



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

WEST KENT WI NEWS

August 2021

WEST KENT MEMBERS
ACQUIRING THE NEW SKILLS OF
PADDLE BOARDING AT MOTE
PARK ON JULY 6.
WELL DONE LADIES.



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Hello ladies,

Well, here we are already in August and thinking of Autumn....have you seen what we have to offer you in the months ahead? The Teams have been very busy planning various events so I hope there is something for everyone.

Now the restrictions have eased I shall still be very careful where I go and if I am not happy I will continue to wear my mask. I hope that you are now able to get out and meet up with fellow members.

We are now starting to plan our event at All Saints Church, Maidstone on 8 December. I do hope that **YOU** will be able to join us. We have arranged to use the Methodist Church Hall again so you will be able to sit in the warm and dry to eat your lunch but we will not be able to offer you any drinks this time. Of course the toilets will be open!

Talking about the future, Monday 21 March 2022 is the date to keep free for our AGM which is once again being held at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells. Not only will the new National Chairman, **Ann Jones**, be joining us but also **Nick Hall** from Bentley's Antiques (you must have seen him on TV) and **Michele Gordon** from the WI Wanderers.

Don't forget, as we open up to live talks and activities, we shall continue to put on Zoom talks so check with your WI what is available (they will have been advised in the WI Mail Box).

Finally, I just wish to mention that in the coming months we are trying a new way of ticket ordering so please be patient with us.

Enjoy the summer!

Jane Backshall

Treasurer's Corner



Welcome to all new Treasurers and thanks to those of you continuing in the post.

Letters have been sent to WI mailboxes about two training sessions for new Treasurers. The Federation until last year, when Covid restrictions came in held training days for new Treasurers, covering we hope the information you need to allow you to carry out the role.

The Federation is now planning to hold two events for new Treasurers on 16 and 17 September, to be held at Ethel Hunt Lodge starting at 10am.

The sessions usually finish around 3pm. You will need to bring your lunch with you but refreshments such as tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

The sessions will be limited to 12 for each day. As there has been no training for two years preference will have to be given to those Treasurers new to the post in 2020 and 2021.

If you wish to attend please email me by Friday 27 August at Treasurer@wkfwi.org.uk. stating your name, WI and which date you would like to attend.

I am planning to hold further Zoom meetings for Treasurers, open to new and existing Treasurers, in October. This follows the successful ones held in April where participants expressed an interest in further networking events.

I look forward to hearing from you and meeting you in September.

I would also like to thank those WIs who have sent in their membership subscriptions. At the time of writing, we had received returns from 93 WIs approx. 60% of our Federation.

Gillian Neville



Green Team

greenteam@wkwfwi.org.uk

Some dates for you all to be aware of

Great Big Green Week 18-26 September

A national week of events celebrating action on climate change. Time to start planning but if you are stuck for ideas have a look on the Great Big Green Week website.

The Green Team are also pleased to announce the dates of two Zoom talks in conjunction with the Great Big Green Week.

On Thursday 23 September at 7.30pm come along and meet Daniel Webb from Everyday Plastic.

He will be talking about his own personal experience in connection to the plastic problem, telling the story through relatable stats and facts and how small changes can make a big difference.

Daniel Webb is the founder and director of Everyday Plastic. He launched and developed Everyday Plastic in 2017, taking it from his spare room to become an important part of the conversation around plastic waste. He has worked closely with Surfers Against Sewage, City to Sea and Friends of the Earth, and delivers talks for schools, businesses and events. His latest project – The Everyday Plastic Survey – encourages people across the UK to discover their own personal plastic footprint.

On Thursday 21 October at 7.30pm we will be spending time with Alex Green from the climate solutions charity, Ashden.

Alex leads their schools programme across the UK. Their national schools campaign, Let's Go Zero is uniting UK schools working to cut their carbon emissions to zero by 2030. That's a huge challenge – but transforming our schools will help safeguard the planet for future generations. Alex will talk about the campaign and the role of schools in the climate crisis and how schools are becoming part of the movement for change that is helping communities take climate action.

Both these talks are free to members and booking details will be available nearer the time. So keep a look out in your mailboxes!

So, save these dates now and remember – **'Small changes make a big difference!'**

Amanda Breach

WIS UNITE ACROSS THE GLOBE

At Coney Hall Village WI we have recently set up a 'twinning' arrangement with Arbutus WI, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada.

