



**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

# WEST KENT WI NEWS

FEBRUARY 2021

## **West Kent Federation Annual General Meeting 10 March 2021**

The Board of Trustees has made the decision that, owing to continued Covid restrictions and for the safety of the members, the Annual General Meeting scheduled for the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells has been cancelled and will be replaced by a

**ZOOM meeting at 6.30pm on the evening of  
Wednesday 10 MARCH 2021**

Information and details of assistance will be posted on Facebook and sent to the WI Mailboxes.

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



Dear Ladies,

As you read the WKN at the beginning of February I hope that it will cheer you up through the dark winter days.

Some of us, I am sure, will feel we have been in lockdown forever forgetting those days last summer when we were let out. I remember taking part in the ACM at Tunbridge Wells last March never thinking I would not meet with any of you for over a year.

We – The trustees, have thought long and hard about what to do about the forthcoming AGM. By law we must have one and now the only way is to have a virtual one, by Zoom, on March 10. It has been a steep learning curve for me, and I am sure for some of you, but we WILL make it work. Do not be concerned if you are chosen as the delegate for your WI, as, once we have your details you will be phoned and any problems you might have can be discussed. You will have seen by now, on Social Media, that the National AGM has been put back until June with a much reduced capacity. At the moment I do not know whether we will be putting on coaches - watch this space.

I am very pleased to hear that many WIs are keeping in touch by several methods – be it phone, email, Facebook, Zoom or walking around where they live. Please remember that there could be a member in your WI who has not spoken to a member in West Kent for a few days and would like a call, especially if they suddenly have to self-isolate and have no family member nearby to help them out with food etc.

Federation is putting on some Zoom meetings about different topics, do have a look, they are free at the moment.

I know I have already asked but did anyone you know get New Year's Honour in this year? We like to keep a record at Headquarters.

Keep Safe

*Jane*

## Treasurer's Corner



I know it is only February, but I thought I would look ahead to March and the end of the financial year.

I know for many of you it must seem like you have only just finished work on the end of year accounts for 2019/20. It has been a difficult time for many Treasurers in completing the accounts what with Covid and its associated impacts e.g. Treasurers/IFEs having to shield.

I thought it would be useful to offer some suggestions, especially if you are a new Treasurer, to hopefully smooth the process and try to ensure there are no last-minute panics.

If you have not already done so reconcile the bank account, leaving only the last few items to be agreed at the year-end.

Make sure you have to hand the necessary paperwork, relating to all payments you have made together with supporting documentation.

Make sure all the receipts you have issued includes information indicating what the money was received for.

Ask your committee to submit any outstanding expense claims in good time. I realise these might not be on a level with previous years but if money has been spent on membership bags for instance then it should be claimed back.

If your WI runs a petty cash account, ensure you have all the signed receipts with supporting paperwork so the payments can be allocated to the correct headings in the account book.

Contact your IFE in good time to make arrangements for handing over the accounts for examination. If you have an IFE from the Federation scheme they will have other accounts to examine and liaising with them (once you know who it will be) will enable them to plan their workload.

Finally, this year because of the subscription extension and lack of Federation events there shouldn't be too much in the way of acting as agent payments to deal with. This is not to say there won't be any especially if any membership subscriptions were paid over after April.

I hope this will help you in preparing your accounts and if there are any queries about the process please do get in touch.

*Gillian Neville*

## A Reminder for WI Treasurers

It doesn't seem possible that at the end of next month you will be closing the accounts for your WIs, prior to having them examined.

So, I am just reminding you, that for those WIs who, are part of the Federation's Independent Financial Examiners scheme, that shortly you will be receiving a letter from me telling you who your IFE will be for 2021.

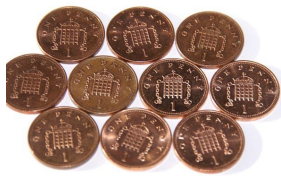
Those Treasurers who are "new to the job" may like to know what an IFE is. She is someone who has been trained by NFWI to examine accounts. She is also familiar with the WI constitution and understands the concept of "acting as agent", which - I am reliably informed - not everyone who examines a WI's accounts does.

Should any treasurer wish to have more information about how the scheme operates or indeed wish to join it (with their committee's approval) do contact me on 0208 777 5640.

Finally, may I remind everyone that when you present the accounts to the IFE they are supposed to have been completed. However, should you be uncertain about what to do she will advise you.

Best wishes

Elizabeth Patterson (IFE Administrator).



## Pennies for Friendship

Did you know that you can donate to Pennies for Friendship on the ACWW website? It's easy, cost-effective, and you get an immediate acknowledgement! 2020 has been a tough year for everyone, but the Pennies for Friendship model that ACWW has used since the 1930s means that small donations can make a huge difference.

Ever wonder what Pennies for Friendship is all about? Visit the website for more information and donate [www.acww.org](http://www.acww.org).

