



WEST KENT WI NEWS

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

July 2023

LIFESTYLE ANNUAL DAY
TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER
DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ME20 6AH

EMMA COX, our Genealogist speaker Are you on a quest to discover more about your family and your past? Or have you inherited someone else's research?



SARAH SLATER is a Hampton Court Tour Guide and Guide Lecturer. She joins us to give an illuminating insight into the ghostly residents of Hampton Court.

JAQUELINE AVIOLET joins us from the world of plants. Her talk "*I'm a tulip, what are you?*" is designed to entertain and enlighten.



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



As I write this in early June summer seems to have arrived. My first taste of sunshine was in Cardiff back in May when I was attending the NFWI Annual Meeting. Temperatures were hitting 24 degrees and as always happens, not many of us had the right clothes!! It was a great occasion and as always, it's the meeting up of friends from other Federations which adds to it. The speakers were good and as a great supporter of all sports I was particularly interested to hear from such inspirational women who had excelled in their field. The resolution was passed but not before some lively debate. A short report of the Annual Meeting from one of our Federation delegates can be read below right. A full report being supplied by your Delegate.

Thanks to all of you who send in articles and pictures for the WKN, its always interesting to see what you are all up to ! I notice the NFWI membership team have recently put out this request-

WI Summer events

The NFWI Membership team are interested in finding out if any of your WIs over the summer are planning any interesting or exciting events? If so, we would love to know about them so please get in touch!

We are always keen to know what WIs are getting up to and we know that a lot of WIs over the summer months get involved in a variety of different events and parties. It would be great as a team to visit a few of these events over the summer where possible and with the WI's permission, potentially arrange for a photographer to attend. We always love getting photographs at WI events as they are a brilliant way for us to showcase and highlight across our social media, publications and within WI Life etc. how wonderful the organisation is. Of course, any professional photographs taken will be shared with the WI in question.

I look forward to seeing a takeover of NFWI social media and publications by West Kent!!

Take care,
Amanda



Treasurer's Corner



When you read this article, we would already have been half way through the year! Time certainly goes quickly. We have been receiving subscriptions from our many WIs, thank you for all of you that have sent them in promptly, it is much appreciated. We can now send off the portion that is due to National. Like all WIs, funds are paramount and the Federation is no exception. If you have not sent off your subscriptions yet, please do so as soon as possible.

We have now renewed the insurance policy for our WIs and you will shortly be receiving your portion due on your monthly statement. I have been told by our Insurance Agent, that money at meetings and also at the Treasurer's house is covered under the insurance. Whilst we urge you all to bank as soon as possible, with many branches closing and the problems that causes, it is comforting to know that our insurance covers us. We are also covered, for example, for liability if hosting stalls at the village fete. We must however be holding the event under the WI name and as a WI fundraiser.

As always, I am here to help, should you require it.

Rita King

NFWI AGM Cardiff

Having joined the West Kent Coach fairly early it was great to make our final pick up and head off to Cardiff where we arrived on a beautiful sunny afternoon.

We enjoyed a good meal in the hotel and were able to get to know some new WI friends .

The following morning we walked the short distance to the hall where the AGM was held. 3,500 ladies all singing Jerusalem needs some beating, and we were straight on to business. As I'm sure most of you know by now the Resolution was approved by the delegates both in the hall and on line with 84% voting for acceptance.

The meeting finished with us singing Jerusalem and then both the Welsh and UK National anthems. I can assure you that the ladies of West Kent did you proud singing Land of my Fathers in Welsh, from a phonetic version even if we did resort to la la la a little!

The evening was a special time to get to know all of the delegates and trustees including Amanda, who had travelled from West Kent and cement those new friendships, before an uneventful return trip home, the next day.

Pam Ormiston. Bredhurst WI

Picture, left, of some of the West Kent Delegates and Observers.

MEET YOUR WI ADVISER

60 SECONDS WITH:-

Name: Wendy Keast



WI and WI Credentials: I joined the WI when I was 23 because I moved to a new part of the country and my mum, always a WI stalwart, said it was the best way of getting to know new people. She was right and I have been an enthusiastic member ever since. First at my own WI in Bredhurst, then after I retired, as Federation Science rep (part of PA & I sub committee) and from 2020 as a WI Adviser.

Hobbies / Interests: I love travelling and over the years have been to many fascinating places including Alaska, Argentina, Bhutan, Cambodia, Namibia and Madagascar. I am very involved with my local church and am a volunteer at our parish Hub drop in group and our village charity shop.