Having read a letter on the 'Views' page of the February WI Life where Bryn WI described their special friendship with Dragon Lake WI, British Columbia, our President Christine Burch then saw that Dragon Lake WI had posted on the 'Unofficial WI' Facebook page that two other Canadian WI groups were looking to twin with British WI's. She swiftly got in contact with Lisa Greenly, the President of Arbutus WI.



After Zoom calls between our two committees both groups agreed to 'twin'. One of our members, Marie Fuggle, designed this

beautiful 'logo' to represent the friendship and ties between us. We have held a joint

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUG	Wed	4	Beginners Bowls	CANCELLED
SEPT	Tues	21	Lifestyle Annual Day	Ditton
SEPT		18–26	Great Big Green Week	Your Events
SEPT	Thurs	23	Daniel Webb Everyday Plastic	Zoom talk
OCT	Weds	6	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton
OCT	Thur	7	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton
OCT	Thur	21	Alex Green Everyday Plastic	Zoom Talk
NOV	Tues	2	Annual Whist Day	Ryarsh
NOV	Thurs	4	Annual Whist Day	Lenham
NOV	Fri	19	Murder Mystery	St. Mary Platt

All activities subject to any change in Covid restrictions.

Celebration of Canada Day in July hosted by Arbutus WI, during which we saw a presentation showing where each Canadian member had lived before, followed by 'Canadian Bingo' and a quiz. Coney Hall Village WI are now planning a joint craft meeting demonstrating Madhubani (Indian) drawing in November. We are looking forward to many more shared experiences and cultural exchanges in the future. *Chris Jones, Secretary Coney Hall Village WI*

Sarah Sudlow—sarahsudlow300@gmail.com

LIFESTYLE ANNUAL DAY

TUESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ME20 6AH

10:30 AM TO 3:30 PM (DOORS OPEN 9:30 AM) TICKET PRICE £10 EACH

WI MEMBERS ONLY

THE SPEAKERS ARE:

Andrew Slater telling of the ups and downs of setting up the Kent based company Must Chup sauces. (There will be an opportunity to taste and buy the sauces).



Mick Wheeler of the British Coffee Association describing "Coffee from seed to cup" covering both its production and the many variations in making coffee today.



Temper Temper is a small family owned chocolate business based in Southborough, Kent specialising in all things chocolate! **Alison Hazel** will be demonstrating working with chocolate and will create some wonderful pieces. If you like chocolate, you will love these ladies



LIFESTYLE ANNUAL DAY

Ditton Community Centre, Kiln Barn Road ME20 6AH

Tuesday 21 September 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. Doors open 9:30 am

Tickets £10.

WI Members only

Please bring a packed lunch and your own cup.

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

Address:

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

No. of tickets required.....

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

Telephone: 01622 737341

Closing date : 30 August.

PLEASE ENCLOSE A SUITABLY SIZED STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

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



GILL BROWN 01732 850571

WHIST DAYS

£12.00

Tuesday 2 November

At Ryarsh Village Hall, ME19 5LS

Thursday 4 November

At Lenham Community Centre, ME17 2QT

11am—4pm (Doors open at 10.30 for registration and tea/coffee) Ticket includes lunch—members only.

Our Whist Days, with Ploughman's lunch and dessert, are always popular. We look forward to welcoming many familiar faces and hopefully there will be some new players attending. You do not have to attend as a pair, single players are welcome and you will be put with another solo member. Play will commence at 11am 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—with that member's name.

If you can attend either day please tick that line on the application box.

Closing date 30 September

As this is being written Covid restrictions are being lifted so, we hope that all will



PALS Sub-Committee

WHIST DAYS

Tuesday 2 November at
Ryarsh Village Hall, ME19 5LS

Thursday 4 November at
Lenham Community Centre, Groom
Way, ME17 2QT

11am—4pm (Doors open at 10.30 for registration and tea/coffee) Ticket £12 includes lunch—members only.

WI.....

Contact Name.....

Address:.....

Post Code.....

Telephone Number.....

Email.....

No. of Tickets 2 Nov.....4 Nov.....

Either date.....

Dietary requirements on a separate sheet please with name/s.

Apply to: Gill Brown, 20 Appletons, Hadlow, Tonbridge TN11 0DT Tel:01732 850671 or 07703 359529 pals@wkfw.org.uk

Closing date 30 September
please enclose a stamped addressed envelope
Your WI will be invoiced on the monthly account for the numbers of tickets supplied.

