



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

WEST KENT WI NEWS

May 2023



Following the success of our performance at the Annual General Meeting, we would welcome any new members to come and join the sing song with the West Kent WI Choir.

Next half term session dates:

**Southborough Civic Centre—
Wednesdays**

2:00—3:30 pm

7 June

21 June

5 July

Orpington Village Hall—Wednesdays

1:15—2:45 pm

14 June

28 June

12 July

The cost is £22.50 per half term (3 sessions) which will be billed to your WI (so please let your Treasurer know you will be paying this invoice).

Any questions, please contact Gill Brown pals@wkwfi.org.uk



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Well, it seems strange to be writing about something that happened in March but my April piece was written before the AGM and I just can't let it pass without a mention! What a fabulous occasion – only a couple of glitches (hopefully none of you noticed!) and the rest of the day was seamless. The Archivists were as interesting as I knew Sheila and Chris would be, the choir – amazing, considering we have only been together since last September and many have never performed before. Singing together has such a 'feel good' factor and I really hope that many of you choose to join us. You don't have to be a 'singer' and no one is ever asked to sing solo! You just have to enjoy the act of singing in a group.

The day's main speaker the Reverend Kate Bottley was terrific but don't let me tell you, here are a few quotes from the many lovely emails I have received-

'A perfect end to the day', 'deliciously hilarious', 'big personality and what an inspirational speaker!' 'added joy and laughter', 'people were crying with laughter!'

How will I follow that, well you will have to wait and see!!

Take care,

Amanda Breach

Treasurer's Corner



May is now upon us and many of you will have already had your accounts inspected ready for your Annual Meetings. They will then be ready to present to your members at that meeting.

Subscriptions have hopefully been collected for the coming year. Only paid up members are eligible to vote at your Annual Meetings but they can be paid right up until the day of the meeting.

This has been a busy time for Treasurers and IFEs alike, so hopefully everyone can now relax and look forward to the year ahead. We all appreciate what our committees do behind the scenes and would encourage WI members to join their committee and help. All jobs are made easier with more people willing to help and make the WI a success.

If anyone is contemplating becoming a Treasurer, please do not hesitate—we are here to help and encourage. The job can be very rewarding. We will shortly be announcing our Treasurer Training.

After your Annual Meeting is also a good time to review your MCS database, making sure the officers are noted and the membership correct.

Rita King

2023 RHS Wisley and Bursaries:

RHS Wisley (Booking to be made under Federation's name): Detling WI

Individual Winners: £200 each

Linda Patmore Chislehurst WI

Lisa Lobb Chelsfield Eve WI

Helen Bruce Istead Rise WI

Helen Brooks Otterden & Stalisfield WI

WI Winners: £200 each

Pembury Evening WI

Loose WI

MEET YOUR WI ADVISER

60 SECONDS WITH:-

Name: Beverley Wild

WI and WI Credentials: I joined the WI in 2014 and almost immediately went onto the Committee as Secretary. Founder President of West Wickham WI in 2016. WI Adviser for West Kent since 2020 and appointed Chair of the WI Advisers West Kent this April.



Hobbies / Interests: I like to test my brain every morning so I do Wordle, Quordle and Sudoku. I learnt to play Rummikub, Whist and Canasta through my WI and regularly meet up with other members to play and have a chat. I have belonged to a book club for 20 years and read avidly it has certainly made me read books I would have never picked up before. I also play golf although only when on holiday now but I still enjoy a good walk preferably with lunch after.

Last book read: Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. Brilliant feminist story set in the 1960s about Elizabeth Zott a chemist turned cooking show host.

Favourite film: The Way We Were but to be honest anything with Robert Redford in

Music choices: Varies depending on my mood but I especially love listening to Tapestry by Carole King. I also enjoy Michael Buble and Rod Stewart's music and having teenagers at the time of Take That I'm quite partial to listening to any of their songs.

