

THE COUNTRYWOMAN

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2013

Women Walked the World

MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD WALKED
TO RAISE MONEY FOR ACWW

4 PAGE
'WALK'
REPORT
SEE PAGE 15

Time for Tea?

LANCASHIRE WILKINS STEA PARTY
IN AID OF ACWW INDIA PROJECT

How to Grow a Container Garden

AGRICULTURE CAMPAIGN
'GROW LOCALLY, BENEFIT GLOBALLY'





Cover Best photo comes from Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia, Canada for Women Walk the World - See page 15

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 sending articles and photographs to 'The Countrywoman'.

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

(colour, glossy- not matt- prints or digital photos, high resolution)

THE EDITOR'S DECISION ON
ACCEPTANCE IS FINAL

WORLD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



May Kidd, ACWW World President and members holding flags Angus Federation SWRI, Scotland - Women Walk the World

Dear Friends

WE DID IT - we walked the world once again! The office has been inundated with reports of your walks in all corners of the globe. Some walked, others did something different, but all with the same aim - to promote ACWW.

On 29th April, ACWW Day, I enjoyed a pleasant walk with more than 50 members and supporters of Angus Federation SWRI, Scotland. Starting out in the country at a lochside nature reserve, we ended in the town of Kirriemuir, birthplace of Sir James Barrie, creator of Peter Pan. We gathered for photographs round a large stone sculpture of the world and shared a picnic lunch, with tea provided by Kirriemuir WRI members. Local press, both daily and weekly, carried articles and colour photos.

Some of our family joined the Angus group, while others did their walk in the English Lake District. Well, it was more of a steep hill climb and a scramble than a walk! All, even the youngest, reached the top triumphant.

At Buckinghamshire Federation NFWI's Annual Council Meeting, 900 delegates packed the venue, listened to their office bearers' reports - and then it was my turn. Such was their enthusiasm for ACWW you could have heard a pin drop. I confess I was very moved to receive a standing ovation.



May Kidd's family climbing in the English Lake District for Women Walk the World



May Kidd, ACWW World President walking with the Angus Federation SWRI, Scotland - Women Walk the World

The Federation's ACWW representative, Ruth Potts, had set up an ACWW stand, which was inundated with members making donations. Thank you, Buckinghamshire.

The sad news has come in of the death of former ACWW World President, Valerie Fisher, Australia (see page 4). Ruth Shanks, South Pacific Area President, represented ACWW at the Memorial Service. Ruth reports: "It was a lovely service, organised by the local Country Women's Association (CWA) of Victoria branch in Barnawatha. Valerie Fisher was, most certainly, not only the lady we all knew, but a strong and supportive member of her community, and will be sorely missed."

Messages of condolence were read, including mine on behalf of ACWW. I feel privileged to have known Valerie, who was unfailingly kind and considerate to others, yet strong when strength was needed. "A leader knows that kindness is the process through which the most is accomplished."

May Kidd

May Kidd MA JP

INSIDE THE COUNTRYWOMAN



In memory Valerie Fisher



How to Grow a Container Garden



Street children enter the computer world in Romania



Best Photo Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia, Canada

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CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

This issue is packed with information relevant to our Members worldwide, please check out the latest from our Agriculture campaign 'Grow Locally, Benefit Globally' on page 6 and also please do look at the reminder about Conference arrangements on page 10. Here in Central Office we continue to prepare for Conference – please look out for Circulars 7 & 8 in July (if you are a Category I, II, or III Member Society), and for your Credentials Forms if you will be voting at Conference as part of a Society Delegation, or as a Proxy Voter for another Society. Please note that we now have support letters available to help in your Visa applications for India, if required.

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to two of our staff – Sharon Ortiz, Administrative Assistant and Roxana Comanac, Finance and Membership Assistant. I am sure you will join us in thanking them for their service to ACWW and in wishing them well for their futures. As always you can contact us at anytime – we do love to hear from all of our members around the world.

STOP PRESS

Important Announcement about the Triennial Conference Registration fee, please see page 10

ACWW WELCOMES A NEW PEN FRIEND CO-ORDINATOR

We are delighted that following on from the 'Would you like to become an ACWW Pen Friend?' article on page 13 of the April – June 2013 magazine, we have a new Pen Friend Coordinator in New Zealand.

