Charles will supply acrylic paint needed for the workshop on a plastic plate for use as a palette, including one sheet of paper. He can provide additional paper if needed at £1 per sheet. Ideally please bring a 3/4" flat brush and a number 8 round brush or similar, as well as a pencil, rubber, water container, kitchen roll, masking tape and support for the paper. There will be a few boards that can be loaned out. acrylic paint can stain so we suggest you wear suitable clothes and perhaps a smock or apron.

The paintings shown are for illustration only and might not be used in the workshop.



Tuesday 9 May to Saturday 13 May

Tuesday 9 May: Ethel Hunt Lodge, Pembury TN2 4AG

Wednesday 10 May: Memorial Hall, Frittenden TN17 2DD

Thursday 11 May: Snodland Bowls Club, ME6 5DP

Friday 12 May: St Peter's Church, Hextable BR8 7RH

Saturday 13 May: St Nicholas Church Hall, Orpington BR6 9QB

Cost of ticket £32.00 to include tea/coffee on arrival and at lunchtime
10 am to 3:30 pm, Doors open 9:30am Priority for Members. Please bring a packed lunch.

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

Address & Post Code.....

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

No. of Tickets..... Priority for Members . Date & Venue.....

2nd choice date and venue.....

Closing date for tickets **now Saturday 8 April**

Please apply to: Mrs Paula Bates, 13 Copperfields, Tunbridge Wells TN2 5HZ

Please enclose a suitably sized SAE for your tickets.

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



PUBLIC AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL

Diane Daniels — 01622 674494

WI RESOLUTION 2023 - CLEAN RIVERS FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE.

The results of the first round of voting for the 2023 resolution are out – **“Clean rivers for people and wildlife”** is the chosen resolution for this year. WIs need to consider the resolution and give their **vote to their delegate before the NFWI AGM on 25 May**. This means that some WIs will need to feature this at their meeting in the latter part of April. The West Kent Federation has set up a **FREE ZOOM RESOLUTION MEEETING WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL 7PM**.



A talk will be given by Katy Lewis, Monitoring Manager West – Environment Agency. Katy is an environmental scientist who manages monitoring at the Environment Agency. She leads the teams who carry out water quality sampling in the rivers and coastal waters of England. The Environment Agency is the non-departmental Government body who monitors water quality at inland and coastal waters with large numbers of bathers designated under the Bathing Waters Directive. They report the results so that the public as well as the Local Authorities can be informed about the quality of the water for bathing. Katy will talk about the state of English rivers, current monitoring and how a WI resolution could be effective for improving bathing waters.

If you would like to join the Zoom, please secure your place on Try Booking on the attached link before 4pm on Tuesday 4 April.

Trybooking link: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CFYD>

NFWI have now announced that they have set up a **Webinar** on the subject on that same evening. To allow members to experience both sessions, our West Kent Zoom will be recorded. Information on how to access the recording of the West Kent Zoom and the live NFWI Webinar will be posted on the WI Mailboxes and on Facebook.

Contact details of who to send your votes to, ie. your delegate, are being sent to you on the NFWI AGM Second Notice.



LONGFIELD WI had an evening doing silk paintings. Our members really enjoyed it. We are now going to buy our own equipment & have another evening silk painting. Pamela Smith



LIFESTYLE

LIFESTYLE ANNUAL DAY WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL DITTON COMUMNITY CENTRE, TICKETS £12.50

To obtain tickets after the closing date of 5 April please email your request to Tickets@wkfwi.org.uk

Speakers are Florist Sarah Poole,
Distiller Will Edge
Dresser for the Stars Paul Read
See March WKN for full information

ISTEAD RISE WI Art Group was delighted to welcome artist Graham Lock for a morning tutorial. Two members Priscilla Herbert and Linda Wills had outstanding Bursaries, Cilla's from the cancelled West Kent Federation visit to Denman. They pooled their bursaries and have been using them to fund art tutorials for all the group to enjoy.

