

# THE COUNTRYWOMAN

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2014

## Women Walked the World for ACWW

11 PAGE  
WALK REPORT  
SEE PAGE 8

**Women make a difference at  
the European Area Conference**

**ACWW's ardent supporter  
celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> birthday**

Reg Charity No. 290367





COVER: Ceredigion Federation of WI, Women Walk the World. See page 8

**ACWW Connects & Supports Women & Communities Worldwide**

The Countrywoman, distributed to over 70 countries worldwide, is the magazine of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), NGO Official partner of UNESCO

**Named in 1933 by Mrs Alfred Watt, MBE, MA First President, ACWW**



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**DEADLINES**

Please note the following deadlines for submitting articles and photographs to the Editor for 'The Countrywoman'.

January-March: **November 1st**  
April-June: **February 1st**  
July-September: **May 1st**  
October-December: **August 1st**

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THE EDITOR'S DECISION ON ACCEPTANCE IS FINAL

**WORLD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Left- Ruth Shanks AM at ACWW's Central Office in London wearing a Women Walk the World t-shirt. Above- Ruth Shanks AM (fourth left) with some Central Office staff, from left to right: Manisha Vora; Christine Ro; previous Operations Manager, Sandra Golding; Laura Hoskins & Mariana Meirelles. Outside Westminster Abbey, London

**HELLO AGAIN**

IT HAS BEEN a very busy time since I last put pen to paper (so to speak) and there seems to have been a great deal going on.

Firstly we have had a further change of staff in Central Office and we now have Patricia Collins, also known as Tish, as the Operations Manager. Tish commenced work on 19th May and has been running ever since, with the other staff members willing to help her find her feet. Welcome Tish!

Christine Ro, Agriculture and UN Administrator, has decided to move on and finished work in early June, with Amit Patel, the Finance Manager moving to working part time. We are hoping that the staff will now be stable and we can "get on with the work of ACWW". At the Board and Committee meetings, the Board agreed on the change of name for the Promotion and Publications Committee, on the recommendation of its Chair. This Committee will now be known as the Communications and Marketing Committee, which more reflects the work they do. After the Board meetings I flew to New York and attended some events at the United Nations' (UN) 'Commission on the Status of Women' (CSW), accompanied by our UN Committee Chair, Sharon Hatten. This was a great learning experience and I now feel I have more knowledge on how we work with the UN. The next Board meeting has been moved back a week later in March 2015 to enable ACWW's UN Committee to have their Committee meeting in New York and also to attend some of the CSW meetings, along with any other Board members who wish to attend.

On my return home I was invited to speak with some year 5 and year 6 children in Dubbo, as part of the International work of Country Women Association of New



Ruth Shanks AM speaking to children in Dubbo, as part of the International work of Country Women Association

South Wales. This association studies a different country each year and this year it is Botswana, but they also use this time to be involved in and learn about ACWW.

Next on the agenda was Women Walk the World. I hope this was a successful event in your area. I would like to thank you all for the experience and for promoting ACWW. I actually got to do two walks, firstly on 25th April with my branch in Dubbo and then with the Central Office staff in London on the actual day, 29th April. The staff had been very keen to be involved and organised t-shirts etc, which we wore. Walking around Parliament Square, we handed out leaflets to the public. This was followed by lunch in the office, which the staff provided. This walk happened as I was spending two days in Central Office on my way to attend the European Area Conference in Bergen, Norway.

The European Area Conference was the first Area Conference I attended this year and it was a great event. Congratulations to its Area President, Valerie Stevens and to the organising Committee from the Norwegian Association for the wonderful programme, which was informative. The 'day out' in Bergen was lovely and we saw a little of the area. Well done, ladies!

However, the thing that was foremost at the Conference was the difficulty in understanding everything that was said for those who didn't speak English as their first language. One of the delegates from a non-English speaking country stated that having all the debates in the one session, or one day, made it very tiring and totally exhausting as they struggle to take it all in. We will try and take this into account when organising the programme for the Conference in Warwick in 2016. Finally, ACWW will be collaborating with another charity called Salt of the Earth (SOTE) on a campaign called 'Tea Time' to celebrate International Day of Rural Women in October 2014. This campaign will bring people all over the world together to drink tea and raise money to improve the lives of women living in rural poverty. Please see inside this issue for more details.

A quote from Benjamin Franklin to end this column: "Lost time is never found again"

Cheers

*Ruth*  
**Ruth Shanks AM**



**ACWW NEWS**

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ACWW European Area Conference raises £1,360.82 for PFF

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**CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS**

**ACWW Welcomes Tish Collins as new Operations Manager**

I AM DELIGHTED to be joining ACWW at such an exciting stage in its development; everyone has made me feel very welcome. My first act was to meet Kate from Salt of the Earth and get involved with the 'Tea Time' fundraising and awareness campaign featured in this issue (see centre page). Two very productive days have been spent in detailed discussions with the Ad Hoc Legal Structure and Governing Document Review Committee – an excellent way to become familiar with the Constitution!

I have also attended my first meetings of the Finance and Executive Committees, which proved an ideal introduction to the organisation and its workings.

**I have come from** the position of Director of Fundraising at Lichfield Cathedral and was previously Chief Executive of the London Irish Women's Centre, and of an educational charity before that. My first degree was in Economics and I have an MSc in Agricultural Economics, which was followed by some years at the headquarters of the National Farmers' Union, an interesting and eclectic career path that I hope will bring useful skills to the organisation.

**Tish Collins, Operations Manager**

**WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN THIS ISSUE**

**There is so much to read** in this July - September 2014 issue. For example on page 5 read about how the FAO, World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development – met to discuss what should replace the MDGs after 2015. On page 6 read highlights from the European Area Conference in Norway and finally, don't forget to check out this year's Women Walk the World articles starting from page 8. Enjoy...!

**Jennifer Atigolo, Editor**

**SAVE THE DATE**

World/Triennial Conference 18th-24th August 2016 - Warwick, England  
Details to follow

## EDITOR'S GUIDE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES & PHOTOS

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

#### Submitting Articles

It is very important when submitting articles, to make sure all the information contained is correct i.e. dates, times, amounts collected and the number of people who have attended your event or conference.

Also, please make sure that names of attendees mentioned in your article are spelt correctly, as well as names of groups and organisations. Please make sure to include all the groups featured in your article, if they have donated money, taken part or helped to organise your event or conference. If we do not know who the people are, we will assume that the names provided are correctly spelt. We will also assume that your submitted written article is accurate (**please note articles may be edited**).

#### Submitting Photos

It is very important when submitting digital photos via email, that they are high resolution 300dpi, or are a good high gloss print if you decide to send them by post.

It is also very important to provide clearly written full names of all the people who appear in the photos, from left to right. It would also be helpful to have a short caption of where the photo was taken. Please ensure that the names are spelt correctly and that the correct photo goes with the correct names and caption. As previously stated, if we do not know who the people are, we will assume that the names provided are accurate. (**please note photos may be altered**).

**Please follow these instructions, as ACWW cannot accept any responsibility for inaccurate articles or mislabelled photos.**

## ACWW EUROPEAN AREA CONFERENCE RAISES £1,360.82 FOR PENNIES FOR FRIENDSHIP!

**Margaret McMillan** reported that the Woolly hat competition, Bring & Buy sale as well as donations to "Pennies for Friendship" held at this year's European Area Conference in Norway, showed the support of Europe for ACWW. Thanks go to Elizabeth Rusdal Chairman and the organising Committee of the Norwegian Family Association for facilitating all the fundraising (see page 6).



## THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Alison Burnett, ACWW Finance Committee Chair & Treasurer

**All of the following** have been mentioned previously but need to be repeated if we are to help reduce ACWW's costs!

**Email Addresses:** It is vital for ACWW to have email addresses of all our Societies and Individual members. ACWW can relay information to you and receive your responses far quicker. (I realise that not everyone has easy access to the internet but, if you have even one email address which you can use to receive your emails please let us know). Apart from saving time it will also reduce the cost of sending information to you quite substantially.

**PayPal:** If you are already a member, please use PayPal to renew your membership subscriptions wherever possible. This should make it cheaper for people from abroad paying their subscriptions especially if you are sending individual renewals. You do not have to have your own PayPal account to use PayPal.

If you cannot use PayPal, wherever possible, consider combining with other members in your Society or Federation to send one cheque, or one payment through the bank and send Central Office a note of the breakdown. This will help ACWW reduce the amount they pay in bank charges.

