



# WEST KENT WI NEWS



September 2023

## ENTERTAINMENT DAY

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER

Details on page 7

*Tony Harris appearing as  
William Shakespeare*



*Traditional Dancers*

*The History of Magic*

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



I'm sure some of you might be wondering if my holiday with the family was less exciting than last year and thankfully it was! Miraculously the weather in Brancaster was much better than at home where it rained every day. Everyone "played nicely" (a favourite phrase of my mother-in-law!) and even the dog behaved himself! One of the highlights was Ivy (7 months old) enjoying her first breakfast porridge and not throwing it all over the place! But enough of this lets move on...

September is here and with it comes a sense of a new year and a fresh start, which I'm sure comes from the new school year starting – that feeling never leaves you!

We are kicking off September with a bang – Arts and Craft have 2 Annual Days and 5 Watercolour workshops, then PALS are putting on a Handbell workshop, the Federation choir restarts, and we finish with the ACWW afternoon tea- Phew!! Something for everyone I'm sure you would agree. Information for all these or any Federation activities are in the West Kent News and if you have trouble seeing it online please ask your WI for details.

I read a comment from one of our WIs on Facebook recently that the Federation had disbanded all the Districts – as I'm sure you all know National decided to revamp the Districts, call them Groups and make the organising WI responsible for the money side of any events. Many Groups still exist but there is nothing stopping a WI either joining another Group (which may be a geographically nearer WI- please just let Federation know!) or simply invite other WIs to an event. Catford WI are already doing this and have brought together local WIs for a Darts evening and now have a Treasure Hunt on the London Underground in October. It may be that some WIs are already doing this, if so let us know!

Have a good September everyone and if you see me please come and say hello!

Take care

**Amanda**

## Treasurer's Corner



September will see meetings resumed, so I hope the Treasurers have had a nice rest during August! My article about having a social Zoom meeting for Treasurer's has been well received and I have saved the contact email addresses for the ladies who expressed a wish to attend. Most of the ladies favoured an evening or weekend. I am therefore intending to have a Zoom social Treasurers evening on **Monday 9 October from 7 pm to 9 pm.**

Please let me have your email addresses if you wish to attend and I will send you the log in details nearer the time. All you will need is tea and biscuits!

If successful, I will organise further meetings towards the end of the financial year.

This week I received an email from National that outlined the fact that late subscriptions they received from some Federations has meant that their budgets could not be met. More disturbing was the fact that they had had to liquidate some assets in order to meet their obligations for running their organisation.

Their request is for Federations to send in their subscriptions each year by the end of May and continually thereafter for pro rata or late joiners. This means that we must be diligent in receiving subscriptions from our WIs in plenty of time. Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated. It will certainly help with our own obligations.

*Rita King*

### 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](mailto: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.

## MEET YOUR WI ADVISER

### 60 SECONDS WITH:-

#### Frances Farley



**WI and WI Credentials:** I joined the WI at the end of 2018. I'm a member of Greenslade WI, qualified as an Adviser in August 2022 and this is my second year as a member of the Arts and Crafts Committee.

**Hobbies/Interests:** Travel, Theatre, Concerts, Dogs & Dog Shows, Show Jumping, Formula 1, Swimming, Tap, Ballet & Jazz Dance, Knitting, Crochet, Cross Stitch and Embroidery, Mini Cars (I drive a Mini and am a member of Mini Girls UK)

**Last Book Read:** A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara - needed to prepare myself before I saw the play

**Favourite Film:** Impossible to choose just one. Lady and The Tramp (love Disney), West Side Story and anything Agatha Christie

**Music choices :** Beethoven to Beyonce all music basically. Studied classical piano with Trinity College of Music and jazz piano, orchestration and arrangement with the Royal School of Music thus music has always been in my soul

**Most Memorable Holiday:** many travel adventures have made wonderful memories. A few that really stand out would be seeing the Northern Lights, working at the Panda Breeding Centre in China, getting soaked on the Niagara Falls, several Concorde flights to New York to see Broadway shows. Then there's the memory I would rather forget, my foot's encounter with a Cobra in India!

