



WEST KENT WI NEWS

July 2021

WEST KENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Federation Chairman
Jane Backshall**



**Top: Amanda Breach and Barbara
Bickell
Bottom: Sarah Sudlow and Rita King**



**Top to bottom: Caroline Davis
Gill Brown, Geraldine Martin
Gillian Neville**



Paula Bates and Carol Gupwell

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Hello ladies

I hope life is getting a little easier for you all now the better weather is here and we can meet in open spaces.

There is a lot going on at the office, I hope you like the front page of the News Letter! Our new member of staff Keeley is dragging us into the 21st century with a new look Facebook page and a new look Web site. Have you seen them? Keeley works Tuesday through to Friday the same as Miz, our Federation Secretary, if you wish to speak to her.

Thank you for sending in information and pictures for the WKN, keep it up we like to know what you have been up to and I am sure other WIs like to see too.

Have you noticed the new name for Home Economics – LIFESTYLE- much more modern don't you think?

Now about information. Some of you have told us we send out too much to your mailbox. Most of what we send you comes from National so we are obliged to pass it on ASAP. But we have decided to trial just sending information out on a Friday UNLESS it is on a time limit. Let us know what you think please.

Have you heard of digital Voice? Well Derek and I have! We have been digitalised by BT with our phones and no longer have any cable. We did not ask to be done it just happened. Well it's coming to the office, so there are going to be changes with our phones and computers, watch this space! One good thing, we will be able to tell when people have rung up using the answer phone and we will be able to record all conversations on the phone because, believe it or not, sometimes people can be rude.

In spite of the setbacks in reopening the country we still hope to get going sooner than later so please look on the WKNs for Dates.

One event not mentioned, because we do not have a confirmed date, is a Zoom Meeting free to members about Breast Care in West Kent featuring one of the Breast Care Nurses from The Peggy Wood Unit at Maidstone Hospital. This will be in October which is Breast Care month I do hope you will be able to watch.

The newest member of staff at Ethel Hunt Lodge:

Keeley Smart,
Systems
Administrator



We would be delighted to see anyone who is passing the office so long as you have a mask, so please call in.

Jane
Backshall

Treasurer's Corner



Usually at this time of year I would be writing out to provide details of the WI insurance and the contribution expected from your WI towards the renewal premium. As previously mentioned the Federation is going to cover the whole cost of the premium this year and therefore, no payment will be required from WI's.

However, as a reminder the cover provided is:

Public and Product liability

This provides cover up to £5,000,000.

As well as public liability cover provided by this policy your meeting hall should have its own and depending on the circumstances it might be their policy that would come into play for any accident occurring on their premises, providing all health and safety advice has been followed. Theft of member's personal items at a meeting is a 'grey area' and would depend on the insurance held by the hall.

Meetings taking place outside and away from the hall are covered. The insurance covers outings so long as it is within the geographical limits of the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

Your WI is covered for any claims arising as a result of homemade goods and goods provided or sold at your meetings and other events you may run in the future. Please be aware that this only applies if the sale of such goods is completely under the control of and your WI retains 100% of the profits.

If a member is selling produce independently of the WI and then donating a percentage of their sales to you then they should check with their existing home and contents insurance provider to ensure they are suitably covered.

If you need a copy of the public liability certificate please contact the office who can email or post a copy to you.

Money and Malicious Attack

Each WI is covered for the sum of £1,500 against forceful violent entry or exit.

The Treasurer should pay all monies into the bank as soon as possible after receipt. Any money being held by any member other than the Treasurer, for whatever reason, is not covered by the insurance.

Next year the Federation will revert back to the normal method of calculating the premium – pro rata calculation based on the WI's number of members.

Gillian Neville



WI ADVISERS

Carol Gupwell 01622 676600

It's now 18 months since we have been together.

What a time we have had. I have attended many Annual Meetings and I have to say how inspiring YOU ladies are. The enthusiasm that I have witnessed, although on Zoom, has been tangible.

So many lovely comments have come from Members praising their WI President and Committee.

For all who have taken on New Roles this year, remember WIAs are here to help and support you.

There are Training sessions for all Officers over the next few months. So for now let's enjoy meeting fellow members in whatever safe way we can. Every time a new announcement is made the Hokey Cokey Song pops into my head....