Jocelyn McIlraith is a member based in Kurow and would be delighted to hear from any members around the world who might like to set up a link with people in New Zealand. To find out more about the scheme generally please do get in touch with Central Office by emailing info@acww.org.uk

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IN MEMORY, VALERIE FISHER



Valerie Fisher, AO, OBE
It is with great sadness that we announce that on 19th April 2013, our Past World President, Valerie Fisher, AO, OBE, passed away. A memorial service held on the 17th May 2013 in Valerie's own community of Barnawatha,

Victoria, which was organised by the local Country Women's Association (CWA) of Victoria Branch, had approximately 150 people in attendance all reflecting quietly on Valerie's impact on their lives. Messages of condolence were read by members of Valerie's branch, guests and one by Ruth Shanks, ACWW South Pacific Area President, who attended the service for herself and on behalf of May Kidd, ACWW World President. May Kidd, upon hearing the news wrote, "I am saddened to hear of Valerie's death. Valerie always showed love and devotion to ACWW, throughout her years as Area, Deputy and World President.

Her years of loyal service to ACWW go back thirty six years: from 1977 to 1983 she served as South Pacific Area President; from 1983 to 1989 she was Deputy World

President and finally, from 1989 to 1995 she served as ACWW World President.

Valerie was a wonderful woman and an inspirational World President: kind, caring and considerate, I felt privileged to have known her. She will be sorely missed by her many ACWW friends, and most of all by those in the South Pacific Area, who knew her best and to whom she was closest.

On behalf of everyone at ACWW, I offer deep sympathy to all in the South Pacific Area and in particular to the members of her own society". Ruth Shanks remarked "Valerie was an incredible woman who gave an amazing part of her life to the welfare of others, especially women's societies in the South Pacific Area. Valerie was most certainly, not only the lady we all knew, but a strong and supportive member of our community.

I felt honoured that I had known her and she will always be remembered, not only in Barnawatha, but also across the world for her leadership of ACWW".

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

WORLDWIDE BRING & BUY SALE



at the
**ACWW
2013
TRIENNIAL
CONFERENCE**

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

AT THE UPCOMING 2013 Triennial Conference, ACWW's Finance Committee is organising a 'Worldwide Bring and Buy Sale' to raise funds. Small light crafts, souvenirs, scarves and costume jewellery that other delegates from around the world would appreciate are requested.

The Committee is asking societies in each Area to collect items, which would be sent with their delegates. Any funds raised will go to ACWW's Pennies for Friendship fund. As tables will be set up in different areas on different days, the Finance Committee are seeking volunteers who can help out on each day.

To offer your assistance or if you require any additional information, please email info@acww.org.uk, or call +44 (0)207 799 3875 and we will be happy to pass your details on to Margaret McMillan, ACWW Finance Committee member, who is organising this event.

ACWW FUNDS

WHAT DO THE ACWW FUNDS SUPPORT?

ACWW HAS SEVERAL different Funds, each of which has a slightly different purpose, but all of which contribute to our aims of:

- the relief of poverty
- the relief of sickness and the protection and preservation of health
- the advancement of education

Many of our supporters know lots about our General Projects Fund, which supports HIV/AIDs awareness, small business schemes, skill training and family planning work; Water for All Fund, which funds clean water and sanitation projects, providing water tanks, bore wells and pumps and Women Feed the World Fund, which supports subsistence production and cooperatives, training in farming techniques and credit saving schemes, but do you know about the following Funds?

Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund

Established in 1959 as a memorial to Lady Aberdeen, a founder of ACWW, the Fund enables voluntary and qualified leaders in the field of Social Welfare to study in their own or other countries with the help of Member Societies and Members. Examples of the types of scholarship available include:

- scholarships in nutrition or some allied subject;
- instruction in conservation through short courses, seminars and projects;
- the provision of experienced women leaders (without, if necessary, a preliminary induction course) to give short courses for a stated period to train local leaders in a country, which has asked for help; assisting local leaders from villages to attend short courses at a training centre in their own country, not only in nutrition but in the whole field of community welfare;
- sending a voluntary leader to another country and/or to arrange exchange visits between two rural women from different countries to study rural community welfare, gain experience of the administration and work done by women's voluntary societies, possibly by attachment to administrative offices, attendance at short course training colleges and field trips;
- scholarship for the study of co-operatives.

