



WEST KENT WI NEWS

November 2021

Christmas Card Competition 2021



Barbara Herrin
Boughton
Monchelsea WI



Joanna Cole in colour
pencil, Nevill WI



I received a collection of winter
foliage from 13 members which
I've appliquéd to cotton fabric .

Sue Lambert
South Park WI



The two versions of Robin
card are watercolours by
Paula Bates, Nevill WI
Tunbridge Wells



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Everyone,

What a month we have just had with so much going on in the WIs and at Federation level.

It is so good to hear that you have started real live meetings again even if you have to sit in a hall with the doors and windows open and your hats and coats on. Did you know we have a NEW WI - Yalding and Laddingford? Congratulations to them

I was sorry to miss the two Art and Craft Days at Ditton, as I had the chesty cold that is doing the rounds, but I hear they were a great success.

As you know from the WKN we have both Whist and a Murder Mystery coming up, they are being very well supported but tickets are still available, thank you.

Do not forget WALKING NETBALL is up and walking again, just ring the Office or Gill Brown for details.

That takes us up to 8 December 2021 and our CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION at All Saints Church Maidstone. Please come and be a part of our celebration, we would like to hear from YOU about how you managed during the Lockdown, please send your thoughts to the Office. As some of you know it is a very large Church so there will be plenty of room for us to spread out. Let us see off 2021 and start afresh in the New Year.

Lately we have had observers to our Trustee Meetings and we are always looking for members to join us either as Trustees, WI Advisers or as a member of our various Teams, again just ring or email the office for information. We are always looking for help large or small in the Federation. Without willing Volunteers holding these roles there would not be the activities that we offer.

Well here's to a good November I do hope to see some of you soon.

Yours in friendship,

Jane Backshall



Treasurer's Corner



It was so good to meet new Treasurers at the training days held on 16 and 17 September. Your WIs are lucky to have you in the post. That also applies to the more long standing Treasurers as well.

I wanted to clarify a couple of issues that arose during the days.

Firstly a question was asked can WIs appoint IFEs who are related to ordinary members of that WI? NFWI state that if fairly appointed at the Annual Meeting they can. However, an IFE CANNOT be related to a committee member.

Secondly it transpires that some WIs automatically take money from all their members for the raffle, and if they make a charge for it, refreshments. This is not permissible as it amounts to a compulsory charge. WIs can of course remind members that there is a charge for these activities. However, it is then up to the member whether she pays that charge.

Obviously, if the member chooses not to pay then they can't participate in the raffle or have refreshments. As Carole Powell one of the Federation Advisers stated on the day 'A member if she wishes should be able to turn up to the meeting without her purse and not be expected to pay anything'

In addition to the Treasurers Training a meeting was also held of Federation IFEs. They asked me to mention the following:

At the end of the year could Treasurers remember to enter the Petty Cash into the accounts.

All money taken at meetings must be banked gross.

Once again welcome to the New Treasurers and I hope you find the position rewarding.

Gillian Neville

ART AND CRAFT

Paula Bates 01892 327863

artcraft@wkwfwi.org.uk

Art and Craft Days @ Ditton



speakers.

Pascale Michalski was born in Luxembourg and spoke of her life and how she had developed from an artist to a quilter. Some of her works were displayed on stage and provided an excellent backdrop during the day. She was inspirational and spoke of pushing herself to try different skills and to continually challenge herself. Her talent was evident and her talk light hearted, entertaining and endearing. She certainly kept the audience engaged.



After a short break, the second speaker was Rosie Geiger. Her career in television production was extremely interesting. We were given a behind the scenes insight into the workings of some of the shows she had produced, such as Bake Off and The Sewing Bee. She explained the various and sometimes complex methods of choosing contestants, the locations and content of the shows which gave us a better understanding of the enormous amount of work that goes on behind the scenes. We were also given an insight into the personalities of some of the presenters of the shows, some of which we would never have guessed.

Lunch followed, with more shopping, and the final speaker of the day Matthew Palmer. His talk was different in that he produced an amazing piece of artwork whilst actually giving his talk. Starting on the first day with a blank sheet of paper, he demonstrated the methods and creation of an outstanding watercolour of a sunset. He gave us some tips on the techniques of adding the touches that made his painting come to life. We will certainly look forward to any of his workshops in 2022. If we couldn't wait that long, he also does Live Virtual Watercolour Workshops every Sunday over the internet from his studio.