**What do you love about the WI:** new friends, fun and the support we have for each other

**Marmite:** I refuse to even try it as it looks and smells yuk!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2023

### 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

## Federation Notice Board

### Yearbook

West Kent Federation is pleased to announce a new WI within the Tonbridge Group – **Tons N Roses**. They will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm at The New Telegraph Club, Priory Road, Tonbridge TN9 2AS.

Please note that **Woolwich & Plumstead Roses** have a new venue and now meet at The Tramshed, 51-53 Woolwich New Road, London SE18 6ES. All other details remain the same.

**Please note the following WI has suspended Headcorn August 2023**

### List of Speakers 2023

Please note that Mrs Ann Chance's email address is now [ann.chance76@gmail.com](mailto:ann.chance76@gmail.com)

## West Kent Choir United

Our West Kent Choir will now be united and meet at Orpington for 6 sessions up to December 2023. Unfortunately, the numbers that could attend the Southborough venue dwindled and it became uneconomic to continue the 2 choirs.

So, we will now be able to meet as one choir at:

Orpington Village Hall BR6 0NN on a Wednesday from 1.15 pm till 2.45 pm. Dates of these sessions:

**Term 1: 20 September, 4 October, 18 October**

**Term 2: 8 November, 22 November, 6 December**

Existing members will be paying £10 per session (the slight increase is to cover our costs of hall and singing tutor). Payment should be made to your WI for each Term e.g. 3 sessions -£30

Members wishing to try the choir for the first time may come for free for their first session. Please note this offer is only available on the first session of Term 1 e.g. **Wednesday 20 September Term 1**. If members decide after the taster session to join the choir payment for the remaining 2 sessions would be £20 and paid to your WI. Sheet music is supplied and there are no auditions, so all you need to bring is water and your voice! We had a very successful first year and know that going forward we will benefit from all the physical, mental and social aspects of singing together. So come along and give the choir a try. Please contact Gill Brown, through the Federation office email for further details.







Diane Daniels — 01622 674494

# HOW IS SCIENCE AFFECTING OUR EVERYDAY LIVES?

We do not often realise how much science plays a part in in our everyday living. This day will give you an insight into several different areas: we have speakers on health and food safety, water analysis and forensics.

Come to learn and enjoy, it will be an interesting day.

**Ryarsh Village Hall**  
**Friday 17 November 2023**  
**10.00am to 3.00pm (doors open at 9.30am)**  
**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 Number and Number of Tickets Required

*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 ..... Tel No .....  
Address .....  
Postcode ..... No of Tickets Required .....

*Closing Date 1 November 2023*

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



**Barming WI** held a summer picnic on Monday 7 August. As well as enjoying sandwiches, tea and cake, members took part in some games including 'Pin the Tail on the Donkey' and locating the treasure on a desert island map! There was also a quiz in which cryptic clues were solved to reveal addresses in the Barming area and a competition to see who had the greenest fingers for tending nasturtiums. Members enjoyed the evening and above all were happy that the weather stayed dry.

**Rainham WI** spent a lovely day at Teapot Island in July.

8,450 teapots were on display, with many more stored in the owners roof.

What a lovely collection representing different occasions in our history.

From large teapots to miniatures.



Lynne Puplett  
President.

Seventeen members of **Hollingbourne WI** descended on Margate for our August outing. To be beside the azure sea was heaven. The Walpole hotel was a delight and we enjoyed taking the ancient lift upstairs to the unusual collection of memorabilia and downstairs for a quick twirl on the sprung ballroom floor.



**Crockenhill WI** as well as having a Bat & Trap and Darts Team we have decided to form our very own Pétanque WI Team! From left to right, Christine, Lynn, Carol, Pat, Sylvia and Janet make up our merry band. We have been very lucky to have Pat Wells, our Secretary and her husband, Steve who set up a local team at our local pub showing the team the ropes! According to the Times newspaper last week, Pétanque Clubs are all the rage, and springing up all over the country. Are we the first WI in West Kent to form a team? Or are there any other WI Pétanque teams out there in West Kent? If so, can we get a league up and have some games and competitions? If the answer is YES then please contact our Secretary Pat Wells.



