



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

WEST KENT WI NEWS

March 2022

Lifestyle Annual Days Ditton Community Centre

Details on page 4

TUESDAY 26 APRIL

Ben Cross
The Alstroemeria Man



Andrew Salter
Must Chup Sauces



Chris Williams
Edibleculture



WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL

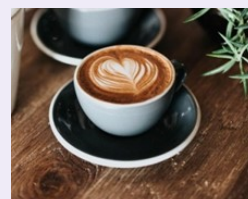
Juliette Jahaj
**Do You Know What
You're Eating?**



Neil Miller
Head Gardener
Hever Castle



Mick Wheeler
**British Coffee
Association**



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Hello Everyone



Well here is my last letter to you as your Chairman. I cannot believe it is three years since I replaced Annette Smith, a hard act to follow. I have done my best throughout the Covid Pandemic to keep in touch with you but I have missed the face to face meetings. I am so pleased that now we can meet again and hoped all those that went to the ACWW fund raising tea enjoyed it.

I cannot thank you enough for all the support you have given me as Chairman and I hope you will carry on with the next one. Not only am I standing down, Gillian Neville has reached the end of her term of office as Treasurer too. I wish to thank her for all her hard work in managing our money over these unusual times. Not only Gill has helped me, there are many behind the scenes, Miz, Alan and Keeley in the office your link with Federation. Then there are all the Trustees who have supported me so well, I owe them a big thank you, not forgetting all those who sit on our Committees and bring you good entertainment, education and fun.

There is so much planned for the coming year, take look inside the West Kent News which I think gets better and better every month.

Goodbye and best wishes,

Jane Backshall

Treasurer's Corner



This will be the last Treasurer's Corner that I write as I shall be stepping down as the Federation Treasurer at the Royal Tunbridge Wells AGM on 21 March.

When I took the post up in March 2018, I always intended that I would only be in post for four years, it is now time to pass on the baton to someone new. I have very much enjoyed being the Treasurer, especially meeting yourselves and trying to assist you with any issues you may encounter.

Having said I enjoyed being Treasurer it has of course not been without its difficulties especially the last couple of years in which as Treasurers we may have had to make some difficult decisions. However, hopefully that is all behind us and we can look forward to better times.

I am not disappearing completely as I shall be taking over from Elizabeth Patterson as the Federation's IFE Administrator. Many thanks to Elizabeth for all her hard work and help over the years. Thanks to Miz and Keeley in the office. Also special thanks to Alan, the Federation Bookkeeper, who has provided unfailing support over the years, especially in the mysteries of the Sage Accounting System.

May I take this opportunity to wish my successor every best wishes and success for her time in the role.

Before I finally depart though a couple of small items. Alan has asked that any Treasurer emailing him it would be helpful if you could state which WI you are from.

Secondly a general reminder that if you don't already you can receive the Federation statements by email. Just let Alan know if you wish to receive them in this way.

Best wishes to you all for the future.

Gillian Neville

PLEASE NOTE: The venue for the painting workshop on Wednesday 4 May has been changed to The Charter Hall, Smarden TN27 8NF due to renovations at Frittenden Hall. If you have already applied for tickets at Frittenden and this does not suit, please contact Paula Bates. on 01892 327863 or artcraft@wkfwi.org.uk.

Knitted Knockers

Whilst the title of this article may have brought a smile to your face, there is a very serious message behind the title.

Each year, there are 55,000 new presentations of breast cancer in the UK. Whilst and rightly so most of the focus in the media and health education is associated with diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. There seems to have been little attention made to comfort for this group of women.

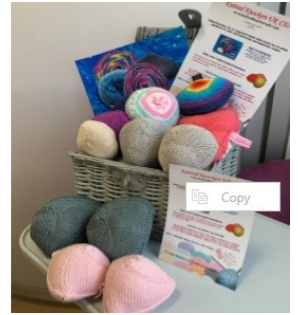
Secretary of CEWI, recently found a little-known UK based charity whilst at work that is dedicated to knitting knockers for women following a mastectomy or mastectomies. So, when the January speaker cancelled at short notice the charity was approached to speak to the group and has been deemed to be one of the most important and inspiring speakers ever.