ACWW exists to speak up for rural women, collecting factual data on the living conditions of rural women and using that information to hold governments to account through ACWW's consultation status with the United Nations.

ACWW empowers women by funding small-scale, grassroots projects that improve whole communities.

Pennies for Friendship is the 'enabling fund' of ACWW. It enables the Board to meet collectively and keep up with members in their Area. It maintains the office and staff which is the hub of ACWW's work. Pennies for Friendship also allows ACWW to facilitate the network that connects women across the globe. ACWW does not receive any government funding or grants so is fully reliant on members to continue doing their vital work.



West Kent Federation is affiliated to ACWW and we have over 7,400 members. Imagine if each member gave £2.50 (about the cost of a cup of coffee) that would add up to £18,500!



Tricia Ashdown

ACWW Rep

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



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2021

### MARCH

Weds 10 Federation A.G.M. via Zoom

### MAY

Tues 18 Maytime Walk Hopehill

*All activities subject to change*

The **PALS** sub-committee was much saddened to hear of the passing, on the 26 December, of their fellow committee member **Chris Graham**. Originally Chris was part of the Performing Arts sub-committee, before it was merged with Sports & Leisure. She had great organisation skills and enjoyed arranging drama events. In recent years she organised the West Kent Centenary Show at the Rose Bruford, Drama College in Sidcup, also the Pantomime Workshops and in February 2020 the very popular Cockney Night. Our PALS committee will very much miss her input and knowledge, things were under discussion at our December Zoom meeting and, when conditions permit, arrangements will be made to offer that dance event to our members. Our thoughts are with her husband Malcolm at this sad time.



### APERFIELD WI

St. Mark's, Biggin Hill was decorated for Christmas 2020 with garlands made by local organisations. Aperfield WI's knitters produced a brightly coloured chain and as we were unable to get together in a group, our President, Sylvia Tonge wrote each members name on a cotton reel and strung them together. We will now treasure these items as a reminder of the unusual Christmas of 2020.

Frances Emblin, Secretary, Aperfield WI



Eileen Vago

Federation Trustee—Ryarsch WI

## WELL DONE EILEEN & BOB

Eileen would like to share with you some very surprising news:- Bob & I have been awarded The KALC Community Award for the work we do at the Twitch Inn Heritage Centre West Malling. We were both lost for words (not often it was pointed out) Nice things do happen in these uncertain times.

## EAST PECKHAM WI

In December the East Peckham WI Committee (or Christmas Elves as we became known) delivered to over 60 of our members in East Peckham and surrounding villages a tin of shortbread and a Christmas Card detailing the history of shortbread.



It was so enjoyable to talk to our members, albeit at a distance, to catch up on their news and wish them a very Happy Christmas.

Glynis Cheverton, Secretary, East Peckham WI

## POETS CORNER

### TO MY AGEING VALENTINE

Will you be my **Valentine**?

Smother me with kisses while our hearts entwine

Take me out to dinner with a glass of good red wine.

Will you cajole me and caress me and in other ways impress me

As we dance the Light Fantastic on a night that's just pure magic

While I shiver and I shimmer in a gown of gauzy hue...

Or shall we live on memories of how things used to be

Before you 'did your back in' and I got my bad left knee

So, I'll don my flannel nightie, which fits snugly round my hips

And settle for some cocoa and some Smokey Bacon crisps.

Because my **Valentine**, we know we both will find

That when it comes to action, it's now only in the mind...

Sylvia Shepherd

Chalk Evening WI

Taken from A Miscellany of Poems by

West Kent Members 1999



## NOVEMBER LOCKDOWN STITCHCRAFT

Anne Nation from Ravenswood  
(West Wickham) WI used lockdown

to produce this beautiful embroidery for  
her daughter Lynn's birthday as well as a  
cosy nightdress for her granddaughter

## RHS WISLEY DRAW



As a Federation we are Associate Members of the RHS which entitles us up to 50 tickets for a visit to RHS Wisley. If your WI would like to enter into the draw for these tickets, which will be made at the Zoom AGM on 10 March,

please complete the entry form. Remember this is for a ONE group visit of up to 50 people and you are welcome to include members from other WIs to use all the tickets. The tickets will show the 'shelf life of the offer' usually the current year and you will have to arrange your own transport. This would be deemed an educational item and your WI could pay transport costs.

Federation Secretary, Ethel Hunt Lodge

4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Maidstone Road.

Pembury TN2 4AG closing date 28 February 2021

Please mark envelope WISLEY.

## WISLEY TICKETS

Yes.....

WI

Would like to be included into the annual  
draw for tickets to visit RHS Wisley.

No transport is included in this offer.

One Application per WI

Name.....

Address.....

.....  
Apply to Federation Secretary, Ethel Hunt  
Lodge

4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Maidstone Road.

