



WEST KENT WI NEWS

April 2021



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear ladies,

Well, here we are on the 18 March 2021. A whole year has passed since we were Allowed to meet. BUT I think

there is a light on at the end of the tunnel. As you know we have had our AGM not too much to report about BUT we have planned some events for this year. To start us off there is the walk at Hopehill on 19 May, do come if only to say Hello - it's free to all members.

We are hoping to hold a gathering in All Saint's Church in Maidstone in December, fingers crossed.

There are other events happening too ART and CRAFT and HOME ECONOMICS are staging "Days" in the Autumn keep looking in the West Kent News. And of course, there are our Zoom Meetings free to you.

We are looking forward to a new person starting in the office – Keeley Smart on 6 April. Miz will be pleased as she has had a lot to do on her own with the AGM, National AGM as well as answering the phone and emails.

We are looking for Ladies to train as Advisers all expenses will be paid. If you think you might like to find out more please phone the office. It is interesting work as no two WIs are the same.

Yours in friendship,

Jane



Treasurer's Corner



During the past month I have held four Zoom meetings with Treasurers from all parts of the Federation. I hope the Treasurer's attending found them informative. Lots of issues came up and I thought it would be interesting to summarise the main points from the discussion.

The main topic of discussion was the subscription flexibility proposal. Many WIs are taking advantage of it, by reducing the WI proportion usually between £5-10 being the average reduction.

However, some WIs whilst taking advantage were also unhappy as they felt that

(a) they had been providing activities for their members and hence they had not the funds to provide it and

(b) that there had been no flexibility offered on the NFWI/ Federation portion. This coupled with the subscription rising by £1 some felt was unfair.

There were also concerns about the number of their members who would re-join which, wasn't necessarily tied into the subscription and a possible lack of value but a feeling about the general situation going forward and wariness amongst some about meeting in large numbers again.

More specific points from the sessions

Some banks didn't allow dual authorisation how does that fit in with the WI requirement- There is a procedure. Gillian to write a Treasurer's corner (May) on this subject.

Training – obviously not taken place due to restrictions but once these were lifted Training for Treasurers would start up again.

MCS – make sure its up to date with who the Treasurer is.

Some WIs had already collected the subscription before the flexibility guidance came out. If those WIs wanted to take advantage of the flexibility could they refund the amount they were offering to reduce the WI portion by. **Yes in this instance and only in this instance** it is fine to do so.

Generally refunds of the membership subscription are not allowed.

Annual Meetings – there is some flexibility for the 2021 meetings to be pushed back till later in the year if WIs can't physically meet and do an Annual Meeting by Zoom or Email. However, it is expected that WIs will return to the normal May timetable in 2022.

Some Treasurers had not seen recent financial documents sent to the WI mailboxes. Treasurers should be allowed to access the WI mailboxes as many of the documents sent out from the office are specifically for Treasurers.

Finally, not connected to the Zoom meetings but I wanted to let you know that **this year** the Board of Trustees have agreed that the Federation will pay all of the premium for the WI liability insurance, which renews in June. Therefore, when I write out to you in July outlining the policy cover there will no request for payment.

Gillian Neville



Green Team

greenteam@wkwfwi.org.uk

HOW TO SHOP GREENER

Shop in season – Local farm shops or veg box schemes can help. Rethink what you buy... strawberries all year? You can't beat British produce ripened in the field and in season! Need mangoes on your daily porridge, would tinned/frozen fruit be an acceptable alternative? It often has more vitamins than gas treated, cold stored and airfreighted fruit which, if out of season, relies on intensive agricultural methods – heated greenhouses/ plastic poly tunnels and CO² filled plastic packaging. Tins are generally sent by sea and are fully recyclable.

