



WEST KENT WI NEWS

October 2022

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



1926—2022

We Thank You Ma'am

On behalf of the Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland, the National Federation of Women's Institutes and the Scottish Women's Institutes, we express our sadness at the passing of **HM Queen Elizabeth II** and pass our condolences to the royal family.

We are immensely proud that HM Queen was a long-standing member and passionate supporter of the WI and on behalf of all of our members we thank her for her life of service to our nations and our organisations.

We will all continue to honour her legacy, promoting the role of women in public life and the powerful contribution of women across our nations. HM Queen remains a role model to us all and an embodiment of the WI spirit and values.

Margaret Broome, Chair of the Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland, Ann Jones, Chair of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, Ann Kerr, President of the Scottish Women's Institutes

Joint statement from NFWI, SWI and NIWI

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

By the time you all read this article the Queen's funeral would have happened though I'm sure the memory will live on.

I went up to Green Park to lay flowers on behalf of our Federation and was moved by the heart felt messages from young and old, the Paddington Bears and scent of so many beautiful flowers! I have only known one monarch and the world feels a very different place now she has gone but I'm sure King Charles III, with Camilla Queen Consort by his side, will continue to serve the country as his mother did.

In your West Kent News this month are details for all our forthcoming Federation events. You will also notice a few Zoom events as we move into darker evenings. I'm sure you will find something for everyone.

I leave you with photos from Green Park memorial flower garden.

Take care,

Amanda Breach



Treasurer's Corner



It is indeed great news that most WIs have fully returned to their normal meetings and that some WIs are in fact thriving after the last couple of years. During the pandemic and in the early days of restrictions easing, many WIs had restricted meetings and during that time members who wanted tickets for workshops were asked to apply direct if their meetings were not being held.

It is requested that tickets for workshops are now ordered via your WI appointed representative. This will avoid any confusion with the event organisers and the WI treasurers who are responsible for paying West Kent Federation for tickets ordered.

If you have two WIs in your area please make sure you stipulate which WI you are e.g. Afternoon/Evening. Your co-operation would be most welcome.

October is MCS Month

The MCS (Membership Communication System) is the most important tool at all levels of the WI. Therefore, it is vitally important that the information stored there is kept up to date. To highlight this, June and October have been designated as 'MCS month' throughout the organisation.

All WIs are encouraged to appoint an MCS Rep to take responsibility for their records, and WIs who already have an MCS Rep are asked to ensure that all their records remain accurate:

- Is where and when my WI meets correct?**
- Are all paid-up members listed?**
- Are all members' details correct?**
- Do all members, including officers have a valid and up-to-date email address listed?**
- Are all lapsed members removed?**
- Are all officers' roles and committee positions assigned to the correct members?**

The MCS enables communication throughout the organisation. When a new member joins, her details should be collected by her WI using the 'WI Member Registration Form' (available from your federation or to download from My WI) and added to the MCS. As soon as this is done, she will be sent her new member's welcome pack and begin receiving WI Life.

For any assistance, please contact your Federation Secretary.

Rita King

MEET YOUR TRUSTEE,

60 SECONDS WITH:-

Name: Sarah Sudlow



WI and WI Credentials: A member for many years, currently President of Nevill WI, Joint Group Co-ordinator, IFE, Trustee, Joint Chair of Lifestyle, Assistant Federation Treasurer.

Hobbies / Interests: Reading, films, travel, visiting historic properties, singing in an Acapella choir, craft, theatre and opera.

Last book read: Grave's End by William Shaw (one of our speakers in the book).

Favourite film: difficult to choose—Expendables, Star Wars, Die Hard, Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café, Colour Purple, Quartet.

Music choices: Classical to Glen Miller to Black Sabbath and many in-between.

Most memorable holiday: There have been many but countries I would return to are USA and Italy.

What do you love about the WI: Meeting fabulous ladies, joining in exciting trip and activities and visiting other Wis.