Elsie Zimmern Memorial Fund

Established in 1971 as a memorial to Miss Zimmern, another founder of ACWW, income from this fund is also available for scholarships in the field of social welfare, particularly for training in organisation and leadership.

ACWW Nutrition Education Fund

Established in 1974 as an extension of 'The Save Sight Fund', the income from this fund is available for

- The promotion and encouragement of education in nutrition among all women in areas, where malnutrition and its attendant deficiencies put women at risk.
- It can also select potential teachers or demonstrators to receive basic training in order to organise and maintain instruction at village level, including the formation of women's groups to this end.

If you would like to donate to any of these funds, apply for funding, or you would like to find out more about any particular projects we have funded, please contact us at info@acww.org.uk or call +44(0)207 799 3875

Case Study

Afrodita Roman, Founder and President of 'Femeia Mileniului III/Women of the Third Millennium', Romania was awarded the Elsie Zimmern Scholarship in order to study for a Post-graduate Diploma in Social Work/Services Management at Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca, Romania.

She wrote her thesis on 'The Evolution of 'The Women of the Third Millennium' Association' with particular reference to the following projects: 'Training and Resource Centre for Disadvantaged Women' and 'Tailoring Workshop and Scholarships for Children in the Rural Environment'.



Right: Afrodita Roman, Founder & President of Femeia Mileniului III/Women of the Third Millennium, Romania



Femeia Mileniului III/Women of the Third Millennium, workshop in Romania

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

RECYCLED BAGS: PUTTING ACWW'S RESOLUTION INTO ACTION



From left to right - Ruth Douma, President Zine Line-Beachburg Women's Institute & Secretary North Renfrew District Women's Institute & Christine Reaburn, ACWW Agriculture Committee

Agriculture Committee member, Christine Reaburn, Canada, sent in a photo of herself along with a recycled bag, which she will be taking to the upcoming 2013 Triennial Conference in India, to be entered into the 'make a re-usable shopping bag' competition.

This recycled bag represents ACWW's Agriculture Committee's commitment to reducing the use of plastic shopping bags as agreed in a Resolution at the 2010 Triennial Conference in Arkansas. This particular bag was made by Carol Leach member of Zine Line-Beachburg Women's Institute Branch and was made with the following material:

- Exterior - an old table runner
- Lining - old jeans
- Handles - are the flat felled seams of the jeans braided.

Carol was the first to respond when Christine asked her Branch Zine Line-Beachburg, to help with this competition. The branch also threw out a challenge to the other branches in North Renfrew District Women's Institutes for all of the made re-usable bags to come to the District Annual Meeting on 15th May 2013. A viewer's choice was made and donated bags will go to India with Christine.



Container Gardening Alliance:
<https://www.facebook.com/wilemanclothm>

HOW TO GROW A CONTAINER GARDEN

AS PART OF ACWW's Agriculture campaign 'Grow Locally, Benefit Globally', the Agriculture Committee brings you a guide on how to grow a container garden:

Container gardens are attractive as well as functional. A wide variety of containers can be used, including cups, colanders, pots, cake stands, jars, plastic bottles, baskets, crates and window boxes.

Thus container gardening leaves plenty of scope for creativity, even if you don't have much physical space.

Different container sizes, materials and soils are required depending on the plants you choose and your sunlight and other climate conditions. For instance, larger plants and serious projects will need larger containers to give the roots enough space. But there are some factors common to all container gardens, such as the importance of allowing drainage through holes in the bottom of the containers.

These instructions provide some guidance on one type of container gardening.

Step 1: Choose an appropriate area to place the plants, depending on whether they like sunshine or shade. Make sure they have plenty of room between them to grow and be watered.

Step 2: Decide which plants you want to grow. Not all vegetables can be grown this way; choose varieties that are designed for pot growth. An easy way to know is that the plant name will have words such as "patio", "bush", "dwarf" or "miniature" in the title. Bush plants and root plants such as peppers, onions and carrots can do well.

Step 3: Choose a good planter. Each plant needs space in the container to grow to prevent it from being root bound. Smaller pots may be useful for smaller plants, or root plants. Also each pot may need to have drain holes to prevent root rot.