REPORT OF A RECENT PALS EVENT

On Tuesday, 6 July, 19 members from across West Kent tried paddle boarding at Mote Park Water Sports Centre in Maidstone. The weather was a real mixed bag with the second group getting caught in a cloud burst but it didn't dampen their enthusiasm. There was some initial trepidation, but Stuart and his team explained that generally, people didn't fall in and if we did – then it was only waist deep, so we'd be fine! We learnt how to assemble our board, attach our tethers, get on and off easily, where to kneel or stand and we were off! Starting on our knees, we paddled across to the initial, sheltered, rendezvous point and tried standing up, which was reasonably easy. However, stopping and keeping our boards still took a bit of practice! Stuart explained how to read the water - to look for the easy to paddle *mirror water* rather than the choppy *cat's paw* water where strong breezes push you in specific directions. We were shown various manoeuvring strokes and some of us tried only paddling on one side of the board using nifty techniques to change direction. Standing on the board with the wind behind you, pushing you forward, was very exhilarating. Stand-up paddle



boarding is a great exercise for your core and is the fastest growing sport among women in the UK. You can even do Pilates and yoga classes on a board out on the water! A couple of us tried a 'cat stretch' and a 'downwards facing dog' but I don't think we will be taking up advanced paddle board yoga just yet! The sessions were over all too quickly and left many of us buzzing with enthusiasm and I for one will definitely be back for another go! Gilly Tully, Bearsted & Thurnham WI

*****Due to the outstanding success of the Paddle Boarding event, the PALS committee are considering running another event in September. If you are interested please contact Gill Brown 01732 850571 or email pals@wkfw.org.uk.*****

Art & Craft Annual Days

Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 October

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

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

Tickets £10 to include tea/coffee. Please bring your own cup.

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

If your WI is not meeting before the closing date—PLEASE APPLY INDIVIDUALLY FOR YOUR TICKETS WITH A SAE TO YOUR HOME ADDRESS, DO NOT APPLY THROUGH YOUR WI. Your WI will be billed for the cost of your tickets.

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

Pascale Michalski. From Painter to Quilter

Pascale was born in the small country of Luxembourg. She is 36 years old and has lived in the UK for over 16 years. Since a very young age she has always drawn and painted and was never afraid of venturing into new creative territories. She will be talking to us about her journey from "Painter to Quilter", she will showcase some of her pieces and tell us all about her technique and how it is still evolving. She has won several awards at quilt shows and textile competitions and also attends shows internationally.



Rosie Geiger. TV Producer on the Great British Sewing Bee

Rosie has worked on the show since series 2 and now works closely with judges, Esme and Patrick, to devise new and exciting challenges for the series and to produce them in the Sewing Room. In her talk she will share her experience of working on the show, from casting the talented Sewing Bees to filming them. She invites the audience to ask any questions in a Q and A at the end.

Matthew Palmer. Watercolour Artist

No.1 selling author, art tv host and professional artist Matthew Palmer will be demonstrating watercolour in a lively and entertaining way. Matthew will demonstrate some different and interesting techniques. Matthew has been teaching and demonstrating watercolours for over 20 years, holding workshop days, lessons and painting holidays up and down the UK. He works closely with the SAA (formally Society for all Artists), developing unique products, Matthew has his own branded range of art materials. He has had published 5 art books including the number 1 best selling 'Watercolour for the Absolute Beginner'. The host of sky TV's 'A Splash of Paint', 'Paint Along With', a regular presenter and artist on The Craft Store, TV's best art and craft channel. Matthew also has a popular YouTube channel with over 50 thousand subscribers and videos with well over 1 million views. He is also the presenter on Watercolour.tv an on-line based art tuition show (www.watercolour.tv).



There will also be our trade stalls : Our well known Bring & Buy, Rainham Sewing for lovely fabrics, sewing essentials and craft making items, Search Press art and craft books, hand crafted silversmith jewellery and beautiful wood turned items .

Art & Craft Annual Days

Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 October 2021. 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. Doors open 9:30 am

Tickets £10 to include tea/coffee on arrival and at lunchtime. Please bring a packed lunch and your own cup. Non-members are welcome but priority will be given to members.

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

Address:

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

No. of tickets required **6 Oct** MembersNon-Members..... **7 Oct** MembersNon-Members.....