Don't waste food – The average family wastes £730 of food a year! Better storage cuts waste. Store bananas separately. Keep salad wrapped – in original packaging or perhaps reuse bread bags. Don't refrigerate onions or store with potatoes- they'll go mouldy. Freeze leftovers or eat for breakfast. Plan your meals for the week—if plans change – freeze it! Have a 'finish up Friday' or 'make-do Monday' every week; you'll be surprised at the variations of rice, pasta or 'stewp' (my family's favourite – a cross between stew and soup!) that you can come up with!

Shop less often – even extending time between shops by a couple of days makes a huge difference over a year.

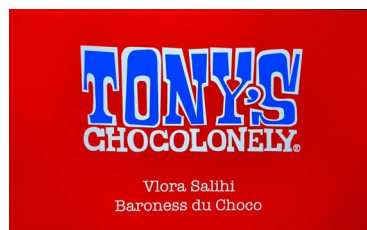
Buy larger quantities – one large bag uses less packaging than two smaller ones.

Batch cooking – maximises use of special offers, seasonal abundance and uses less power.

Reduce meat content – have a meat free meal or substitute some of the meat with pulses or lentils.

Look at the packaging – buy the brand that is recyclable. Take your own containers. Use refill stores like U-Weight or Unboxed. [zerowasteonwheels @ gmail.com](mailto:zerowasteonwheels@gmail.com) has a wide range of products and will come to you!

JUST MAKE ONE CHANGE AT A TIME – ONCE ENTRENCHED, TRY ANOTHER! GOOD LUCK!



CATFORD WI SHARE WITH US THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE

As part of the resolution to End Modern Slavery, Catford WI welcomed Vlora from Tony's Choclonely who gave us an enlightening talk about the widespread use of child labour in the chocolate industry. They aim to make all chocolate worldwide 100% slave free. To do this they not only

lead by example, making incredibly delicious chocolate, but also by campaigning and lobbying the multinational companies to put human rights before profits. This is a free talk which we recommend to other groups.



The company started as the result of an investigation by three Dutch journalists and if you'd like to find out more there is a documentary, The Chocolate Case, telling their story which can be found on Amazon Prime. Members were more than happy to test their products, with caramel & sea salt proving particularly popular, and four lucky members won an extra bar in a random draw at the end!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY All activities subject to change

MAY	Tues 18	Maytime Walk	Hopehill
JULY	Tues 6	Paddle Boarding	Mote Park
SEPT	Tues 21	Home Economics Annual Day	Ditton
SEPT	Wed 22	Home Economics Annual Day	Ditton
OCT	Wed 6	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton
OCT	Thur 7	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton

Well done to Eden Park WI

Winners of the draw for free entrance tickets to

RHS WISLEY

2021 WEST KENT FEDERATION AGM

A Delegate's View

When I offered to be the delegate to the Federation Annual meeting, I was all set to go to the Assembly Hall in Tunbridge Wells as in previous years. However, 2021 would prove everyone wrong in many ways. A Zoom meeting was arranged, joining details sent out and the agenda showing all would be completed in under 2 hours! Due to the stubborn nature of my laptop, it took me as long to get into the meeting as it does to get to Tunbridge Wells, but with the usual WI efficiency we began on time. Over 100 members attended the meeting from all round the Federation and with us all on mute unless contributing, the silence was noticeable. Any concerns about how delegates could vote were unfounded as a form appeared on our screen for us to tick the appropriate box and we had the results within seconds. So, am I glad I was the delegate? Yes, I am, it was quite an experience. Would I want a Zoom meeting next year? No, I missed the camaraderie of meetings at the Assembly Hall, as well as the speakers and entertainment. Lastly, it was all over in 45 minutes!