Last book read: I am a founder member of my WI Reading Group which encourages a wide variety of books. One of our recent books was *The Nine*, by Gwen Strauss, the story of how a band of daring resistance women escaped from Nazi Germany.

Favourite film: *Bladerunner* as I like Science fiction

Music choices: My student days were full of Simon and Garfunkel, followed by a solo Paul Simon, the Moody Blues and Leonard Cohen, all of whom I still listen to nostalgically. I also enjoy the classical music of Sibelium, Faurer and Vivaldi.

Most memorable holiday: A visit to Bhutan a few years ago, an amazing country in the foothills of the Himalayas. Memorable also because I had an accident and had 9 stitches in my forehead put in by a very professional English speaking doctor who insisted he was as good as our NHS. It was very speedy and efficient treatment.

What do you love about the WI: I love going to lots of WIs and meeting different people. The friends I have made over the years have always been very helpful and supportive and there is always something new to learn.

Marmite: I hate it, no other word to describe it!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2023

JULY

Thur 6	Guided Walk	Mote Park
Sat 8	Auditions Day	Hildenborough
Thur 13	Guided Walk	Mote Park
Weds 19	Machine Embroidery	Snodland

SEPTEMBER

Tues 12	Watercolour Painting	Frittenden
Wed 13	Watercolour Painting	EHL
Thur 14	Watercolour Painting	Snodland
Fri 15	Watercolour Painting	Hextable
Sat 16	Watercolour Painting	Orpington
Wed 20	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton
Thur 21	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton
Thur 28	Hand bells Workshop	Hope Hill
Fri 29	ACWW fund raising afternoon	Sutton Valence

OCTOBER

Tues 17	Lifestyle Annual Day	Ditton
Thur 26	Whist Day	Ryarsh

NOVEMBER

Wed 15	English Paper Piecing	EHL
Thur 16	English Paper Piecing	Frittenden
Fri 17	Science Day	Ryarsh
Fri 24	English Paper Piecing	Snodland
Sat 25	English Paper Piecing	Orpington
Sat 25	Entertainment Day	St. Mary Platt

JULY 2023

FEDERATION NOTICEBOARD

List of Speakers 2023

Please note the following additional speaker:

Miss Louise Camby, Chartwood, 39 Tadorne Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5TF.

Tel No; 07889 304460

Email: louise@goice-productions.co.uk

Website: www.voice-productions.co.uk

Fee: £105 plus 45p per mile travel expenses

Available at all times and at short notice.

- **The Hope of Spring**
- **Help our Hedgehogs**
- **Grape Expectations—Still or sparkling wines**
- **Tracks to my Grandfather's Success—Composer of The Railway Children Film Music**
- **Seeing the Curvature of the Earth on Concorde**

(all talks with either slides of PowerPoint presentation)

Please see Speaker's website for full range of talks.

WI OFFICERS TRAINING

These will take place either at Ethel Hunt Lodge or by Zoom

SECRETARIES TRAINING

MON 10 JULY

10am to 3pm, Ethel Hunt Lodge, Pembury

SECRETARIES TRAINING

THURS 13 JULY

7pm by ZOOM

If you would like to attend or join in by Zoom please email the following details, as soon as possible, to fedsec@wkwfi.org.uk

NAME.....WI.....

WORKSHOP.....DATE.....

EMAIL.....PHONE NO.....

Please bring your packed lunch to the Ethel Hunt Workshops—tea and coffee will be provided.

TICKETING BOOKING PROCESS

After successful trials of predominantly using online booking of tickets, West Kent Federation is going over to online booking for all future specific events.

Please note from 29 September all Annual Days will be booked in this format so please be aware there will not be application forms in the West Kent News (does not include Art & Craft Annual Days this year).

Bookings should be made via your **WI rep** who will apply to the ticketing email address – tickets@wkwfi.org.uk – with WI name, contact name, email address and number of tickets.

Points to remember:-

To go in every event advert in West Kent News and on each ticket – ‘Speakers can be subject to change without prior notice’.

No tickets are issued before the closing date, but please book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Should an event be oversubscribed your WI may not get all of the tickets applied for, but each WI will receive some tickets.

Please note that tickets will be invoiced to your WI.

Please be aware that tickets are non-refundable and non-returnable.

Once tickets have been allocated they will be charged to your WI and if you can no longer attend it will be your responsibility to find a replacement.

Each ticket has a unique code to prevent fraudulent use.