Thank you to the Art and Craft team for making the day happen, with special thanks to **Paula**

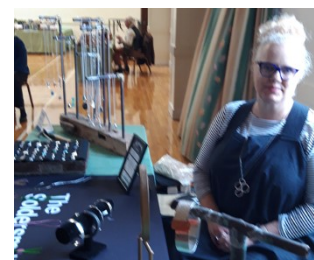
Bates and Jenny Way who have spent many, many hours planning and putting together this event. Everyone spoken to, who attended one of the days, has given glowing reports on how much they enjoyed the days!! Thanks also to the audio/visual team who were as brilliant as ever.



Winner of Matthew's picture: Helen Brooks. Otterden & Stallisfield WI



Stall holders:
Rainham Sewing
Soldersmith silver Jewellery
Roger Finn—Gifts in wood
Sue Roberts—Paper flowers
Tineke Regan Igham WI—Pottery



Art & Craft Team

Thank you to all our West Kent members who attended and supported our Art & Craft Annual Days, which you helped to make a great success.

Sadly for us, our hardworking team member Pat Leeds has moved to Somerset with her family, creating a vacancy on the art & craft team. If you would be interested in helping to organise events like this as well as our enjoyable and varied workshops, please consider joining our team. In the first place you are welcome to come to one of our team meetings as an observer with no obligation, to see if it would suit you.

We have five meetings a year and the next one will be at 10 am on Thursday, November 11 at Ethel Hunt Lodge.

If you would like to attend please contact me at brian.paula@btinternet.com or phone on 01892 327863. We look forward to meeting you.

Paula Bates

LIFESTYLE

formerly "Home Economics"

Sarah Sudlow—sarahsudlow300@gmail.com

Decluttering: Organise your house!

With Ingrid Jansen

Tuesday 16 November at 2.30pm on Zoom. Tickets £5

Ingrid is a professional organiser and declutter expert. She has been featured in many magazines and newspapers and is one of the hosts of the successful The Declutter Podcast.

Ingrid has been featured in Good Housekeeping, the Guardian, the Independent, Woman & Home, BBC, Glamour Magazine, Ikea blog, Elle Decoration, the Times and is a regular radio guest on Talk Radio Europe.

Booking for this paid event will be through "TryBooking". The link is

<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BFNK> *****It's not too late to join this zoom meeting. You can register up to Tuesday 16 November *****



Constitutions

As a result of the Covid restrictions changing some WI procedures, the NFWI produced updated constitutions earlier this year. Your WI had the opportunity to give feedback on the draft versions and then vote on the final documents. NFWI sent out electronic versions of the three constitutions – one for NFWI, one for the West Kent CIO Federation and one for individual WI. NFWI encouraged us all to keep these documents as electronic files. The Trustees of West Kent understood that some of you would prefer a hard copy so we sent out, free of charge, printed copies of the documents to those WIs who requested them.

Whether you have electronic copies or hard copies, you need to store them in your important document

file or minutes file. The NFWI and West Kent files are simple to deal with but your own WI constitution needs naming on the first page and signing on the last page. If you have hard copies, we recommend that you explain what they are and sign them in front of your members as soon as possible. If you have an electronic copy, then you will need to do some cutting and pasting of jpeg files of your signatures. In which case you could explain what is going on to your members and get their permission to make the additions to the document after the meeting.

If you have any queries about this, feel free to contact Caroline Davis (Trustee) on email: daviscawkf@gmail.com



Green Team

greenteam@wkfwi.org.uk

Some ideas for making your Christmas greener!



Why does Christmas seem to involve so much plastic and other non-recyclable materials? Here are just a few ideas on alternatives to traditional but not necessarily environmentally friendly Christmas gifts and decorations.

When choosing cards and wrapping paper select ones that don't have a glittery or shiny surface which is achieved by a plastic coating. Any cards and paper of this type are automatically rejected from bags of recycling and put into land fill instead.

Sellotape too is not recyclable but raffia, string or ribbons made from material all make good alternatives.

Christmas crackers are often made from non-recyclable paper and contain plastic gifts which frequently are swept into the rubbish once Christmas dinner is over. Consider buying kits which allow you to use recyclable paper and buy small environmentally friendly gifts to go inside which you think will appeal to those pulling them.