Sheila Harris, Matfield WI

EMMIE SHIPMAN WINNER 2021

When I look back at Lockdown, what have I learnt?
I've made bread, I've done baking, (but some of it burnt!)
Zoom, WhatsApp and Face Time have all played their part
New skills have been mastered: I feel rather smart!
I've thought about friends who might be alone
And I've learnt that a friendship can grow down the phone.
We've clapped and been thankful for our NHS
Our carers, shop workers and all of the rest.
I've tried to keep fit with the help of Joe Wicks
I've not lost any weight. Maybe too many chips!
Eden Park WI's been there right from the start.
A global pandemic can't keep us apart.
Our monthly Zoom meetings have been really great.
The chat has been fun, and our speakers first rate.
So I look back at Lockdown and what have I learnt?
To value my friends, and eat cake that is burnt.
Yes I know it's been hard, but its taught us so much;
The importance of friendship and keeping in touch.

Well done to Lindsey Smith of Eden Park WI for her entry and receiving the Emmie Shipman paperweight prize.

RESULT OF WEST KENT FEDERATION OF WI'S BALLOT FOR 2021 BURSARIES.

BALLOT WINNERS FOR FOUR MEMBERS

ANN PAYNE—WEST PECKHAM WI.

LEONA SANDERS—ST. MARY'S
WEST WICKHAM WI.

MARGARET CHAPMAN—ABBAY WOOD
WI.

SUE GOODWIN—ST. MARY'S
WEST WICKHAM WI

Should there be any members unable to
collect their bursary the reserve members
are:-

1st Sheila Parkin - Ash and Ridley WI

2nd Jane White - South Park WI

3rd Veronica Pearman - Edenbridge
Evening WI

4th Beth Marsh - East Malling WI

BALLOT WINNERS FOR TWO WI'S:

MATFIELD WI and **WELLS BELLES WI**

The WI reserves are:

Staplehurst WI and Rainham WI

West Kent Federation invite you to a **Free Zoom talk**

By **JACKIE SOMERFIELD ON JOURNALING.**

on Thursday 29 April at 1.45pm— talk starts at 2pm.

How to make a beautiful journal, even if you cannot draw or paint. I've been keeping journals since 2005 and have about 30+ to date. I'm passionate about my craft and love sharing what I do so I'm looking forward to giving you lots of ideas about how you have a journal to be proud of. There's a lot of show and tell using my own journals, hints on design and lettering and layout, and plenty of inspiration to get you started. I look forward to meeting you all. Jackie.

go to www.jackiesomerfieldstudio.co.uk to see Jackie's work.

Please email Barbara Bickell on ArtCraft@wkwfi.org.uk to book a place at this no charge talk. Members only. The Zoom link will be sent out on Monday 26 April



Art & Craft Competition Design a Christmas Card for the Federation for 2021

Following the success of the 2020 West Kent Federation Christmas Card Competition, we would like you to design another one for us to use in 2021. The winning designs will be chosen by the Trustees and will be professionally printed.



Your artwork can be in any media, painted, drawn, stitched, etc but must be original, entirely hand made, and suitable for reproduction, no computer art will be considered. The size of the card to be 5" x 7" or 12.5 cm by 17.5 cm in portrait or landscape format.