The purpose of the charity is simple..... to make knitted or crocheted cotton knockers. Traditional breast or knocker prosthesis tend to be sticky, not the shape of a breast in many ways and heavy; weighing up to 2.2kg (or a bag of sugar!) compared to the knitted knockers that are extremely light and soft to the skin weighing a mere 75grams. Each knocker order is individually made using a recognised size chart and pattern, is completely personalised including down to the patient's choice of colour. For those ladies, wishing to return to either swimming or a water sport the aqua breast is available specifically for that purpose although this is made from a deconstructed bathing scrunchie as they don't hold water and dry quickly! Each knocker is sent with cards (often handmade) and the message "sent with love and hope" and beautifully wrapped.

Whilst the speaker explained the application process to become a knitter or crocheter was lengthy and it also included an interview.

It was noticeably clear, at the end of the presentation that each and every member present was inspired by both the initiative and the charity's story whether a breast cancer survivor or not you can see how this product could so easily be comfortable and help women gain confidence from their change of body image.

Lisa Hutchins-Lobb
Secretary, Chelsfield Evening WI



WATER SPORTS AT MOTE PARK

PALS sub-committee would again like to invite members to **have a go** at some water sport activity. If you could let us know if you would be interested in more paddleboarding or try canoeing we could arrange some sessions. Nothing is written in stone, appreciate without firm dates and prices no one would commit themselves but just an indication of interest would be good. If you would email pals@wkfwi.org.uk— giving your name and contact details.

MARCH 2022 FEDERATION NOTICEBOARD

Year Book 2021/2022

Page 9: Chiddingstone WI now meet at The Causeway Hall, Tonbridge Road, Chiddingstone Causeway TN11 8JS. All other details remain the same.

List of Speakers 2021/2022

Pages 5, 7, 15 and 28: Please note that Mrs Lin Saines has retired from WI speaking.

Pages 23 and 39: Please note that John Yarrow is no longer available to speak at evening meetings.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

Thurs	10	English Paper Piecing Patchwork EHL	
Fri	11	- ditto -	Hextable
Tues	15	- ditto -	EHL
Weds	16	- ditto -	Snodland
Sat	19	- ditto -	Orpington
Mon	21	AGM	Tunbridge Wells

APRIL

Fri	22	Singing Day	Hadlow
Tues	26	Lifestyle Day	Ditton
Weds	27	Lifestyle Day	Ditton
Fri	29	ACWW Women Walk the World Day	

MAY

Tues	3	Watercolour Workshops	EHL
Weds	4	Watercolour Workshops	Smarden
Thurs	5	Watercolour Workshops	EHL
Fri	6	Watercolour Workshops	Snodland
Sat	7	Watercolour Workshops	Orpington

June

Weds	15	Platinum Jubilee Celebrations	Hildenborough
------	----	-------------------------------	---------------

All activities subject to any change in Covid restrictions.

Lifestyle Annual Days - Ditton Community Centre ME20 6AH

TUESDAY 26 APRIL



Ben Cross The Alstroemeria

Man. Ben is a 4th Generation grower at Crosslands Flower Nursery, in West Sussex, which was established in 1936, and is one of the last flower nurseries producing cut flowers in a full colour range all year-round. Ben is an avid campaigner for British Flowers and takes any opportunity he can to spread the word that British Flowers Rock! He won the Grower award in 2019 and won the Gold Sussex Environmental award in 2020. There will be an opportunity to buy Ben's flowers.

Andrew Salter

Must Chup Sauces

Telling of the ups and downs of setting up the Kent based Must Chup Sauces. There will be an opportunity to taste and buy the

sauces.