Most memorable holiday: I surprised my husband with a holiday to Sorrento and the Amalfi coast for his 60th birthday. At the hotel we met a couple that we got friendly with. Peter was brought up in the next road to us in West Wickham and went to Greenhayes school where we now live in what was the Headmasters cottage and his wife Denise is a member of Edenbridge WI whom we still see. Small world.

What do you love about the WI: I am very much a people person so I love the friendships formed, the fun and companionship and the opportunity to learn skills whatever your age.

Marmite: I'm afraid I loathe it. I can't bear the smell.

I am delighted to have been appointed WI Adviser Chair, taking over from Carol Gupwell who has done an amazing job over the past five years. The WI Advisers have enjoyed travelling around West Kent Federation visiting WIs and sharing your meetings over the past year and we now look forward to supporting you with your Annual Meetings. We will be holding Officer training sessions in June and July for those newly appointed or those who just need a refresher with regard to the roles and will be fixing the dates in the next few weeks. We will also be holding another "Meet the Adviser" zoom session on 8 June at 7pm when you can discuss with us any concerns you may have. Please contact me on wiachair@wkwfi.org.uk if you would like to attend.

Bev Wild
Chair of WI Advisers



MAY 2023

FEDERATION NOTICEBOARD

Please note that the following WIs have suspended

Rolvenden	January 2023
Swanley	March 2023
Hoo	March 2023
Chiddingstone	April 2023

List of Speakers 2023

Please note the following additional speaker

Mrs Jean Surrey

5 Hunsdon Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3AX

Tel No: 01732 453788 / 07990 626262

Email: jeansurrey@gmail.com

Fee: £60 plus 25p per mile travel expenses
Available at all times of the year except late July

Available at short notice

- ◆ **Great Grandma's Workbox and its Contents**
- ◆ **I Bought and Sold at Auction**
- ◆ **Open the Box: 19th Century Boxes and their Contents**
- ◆ **Souvenirs Past and Present** (all talks with Exhibits)
- ◆ **A History of Smuggling in Kent** (talk with PowerPoint)

Please contact Speaker for other talks

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2023

MAY

Thur 25 NFWI AGM Cardiff

JUNE

10-18 Great Big Green Week

Mon 12 Watersports Mote Park

Thur 15 Meet the Green Team Bore Place

JULY

Sat 8 Auditions Day Hildenborough

Weds 19 Machine Embroidery Snodland

SEPTEMBER

Tues 12 Watercolour Painting Frittenden

Wed 13 Watercolour Painting EHL

Thur 14 Watercolour Painting Smarden

Fri 15 Watercolour Painting Hextable

Sat 16 Watercolour Painting Orpington

Wed 20 Art & Craft Annual Day Ditton

Thurs 21 Art & Craft Annual Day Ditton

Thurs 28 Hand Bells Intro Hope Hill

Fri 29 ACWW fund raising afternoon Sutton Valence

OCTOBER

Tues 17 Lifestyle Annual Day Ditton

Thur 26 Whist Day Ryarsh

NOVEMBER

Fri 17 Science Day Ryarsh

Sat 25 Entertainment Day Hildenborough

West Kent Federation of WIs AGM

Tunbridge Wells

Monday 27 March

Chair's Address



This past year has seen us all come to terms with Covid and all that it brings with it. We have all had to adapt, and change the way our events are planned, even to looking at the content we offer our members. Many of you would have experienced changes that the pandemic has left you with – be it a drop in membership numbers, rising cost of halls or having to tempt members to attend organised activities. No longer can we as West Kent Federation book speakers and be 100% sure they will be there on the day as people are still getting Covid! We always need a Plan B or even a Plan C! There is also a greater reluctance amongst some of our members to leave home, so we can no longer be certain that halls will be filled for Annual Days and that such events will make the profits they did in the past.



Understandably though the word **change** can strike fear in many of our

members. Everyone likes the familiar – its comfortable and safe and yet we forget that the WI is constantly changing and adapting to the world around it. If it wasn't, it wouldn't have survived for over a hundred years!