REPORT OF A RECENT EVENT

Creative Machine Embroidery for Beginners

Four of us from **DOWNE WI** - Diane, Sheila, Jean and Mae with another 9 ladies attended the machine embroidery workshop on Friday 3 March with our wonderful tutor Wendy Dolan. We arrived, coffee was served and then it was down to business. Wendy introduced us to the project with a talk and demonstration, we then set to trying to complete the various stitches, with a lot of help and advice from Wendy. Throughout the morning more demos and a lot more practice. After lunch Wendy demonstrated what we were expected to achieve, gave us her pre-printed picture, we then set to adding chiffon strips and embellishing with stitching building up our pictures. We were quite surprised at how much we had progressed during the day from our efforts early on to producing a pretty picture. We had a very informative, interesting and fun day, our thanks to Wendy and Jenny for organising. Unfortunately I forgot to take any photos on the day, so my apologies to the other ladies. I have since taken photos of our efforts. Sheila Chivers, Secretary *Please see below for opportunity to attend an additional class*



WEDNESDAY 19 July AT SNODLAND

Due to the **EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP** being oversubscribed an additional date has been added. Members who missed out on the first workshops have been contacted and there are just a few places left.

Please view, on West Kent Website, **January WKN** for full information

10:00am to 3:30pm. Doors open at 9:30am

Tickets £39 to include tea and coffee, Please bring a packed lunch and your own cup. Closing date for tickets is Friday 26 May

Apply to: Jenny Way, 27 Veles Road, Snodland ME6 5RB

Please include your details on a sheet of paper. WI, Contact Name, Phone number, email, number of tickets required. If you would require to borrow a sewing machine.

Please include a suitably sized self addressed envelope.

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



Congratulations to **BETTY IZABY** - on reaching 100 years of age on 29.1.23. Betty was given a special cake, flowers, and a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday to you". Love and very best wishes from everyone at **Headcorn**

Carol Gupwell shares that she spent a lovely evening making Origami Flowers with the members of **HILDENBOROUGH W I**.



EMMIE SHIPMAN WINNER 2023

KEEPING FIT: A TRIAL OR A TREAT?

Once, the dictate was, which came our way: a thousand steps be walked each day..
Mind, after shopping and trekking round stores, cleaning and mopping and polishing floors..
Upstairs and downstairs with Hoover hauled; while wielding our dusters on handrails and halls,
Some of us thought we'd done our bit, regarding those steps, and keeping fit.

Green Goddess devotees we followed her moves, we stretched and gyrated, physiques to improve.

Back in the day it wasn't a trial we could jog round the park and toss in a mile..

Our determination would never buckle, we carelessly ran with a laugh and a chuckle.

But, today it's become Up and Down that we go: p.s. That's merely our eyelids, I'll have you know!

Exercise, exercise, trial or a treat? We ponder its meaning as we mindfully eat.

A life-time brings wisdom, we're more youthful I feel. The age I am now I can finally reveal, my energy's flown, maybe so has my zeal..

But my arms get their workout, up and down now they go, which flexes my muscles, sets my face all aglow..

Cos there's nothing more pleasing than a small glass of sherry. That's my exercise now plus it keeps me quite merry!

It's a salutary tale! We may not be sylphlike, our hair might be white,
But even so life can bring lots of delight.

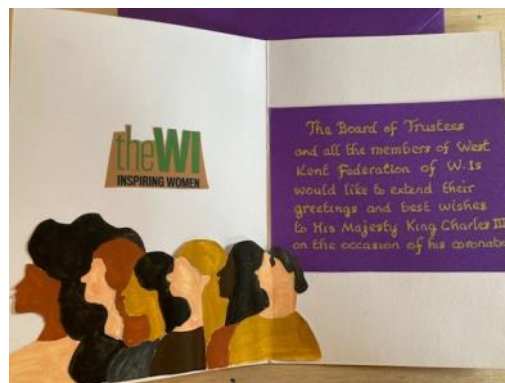
We'll walk when we can, even if we can't run. Turn our faces like flowers to the warmth of the sun We'll pursue our good causes with energy mustered! For we're WI ladies: we're no cowardly custards!

CONGRATULATIONS TO:- JUDITH BISHOP, ALLINGTON CASTLE WI

The other entries to our Federation Design a card for the Coronation of Charles III Competition		
Front Cover	Inside	Front
		



Front Cover

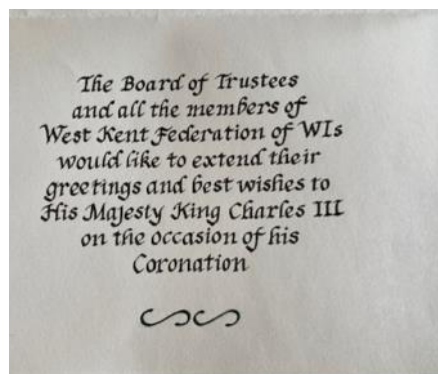


Inside



**Thank You to
CAGE GREEN
TENTERDEN GLEBE
ALLINGTON
CASTLE WIS for
supporting the
Competition.

Christine Basden,
Vina Welsh
and Judith Bishop**



Aptly named Dawn (Foxwell) from **HARVEL WI** shares the beautiful rising sun photo, taken in their garden, with us.