Chris Williams

Edibleculture Set up three years ago by Chris Williams and David Ware. Committed to sustainability to include food security, respect for the seasons and low energy usage plus cultivation of organic, chemical free and locally grown foods. They specialise in herbs, fruit and interesting vegetables.



WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL

Juliette Jahaj

Do You Know What You're

Eating? "As seen on TV" Juliette is a Food Microbiologist and featured in the programme about one of the chain of supermarkets. This talk will give insights into our daily food and



exactly what we are eating.

Neil Miller

Head Gardener Hever Castle

Neil, who was made redundant from his city job in the 90's turned his passion for gardening into a career and now leads the team of gardeners at the award winning gardens at Hever Castle.



Mick Wheeler

From the **British Coffee Association** describing 'Coffee from Seed to Cup'. Covering both its production and the many variations in making coffee today.



LIFESTYLE ANNUAL DAYS TUESDAY 26 APRIL OR WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL

Ditton Community Centre, Kiln Barn Road, Ditton, ME20 6AH, **Tickets £10**—members only

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 Tues 26..... Weds 27..... closing date: Wednesday 13 April

Apply to Mrs. Sheila Fitzgerald, 36 Biddenden Close, Bearsted, Maidstone, ME15 8JP

PLEASE ENCLOSE A SUITABLY SIZED STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE
YOUR WI WILL BE INVOICED ON THE MONTHLY ACCOUNT FOR THE NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED



Green Team

greenteam@wkwfwi.org.uk

6 EASY WAYS TO GO GREENER THIS SPRING

1. If buying compost for the garden or your pots make sure it says peat free on the bag.
2. Always have a reusable bag with you when you go shopping. If it's made of plastic, reuse it until it falls apart.
3. Bring your own cup to WI events.
4. Don't buy bottled water but invest in a reusable water bottle.
5. Always read the label when buying anything new, even clothing and furniture. It's amazing what you can get now made from recycled products.
6. Send us your tips for leading a greener life and we will share them through our monthly column in the West Kent News

email greenteam@wkwfwi.org.uk

Raising Awareness of the WI in Pratt's Bottom

Pratt's Bottom WI are looking to the future and wish to add to their Membership post lockdown. A local supermarket have an 'Awareness Campaign' which gives support to local charities. Quite often in their foyer they have groups who display their causes. Having approached the management and explaining what the WI is all about and what our WI has to offer in order to support our village and the wider area, they agreed that we could have a space in their foyer. Accordingly, on Saturday 22 January, six members who were willing to help, set out to attract new members with a display of our Banner, WI Life and West Kent Federation News. With the Banner set up and PBWI freshly ironed table cloths generously spread, our mission to recruit more members began. A few hours later, having explained what happens at our meetings and what we have to offer, a number of ladies were invited to come along and sample a meeting.



The ladies who gave us their details and who were wishing to visit us, will now be contacted and officially invited. As a result of initiatives such as this, Pratt's Bottom WI are very hopeful that their Membership will grow in 2022. The two WI ladies in the picture are Maxine Keeble and Angela Sutherland.



GILL BROWN 01732 850571

CATCHUP DARTS TOURNAMENT 2021/22

Originally the 2019/2020 Tournament

We are now down to eight teams to play for the chance to be in the Semi/Final Evening - date to be finalised.

Home	Away
Catford WI Sweetpeas	Petts Wood WI Willett Wonders
Petts Wood WI Spitfires	Hextable & Swanley Village WI
Ightham WI	Catford WI Furballs
Matfield Flights	Downe WI

If you had thought about starting a Darts Team and live in the Rochester Area, check out The George Pub 344 City Way ME1 2BH. There are two dartboards, very friendly landlady. There is also a small hall which would fit 50 people if you were thinking of an event away from your normal WI Hall. A Gardeners Club already meet there on a monthly basis. Unfortunately, with the siting of the scoring machines not suitable for our Darts Final evening. Thegeorgepubandhall.co.uk



The ladies of **Highgate Hawkhurst WI** enjoyed a fabulous festive period, celebrating with a party at our December meeting and a meal at The Queen's Inn the following week.