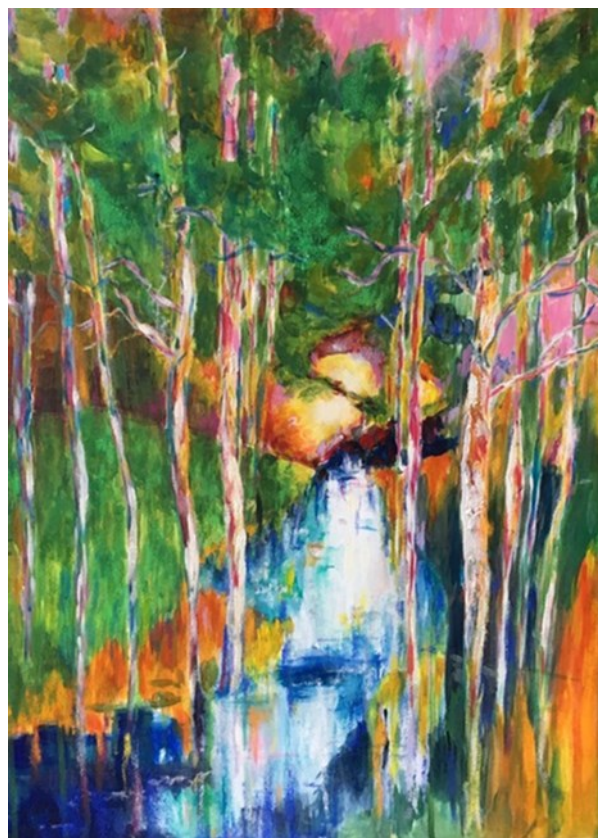
To enter in the first place, please send a jpeg photograph of your card design in medium resolution to the Art & Craft Committee at: ArtCraft@wkfwi.org.uk Giving the details of how the work was made along with your name and the name of your WI by the closing date of Friday 30 July. We will ask you to send us the original work, of those short listed, for further consideration.

Original artwork from 2020 is still being carefully looked after and we hope to be able to display it at a future Federation event, as we will with entries from this year. Artwork will be returned to you, but copyright in the winning designs will remain with the Federation.

Paula

ISOLATION CREATIONS

Some of my art done in the first lockdown. All acrylic, luckily I had paints and canvases at home. Jacqui Wilcox, Chiddingstone WI.



Please email photos of your Isolation creations to ArtCraft@wkfwi.org.uk



CHOICES is an easy-to-access online platform which offers a range of e-learning modules developed by IAM RoadSmart's experts. The modules have been created to provide a handy knowledge boost on key driving topics and to aid in the development of skills such as hazard perception, across a range of driving scenarios. In addition, new learning content is being made available via the CHOICES platform as it is developed, making it the ideal online companion to support your ongoing driver development. To read

more go to: [My WI | Driving confidence survey 2020 \(thewi.org.uk\)](#)

STAND UP PADDLE BOARDING TASTER SESSION

Mote Park, Mote Avenue, Maidstone, ME15 7SU

Tuesday 6 July 11am-12noon or 1pm-2pm

Members only £12.00 per session



Stand Up Paddle Boarding, learn to paddle or develop your skills on the beautiful, scenic Mote Park Lake in Maidstone.

All instructors are fully qualified, insured and DBS checked, this sport is regulated by British Canoeing who will advise whether or not this activity will go ahead. As WI cogs move fairly slowly we do have to start thinking ahead and an outdoor activity in small groups seems to be the way forward. Traditionally the groups have been six in number, so encourage a friend to join in and lodge your interest with us. Hopefully, by the closing date (1 June) we will know if the activity is permitted in July when it will be confirmed with you.

Facts and information! The lake is river fed, and mainly two-three foot deep, 6 foot at its deepest. Footwear, shoes with a closed toe, old trainers are ideal, a change of clothes and a towel. There is parking on site at a cost of £2 or you can use the Willington Street Park and Ride.

Watching, on TV, the various around Britain walks and river locations paddle boarding seems to be growing in popularity, so why not join in with this activity and when you are allowed to visit further afield you will hopefully have the confidence to hire boards in other locations – or continue with other sessions at Mote Park!

STAND UP PADDLE BOARDING TASTER SESSION

MOTE PARK, MAIDSTONE, ME15 7SU

Tuesday 6 July 11-am–12noon or 1pm–2pm

Members only £12.00 per session

CONTACT NAME.....WI.....

Email Address.....phone number.....

Address.....

.....

