



# WEST KENT WI NEWS

March 2021



## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear ladies,

Well here we are in March. As I write this it is actually a very wet 30 January.

When you do see this letter it will probably be after our Annual Meeting. I do hope you managed to "send" a Delegate to the meeting and that they found it informative.

What a lot of technology we have had to learn in the last year.

I hope now the days are staying lighter longer you are getting out especially now some of you have had a "jab" or two! My garden is already waking up and beginning to look pretty again. But of course the nights can be quite cold and this might make you laugh, we warm up our bed with the hair dryer just to take the chill off before we jump in!

We have had a few emails asking about subscriptions and the national AGM. Of course this is out of Federation hands, so to speak, so we can only grumble too. I am sure by the time you read this there will be news.

I trust that your WI has voted for the New National Trustees and of course remembered to vote for our own Annette Smith. Both Annette and Eileen Vago have stood down as trustees at our Annual Meeting. I cannot thank them enough for all their hard work over their time on the Board. I am sure we will see them both around once life gets back to normal and I can confirm that Annette is staying on the Home Economics Committee.

I shall close now but I do hope to see some of you soon!

Be Strong and Keep Safe,

*Jane Backshall*

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH	Wed 10	Federation AGM	Via Zoom
MAY	Tues 18	Maytime Walk	Hopehill
JUNE	Mon 8	NFWI AGM	Royal Albert Hall
SEPTEMBER			
Tues 21		Home Economics Annual Day	Ditton
Wed 22		Home Economics Annual Day	Ditton
OCTOBER			
Wed 6		Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton
Thur 7		Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton

*All activities subject to change*

## Treasurer's Corner



I wanted to cover a few items this month.

Firstly you will have hopefully seen the news/guidance from NFWI that WIs will be allowed some flexibility over the WI portion of the subscription. I will just summarise the main points but the NFWI guidance is very clear on what can and cannot be done and hopefully will answer the questions that you and your members may have.

The flexibility allows you as a WI to do the following:

- Require members to pay the full subscription including the WI portion
- Waive the WI portion of the subscription
- Waive part of the WI portion of the subscription

It does not apply to the Federation or NFWI portion of the subscription and these should be collected as normal.

WIs need to make this decision annually, and must be based on the levels of reserve and the forecast expenditure for the coming year.

As I say the guidance provides detailed answers on many more questions so please do read it.

I have written to NFWI asking if they are going to provide any guidance on collection of subscriptions if WIs can't meet up from April. I know many West Kent WIs are concerned about this.

I would ask that if WIs do provide the subscription flexibility that members don't pay the Federation/National portion direct to us. This will create a lot of work for you and us in trying to keep track of who has paid what. The Board of Trustees are not expecting you to be able to collect subscriptions till you are actually meeting. However, if you are happy to collect subscriptions by whatever means i.e. on line banking, cheques posted to you then that of course is fine.

I have also been asked by the Board to mention a couple of other issues, which I would be grateful if you can pass on to your Committee:

If you have not already held your Annual Meeting for the last year you only have till 31 March to do so. If you need any advice on how to manage this I am sure your adviser will be happy to assist.

Similarly if you have not already done so please can you send in your Annual Return/Financial Statement.

*Gillian Neville*

The Trustees are sorry to announce that Clair Samuel has decided to leave. We would like to thank her for all that she has done for the WI and wish her well in the future.



WIAs are available to answer queries during these difficult times.  
Well done to all for maintaining contact with your Members.  
We look forward to meeting face to face when rules allow.....

*Carol Gupwell*

Membership Chair

**Lockdown project 144 squares Aria attic blanket .Now the problem is which Daughter receives it...really kept me busy.**



## Green Team

greenteam@wkfwi.org.uk

It's Spring – get growing! Green fingered, yes, but can you garden greener?

