



WEST KENT WI NEWS

January 2023



2023
Happy New
Year

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



The Federation Carols at Christmas was a great success, and the feedback was very positive. Many thanks to all of you that attended.

Now that we have finished up the leftovers and the decorations have been put away for another year, I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are now rested and ready for an action packed 2023!!

We have so many exciting events for you this year- The Federation really is back after a period of uncertainty. Keep a look out for dates in the Federation calendar so you can plan your own WI events with us in mind.

The Federation choir starts up again this month and I would encourage all of you to join. Singing together is so good for your mental health and well-being it should be on prescription! Everyone leaves a choir session with a smile and a spring in their step- go on give it a go!! Book through your WI.

Along with the WI Advisors look out for a visit from your Federation Trustees this year. However, don't panic-it's not an inspection!! The aim is to get out to WIs and explain what it is the Trustees and Advisors do and how we all fit into what is the country's largest voluntary women's organisation!

Now is the time to look forward to a new year, new challenges, and lots of fun! After all we do all belong to the WI!!

Take care,

Amanda Breach

Treasurer's Corner



Happy New Year

As another year starts, the hopes of a full year of WI activities awaits and hopefully the return to a more rewarding financial year. Most people are now ready to attend meetings in person and despite the woes of the economic climate we hope that members will join us in the many planned activities in the coming year.

Over the last couple of months I have held a couple of one to one training sessions regarding accounts and record keeping on both manual and spreadsheets. Should you have a new Treasurer who is unsure what to do or even a prospective Treasurer, do not hesitate to contact me. Shortly we will be approaching the end of your WI financial year, the time when the accounts are finalised, examined and prepared to present to the members at your Annual Meetings in May.

75% of WIs choose to belong to the Federation's scheme of WI approved and trained IFEs. The Independent Financial Examiners are WI members and familiar with the procedures and regulations of the WI. Once a part of the Scheme, there will not be a need to renew the chosen scheme as it will automatically be renewed.

Gillian Neville, your previous Federation Treasurer has taken over the administration of the scheme from Elizabeth Patterson and Gillian will be contacting each WI around February with details of your examiner and what will be required to carry out the examination.

There is a small charge of £25 payable direct to the examiner.

If you are not currently in the scheme, or if you want to enquire about becoming an IFE, then please contact Gillian whose details are on the last page of West Kent News.

Rita King

**MEET YOUR TRUSTEE,
60 SECONDS WITH:-**

Name: Di Daniels



WI and WI Credentials: : A member of South Park WI Maidstone since 1984, when my 3 children were young. Past Secretary and President. Joined PA&I and am current chair. I became a trustee in 2022. A widow with 8 grandsons, 4 granddaughters and 1 great-granddaughter.

Hobbies / Interests: Visiting places and friends, entertaining, knitting and craft, reading.

Last book read: “The School Teacher of Saint Michel by Sarah Steele.” Best read I have had for a long time.

Favourite film: Downton Abbey. Both films and TV series.

Music choices: Central Band of the Royal British Legion (I’m a “groupie”), Rag and Bone Man, ballads and musical theatre, also The Armed Man by Karl Jenkins.

Most memorable holiday: : The Holy Land. Been twice, 2008 with my friend Barbara and just returned in 2022.

What do you love about the WI: friends made, events, crafts, learning.

Marmite: Love it on crumpets!

Hoping you all had a very happy Christmas from **Bearsted & Thurnham WI**. Christmas decorations made by our Craft Group.



Detling WI members spent a lovely time having Christmas Afternoon Tea in our village Pub to support much needed funds for our Church.

Kathy Tanton
Secretary
Detling WI



Istead Rise WI Yarn Bombers and friends have crafted Christmas post box toppers and created a Christmas Tree for the community to enjoy. The tree was unveiled by Cllr John Caller, the Deputy Mayor of Gravesham and Cllr Dakota Dibben. In his short speech he mentioned that so many WIs in Kent



were working for their communities – as we all see in our WKN.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2023

FEB		
Tues 14	Show the love	
MARCH		
Thur 2	Machine embroidery	Snodland
Fri 3	Machine embroidery	Hextable
Mon 27	Annual General Meeting	Tunbridge Wells
APRIL		
Wed 19	Lifestyle Annual Day	Ditton
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	

FEBRUARY

Tues 21 Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

Plan your event!



JANUARY 2023 FEDERATION NOTICEBOARD

No changes this month.



The West Kent Federation of Women's Institutes held their Carols at Christmas on Wednesday 7 December at All Saints Church, Maidstone. The magnificent church was built in 1395 and the beautiful recycled material pew ends certainly enhanced the church along with the jolly Christmas jumpers worn by members.