Please remember to bring your ticket – failure to do so could result in entry being refused.

If you do not have a pre-ordered ticket, ID will be required so that the correct WI can be contacted and charged for extra tickets.

If a day is oversubscribed and members turn up who have not been allocated tickets, they will only be admitted if space has become available due to non-attendance and proof of ID will be required.



Green Team

greenteam@wkwfi.org.uk

Holiday the Greener Way

With the pandemic limiting our holiday options over the past couple of years many of us will be looking to spread our wings this summer. Here are some tips to becoming a more sustainable traveller.

When you start planning your holiday think about being an “undertourist” by looking at destinations that are NOT tourist honeypots where large visitor numbers can put immense pressure on resources and increase pollution. Visiting less touristy places away from the crowds can be just as rewarding and at times more enjoyable whilst at the same time limiting the impact on the natural environment and help boosting local economies.

We know that flying is carbon intensive so where possible use trains to get to your destination. However it can't always be avoided but choosing a different airline can reduce your impact. Type your journey into Skyscanner or Google Flights' search tool and it will highlight the greenest flights for your route. Wherever possible fly direct as taking off and landing uses more fuel.

Fly Economy – business and first class are responsible for up to four times more CO₂ per passenger because of the space they take up in the cabin.

Pack lightly as it can have a big impact on the fuel efficiency – there's a reason you pay extra for oversized luggage!

When you get to your destination, eat in local restaurants, which cook with local and seasonal produce. Not only will you get to sample some authentic dishes, you'll be supporting the economy too. Avoid all-you-can-eat buffets as it's estimated half of the food is wasted.

Water is precious in every holiday destination so use it carefully. Don't leave taps running, take showers and re-use your towels. Save energy and cut CO₂ by switching off lights, fans and air conditioning when you are out of your room.

When buying souvenirs, you should avoid plastic junk and browse shops and market stalls for local artisan produced gifts.

Happy Holidays!



Pratts Bottom WI had a wonderful afternoon in April when they made the trip to London to visit the Brick Lane Music Hall Theatre, a lovely venue with a wonderful atmosphere.. The St George's day show was entertaining and hilariously funny. Made all the more enjoyable with an afternoon tea halfway through. Some of the money raised goes to local charities which is good to know,
Maxine Keeble
Pratts Bottom WI



Members of **Hartley Afternoon WI** visited Eltham Palace, the striking Art Deco mansion, in May. Aside from the Great Hall, the Mansion is Art Deco style, and the audio guide supplied made the stories of the house come alive. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit.

Wendy Weedon



30 members of **Ladycroft WI** in Farnborough attended a Coronation Celebration at The Woodman pub opposite the village hall where

the monthly meetings are held. Sandwiches, savouries, scones with jam and cream as well as cakes (of course!) were enjoyed by everyone.

The pub marquee was decked out with bunting and flags and looked fabulous! In the previous couple of months the craft group had been busy making small boxes, enough for every member, which included a new King Charles 50p piece as a souvenir to take home.
Anne Bush, President.



Five members of **Hollingbourne WI** took to the open air stage with the Hazlitt Choir at the 'Proms in the Park' in Whatman Park, Maidstone. They sang five 'songs from the shows' including 'When I'm grown up' from the production of 'Matilda' with a local primary school.



Ladies from the **Boughton Monchelsea WI** craft group made these crazy patchwork cushions for their May project under the fantastic tuition and guidance of our Art & Craft Rep Barbara Herrin. What a fun afternoon we all had!



On the 10 June, the hottest day of the year, so far, **Hollingbourne WI** held its annual village fête, this year's theme being WW2. As always our WI manned the ever popular Hook-a-Duck stall, the valiant Committee Members donning suncream and sun hats to erect and decorate the gazebo during the morning heat. Janice kindly lent Uncle Tony's photographs of Hollingbourne during the war years and other members lent flags and camouflage. The children, young (and not so young), were soon having fun trying to hook the ducks, and at the end of the afternoon our hard work was rewarded by winning Best Decorated Stall - for the second year running.

Barbara Gibbs



Rainham WI held a 'Picnic in the Park' at Rainham Cricket Club where they hold their monthly meetings on the Thursday 8 June.

As we were arranging the seating area, the sun came out for us. What a treat after all the cloudy, cold & windy days we had been having.

We had four visitors, Rita King Federation Treasurer, Wendy Keast our Adviser & two ladies from Greenslade WI. We were entertained by Sue & Roger 'Two in Harmony' with some great songs from the 60's which we were joining in with.