With central heating being installed in the village hall, our party took place at the local RBL where over 50 members played a number of games, testing memory, vocabulary, wit and, in a hilarious conclusion, creativity, as teams battled to create the 'best dressed lady' using newspaper, one sheet of wrapping paper, one piece of tinsel and Sellotape. The ensuing 'catwalk' was judged by an independent panel who were duly impressed by the standard of dressmaking – what else could they expect from our wonderful WI ladies! The Committee worked tirelessly in preparing and running the evening, refreshments provided in the form of sausage rolls, mince pies and mulled wine; the Raffle prizes were colourfully wrapped, and the Craft Group displayed our entry in the village Christmas Tree festival earlier in the month. We also celebrated the Significant Birthday of one of our founder members, Mrs Pat Jenner with a wonderful cake made by the daughter of our Treasurer.



Thirty six ladies then enjoyed a wonderful two-course meal at The Queen's the following week; crackers were pulled, poppers (and prosecco) were popped and our ladies truly felt the warmth and bonhomie of the WI Christmas Spirit.

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING WORKSHOPS

TUTOR: MATTHEW PALMER

Suitable for beginners and improvers

10am to 3:30 pm, Doors open at 9:30am Cost of ticket £29 to include tea/coffee.

Kit charge £4 cash on the day for paper and paint. Please bring your packed lunch and mug.

Further to Art & Craft Annual Days, our speaker and No.1 selling author, art TV host and professional artist Matthew Palmer will be teaching watercolour workshops suitable for beginners to the more experienced improver.

No need to buy any supplies in advance, Matthew will supply a sketch to work on and paints, as well as 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, a medium, a small, 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, possibly an opaque white, but bring other colours if you have them.

Matthew will bring his art shop with his range of artists quality paint, brushes and paper as well as other art supplies, books and DVD's if anyone wishes to purchase them.



FREE PRIZE DRAW

One member who books in to one of these workshops will win this original demo watercolour painted by Matthew Palmer at Art & Craft Annual Days 2021, chosen at random from everyone who books a ticket.



ART WORKSHOPS WITH TUTOR MATTHEW PALMER

10am to 3:30 pm, Doors open at 9:30am Cost of ticket £29 to include tea/coffee.

Kit—on the day £4 cash. Please bring your packed lunch and a mug. Priority given to members.

Tuesday 3 May at Ethel Hunt Lodge, Pembury, TN2 4AG

***Wednesday 4 May at The Charter Hall, Smarden TN27 8NF* note change of venue**

Thursday 5 May at Ethel Hunt Lodge, Pembury, TN2 4AG

Friday 6 May at Townsend Hook Bowls Club, Snodland, ME6 5DP

Saturday 7 May at St. Nicholas Church Hall Orpington, BR6 9QB

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

Address and Post code:.....

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

No. of tickets..... Non Member.....Date.....Venue.....

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

Tel: 01892 327863 Closing Date for Tickets 25 March

Please enclose an appropriate size SAE for your tickets.

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

West Kent Federation Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Wednesday 15 June 2022

2:00 to 4:00 pm

West Kent invite you to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with an afternoon tea at

Hildenborough Village Hall, 10 Riding Lane TN11 9HY. Cost £20 per person

We will be entertained by the lovely "Lyrae" ladies who some of you may remember from the ACM in March

Activities include:

"The Queen, The Coronation and I" – send us any pictures, you have taken, of Her Majesty or celebrations in her name to Barbara Bickell at bickellbwkf@gmail.com

Cake Competition – Invent, make and decorate an "Elizabeth" cake

The cake is to be any design, type or flavour that you would like to make. If you are not attending the tea, entries need to be delivered to Hildenborough Village Hall by 12:30 pm on the day. Other entries may be brought to the hall by attendees. Prize for the best entry to be judged by Jenny Way.

Raffle

Dress up in clothes from your favourite decade—prize for the Best Dressed or come dressed fit to meet the Queen.