Marmite: No firm opinion either way.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

Wed	12	Chine McDonald	via Zoom
Thurs	27	Whist Day	Sutton Valence

NOVEMBER

Tues	8	Eco Christmas	via Zoom
Tues	8	Christmas Flowers Workshops	Ethel Hunt Lodge
Weds	9	Christmas Flowers Workshops	Snodland
Thurs	10	Christmas Flowers Workshops	Frittenden
Fri	11	Christmas Flowers Workshops	Hextable
Sat	12	Christmas Flowers Workshops	Orpington

DECEMBER

Weds	7	All Saints Church	Maidstone
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2023

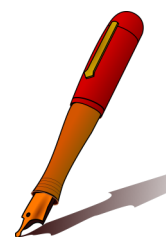
MARCH

Mon	27	Annual General Meeting	Tunbridge Wells
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EMMIE SHIPMAN 2023

The 2023 competition should inspire our poets.

Please compose a POEM this needs to be between 12 to 24 lines.



Subject: **KEEPING FIT**

A TRIAL OR A TREAT ?

Please supply two copies, one with just your poem, the other your poem and also have your name, WI and contact details.

You can mail to

Ethel Hunt Lodge

4, Hawkwell Business Centre

Maidstone Road,

Pembury

TN2 4AG

Or email to FedSec@wkwfi.org.uk

Closing Date End January 2023

Winner to be announced at our WKFWI AGM Monday 27 March. The winner of this competition is, traditionally, presented with, as a prize, a glass



paperweight.

OCTOBER 2022 FEDERATION NOTICEBOARD

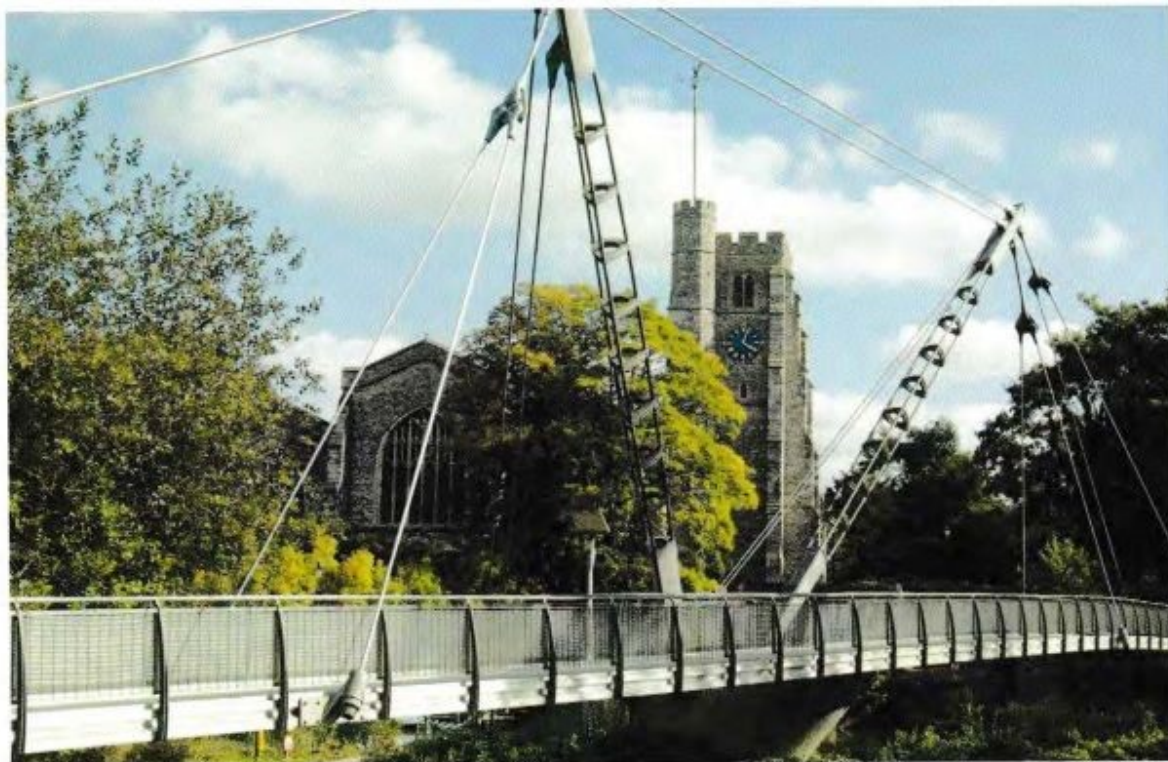
List of Speakers 2022

Page 32: Please note that sadly Geoffrey Green has passed away.

West Kent Federation Carols at Christmas

Wednesday 7 December at 2pm

West Kent Federation would like to invite you all to start your Christmas with us at All Saints Church Maidstone for our Carols at Christmas.