I know that the move to a more digital WI has been particularly difficult for some and certainly as a Federation we are very aware that we have members who still wish to have paper copies of the West Kent News and other notices and we are happy to provide these where we can. We offer to help any committee members who would like to embrace social media but might be struggling with online content. I also know that many WIs themselves are offering IT support workshops for members to help them cope in a more digital age. As an organisation we must look forward and embrace changes, even if they might seem difficult at the beginning. I remember back to our first Zoom meetings! It seemed so difficult – but now we routinely have meetings using it and don't give it a second thought!

I was reminded of the WI's capacity to embrace the changing world recently when my husband John and I were clearing his parents' home in Dorset. Sadly, my mother-in-law Sue died 2 years ago and Bob, my father in law, about 8 weeks ago. Sue is the reason I'm standing here today!

She was a member of the WI in Gloucestershire and Hampshire and then a VCO (Voluntary County Organiser) in Dorset and for much of my early married life I was given various WI cookbooks for Christmas and birthday presents! I think this was in the hope that I would eventually join the WI, as well as improve my cooking!

As I was clearing out the cupboards, I came across a photo of Sue at a Dorset AGM many years ago. A very similar stage set up to ours but what I noticed was that everyone was wearing a hat! I can remember helping Sue out at a Federation event and she was referred to as Mrs Breach by many members. It was all much more formal than today where we are all on first name terms and you can wear what you feel most comfortable in. We have changed with the times, as society has become less formal and social barriers have come down. To attract new members, we must reflect the changes in **their** lives- many retired members are also looking after their Grandchildren after school and during the holidays and most women will be working full time for far longer than was the case in the past. These are just two of the changes that we now see, and WIs have adapted meeting times and have formed virtual WIs to ensure that we can offer every woman the opportunity to belong to this amazing organisation.

Belonging to the WI opens up a world of friendship, new experiences, exciting opportunities and the chance to learn about issues of national and local importance, and to feel you can make a difference.

The WI was set up in 1915 to 'ensure that women can take their true role in society' and that is as true today as it was then but to do that, we must reflect the society we live in.

Amanda Breach





West Kent Federation of WIs

AGM

Monday 27 March



We sang Jerusalem accompanied by the pianist from West Peckham WI. The seats were filled and much tea and coffee was drunk, we had lovely artisan stall holders, Silversmith, Fairtrade, Love that Stuff, Snobb Flamingo cards and Neal's yard, raffle items and board for all the subgroups.

It was a lovely sunny day and we started with Amanda talking about how numbers have depleted since covid, there have been several WIs closing and some new ones starting in the afternoon to help ladies who don't want to be out in the dark.

We need to embrace and change with what is happening with a younger demographic of ladies wanting to join our ranks. We should encourage as many new members as possible. Moving to online services and helping non tech members with this by setting up a buddy system. Also making the meetings less formal.

Rita gave us the news that our expenses were larger than our income and that is set to continue for the next year. We had a decrease in membership due to covid and inability to obtain officers to provide committee services. The accounts were adopted for year end 30/09/22.

We had future plans with Gill Brown, who told us about all the exciting events for the coming year to include Choir, walking netball, hand bell ringing, paddle boarding, leisure and craft PA&I and Annual days. There is also WI advisers support groups. We welcomed a new adviser, Frances Farley.

The archivists were fascinating with their photo gallery of amazing banners and hand stitched gloves it was a treasure trove of delights and I would love to hear more from them. The Oast house banner has been on loan to Anya Hindmash handbag store in Central London. Endowment banner was gifted to West Kent from NFWI in 1919 for monies donated to help the WI start and grow. Beautiful photos of the processions in the 1950's and the president on horseback, think Amanda is considering restarting this tradition!



The WI choir gave us uplifting songs with Lean on Me, One Fine Day, Imagine and everyone enjoyed clapping along and joining in on the chorus of Love Train. Trustees were approved for next year with Caroline stepping down after 7 years. We thank them for all the hard work they do.