All the displays were attractively laid out for members to peruse and Christmas cards were on sale from the WKF Christmas card competition.



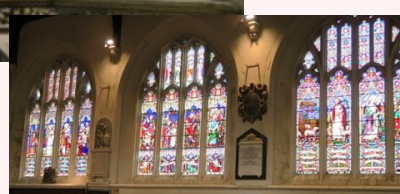
Amanda Breach, the Federation Chair welcomed us all, along with the Mayor of Maidstone, to the afternoon of carols and readings. The WKF choir made their debut singing three Christmas 'numbers' ably conducted and arranged by Michael Grant.



The Very Revd. John Richardson gave the blessing and dismissal and we would like to thank All Saints, Maidstone for hosting this celebration.



Joan Kinnear
Petts Wood WI



Design a card for the Coronation:



CONGRATULATIONS TO HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III

To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, West Kent Federation is inviting every WI to submit one greetings card congratulating our monarch. The card can be in any medium that you desire but it must be of a standard suitable to send to His Majesty and must have an accompanying quality envelope or card box. The greeting inside of the card must read:

“The Board of Trustees and all the members of 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”

One card will be selected by the Board of Trustees from all the cards received that best embodies the spirit of the event and the WI, and will be sent to Buckingham Palace on behalf of the Federation.

A photograph of the winning entry will be displayed along with all the other entries at the Federation Annual General Meeting, and any other suitable events throughout 2023 before being returned to their creators. The card must be 5” x 7”; all colour, original design, style and decoration are down to the card makers, which can be an individual or a group. No computer art will be accepted.

Finished entries should be either delivered by hand or carefully packed and sent to Arts and Crafts Team, Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Park, Maidstone Road, Pembury, Kent TN2 4AG

The closing date for entries is the **6 March 2023**.

DESIGN THE NEW WEST KENT FEDERATION TABLECLOTH AND MATCHING BANNER COMPETITION

To celebrate the West Kent Federation becoming incorporated, the Board of Trustees are inviting members to submit a design that can be made into the new West Kent Tablecloth and a Banner to coordinate with the tablecloth, that will be used at many Federation events in the future. The design needs to be in a format that can be easily converted into a pattern, be modern and colourful, and should reflect our Federation in the 21st Century.



One or more designs will be selected by the Board of Trustees from all the entries received that best embody the spirit of the West Kent Federation, to be incorporated into the new tablecloth and banner. The winners will be announced in March at the AGM in Tunbridge Wells.

Photographs of the winning entry (entries) will be displayed along with all the other entries at the AGM and any other suitable events throughout 2023. Please send your design entry on an A4 size page. It can be designed by a group or an individual and must be original. No computer art will be accepted.

Once the design has been chosen, the project will go forward to stage two, with a working group to make the items. Please let us know if you would like to take part in making the tablecloth and banner. Finished entries should be sent to: Art and Craft Team, Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Park, Maidstone Road, Pembury, Kent TN2 4AG. The closing date for entries is **1 March 2023**, or a good photograph or scan by email to: ArtCraft@wkwfi.org.uk

Resolutions 2022-23

Your WI secretary will by now have received the information about the first round of voting for this year's resolutions. Having started with 43 potential resolutions, the shortlisting meeting voted to put forward four potential resolutions. Within your WI, each member has a vote to choose one resolution out of these four to put forward to the final vote at the NFWI AGM in May. The total of your WI vote must be sent to Ethel Hunt Lodge (FedSec@wkwfi.org.uk) by 14 February at the latest so they can be sent off to NFWI. Here are the four choices.

- ◆ **Save our water—every drop counts**
- ◆ **Women to women—turning over a new leaf in the lives of women tea workers**
- ◆ **Online gambling harm: time for action**
- ◆ **Clean rivers for people and wildlife**

◆ More information is available in the December WI Life or on MyWI. Please make sure all of your members have the opportunity to vote on this first round and then the final round in April/May.

Resolutions 2023-24

While you are considering this year's resolution choices, some of you will be thinking about proposing a resolution of your own for next year.

You do have some time to prepare your proposal so I am offering some advice to help you in the process.

Please don't think that just because West Kent's Resolution was chosen in 2021, that we won't get another chance soon. All resolutions submitted are anonymous.

It is worth taking the WI online training course for Resolution Co-ordinators. This course is designed for Co-ordinators but is open to members as it gives plenty of advice on what to do and what not to do when preparing a resolution. Please contact me for details on how to access this.