Lockmeadow Millennium Bridge, Maidstone

Photograph by Dan Daley

A picturesque walk over the Medway from the car park to All Saints Church

Ticket price is £5, please email the Federation office at fedsec@wkwfi.org.uk. Putting "Tickets for All Saints, Maidstone", in the subject box, stating the number of tickets required and your WI. You will be emailed your ticket/tickets after the closing date and your WI will be invoiced in the normal way. Please note your tickets are non-refundable and non-returnable. Closing Date Thursday 10 November

We will be singing your much loved carols and listening to excerpts from some of your favourite Christmas poems and stories. So, once again we need to hear from you! Please let us know if you have a favourite you would like to share with us all and if you are willing to read it yourself.

We are also putting out a call to all WIs, craft groups to bring along a decoration for the pew ends of the church. Last year's pew ends were amazing and a great showcase for the talents of our Federation members. As with last year this can be any media – knitting, crochet, fresh or dried flowers etc. In any form – wreath, hanging etc. but it must be able to hang from the pew end and be an 8 inches diameter ring, please, where possible, use recycled materials.



Items can be dropped into Ethel Hunt Lodge by Friday 11 November with your name, WI and contact details attached. We would also recommend you take a photo of your decoration before you drop it off. Decorations can also be bought along on the day.

Readings and poems can be emailed into the Federation office at fedsec@wkwfi.org.uk. Please state if you are able to read your contribution or if you are happy for someone else to read it. There will be an opportunity to rehearse at the church on the day.

Your WI will be invoiced in the usual way and tickets sent accordingly. We look forward to seeing you at All Saints, Maidstone on Wednesday 7 December at 2pm when our Federation Christmas begins!



Green Team

greenteam@wkwfi.org.uk

How to have an Eco Christmas with Elaine King

Do you love to make things but feel guilty about all the new materials required and the impact on the environment?

If so do join me for a guide into how to decorate your home, Christmas tree, to wrap those gifts, or dress your table in a way to impress using recycled materials giving it the magical feel you aspire to.

I will show you what things you can use, how waste products, that usually end up in landfill, can be transformed into stunning decorations that everyone will admire for little or no cost at all and with a very low carbon footprint. I will guide you to resources full of tips and tricks and show you examples of inexpensive ways to decorate your home with a low impact on our planet.

So, join me on November 8 at 7.30pm, charge £5. Secure your place using this link <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BTTZ>



A GOOD READ!

Books for all ages recommended by Green Team members.

FOR CHILDREN

The Last Bear by Hannah Gold. Fully illustrated, it looks at the struggle for survival of the last polar bear and of a child that helps him.



The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry. A tale of the Amazon Rainforest, this is a large format picture book and is a wonderful introduction to caring for nature and the planet in a simple but informative way.

Recycle and Remake. Published by Dorling Kindersley it suggests creative projects for eco kids.



What a Waste by Jess French. Recycling, and how little things can have a big impact. Good balance and not all gloom and doom, but what we are succeeding at too!



The Garden by Dyan Sheldon and Gary Blythe. A lovely picture story helping children understand what life was like before roads and cars and shops.



The Whale Watchers by Dougie Poynter. A great holiday adventure story with a strong eco message highlighting the importance of whales.

The wonders of Nature by Ben Hoare. 100 awe-inspiring stories from the natural world with stunning illustrations.

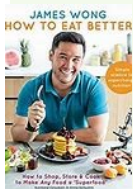


Chris Packham's Nature Handbook. A family book from Dorling Kindersley explaining, exploring and appreciating nature.

The Lost Words by Robert Macfarlane. A large format book of poems designed to be read aloud, each describing a bird, plant, animal etc.

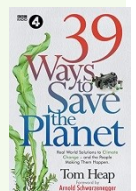
FOR ADULTS

Clean and Green by Nancy Birtwhistle. 101 tips for a more eco-friendly home. All simple and cheap!



How To Eat Better by James Wong. How to select, store and cook everyday ingredients to get maximum health benefits.

39 Ways to Save the Planet by Tom Heap. Real world solutions to climate change, and the people making them happen. Short chapters, highly readable, and full of hope!