Revd Kate Bottley burst onto stage in her dog collar and hot pink platform boots, she hilariously regaled stories of her work in the community and how she got an opportunity to appear on gogglebox after a video went viral where she had just married a couple then they sang and danced to celebrate good times before commencing with the ceremony. She has spent time working in education and enjoys the interactions. She has two grown children. She doesn't have a religious upbringing but saw an attractive boy with a violin and upon asking who he was, the son of the vicar, she suddenly started going to church and they have been married for 25 years. Her Mum loved everything she was in but preferred Aled Jones on Songs of Praise. One line that makes me cry laughing is when someone mentioned she looked very young she said the holy spirit is better than Oil of Ulay. She was upset when someone called her the whore of Babylon in Tesco carpark and she rang a friend, The Rev. Richard Coles, who said, "darling you must go to Waitrose immediately". She went to visit a family whose grandmother had died, she got to the door and a dog was waiting to go in, she knocked and the soggy, smelly dog entered and settled in front of the fire, when she came to leave the family asked if she was taking her dog with her. Everyone was left in hysterics and wanting more. Comparisons were made between Kate's height and Di's which amused the audience.



We drew the raffle with lots of lovely presents and ended a wonderful day, until next year.



Nicola Mila,
Nevill WI

WEST KENT FEDERATION AGM MARCH 27 2023,
VENUE: The Assembly Hall Theatre

I went there for the first time to Tunbridge Wells, to try

And see the Annual General Meeting of the WI

Women came from far and near, intentions all well-meant..

Kind-hearted, smiling ladies from all those

Federations of West Kent.

The day pressed on with things to hear, a Choir filed onto stage

Their voices rose so sweetly, and did harmoniously engage -

Followed by a Vicar, Reverend Kate was such a hoot.

She came on, large as life, to chat

..in Big Red Shiny boots!

The Reverend Kate Bottley regaled us, we laughed until we cried,

Such saucy tales she told us, stern convention was decried..

Some could not quite believe their ears..

No Sermon. No reverential musings

...just anecdotes and whimsies and true stories of her choosing.

But the day was made just perfect, when I stepped up on that Stage

For the poem that I'd worked on had won an Accolade!

Heart trembling, I read it out, delighted then to hear

Resounding claps and laughter fill the

....Hall, and ME! with cheer.

The AGM was such a Day, not like any that I've known!

And we all piled out with memories, so sweet, to carry home

Its my wish to honour those involved, who helped me as a guest.

'Allington Castles' where we hailed from..

'Lin and Ladies, You're the Best' !!

Emmie Shipman Winner 2023. Judith Bishop
Allington WI



PUBLIC AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL

Diane Daniels — 01622 674494

Back by Popular Demand! SPEAKER

AUDITIONS

Help Select our Speakers
St John's Church Hall
20 Foxbush, Hildenborough,
Tonbridge TN11 9HT
Saturday 8 July 2023

Doors open at 9.30am with the first speaker at 10am and the day will finish at 3pm.

Tickets are £5 and include tea or coffee on arrival and during the lunch break (bring your own cup if you wish)

Please bring a packed lunch.

If you would like to come along, please email tickets@wkwfi.org.uk with your WI, Contact Name and number of tickets required or complete the ticket application

SPEAKER AUDITIONS

If applying by post your WI will be invoiced on the monthly account for the number of tickets issued and billed £1 for postage.

Please **DO NOT** enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Maidstone Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4AG

The closing date for ticket applications is Monday 19 June

WI:.....

Contact Name:.....

Address:.....

..... Postcode:

Email:

Tel No.....

No of tickets required:.....

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A MAXIMUM OF TWO TICKET APPLICATIONS PER WI

RESOLUTION ZOOM MEETING by Katy Lewis was indeed enlightening on the ways we can help in keeping our waters clean.

Katy in her role as an environmental scientist was able to clarify what is needed in the Resolution being put forward.

If you would like to hear a recording of her talk, please email Keeley at sysadmin@wkwfi.org.uk who will send you a link to download. The picture is of Katy being presented with flowers by Caroline Davis as a thank you.