To Apply Email to: lindagwills2@tiscali.co.uk Phone: 01474 834163

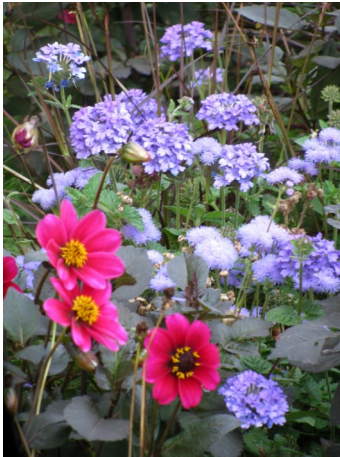
Or Post: Linda Wills, 31 Castlefields, Istead Rise, DA13 9EJ please enclosed a stamped addressed envelope.

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

Closing date Tuesday 1 June

HUXLEY CUP COMPETITION 2021

Inspiring Women across the country to create a greener and cleaner place to live.



Traditional the Huxley Cup has been held annually at one of the County Shows, where a Flower Arranger from each Federation – with a list of criteria, produce a display hoping to receive the winning ticket.

This year however, it is different. Firstly, individual WIs will enter, at a cost of £10 which would be billed to their WI from NFWI. No longer just a flower arrangement on the day but something for your community to enjoy. We all know how West Kent members have supported their communities over the past year. It is suggested a raised bed, the planting area, the size of which and the location is your choice, to be displayed in your community. Your ideas and design no larger than A3 please, to be submitted either by hand or computer generated—the deadline is Friday 27 August – the address will be confirmed by end of July.

You do need to read the full information that was sent to your Institute Secretary or further copies and application form can be obtained from FedSec@wkwfi.org.uk. Also, you can check out the information on My WI. Please follow government Covid guidelines and obtain appropriate permission from appropriate sources as to where your design will be created. Each WI will need to fund the cost of this competition, through sponsorship or other means to raise money to cover the costs. Good Luck, hope having a joint venture will inspire members to work together again, as restrictions are, hopefully, being gradually lifted.

A representative from the winning WI will be presented with the Huxley cup at the NFWI AGM in June 2022.



ACWW

TRICIA ASHDOWN triciaashdown@yahoo.co.uk

The ACWW Area President for Europe is Afrodite Roman who is from Romania. In her latest newsletter she thought she would tell us about a Romanian tradition and is inviting other European members to let her know their country's traditions.

On the 1 of March Romanians celebrate the coming of spring in their unique way through the Martisor. The name comes from March (Martie in Romanian) and it is believed that if you wear red and white string you will enjoy a prosperous and healthy year. At the beginning of March women expect to receive from the important men in their lives a Martisor (or trinket would be the English translation) and at the end of March the red-white threads are tied to a branch of a fruit tree to bring wealth.

Seems like a lovely idea. If you would like to share one of our traditions, or even recipes, do email Afrodite at europa@acww.org.uk.

Afrodita Roman



An Evening to Remember

On Tuesday 16 February around 120 WI members were treated to a wonderful Zoom session organised by the WI Green Team, Amanda Breach and Annette Smith and helped on the night by Barbara Bickell. That evening brought the theatre into our homes with Sophie-Louise Dann, who introduced herself as an actress and chanteuse.

She opened the meeting with a marvellous rendition of our WI hymn "Jerusalem", with many participants joining in from the comfort of their own homes. All muted of course. Then, in true WI style, she gave a baking demonstration of Mary Berry's absolutely fool-proof Lemon Drizzle tray-bake, immediately warming us to her friendly style of giving a talk.



Sophie shared with us the history of her extensive career which could be described as dramatic and versatile, and has encompassed the worlds of opera, musicals, theatre, film, and radio. She met her husband on stage. He is Nicholas Colicos, the son of the Canadian and American stage and TV actor, John Colicos.

For Sophie, her career started with training at the Arts Educational Schools. She recounted many happy experiences on various provincial stages across the UK and over-seas. She has starred in the film version of 'The Phantom of the Opera'. She has been described as seizing the moment and giving wonderful over-the-top parodies of Tosca, Violetta, and Carmen, while hugging the walls and clawing the furniture in the manner of an old-style soprano. This passion and personality were made evident throughout her talk and enthralling singing treats.