**POTS:** Ditch the plastic, make your own from newspaper or recycle cardboard tubes. Share existing pots with friends and neighbours on your local Facebook page. Use yogurt pots that can be recycled after use. Use Vipots which look like plastic but eventually decompose or plant in coconut/coir plugs for pot free, improved germination, ease of use and PEAT FREE growing!

**COMPOST:** GO PEAT FREE! PEAT stores more carbon than all the World's forests! Once it is dug up, the carbon is released. There are lots of peat free potting composts available now or you can make your own. 2 parts home-made compost, 1 part sharp sand, 1 part loam and 1 part leaf mould or composted bark.

**FERTILISER:** Check plastic containers have recycle codes 1,2 and 5 before you buy and recycle. Cut plastics by buying super concentrates and dilute as needed. Avoid plastic bags unless it says it is a compostable bag. Or, avoid all those plastics by making your own! Stuff comfrey in a bucket, fill with water, put a lid on, leave to rot. Use 1 part comfrey liquid to 15 parts water. Russian comfrey doesn't self-seed if you want to plant some for future years.

**POLLINATION:** Better pollination = better flowers and crops so support bees and other helpful insects by planting a few pots or an area with native wild flower seeds. The Woodland Trust has lots of advice.

**ENCOURAGE WILDLIFE:** Plant a native tree for shade, trapping carbon, reducing noise pollution and provide homes for wildlife. Leave some areas of your garden untended; let nettles thrive and fallen wood rot.

Happy gardening everyone! To nurture a garden is to feed the soul! Enjoy!

## Volunteering as a Vaccinator for the Covid vaccination campaign

When I heard that a vaccine had been produced to protect against Covid 19, my immediate thought was how on earth are the NHS going to vaccinate so many people. I remembered back to the many Flu clinics that I had organised as a Practice Nurse in a GP Surgery and realised that this was going to need a huge amount of support to get this off the ground. And so it has proved that the vaccine roll-out has been one of the biggest logistical challenges of my lifetime, involving a legion of NHS staff and Volunteers, one of them being me. As my Nurse registration had lapsed due to my retirement 8 years ago, I had to do an online training refresher course to update myself on the vaccines and immunisation and also Basic Life Support to prove that I was qualified and competent to vaccinate and then I was ready to start.

My first session, I set off with a sense of trepidation, it had been a long time since I had been in a working environment. I was already anxious about being on time for 7.30 am, lockdown has made me a lazy starter often not getting myself organised until about 9am, and also knowing that I would have to do the lateral flow test twice a week to check that I am negative to Covid, anyone testing positive is immediately sent for further testing and unable to return to the clinic until a negative test is received. On arrival I found I had been partnered with a GP that I used to work with and it wasn't long before we were working as a team, she consenting the patients and me vaccinating. I was surprised at the army of volunteers who support each clinic, from those meeting and greeting, directing the flow of patients seamlessly from one room to another and the admin teams documenting all the information, all so welcoming and friendly. A hard task when clinics of 200-400 patients are seen sometimes twice a day, seven days a week. No wonder the targets set to get the first four age groups vaccinated will be achieved in record time and we can move on to the next phase. I am enjoying being part of this historic campaign, seeing the public so keen to have their vaccinations and being so grateful that this may well be the turning point for a return to some of normality.

Bev Wild. West Wickham WI and WI Adviser West Kent Federation





### Walking Netball Virtual Sessions

Walking Netball sessions were moved online at the start of lockdown last year; since then, the sessions have built a wonderful community of members from around the country, coming together twice a week to take part in a physical activity session plus a coffee and chat afterwards. These sessions are free to attend and are being offered through our successful partnership with England Netball. All WI members are welcome to join in, regardless of whether or not you play, or want to play, Walking Netball. So, dig out those trainers and come and have a 'wiggle and a giggle' with us on Monday evenings at 7.30pm and Thursday mornings at 10.30am. Email [WInetball@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:WInetball@englandnetball.co.uk) to receive the Zoom link.

To find out more visit My WI | Walking Netball ([thewi.org.uk](http://thewi.org.uk))

## May-time Walk and Fun Quiz



Tuesday 18 May. Start time between 10am and 12 noon.