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.

All applications before Wednesday 26 May—thank you

ART AND CRAFT

Paula Bates 01892 327863

artcraft@wkwfi.org.uk

CREATIVE MACHINE EMBROIDERY FOR BEGINNERS

Tutor:- Wendy Dolan

Wednesday 19 July

Textile Artist Wendy Dolan is returning for an **additional day** with priority to members who missed out on a place in the March workshops. Just a few places remain. No need to apply again if you have a confirmed place.

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!

EMBROIDERY FRAME 7 / 8 inch wooden is ideal **SELECTION OF SEWING THREADS**, any brand, bring any you may have but think about colours for landscapes, green, red and blue.

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)

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 or 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

Wednesday 19 July at Bowls Club Snodland ME6 5DP

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 Wednesday 31 May 2023

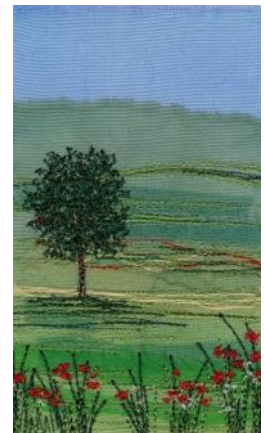
Apply to: Jenny Way, 27 Veles Road, Snodland ME6 5RB Telephone 01634 241791

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

Please include a suitably sized self addressed envelope.

Or email: ArtCraft@wkwfi.org.uk

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





Green Team

greenteam@wkfwi.org.uk

King Charles – our Green King

Mention Prince Charles and it brings to mind amusing stories of talking to plants and hugging trees, but in fact he has just been proclaimed by the Washington Post as the 21stC's first Eco-King! A man ahead of his time in his views, he made his first speech, age 21, on the environment in 1970, highlighting pollution. Since then he's been a passionate and often outspoken campaigner for the environment and rural traditions.

He prepared the ground for the first Rio Earth Summit in 1992, bringing influential people together. He addressed the COP 26 Summit 2021 in Glasgow, saying 'I didn't want to be accused by my grandchildren of not doing the things that needed doing at the time.'

He has a formidable knowledge and experience of farming, and converted his farms to Organic practices in the 80's, wanting to work with nature and reduce antibiotic use. He then set up the company Duchy Organics to sell organic foods from small and medium sized producers. All profits from this go to a Charitable Fund, and from the first humble oat biscuit it has grown to become the largest multi-charitable enterprise in the UK. He also led a campaign to promote the versatility of wool in clothing.

He has converted his 50 yr old Aston Martin car to run on surplus white wine and cheese (really!) and installed solar panels on Clarence House.

His life will change as he takes up new responsibilities and he won't be able to speak his mind so freely, but green thinking is so ingrained in him that it must always influence his attitude as King.

WEST KENT GREEN TEAM



Come and Meet the Green Team in the great outdoors to mark Great Big Green Week on Thursday 15 June. We invite you to join us for a walk and a plastic free picnic at Bore Place, between Sevenoaks and Edenbridge.

Last year the CEO of Bore Place gave us a talk for Great Big Green Week and explained how the estate is striving to be sustainable and aiming for net zero. It seems appropriate to now visit this beautiful corner of the countryside and benefit from being in nature for a few hours. The estate is open to the public and there are very well marked walks to follow. One is 2 kms (~ 40 minutes) and the other is 4 kms (just over an hour). Both are fairly easy and no difficult stiles to get over. If walking is not for you, just come along for a picnic -there's a great spot about 10 minutes' stroll from the carpark.

The details:

- Venue - Bore Place, Bore Place Road, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 7AR. <https://www.boreplace.org/visit/visitor-information/>
- Getting there – you will need to drive but please car share to minimise your carbon footprint. On arrival follow the signs to the carpark where we will meet you.
- Walk – arrive anytime between 10.30am and 11.30am to start the walk. A map and instructions will be provided.
- Picnic – bring your own food and drink but no single use plastic. If you are only coming for the picnic, arrive between noon and 12.30pm
- Nearby – Chiddingstone is a beautifully preserved Tudor village and often used for period dramas. It is lovely to wander around, not forgetting it has a great café. Also Hever Castle and Gardens and Penshurst Place are both within 5 miles if you want to make more of a day out.