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

Closing date: Friday 17 September

PLEASE ENCLOSE A SUITABLY SIZED STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

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

PLAXTOL WI'S TRIBUTE TO ESTELLE COLLARD

Estelle joined our WI in 1997 and was our excellent Speakers' Secretary for many years. When one speaker cancelled at very short notice she gallantly stepped in, regaling us with stories of her peripatetic childhood. When she was living in Nyasaland in 1947 the King and Queen visited Rhodesia with Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. All the school children contributed sixpence from their pocket money to Elizabeth's 21st birthday present of the diamond "Flame Lily Brooch". When our WI visited the Queen's clothing and jewellery exhibition at Buckingham Palace some years ago she got very excited when she saw "her brooch" in a display cabinet! In later life Estelle enjoyed cruising and met many interesting people, some of whom she persuaded to come and speak to us at WI! Estelle passed away in June after a short illness. We

shall miss her very much.

Allison Barton, Secretary Plaxtol WI

SOLE STREET WI LOCKDOWN ACTIVITIES

To break up the monotony of Lockdown, Sole Street WI created a "Good Times" calendar for each of our ladies, each



month displaying a photo from past events we have enjoyed together. Later in the year members received a home-made Valentine's card. Everyone was thrilled with these little surprises.

A small team of our members set about recreating

their design for a raised planter, in reality, outside their sadly currently closed meeting venue, The St. Mary's Church Room. The colour scheme is the WI colours of purple, green and white. Of course, the flowering plants have a bit of growing to do yet, but you may be able to make out the letters WI in the centre of the display. The president's WISH (WI Supportive Husband) constructed the wooden planter itself, and a rota has been arranged for watering.



Earlier this year our members entered enthusiastically into their Secret Easter Bunny challenge, to create a small, surprise gift for one other member. Some crafted items, some baked, others grew plants and some painted. We didn't want people to spend more than £5 and as with Secret Santa the recipient was not to know who the giver was, although some guessed!



Past and present members of **Ravenswood WI** were saddened to hear of the death of **HILDA HANNAFORD**, aged 96. Hilda was a long-time member of our Institute and took an active part in events until her recent retirement, due to ill health.

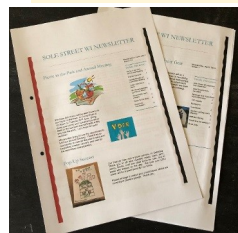
Hilda was the inspiration for Ravenswood's success in Drama Presentations, at competitions organised by the Federation, during the 1970's and 80's. She produced our first one act play and later wrote the scripts for two pantomimes, which played to "full houses" (open to the public) in the large hall at the Assembly Halls, Coney Hall, West Wickham.

Hilda served, firstly on the Federation Drama Sub-Committee, then was elected to the then Executive Committee in the 1980's and became the Chairman of the Drama Committee.

In the 1940's Hilda went to RADA and during the 2nd World War joined ENSA and went to India to entertain the troops.

In later years she became a popular speaker on her war time experiences and researched a new talk on the history of "Loos". Hilda had a great sense of humour and was very good company. We shall miss her.

Elizabeth Patterson



Sole Street introduced a Newsletter, for the first time, at the start of the initial Lockdown. It was issued twice but now is monthly. We

cannot believe we are now on issue 17, but it has helped to keep us connected and informed of WI business and future



Sole Street WI events. It goes out via email, with a few hard copies for those not *internetting*. It's proved so popular that it looks like it will continue and

replace previous methods of communicating news.
Pam Hodge, Secretary



Did you have a Spring clean this year or a big clear out during lockdown? Do you have unwanted items and don't know what to do with them?

Why not donate your unwanted items to help raise funds for ACWW.

ACWW has linked up with Recycling for Good Causes; a company that gets the best price for your items and then donates the money to ACWW.

The following can be recycled:

Jewellery (any material, wearable or broken)

Watches (including broken or damaged)

Used stamps (loose, albums, presentation packs, postcard collections)

Gadgets (mobile phones, cameras, Satnavs, game consoles, tablets, MP3's etc.)

Unwanted currencies (all those foreign coins and banknotes from your holidays, no matter how old)

Please bag your items (an old carrier bag is ideal) and deposit into the box or sack at the Annual Council Meeting. Our Federation Annual Council Meeting has been booked for 21 March at Tunbridge Wells in 2022 and I shall be there with my collection box and red sacks.

If you live near Maidstone you can always drop them off at my house, 8 Spot Lane Bearsted ME15 8PR. Alternatively you could take to Ethel Hunt Lodge and I will collect from there.