Public Affairs and International Committee members invite you to An Audience with Chine McDonald - Author, Speaker, Broadcaster On Wednesday 12 October 2022 7pm on zoom



Chine studied Theology and Religious Studies at Cambridge University. Chine is Director of Theos, vice-chair of Greenbelt Festival and a trustee of Christians in Media, she was previously Head of Community Fundraising and Public Engagement at Christian Aid. Chine is the author of *God is Not a White Man: And Other Revelations*. She has 16 years experience in journalism, media and communications. Chine regularly contributes to programme slots such as BBC's Thought for the Day on Radio 4's Today programme, Prayer for the Day and The Daily Service. With such a wealth of experience we are very pleased Chine has agreed to speak to us, during Black History Month. She will speak on her life and experience of any influence she feels she has been able to make. Fee £5 please book through Try Booking by 5 October . Places are not limited. Details of log in will be forwarded after booking.

We look forward to seeing you on screen on 12 October.

<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BURW>



WI ADVISERS

Carol Gupwell 01622 676600

IS THERE A MEMBER OF YOUR WI WHO WOULD LIKE A NEW CHALLENGE ?

We are looking for members who might like to train and join our team of Advisers.

Advisers are trained by NFWI and sit on the Membership committee, which meets 8 times a year.

This is a voluntary position with expenses paid and generally each Adviser looks after a group of WIs

What do we do:

We help and support WI committees, help set up new WIs, run workshops on committee work and programme planning.

We may have to suspend or enlarge WIs by joining two together when difficulties over forming committees occur.

We also run Zoom chat meetings, attend President's meetings and are sometimes invited to a WI social event which is lovely .

If you have been a WI officer or committee member and have a car it is a great way of making new friends.

Observers are always welcome to our Team meetings. Please contact the office at EHL
FedSec@wkwfi.org.uk.

To help out with a bit more interaction Board of Trustees and Adviser are keen to visit each WI within Kent especially as we are now more relaxed and getting used to living alongside Covid.

You may be contacted by an Adviser in the coming months who would like to introduce herself and tell you a little about the role and what goes on at Federation level.

It will just be a five-to-ten-minute talk with questions and answers.

The aim is to foster more understanding between those running the Federation and our WI members.

I do hope you have all had a wonder summer and are now eager to get on with all things WI.

Looking forward to seeing you at WI Federation events over the coming months.

Carol Gupwell Chair of Advisers and her Hard-Working Team

During July and August the ladies (and a few gentlemen!) of **BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA WI** enjoyed tea, cake and lots of chatter in members' gardens. A great time was had by all. Anthea Springett.



GOLDEN GREEN WI

On a sweltering Sunday, our dedicated team sold cakes made by our members at the Golden Green village fete to raise much needed funds. The Mayor couldn't resist buying a cake.

Marion Clarke



ISTEAD RISE WI

Held its Autumn Show on 13 September, as usual beautiful craft items and delicious cakes, biscuits and preserves.



LADYCROFT WI

On 10 August Ladycroft WI met with their East Kent friends from WITTERSHAM WI at Pashley Manor Gardens. It was lovely to be able to meet up again and enjoy a day out together as we used to before the pandemic!

Anne Richard



BEARSTED & THURNHAM WI held an afternoon tea for members to celebrate **100 years** of our WI Hall. Margaret Morris longest serving ex-Chair of the Hall Committee cut the cake made by one of our members Pam Carter.

Diane Parr



SOUTH PARK WI had a fabulous day with their cake stall at Loose Fete.

Not only did they raise lots of money for funds but also won best dressed stall.

Here's Mary, Her Majesty, Lyn and Jane with guess the name of the Royal Clematis !!

Amanda Bird
South Park.



EMMIE SHIPMAN WINNER 2022

Well done to Judy Galbraith from Bearsted Green WI

Music will be my first love and it will be my last. Music of the future and music of the past.

Music is evocative and emotive for me. Just as people, of a certain age, can remember where they were when Elvis died – so, music conjures up vivid memories to me, of good times; bad times; happiness and sadness too. I was surrounded by music as far back as I can remember – the beautiful singing voice of my mother and the piano playing of my father, neither of whom could read a note of music. Perhaps, not such fond memories of my sister's violin practice, driving the dog to distraction, until we begged her to give up. I recall desperately wanting to sing the solo at primary school, yet all the "posh" girls were chosen. In the days pre-dating car radios, I remember singing Herman's Hermit's "Rise and Shine Sleepy Joe" to the rhythm of the windscreen wipers, while my father whistled an accompaniment.