**Please note:** If you know of any Individual member or Society who have not already renewed their subscription for 2014, please let them know that they may find that their membership has lapsed. To reinstate this and continue to receive the magazine, please ask them to contact ACWW's Central Office as soon as possible.

As well as renewing membership subscriptions, PayPal will be used in the near future to pay in donations e.g. Pennies for Friendship (PFF), Women Walk the World, or any individual donations.

**Life Membership:** Life membership stopped over 20 years ago. I would like to encourage those Life Members who are not already individual members to consider doing this. It will cost £20 a year and can be paid online using PayPal at [http://www.acww.org.uk/get\\_involved/become\\_a\\_member](http://www.acww.org.uk/get_involved/become_a_member)

**Gift Aid for UK Tax Payers:** The Gift Aid scheme set up in the UK allows people who pay tax to increase any donation they make to a charity by 20%, at no extra cost to themselves. The minimum you need to do is fill in an ACWW Gift Aid declaration with your name, address and postcode. The taxpayer needs to be aware that they are not 'gift aiding' more than they would pay in tax in any one year. I would encourage all UK members to go online to [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk) members and download one of our Gift Aid forms. Any questions on Gift Aid please visit <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/individuals/giving/gift-aid.htm>.

**Pennies for Friendship (PFF):** PFF is an unrestricted fund used to carry out all the aims and activities of ACWW – see the Constitution for more info – without this fund ACWW would not exist. At the recent European Area Conference held in Bergen, a very successful Bring & Buy Stall & Hat competition was held (see Margaret McMillan's report). Over £1,300 was added to ACWW PFF; I would encourage all Area Conferences to do some events to raise funds for PFF.

**Women Walk the World:** If you haven't already sent in your money from this event please do so as soon as it is practical for your society. If you did not manage to walk on ACWW Day you can still do this walk any time. Please use the opportunity to promote ACWW and if you are able to raise any funds for ACWW that is a welcome boost for PFF.

## MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS USING ONLINE BANKING

Account: **Associated Country Women of the World**  
Account number: **01244108**  
Sort Code: **56-00-33**  
Branch: **Westminster**  
Bank: **National Westminster Bank, 57 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0HP**  
Swift code: **NWB KGB 2L**  
IBAN number: **GB67NWBK 56003301244108**

## FAO & OTHER AGENCIES IDENTIFY TARGETS TO REPLACE MDGs



IN APRIL 2014, the three Rome-based agencies that deal with food, agriculture and rural development – the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development – met to discuss what should replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) after 2015; below is an excerpt from an FAO news story discussing the meeting:

Representatives from the three Rome-based agencies not only stressed the need to finish the job of the MDGs that expires in 2015, but also to broaden their scope to address deeper issues of universal relevance like malnutrition, sustainable and inclusive food systems, and their inter-linkages. The three agencies identified a list of five targets:

- Access to adequate food all year round for all people.
- End malnutrition in all its forms with special attention to stunting.
- Make all food production systems more productive, sustainable, resilient and efficient.
- Secure access for all small food producers, especially women, to adequate inputs, knowledge, productive resources and services.
- More efficient post-production food systems that reduce the global rate of food loss and waste by 50 percent.

The UN Rome-based agencies emphasised that progress in these areas would have to come through innovative partnerships - among governments, with the private sector, with development institutions and with all members of society from producers to consumers. New governance mechanisms would also be needed to monitor impact, ensure accountability, and give different stakeholders a voice in decision-making. Attention was drawn to the important role in global food security of small-scale food producers, who needed to be at the centre of new investments and new partnerships for a hunger-free world.

### ZERO HUNGER

New targets are in line with the UN Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge,

which envisions a world where, within our lifetime, no one experiences chronic hunger and malnutrition. The work of the three Rome-based agencies has been consistently inspired by this shared vision. The agencies stressed that successes associated with the MDGs have been substantial in some areas, such as halving the number of people living in extreme poverty, dramatically increasing the number of people with access to safe drinking water, as well as boosting primary school enrolment. But the agencies emphasised that gains were by no means universal and much work still needed to be done, given that around 840 million people remain chronically hungry and that poverty continues to be pervasive in rural areas around the world.

The new development goals to be set by the UN General Assembly in 2015 should therefore be a catalyst towards the realisation of the right to adequate food, improved nutrition, gender equality, focus on smallholders and sustainable and resilient food systems.

Source: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/219078/icode/>

### UN COMMITTEE

## GENEVA TO NEW YORK



SHARON HATTEN UN Chair wrote: Recently I was able to travel to Geneva and New York after the London Board meetings. In Geneva, Joanna Koch, one of our UN Representatives in Geneva and I attended the Child Rights Connect (CRC) annual meeting. They had 80 members from all over the world. CRC (the NGO) works with the Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN body) to pursue the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It was 30 years ago that 20 NGO's

came together to influence the drafting of this document. Meg Berruex-Bryant was our ACWW representative on this NGO group at the time. The CRC continues to promote the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is a fundamental step to ensuring that children have the right to justice. The CRC study children's issues in thematic working groups, which include:

1. Children of incarcerated parents
2. Children without parental care
3. Children and violence
4. Mainstreaming child rights
5. Universal birth registration

Late in the afternoon, we met Dr Douglas William Bettcher, the Director of the Department for Prevention of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) at World Health Organisation (WHO), Geneva, Switzerland. NCDs include cancers, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes and cause 60% of all deaths each year. NCDs represent the biggest threat to women's health worldwide, increasingly impacting women during their most productive years. Common risk factors that can be modified by the individual include diet, physical activity, tobacco use and alcohol use. The key barriers to treatment for girls and women with NCDs are entrenched poverty, gender inequality, family responsibilities and health care systems that are not female responsive. Ban-Ki Moon described the NCD epidemic as a "public health emergency in slow motion".

We also met with Dr Veronica Magar, who is the team leader for Gender, Equality and Human Rights at WHO. Her role is to ensure that all WHO staff work with these three core values in mind and that gender, equality and human rights are reflected in the way WHO works and what it delivers. Joanna and the Alliance for Health Promotion (NGO Committee at WHO) will continue to liaise with these representatives.

On Saturday, Joanna and I took the train to Vers l'Eglise to visit Meg Berreux's daughter, Laure and pay tribute to our long serving rep who recently died. ACWW had a wonderful advocate and UN Representative who lived high in the Alps in a grand old farm house. She frequently travelled 1-2 hours each way by train to work on behalf of ACWW in Geneva. We had a lovely fondue lunch and a lovely relaxing day. Onto New York City to introduce the World President, Ruth Shanks AM to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The secretariat building is once again open after five years of renovations and removal of asbestos. As the CSW has several thousand delegates each year, it was nice to have the new conference rooms and more space. This year the commission's theme was 'Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for

## UN COMMITTEE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Women and Girls'. Many of the MDGs will not be met by the end of 2015 and this is especially troublesome for women and girls. The Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2020) will replace the MDGs and it is hoped that women and girls will still be a focus. Ruth and I attended government sessions and panel discussion and NGO presentations. Topics included: girls in technology, safety on the internet, the importance of women and her many roles in the family, the need for women in policy making roles, the importance

of safe cities, the importance of education, and finally how we need to think differently about traditional systems of education. One of the speakers emphasised that norms in a population take about 15-20 years to change. The steps in changing society norms are talking and discussion, advocacy to promote changing government policy, then advocacy and implementation at the society level. Next year's CSW promises to be a big event as the theme will be a 'Review of the Beijing Platform +20 years'.



Left to right: Ruth Shanks AM ACWW World President; Patricia Altshuler, ACWW UN Rep & Sharon Hatten, ACWW UN Chair

## EUROPEAN AREA CONFERENCE



VALERIE STEVENS ACWW's European Area President sent in a report on ACWW's European Area Conference, which was held in Bergen, Norway from 1st - 4th May 2014.

Valerie wrote: The six months of planning from October 2013 until the end of April 2014, with a Christmas break in between, came to fruition as members and friends registered in the foyer of the Scandic Hotel on one of the main streets of the delightful city of Bergen. Many old friendships were renewed and introductions made to new ones. With so short a time at our disposal, we enjoyed the first of the very generous meals provided by the hotel and then we were quickly down to business.