On 26 February the Mah-jong group of **Bredhurst WI** celebrated the Chinese New Year. They played several games of Mah-jong then enjoyed a Chinese Take-away. The event was rounded off with a Chinese quiz followed by a very funny game of Oriental charades. In the spirit of the Chinese New Year custom, the winners of each were awarded lucky money – made of chocolate of course!



The **SOUTH PARK WI** Craft Group are preparing for Easter making a basket of bunnies stuffed with chocolate eggs!
Amanda Bird



HOLLINGBOURNE WI

This year, we organised 23 Races to mark Shrove Tuesday. The playgroup, school pupils, teachers, parents, PCSOs and our Vicar ran in this annual event.

The mums and dad's races were strongly contested. Our Borough and County councillors volunteered to help as did husbands, villagers, and the Parish Clerk, whose pig—Jenson ate up the dropped pancakes.

The senior pupils adjudicated the tossing of the pancakes and escorted the winners to collect their commemorative rosettes. They were very helpful and polite.

Tesco's helped with the supply of Hot Cros Buns for refreshments which our WI served with tea and coffee in the Pavilion.

President Mary Henderson won the WI Race

This was the 12th running of our Pancake Race – a fabulous village event.

WI members having a 'flipping' good time.





OBITUARIES

Frindsbury

Extra WI was saddened by the death of longstanding member Muriel Divall. She had been a

member for 50 years and latterly a dual member of Frindsbury WI until ill health prevented her from attending meetings. She was a former committee member and president involved with the running of the WI over the years. She will be much missed by all who knew her.

It is with great sadness that **Hartley Afternoon WI** announces the passing of **MRS MARLO BRETT** on 8 March. Marlo was the sitting Treasurer at the time of her passing, although she planned to step down at the Annual Meeting in May. She was a well respected long serving member of the Institute and will be remembered for her sense of humour and straight talking. Rest

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.



talk on "Funny things that happened on my way through life" of real-life events. Although Dawn said she was nervous, she needn't have worried, as we really enjoyed a very entertaining talk."

Jean Prestige-Jones, President

Crockham Hill WI is sad to report that **ANNA GOLDSTEIN** has died after a very short illness. She was our ACWW link for many years and some of you may have heard her talks on London. A member for over 55 years she will be sadly missed. Another recent death was that of **LYNDA BROWN** who was a wonderful flower arranger and botanical artist. She had been bed bound



Detling WI sends warmest congratulations to **KATHY and DAVE TANTON** on their Golden Wedding Anniversary which was in March.

Highgate Hawkhurst WI extends their love and congratulations to **BARBARA and PETER GOAD** who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in March. A marvellous milestone: they have been married longer than some of

HARVEL WI'S February meeting saw a real treat from one of our own members, Dawn Foxwell, who gave us a really



RAINHAM WI Members bought in over 40 knitted, sewn, card and paper Green Hearts.

WHO TO CONTACT

CHAIR:

Amanda Breach

Email: chair@wkfwi.org.uk

Tel: 01892 823813

FEDERATION TREASURER:

Rita King

Email: treasurer@wkfwi.org.uk

01892 354454 Weds or Thurs

CHAIRMAN OF WI ADVISERS:

Mrs Carol Gupwell

Tel No: 01622 676600

Email:

carolagupwell156@hotmail.com

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER ADMINISTRATOR:

Gillian Neville

Email: gneville@live.co.uk

RESOLUTION COORDINATOR:

Caroline Davis Email:

daviscawkf@gmail.com

ACWW: To be advised

KENT VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY GROUP:

Diane Daniels

Tel No: 01622 674494

Jill Fissenden

Tel No: 01622 758251

WEST KENT NEWS: EDITORS

Mrs Linda Wills

Tel No: 01474 834163

Mrs Janet Buller

Tel No: 01795 471713

Mrs Rita King

Tel No: 01892 354454

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