This is a free event – just turn up.
More info greenteam@wkfwi.org.uk





A lovely afternoon spent with Members of **Tenterden Glebe WI**.

Speaker Tony Harris as Lady Thatcher gave a very interesting account of her Life and Time

as Prime Minister. The Hall was full and clearly all enjoyed the performance.

Carol Gupwell
WI Advisor



At their Easter meeting the ladies of **Greenslade WI** were each given a creme egg by the committee. One of our members, Tracy Clegg, then got everyone busy making Easter chick hats for our eggs to wear. A fun afternoon of crafting and chatter was enjoyed by everyone.

Members having lots of fun making Easter chick hats



.....And for something a little different!

As any member who is involved in arranging the programme will know, the fear of whether the speaker will be right for their group for always a concern. This was how Lisa, secretary for **Chelsfield Evening WI** felt on the afternoon of 21 March having booked Lindsey Burrell to talk on her journey and demonstrate Burlesque.



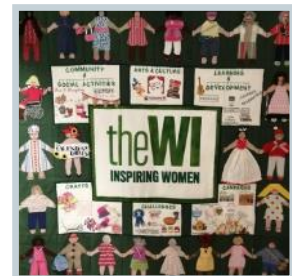
Lindsey did not arrive wearing her burlesque attire or even a high neck raincoat, instead requesting to change along with her entourage at the back of the hall stage.

However, when Lindsey and her ladies appeared from the stage curtains, they were in full burlesque attire! Lindsey provided a hilarious presentation on her Burlesque journey and had lines like "Can you see my HRT patch in these knickers" to asking members to imagine how it would have been dancing Burlesque in Chelmsford Cathedral! This was followed by a display of Burlesque which the members applauded and gave great cheers!

There is no doubt that this was certainly a successful evening and one that the members will remember for a long time. Images were even sent to a member holidaying in Cape Verde to the suggestion that we start our own troupe!

Farleighs WI had a great sociable evening with many members, husbands and friends, also guests from local WIs and friends from the community. Tony Harris alias Sherlock Holmes as ever informative and definitely entertaining.

Pam Lindon
Secretary



Photos of a few of our members at **Abbey Wood WI** visiting the Anya Hindmarch shop and coffee shop on one of our coffee mornings

Anne Stubbington, Treasurer.

Crockenhill WI collected for the local Women's Refuge 10 bags full of Easter Eggs, chocolate and gifts for the women and children to enjoy.

Post Box Easter Topper made by two talented members of the WI, Angela Andrews and Lesley Haskins.



Crockenhill WI

Sevenoaks "Local Hero Awards"



Left: Patricia Wells, Crockenhill minutes Secretary, who with her husband was awarded for the Pentanque Sport provision in the older person's category.

Right: Carol Campbell, Crockenhill Treasurer and Climate Ambassador ,awarded for her creative contribution within the village Carol has made the village bloom everywhere and has also organised fun events for the village children.



The latest amazing creation to crown our village Post-Box, made by Shirley Abbot. This was for St Patrick's Day. This is one of many toppers Shirley has made for the village post box and there are many others she has helped over the past with our WI " Crafty Afternooners" club. Shirley is one of our WI's founder members. Shirley is also joint vice president, our Committee Magazine Rep and in charge of our Trading Stall.



Shirley last year at our WI Jubilee celebrations. She was our Village Queen. And rightly so.

Shirley also works on the village hall committee, sings in our church choir and helps with the many of the church events.

Cheri Yeates
Vice President



Carol Gupwell, WI Adviser. spent a nice evening with 18 members present at **North Tonbridge WI** . The speaker gave an interesting talk about Ightham Mote behind the scenes. Happy birthday was sung to a member who had

reached 90 years young.