Post Box Topper creations made by our amazing and talented members. They produce a new scene every month which delights the people of Crockenhill and makes the village a brighter place.



The photos show some of the seaside creatures you may see at the beach or know they are about but can't see! Our June



Topper, made by Shirley and Sue, excellent and such detailed work yet again ladies. The July topper reminds us that all creatures, great and small the Lord God made them all. Fabulous work made by Angela and Lesley.

Thank you and well done for all your dedication for the fabulous crafts you provide the whole village.

Cheri Yeates Crockenhill WI

**Bexleyheath & Crayford Waterside WI**

In July, 16 members enjoyed a wonderful sunny afternoon at the Greenwich Naval College. We were shown around by an informative guide who was interesting, funny, and kept us all captivated by the history, reciting names and dates with no references to any notes. The tour finished at the Painted Hall where you could lie down and just stare at the ceiling. We were also shown how to take a



picture of the ceiling using the mirror (as in one of the photos below) before we rounded off the trip with an afternoon tea, most of us taking some cakes home for later as far too much to eat.



Susan Harvey

**ACWW Fund Raising Afternoon Tea**

SUTTON VALENCE VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER AT 2:00PM (DOORS OPEN 1:30PM)

TICKETS £12.50

**ACWW Triennial World Conference 2023**  
**Kuala Lumpur Malaysia**  
**and updates on the work of ACWW**

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](mailto: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.

## 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 required .....closing 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

Our motto for the day "Keep dry and carry on".

Despite a very rainy afternoon our planned August garden party still went ahead. Our Treasurer Chris and her husband Barry kindly let us gather in their lovely orangery. 40 members were present and we had great fun, a WI themed quiz, a bring and buy and of course delicious tea and cakes. A lovely afternoon was enjoyed by all and it was certainly the perfect antidote to the miserable weather, thank you again Chris and Barry. Sue Horner



**Hartley Evening WI**



# ENTERTAINMENT DAY

## SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER

THE MEMORIAL HALL, PLATINUM WAY,  
ST. MARY'S PLATT, TN15 8FH

10.30am — 3pm (doors open 10am) Tickets £12.50

Open to family and friends

PALS sub-committee is trying a different event this time and, as often requested, a Saturday event! So, please book your tickets for what should be a very entertaining day.



**NIGEL ROBERTS** who is a member of The Medway Magical Society, will be telling us about the **HISTORY OF MAGIC** and entertaining us with many sleight of hands tricks. Will you be able to spot how he does it?

**ST. CLEMENT'S CLOGS**, the side was formed in 1986 and takes its name from St. Clement's Reach on the River Thames, dressed in their colourful traditional costumes will entertain you with their Morris Dancing. They have performed in many festivals and various locations over the years. The 1st May is a very important date in the calendar of Morris Dancing, when Morris sides get

together at a high location to greet the sunrise to celebrate the beginning of Spring and the new life. At this point you will have the opportunity to join in with some dances, so please wear appropriate shoes.



Then, after lunch we are going back in time as **TONY HARRIS** introduces us to **WILLIAM**

**SHAKESPEARE**. Tony has been entertaining our Federation for many years and is known as an excellent entertaining performer. He will be recounting the Bard's life and performing some of his most famous speeches.



By now with the many references to *ENTERTAINMENT* you will appreciate that we hope it proves to be a most entertaining day.

Coffee/tea will be served on arrival and at lunch time, If you could bring your own mug and will need a packed lunch, if possible no single use plastic.

**Please book your tickets by the Federation Ticketing Process via your WI rep who will use tickets@wkwfi.org.uk with the WI Name, contact name, email address and number of tickets. Closing Date for tickets 31 October. Your WI will be invoiced for the number of tickets supplied.**



## Tents in Kent August 2023

For the weekend of 18 to 21 August, ladies from WIs all over the country converged at Adamswell Scout Camp for what was a wonderful weekend. The weekend was organised by **Maidstone**

**Chocolate WI** founder members Ali Fielding and Hannah Patten who started the weekend in 2019. Volunteers helped with the running of the event.