Applications for tickets to Ethel Hunt Lodge FedSec@wkwfwi.org.uk or by phone 01892 823813. Your WI will be invoiced in the usual way and tickets sent accordingly. In the event of oversubscription, tickets will be allocated by percentage of members. **Closing date 30 April 2022**

All of the above is subject to change.



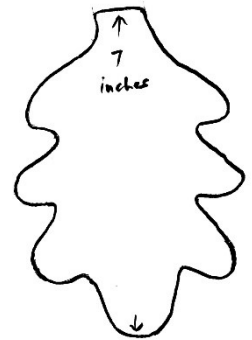
Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Make a Leaf for our Garland from recycled materials

To celebrate the Platinum Anniversary of the Ascension of Queen Elizabeth II, West Kent Federation is inviting each WI to craft one leaf that will be incorporated into a length of garland to be hung at the Jubilee Celebration Event and other events throughout 2022, and will afterwards be kept at Ethel Hunt Lodge for future events.

An oak leaf template is shown. Your leaf must be 7 inches long, double sided, and can be made of any fabrics, using recycled materials, and embellished and decorated to your design using embroidery, appliqué, beading or other fabric decorating techniques.

Finished entries should be sent to the Arts and Crafts Team, Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Park, Maidstone Road, Pembury, Kent TN2 4AG. **The closing date for entries is 30 April 2022.**



Platinum Greetings to Her Majesty

To celebrate the Platinum Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II, West Kent Federation is inviting every WI to submit one greetings card congratulating our monarch on her 70th Anniversary. The card can be in any medium that you desire but it must be of a standard suitable to send to Her Majesty and must have an accompanying quality envelope or card box. The inside of the card should read

"The Board of Trustees and all the members of West Kent Federation of WIs would like to extend their greetings and best wishes to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee"

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

A photograph of the winning entry will be displayed along with all the other entries at the Federation Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and any other suitable events throughout 2022 before being returned to their creators. The card must be 5' x 7'; all colour, design, style and decoration are down to the card makers, which can be an individual or a group.

Finished entries should be either delivered by hand or carefully packed and sent to Arts and Crafts Team, Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Park, Maidstone Road, Pembury, Kent TN2 4AG. **The closing date for entries is 30 April 2022.**

GILL BROWN 01732 850571 pals@wkfwi.org.uk

EMMIE SHIPMAN AWARD 2022

John Miles, the composer of the song Music, has recently passed away. We would like you to write, in no more than five hundred words, how the words of the song relate to you.



Music will be my first love, and it will be my last

Music of the future, and music of the past.

Please supply your entry with two copies, one with your details and the other as anonymous for judging purposes to Ethel Hunt Lodge,
4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Maidstone Road, Pembury, Kent TN2 4AG .
The winner will be announced at a Federation event in the autumn.

Closing date for entries Friday 29 July.

SINGING DAY

Friday 22 April

Hadlow Village Hall, Marshall Gardens, Hadlow TN11 0HG

10.30am – 3.30pm (doors open 10am for registration and coffee)

Tickets £10 – Members only

You are, once again, invited to join in our popular singing day. The opportunity to join with fellow members, under the guidance of Choirmaster Micky Grant and sing your hearts out. The theme for this year is Musicals, so no doubt there will be some of your favourites amongst them.

Please bring your packed lunch and if possible a mug for your tea or coffee.

SINGING DAY

Friday 22 April

Hadlow Village Hall, Marshall Gardens, Hadlow TN11 0HG

10.30am -3.30pm (doors open for registration and coffee at 10am)

Tickets £10 – members only

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

Address and post code.....

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

Email:..... No. of tickets req:.....