The organising Committee, Elisabeth Rusdal, Kristin Hansen and Christine Andreassen had done a marvellous job in providing not only excellent accommodation but also informative speakers from a wide range of backgrounds to address the theme of the conference 'Women Make a Difference'. We heard the strong Norwegian stance on women's and family rights and social integration from the responsible government minister, Solveig Horne, and then from the leader of a group within Bergen itself, which aims to integrate immigrants into the local society. We heard the inimitable voice of Ingunn Birkeland reminding us of ACWW's history, while urging us to continue to press for international rights for women through

## WOMEN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

the UN and its agencies. The standing ovation was a tribute to her personally, as well as for her contribution to ACWW's work over the years. The final conference speaker was Gro Linstad, the director of the Norwegian Fokus group, which embraces a range of women's organisations, all working with the same vision as ACWW. Her wide-ranging talk placed the work of ACWW into a worldwide context and showed us, if we doubted it for a moment, that the need remains but that change for the better is happening.

It was also our pleasure to hear members from our own organisations, from the Netherlands, Lithuania, the UK, Germany and Hungary when they spoke, often movingly, about their own experiences of ACWW and how women can make a difference, both in personal terms and within their own societies. The business day began with a quiet time of reflection, with music and readings, preparation for the busy world of reports and resolutions.

With four resolutions to be put before the delegates, while still allowing time for discussion, time was short. Resolutions on - sustainable energy sources, the regulation of the gold mining industry, the false health claims for fructose and the integration of gender perspectives into government policies, all received approval from the delegates present. Delegates were involved and concise in their comments. But what big issues they cover! We are clearly not afraid to be involved in criticism of big business, major investments companies and government policies. An emergency resolution urging a change of name for 'The Triennial Conference' to 'The World Conference, to be held every three years' was proposed and accepted.

We were delighted to have Ruth Shanks AM, ACWW World President as our guest. Her final address summing up the conference was positive and challenging - increase income and membership, use new methods of communication, be more accountable for what we do, involve the young, utilise our keen office staff and move the society into a more professional organisation, which can then involve itself with other charities, able to apply for funding from other sources. Another Member of the Board, Magdie de

Kock, Chair of the Communications and Marketing Committee, promoted the work and aims of the Committee in her address. She motivated members to take up Individual membership and encouraged them to make use of every opportunity to promote ACWW in their various countries. This report would not be complete without mentioning the wonderful, particularly Norwegian experiences; the excursion we had to the home of Edvard Greig for lunch and a tour of his house in its beautiful waterside setting; the young Norwegian dance group and musicians; the national dress of the Norwegian attendees and the drum and pipe band who escorted us as we went to the gala dinner.

The fundraising was amazing - over £1,000 raised and no-one will forget the delegates in their woolly hats - over 300 arrived for the competition, with the winning hat from Peru, submitted by a delegate from the Netherlands. How international can you get?

A full report is available online now at [http://www.acww.org.uk/area\\_europe](http://www.acww.org.uk/area_europe), together with the precise wording of the Resolutions, which will go forward to the next World Conference. So many people played a part in making Bergen a great Conference, some of whom have already received a mention either here, or in the Conference report. My special thanks must go to Liz Neale who worked hard throughout the Conference to make sure the report was full and accurate. Many thanks, Liz.





## CHANGE IS HAPPENING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN TAMIL NADU, INDIA

THE UK CHARITY Salt of the Earth works in partnership with the grassroots NGO 'Social Change and Development' (SCAD) to combat rural poverty through women's empowerment and leadership.

Long standing ACWW members, SCAD, have made outstanding progress in driving change in 550 villages in Tamil Nadu, India since 1985 by establishing and training Women's Self Help Groups.

SCAD's Founder and Chairman, Dr Cletus Babu and Head of Women's Development, Ms Sumathi, were delighted to be able to attend ACWW's 2013 Triennial Conference in Chennai, India. During the pre-conference workshop Ms Sumathi was able to share her practical field based knowledge and learn from other NGO participants. Like most development practitioners Salt of the Earth and SCAD have seen the correlation between empowering women and poverty alleviation. SCAD have now established and trained over 3,000 groups involving over 50,000 women who have become the main agents of change in their communities - working to increase income, reduce poverty and improve quality of life for their families and those around them.



To see how far these women have come is remarkable! Women like Ms Uthame (pictured above carrying a goat), who prior to joining a SCAD Women's Self Help Group in 2002 was unable to leave the house other than on temple festival holidays, have been transformed as a result of group membership.

Ms Uthame had no say in family finances or household decisions. Through her Women's Self Help Group she was introduced to the idea of generating an income through rearing cows and goats. She has made enough money over the past 12 years to be able to wed both her daughters, send her grandchildren to school, renovate her house and pay off her loans! Now a leader of her Women's Group she has become an ambassador in her community, an inspiration to others and respected by her husband. Contributing to the family income gave her the confidence and respect to be able to lift herself and her family from poverty. Using the successful Women's Group model, SCAD have now established and begun training adolescent girls groups in the villages. Adolescent girls, constituting nearly one tenth of the population, form an extremely important segment of society. However, in India, girls have been neglected and most of them reach adolescence through years of poverty, illiteracy, ignorance and lack of adequate nutrition / health care.

The core objective of SCAD's adolescent girls training is to create awareness on health problems, offer career and education guidance and provide a platform for vulnerable girls to share their concerns and receive counselling. The majority of adolescent girls in rural areas have anaemia; suffer from under nutrition; are poorly educated and have little control over their own lives. SCAD are working to address inequality and to give girls and women the confidence and respect to enable them to shape their own futures.

Salt of the Earth and SCAD share the same vision as ACWW, which is to improve

quality of life for rural women and girls across the world. They are thrilled to be working with ACWW on some exciting partnership projects, including an international 'Tea Time' campaign in October 2014. Watch this space! <http://www.salt-of-the-earth.org.uk>

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Photo credit Nimz food.com

**PECAN PIE MINI MUFFINS**  
Pharaba Campbell, Indiana USA

#### Ingredients

1 cup pecans, chopped  
1 cup brown sugar, firmly packed  
1/2 cup flour  
2 large eggs, beaten  
1/2 cup butter, melted

#### Instructions

In a bowl, combine brown sugar, flour and pecans. Set aside. Combine butter and eggs. Mix well. Stir into flour mixture. Fill greased and floured miniature muffin cups 2/3 full. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Remove immediately to cool on wire racks. Yields about 30 mini muffins.

**Best served warm**

# WOMEN WALKED THE WORLD

**29th April** was ACWW Day and on or leading up to this day members were asked to get involved with ACWW's annual 'Women Walk the World' event. Members from various societies, families and friends took part in sponsored walks across the world to raise money, and bring awareness to this very worthwhile cause, by reminding or informing people of ACWW's support, friendship and practical help in improving the lives of women and their families in communities around the world. To encourage involvement ACWW ran a competition, where the best/winning picture of a Walk would appear on this issue's front cover. We are proud to tell you, that even though all the walk photos were great, the best photo came from Ceredigion Federation of WIs, Wales. Please read their story here, along with other areas that took part.

## CEREDIGION FEDERATION OF WIs WALES, UNITED KINGDOM



**Members and friends** from WIs all over Ceredigion, Wales gathered in the beautiful coastal town of Aberaeron to walk the town trail for ACWW's Women Walk the World. Two groups, one led by local historian Gillian Morgan and the other by WI member Cassie Woods enjoyed a very informative morning in the warm spring sunshine and in the process raised £300.40. The Ceredigion Federation of WIs is also committed this year to raise £1,500 for ACWW's appeal to raise money for the training of midwives in Ghana.

## RIADA AND SLEMISH WIs NORTHERN IRELAND



**Riada and Slemish Area WIs** had a very enjoyable spring walk with Ben Simons a Biodiversity Officer at the Ecos Centre, Ballymena on 26th April at 10.30am. After an introduction to the Ecos Nature Park, which is an oasis of wildlife the ladies were walked through the 150 acres of maturing woodland, peaceful lakes, ponds and meadows being grazed by Irish Moiled Cattle. Throughout the walk Ben kept the ladies informed about the surrounding animals and plant life. The donations raised through this event will be going towards the work of ACWW.

## IOWA MASTER FARM HOMEMAKERS GUILD USA



**The Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild** held their spring meeting 5th April 2014. During the meeting they walked for ACWW's Women Walk the World. The plan, with the help of members, saw them place a clean tennis shoe in the center of the tables with a blue helium filled balloon tied to the shoe strings that said ACWW Women Walk the World. They decided to walk 1,000 steps during the meeting, asking for a penny for every step the women took, at planned intervals, during the meeting. They walked around chairs, tables, room, restroom, buffet lunch and in place, counting each step to arrive at the final count. After lunch, pennies were placed in the tennis shoe on the table for collection. At the end of their walk the ladies collected \$210.40.