The facilities were great and the optional activities plenty. They included Needle Felting, Paracord making, Axe throwing, Archery, Daisy bracelet making, Block Printing, Knit and natter drop in, and not forgetting wall climbing. We also had a local lady giving us a talk on Badgers and Hannah gave us a very interesting talk on flags. Saturday night had many of us around the camp fire singing different version of the same song! Marshmallows compulsory G & T optional.

Well done Ali, Hannah and their team of helpers.



**WHIST DAY £13.50****Thursday 26 October****Ryarsh Village Hall, Birling Road, Ryarsh, ME19 5LS**10.30 am—3.30pm (Doors open at 10.00am for registration and tea/  
coffee)

Ticket price includes lunch —members only.



Our Whist Day, with Ploughman's lunch and dessert, is always popular. We look forward to welcoming many familiar faces and hopefully some new players. You do not have to attend as a pair, single players are welcome and you will be put with another solo member. The cards will be shuffled, score sheets named and play will commence at 10.30 am sharp, Sheila Miles will be on hand to oversee the play and answer any queries.

When applying for tickets **please** let us know of any special dietary requirements, we need to know for when we go shopping, not as a surprise on the day.

Please apply for tickets by email, any time before **30 September** to **PALS@wkfwi.org.uk** Using **WHIST** as the heading for your email. Jeannette Smith tel: 01634 869 580 will answer any queries

We require the following information: Name of person applying and a contact phone number. Your WI, the number of tickets required, the name of the players and if they have any special dietary requirements - thank you. Your WI will be invoiced for the number of tickets issued.

If you can bring your own mug/cup for your hot drinks—that will be most helpful.

In August **Burham and Wouldham WI** had a trip out to Tram Hatch gardens. The visit was chosen as a way to remember the life of long-time member June Jordan who died in November 2022. June had been a member of the WI since the late 1950s, first Blue Bell Hill and for the last thirty years at Burham and Wouldham WI. June had served on the committee and helped fund raise through her annual garden parties held in her extensive garden. Her daughter Heather felt the most appropriate way for new and longer serving members to celebrate June's life was to visit a stunning garden and enjoy the plants, trees, flowers and cakes. It was a lovely morning and despite the slightly damp conditions we all felt it was a fitting way to remember our departed friend, June Jordan.



Golden Green's 36<sup>th</sup> Birthday party was celebrated on the evening of Wednesday 19 July at Golden Green Village Hall.

Founder Members with the President. **Golden Green WI** formed 22 July 1987.

Back Row L to R: Rosalind Seall, Founder Member.  
Marion Clarke President.

Front Row L to R: Rosemary Worsell, Iris Wilson, Pearl Wagland, Founder Members.

With no formal meeting in August, **SHIPBOURNE WI** enjoyed a visit to Merriments Gardens, East Sussex. Lunch followed by a stroll round the gardens, a few purchases from the shop, and a cup of tea with cake - all in glorious sunshine - bliss!! We look forward to some interesting talks in the coming months and our fundraising Book Sale with Teas in October.





# ART AND CRAFT

Paula Bates 01892 327863



## Christmas Decorations Workshops In English Paper Piecing Patchwork



### NOVEMBER

**Wednesday 15: Ethel Hunt Lodge, Pembury, TN2 4AG**

**Thursday 16: Memorial Hall, Frittenden, TN17 2DD**

**Friday 24: Bowls Club, Snodland, ME6 5DP**

**Saturday 25, St Nicholas Church Hall, Orpington, BR6 9QB**

Come and spend a fun day making cute, hand-sewn Christmas Ornaments with Nancy Adamek. This workshop is suitable for all sewing abilities - even if you are new to English Paper Piecing (EPP)! A complete kit to make the ornaments will be supplied on the day and you can choose 2 designs (out of 4) to make. They will be the talking point of your Christmas décor this year for sure!

10am to 3:30pm, Doors open at 9:30am Cost of ticket £29 to include the kits and everything you need to make these, and tea or coffee.