Apply to Gill Brown, 20 Appletons, Hadlow, Kent TN11 0DT. Tel: 01732 850571

Closing date Friday 18 March

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope

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

**LEARN TO PLAY WHIST****Wednesday 22 June 10am—1pm** (doors open 9.30am)

Tickets £5.00 inc. tea & coffee. Members only

Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Pembury TN2 4AG

Come along and join fellow members in learning the rules of play for the very social game of Whist. Sheila Miles, who oversees our October Whist Days will guide you through the morning. We envisage a session of no more than 16 players, so if we are over subscribed we can, hopefully plan another day. So, if the 22 June is not convenient for you also let us know and we might be able to offer you a place on a second session. Traditionally you play in pairs but do not worry if you come as a single player as, no doubt, there will be others to play with. We look forward to meeting you.

LEARN TO PLAY WHIST**Wednesday 22 June 10am—1pm** (doors open 9.30am)

Tickets £5.00 inc. tea & coffee. Members only

Ethel Hunt Lodge, 4 Hawkwell Business Centre, Pembury TN2 4AG

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

Address and post code.....

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

Email:..... No. of tickets req:.....

Sorry not available on the 22 June but would possibly be interested in another date.....

Apply to Gill Brown, 20 Appletons, Hadlow, Kent TN11 0DT. Tel: 01732 850571

Closing date Friday 29 April

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope

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

ACWW**Women Walk the World 29 April**

April 29 is ACWW day and to mark the occasion members and friends are asked to take part in a fundraising walk.



Every year women from around the world take part in a walk on or near that date, with pictures appearing in The Countrywoman under the heading Women Walk the World.

The walk doesn't need to be long. It could just be round your village finishing up with tea and cake somewhere. The idea is to raise awareness of the work of ACWW and bring in vital funds to help with ACWW's work to raise the standard of living of the world's poorest women. Leaflets and information are available on the ACWW website

www.acww.org.uk.

Bearsted & Thurnham WI had a walk in a bluebell wood last year. After all the restrictions it was good to get out into the open and enjoy the fresh air and company of fellow members.

If you would like to have a personalised fundraising page for your event, where your supporters can give donations directly through ACWW online portal, please email media@acww.org.uk. Otherwise send your donations through West Kent Federation. Your Treasurer can add ACWW donations to the Federation Invoice. A running total is kept and one cheque sent to ACWW at the end of the financial year.

Enjoy your walks, and don't forget to send pictures to ACWW for their magazine, The Countrywoman.

Tricia Ashdown

ACWW Rep triciaashdown@yahoo.co.uk



Jumpers for African children.

At the beginning of 2020 when I was at the ACWW Headquarters in London I learnt of the children's jumpers that the ACWW Board members from Africa were taking back to their countries to hand out to needy children. (It can get very cold in Africa at night.) I thought knitting jumpers was something West Kent members would be willing to do and gave a pattern for the jumpers in West Kent News.

By the time the article appeared we were in lockdown because of Covid restrictions. Members found knitting was a good way to fill their time and many members responded to the appeal. Soon I had a beautiful selection of jumpers at my house with more being sent by members direct to ACWW Headquarters in London.

Little did we know that the lockdown would last for nearly two years. Members kept knitting and I kept taking in jumpers. But because the ACWW Board members from Africa were not travelling to London the jumpers were piling up at the ACWW Headquarters and they didn't have room to accept the West Kent knitted jumpers that I had collected at home.

I tried other ways of getting the jumpers out to the children who needed them in Africa and contacted various African charities. The problem, they told me, was that if jumpers were posted to them the charity had to pay high Import Duty on the jumpers so posting wasn't an option.

At the beginning of February this year I contacted the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) who were very helpful and gave me the name of a charity in Folkestone called *Operation Sunshine for Africa*. They send out containers to Zambia. Operation Sunshine told me they would be delighted to receive children's jumpers, and a container was going out to Zambia at the beginning of March.

So with the backseats down in the Focus, I loaded up my car with the many bags of jumpers and my husband and I drove off to Folkestone. The ladies at Operation Sunshine were delighted with the jumpers as they were in the middle of sorting out items for the container going out in a couple of weeks time.