## STROOD WI ENGLAND



**The ladies from Strood WI, England** are seen here at St Edmund King & Martyr Church, East Mersea half way on their Women Walk the World fundraising walk. They were treated to a reading from 'Mahala' and some background information about Rev. Sabine Baring Gould, who was rector at the Church in the 1800s. The money they raised will be used to fund ACWW's much needed projects round the world, by helping women improve their lives and that of their families.



## JAMAICA FEDERATION OF WOMEN KINGSTON, JAMAICA



The evening was balmy; the soft sea breeze embraced the ladies of Jamaica WI as they entered Emancipation Park for Women Walk the World on 29th April, awaiting their patron's arrival. Her Excellency the Most Hon. Lady Allen, wife of their Governor General and members of her entourage were introduced and pleasantries exchanged.

With all protocol duly observed, their President Gloria Millwood announced the start of the walk. It was a relaxed and enjoyable stroll with some group members making multiple laps around the 500 meter trail. They walked for ACWW's priorities and Jamaica Federation of Women's goals, promoting:

- Safe homes, schools and communities for Jamaica's children
- Women's Health
- Women's economic independence

The group swelled in number from the original fifteen as other walkers joined the party. Outfitted in white T-shirts displaying the logo for this year's Women Walk the World, they strutted proudly behind their banner, handed out bookmarks, bottles of water and soft drinks. Before they knew it, they had spent more than an hour in the park. They lingered and chatted a while longer, before saying their goodbyes, leaving with a feeling of satisfaction and looking forward in anticipation for the next Women Walk the World in 2015.

## WEYBAY WI ENGLAND



Weybay WI chose a super sunny day for their 2014 Woman Walk the World. 14 of their members walked along the beautiful Jurassic Coast from Ringstead to Lulworth Cove and back again enjoying stunning views all day.

## WAA JAMESTOWN SOUTH AFRICA



The WAA members of the small town Jamestown in the Eastern Cape Province in South Africa participated in Women Walk the World by walking through bush and thicket, and over stones and streams! On 9 April 2014 nine ladies walked 2km from one farmhouse, where they listened to a talk by an Ironman competitor, did some "Plank" exercises and enjoyed refreshments, to another neighbouring farm, where they had a very interesting talk on endurance races with horses. After some more coffee and other treats, they walked back to the first farmhouse and enjoyed a light lunch.

## NELSON BAY, NSW AUSTRALIA



On 4th May members from CWA Nelson Bay Evening Branch joined together for their annual Women Walk the World event. It was a smaller turn out than usual, and with extremely windy conditions, the walk was amended to a shorter course. With the ladies chattering happily they went out. There were skateboarders nearby who didn't know what to make of them, and were desperately trying to photo bomb their pictures. It was a combined walk event with their children, as they were also celebrating Mother's Day.

## GOULBURN VALLEY WEST GROUP AUSTRALIA



Goulburn Valley West Group, Australia, held their Women Walk the World event in Mooroopna, a rural area 180kms north of Melbourne in Victoria, Australia on 29th April.

The walk took place in drizzly weather and went to a plantation of trees that were planted in 2001 by local members. The route then went around an extensive sporting area for tennis, croquet, bowls, cricket, netball and football. The fire brigade training track was crossed then a walk around a picturesque lake before heading back to the shelter in the park. On return to the shelter, flags were coloured in from countries belonging to ACWW which were displayed around a map of the world. Prayer flags were also made with messages of hope and love, which were then strung up together. Everyone enjoyed the day and there were people who came and donated who were not members but they saw an article in the newspaper the previous day. A total of \$231.40 was raised at the event.

## KILDARE FEDERATION OF THE ICA IRELAND



On a beautiful, sunny and warm but not too hot Sunday morning on 27th April the Kildare Federation of the Irish Country Women's Association (ICA) supported ACWW's Women Walk the World event at Punchestown race course, near Naas in County Kildare, Ireland by walking the course.

Traditionally this is the Sunday before the Punchestown Festival begins and is known as 'Walking Sunday' as it marks the start of the weeklong horse racing festival.

SOCIETY FEEDBACK

MINEHEAD WI  
ENGLAND



**29th April** saw seven Minehead WI members, Fiona Windle, Diana Pursall, Jean Fenn, Beryl Bently, Lin Reed, Debbie Wilcox, Peggy Sidewater and her dog setting off to walk their world in support of ACWW.

They met at the start of 'The Parks Walk', which is a park in Minehead that follows the Bratton Stream to the outskirts of the town. On leaving the park the ladies, as well as Peggy's dog, turned left and after a short road walk reached the main road to Porlock. They turned left along a main road where the ladies parted company with Peggy and her dog. They passed two camp sites and an Equestrian School before reaching the top of a road called 'Cher'. Here the remaining ladies were met by Chris Preston and her dog. They then passed the Minehead Fire Station before dropping down into a part of Minehead known as Alcombe. Alcombe has everything it needs; a chemist, post office, supermarket and several takeaways, including a coffee shop, so it was there they decided to stop and take a well earned break.

Having been joined by their President Norma Austin and Brenda Beer, they set off again at a refreshed pace. Turning left at their local Rugby Club, they passed the new Minehead Hospital then Tesco and McDonalds before safely crossing a Railway level crossing, turned left and walked along the seafront.

Before they knew it they were at the end of their walk arriving at Minehead Railway Station. At the end the ladies did what all WI members would do after a good 5 mile walk; they went home for a cup of tea and a piece of cake.

INTERNATIONAL  
COMMITTEE  
NORTHERN IRELAND

**Betty Brace** from Northern Ireland and a member of the International Committee organised a walk in their Abercorn Area. Betty said "We had a lovely walk and so far we have raised £492 with more money to come". Beryl Boyd, another member of the International Committee, walked in Blessingbourne Estate, Fivemiletown and rose over £300 for ACWW. Betty said "That is just two of over a dozen walks that took place in Northern Ireland."

TURNDITCH & WINDLEY  
WI DERBYSHIRE, ENGLAND



**Turnditch and Windley WI** in Derbyshire decided to participate in Women Walk the World on 27th April by organising a 3 mile walk. Ladies were invited to come along and bring their family and friends. On the day, 20 people met at the Turnditch village hall, women, men, children and 2 dogs.

The age range of the people was from 2 years to 69 years. The scenery was beautiful as they walked 3 miles along paths, through fields, crossed stepping stones and a bridge over the stream and waded through the inevitable mud. Everyone seemed to enjoy their morning, although one lady hobbled home with a sprained ankle!

Three WI members, who didn't participate, kindly prepared a delicious lunch for the walkers to enjoy upon their return to the village hall where another 2 members joined them and everybody had a good time. Their efforts raised £190 for ACWW.

BINEGAR WI  
ENGLAND



**Binegar WI** met on a sunny day at their village hall at 10am, 29th April. There were 12 of them walking, with 2 members staying at Marilyn's (member) home to prepare lunch. They walked several miles round the village and country lanes and then returned to Marilyn's for a welcome cuppa and a delicious ham/chicken/quiche salad lunch - some members also had a prawn cocktail starter!! What a great way to think about ACWW.

BURNETT DIVISION OF  
QUEENSLAND COUNTRY  
WOMEN ASSOCIATION  
QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA



The members from the Burnett Division of Queensland Country Women Association (QCWA) did something different for Women Walk the World when they took a train ride on 5th May, on the converted Sugar train at the Bundaberg Botanical Gardens. With a majority of elderly members who wished to contribute to the appeal, the five kilometre walk around the Gardens was made easy with the help of the train, giving a wonderful view to all aspects of the Gardens.

These Gardens were badly damaged by the unprecedented 2013 floods which destroyed a large area of Bundaberg, much of the train line had to be replaced, and the train restored. After helping to support the Gardens with lunch at the Cafe 1928 they proceeded to the train. Some walked a small distance to fully understand the extent of the damage and the restoration of the Gardens, which they had explained to them. It was a wonderful social day between members from different branches who were out to support ACWW and their local communities. The Banner, being held by Edna Buck from Bundaberg, who organised the event and the Divisional President Bernice Maidment, was sponsored by the local Bundaberg company WideBay IT. QCWA were very grateful for their generosity.