Please bring a needle threader, your glasses if you need them, a packed lunch and a mug for your hot drink.

WI.....Name.....  
Address & Postcode:.....  
Phone No.....Email.....  
No of tickets.....Date.....Venue.....

Please apply to: Mrs Derry Fleisig, 7 Brownelaw Copse, Walderslade,  
Chatham, Kent ME5 9JQ, tel: 01634 660940  
Closing date for tickets: Friday 29 September

Please enclose an appropriate size SAE for your tickets

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

**Longfield WI** were given nearly 200 soft toys. We were offered to have a stall at Swanley Park by Anne-Marie one of our members, which we duly accepted.

It was a lovely day & therefore very busy. Our stall was very popular as it was pick any one for a £1, needless to say we did very well. Thank you to Christina, Gloria, Diane, Lynn, Ann-Marie & Pam & of course our husbands.



Ladies from **Boughton Monchelsea WI** showing off their new tote bags following another very successful and fun craft afternoon.



Anthea Springett

**Tenterden Glebe WI** went on a lovely outing in July to Bredgar and Wormshill railway, where we had a tour of the steam train museum plus a trip on one of their marvellous steam trains. This was followed by a lovely cream tea. We would recommend this trip to other WIs.



Thanks to Sue Gilbert for organising this trip.



**Keston WI** at the Kestfest in June. We enjoyed an ice cream break while looking after our stall.

We also gave some of our handknitted teddies to our local police officers for trauma teddies for children in need of comfort.

Judy Gault



### Murder at Coney Hall Village WI

A man has been found in the village hall store room, hit over the head with a wooden board and finished off with a metal skewer. Who is responsible for his murder? Our members were asked to solve the case at our June meeting.

Ten volunteer members took the parts of possible suspects and the investigating police inspector. Before the play cast members were given background information about their part. Some were in costume and had the necessary props. They all read from unseen scripts so no one knew who had done it. The play took the audience through the events of the evening of the murder, the identity of the murdered man and his connection to some of the cast. After Act 1 the audience could ask the cast questions to help them decide who they thought was responsible.

All was revealed in Act 2 as the inspector solved the case and arrested the culprit. Like most whodunnits, very few chose the correct murderer but everyone enjoyed the afternoon which proved a welcomed change to our usual speaker.

Chris Jones, Secretary.



On Wednesday 19 July, 15 **West Wickham WI** members spent an enjoyable visit to the Biggin Hill Museum. We had an excellent talk by our Guides who led us through the history of the Airport and told us of the exceptional valour of the pilots

and navigators based here during the Battle of Britain. We were also able to see the efforts of the women who served in the war in an enlightening exhibition in the chapel. We finished off the morning visit by having a superb sandwich lunch in the Nightingale Restaurant.

**Detling WI** had a lovely afternoon tea in our Member's garden. Margaret is our longest serving member and gave us a wonderful talk on how she travelled to Jamaica and get married, it was fascinating along with lovely items of that time.



52 members of **Aperfield WI** enjoyed a tea party in the lovely garden of our vice president, Elaine Tateson, on a rare sunny afternoon in August.

Ladies of **Boughton Monchelsea Bookettes** met for Afternoon Tea in the library of Ledian gardens in nearby Leeds village. As well as discussing our current book we enjoyed a scrumptious tea in lovely surroundings.





Our Congratulation Coronation Card, created by Laura Horner and sent on behalf of the West Kent Federation of WIs was kindly acknowledged.



We were deeply touched by your most kind and thoughtful message following our Coronation. We are enormously grateful to everyone who took part in the celebrations, and particularly appreciate that you so generously took the time to write to us on this very special occasion.

Charles R      Camilla R



## Green Team

greenteam@wkwfi.org.uk

### King Charles's ideas applied in Pratts Bottom

Pratts Bottom WI has joined with some other community groups in the village to act on some ideas of our new King Charles III. The former head teacher at the village school, who is one of our WI members has encouraged some of the locals to pursue the "Coronation Gardens for Food and Nature" idea. A petition was organised to improve the local playground and as the project ideas came together some funding was secured. The village school children as the next generation of environmentalists, came up with proposals to create a natural meadow on an embankment just outside the school grounds in this local playground.