Pembury TN2 4AG closing date 28 February  
2021

Please mark envelope WISLEY.



## May-time Walk and Fun Quiz

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

**Our Federation is pleased to announce that there is no charge for this event**

**but you must apply for your quiz and time slot.**

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 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.

## WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!

Jackie Liffen, Vice Chairman of **Iden Green and Benenden WI** Sent memories of celebrating Christmas 2019. Being able to prepare and share food and sit with your friends in true WI style.



## Now in Christmas 2020

June Woodham, Treasurer of **Cobham & Luddesdown WI**, passed on their way of celebrating Christmas with Friendship Bags for their members.



We have been keeping in contact with our members over the past few months via various means, Zoom meetings, social distanced walks, telephone calls etc and decided that as we had to provide them with the annual Financial Statement and Reports for last year, it would be a great opportunity to also present them with a 'Friendship Bag'. We included some edible treats that always go down well, Matchmakers, KitKat, Lindor chocs, Flapjack, washed down with a cuppa. We also include a scented candle, Handcream and Lipbalm. Some of our members also hand knitted the Santa egg cosies. Then to keep our brains ticking over, we added a

Crossword or Sudoku puzzle book (rubber tipped pencil provided!). It was great to deliver them and brighten up their day with this small gesture.

The Committee of **Chelsfield Evening WI** decided that due to the ongoing pandemic that an alternative celebration should be pursued. Christmas was celebrated with a virtual (Zoom) Christmas themed quiz devised by Stella Round and included varied questions. Messages of festive joy were not sent to members in a bottle but instead distributed to members via a message and meeting in a bag

This little bag was greeted with surprise and thanks with one member writing *"Thank you for my beautiful Christmas parcel. The package will keep us safe, smooth, treated and entertained"*. So what did we include.....a handmade mask, sanitizer, hand cream, shortbread, chocolate Santa (a tradition at CEWI!), as well as a pocket size Crossword and Sudoku book.

Chelsfield Evening are planning to continue with virtual meetings for the foreseeable future and have exciting speakers from across the UK to support us at our monthly meetings.

**Happy New Year** from all at Chelsfield Evening WI  
Lisa Hutchins-Lobb, Secretary





## More 2020 Christmas Festivities

At **Hadlow WI** we haven't been sitting on our laurels, more Christmas holly during December!

We've baked a Gingerbread traybake, made Christmas tree decorations and Christmas rag wreaths, held coffee mornings which have included a scavenger hunt and a biscuit quiz, sadly we weren't able to taste the biscuits as we did it all via zoom!



socially distanced groups of 6, planting trees in and around Hadlow and held weekly 'Walk and Talks' around Hadlow village.

We've been out and about meeting in our

To round off the year, as we had to cancel our members celebratory meal together, we all received a pot of planted up bulbs ready to plant out in the garden in Spring.

Shirley Ellis

Committee member

## CHRISTMAS CHEER FROM ROWHILL'S CHRISTMAS ELVES



Rowhill WI members received an early Christmas present after opening their front doors to find one of Santa's elves (aka members of the committee), standing on their doorstep chanting "Merry Christmas from Rowhill WI" Each member was presented with a Friendship Bag full of chocolates, wine, a slice of Christmas cake, a quiz, Christmas card and WI voucher booklet.

All COVID precautions were taken in the cutting of the cake.



### SOUTH PARK WI (MAIDSTONE)

**Sue Lambert** reports that, following their successful poppy display in South Park, they returned to the park in December, to decorate their Christmas Tree with fir cones, felt and wool decorations made by members,

*These are a few of the Christmas Friendship Bags the committee of **Boughton Monchelsea WI** distributed to the members - spreading some festive cheer in these difficult times.*

Anthea Springett, Secretary  
Boughton Monchelsea WI



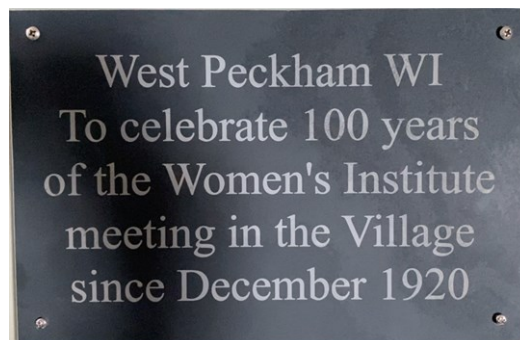


## HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY TO WEST PECKHAM WI



West Peckham WI celebrated its centenary in 2020 however with the COVID pandemic thrown into the mix all our plans had to be changed on several occasions. Our original plan was to hold an open day at the village hall where we meet, in June, with the local mayor unveiling our centenary plaque. In addition, we planned to hold a dinner and celebrations in December. These events had to be postponed and we have now amended their format to be COVID compliant and these have been rearranged for 2021 - but we are keeping our fingers crossed!