It is very difficult to arrange something when we are unsure of any further restrictions. However, we hope that the Maytime Walk will go ahead, if there are issues then we would endeavour to move it on to June – any applicants would be notified so that they could confirm their availability.

We have to wait until the Scouting Association gives us permission to use the Hopehill Site. This activity is **free for members**, but we would ask that any **non members pay £2.00 (on the day)** which is the fee that the site is charging us per person for parking and use of the facilities.

Also, keep an eye out for the information to learn Paddle Boarding at Mote Park in the summer

Hopehill Scout Campsite, South Street, Wrotham Road, Meopham, Gravesend DA13 0QJ

5-mile or 2-mile walk. Regret due to restrictions at time of writing, **please bring your own picnic.**

Enjoy a self-guided Summer walk around the beautiful chalk valleys east of Meopham on footpaths, byways and quiet roads. Just one sturdy stile.

You will receive a map and instructions so you can follow the route at your own pace as you guide yourself around the route. WI members, family and friends are welcome, you will need to choose your length of walk and start time.

Please apply by the 19 April either by post or email as per details below.

We are hoping that the recommended restrictions will be finished to enable members to enjoy this activity. However, as you will probably be applying on your own behalf, not via your WI rep., please make sure you include your own details, with an email contact would be great, so you can, if necessary be contacted. Thank you

May-time Walk and Fun quiz. Tuesday 18 May 5-mile or a 2-mile walk

### Hopehill Scout Campsite

Start time 10.00am – 10.30am Adults:.....Under 16:..... 5 mile:.....2 mile:.....

Start time 10.30am – 11.00am Adults:.....Under 16:.....5 mile:.....2 mile:.....

Start time 11.00am – 11.30am Adults:.....Under 16:.....5 mile:.....2 mile:.....

Start time 11.30am – 12 noon Adults:.....Under16:.....5 mile:.....2 mile:.....

WI.....Contact name.....

Address.....

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

Apply to: Mrs. Heather Brown "Berwyn" 152 Kingswood Road, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7EL. **Or email**

**heather-a.brown@tiscali.co.uk** For post please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.



Paula Bates

01892 327863

## Isolation Creations

As a member of the Art & Craft Sub-committee we have had Zoom meetings and during this time we showed each other projects we had made whilst shielding, isolating, enduring lock downs and living in tier 4 areas. The committee thought you might like to show the Federation your efforts. We would love to see what you have knitted, crocheted, painted or crafted during the past months and we plan to showcase them in The West Kent News under 'Isolation Creations'.

Please send your photos as a jpeg file attachment- no larger than medium resolution - with a brief description of how you made the item, and any other information you think might be of interest to the committee.

Please include your name and the name of your WI by email to: [ArtCraft@wkwi.org.uk](mailto:ArtCraft@wkwi.org.uk)

Sue Sharp  
Art & Craft Sub Committee

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL

Caroline Davis—01892 725571

## Stop Modern Slavery

NFWI Resolution 2020-2021

Modern slavery is a complex crime that takes a number of different forms. It encompasses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking. Traffickers and slave drivers coerce, deceive and force individuals against their will into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. Victims may be sexually exploited, forced to work for little or no pay or forced to commit criminal activities against their will.

West Kent Federation Public Affairs and International sub-committee recently held a Zoom meeting on "Stop Modern Slavery" for over 50 ladies. Our speaker was Neil Giles from "Stop the Traffik" - a charity that works to prevent trafficking in the first place. Neil has worked with Police and other international agencies throughout his career before joining "Stop the Traffik" ten years ago. If you would like to watch the video of Neil Giles talk, you will need to be running Windows 10 on your computer, copy and paste this link <https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AK%2DBIJuoXtEEPuk&id=D14A053AF1BB9402%21132&cid=D14A053AF1BB9402>

Neil stated that we need to be responsible in our purchasing, checking that companies have favourable records of their policy on avoiding Modern Slavery. We should also keep our eyes open for suspicious activity and report it to the appropriate authorities and concern groups. Nail bars and car washes are always quoted as places to watch out for but we need to keep a general eye open for unusual behaviour in other situations.