Keep safe

Carol Gupwell

Membership Chair

ART AND CRAFT



Paula Bates 01892 327863

artcraft@wkfwi.org.uk

The Federation Art & Craft Sub-committee is looking for additional members to join our friendly team. It is fun and full of interest, so if you are enthusiastic about any type of art or craft and would like to help arrange workshop days, speakers and art and craft events, then please get in touch. We trial a variety of tutors for workshops to see if they will be suitable for our members and then aim to put on several different types of art and craft workshops through the year for members to try new skills, as well as organising speakers for our Annual Days and joining with other committees for arranging Federation events.

The committee usually meets five times a year at Ethel Hunt Lodge; however, we have been meeting through the past year on Zoom, while looking forward to a time when we can restart in person activities. We also had one art and craft talk for the Federation on Zoom this year.

We welcome fresh ideas, and if you think this might be for you please join our next committee meeting as an observer on Thursday July 8th, probably still on Zoom, with no obligation.

Please contact me, Paula Bates, Art & Craft Sub-committee Chair, at:

brian.paula@btinternet.com

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.

EAST PECKHAM WI COMMITTEE 2021-2022

Our Membership stands at 61. Following our Annual Meeting in May we are delighted to welcome four new Members onto the Committee – Now we are 11!

Although we have enough for a cricket or football team we will carry on doing the best for our Members.

This was our first meeting in the garden of our President, Sian Stoner. The bees were buzzing and so were we with ideas for the coming year.

Glynis Cheverton
Secretary East Peckham WI





Green Team

greenteam@wkfwi.org.uk

Keep it simple—make your own

Most of us, on our shelves, possess a bank of products designed to keep us, our clothes and houses, clean and lovely. What if we could replace all these with a few simple natural products to do the same job? Saving us money and more importantly removing some of the harshest manmade ingredients which are unkind to the environment and possibly our health.

Here are some ingredients, easily available, which have many uses.

--**White vinegar**—101 uses, it's versatile as a cleaning agent, acidic so it neutralises grease, fights mould, is a disinfectant, bleach and deodoriser. Add a few drops of scented oil if the smell is not liked.

--**Lemon juice**—nature's own bleach and disinfectant.

--**Bicarbonate of soda**—alkaline, a mild abrasive, excellent as a cleaner and disinfectant.

--**Salt**—has an abrasive action, particularly effective with lemon juice.

--**Washing soda**—softens hard water, used to remove stubborn stains from laundry, dissolved in hot water is a grease solvent for drains.

--**Eucalyptus oil**—useful as a disinfectant and an insect repellent. Treats stains on carpets and fabrics.

--**Castile soap**—a completely natural soap made from olive oil and coconut with many uses for cleaning everything and everyone!

Once you have these basics, here are a few ideas for their use—

Use white vinegar to descale the kettle, unclog your shower head in a small bowl of vinegar, use diluted to clean windows, use neat to wipe surfaces and soak cloths, keep cut flowers fresh longer by adding tsp of vinegar and tsp sugar, and help growth for acid-loving plants.

Use Bicarb to remove smells in pet bedding, microwaves, fridges.

Lots of ideas in 'Natural Stain Removal' by Angela Martin, and on www.dri-pak.co.uk

I've been wet felting....bowls! I love the process which is long, slow and physical. The result, which is somewhat random, can be planned to a certain extent as in my 'fish bowls' but there is an element of exciting unpredictability. Lately I'm working on the contour of the bowls with Meditation All stitch, Sashiko, Zen patterns and applying the Japanese technique of Boro.

Instagram@alisonwripley



Alison Ripley
Petts Wood WI

A reminder from NFWI

Resolution debate recording

After a successful hybrid Annual Meeting, the recording of the speeches and debate on the proposed resolution on ovarian cancer is now available to watch on the WI's YouTube channel.

You can access the recording here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heHfbIDSVVI>

Reminder: Resolution voting

We would also like to remind you of the voting deadline on 9 July at 5pm. Please remind your Link Delegates to reach out to the WIs they represent in order to obtain their votes and submit them via the voting platform by the deadline.

All Link Delegates and Federation Representatives should have received voting instructions via email.

If you or any of your Link Delegates have not yet received their voting information, please ask them to double-check their junk inbox before contacting the Public Affairs team.