Step 4: Choosing potting soil. It may be best to use bagged potting soil for your container garden because it already has the balanced nutrition your plants will need. It is also free of bacteria and bugs that are in ground soil. However, if this is too expensive or unobtainable, ground soil may work just as well – or a mixture of soil and compost. Each type of crop may require slightly different soil mixtures and planting depths, so make sure to plant accordingly.

Step 5: Check the moisture of the soil at least twice a day. Potted gardens may need more watering than regular gardens because of the confined space. Do not wait till the plant is wilting to water it.

Step 6: Check to make sure that the containers are positioned in suitable places. Some plants such as cabbage can live in shaded areas, but others thrive in full sun like cucumbers.

If you currently use container gardening, please share your tips and photos with us by emailing info@acww.org.uk. Source: Article adapted from wikiHow, a wiki building the world's largest, highest quality how-to manual. Please find author credits at wikiHow.com. Content on wikiHow can be shared under a Creative Commons License.

THE LADIES' CIRCLE SUPPORTS AGRICULTURE CAMPAIGN



Magdi de Kock (left) at a 'how to plant vegetables' training session

Magdi de Kock, ACWW P&P Committee member reports that the 'Grow locally, Benefit globally' Campaign is alive in South Africa.

Magdi writes: South Africa is heading for an agricultural crisis – over the last 16 years we have lost more than 30% of our commercial farmers, as fewer young people want to be farmers. One of the biggest problems we face as human beings is our reliance on others to provide us with food. For hundreds of years, families produced their own food, which they planted and harvested depending on the different seasons, but now most of us have lost the basic skills to provide food for ourselves.

Today we need to teach these skills to the youth, the unemployed, women and older people, so they can become self-sufficient in producing food. The Ladies' Circle is bringing this message through their country wide project. The Ladies' Circle, a South African society, is running a project to support the ACWW campaign 'Grow locally, Benefit globally' to help people to become self-sustained.

The Ladies' Circle is implementing the concept of the popular proverb 'Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime' with their Project Eden 2013. The project aims to teach people of any age, gender, or culture how to cultivate their own vegetable gardens. The project is specifically designed for communities with no farming background and limited access to water. A very basic method is used for this kind of micro-farming. Two-litre cool drink bottles with 12 strategic holes are placed in the soil to distribute the water to the roots of the vegetable seedlings planted around the bottle. By implementing this basic hydroponic system, micro farmers can harvest and even sell crops within a period of eight to twelve weeks, generating additional income and sustainable farming. With the help of sponsors, the President and the Executive of The Ladies' Circle travel across South Africa to introduce and present Project Eden, motivate members and train communities to empower themselves. President of the Ladies' Circle, Mignon Smit, said that it is a privilege to be able to help others. "If we are fortunate enough to have the privilege of giving, it is also our responsibility to give and to support the campaign of ACWW". This project is currently being rolled out in thirteen different areas of South Africa and 1,500 members of The Ladies' Circle are involved and committed to this campaign.

A EUROPE FREE FROM PROSTITUTION



ON 28TH FEBRUARY 2013, the UK organisation National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO) hosted a conference at the European Parliamentary Office in London. The conference, entitled 'A Europe Free from Prostitution', featured panellists representing journalists, law enforcement, civil society and government. These speakers shared similar views on the prevalence of violence in prostitution in Europe and the need for stronger policing and/or outright abolition. Pierrette Pape, European Women's Lobby (EWL) Representative, presented the abolitionist position of EWL. She used the word 'prostitution' rather than 'sex work' in the belief that the latter term treated the sale of sex as a neutral or positive activity. Pierrette compared the prostitution-related experiences of various European countries, speaking about the extreme of the prostitution schools in Spain and the use of prostitution as a reward for employees in Hungary. In the Netherlands, notably, she argued that legalisation of prostitution actually worsened women's well-being, with

an increase of hidden prostitution, trafficking and organised crime. As the majority of legally registered prostitutes are still forced into their work, there are proposals in the Netherlands to increase the minimum age of prostitution to 21, criminalise clients who use non-registered prostitutes and create a hotline that people can call to find out if a prostitute has been legally registered. This can be compared with the case of Sweden, where prostitution has been prohibited for ten years, without the prostitutes themselves being criminalised. This policy has resulted in a decrease in trafficking and organised crime and the halving of street prostitution and increased police support.