Bexley Village WI arranged a Burlesque Workshop on Wednesday 22 March 2023, with Lindsey Burrell a WI member from Essex. We were all a little nervous at first and tottering on our high heels we soon forgot our nerves and had an enjoyable time.

Patricia Ladbrook , President



Members of **Keston WI** bravely ventured out on a very cold snowy March afternoon to their monthly meeting.

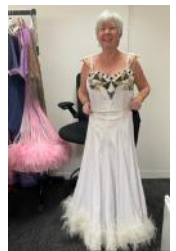


Our treasurer spoke about the importance of making changes to help protect the environment and how important it is for our MPs to keep the environment at the forefront of their agendas. We then had a very enjoyable afternoon in which the members chose to either, knit, sew or colour in hearts. The colouring was done using a technique called Zentangle. The finished products have been sent to the MP's of Bromley and Beckenham.

Helen Best
President



Twenty two ladies from **Downe WI** had a super couple of hours visiting DSI where costumes for Strictly come dancing and many other shows



are made. We had an interesting and informative talk, much to our surprise we were able to touch and try on the dresses on show.

Not many of us could actually fit into them, but by holding them up against us we felt the part, a lot of fun, we then had a glass of



Prosecco, a tour of the cutting and sewing rooms.

A very enjoyable time would recommend to other groups.

Sheila
Secretary



Bearsted and Thurnham WI are selling their extensive theatrical costume collection at the Bearsted Fayre on 24 June. To view/buy in advance please email Gilly Tully at g1485@hotmail.com





OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that **Leamington Ladies WI** learnt of the death of **GILL STEVENSON**, a founder member of the WI, who had regularly

assisted at meetings and also of **JOSIE LYDFORD** who whilst joining us post-Covid had been a long time member of **Ladycroft WI**. Our thoughts are with their friends and families.

Cage Green WI is sad to record the very recent sudden death of **JEAN ROBERTS**, a long standing member who had also served as Treasurer in the past. She will be missed by members.

Rainham Evening WI are saddened to announce the passing of **THERESA PELLOWE** on 10 March. A member since 2008, we remember Trish's crafting, jewellery making and sense of humour as she took the register. She will be greatly missed.

Ladycroft WI is sad to announce the death of **PAM SAWYER**. Always willing to welcome new members and happy to thank the speakers, she was often to the forefront of Ladycroft activities. May she rest in peace.

On behalf of St. Mark's and King Charles the Martyr's Community Larder Management Committee, I would like to thank you all the WIs in the West Kent Federation for the wonderful donations of food, hygiene and toiletry items that they kindly brought to the Assembly Hall on Monday for our Community Larder. It was so kind of you to choose us as your Charity for 2023.

Up to fifty families visit our Larder each week and these comprise of both local residents and Ukrainian families who are staying with host families in Tunbridge Wells. All these people are in need of our support and are very grateful for everything that we are able to offer them. For £3 they can take away a large bag of food, including grocery items, fresh meat and vegetables and I can assure you that your very generous donations will make a big difference to their supplies for the next few weeks. Shampoo, shower gel and feminine hygiene are expensive items which they really appreciate.

With thanks and blessings

The Rev Claire Allwood
Priest-in-charge.

Before and after photos!

Looking forward to receiving articles and photos of your **CORONATION CELEBRATIONS**



A special mention for **LILLIAN AND LESLIE NEWMAN** received a telegram from King Charles III to mark their 65th Wedding Anniversary on 22 February. Warmest congratulations from all the members at **Gates Green WI**.

Cage Green WI extend their congratulations to **JOY and JOHN DOWNING** who celebrated their Blue Sapphire Wedding Anniversary (sixty five years) in April.

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.



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ARTICLES—YOUR EVENT

Articles, your events Please no more than 150 words and two photographs. Congratulations and Obituaries (no more than 40 words) . If possible email direct to **westkentnews@wkwfi.org.uk** If not please post to our Ethel Hunt Lodge address see top of page two.