When selecting presents maybe think about giving memories, giving your time, buying second-hand, making it yourself, buying ethically. Look out for products in recyclable or reusable containers. Consider giving a magazine subscription, home baked goods, a voucher for an experience such as a trip to the theatre or a local attraction. Try if possible to buy gifts from local shops and businesses, and even consider popping into some of the excellent charity shops. Christmas decorations often come out year after year and are much loved. Frequently made from nonrecyclable materials, when they need replacing consider either buying or making ones that are created from natural products. There are some beautiful patterns for things such as Advent calendars, and long strings of objects such as decorated pine cones or bottle tops make a very effective alternative to tinsel.

Yellow Canaries that **Chiddingstone WI** made for the Big Green Week. A poster was put into various local magazines, in bus stops, pubs, Village Halls and Parish noticeboards. We have nearly 30 (and more still being made) around and about the local Villages.



At our meeting held in September, our Retired President Ann Spain MBE, was presented with an Orange Dream Acer in a pot in recognition of her 17 years and 5 months as our President. We have been so lucky to have such a dedicated, loyal and caring friend to look after us at **Detling WI**, especially her extra efforts during Covid. We all wish Ann an enjoyable and relaxed time as an ordinary WI member following this mammoth achievement.

Mary West is our new President and we all look forward to our continuing Meetings and new ideas which are definitely on the way.

Kathy Tanton , Secretary, Detling WI



To mark Green Week **Lyghe WI** is presenting their village school in Leigh with plants for the school garden.

The President and Secretary pictured here with the Headteacher, also attended a school assembly and gave a presentation on what we can all do to make our planet greener.

Annette Smith



Crockham Hill WI started their centenary celebrations with a garden meeting on a glorious sunny August afternoon. This was followed by lunch at Squerreys Winery in September. We then had a tea party with guests where we were entertained with songs from the '20's. We have rounded off our celebrations with a wine tasting, open to all the village. We have had several new members as a result of all our jollifications, but how many will match the long service of these four



members? (From L to R above) Freda McBride (also our oldest member aged 98) has been a member for 60 years, Anna Goldstein for 54 years, Sheila Deans for 46 years and Felicity Gladstone (aged 65) for 40 years. They are all still very active members.

Susan Cash

The shortlist of 2022 resolutions has been announced and one from West Kent has been chosen.

You will be delighted to know that Honor Oak WI has had their Resolution shortlisted. They are to be congratulated!

Below is their Resolution:

Women and Girls with ASD & ADHD - under-identified, under-diagnosed, misdiagnosed, under-supported

Women and girls presenting with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are going undiagnosed. The NFWI calls on the government and funding bodies to fund research into the female presentation of ASD and ADHD, and for action to be taken to improve the diagnosis process for women and girls, to ensure that they are equipped to better manage these conditions and do not suffer in silence. The NFWI further calls on WI members to raise awareness within their WIs of the issues facing women and girls with ASD and ADHD.

Something new for you to do!

A new, online WI is coming to you.

We have taken the best things about being a member of the WI, and made them available online.

Great speakers

Fun activities

Social evenings

Pop along in your pyjamas and slippers, fill your glass with your drink of choice as there is no need to get into the car and drive anywhere, and no need to find a babysitter!

Open to new and existing members.



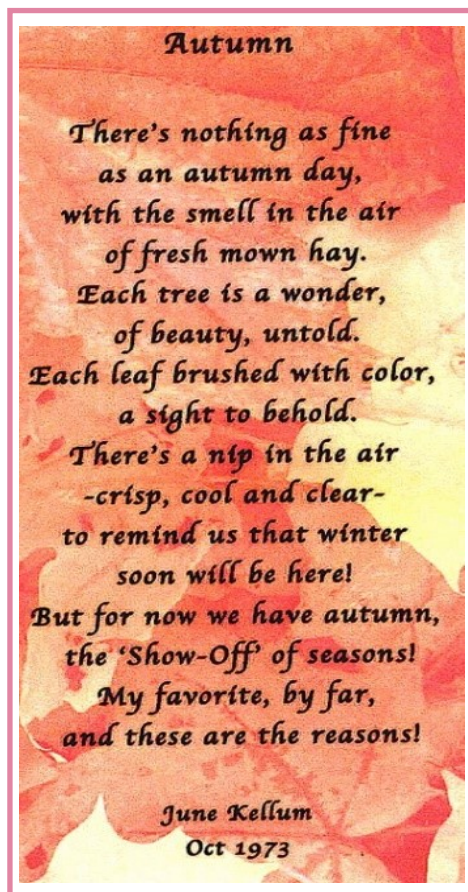
Join us on Zoom!