Naming but a few of her appearances, she played Paula in 'Bend it like Beckham' at the Phoenix Theatre with critics describing her performance as joyous and uplifting, roles in 'Hamilton', 'Made in Dagenham', 'A Spoonful of Sherman', 'Lend Me a Tenor', and as Paula in 'The Girls' where she met Gary Barlow for the first time and who had obviously made an impression on her. Her most recent part was to play the ghastly character Madame Thénardier in 'Les Misérables'.

Of all the venues she has played in the West End, the Royal Albert Hall was her favourite. The acoustics she said were just amazing and here she had headlined with Jonathan Cohen as part of Raymond Gubbay's Christmas Festival.

Sophie has been nominated in the Olivier Awards for both best supporting actress in 'Lend Me a Tenor' and as one of the leading actresses in 'The Girls'.

She is a regular guest artiste on Radio2's Friday Night is Music Night. Her one-woman show 'From Classic to Coward to Current' has been performed in London, New York, and Los Angeles.

Her talk was lively and entertaining, and thoroughly engaging. Lots of questions were raised in the chat and Sophie answered them with humour and honesty. Through these questions she gave us an insight into what was involved from the starting point of auditioning for a part, through first meetings with the rest of the cast, rehearsals and finally performing in front of an audience.

From her delivery it is easy to see Sophie loves her life on stage, and the profession seems to match her enthusiastic character perfectly.

Thank you, Amanda, Annette, and Barbara.

By Sue Ingram and Pam Abdee - Petts Wood Evening WI

BREDHURST WI

Bredhurst WI had a group perform at their WI and invited in additional visitors. It went down very well. Just thought it may be useful to circulate what they are currently doing for your awareness.

Checkout—Applause Rural Touring website. There are weekly poetry readings on line and other entertainment is available. You can book them for Zoom meetings or hopefully will be available to attend your WI meeting. Rosemary Tidby.

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY

HARTLEY WI

Hartley WI was due to celebrate its 100th birthday this year, but sadly this special event party was cancelled due to Lockdown restrictions.

We had planned several special events and outings but these are now on hold. However we haven't stopped marking this special year.

We are making a display of sunflowers on the Green in Hartley, to commemorate our centenary. We will also be providing a commemorative bench to be placed there as well as planting a flowering tree close by.



Our President challenged members to knit 100 blankets for the homeless which we have now exceeded, nearing 150. Some of these have gone to London charities, Folkestone as well as a local charity.

All members received a small birthday

cake and garden voucher to celebrate our Centenary.

In Lockdown, we continue to meet each month, with a designated speaker on Zoom. Learning to adapt to new technologies has been a steep learning curve for us all, but has enabled us to be connected. As well as monthly meetings, we are keeping in touch with our cascading telephone system with weekly quizzes and chats on Zoom. Our Book Club is now there too.

Our friendly visitor insures those who are unwell are supported with a visit, card and flowers as appropriate. Sadly we have lost one long-standing member Marian Kneller who will be missed for her humour and commitment to the arts. Living in a small village means members can often be seen on their daily walks with friendly conversations heard at a distance. Some of our members are self-isolating so welcome a wave or a chat from a garden fence.

Meanwhile in our absence our village hall is being redecorated and new curtains will adorn the windows. We are looking forward to our next celebration, when we can meet again we will be in for a treat.