According to the Salvation Army, you could come into contact with a victim of modern slavery without even realising. The signs aren't always easy to spot and not all of these will apply in every case, but there are several key indicators to keep in mind. These include in relation to a person's physical appearance (untreated injuries or appearing withdrawn for example), working conditions, behaviour, accommodation, finances and level of freedom (for example they may show signs that their movements are being controlled or have no access to medical care).

If you are at all suspicious, then do contact one of the agencies listed below. It is reported that many successful prosecutions for modern slavery have results from an initial phone call: "I am sorry to bother you, I am sure it probably isn't important but I just had a feeling something wasn't quite right with ....."

Modern Slavery Helpline Tel: 08000 121 700

The Police Tel: 101 (if you are in immediate danger call 999)

Crimestoppers Tel: 0800 555 111

## **A Call to Increase Potential Stem Cell Donor Registration**

The WI have sponsored an Annual Resolution for over 100 years. One of the most famous led to the “Keep Britain Tidy” campaign. A more recent famous one was “Save the Bees”. This year (2020) we have two resolutions - one about Modern Slavery and one about Stem Cell Donor Registration. This message is to show you how **you** can do your little bit in the call to increase Stem Cell Donor Registration.

Every twenty minutes, someone in the UK is diagnosed with blood cancer. Often, replacing their cancerous blood cells through a blood stem cell donation from a matching donor is the best chance of survival. Stem cells from a family member are a most likely match but they are not always available or suitable. There are thousands of people across the country who cannot find a matching donor. We need to extend the list of possible donors on the registration database.

First of all, you need to register with one of the registration agencies (see below). You will be sent a swab to collect saliva from inside your mouth. This will give the information necessary to see if you are a potential donor. If all is well, then your details will go on the UK registry which is available to clinicians worldwide. Most likely you will never be called but there is a chance you will be a match for someone in great need. If you are called, further tests and some booster medication would be started. In most cases, the actual removal of your stem cells works rather like giving blood, but the blood itself is returned to your body after the stem cells have been removed. In some cases, a surgical procedure is needed to remove stem cells from your hip. You would

always be given the choice of whether to go down the surgical route or not, if that was requested. But most cases use the blood transfusion method.

Once your stem cells have been removed in a small amount of liquid from your blood, they will be frozen until needed by the patient. The patient then receives them through a drip feed. We would like to say..... “and the rest is history” but unfortunately the success rate of stem cell transplants is still relatively low. However, your small donation of body fluids (at registration) could also be used for valuable research.

Please pass on this document to all of your family and friends. You might have health issues or be too old, preventing you from being a potential donor, but you can pass this message to others who are younger and fitter. One of our ladies recently told her grand-daughter about our campaign. The girl could not donate for health reasons but she told her University friends and, within days, 45 of them had registered. To quote a famous supermarket group “Every little helps!”.

**For details of Registration, please click on the websites of the following organisations:**

[www.anthonynolan.org](http://www.anthonynolan.org)

[www.nhs.uk/what-we-do/transplantation-services/stem-cells/](http://www.nhs.uk/what-we-do/transplantation-services/stem-cells/)

[www.dkms.org.uk](http://www.dkms.org.uk)

You need to check the age and demographic groups for each registration organisation but the general rule of thumb is the younger the donor the better and it seems that young men are the more successful donors.

**Please pass this message on to help save lives.**



## **Lady Denman Cup Competition 2021**

***“Let me show you what a woman can do!”***

Artemisia Gentileschi, Self Portrait as Saint Catherine of Alexandria, about 1615-17. @The National Gallery

### **Schedule**

The NFWI is pleased to announce that the Lady Denman Cup Competition 2021 will be held in partnership with the National Gallery. Using no more than 500 words, WI members are invited to submit a piece of writing, fact or fiction, in any style (story, poem etc.) based on the above painting by Artemisia Gentileschi.