We did not want the year to pass without celebrating our centenary in some way, so the centenary sub-committee completed a virtual unveiling of the plaque which was filmed separately in each of our houses and with a closing speech given by our president. This was played to all our members at our Christmas Zoom meeting.



In addition, each member received a gift of a handmade

cross stitched Christmas tree decoration and a piece of homemade Christmas cake and cookies all of which were baked and beautifully wrapped by one of the centenary sub-committee. These gifts were then hand delivered, by us, the day before our December meeting, on Sunday 13 December, which was the exact day 100 years ago that our WI held its first meeting. The gifts were well received by our members, who have enjoyed their cake and cookies, admired their Christmas tree decoration which can now be displayed every year as a memory of our very special WI.



Sarah, Tricia and Viv

Centenary Sub Committee

West Peckham WI



### WIs CELEBRATING THEIR 100th BIRTHDAYS IN 2021

Congratulations to you all. We look forward to hearing how you will be celebrating your special anniversary. Hopefully restrictions will be a thing of the past and you can all meet and celebrate in true WI style.

27 January **HARTLEY WI**

11 May **SHIPBOURNE WI**

6 October **CROCKHAM HILL WI**

19 October **MATFIELD WI**

28 October **CRAYFORD WI**

### YOUR WEST KENT NEWS

The West Kent News Team looks forward to receiving news of your activities and events.

Please email to [westkentnews@wkwfi.org.uk](mailto:westkentnews@wkwfi.org.uk)

A write-up of up to 150 words and two photos would be excellent, this would allow us to use more of your items. Photos, please ensure that your members are happy to be in print and sorry we cannot accept photos of children. Perhaps you have a favourite seasonal recipe you would like to share with members, or that beautiful bloom in your garden or something you have spotted on a walk. Federation matters would always take priority and members item would be included as space permits. We now have ten pages of just our Federation news. If items could be sent by four weeks before issue, that would be great to enable us to compile and check before handing on to our Federation Office.

## OBITUARIES

**St. Mary's Platt WI** is sad to announce that its member, **MARY PACKMAN** passed away on 14 November. Mary was a past President and sang in our choir. She attended Denman College on a Bursary with another member and produced a lovely painted silk scarf, she was an accomplished needle woman. Mary first attended a WI meeting in Ightham, at the age of 16, with her mother. Condolences to her family.

The ladies of **Longfield Hill WI** have been informed of the passing of one of their longstanding members – **DORIS LYNDS**. Doris lived locally for many years and was an active member particularly in the 1970's and 80's when she was Secretary for some time. She also gave presentations on local and personal histories based on her own experiences as a weaver in Lancashire. The Lynds family have many links to Longfield Hill, including Emma Lynds who was one of the founding members of our WI. She will be remembered by several of our members. Her contributions to WI in this area are well recognised.

**Rowhill WI** deeply regrets to announce the death of **CHRIS GRAHAM** on Boxing Day after a short illness. Chris was a longstanding member of Rowhill WI and a former President and committee member for many years; as well as being a former member of West Kent Federation PALS committee. She tirelessly gave her time to produce many of Rowhill's entertainment evenings and during the months in lockdown produced and edited the Rowhill Newsletter keeping all of our members in touch with what was going on. She will be greatly missed by all her friends at Rowhill and our thoughts are especially with her husband Malcolm at this most difficult time.

## OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that **Chelsfield Afternoon WI** announces the death of **MRS. MADDY HAMILTON** who had been a member for many years and held our regular knit and natter group in her home.

We also mention with sadness another of our long standing members **MRS JEAN WARD –PENNY** died after a long battle with Cancer.

Also, one of our newer members **MRS IVY SMITH** has died, she moved from Eastbourne to live near her daughter in Chelsfield Village.

All these members will be greatly missed by us all.



## Green Team

Annette Smith

Hello from the Green Team.

We would love you to share with us your tips on how you make your life greener. Email us at [GreenTeam@wkfwi.org.uk](mailto:GreenTeam@wkfwi.org.uk) and we will hope to publish some each month in this column.

This month here is some advice on recycling. Recycling – an absolute minefield! We all want to do our bit but are we actually helping?

Clean glass, aluminium and tin cans are widely recycled.



This symbol gives more information. Otherwise, it will probably go to landfill!



The universal recycling logo but misleading as it doesn't mean it is recyclable in your area. You have to check the number inside. 1, 2 AND 5 ARE WIDELY ACCEPTED KERBSIDE. Go to: [www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling](http://www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling) for your postcode's options.

## WHO TO CONTACT

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### FEDERATION TREASURER:

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### ARTICLES—YOUR EVENT

Articles, your events, congratulations and obituaries. If possible email direct to [westkentnews@wkfwi.org.uk](mailto:westkentnews@wkfwi.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.