We held a Tombola & finished the afternoon with Strawberries & Ice Cream/Cream & a cup of tea.

Lynne Puplett President.

ACWW Triennial World Conference 2023

Kuala Lumpur Malaysia



The Association of Country Women of the World was founded in 1929, to bring together women and their organisations from rural areas from all over the world. Their purpose was and still is to address the challenges that they face due to isolation and discrimination against women and their lack of entry and standing in the political processes of their countries.

ACWW's membership spans 82 countries and since 1947 has advocated and passed 180 policy resolutions by popular vote. The key concept behind each resolution is the empowerment of rural women in all their diversity and this continues to be the ACWW's driving priority



I feel proud to have attended the world conference in Malaysia along with 450 women from 84 countries all under one roof. We exchanged views and visions for the future to enable women of all ages to reach their full potential. What a full and exciting programme was set before us and the Ladies of Penang WI did us proud.

The highlight of the conference was the opening ceremony attended by Queen Azizah, King Abdulla and the Princes and Princesses of Malaysia such a special moment. The conference also received a message from King Charles wishing ACWW success for the future. You will hear more about the conference in September when PA&I will host an afternoon tea and I will give you many more interesting insights into what took place.



Carol Gupwell and Madge de Kock. ACWW World President (left picture). Carol with ACWW Host Queen Azizah (right picture)

The above pictures were taken at the dinner hosted by the Queen at the Royal Palace for the conference delegates. More about that later.

If you wish to support ACWW the projects they are proposing and seeking support for are:-

- Climate Support Agriculture – increase productivity, increase income and reduce greenhouse gases.
- Rural Women's Health – Holistic approach to nutrition, sexual reproduction and health care for women as they age.
- Education – social justice for all and change attitudes to female empowerment.

ACWW Fund Raising Afternoon Tea

Sutton Valence Village Hall

Friday 29 September at 2:00pm

(doors open 1:30pm)

Tickets £12.50

TWO ticket applications per WI

Please indicate if you would like more tickets as these may be available after the closing date. Apply to: tickets@wkwfi.org.uk with your WI, Contact Name, Telephone No, Number of tickets required and any special dietary requirements.

Tickets will be emailed after the closing date.

Alternatively, please complete the form below and send to:

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

Postal tickets will be charged an extra £1 for postage.

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

Email.....Telephone No:.....

Address.....

Postcode..... No Tickets Required.....

Special Dietary Requirements.....

Closing Date 8 September

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

ART AND CRAFT



Paula Bates 01892 327863 artcraft@wkfwi.org.uk

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING WORKSHOPS

For beginners and improvers

TUTOR MATTHEW PALMER

10am to 3:30 pm, Doors open at 9:30am - Cost of ticket £39 to include tea/coffee, watercolour paper with sketch already drawn and paints. Please bring a packed lunch. Priority to members.

Popular professional artist Matthew Palmer is returning to teach us more watercolour workshops suitable for beginners to the more experienced improver.

No need to buy any supplies in advance, Matthew will lend boards, palettes and brushes. Please bring a pencil, eraser, water container and kitchen roll. If you have your own painting kit please feel free to bring it. We will need 3 round brushes - a large size 16/18/20, a medium size 10 or 12 and a small size 4 or 6, and a rigger brush might also be useful. Primary colours will be used: red, yellow and blue and all other colours can be mixed from those but bring others if you have them. He will bring his art shop so that you can top up your supplies if you wish.



September:

- Tues 12 Memorial Hall, Frittenden. TN17 2DD
- Wed 13 Ethel Hunt Lodge, Pembury TN2 4AG
- Thurs 14 Snodland Bowls Club ME6 5PP
- Fri 15 St Peter's Church, Hextable BR8 7RH
- Sat 16 St Nicholas Church Hall, Orpington BR6 9 QB



WI.....Name.....

Address & Postcode.....

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

No of tickets.....Date.....Venue.....

2nd choice date and venue.....

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

01892 327863 email: brian.paula@btinternet.com

Closing date for tickets: Friday 28 July

Please enclose an appropriate size SAE for your tickets

YOUR WI WILL BE INVOICED ON THE MONTHLY ACCOUNT FOR THE TICKETS ISSUED

ART AND CRAFT

Paula Bates 01892 327863



Art & Craft Annual Days

Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 September

DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, KILN BARN ROAD, AYLESFORD ME20 6AH

Start 10:30am—3:30pm / Doors open 9:30 am

Tickets £12.50 to include tea/coffee. Please bring your own cup.