Whatever you are thinking of proposing, please do check that it would apply to the whole of England, Wales and the Islands. Several resolutions put forward in 2022, could not be moved forward because the changes asked for would not apply across the whole country. The devolved governments of Wales and the Islands often do things differently from England.

I do hope these suggestions are useful. Best wishes to any of you preparing to put forward a Resolution for next year. If I can be of any help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Caroline Davis – West Kent Federation Resolution Co-ordinator.
Email: daviscawkf@gmail.com
Tel: 01892 725571

A Free Feast for 100+ Community Members

"We chopped and chatted, we diced and decided, we sliced and shared".

These were part of the sights and sounds to be heard when a group of us from the **Blackheath and Greenwich WI** donned our aprons and hairnets to help out at local community initiative.

Hospitality has always been at the core of the WI. We love our cake and chat at meetings. It provides a support system and an opportunity to socialise. So, we jumped at the chance to volunteer at the Good Food in Greenwich Community Kitchen.

The initiative uses food as an opportunity to bring communities together and is supported by the GCDA and Royal Borough of Greenwich. The aim, with the help of volunteers, was to prepare a nutritionally balanced meal from sustainably sourced food supplied by local business. The organisers do not know what they are going to be cooking until the night before. As one of them said "think Ready Steady Cook".

So out of two chickens, four packs of mince, a bag of potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, onions, a bag of lentils and numerous loaves of bread we helped feed over 100 people.

Hospitality was shared, strangers were welcomed, friendships made and warmth was in abundance. Importantly it shows our WI at its best. A very outward thinking organisation, with lovely people who genuinely care for one another and the communities we live in.

Blackheath and Greenwich WI





Green Team

greenteam@wkwfi.org.uk

SHOW THE LOVE – 14 FEBRUARY 2023



Let's start planning ahead to 2023 and thinking about how we can all support Show the Love campaign or Green Hearts as many of you may think of it. Show the Love coincides with Valentine's Day and uses the power of green hearts to ask politicians to tackle the climate crisis and protect what we love from its worst impacts.

We can all get involved with this, either on an individual level, through your WI crafting group or even getting all your members engaged. You could even spread the word further by organising an event in your local community. This could be a display in your local library or a crafting event inviting people to come and make their own green hearts. What's important in all this is starting the conversations about what simple steps we can all take to reduce our impact on climate change.

Resources to do all this will be available soon at [Show the Love](#) and you'll find ways to create an impact through great crafting ideas on My WI <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/interests/craft/show-the-love>

If you make a green heart, be sure to send it to your MP. Imagine the impact and message you are sending when loads of green hearts arrive in your MP's office. If you organise a larger event, you can invite your MP to attend or take a photograph and send it to them afterwards.

Many of you will have seen the Show the Love postcards that fall out of WI Life every year so look out for them again and send them off to your MP. We know that the WI is a force to be reckoned with so together we can send a forceful message to those in power that we want to see a greener, safer future for generations to come.

And lastly save the date for The Great Big Green Week, 10 - 18 June, and get ready to take part in the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

Want to help save the planet but not sure what to do?

The West Kent Federation Green Team are offering WIs free talks on how to tackle Climate Change and live a more sustainable life. It may seem an overwhelming subject, but we will offer some easy tips and encourage the sharing of ideas. There is always something we can do from recycling, reusing items and reducing. We aim to show that if everyone made a small change in their daily lives it would in turn make a big difference globally.

Talks last about 45 minutes, to book please contact the **Green Team** Mailbox – GreenTeam@wkwfi.org.uk

Save the date for The Great Big Green Week, 10 - 18 June 2023, and get ready to take part in the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

Hollingbourne WI News

As a WI we pride ourselves on being creative when organising events. However, it was Darren, the driver of the number 13 bus which serves Hollingbourne - who suggested this simple outing for us.

Four members caught his bus from Hollingbourne, using free bus passes, to Ledian Retirement Village in Leeds Village – just over two miles away. We enjoyed a mini tour of the complex, a great cup of coffee and made a copy of the Lunch and Dinner menus for future outings. Along the 13 bus route we found that there are four pubs and at least two other places to eat – The Toby Carvery and Morrison's café. So, by supporting our local rural bus services we can help towards ensuring that all villagers can continue to access medical and support services in the area, enjoy lovely rural bus trip and reduce car use.



ART AND CRAFT

Paula Bates 01892 327863

artcraft@wkwfi.org.uk

CREATIVE MACHINE EMBROIDERY FOR BEGINNERS

Tutor:- Wendy Dolan

Wendy could only give us two days at this time as she is very busy and in demand so ticket numbers will be limited to members only. Depending on the response we will try to book her for more days later in the year so that those who miss out now will get an opportunity for this workshop. You will be learning how to 'draw' with your sewing machine, creating exciting patterns and textures with stitch. After practicing the techniques you will create a small landscape design. The background for this will have been prepared by the tutor.