DETLING WI

During the very strange times of lockdown our small Detling WI have kept in touch and positive. Our President Ann Spain has produced a wonderful monthly Lockdown News which always includes her 'special personal touch' Once WKN stopped being available she printed a copy for every member to receive along with her monthly delivery. The Committee have ensured all members are phoned regularly and given support in any way they can. The photo showing Ann and Shirley on our



doorstep was one highlight and the other photo of Ann, Mary, and Shirley with our

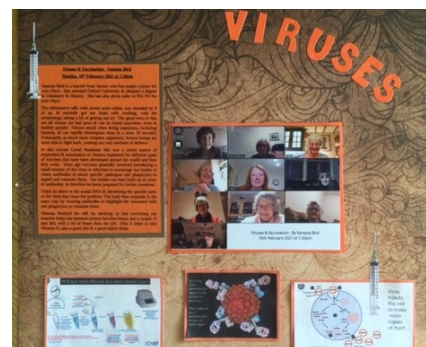
contribution to our village event was another. We may only have 16 members but are one happy WI Family and do our best to keep smiling and help others.

Kathy Tanton

'Hadlow Highlights'



From the beginning of January right through to nearly the end of February we have had wind, rain, and snow, so it was a good job we didn't have to go outdoors to meet together and were able to continue to meet up indoors via Zoom. We celebrated the Chinese New Year with making Origami dragons. Pancake Day saw us flipping a few pancakes, followed later in the evening with an informative and interesting talk by one of our members entitled 'Virus and Vaccinations'. A few of our members have al-



so joined in the fun of the weekly virtual walking netball sessions 'Wiggle and Giggle' run by England Netball. Alongside these activities, our ladies have been out for walks and several small groups have met virtually for coffee and chat on a regular basis.

Shirley Ellis, Hadlow Committee Member.



OBITUARIES

Boughton Monchelsea WI was saddened to hear of the sudden death of

BRIDGET SMITH at her home in Calne. Bridget was a member of our WI for many years before her move to Wiltshire and will be fondly remembered by many of our older ladies and by her friends in the village.

It is with sadness that **St Michael's WI** announces the death of **JANET PRICHETT**. She had been a long standing active committee member of High Halden WI until it closed in 2018. St Michael's WI was then lucky to get to know this thoughtful and caring lady who will be missed by many.

Detling WI is very sad to announce the death of a past member who is remembered with great fondness. **DOREEN BATCHELOR** passed away peacefully in the Home that had been her residence for many years. Doreen was our President, Secretary-Minute keeper and ran a very successful Scrabble Group and a very popular member and friend. Her funeral was on 15 March and we were able to wave goodbye from outside the house, socially distancing, before the family held their small service. Our condolences to her children and family.

Deepdene WI Welling are very sad to inform you of the passing of two of our lovely members, **QUEENIE WILLING** and **HAZEL WADE**. Both such happy and smiling ladies we will miss them greatly and our love and thoughts go out to their families and friends.

It is with deep sadness that members of **Rowhill WI** announce the death of one of its founder members, **DOROTHY KNIGHT** Dot, as she was known to everyone was a past President and a regular committee member for many years and District Craft Rep (when we still had a District). She was a talented seamstress and active member of Rowhill's Drama Group and made many of the costumes. Dot was a much-loved member of the Institute and will be greatly missed by all. Our thoughts are with her husband Ron and daughters Christine and Gillian at this sad time.

It is with sadness that **Hartley Evening WI** reports that one of our beloved members, **MARIAN KNELLER** has passed away after struggling with illness for many years. Marian always actively joined our events and willing to support the committee in many ways. Her friendship and smile will be sorely missed by all members, we send our condolences to Marian's family.

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ARTICLES—YOUR EVENTS

Articles, your events, congratulations and obituaries. If possible email direct to westkentnews@wkfwi.org.uk. If not, please post to our Ethel Hunt Address, see top of page two. Please no more than 150 words and two photographs. Items will be included as space allows..

Thank you to all the WI knitters who answered the call, posted as a pattern in WI mailboxes, for warm knitted hats.

Over 85 hats also gloves and scarves have come in and Carol Gupwell has passed the items onto groups in Maidstone who help out needy families and also the Street Pastors who go around at the weekends and talk, late at night, with troubled people around the town Some of



the knitted items are in the photo, together with food donations for Hungry Hearts for the Homeless.

Caroline Davis