**Monday 15th November 2021
8pm**

Sign up here:

**<https://www.subscribepage.com/westkentzoomers>
to be sent more details nearer the time!**

Find us on social media as **westkentzoomers**
westkentzoomers@wkwfi.org.uk



RHS Wisley

As a Federation we are Associate Members of the RHS which entitles us to 50 tickets for a visit to RHS Wisley. If your WI would like to enter into the draw for these tickets, which will be held at the AGM on Monday 21 March 2022, please complete the entry form. Remember, this is for a ONE group visit of up to 50 people and you are welcome to include members from other WIs to use all the tickets. The tickets will show the 'shelf life of the offer' usually the current year and you will have to arrange your own transport. This would be deemed an educational item and your WI could pay transport costs.

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

WEST KENT FEDERATION OF WIs 2022 Annual Bursary for Education in any subject

Please submit only one personal application – thank you
either on this form, email or letter

WI

Name

Address

.....Postcode.....

Tel No

Email

Apply online to: Geraldine Martin
Email: ghoganmartin@gmail.com
or to the Federation Office at Ethel Hunt Lodge
clearly marked 'Bursary'

Closing Date: 31 January 2022

West Kent Federation of Women's Institutes

WISLEY TICKETS

Please submit only one WI application – thank you

Yes WI

would like to be included in the annual draw for tickets to visit RHS
Wisley

No transport is included in this offer

Contact Name

Address

Postcode

Apply to: FedSec@wkwfi.org.uk
or to the Federation Office at Ethel Hunt Lodge clearly marked 'Wisley'

Closing Date: 31 January 2022

Bearsted & Thurnham WI held its first meeting in the WI Hall since February 2020 having held meetings via Zoom since September 2020. The Craft Group had made hearts with a message Welcome Back which were put on all the chairs and also decorated the stage. Everyone who attended was so pleased to be back.





ACWW Pennies for Friendship and Women Empowered Fund

It has been a tough eighteen months for everyone and like lots of charities ACWW has seen a drop in donations. In 2019 West Kent Federation WI members donated over £3,500 to ACWW. At the end of September this year we had raised only £729 for the Women Empowered Fund for Water and Sanitation Projects, and £510 for the WI Pennies for Friendship Fund.

Now that WIs are able to meet in person it is hoped that fundraising for ACWW will start again. A popular way is to collect small coins and then give them to your WI to donate to ACWW. Remember that coins weigh heavily so be kind to your Treasurer and if possible pay the coins into your bank account. Most banks have a coin machine for this. Then you can give the equivalent amount to your WI for ACWW.

WI Treasurers can add the amounts they have received for ACWW to the Invoice that comes from Federation. At the bottom of the Federation Invoice is a space for donations. Your Treasurer writes in ACWW WE Fund (Projects) or Pennies for Friendship, and the amount collected. The donation is then added to the invoiced amount owed and sent to Federation in one cheque. Some WIs do this a couple of times a year, and others wait until the

end of their financial year and then give the yearly amount collected. The Federation Bookkeeper keeps a record of all the ACWW donations received throughout the year and then one cheque is posted to ACWW at the end of the Federation financial year.

If your WI would like to put on a special ACWW fund raising event always remember that ACWW Central Office is ready to support you with resources.

Email media@acww.org.uk or phone 020 7799 3875. Some of the suggested events are:

A Cooking Class, Photo Competition, Sponsored Walk, Cake Sale, Fashion show (perhaps showcasing sustainable fashion), Community Film night.



Most of us cannot afford to give large donations but when we work together every little donation helps to accomplish the extraordinary work of empowering rural women helping them create sustainable lasting change in their communities.

Tricia Ashdown ACWW Rep



Yalding Laddingford WI held their first official meeting, 43 people attended with 35 paid up members. An excellent evening. Carol Gupwell WI Advisor.

FEDERATION NOTICE BOARD

YEAR BOOK

Change of venue Hoo WI—Werburgh Parish Church, Church Street, Hoo Rochester Kent ME3 9AL. Meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month with exception of April 2022, when it will be held on the 3rd Tuesday, the 19 April. Contact Angela Heathcote, Secretary 07773 433995

Hadlow Highlights

For the "Great Big Green Week", a community litter pick was organised for the Saturday and our WI was asked if they would provide refreshments for the volunteers on their return from litter picking around the village.