Below is a list of equipment and materials needed for the workshop

SEWING MACHINE Any basic domestic sewing machine can be used for freehand machine embroidery. Please bring a darning foot and extension table for your machine, if you have one, and your sewing machine manual. Don't forget your foot pedal and lead!

Available to borrow from the tutor

A few sewing machines and few darning feet. **Please state on your application if you would need to borrow a sewing machine**

8 inch embroidery hoop.

A selection of polyester threads

Available to purchase from the tutor

Calico fabric

8 inch embroidery hoops

Bondaweb

Madeira Machine Embroidery Threads

EMBROIDERY FRAME 7 / 8 inch wooden is ideal

SELECTION OF SEWING THREADS Sylko, Guterman, Drima, *Madeira, etc.

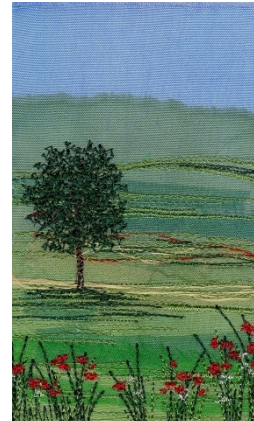
Bring any you may have but think about colours for landscapes.

FABRICS Calico, or firm cotton. Scraps or small pieces of lightweight fabrics e.g. silks, organza, chiffons.

BONDAWEB Small amount of Bondaweb/Transfer adhesive.

SCISSORS small embroidery scissors are ideal.

SPARE MACHINE NEEDLES (90 /14)



Thursday 2 March at Bowls Club Snodland ME6 5DP

Or Friday 3 March at St Peter's Church Hextable BR8 7RH

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 27 January.

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, please state required date, or perhaps either would be suitable. 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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE ASSEMBLY HALL, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Monday 27 March 2023

11.00am to 4.00pm (doors open at 10.30am)

Closing date for first release applications: Monday 30 January 2023

SPEAKERS

Federation Archivists

The Federation Archivists Sheila Harris and Chris Klempau are looking forward to sharing with you some of the items that are kept at Ethel Hunt Lodge, some of which are over 100 years old! They hope to have a PowerPoint presentation so you will be able to see some of stored items. They will also give you an insight into what the job of an Archivist involves.

Rev Kate Bottley

The Reverend Kate Bottley is known to most of us as a TV personality. She is an ordained priest in North Nottinghamshire and is passionate about bringing stories of faith and belief to the widest audience possible.

Kate currently presents Good Morning Sunday on BBC Radio 2 alongside Jason Mohammed and is a regular presenter on Songs of Praise, The One Show, Steph's Packed Lunch, Sunday Morning Live and Sunday Morning Stories. She has appeared as a contributor on Saturday Breakfast with Dermot O'Leary and Pause for Thought on the Zoe Ball Breakfast Show, for which she won a Jerusalem Award.

She is married with two children and has a 10-year-old retired racing greyhound called Buster. Rev Kate loves dancing and "telly" – being a guest on Celebrity Masterchef.

ENTERTAINMENT

West Kent WI Choir

Our West Kent WI Choir will wake you up after lunch singing several songs.

The ladies have been working hard with Choir Master Michael Grant. They practice in two smaller groups, one meets in Southborough, the other in Orpington – together they will astonish.

DELGATES TICKETS ARE FREE and will be sent to all WIs automatically. The Delegate WI will be printed on the front of your ticket, **however Delegates are free to sit anywhere in the hall.**

NON-VOTING MEMBERS TICKETS including Group Co-ordinators and Federation Sub-Committee Members – Admission will be by ticket only at a cost of **£12.50 per ticket** and WI Secretaries should apply to the Federation Office for these by Monday 30 January. Please base your request for Non-Voting Members tickets on the initial ratio of no more than **one per 10 members** in your WI. There may be a second release after the closing date.

**ADMISSION TO THE MEETING WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED ON PRODUCTION OF A TICKET
TICKETS ARE SOLD ON A NON-RETURNABLE, NON-REFUNDABLE BASIS**

NFWI ASSOCIATES are entitled to apply for one ticket at a cost of **£12.50**. If you would like to attend, please contact the Federation Office.

COLLECTION

We will be collecting for St Mark's Community Larder in Tunbridge Wells and would be grateful for any non perishable donations. If your WI would like to make up **one** bag of items – a strong bag for life could be used, maximum size 18 x 15 x 8 inches. This is a voluntary collection and WIs can participate if they wish.