This natural meadow will be planted with wild seeds and plants, hopefully involving the children directly. Such planting will encourage Butterflies, Bees & other insects, and create an area of floral diversity that everyone can learn from. This meadow will sit alongside the refurbished playground which will give the next generation the opportunity to have some fun as well as admire nature at work. There are plans afoot to install a bench in the meadow area where ideas for Food & Nature can be discussed by all age groups.

A little further along this project is the idea to go into the immediate neighbouring patch of land, known as "Foxes Wood", to tidy it up and make it "child safe" again. This will be done in a sympathetic way to highlight naturally occurring flora & fauna. This will be another way of recognising the natural world where food for the fauna will grow and the next generation of environmentalists can learn more about.

Shirley Pecover

The Great Big Green Week in June 2023 prompted the members of **Burham and Wouldham WI** to do a photographic survey of wildflowers growing in their area. Almost half the members in the WI took part, walking along pavements, going into the local nature reserve and taking riverside footpaths.

The final scrapbook is a visual delight admired by all in the WI and the community. The members who took part have a new interest in our local flora. We now know that the common mallow grows everywhere while the bee orchid is found only on the chalk downlands of the reserve. We know that butterflies love knapweed, scabious and St John's wort and that the marbled white butterfly is rarer than the cabbage white. It has raised everybody's appreciation of the beauty of flowers that once were just thought of as weeds. How many; well, we put 75 photos in our book, but we know there are many more than that number.

It would be interesting to do a survey in the spring or even July to see which wildflowers are out brightening up our world at different times of year.

Heather Brown







## OBITUARIES

Members of **Kemsing Evening WI** is shocked by the sudden death of one of their members,

**DAPHNE BELLINGHAM.** Daphne joined the WI when she moved to our village and was well known for her positive and lovely attitude. She was with us at our meeting only a few days before she passed away. Our thoughts go out to her husband Dave and their children. We will miss her.

It is with great sadness that **Southfleet WI** announces the passing of a valued ex-member and friend, **MARIE HAWES.** Marie took on many roles on the committee and was a much loved member until a long-term health issue made it difficult for her to remain a member. She will be missed by us all and fondly remembered for her support, kindness and the lovely person she was.

It is with great sadness that **Larkfield WI** reports the sudden death of **SHIRLEY BROOKS.** Shirley was an active member of our WI and she will be greatly missed. We send our condolences to her family.

It is with deep sadness that members of **Longfield WI** announce the death of one of its long standing members **JOY LOW.** Joy was a past President and a regular committee member for many years. Her friendship and smile will be sorely missed by all members.

**Sole Street WI** members are deeply saddened by the passing of their dear friend **MIN KEATING.** A former President, Secretary, our Craft Guru and true advocate of the WI. A truly inspiring woman who will be greatly missed.

Sadly **JENNY BYMAN,** a long time member of **Ladycroft WI** has died. She was a much valued member and held the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. She will be greatly missed.

### 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.



**Crayford WI** send many Congratulations to our New President **LINDA LEWIS** and her husband **JOHN** on their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 14 September.

**Ladycroft WI** wish **CAROL AND DAVID STOKES** many congratulations on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary on 8 September.

Members of **Golden Green WI** send congratulations and best wishes to **JENNY and DAVE HOPKINS** who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary recently.

The **Longfield WI** would like to send warm congratulations to **MARION and TERRY ASPLIN** on celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Freda McBride has been a member of **Crockham Hill WI** for over 60 years and has been Treasurer, secretary and President. She celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at the end of July and WI organised a village party for



her to which about 120 people came, all wanting to wish her well and thank her for the enormous contribution she has made - and still makes - to village life. She comes every month to WI meetings.

She and her husband Derek ran the village shop for many years taking over from Freda's parents. Freda never learnt to drive a car but cycled everywhere and was still cycling well into her 80's. Here is a photo of her cutting her cake with her daughters looking on.

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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.