LANGLEY WI  
ENGLAND



**Eight members** of Langley WI, Hampshire Federation of WIs walked for Women Walk the World on a beautiful sunny 7th May. They walked across the New Forest through Bluebell woods to Exbury Gardens where they had coffee, before walking home again.

**QCWA GOOTCHIE & TIARO  
QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA**



The Queensland Country Women's Association Gootchie and Tiaro Branch members, Australia held their Women Walk the World fundraising event for ACWW on the 29th April. The ladies dressed in ACWW's organisational colour, green, and carried ACWW banners and green balloons gathered at the Royal Hotel in Mayne St Tiaro. The small but happy group set off enthusiastically through the township of Tiaro toward their destination at the Hideaway Hotel. Along the way there were calls of support from passing drivers, plenty of chat and laughter; as well as photo opportunities, with a friendly local passerby being called on to take a group shot on the hump back railway bridge. Luckily not too much traffic was around to hold them up. After completing their walk and reaching the Hideaway Pub the ladies all enjoyed a cool drink and more chatting. Along with the ladies' individual sponsorship money, funds were raised by donations. Businesses in Tiaro Township generously allowed donation boxes and an ACWW information sheet to be placed for a week before the event. Many thanks went to the business owners, staff, Tiaro community and visitors who donated funds and help make QCWA and Tiaro's event a success. They enjoyed their walk, with beautiful weather making for a very pleasant morning of fundraising for ACWW.

**RIDGEWAY WI  
DERBYSHIRE, ENGLAND**



12 members of Ridgeway WI with 2 of their lovely dogs, plus 2 friends walked for ACWW 28th April 2014. The walk went from Forge Lane Killamarsh and ended at Sitwell Arms in Renishaw for coffee, then back to Killamarsh, approximately 6 miles in all. On the day walkers all donated a fee and further donations from members was collected at their meeting in May.

**BLACKROCK GUILD,  
DUBLIN FEDERATION ICA  
IRELAND**



Blackrock Guild, Dublin Federation ICA decided this year to organise a trip for their annual Women Walk the World to the beautiful National Botanic Gardens, Dublin. The weather was kind to them and they had beautiful sunshine throughout the day. They then had lunch with Marie O'Toole, a member of ACWW's Communications and Marketing Committee, who gave a brief talk on the work of ACWW and encouraged members of the Federation to become ACWW Individual Members. After lunch they visited an orchid exhibition which they found absolutely stunning.

**NOVA SCOTIA WI CANADA**



WI group in Nova Scotia, Canada, was fortunate to have Dr Ellen McLean, former ACWW World President, as they gathered for their annual Women Walk the World event, which proved to be a success.

**MUCKAMORE WI  
NORTHERN IRELAND**



The Muckamore ladies walked around the local Antrim area, some taking a route through Rea's Wood, while others walked around the Castle grounds and the Lough.

**DESPATCH BRANCH  
WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL  
ASSOCIATION OF CAPE  
PROVINCE SOUTH AFRICA**



On 29 April 2014, members of the Despatch branch – affiliated to the Circle Midlands, Eastern Cape Region, South Africa, joined women all over the world and walked around their neighbourhood. It was a beautiful early winter's morning and the group of ladies were laughing and chatting as they rediscovered the area. An amount of money was raised for ACWW.

**ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION  
FOR HOME & COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION (IAHCE) USA**



Women in various counties in Illinois participated in Women Walk the World 2014. These county organisations are all members of the Illinois Association for Home and Community Education, (IAHCE). Illinois experienced an unseasonably cold winter and spring. Jersey County braved the chilly weather on 29th April to walk outside accompanied by a four legged friend.

Lake County choose to walk inside during their annual meeting on 25th April. At various stations around the room, flags of countries around the world were displayed and Pennies for Friendship donations collected. Lee County reported a sunny, but cool day for their walk on 10th April.

DeKalb County had walkers both inside and outside on 13th May. A national drug store chain, Walgreens, provided pedometers and a backpack for participants. Funds were raised for both a clay pot water filtration business initiative in Tanzania and ACWW. Later in the year other counties will report on their walk activities.

SOCIETY FEEDBACK

**CERCLES DE FERMIÈRES  
DU QUÉBEC**  
MONTREAL, QUÉBEC, CANADA



**Cercles de fermières du Québec**, who have been supporters for many years, had 15 people walk for ACWW. Even though the sun was not their friend that day, members had fun handing out leaflets on ACWW projects and talking to passersby about ACWW, and collecting donations - all of which will be sent to ACWW. They were proud to make 'a little something' for ACWW.

**LYON'S BROOK WI**  
CANADA



**On the evening** of the 29th April around 20 women from the Lyon's Brook WI, joined by men and children, walked part of their local Historical Kiosk trail and later had refreshments served at a hall. Eleanor Lilley, member said "One of their members Lynn MacLean, who is also a member of ACWW's Triennial Conference Committee, gave an informative talk on ACWW and the ways in which ACWW uses the donations received for different international projects".

**COTTINGHAM WI**  
EAST YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND



**Twenty intrepid** members of the Cottingham WI set out one misty morning in East Yorkshire to Walk the World for the ACWW. Members of various abilities, along with 3 men and a dog, set off from Skidby Windmill on a circular route of approximately two and half miles. They admired the beautiful views to either side as they walked up the hill, as well as the colourful hedgerows and the occasional skylark rising up from the fields. Away to the left, the towers of the Humber Bridge could just be seen over the tree tops. Under foot the ground was tacky but this did not stop them having a laugh and a joke along the way. After two and half miles of gentle walking they reached the end, which in typical WI style was a lovely café for some well earned refreshments. In total Cottingham WI raised £51 for the cause.

**FEDERATION OF WI**  
NORTHERN IRELAND



**The Chair** of the Federation of WI in Northern Ireland, Margaret Collinson, OBE and International Chairman, Elizabeth Warden accompanied by 19 ladies from the Ards Peninsula, Rowallane and Scrabo Areas, plus 2 canine friends Kizzie and Poppy celebrated ACWW Day on 26th April 2014 by taking part in a Women Walk the World at Crawfordsburn Country Park, County Down, Northern Ireland. The weather was kind and the course not too strenuous and a total of £250 was raised on the day for ACWW. Further sponsorship was received following the walk and this together with the money raised from the walks in the other areas of the Federation will be forwarded to ACWW Headquarters, as part of the Federation's continuing generous support for Pennies for Friendship.

**MPUMALANGA WOMEN'S  
AGRICULTURAL UNION**  
SOUTH AFRICA



**Kaleidoscope branch** of the Mpumalanga Women's Agricultural Union, is situated in Piet Retief, a small town in the Eastern region of South Africa. Members taking part in this year's event of Women Walk the World, were Vanessa van Staden, Engela Buit, Rika Wolmarans, Rika Potgieter, Susan Coetzee and Susan Kusche.

## CWA BRANCHES OF YARRAWONGA & BORDER & COROWA VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA



The CWA Yarrowonga & Border Branch Country Women's Association of Victoria, Australia, plus friends joined forces to walk the world with fellow women worldwide, on April 29th 2014.

They met at 8am on the foreshore of Lake Mulwala, under the spectacular banner, which featured a copy of the walk logo that ACWW has adopted and which was created by a CWA of Vic Junior member.

After meeting and greeting, registering – some talked tactics of pacing themselves or taking short cuts. They walked through the Streets of Mulwala NSW and wended their way back over the River Murray and Lake Mulwala. They were all proud to walk to help ACWW achieve its goal of connecting and supporting women worldwide.

## LOSCOE WI ENGLAND



On the 7th May, six members from the Loscoe WI met at Shipley Country Park, to take part in Women Walk the World. Making sure they were well wrapped and prepared for the wet weather that had been forecasted for that day, they set off at 10.00 am taking the route down to the lake, stopping on the way for three of them to have a go on the exercise equipment, only to realise that they were really for the youngsters, but it showed that they still felt young at heart. The ladies carried on merrily chatting while walking through the rain, then finally spotting a cafe. There they took a welcome break and enjoyed hot chocolate, coffees and teacakes. At the next table was a group of ladies who asked the reason for their walk, which was explained to them. One of them very kindly offered to take a photo of the entire group.

## STEYTLERVILLE WAA SOUTH AFRICA



Several very dedicated and committed members of Steytlerville WAA entered and finished the 10km Spar Woman's Race in Port Elizabeth on the 3rd May 2014. The woman's race was held in conjunction with Women Walk the World. All the ladies finished within the time frame given (2 hours) and received medals to acknowledge their participation.