**Entries can be submitted either via email or by hard copy.**

Entrants must submit 4 copies of their entry, typed if possible, on A4 paper to their Federation Secretary no later than **Friday 30 July 2021**.

Full details of all the rules have been forwarded to your WI Secretary.

Entry forms can be downloaded from our website [www.thewi.org.uk/westkent](http://www.thewi.org.uk/westkent)



## Congratulations from Shoreham WI to Ann Ball

The Queen has graciously awarded me **The British Empire Medal (BEM)** in the New Year's Honours List

### FOR SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY IN SHOREHAM

I had an email from The Ceremonial Officer in the Cabinet office offering me the BEM which I was thrilled to accept. This was followed up by a phone call from Izzy in the awards office who listed the many things I have been involved with and checked that she had all my details down correctly. I am very grateful to all those who supported the nomination for this award particularly William Alexander and it is a wonderful surprise when the past eight months have been so depressing.

I joined DANDAG (Darent and North Downs Action Group) when we arrived here in 1977 and I spent months at the M25 Swanley enquiry to try and stop it going through the Shepherds Barn Valley – although we failed, lots of changes in the landscaping and route were made.

I joined the Shoreham Society Committee and served on the committee of the WI. With the help of SDC and Keith Skinner I organised the refurbishment of our heritage street signs. Let Shoreham Shine organised by the Shoreham Society was a regular event for me. I am Deputy Church warden at St Peter and St Pauls with special remit to looking after "Gods Acre" and caring in the community.

I have spent many years working for City Organisations including the Worshipful Company of Painter Stainer's, The United Wards Club and Queenhithe Ward Club who gave their support Thank you all.

Meridian TV interviewed me for their news programme which was broadcast on 1st January. Credit for photograph to Hannah Higginson, student of Photography at West Kent College



Following a discussion with one of our members whose daughter works in ICU at Maidstone Hospital, **Bearsted Green WI** decided to make a collection for items that were desperately needed by the staff. Many were doing gruelling shifts of twelve hours or so, after which they wanted to get themselves as clean, refreshed and infection-free as possible before returning home. For this they asked for individual items of care, such as shower gel, deodorant, foot-cream and hand-cream.



This was welcomed by Staff Nurse Fiona Midgley (r) handing the toiletries to Matron Maria Crittenden.

The generosity of members greatly exceeded the initial estimate and order, so a subsequent order was made and delivered of an assortment of snacks and drinks.

We are glad to be able to support our local NHS in this way, particularly as there is the personal connection. We are so very grateful to them all for their dedication and incredible hard work in such harrowing times.

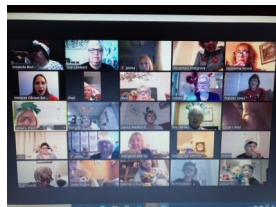


**South Park WI** have had a busy few months despite Covid and Lockdown . We are lucky to have 55 of our 58 members on email so we can continue to communicate quite well !!

We've now had several Zoom meetings with speakers and at our Christmas meeting we had 36 members on Zoom. We are hoping to increase this number as the months go by .

Our Craft group continues on Zoom showing what we've all been occupying ourselves with knitting, crocheting, lace, embroidery, felting, card making to name but a few . We made mittens for the hospice, sent every member a Christmas bag with quiz, puzzle, card, gingerbread, and cracker which were very much appreciated .

January's craft group will make seed hearts for the show the love campaign in February . We very much look forward to being together again but in the mean time there's no stopping South Park !



## Coney Hall Village WI – Starting a new group under Lockdown!

We soon realised that 2020 wasn't the best time to set up our new WI group. We were formed in February, but didn't manage to have a single meeting in our hall before we went into lockdown in March. Instead, we had 'socially distanced' picnics at the local park in the summer sunshine and when the weather changed, we held our meetings via Zoom with quizzes, talks and craft activities.