Over the last three years your items have raised £1,433 for ACWW. Your unwanted items are improving the lives of women in the poorest countries of the world.

Tricia Ashdown

ACWW Rep



BADGERS MOUNT WI

We, at Badgers Mount WI, are a small group of ladies but we decided to see what we could do on 5 July to celebrate the NHS. We decided on a Tea Party. We all gathered in our hall that was suitably arranged according to Covid rules and ate our own cakes and had our mugs filled with tea and enjoyed a couple of quizzes. An enjoyable afternoon. The photos show our small group of ladies and our special cake, decorated by one of our members. We raffled this and collected other donations which made a nice amount to send off. Carole Powell.

SOUTH PARK WI



Sue Goode, who was widowed in 2017, is one of South Park WI Presidents. She is mindful that restrictions have been harder for the widows and single members and has started a group for these ladies. Because of the Covid restrictions they had to meet in smaller groups, Sue says "It is great to get together" they started the first time on St. Georges' Day and now can meet as just one group.



HADLOW HIGHLIGHTS



We celebrated our first face-to-face members meeting in June with a 'welcome back' tea party held outdoors in one of our member's garden. It was so good to be back seeing each other face to face, catching up on all the news and admiring everyone's new hairdo!

As from the 20 July, Hadlow WI will be meeting at a new venue, in Hadlow Village Hall on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.



Wateringbury WI members enjoyed cake and lively chat at Wateringbury Fields in July to celebrate their 100 anniversary and to admire the commemorative oak tree planted last year.

100th ANNIVERSARY
WATERINGBURY WI



The ladies of **Highgate Hawkhurst WI** were proud to support the inaugural Hawkhurst 5km and 10km race which took place in the village on Sunday 27th June. In addition to providing cookies, brownies, flapjacks and bakes for the finishers, we sold cakes, savouries and craft items to the runners and their families, raising a healthy £280 for our funds. We congratulate the 240 runners and 20 children who ran and are very grateful to all our members for their support and hard work. We look forward to supporting next year's event.



Rachel Fagg - President, Highgate Hawkhurst WI

Last Call :

If you haven't sent in your design for a Christmas Card, please do so asap.

Closing date extended to 31 August 2021. See July issue for details.





OBITUARIES

Greenslade WI was sad to hear of the passing of **PEGGY SOWMAN**, on the 3 April. She had been a long-standing

member of WI and will be lovingly remembered for the beautiful birthday cards she made for our members.

Bearsted & Thurnham WI were very sad to announce the death of **BETTY HAINES** at the age of 102. Betty had been a member for a considerable number of years and was one of the members who helped embroider our tablecloth. She attended our meetings well into her nineties when she then went into a residential home.

We also lost another two much loved members. **JOYCE COTTAGE** who although she struggled with her health for many years was always positive and it did not stop her from being an active member of the walking, drama and craft group. She was a modest, kind and warm friendly person.

SHEILA ROGERS who was an active member of the WI Hall Committee for four years always beavered away quietly behind the scenes and as a good cook in the past she had organised the Christmas Meal and social on many occasions. She was a warm and friendly person and very welcoming to new members. We will miss them all very much. Our thoughts are with all their families at this time.

CONGRATULATIONS

Fellow Trustees of West Kent Federation, send their congratulations and warmest wishes to **CAROLINE and STUART DAVIES** on their recent Golden Wedding.

Bearsted & Thurnham WI send congratulations to **ROSEMARY SMITH** and her husband on their Diamond Wedding anniversary in March.



STOP PRESS

Coming soon :

Murder Mystery 19 November, in the September issue of WKN.

December church service.

AGM Tunbridge Wells 21 March 2022

ACWW tea in the spring 2022.

Zoom events.

And many more!



WHO TO CONTACT

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ARTICLES—YOUR EVENT

Articles, your events Please no more than 150 words and two photographs. Congratulations and Obituaries (no more than 40 words)

If possible email direct to

westkentnews@wkfwi.org.uk

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

FEDERATION NOTICE BOARD

Yearbook:

Page 27: **Chislehurst Village WI** have changed their meetings to the **1st Friday** of the month instead of the 1st Monday. All other details remain the same.

Page 60: **Rainham WI** have a change of venue from September. They will now meet at Rainham Cricket Club, Berengrave Lane, Rainham, Gillingham ME8 7NA. All other details remain the same.

Page 67: **Stockbury WI** will now be holding their meetings at **2.00pm** all year round instead of 7.30pm during the summer months. All other details remain the same.