The smallest jumpers would be included in packs given to new mothers at the Zambia Teaching Hospital. Patients often have to come hundreds of miles to the hospital and arrive with nothing. The larger sizes would be useful for children of several schools that the charity has contact with.

I now have my spare bedroom back!

A big thank you to all the members who knitted jumpers, I'm delighted that they will soon be on their way to Africa, but please no more at the moment! We suggest that you have any more jumpers you contact Operation Sunshine" (telephone number 07742 542600). Thank you again to the knitters.

Tricia Ashdown.

ACWW Rep.

triciaashdown@yahoo.co.uk

On Monday 7 February **Biggin Hill Evening WI** had a visit from Melanie Gibson-Barton who gave us a really interesting talk "Ted and the History of Teddy Bears". From the bear identified by President Theodore Roosevelt as an animal that should not be shot in the early 1900s to Steiff, Merrythought, Chad Valley and many other manufacturers. She also reminded us of bears that have been favourites of children like Brumus, Heidelberg lager bear, Sooty, Paddington and many more. Here are some of our members with their teddies plus a rat that found his way in.



Margaret Day. PR Representative.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL

Caroline Davis—01892 725571

ZOOM Meeting “AVOIDING SCAMS”

On going to Press, we have breaking news that Aimee Payne, Kent Police Cyber Protect & Prevent Officer, will be discussing how you can stay safe online and will be providing practical hints and tips on ZOOM at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20 April.

Please look out for more details in your mailboxes.

This is a free event.



2022 Resolutions

Still no news from NFWI on the results of the first round of voting but it looks from the West Kent votes that we might have more than one resolution in the final round. We have made provisional booking of a hall for a live meeting in April and are planning a free ZOOM as well before your May AGMs. But we cannot be any more specific than that as we do not know, as yet, who to ask to speak! Once again, please look out for information in your mailboxes.

ACWW Rep

After several years representing us so well as the West Kent Federation ACWW Rep, Tricia Ashdown has decided to stand down. We do thank Tricia for her enthusiasm, all of her visits to speak to WIs and, latterly during the pandemic, her regular articles in the West Kent News. ACWW is a most important part of WI so we are now looking for a replacement ACWW Rep but are suggesting that it could be two ladies working together. Please contact Tricia or Caroline, if you are at all interested in taking this role.

West Kent Zoomers Virtual WI

With the official formation meeting soon approaching, the launch team are busy setting an exciting, interesting and inclusive meeting and social programme. We are lucky to have such a diverse pot of knowledge, backgrounds, interests and skills to draw from. Being online has opened up the possibility of having speakers etc from anywhere without the restriction of travelling.

Our taster meetings that have been held so far have received good reviews from the ladies attending. We are excited that **West Kent Zoomers Virtual WI** is becoming a reality and can offer all our members something special in a WI that is welcoming, friendly, supportive and inclusive without having to travel to a physical meeting. We will be meeting every 3rd Monday of the month at 8pm. Why not join us for a coffee and chat held every Monday at 10am, or Tea and Tiffin every Wednesday at 3pm. Also, we have a 10 minute chill out mindfulness session every Wednesday at 1pm.

Sign up here: <https://www.subscribepage.com/westkentzoomers>



On the afternoon of 1 February the Ladies of **South Park WI** visited Maidstone Gin Distillery. Amanda told us about the very interesting history of gin making in Maidstone - who'd have thought Maidstone had such a claim to fame!! We were shown how gin is made and got to sample different types. Cameron, her Right-hand Man entertained us!! The smiling eyes leaving afterwards was proof that this was a good trip that was enjoyed by all of us. This small business is an asset to our disappearing town, and well worth a visit, look on their web site and book yourselves in.

Amanda Bird.





OBITUARIES

Staplehurst WI

Is deeply grieved to announce the recent death of a much-loved member **ELAINE MARTIN**. She

was a friend to many people, both in the WI and in the wider community, and will be greatly missed.