CLOSING DATES

Monday 30 January
Monday 30 January
Monday 30 January
Monday 27 February
Monday 27 February

First release ticket applications need to arrive by post or email by 5pm
RHS Wisley Draw applications
Bursary applications
Receipt of stationery orders to be collected at the AGM
Second release ticket applications need to arrive by post or email by 5pm

Full details are available via your WI Secretary.

RHS Wisley Draw

As a Federation we are Associate Members of the RHS which entitles us 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 held at the AGM on Monday 27 March 2023, 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.

Applications can be submitted either by using this form or by letter or email. Please make sure that all the information requested on the application box is included: WI, Contact Name, Address and Postcode.

West Kent Federation of Women's Institutes

WISLEY TICKETS

Please submit only one WI application – thank you

Yes WI

would like to be included in the annual draw for tickets to visit RHS Wisley No transport is included in this offer

Contact Name

Address and Postcode.....

.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Apply to: FedSec@wkwfi.org.uk

or to the Federation Office at Ethel Hunt Lodge clearly marked 'Wisley'

Closing Date: Monday 30 January 2023

WEST KENT FEDERATION OF WIS

2023 Annual Bursary for Education in any subject

Please submit only one personal application – thank you

either on this form, email or letter

WI

Name

Address

.....

..... Postcode

Tel No

Email

Apply online to: Geraldine Martin

Email: ghoganmartin@gmail.com

or to the Federation Office at Ethel Hunt Lodge clearly marked 'Bursary'

Closing Date: Monday 30 January 2023

A 'bracing' visit to Pett Level on October 24.

Beachcombing made all the more fun with some grandchildren during half term.

A very dramatic sky which ranged from the darkest clouds to brilliant sunshine.

After selecting the stones for our 'beach art' we took advantage of hot paninis at the new beachside cafe.



Brigitte Watkins

St. Michaels WI (Tenterden)

33 members of South Park WI had a delicious afternoon tea at Mote House to celebrate their 49th birthday.

3rd from the left is Barbara Dormer who was a founder member. We're looking forward to our 50th celebrations next year

Amanda Bird South Park WI



South Park's Christmas charity project was to make and fill Christmas bags with toiletries for the Salvation Army in Maidstone. Our members have been amazing as ever and between them have filled 50 bags!!!



East Peckham WI's banner took pride of place at their centenary celebrations.





OBITUARIES

Chevening WI is sad to announce the death of **GLADYS DUEIU**, a Past President who

although not having the best of health was always ready to help in many ways. She will be missed by her fellow members who send condolences to her family and friends.

Bearsted Green WI is very sad to report the loss of two of their members, both having been members for a number of years. Both will be sadly missed. **JOYCE HOGG** was a member of both the gardening club and one of our book clubs. When asked she used to entertain us with stories of when she was evacuated during the war. **ROSIE BROWN** was a committee member for a number of years and belonged to a book club, gardening club and ladies on their own (LOTO). She was always very welcoming to new members and was also a great shove halfpenny player!

Iden Green and Beneden WI was so sad to lose a dear friend, **ROMA MARSHALL** in November. Roma was a long-standing, loyal member who was always very sociable and very much loved by all of us.

Crockham Hill WI is very sad to have to report the untimely death from a stroke of **LINDA BROWN**. Linda was president and secretary for many years when the WI was struggling. She organised garden visits and other events which brought everyone together and led to a resurgence in numbers and interest. Linda remained a loyal and valued member and friend until the end and will be sorely missed by us all.

It is with sadness that **Crockenhill WI** report the recent death of **JEAN CHILDS**. Jean was a long-standing member who made a beautiful cake for our Birthday every year. Her continued support was faultless, she will be sadly missed by us all.



Fairfield (Dartford) WI sends their warmest wishes and congratulations to **PAT & PAUL ALLOCCA** who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in October.

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 items will follow in the sequence that they are received.

We have been asked if we could produce a WKN without pictures!

The majority of pictures are referred to in the articles and without them the WKN would have to be re-written. This would be too time consuming for the volunteers involved.

We suggest that if you want to print out copies you can do one of the following:

- ◆ Print in black and white rather than colour.
- ◆ Only print for people that do not have email.
- ◆ Request copies to be printed and sent by the Federation. This can be expensive due to the high postage costs.
- ◆ Cut and paste articles and create your own newsletters.

Kind regards

The WKN team

WHO TO CONTACT

CHAIR:

Amanda Breach

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01892 354454 Weds or Thurs

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RESOLUTION COORDINATOR:

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