Two of the members Mara and Annette Deysel, both finished in the top 10 of their age category. What a marvellous achievement! Lize-Mari Hayward also finished the 10 km in record time in addition to being pregnant. The ladies had an enjoyable two days in Port Elizabeth. The company, weather, good food and laughter contributed to an amazing event, which will be added to the annual WAA calendar.

## SCOTTISH WOMEN'S RURAL INSTITUTES SCOTLAND



Almost 50 members and friends from Scottish Women's Rural Institutes in Angus walked around Crombie Park Loch on 27th April, as part of the third annual ACWW Women Walk the World event. Twelve local Institutes were represented, which included the oldest to the youngest members. After the walk, the participants enjoyed a picnic lunch in a village hall where they were met by former World President, May Kidd, herself a member of Inverarity Institute in Angus.

## DEKALB COUNTY HOMEMAKER ASSOCIATION USA



It may have been overcast and cloudy but it didn't dampen the spirits of more than 20 DeKalb County Homemaker Association members who took to the hiking paths to spread the word about ACWW and its vision for a better world. They were walking to raise funds to build a factory in Tanzania enabling women to generate an income by making clay water filter pots. The Homemakers had already financed lighting for a classroom in the area with solar panels, installed by 'Engineers without Borders' from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. (10% of their donations will be forwarded to ACWW through Illinois Association for Home and Community Education).

SOCIETY FEEDBACK

DURRINGTON  
WEST SUSSEX WI ENGLAND



On a sunny spring morning in April members of Durrington West Sussex WI left the busy Shoreham road and made their way under the London-Littlehampton railway line to the nearby historic airport. It was here on 4th July 1911 that the first cargo flight was recorded - flying a box of Osram light bulbs to Hove. They crossed a glistening River Adur by the wooden Toll bridge, built in 1781 and used until 1971 and arrived at the pre-900AD St Nicolas' church in old Shoreham.

After visiting a delightful coffee stop in Shoreham's pedestrianised High Street, the group made their way over the newly constructed Adur Ferry Bridge to the River Walk. What sights awaited them! One houseboat was a minesweeper; another was made up of a coach and washing machine and yet another consisted of a car and caravan. They couldn't have imagined something as fantastic as this. Sincere thanks went to Kate Johnson for such an inspirational walk!

KURUMAN - WOMEN'S  
AGRICULTURAL  
ASSOCIATION OF CAPE  
PROVINCE SOUTH AFRICA



On the 3rd of May 2014, members of the Kuruman branch visited a local retirement home and enjoyed a relaxed walk in the secured grounds. They enjoyed the autumn sun while learning more of ACWW and the needs of women not as privileged as some of the members. Ten wheelchairs were used for disabled participants to join in the event. In another event, visitors from New Zealand joined the members as they were raising funds by the baking and selling of pancakes.

CUMBRIA-CUMBERLAND  
FEDERATION OF WI  
ENGLAND



105 members of the Cumbria-Cumberland Federation enjoyed a wonderfully hot and sunny day when walking along Burgh marshes beside the Solway, whilst taking in the delights of this wonderful part of the world, and the history of the Edward I Monument.

Burgh-by-Sands newly refurbished village hall was their starting point, and the place where they all met at the end to enjoy a variety of delicious soups, which had been made and donated by members of Burgh by Sands WI, and bacon butties with bacon donated by Cranstons, their favourite local butcher. The WI sent a cheque in for £486 to ACWW and all their members are looking forward to Women Walk the World 2015, when they will be doing it all again, at a different venue of course!

QWCA TOOWOOMBA  
QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA



QWCA Toowoomba, Australia, walked for 3 blocks down one of the main streets of their city through 3 traffic intersections where they drew attention to ACWW.

The owners of a shop at 158 Margaret Street were so impressed that they came out of their shops and wanted to be photographed with QCWA members. Even one Member of Parliament, Trevor Watts MP, also joined them. Many people donated generously to ACWW. Altogether QWCA raised \$330 Australian.

Those members who couldn't participate in the walk had a lovely refreshing morning tea awaiting the walkers at QCWA Rest Rooms situated on Margaret Street.

It is the third year QWCA have done the walk and they are glad it is now an official annual event.

RURAL WOMEN NEW  
ZEALAND



Jackie Edkins, Communications Officer wrote: "I wonder how many groups taking part in this year's Women Walk the World events were accompanied by an animal? If so, I'm guessing it was probably the family dog, enjoying a bit of exercise".

In New Zealand, Harley the pet goat followed 13 Rural Women New Zealand (NZ) members all the way on their 12km trek over hilly terrain during their Women Walk the World day out. Setting off from a farmhouse at 190 meters above sea level, the Fordell-Mangamahu members and Harley climbed up to 434 meters over four hours, traversing typical New Zealand sheep-breeding hill country. They took their lunch with them and enjoyed the wonderful 360 degree views in perfect autumn weather. Not to be left out, three dogs also joined the hikers on their adventure. The walk was one of 30 that Rural Women NZ members took part in, combining a social day in the fresh air with fundraising for ACWW's cause.

Their Forest Reserve branch members in the far north chose to do a coastal walk at Mangawai heads, where they enjoyed stunning views out to sea, with the Hen and Chicken Islands and Little Barrier Island on the horizon. Their smallest branches weren't going to be left out either.

Three members from Colville in sparsely-populated north Coromandel set off on a fine morning, riding their bikes a short distance before walking up and over the hill to Waitete Bay, where they plunged into the sea for a refreshing swim and ate lunch before retracing their footsteps back to Colville, a 16km walk in total.

At the other end of the scale, 32 women explored the newly-opened Clutha Gold Trail in the South Island, which offered a unique heritage experience. The trail showcases the area's history, including the earliest Maori moa hunters, Chinese gold miners and European-style farming. The walkers, from their Beamont-Tuapeka group, rounded out their day's activities with raffles to raise money for ACWW and a well-deserved cup of tea. Once again, Rural Women NZ Women Walk the World challenge was a great success and their members are looking forward to taking part again next year.

## CARPE DIEM REGION, MPUMALANGA WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL UNION SOUTH AFRICA



On a sunny Saturday on April 25, members of the Carpe Diem region gathered in Witbank, Mpumalanga, South Africa to participate in the annual Woman Walk the World event. Members of one of the branches even turned up with a very original banner. The members of the various branches were all dressed in the same colours – making a colourful picture. While laughing, talking and even singing old folk songs, the large group made their way through the streets promoting ACWW. Onlookers were intrigued to see ladies walking on the streets on a Saturday morning instead of shopping in the local mall!

## MOSSLEY WI NORTHERN IRELAND



Members of the Mossley WI took part in a sponsored walk to do their bit for this great cause.

## CWA OF VICTORIA HENTY GROUP AUSTRALIA



The photo above is of CWA of Victoria Henty Group members (both senior and junior), partners and families who participated in this year's Women Walk the World event, which was organised by Koroit Branch and held on 27th April. After meeting in the Koroit Botanical Gardens the group walked around the town and along part of the Koroit-Port Fairy Rail Trail, before returning to the Gardens for a well-earned cuppa.

## INDIANA EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS USA



Held on 29th April members from the Madison District of Indiana Extension Homemakers, which is primarily located in southeast Indiana, USA walked for ACWW. It was a lovely, sunny morning, albeit a bit windy, they had participation from 3 out of the 9 counties in their district. The event was held in Columbus, Indiana at Mill Race Park. Participants enjoyed a short stroll throughout the park then had a picnic lunch.

The members reacquainted themselves with old friends and formed new friendships as well. They are pictured in front of the Round Lake and behind them in the background is a covered bridge, the centrepiece of the park. Covered bridges were covered to protect the structural elements (the trusses) from the weather and thus prolong the life of the bridge. Anne Moore, Madison District Representative of Indiana Extension Homemakers said "I especially wanted to support this cause after becoming much more informed and knowledgeable about ACWW. I was selected as an exchange homemaker from Indiana in 2011 and travelled to Australia as a guest of the CWA members. I was lucky enough to be home hosted throughout my time there and one of my hostesses was Ruth Shanks, current ACWW World President. I learned so much about ACWW from Ruth and wanted to support her cause whole heartedly. We raised \$100 US dollars to support the work of ACWW. Here's to the work of ACWW and its continued success and growth in the coming year!"

## MOUNTNORRIS WI NORTHERN IRELAND



Members of the Mountnorris WI eagerly took part in their walk and were joined for the route by Gosford Area Executive Member Carole Baird.