Cage Green WI regrets to announce the death of **LILI WILSON**, a founder member, on Friday 7 January. A keen Committee member Lili also served as Treasurer for a number of years before standing down from the Committee in 2018. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Don and her family.

Edenbridge Afternoon WI and **Edenbridge Evening WI** are sad to announce the death of **SHEILA SUMMERS-ASQUEZ**. Sheila had been a member of the evening group for a number of years and had recently joined the afternoon group. She will be sadly missed by all of us.

Royal Eltham WI is heartbroken to announce the death of **JEAN KEATING** a kind hearted and much loved member, who was so unassuming but always willing to lend a hand no matter how menial the task and always with much fun and laughter. Jean loved being part of the WI especially the outings, lunches and afternoon teas - in fact anything that included food and a cuppa. Our sincere condolences go out to her sister Daphne (also a member of our WI) and all her family and friends.

Members of **Leeds WI** were shocked to hear of the sudden death of new member **DEENA FINNIS** aged 56. She was looking forward to becoming an active member and our thoughts are with her family and her mother Sue at this sad time.

It is with much sadness that **Istead Rise WI** announces the passing of our dear friend **JEAN GEMMELL**. One of our older ladies and long-time member of our WI. Renowned for always winning the shortbread competition, thoughts are with her family at this sad time.

Boughton Monchelsea WI

were very sorry to learn of the death of their dear friend **ISOBEL DAVEY**. Isobel had been a very supportive member of our WI over very many years and was also an excellent District Secretary for Heath District. Members will remember her popular art and craft classes held in her beautiful home and her fun scrabble afternoons. Isobel was a wonderful hostess and always provided the most delicious cakes and meringues for the visiting ladies. She will be very sorely missed and our condolences are sent to her husband as this sad time.

Royal Eltham WI was very sad to hear that **LINDA MANSFIELD** passed away on 9 February. Linda was a long-time supporter of the WI and fought hard to overcome increasing health issues to ensure that she could attend meetings, outings and holidays with our group. She really did love life. Her many friends in our group will miss her lovely smile and presence in the front row.

Gates Green WI is sad to report the death of **JEN MEWIS**. Jen was killed in a tragic car crash on Saturday 5 February. Jen was a long standing member of our WI joining us at meetings and also on many trips and walks. Jen always had a smile for everyone she met and will be greatly missed by all members at Gates Green WI. She was a great fundraiser for the MacMillan Charity and had raised thousands of pounds through her well known Coffee Mornings. Our thoughts are with all her friends and family at this very sad time.

Chelsfield Afternoon WI is very sad to announce the death of **MARINETTE MANTLE**. She had been a long serving member attending meetings regularly and joining in our various events. She was also part of our knit and natter group. She will be sadly missed by her many friends.

WHO TO CONTACT

CHAIRMAN:

Mrs Jane Backshall

Email: chair@wkfwi.org.uk

FEDERATION TREASURER:

Mrs Gillian Neville

Email: treasurer@wkfwi.org.uk
01892 354454 Tues or Weds

CHAIRMAN OF WI

ADVISERS:

Mrs Carol Gupwell

Tel No: 01622 676600

Email:

carolagupwell156@hotmail.com

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL

EXAMINER ADMINISTRATOR:

Mrs Elizabeth Patterson

Tel No: 0208 777 5640

RESOLUTION COORDINATOR:

Mrs Annette Smith

Email: kimbersmith127@gmail.com

ACWW:

Mrs Tricia Ashdown

Tel No: 01622 737175

KENT VOLUNTARY

EMERGENCY GROUP:

Diane Daniels

Tel No: 01622 674494

Jill Fissenden

Tel No: 01622 758251

WEST KENT NEWS:

EDITORS

Mrs Linda Wills

Tel No: 01474 834163

Mrs Janet Buller

Tel No: 01795 471713

Mrs Rita King

Tel No: 07931 502312

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.



Lizard tea light holder, made from air dry clay by Juliette Jahaj at Nevill WI monthly Craft Club.