EWL have developed a campaign for prostitution prohibition called 'Brussels Call'. Signed by 200 NGOs so far, the campaign argues that prostitution is a form of violence, exploitation of inequalities, violation of human dignity and violation of human rights. It has been such a success that 'Brussels Call' was named 'Best Campaign of the Year' in the 2012 European Public Campaign Awards.

Yeliz Osman from the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) spoke about the 'Way Forward Strategy', London's first strategy on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG). This strategy focuses on holistic support to exit prostitution, as well as reduction of demand.

The mayor's position is that prostitution is a form of VAWG, regardless of whether there has been trafficking. It's reported that 45% of prostitutes have experienced childhood sexual abuse, 68% meet criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder and 9 out of 10 surveyed wanted to leave prostitution all together. Ann Hamilton, a trafficking expert called prostitution 'sex trafficking'. There might be individual divergences, but overall she argued that the two cannot be separated. She spoke of the links between domestic violence and prostitution, where in both cases women could not leave due to a variety of reasons, such as financial dependence, limited social networks and low self-esteem.

Finally, Philip Rashidi of the Metropolitan Police Special Unit SC&09 discussed the unit's work to tackle prostitution. Its aims, he pointed out, were focused on traffickers, procurers and clients rather than the prosecution of victims. In fact their top priority is victim care and support.



LOOKING AT THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN JOHANNESBURG



From left to right - Thandazile Mbuyisa, First Secretary (Political), High Commission of Swaziland; Henrietta Schoeman, ACWW Finance Committee Vice-Chairman & Mirna Cunningham Kain, Chair for the Centre for Indigenous People's Autonomy & Development

of governance, and positioning governance and accountability in the post-2015 development agenda.

The two day event emphasised the need to address the challenges of poverty and inequality, empowering women, promoting democratic governance, improving awareness of citizens' rights to hold their leaders accountable and combating corruption. Pan-African panellists agreed on the following remark: 'the costs of famine and lack of education, which translates into loss of morality; poverty and inequality may be two sides of the same coin'.

Presenters raised issues including the use of existing human rights tools and mechanisms, the importance of recognising the multi-dimensional aspects of development and the value of addressing the role of market forces in accountability discussions. The Post-2015 Global Agenda aim is to help define the future global development framework succeeding the Millennium Development Goals.

HENRIETTA SCHOEMAN, ACWW Finance Committee Vice-Chairman, attended the final meeting of the Post-2015 Thematic Consultation on Governance, which took place from 28th February to 1st March 2013 in Midrand, South Africa.

The consultation, which was co-led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),

aimed to build consensus and recommend how to integrate global, regional, national and sub-national governance and accountability with the intergovernmental process on the UN's post-2015 development agenda. During the final meeting of the consultation (which was attended by 250 participants and broadcast live on the web), plenary, panel and roundtable discussions were held on identifying key areas and themes

AN IRONCLAD SOLUTION

UN COMMITTEE



In Cambodia, women have a major problem with anaemia, which has resulted in premature labour, haemorrhaging during birth and poor brain development amongst infants. Fortunately, Chris Charles, a graduate student from the University of Guelph in Canada, figured out a brilliant way to work with the locals to increase the amount of iron in their diets without changing their eating habits.

Iron pots were expensive, so getting new cookware wasn't an option, neither was asking them to buy iron-boosting pills, so

Charles and local scientists tried urging the locals to stir chunks of iron in their pots while boiling the daily water supply.

However the women weren't interested in using blocks, or iron rings, or iron shaped like lotus flowers. But then Charles had a different idea, to shape the iron blocks like fish, which the locals considered as being lucky and it worked. The iron fish are only 3 to 4 inches long and just leaving them in the pot while water boils provides the villagers with 75 percent of their daily iron requirement. Better still, the fishes are only \$1.50 each and can last for up to three years.

Since the fish were introduced, anaemia levels have drastically declined and villagers have started feeling much healthier as a result. Iron deficiency affects 3.5 billion people around the globe, proving that Charles's idea has world-changing potential.



UN STATEMENT

In the lead up to the following three observance days in 2013 – International Day of Rural Women (October 15th), World Food Day (October 16th) and International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17th), ACWW is releasing the following statement to Member Societies, which you are invited to reproduce in your own publications and use to support your own discussions and events to mark the International Year of Family Farming in 2014 and the topic “Speak Up! Recognising the need for rural women to have a voice in policy and decision making”.