## SHEEPSCOMBE WI, GLOUCESTERSHIRE FEDERATION OF WIS ENGLAND



Early on 29th April members of Sheepscombe WI began a 24-hour relay as part of the Woman Walk the World initiative to raise awareness and funds for ACWW.

The ACWW enables women in some of the poorest developing countries in the world to become self-sufficient and support their own communities by providing training, education and resources. The current project, by Gloucestershire Federation of WI's, is based in the Madurai District in the Tamil Nadu Region in India and supports 30 women in a livestock farming project.

When Celia Hargrave, Sheepscombe WI Relay Organiser, first started to have the idea of a 24 hour non-stop relay she was unsure of how members would respond to the challenge but she need not have worried because as the day drew closer Celia was overwhelmed by the response. In the end there were 28 participants, with their two eldest being over 80 years old (but never old in spirit!), and many others offering their good wishes and sponsorship.

Celia said: "Our route was a lap of around 2.5 miles within Sheepscombe through Longridge and Jack's Green and we set up a base camp at Pat's, a member's house. The numbers meant that mostly people had company along the way and my own 10 hour stretch through the night brought out volunteers armed with torches and reflective vests to ensure that I too was never alone. And although not requested, we even had the police keeping a friendly eye on us.

During the whole challenge, we enjoyed good humor and friendship and Pat's base camp provide care for the physically weary with drinks and refreshments to revitalize us. We were so fortunate with good weather during the whole 24 hours with sunshine during the day and a starlit sky at night.

I was fortunate to have a team of women who rose to the challenge with such good heart, who inspired each other to keep going and whom together with those who couldn't take part in the relay as well as friends and family raised almost £1,000 for the ACWW awareness campaign".

SOCIETY FEEDBACK

CWA OF VICTORIA AUSTRALIA



On a very cloudy day, more than 80 members from the Country Women's Association (CWA) of Victoria gathered at Cranbourne Royal Botanical Gardens on 29th April, to walk for ACWW and to remember women and girls who have to walk daily for their most basic of needs. Members came from Doncaster East, Rosanna, Donvale, Ringwood, Yarra, Blackburn, Ringwood East, Box Hill North, Burwood, Nunawading, Mitcham, Mooroolbark, Belgrave, Bayside, Warragul Evening, Essendon, Frankston South, Loch, Pakenham, Ontario-Canada, Woodleigh Vale, Yarram, Pearcedale, Dingley Village, Templestowe, and Berwick.

Christine Raeburn from ACWW Agriculture Committee member, who was visiting Miriam Stackhouse, joined them on their walk. Christine addressed a very interested crowd and Mabelle Crichton, CWA member, read their proclamation, which will be well recalled as when she mentioned 'walking every day for water', it started to rain! Some very hardy members walked around the most interesting gardens, depicting different areas of Australian native landscapes, but most of the group made use of the People Mover and enjoyed the guide's description along the way. Afterwards they all gathered in the restaurant and thought how lucky they were to have somewhere warm and dry out of the rain, which by now was pouring down, and enjoyed their lunch as so many did not have that privilege.

CERCLE DE FERMIÈRES BOUCHERVILLE CANADA



The members of Cercle de Fermières Boucherville gathered for a walk in a beautiful city park. They joined their association, Le Cercle de Fermières du Québec to connect and support women around the world.

DUNMUNKLE HEALTH SERVICES & CWA AUSTRALIA



Dunmunkle Health Services along with Dunmunkle CWA hosted their walk event on 29th of April at Minyip Bushland Reserve. Although the rain restricted the number of participants, the event was truly enjoyed by all in attendance.

OAK COLLEGE OHCE GROUP OKLAHOMA USA



The Oak College OHCE group of Stephens County Oklahoma, USA joined in Women Walk the World on 29th April for their 2nd annual participation in this worthwhile World event. Gearing up for the event the group put ads in the local newspapers and sent invitations to other Stephens County groups, and also took fliers to their SW District meeting to encourage other OHCE groups to get involved. Ten members of Oak College group, four members from other county groups plus the Stephens County Educator walked for 30 minutes down the streets of Comanche Oklahoma and raised \$121.48, which is to be sent to ACWW. The Oak College group supports many of ACWW projects around the world each year.

YEOVIL WRAXHILL WI SOMERSET ENGLAND



14 ladies, Yeovil Wraxhill WI Somerset England, 1 grandson and six dogs walked in the pouring rain and managed to raise £170 for ACWW.

INVER AREA NORTHERN IRELAND



Some of the ladies from the Inver Area took part in a longer walk route from the Promenade to Carnfunnock Country Park and back. It was a lovely day with sunshine by the seaside and of course all for a worthy cause.

QCWA CALOUNDRA BRANCH AUSTRALIA



19 members from QCWA Caloundra branch on the Sunshine Coast in Australia took part in Women Walk the World. They walked along the beautiful boardwalk on a lovely autumn morning and then stopped for coffee, while ACWW was explained to the newest members.

GUYANA FEDERATION OF WI NORTHERN COAST OF SOUTH AMERICA



The members of the Guyana Federation of WI walked on the 29th April. It was a bright and sunny morning and they all enjoyed the walk. On the way they were encouraged by many passersby.



**BANGLADESH MOHILA SAMITY DHAKA BANGLADESH**



**Bangladesh Mahila Samity (BMS)** walked on the 29th April for ACWW. To mark this special day apart from organising a rally for the empowerment of women in the field of economy, BMS also organised awareness programmes, in which eight members of BMS took up ACWW Individual Membership.

**QCWA KUMBIA AUSTRALIA**



**Kumbia is a small rural town** about 3 hours drive from Brisbane, Queensland. The members of QCWA Kumbia participated in 'Women Walk the World' on 29th April.

The Kumbia walkers set off from the QCWA Restrooms early in the morning to enjoy a stroll around the streets of Kumbia appreciating the opportunity to admire the town gardens. Returning to the Restrooms a few hours later, they enjoyed refreshments.

**HOME & COMMUNITY EDUCATION (HCE) USA**



The photo above is from the Lake County Association for Home and Community Education (HCE) walk on 25th April 2014. Lauri Hargrove, LCAHCE International Director, is pictured above making a donation. Over 80 ladies were in attendance at the LCAHCE Annual Meeting, where they walked around the room and stopped at donation stations to make donations.

**YORK BRANCH CWA OF WA WESTERN AUSTRALIA**



**Members of the York Branch of the Country Women's Association (CWA) of Western Australia (WA)** participated for the third time in Women Walk the World. This year they left their CWA office and walked to Avon Park by Avon River. After a walk through town they reached a bush land garden and enjoyed a picnic.

**CLOGHER VALLEY WI AREA NORTHERN IRELAND**



**34 ladies** from the Clogher Valley WI walked in the beautiful Blessingbourne Country Estate at Fivemiletown in County Tyrone on 26th April. The walk was about 3.5km long and the weather was perfect. Lunch was enjoyed in the Courtyard Cafe and over £400 was raised.

**WEST GIPPSLAND GROUP VICTORIA AUSTRALIA**



**32 members** and their husbands participated in Women Walk the World on 29th April - by walking around a lake at Berwick Springs Lake, Victoria Australia. Donations of a gold coin and sales of badges realised a generous donation to the work of ACWW.

**LISBURN CITY BELLES NORTHERN IRELAND**



The Lisburn City Belles eagerly got into the spirit of their sponsored walk with a number of members bringing along their dogs to accompany them on the route.

**MALENY BRANCH OF QCWA AUSTRALIA**



On a not so sunny day the ladies of Maleny branch of the Queensland Country Women's Association in Australia, tried to see what it was like to carry things on their heads – they soon found out that it was not as easy as they thought; they did however have fun trying.

**TEMPLEPATRICK WI NORTHERN IRELAND**



**Templepatrick WI** walkers met at 10am on 26th April at the Loughshore Park, Antrim. From there they walked along a six mile water trail to the Antrim Castle Gardens, where they met up with member non-walkers for a relaxed cuppa at Clotworthy Coffee House, before making the return walk back to the starting point. Donations to ACWW amounted to £200.

SOCIETY FEEDBACK

**BRAILES WI**  
WARWICKSHIRE, ENGLAND



On 29th April, a lovely sunny day, 16 WI Brailes members and friends joined 100s of other women walking all across the world for this very worthy cause.