A successful walking group and virtual book club were established. Our Christmas 'meeting in a bag' gave our members plenty to do including spring bulbs to plant and a cross stitch kit.

From the photos you can see that we had a fantastic response to our collection for Bromley Food Bank in December.

Amazingly, from 13 members in February we have ended the year with 36 members. A big thank you to all our members, better times are coming!

## ACWW – Now representing Non Government Organisations globally on the UNESCO Liaison Committee

ACWW – Now representing Non Government Organisations globally on the UNESCO Liaison Committee

Most WI members are probably aware that ACWW funds projects to improve the quality of life of women in poorer countries. These are grass roots projects often put forward by member societies themselves. But did you know that ACWW holds Consultative Status with the United Nations? Soon after the United Nations was formed in 1947 ACWW was given Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, (ECOSOC).

As well as ECOSOC, they also have Consultative Status with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

For many years ACWW has used its consultative status with UNESCO to advocate for the needs of rural women, and to bring information to our members. Over the past 4 years, they have worked closely with the Non Government Organisations-UNESCO Liaison Committee to promote the work of the Association, and to best combine and amplify the efforts of Non Government Organisations (NGOs) worldwide in this important forum.

ACWW is pleased to announce that in December, ACWW was elected by NGOs globally to represent them on the Liaison Committee for the next 2 years, working with a team from other organisations all over the world. ACWW is delighted to have this opportunity, and look forward to bringing you further updates as the term progresses. With only 10 paid members of staff this is quite an achievement for ACWW.

The Associated Country Women of the World is an International Non-Governmental Organisation and pursues its charitable objectives through its member societies, individual members and networks of non-member Non-Governmental Organisations. Together, they represent more than 9 million women in more than 80 countries around the world. West Kent Federation is affiliated to ACWW so you as a WI member are counted in that 9 million women.

How about joining ACWW as an individual member and becoming more involved with their work. It's easy to join on-line; just go to their website [www.ACWW.org.uk](http://www.ACWW.org.uk) and follow the links to Membership. Like all charities they have seen a drop in donations because of the pandemic so by joining you will be helping them to continue their excellent work.

Tricia Ashdown

ACWW Rep

[triciaashdown@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:triciaashdown@yahoo.co.uk)

**St.Mary's Platt WI.** Like many of the other institutes we have not met since the start of the lockdown in March 2020, we have had a few Zoom meetings and the committee meet regularly by Zoom to keep the business going. President Pat Darby sends out a monthly newsletter and delivers birthday cards. When lockdown was lifted we did hold a social distanced meeting in the lovely garden of our hall, on a sunny August afternoon, everyone sanitised! and members brought along the projects they had been working on. At Christmas our President Pat Darby made approx. 30 cards with patchwork detail and our Treasurer Clare Connarty made lovely fragrant soaps presented in a Christmas bag. The members were surprised and appreciated the gift.



Marion Cox  
Secretary St Mary's Platt WI

### POETS CORNER

#### SPRING

O Spring will ever be for me  
A visual thing of plant and tree.  
The stirring time of nature's ways  
When buds pop up in warmer days.  
For me Spring is a golden time  
With daffodil and celandine.

O Spring will ever be for me  
A singing time from every tree.  
When blackbird, thrush and wren  
around  
To make a truly heavenly sound  
For me Spring is a time of songs  
From dawn until the darkness  
comes.

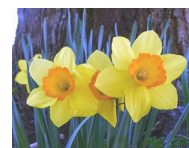
And so, my God I give you praise  
For guiding me through nature's  
ways.