Secondary school (and the acquisition of a Dansette record player) opened new doors, while the discovery of a second hand guitar made singing a reality that has lasted to this day (with apologies to my fellow WI members, who frequently have to endure it). The privilege of both my children becoming musicians was immense. To hear the wonderful sounds that a group of talented youngsters can produce, is such an experience, be it choral, orchestral, jazz, wind band, or (latterly, as in my adult son's case) heavy metal rock (don't discount it – it earns him money)!

My musical tastes are eclectic, from Elgar and Mozart, to Black Sabbath; Queen, Status Quo and Adele – anything that stirs my soul. A beautiful tune moves me to tears – sometimes to my great embarrassment. Listening to "Meditation" by Massenet, reduces me to a gibbering wreck, while T. Rex's "I Love to Boogie" has me leaping around the kitchen, in a most unbecoming manner. Music is a common language, that transcends all barriers of culture, creed and class and the progress of technology makes it accessible to all, no longer just those who can afford to experience it live. There is nothing quite so uplifting as the sound of military band music, resonating around the Albert Hall, or even thousands of voices lifted together, in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee.

Music can brighten the darkest days and fill the loneliest spaces with joy. I recall the wonder of seeing a very elderly lady, no longer able to exist in the reality of the world around her, dancing and singing, word perfect, to the wartime songs she remembered from her youth. Likewise, I have observed the peace of a fractious baby, finally sung to sleep, by an exhausted parent. So, what of the future? With so many talented writers and performers there is something for every taste, every age. Music will endure.

"To live without my music would be impossible to do, 'cause in this world of troubles, my music pulls me through" (John Miles)

I can truly say, for me, to quote Hans Christian Anderson:

"Where words fail – music speaks"



PUBLIC AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL

Diane Daniels 01622 674494

pai@wkfwi.org.uk

FUN WITH SCIENCE

In the poorer weather of Autumn and Winter when it's not so easy to do outside activities why not hold a Science Workshop in your WI.

We still have copies of the activity booklet produced by the University of Bristol containing easy, fun and interesting experiments to do, all using readily available materials. If you would like some copies please email me at wendy168@talktalk.net and I will post some to you.

Do have fun! Wendy Keast Science rep.



REMEMBERING ROSEMARY BLACKBURN



A one-day exhibition was held in the Mission Hall on 3 September to commemorate the life and work of former Golden Green WI President Rosemary Blackburn. The WI hosted the refreshments and we were pleased to welcome Carol Gupwell, Adviser and Diane Daniels, Trustee to join in this tribute to Rosemary. A lifelong quilter, the display of her handiwork over 40 years was most impressive. The photo shows husband Chris next to what was poignantly her first (left) and her final quilts, along with the primroses that won her a Quilters' Guild prize in 2015. In addition, there were photographs of her work with deaf children and other mementos. All in all, a fitting tribute to a talented lady who will be much missed by family and friends.

Marion Clarke, President Golden Green WI



Carol Gupwell and Diane Daniels



HAVE YOU MET MY GOOD FRIEND LIBBY?

If you are a member of your local library then just make sure you have a library card and obtain a four digit pin - just ask a member of your library staff and they will help you.

In Kent we come under Kent Libraries & Archives with kent.overdrive.com. This enables us to download books, fact or fiction, magazines, also audio onto our electronic devices. The London Boroughs, your local library will be able to tell you your provider.

You can borrow up to ten items at a time, the period of loan is your choice, they are automatically removed after that time, but you can return them sooner. If a title is not available then you can put a hold on it and when it is available for loan you can borrow it.

Often they have a multi loan suitable for book clubs, so your group can all borrow the same title at the same time. You can, if you wish, adjust the size of the font and also have a sepia background so not to make it too bright for reading.

I find audio useful on those nights when sleep eludes you, you can set a time for the audio to run, so if you do, hopefully, fall back asleep you will not have missed too much of the story, headphones are useful for not disturbing others!

When you search for a particular author you can click the sorted by relevance box—release date and they should be in the order you would like to read them. Especially useful when reading a series based on the same character. I have been an avid reader all my life and always preferred paper books, but now I am preferring the electronic way.

Linda Wills—West Kent News—Istead Rise WI

NASHENDEN WI SUMMER PARTY.