One of their other groups had planned a route that they almost followed, with only one or two deviations. The route was a beautiful 2 mile circular walk across the fields at the back of their Village Hall, through a bright yellow field towards Winderton Church, then over Sutton Brook along to the back of Glebe Farm, then up 99 steps, which itself was a challenge, and back to the Brailes Pavilion where they started.

During the walking and chattering they were able to talk about the various projects and events organised by ACWW and generally raise awareness.

Back at the starting point they joined a good number of non-walkers, some of whom had especially foregone their pudding at that day's WI Luncheon club, to enjoy a fabulous tea with delicious homemade cakes supplied by 4 of our members.

Brailes WI raised £127, an increase of over 40% on last year. The WI wants to thank to everyone who joined in and they look forward to another great turnout in 2015.

**BRIDES REVISITED**  
IN NORTHERN IRELAND



INVER AREA WI in Northern Ireland decided as an Area group that they would have a fundraising event to help women throughout the world who are in great need, by raising money for ACWW.

The theme for their event was Brides Revisited. Members and friends lent the WI their bride's dresses for a fashion show with a difference. Young ladies were conscripted as models with a few ladies still fitting into their own dresses. Tracey Mcilwaine, Inver Area Executive Member said "It was a delight

to see the models wearing the dresses, which dated from 1950 to 2013, whilst at the same time viewing a presentation of photos of the original brides and hearing the story of their special day.

We were serenaded by Jamie Johnston the grandson of one of our members, who is a very talented young man. During the interval he sang songs of yesteryears. The evening concluded with wedding cake, shortbread and tea. We were very pleased to find that the total raised was in excess of £1,350.

**DAUGHTERS OF MARY**  
IMMACULATE CHENNAI, INDIA



The Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) organised a walk and a seminar on 29th April 2014. More than 300 women belonging to DMI's Self Help Groups participated in both. The walk was inaugurated by Mr. Vithyanadhan, Vice Principal of Annai Velankanni and the seminar was presided over by Sister M. Baby - DMI. The keynote speaker at the seminar was Mr. Susai Michael, Consultant - DMI. During the seminar many women shared their experiences of life in their communities.

**ACWW'S ARDENT**  
SUPPORTER CELEBRATES  
**100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**



HILDA STEWART, ACWW World President 1998-2004 informed ACWW that Rita Lindsay MBE of Scottish Women's Rural Institutes (pictured above), celebrated her 100th birthday on 10th May 2014. Rita is known fondly throughout ACWW worldwide as the tea cosy lady and she is one of ACWW's most ardent supporters having raised thousands of pounds. She has attended Finland World Conference and was also at the European Area Conference 3 years ago. For Rita's birthday celebrations she had a lunch first at Benmore Gardens for around 20 people and then an afternoon tea for over 80 people, all organised by her nephews.

Hilda said "It was a tremendous occasion and there were 4 of us from Ireland and 3 from Iceland there! The cake was donated by the local bakery; Rita received a card from the Queen via the Lord Lieutenant and from the local Provost. Her house was decked out with 100 birthday cards and she asked for no gifts but donations to charity. She is a very special lady beloved in her community, who still crochets and knits to sell for fundraising. She attributes her long enjoyable life to being in ACWW and having had so many opportunities to travel and meet interesting people worldwide".

## THE BISCUIT TAKES THE FIRST PRIZE!



**Heage WI members** were asked to bring in items that would best go with Sue Watkins', Derbyshire, England, talk on 'The Associated Country Women of the World and the work they do'.

After talking about the historic setting and the beginning of the WI and ACWW, Sue informed members of the fantastic projects the Derbyshire WI's had sponsored, from pickle making in India, water for 19,500 women and children in Uganda, to psychological help and practical skills for the ladies and their children in a women's refuge in Romania. The competition, which selected the most appropriate entry to go with Sue's talk, was on this occasion a plate of homemade biscuits, representing women walking around a world map, which took first prize.

PROJECTS | FINAL

## PROJECT REPORTS



### TAMIL NADU, INDIA

*Adolescent Health and Education Programme in Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu, India*

*Organisation: Society for Serving Humanity Supported by: Dorset FWI, England & Blackness WRI, Scotland*

The aim of this project was to enable the non-governmental organisation, 'Society for Serving Humanity' (SSH) to organise village awareness camps in 20 villages in Tamil Nadu, India. The main focus of these camps was to educate adolescent girls in health care and nutrition, as well as to eradicate superstitious beliefs.

The Society formed 15 Adolescent Self Help Groups (SHGs), where each group consists of 15 to 20 members covering 200 adolescents in total. All these girls were provided with information packs regarding Adolescent health, sex and sexuality, physical changes during the adolescent period, HIV/AIDS and its effects, sexually transmitted diseases (STD), breaking taboos and leadership skills. To improve their growth and to ensure a better future, the Society organised various training sessions, which covered all the areas from the information packs and established a kitchen garden to



help the girls learn about food and nutrition. The kitchen garden was used to help rectify the problem of poor diet and unhealthy lifestyles among the girls. Sahaya Tamarasi, Resource Person for the training session said: "Nutrition and nutritious foods help our bodies and provide us with good health. Poor nutrition is common among women and children and adolescent girls.

In order to understand diseases caused by deficiencies in diet, it is important to have a basic knowledge about food and how it regulates the body. By being given information packs and by using kitchen gardening anyone can learn. A backyard kitchen garden not only yields fresh vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers, but it also adds value to the household's nutrition, it can be used to learn how to manage waste water and make use of additional space.

It reduces household expenditure on produce and the surplus can be sold to generate income. Women are often found to be less healthy than men. Women need energy to carry out their daily tasks, and will benefit from practicing good health in order to prevent illness, and to be able to deliver save and healthy births.

Most adolescent girls suffer from anaemia, which causes exhaustion, weakness, disability and poor health in general". SSH reports that speaking about safe sex, sexual transmitted diseases (STD), or sexual abuse is forbidden outside of the family, or in most cases not spoken of at all leading to health related illness and ailments. Therefore, SSH encourages everyone to be properly informed. Not being educated could lead to unwanted pregnancies, abortions and even illness like STDs, HIV/AIDS, and many other problems. This is why SSH aims to bring awareness on these topics especially to young and adolescent girls, who themselves might become mothers in the future. To bring more understanding and awareness amongst adolescent girls another two day training programme was conducted, this time with 60 participants. This programme concentrated on socio-cultural development, emotional development, development of identity, self esteem, self respect and relationships, attraction to the opposite sex and the physical development of boys and girls. The participants paid attention to these relevant topics as the majority seemed to lack education in these areas.

## FOR SALE

VAT REG. NO 240 0467 05.

All prices are exclusive of postage & packing.

- ACWW Promotional Pin 3/4 inch diameter - £1.00
- Badges (Brooches) - £2.00
- ACWW Greetings Cards - each 60p, £2 for four

Overseas orders will be sent by surface or 'small packet' rate. (If remittance not sterling, please add sufficient to cover bank charges)

## PUBLICITY MATERIAL

Leaflets are available from Central Office.

Please state quantities required and date needed.

- ACWW Bookmarks
- Resolutions & Recommendations booklet
- Working with Women Worldwide – Highlights of 75 Years of ACWW £5
- ACWW 2010 Constitution £3
- Pen Friend Scheme form (via email)
- ACWW A3 & A4 Projects Posters
- All about ACWW leaflet
- ACWW Mini leaflet
- ACWW Projects & Funding leaflet
- ACWW UN leaflet
- You can make a difference leaflet
- Pennies for Friendship labels available at <http://www.acww.org.uk/members>
- NEW Pennies for Friendship Promotional Card

## ADVERTISE YOUR ACCOMMODATION WITH US

Delegates, members and representatives all round the world are always on the look out for accommodation, especially in the lead up to conferences.

If you have a room to rent in your Bed and Breakfast (B&B), Hotel or Guest House, why not advertise it in **THE COUNTRYWOMAN**.

For more details please contact the Editor:

call +44(0) 20 7799 3875 email [cm@acww.org.uk](mailto:cm@acww.org.uk)



## LEAVE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Bequests are incredibly valuable to the work ACWW does – not just for the women and communities who benefit from projects and the connections made globally through our work now – but to women and communities to come. Bequests enable ACWW to continue to deliver a broad vision of seeing generations of women empowered through the relief of poverty and sickness, the protection and preservation of health and the advancement of education.

You can be assured that your gift will make a genuine difference to our work.

To find out more about leaving a bequest please email [tish.c@acww.org.uk](mailto:tish.c@acww.org.uk) to receive a FREE Bequest Information Pack.



# INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS

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