Response to every living thing  
The gift of sight and hearing bring  
For me Spring is a true rebirth  
Of everything upon the earth.  
May Greagsby  
Fordcombe WI

#### SPRING CLEANING

Mum has started spring cleaning,  
The cat had a terrible shock.  
He knows that she'll guess, who  
made a mess  
And spilt the milk over her frock.  
She sorted out masses of jumble,  
Dad says she's a horrible pest  
She's taken his shirt – that really  
hurt,  
It's the one he loves the best.  
My brother is having a tantrum,  
She's thrown all his old comics out.  
She says it's a shame, he hasn't a  
brain  
All his actions prove that's no doubt.  
Now she has started on my room  
I can't find my brush or my comb,  
Dad's seeing red, the cat's in the  
shed  
And we're all of us going to leave  
home

Kath Pert  
Ditton WI



Both poems taken from A  
Miscellany of Poems  
By West Kent Members 1999



# ART AND CRAFT



Paula Bates

01892 327863

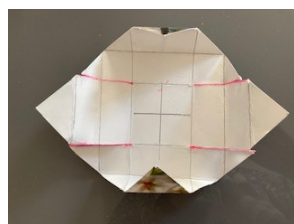


## RECYCLE GREETINGS CARD INTO A SMALL GIFT BOX

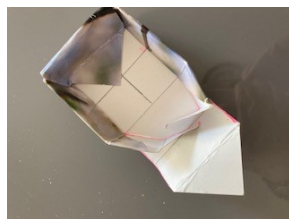
Cut a square from  
greetings card 20 cm  
or larger for the top of



the box and 1 cm smaller for the bottom of the box., but no smaller than 16/15 cm.



From the diagonal  
points, mark the centre  
of the square and then  
fold in the points from all  
four sides to the centre  
and unfold. Fold from  
each corner in half and  
half again up to the



centre.

Cut the box on the lines marked in pink only, be careful not to cut  
in to the central box. Fold in from the longer sides in to the  
centre, and then tuck shorter sides over to secure. Repeat for the  
bottom half of the box.



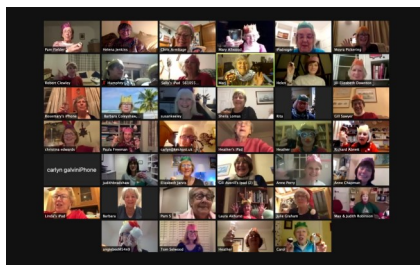
## Hadlow WI

On the 19 January we held our first Zoom members meeting of the year. Alison Marsden from 'Garden Design' in Southborough gave us a talk entitled 'Wildlife Friendly Gardens and Good for People Too'. The talk was very interesting and informative and I think we all felt that no matter how big or small our gardens were, we could all do our bit to encourage more wildlife into our gardens by providing various habitats and planting that both we and wildlife could enjoy. "A wildlife friendly garden is something of interest, is carefully managed, productive, part of a network and is great for your family." (AM)

Shirley Ellis

Hadlow WI, Committee member

Ightham W I is pleased to report that their December Meeting was the 9th carried out via Zoom and took the form of a Christmas Party which was enjoyed by 40 members - the hard working committee had delivered a Surprise Christmas Bag to each member and these were opened at the beginning of the Party - contents included Jokes, Raffle Tickets, Seeds, Puzzle, Handmade Decorations and Hats which were put to immediate use (see attached!) - there followed a lively mix of games, readings and competitions with a lot of audience participation and a lot of laughter and ended with a toast to the year ahead and whatever it might bring.



A new Theatre Discussion group has been formed and Craft meetings, book groups and the occasional chat over lunch continue on Zoom and there is an active list of books and jigsaws that can be borrowed, and a regular exchange of topical jokes and emails keeping members involved

Mary Allwood - Ightham WI

## Memory Corner

I joined West Malling WI in 1983 and very soon became involved with the Federation's Publications. Kent County Show was the Highlight of the year. The WI Marquee held 'The Show Competition', WI Markets, Publications Stand, a large selection of books, aprons, tea towels and bags were on sale. There were Denman and Federation tables and of course, the refreshments. The smell of sizzling bacon first thing in the morning and customers waiting for their bacon butties.