Non-members are welcome but priority will be given to members.

The following will be speakers at our Annual Art and Craft Days:

Neal Scrase: A talk about the business of Art and being an artist against being a business, in his case a fine art printer; modern giclee art printing and framing to the art community. Neal will also talk about being the Director of the Fine Art Trade Guild and how that works within the art business.

Paul Avis, Chair of the Tunbridge Wells Civic Society and the Decimus Burton Society

A talk about the plans for a proposed new museum in Tunbridge Wells dedicated to the famous architect Decimus Burton. The buildings he designed will show his life and work, and be repurposed and furnished to show a house of the Regency period.

There are plans for a sensory garden and disabled access.



Stephanie Smart and the House of Embroidered Paper

The Regency Wardrobe

Fashion house and fine art studio with garments formed from paper and thread, woven through with story and memory



Our usual well known Bring & Buy will be there in addition to Rainham Sewing, Alison Le Fevre — Silversmith, Sue Roberts paper flowers, Search Press books, Lina Patchwork, Wood turning, Love that Stuff Fairtrade and Snobb high quality unique hand crafted items.

Art & Craft Annual Days

Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 September 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. Doors open 9:30 am

Tickets £12.50 to include tea/coffee on arrival and at lunchtime.

Please bring a packed lunch and your own cup.

Non-members are welcome but priority will be given to members.

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

Address:

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

No. of tickets: **20 Sept** MembersNon-Members..... **21 Sept** MembersNon-Members.....

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

Closing date: **Friday 28 July.** PLEASE ENCLOSE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

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

LIFE STYLE ANNUAL DAY TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER

Ditton Community Centre ME20 6AH

TICKETS £ 12.50 Doors open 9.30am

Guest Speakers invited to attend feature:

EMMA COX, our Genealogist speaker Are you on a quest to discover more about your family and your past? Or have you inherited someone else's research?

Perhaps you've got lots of information yourself such as photographs, a partly completed family tree, family letters and other treasures and need it tidying up or a book to be created? Or a DNA result that puzzles you or lots of new DNA matches whom you would like to approach. Or maybe you've come to a dead end and can't get any further? Emma gives us a brief guide into the wonderful world of Genealogy.



SARAH SLATER is a Hampton Court Tour Guide and Guide Lecturer. She joins us to give an illuminating insight into the ghostly residents of Hampton Court.

JAQUELINE AVIOLET joins us from the world of plants. Her talk "*I'm a tulip, what are you?*" is designed to entertain and enlighten. We are sworn to secrecy to the full content of Jaqueline's talk but it does promise to be amusing and entertaining. She will also be bringing plants, to sell, on the day.



LIFESTYLE ANNUAL DAY TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER

Ditton Community Centre, Kiln Barn Road, Ditton, ME20 6AH, £12.50

10.30am—3.30pm Doors open 9.30am please bring a packed lunch and your own mug.

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

Address & Post code.....

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

No. of tickets requiredclosing date: 17 September

Email: Tickets@wkwfi.org.uk With Lifestyle Annual Day as the subject heading.
The tickets will be emailed

YOUR WI WILL BE INVOICED ON THE MONTHLY ACCOUNT FOR THE NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED



HANDBELL WORKSHOP

Bells To Go

Join tutor **SANDRA WINTER** from the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain and her Mobile Workshop.

Coming to Hopehill, Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent DA13 0QJ

Thursday 28 September Tickets £25
Members only

You will have the opportunity to try different types of bells and by the afternoon you and your new friends will be making music together



HANDBELL WORKSHOP

Thursday 28 September

Hopehill, Wrotham Road, Meopham Kent
DA13 0QJ

Start 11am—3pm. Doors open 10.30am

Tickets £25 to include tea/coffee on arrival and at lunchtime. Please bring a packed lunch. Members only

WI

Contact Name.....

Email

Phone Number.....

Please give the name/s of the members applying

Please apply at tickets @wkwfi.org

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

Tickets will be sent out by email.

Closing date 1 August

Paddleboarding and Kayaking at Mote Park



On a very hot, sunny day in June, approximately 35 members from various WIs in West Kent bravely took to the water for a day of water sports.

Due to its popularity, the paddleboarding took place in two sessions, one a.m. the other p.m. I think that was so there

was enough space for the boards to move about without the person on it being knocked off!!