This year, one of our committee members very generously offered to host our Summer Spectacular in her lovely garden on the 17 August, carefully timed for when her hanging baskets would be in full bloom!



Mother Nature unfortunately intervened with a definitely iffy weather forecast so at the last minute the venue was changed to Borstal Bowls club with available shelter from the weather if necessary. This worked very well and we're very grateful to them for their kind offer.

Fund raising included the sale of homemade cakes, sausage rolls, cheese scones, jams, chutneys, plants and drinks.

Fun activities were provided with Skittles, giant playing cards and much more.

The gathering was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. Jan Robinson—Nashenden WI Secretary



On 16 August fourteen **HOLLINGBOURNE WI** members enjoyed an outing on the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch railway. We met at New Romney station and travelled on the 11.53 a.m. train to Dungeness. Well, most of us did, one group travelled to Hythe by mistake, but we all met up at Dungeness. (There's always one they say, except it was four in this case)! After a leisurely stroll in warm sunshine, we made our way to the nearby restaurant, where we enjoyed a fish and chip lunch together with a good natter and plenty of laughter. Later in the afternoon, we made the return train journey to our relevant stations and then back home.

Barbara Gibbs

WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP



The first week of September saw the return of Matthew Palmer for his watercolour workshops. Matthew has a relaxed, inspiring way of teaching and his workshops proved as popular as ever.

The photograph was taken at the newly renovated Frittenden Village Hall. A modern airy, very well equipped and delightful Village Hall with stunning views across the Kent countryside. They plan to add a veranda in order to enjoy the views from outside.

Federation Golf Day 2023

The Trustees are planning to hold a West Kent Federation Golf Day in the Spring 2023. If any golfers in the Federation are interested in playing in this event, please email your interest to Rita King - treasurer@wkwfi.org.uk

The venue would be in the Swanley/Orpington area and would consist of a Stableford competition with prizes for the overall winner, runner up, nearest the pin and longest drives. There would also be a meal and presentation after the event. Open to all members with a valid handicap.

If successful, it could become an annual event.!!



Please send in Halloween carving photographs, or perhaps some beautiful colours on woodland walks.

westkentnews@wkwfi.org.uk





OBITUARIES

Sole Street WI was shocked and saddened to learn of the death of their longstanding member **ANN**

CRAWFORD. Our thoughts are with her family. Ann was a former President and Secretary of our Institute, an active member and a good friend. We will miss her greatly.

VALERIE REED passed away peacefully on 10 August after a long battle against cancer. Valerie had been a member of **Aperfield WI** for more than 10 years, during this time she enjoyed many friendships and activities. She will be sadly missed.

Swanley WI has lost an stalwart and enthusiastic member with the recent death of **MARIAN LEE.** She guided us for over forty years her wisdom and knowledge will be sadly missed.

It is with sadness that **Farnborough WI** announces the death of **VAL MILLER,** a much missed member who played an active role in our WI. She will be particularly remembered for her great talent at flower arranging.



Ladycroft WI would like to congratulate **EILEEN DIXON & husband MIKE** on the occasion of their diamond wedding anniversary celebrated on 1 September.

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 items will follow in the sequence that they are received.

POETS CORNER - THE WASP

Well, by nature I'm placid and calm.
I would wish neither man nor beast harm,
But the sight or the sound
Of a wasp flying around, -
Right inside me, sets off an alarm.

Now a barbecue outside is great.
And this isn't bad luck, it is fate!
In its yellow-striped vest
It ignores all the rest,
'Cos its plan is to land on my plate.

I'd love a day out by the sea,
With sandwiches, cakes, and some tea.

But before I have eaten
Once more I am beaten -
Something's buzzing and heading for me!

As the wasp always wins - and I lose.

To lay in the sun and peruse
A gardening book or to snooze
Would be pure luxury -
But it isn't to be,
As the wasp always wins - and I lose.

So, I'll just have to stay in all day,
To keep my tormentors away.
But in case they look
For a cranny or nook -
I bought an insecticide spray!



Mrs. M. Doig, Headcorn WI

A West Kent Miscellany of Poems
1999



WHO TO CONTACT

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ARTICLES—YOUR EVENT

Articles, your events Please no more than 150 words and two photographs. Congratulations and Obituaries (no more than 40 words) . If possible email direct to **westkentnews@wkwfi.org.uk** If not please post to our Ethel Hunt Lodge address see top of page two.