In 1997 West Malling WI celebrated their 80th birthday and members decided we would celebrate in style. After many months of fundraising members and guests had a wonderful evening at Leeds Castle, including the reading of our first AGM Minutes 1918, so different from today. The evening closed with entertainment called Edwardian Soirees.

In 1999 we decided to do something for the Millennium. An idea was formed to publish our scrapbook. In 1954/5 the Federation organised a scrapbook competition and West Malling WI came fourth. The idea was a way to thank all members who took on the task to gather information, photos from around West Malling. Very few people had telephones, the web was in its infancy, so a team of ladies walked and cycled around to interview people to gain the information needed. Four members typed all the stories and another member made the cover. We were very lucky, our local bookshop offered to publish the book at no charge and the WI would receive commission on sales. After being approved by Federation, the book went into print. Our book launch was an evening event and we managed to find two ladies who still lived in West Malling who helped on the original scrapbook. A great evening, 100 copies were published, to date 96 sold.

Happy days!

Eileen Vago Ryarsh WI

(Sadly, West Malling WI closed in 2013)

## Thank you

To all members who have knitted hats for the homeless from the pattern PA&I sent out. Also to those that have donated tinned food, biscuits, crisps etc.

The picture shows a very grateful guy on an extremely cold night modelling his knitted Beanie.....very cosy. He wanted me to say thank you all on his behalf.



## OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that **Gates Green WI** have to report the sad death of one of our long standing members

**JILL SELLAR.** Jill enjoyed joining us at our monthly meetings on a regular basis and came on outings whenever possible. She was a quiet and lovely lady who had many great friends within our WI and will be sadly missed.

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you that one of our dearest members of **Sennocke WI** has passed away, just a week away from her 99th birthday. **GWEN COOLEY** was a much loved member of our institute, she joined us about forty years ago. She was our register lady, who always greeted everyone with a smile, her warmth and friendly personality always put people at ease. Our hearts go out to her family, at this terrible and trying time. We will all miss our dear friend Gwen.

**Highgate Hawkhurst WI** is sad to report the passing of **JEAN FRENCH** who died in January, aged 98. Jean was one of the founding members of our WI and took an active part in all the various groups. She helped create our tablecloth, banner and the district tablecloth. She was a member of the darts and drama groups and held various positions on the Committee. Jean will be very much missed, but fondly remembered by all who knew her.

**Chiddingstone WI** is proactive in organising virtual meetings on Zoom. Jacqui Wilcox stated: "Last month we had a brilliant talk by The Pearl Lady. On 2 March our next talk will be a mixture of WI and Burlesque. Should be interesting and great fun! We have invited members of our local WI's. Last month some members from Edenbridge Evening joined us and we all had a great evening."

## Scams!! Be aware

Please be aware of scams making the rounds at the moment:

BT threatening disconnection of your landline and internet service.

HMRC/Amazon threatening legal action.

To verify if you have made a bank transaction press 1/2

NHS vaccination application (it asks for bank details)

Your washing machine insurance has expired.

The above are SCAMS and are very realistic (especially the NHS one) they can be telephone calls or emails. DO NOT click on any links or press 1 for further details. Never disclose your bank details. Hang up/delete and if at all concerned ask for advice from a trusted person/source.

## CONGRATULATIONS

The members of **Boughton Monchelsea WI** send their warmest congratulations to **PAT and DAVID TOMLIN** who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 28 January.



### DID YOU KNOW?

You can access an online copy of WI Life and West Kent News:

WI Life : <https://www.thewi.org.uk>

West Kent News :

<https://west-kent.thewi.org.uk>

You do not need to log into myWI as they can be accessed from the home screen.

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## ARTICLES—YOUR EVENT

Articles, your events, congratulations and obituaries. If possible email direct to [westkentnews@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:westkentnews@wkwfi.org.uk). If not, please post to our Ethel Hunt Address, see top of page two. Please no more than 150 words and two photographs. Items will be included as space allows..