The first group set off very tentatively, on their knees, as instructed. However, we had a very helpful instructor who soon encouraged most of us to stand up and paddle, albeit with very wobbly legs.

We soon ventured out of the safety of the small area onto the large lake, still standing! We were looking out for terrapins that lived on the banks, whilst still endeavoring not to fall into the water.

The time went too quickly, and we soon had to go back to the docking bay, where we managed to get off the boards in various, amusing ways.

The second group then took their turn, and also enjoyed themselves.

In the afternoon, many of the members took to the water, this time in Kayaks. Despite quite a few of us never having done it before, everyone did really well at it. It was a very tranquil experience. We rowed through branches of trees and went about a mile or so, then came back to base. Once again, our disembarking methods were somewhat unladylike to say the least.

At the end of a lovely day, we all felt a sense of achievement and camaraderie.

Looking forward to next time already!

Chris Ramsay – Ladycroft WI Farnborough, Kent



REPORT OF RECENT EVENT

ACRYLIC PAINTING FOR BEGINNERS



Charles Evans started the day with painting a lovely seascape to demonstrate some techniques and then gave an excellent workshop in the use of acrylic paint, informative, educational and entertaining.

We were shown, and were able to create, an atmospheric woodland scene complete with dappled sunlight through leafy trees, a pathway and dog walker with dog.

Amazingly this was achieved by the use of two brushes, a limited palette – very few colours – and an



expired credit card.

The tuition of the dog was a bonus as Charles proceeded to demonstrate the use of simple shape structures viable for sheep, cows and people.

On completion of our own work, Charles gave a second demo on a fresh piece of paper, lathered copious brushfuls of water over it followed by exuberant sweeps of paint and managed to produce an atmospheric painting of soft sunlit sky, rippling waves, a beach of pale yellow sand and sand dunes.



I have formerly only used watercolours but found acrylics a fascinating medium for their brightness, forgiving nature and use not limited to one type of usually expensive paper!

Am greatly looking forward to possible further painting opportunities with this tutor.

Joanna M Cole

Nevill WI



In May, **Nevill WI** had an outing to the Chatham Dockyard and also booked the Call the Midwife tour. It was very enjoyable and absolutely fascinating to actually be in the TV filming



set and be able to recognise various scenes. Our guide, “midwife” Helen, a former nurse, was very interesting and informative. There is the added bonus of the newly opened museum with many props from the programme. This is only available to those that partake of the pre-booked tour. If anyone is thinking of booking this trip, it comes highly recommended. Thankfully the weather was kind, the tea room very Accommodating and the rest of the Dockyard equally interesting.

Attached are photos from our **Downe WI AGM** where we celebrated the Coronation with a special tea.

Photos are of the committee in red white and blue wearing the crowns they made. The hall was decorated with bunting and plenty of union jacks. Pretty table decorations, a gold box with a crown containing a chocolate. The beautiful celebration cake made by a member, an afternoon to remember.





OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that **The Farleighs WI** announce the death of our valued member and friend **MARGARET DEAN**. Always willing to help, she will be greatly missed by all—our thoughts are with Lesley and the family.

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.

St. Michaels WI attended a morning at the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve as part of 'Green Week'.

Angela Camier committee member, liaised with the Reserve to arrange a date to be involved in an activity.

We learned so much on how to collect and record data for Moth monitoring. A very exciting morning.

Brigitte Watkins
President



Istead Rise WI sends many congratulations to **PENNY and DAVID GASTER** who celebrated their Golden Wedding in June.

The ladies of **Highgate Hawkhurst WI** spent a delightful evening Behind the Scenes at the Chelsea Flower Show in the company of potter-turned-gardener-turned-author Chris O'Donoghue. We also



celebrated the Significant

Birthdays of three of our lovely ladies: Barbara, Janet and June, the (very pink) cake depicting their



WHO TO CONTACT

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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.

Not to be left out of the Post Box Topper movement, our wonderful Ann Houlston, a long standing and valued member of **The Woolwich and Plumstead Roses WI**, recently renewed her interest in crochet.

Her experience to date has only been creating a few granny squares many years ago, so this topper is a real labour of love. The post box stands on the Royal Arsenal Development in Woolwich and the topper has been greatly appreciated by passers by. Jeannie Bincliffe, President.



The members of **South Park WI** on a visit to Bloomin Wild, where we were shown how to grow flowers without over digging or using pesticides.

Also shown how to hand tie a bunch of flowers. All finished off with tea and cake. Thank you, Bec and Laura for an interesting afternoon.