The outcome of the vote will be announced in the August mailing and in the September issue of *WI Life*.

If you have any questions about the resolutions process or NFWI campaigns, please get in touch with the Public Affairs Department via email (pa@nfwf.org.uk) or phone (020 7371 9300 ext.238).

FEDERATION DARTS TOURNAMENT 2021/2022

We thank the teams that were waiting patiently to finally finish the 2019/20 tournament. However, the PALS committee decided that as Covid restrictions had progressed the best decision was in fact to call a halt to that tournament and issue a new challenge to our WI Darts Teams. The £8 per team fee paid will be carried forward to a new tournament so that those who entered for 2019/20 will not be asked to pay again.

As this is being written at the end of April we can only hope that the plans for reducing restrictions will go ahead. Hopefully, the tournament this year will start from 1 September. You are invited to register your teams, of up to six players, as only four compete in each match this gives you two reserves. The named team members can only play for one WI and if your WI puts up two teams then you will require two sets of six names.

Please give the details as per the application box and include the name of the Captain and the other five team members. **Most important** please give the Captain's phone contact details and if possible, email address. If you are applying by email – then the tournament information will be returned by email unless a s.a.e. is also supplied.

In the 1st round you are put into areas depending on the number of entries, of four or five teams. You are representing your WI, not your Group, but we try and make sure that the earlier first round matches do not mean an excess of travel, our Federation covers a very large area!

If you want to be known by a team name, especially if you are entering more than one team, that would be great. Please return your applications and all details by **30 July** and we can send out the information for play, in the first round, to commence hopefully by 1 September and matches to be played by end of December 2021.

Please refer to the June edition of WKN for application form.

TASTER AFTERNOON FOR BEGINNER BOWLS

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE*****Wednesday 4 August*****

At Horton Kirby Bowling Club, Horton Road, South Darenth DA4 9AX
1.45pm for 2pm start. Members only £8.00 (includes a cream tea).

Have you ever thought that you might like to join a local bowling club but was unsure, of the way the game was played, whether you might enjoy it or not? Well, this is your opportunity, without being embarrassed, to be gently coached and advised on the rules of the game.

You and your fellow WI members will be welcomed with a hot beverage and will listen to a brief outline about the game of bowling. Club members will loan bowls, at no charge, for you to use. Then divided into groups of six, each with a bowls club member as a guide to assist, play will commence. If more than 36 members apply then the group would be split into two sessions of about an hour long. Depending on how things progress a small match could be played to finish off the afternoon.

What to wear? Anything that you are comfortable in, bearing in mind that there will be some bending and stretching involved, Footwear? Flat soled shoes only please. There is also a bar on site where you can purchase various soft and alcoholic drinks at reasonable prices.

This is for beginners only, perhaps next year we can run an event for experienced bowlers to enjoy, this year's beginner will be next year's player!

Please apply to Shirley Ellis, by email if possible, by Monday 19 July. If not please supply a sae—thank you.

TASTER AFTERNOON FOR BEGINNER BOWLS

Wednesday 4 August Members only £8.00

WI: Contact Name:.....

Address:.....

Phone No: Email:.....

Please Apply to: Shirley Ellis, Email: shirleyellis@yahoo.com Tel No: 01732 382751

Address: 17 Cranford Road, Tonbridge, TN10 4HL

Closing Date Monday 19 July

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

Sarah Sudlow—sarahsudlow300@gmail.com

Following the resignation of Eileen Vago, as chairman of the Home Economics committee, myself, Sarah Sudlow, and Barbara Bickell have taken up the reins and hope to make the annual days as successful as Eileen did. Tough act to follow. The changes don't stop there; from now on Home Economics will be known as "Lifestyle". This change was a unanimous vote by the committee. We are hoping that this will give us a broader spectrum of speakers to draw from to enlighten and entertain us for those all important days.

We look forward to welcoming you in person (Covid Restrictions permitting) on Tuesday 21 September 2021.

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

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).



The speakers will be:

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.

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.