Some of our ladies were not content with just making cakes and serving tea to the volunteers, they themselves went out and about gathering litter!

At our September members meeting, Marion Regan, a local strawberry farmer from Hugh Lowe Farm gave us an interesting and informative talk on strawberry farming. Some of their strawberries find their way to a number of supermarkets and Wimbledon! The meeting ended with the members being treated to scones, strawberry jam (of course!) and cream.



Shirley Ellis, Committee member

Ladies from **South Park WI** visited DSI studios where the Strictly Come Dancing costumes are made. We had a very informative talk and tour round studio and the chance to try some of the costumes! Great fun had by all and thoroughly recommended.

Amanda Bird



Coney Hall Village WI Supports St Christopher's Hospice. The fact that the annual St Christopher's Hospice Fun Walk was cancelled this year due to low registrations, did not stop the ladies (and a few

partners and Daisy the Jack Russell!) from the Coney Hall Village WI from fund raising for such a worthy cause.

On the day (19 September) that the original fun walk was due to happen the WI organised two walks for



10 miles walkers

their members, one 10 miles, the other 5 miles long. The 10 milers started at 9.30 a.m. and the 5 milers at 11.00 a.m. with both groups meeting up together at the end

of their walks for well-deserved refreshments.

Members who could not take part themselves, sponsored the walkers and the total raised to date is a whopping £1800 from 73 supporters and this total is still rising!

Chris Jones, Secretary and exhausted member of the 10 mile walkers!



5 miles walkers

Matfield WI - Flights. We played our first match on September 30 at home against Catford WI Sweetpeas. A great friendly evening was had by all

with a very close match but in the end Matfield Flights won 2-1.

We are now looking forward to our next match.

Amanda Everett
Captain—Matfield Flights



A few of the ladies (and husbands) from Boughton **Monchelsea WI** visited the beautiful gardens of Godinton House near Ashford on a lovely sunny autumnal day at the end of September. As well as the rich colours of the flowers a delicious afternoon tea was also enjoyed.

Anthea Springett
Secretary





OBITUARIES

It was with tremendous sadness that **Sennocke WI** announce the sudden death of **THELMA KEETING**. Thelma was a long standing member and one of our past Presidents. She was a very kind, thoughtful and cheerful lady, always elegantly dressed and willing to contribute wherever she could. She was known for her excellent meringues which were produced at every opportunity and not to be missed. Teas were not right without Thelma's meringues! Her continued support for our WI over the years was faultless and she will be sadly missed by every one of us.

Members were saddened to learn of the death of **ANNE HUNTER**, who had been a loyal and supportive member of **Ravenswood WI** for over forty years. She served on the committee and as a Home Economist, was always willing to give cookery demonstrations at WI meetings. When West Wickham WI was formed she joined as a dual member. Anne will be missed by many for her friendship, smile and willingness to help others.

OBITUARIES

Sole Street WI sadly announces the death of **EVE BURCH**. This lovely lady, a past Secretary, had been a keen member for more than twenty years, illustrated beautiful posters for our meetings, created a treasured scrapbook of our walks and was a good friend. Rest in peace, Eve.

Members of **Ravenswood WI** were saddened to hear of the death of **RENEE BOND** at the age of 97. She had been an active member of Ravenswood for over forty years – a member of the Choir and of the Drama, Walking and Mahjong Groups and of the monthly Needles and Natter afternoon. Renee enjoyed life. She was a keen gardener and liked to go on outings. She was immensely proud of her family and until quite recently enjoyed family holidays. She was a very friendly and happy person who always greeted you with a smile. Even when her health started to fail, and she had to stay at home, she never lost her sense of humour.

WHO TO CONTACT

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FEDERATION TREASURER:

Mrs Gillian Neville
Email: treasurer@wkfwi.org.uk

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOV	Tues	2	Annual Whist Day	Ryarsh
NOV	Tues	16	Ingrid Jansen	Zoom Talk
NOV	Fri	19	Murder Mystery	St. Mary's Platt
DEC	Wed	8	All Saints Church	Maidstone
2022				
MAR	Mon	21	AGM	Tunbridge Wells

All activities subject to any change in Covid restrictions.