West Kent Federation Zoom Talk given by Sarah Keith-Lucas on Weather Forecasting

On 25 May I logged into the West Kent Federation Zoom Talk given by Sarah Keith-Lucas on Weather Forecasting. This covered the history of forecasting and what the science tells us about the future. Sarah is a BBC meteorologist and presenter. She was inspired by her geography teacher and went on to join the Meteorology Office in Exeter in 2007 and joined the BBC Weather Centre in 2008. She presents the forecasts on radio and television for the whole of the UK and for the world service. Her talk covered the science and the observations taken from a network of weather stations across the UK. The observations include temperature, dew point, wind strength and direction, pressure, cloud cover, precipitation and visibility. Satellite images and radar are sent to the Met office agencies and a powerful computer making 16,000 trillion calculations per second is also used to prepare the charts that we see on the television.

The world's first published forecast was in 1861 by Robert Fitzroy. From 1922 the forecast was on BBC radio and the first live TV weather forecast was in 1954. 1975 saw magnetic symbols used on the weather maps and in 1985 computerised graphics were used.

There are ten meteorologists at the BBC, working shifts, making 120 broadcasts per day, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They do not use an autocue in the studio, sometimes using a green screen or a plasma screen.

Sarah herself has taken part in some memorable outside broadcasts such as the London Olympics, from Durham Cathedral, a Spitfire and Prince Harry's wedding at Windsor.

The talk then changed to climate change and what we can do to slow this down. In the past 150 years the temperature has risen by 1.2 degrees from pre-industrial levels. The Arctic ice is melting and temperatures in Siberia are now 10 degrees above normal. The level of sea ice is getting lower. We are still getting cold winters, such as 2017/2018 with the beast from the east but 2018 was the hottest summer and in 2019 a temperature of 38.7 was recorded in Cambridge. Warming of the oceans increases moisture in the atmosphere which fuels tropical storms and makes the weather more unpredictable. There are a lot of things we can do to slow this down the change, use less energy, water, fuel and one thing we can do is to change to a green energy supplier.

At the end of her talk Sarah answered questions from the participants, such as how accurate can the long term forecast be. Between 5-14 days can be fairly accurate. A question was asked about old sayings about forecasting, such as red sky at night and this one is generally accurate.

It was an interesting and informative talk and for a long time I have been interested in weather forecasting, particularly the shipping forecast, as it helps us make informed decisions on whether to go to sea or not.

Ann Marsh
Matfield WI

Poets corner

HOLIDAYS

Remember those wonderful holidays,
We had in days gone by?
Full of sand and sea, boats, and kids
Under a beautiful, clear blue sky.
We were in and out of the water,
Our costumes were always wet.
We had winkles for tea, or maybe shrimps,
That we caught in a great big net.
The band played on the promenade,
In a bandstand filled with chairs
It was 2p to sit or nothing to stand,
While the music filled our ears.
There were marches and waltzes, polkas, and swing,

Or maybe a bandsman would get up and sing.
We could lift up our voices and sing with delight,
Keeping it going far into the night.
There were donkeys walking along the sands,
And pierrots on the pier.
With joy and happiness all around
And never a thing to fear.
The world is such a different place now,
The din beats on your ears,
How I wish I could transport myself
Back to those yesteryears.

Joan Shaw (No WI shown)

*Featured in A Miscellany of Poems by West Kent
Members 1999*

PETTS WOOD EVENING WI. Our WI is so very lucky to have a President with a beautiful large garden full of fabulous flowers which she has been happy to share with our members during lockdown. When permitted, we have been welcomed to the garden, six at a time, to have an hour and sometimes a little longer drinking tea and coffee with biscuits and cake and sometimes the odd sausage or bacon sandwich. Having a chat with other members, many of whom we have not seen for some months, has been a real tonic, and I'm sure it can be said that we talked for England! Sitting there in such lovely surroundings it was almost possible to forget the bad things going on in the outside world.

Sue Scrase

Petts Wood Evening WI



TRICIA ASHDOWN

ACWW

triciaashdown@yahoo.co.uk

A Water Project in India manages to go ahead in spite of the pandemic giving 755 families access to clean water.

West Kent is supporting Water and Sanitation projects this year, and a project to provide safe water to 5 villages in the Tamil Nadu region of Southern India that will benefit 755 families has been making good progress. Although Covid 19 and the strict lockdown measures in place in India interrupted the project's implementation, most of the project has now been completed.



Local villagers completing one of the run-offs from the pumps and rinsing the sign showing ACWW as the sponsor and WORD as the installer.

The project was put forward by the Women's Organisation for Rural Development (WORD) and funded by ACWW. WORD has involved the adult members of the communities in the decision making, and local villagers assisted with the location of the borewells to ensure that each well was located on accessible public land and close enough to the village to ensure that women and girls can collect water safely.

As well as providing the borewells, WORD provided training to seven volunteers from each village, 35 in total, so that they can maintain the pumps. The communities were also provided with tree saplings to utilize water spillage from the pumps providing shade and shelter once the trees grow.

Three more Water and Sanitation projects were funded by ACWW recently, and your continued support for these types of projects is helping women from the poorest countries gain access to clean water.

Tricia Ashdown, ACWW Rep

triciaashdown@yahoo.co.uk

DETLING WI have just voted for their new President. (Mary West.. On the left)

Ann Spain their retiring President has actually held the post for an amazing 17 years 4 months.

Ann has been a President to be proud of.

Kathy Tanton

Secretary Detling WI



Hadlow Highlights

The month of May saw us getting together in small groups of six to enjoy tea and cake in each others gardens. The weekly Walk and Talk around the village of Hadlow has been resumed and we've held two Zoom events, one a film review evening, where we reviewed 8 different films, including Goodbye Christopher Robin, Local Hero, Summer Holiday, Gone with the Wind, Star Wars, Shrek, Dr Zhivago and The Belles of St Trinians. The other was a Hapa Zome demonstration given by one of our members. **Hapa Zome** is a Japanese word meaning 'leaf dye' and is given to the process of transferring the natural pigments from leaves and flowers by way of a hammer or stone onto fabric or paper to create a botanical image.



Shirley Ellis
Committee member

Bearsted Green WI meeting in May on the green.



Bearsted Green WI walking group



On a recent walk through Leeds Castle footpaths



CLOSING DATE REMINDERS

Lady Denman Cup Competition.

Friday 30 July.

See March WKN or your copy of WI Life.

Huxley Cup Friday 27 August.

See April WKN or your copy of WI Life.

FEDERATION NOTICE BOARD

List of Speakers

We are very sorry to report that one of our speakers, Alison Ellman-Brown, has sadly passed away. We would be grateful if you could remove her details.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JULY	Tues	6	Paddle Boarding	Mote Park
AUG	Wed	4	Beginners Bowls	Horton Kirby
SEPT	Tues	21	Lifestyle Annual Day	Ditton
SEPT	18-26		Great Big Green Week	

OCT	Weds	6	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton
OCT	Thur	7	Art & Craft Annual Day	Ditton
NOV	Tues	2	Annual Whist Day	Ryarsh
NOV	Thurs	4	Annual Whist Day	Lenham

All activities subject to any change in Covid restrictions.



OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that **Joydens Wood WI** announce the death of **JOYCE**

READFORD after a long battle with ill health. Joyce was a long standing member and served on the Committee for many years. She was an excellent cook and liked to be involved in everything happening in the WI. She enjoyed playing darts and organised our team. Joyce was a lovely lady and she will be missed by all her friends. Our thoughts are with her family at this very sad time.

Rochester WI regret to announce that **IRIS SMITH** has sadly passed away. Iris was a long standing member of the WI and a lovely lady. She will be very much missed by all her friends.

Ryarsch WI members were sad to hear of the death of **JANE WILLIAMS** on the 18 May 2021. Jane was a longstanding member, who will be missed by her family, friends and members of Ryarsch WI.

CONGRATULATIONS

The members of **ROWHILL WI** send their warmest congratulations to **VERONICA and CLIVE FREELAND** who celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 17 July 2021

CONGRATULAIONS to **JAN ALDOUS** from **Rainham Evening WI** on becoming The Mayor of Medway



WHO TO CONTACT

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Email: chair@wkfwi.org.uk

FEDERATION TREASURER:

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

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ARTICLES—YOUR EVENT

Articles, your events. Please no more than 150 words and two photographs. Congratulations and Obituaries-no more than 40 words. If possible email direct to westkentnews@wkfwi.org.uk

If not, please post to our Ethel Hunt Address, see top of page two.

Items will be included as space allows.

The **NFWI** is getting involved in the Great Big Green Week this September—a national week of events celebrating climate action! You could organise a community stall, a park clean up or get together to do some planting in your local area.

Find out more at <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/et-involved/>

18—26 September