International Day of Rural Women – October 15
 World Food Day – October 16
 International Day for Eradication of Poverty – October 17

“Speak Up! Recognizing the need for rural women to have a voice in policy
 and decision making” Rural Women New Zealand

The International Year of Family Farming in 2014 provides a special opportunity for ACWW member societies to reach out to rural women giving them a platform to speak up.

During the past two years the UN has reached out to over 200,000 people via modern and traditional means to capture their feedback and ideas on the future of the global development agenda post 2015 and how to continue the work of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s). Entitled “The Global Conversation Begins,” these findings include ideas from those populations (women, indigenous groups, youth, etc.) who are traditionally excluded from such consultations. A distinct theme emerging from these conversations is the need for gender equality to be at the heart of any global development framework.

While advances in women’s equality can be demonstrated in many countries, it is well documented that women and especially poor rural women are the most excluded from decision making both at a personal and community level. ACWW member societies are in the position to give rural women a voice. When our society leaders reach out and ask rural women for their input, we are giving them a voice. Whether the exchange of ideas is by Twitter or while doing laundry at the river, women’s voices must be heard. Take time to listen. Rural women bring a different perspective to the discussions. Government policies that are agreed on by the collaborative process result in better health, education, and social services for the poor and ultimately for the larger community.

The UN General Assembly has recognized that family farming and smallholder farming (where many of the farmers are women) are important for sustainable food production aimed at achieving world food security and eradicating poverty in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals by declaring 2014 as the International Year of the Family Farming. ACWW encourages all their member societies to reach out to their local rural communities, have a conversation, listen to the results and report back to us so we can take your voice forward.



May Kidd, MA, JP
 ACWW World President

Take time to listen!

The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) is one of the largest international organisations of rural women and represents members in over 70 countries worldwide. It aims to connect and support women and communities worldwide. Associated Country Women of the World (Charity No. 290367) is an NGO Official Partner of UNESCO, and maintains consultative status with ECOSOC.

To obtain a copy of this text please email info@acww.org.uk

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE FAST APPROACHING



Jo Almond, ACWW Secretary & Triennial Conference Committee Chairman

CHENNAI IS FAST approaching. I do hope your preparations are coming right along. If you have questions about the Conference, please revisit 'The Countrywoman' magazine and read past articles, and also visit <http://www.acww.org.uk/acww-triennial-conference-2013.php> where many frequently asked questions are covered. For example, in July-September 2012 Countrywoman, we talked about the Reusable Bag Competition and the Gift of Reading. (Don't forget those books; there are a lot of children that will benefit greatly from your donations. If you like, and want to save space in your luggage, send books ahead of time to DMI headquarters).

In the October – December 2012 magazine, Visa's, electrical outlets, types of credit cards to use and travel insurance were discussed. In the January – March 2013 edition, hotel descriptions and 'charms of India' were highlighted and in the April – June 2013 edition, a lot of frequently asked questions were addressed such as how to obtain and use your registration number, how to arrange airport shuttles, etc.

Remember to check your passports for the expiration date. We don't want you to be stuck at home because of an outdated passport. Also remember to get your visas as soon as your government allows, it can be tricky sometimes. Just as a quick reminder, the registration form and hotel information are available at www.acww.org.uk and www.acwwindia2013.com websites if you have not registered, or made your hotel reservations yet. If you have any question(s) that have not been addressed in any of 'The Countrywoman' articles or on our website, please email Central Office at info@acww.org.uk and they will be happy to find the answer for you, or forward your email to me.

This will be my last article as ACWW Secretary; I have enjoyed being your elected representative in this position. I would like

to acknowledge and express my deepest gratitude to my Committee.

They have fulfilled every request I have asked them to do with class and dignity, so thank you to Bethan Williams, Mary Andrews and Chris Trewick. Working with the host society Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) has been a joy and pleasure.

They have always been attentive, well prepared and willing to accommodate ACWW in any way possible.

Thank you for all that you have planned for our 27th Triennial Conference. I don't know about you, but 26th September – 2nd October can't come around quickly enough. I am excited and ready to go. I can't wait to see old friends whom I haven't seen since the last triennium in Hot Springs, Arkansas, learn more about ACWW and what is happening, as well as explore the exciting area of Chennai, India.

See you there!



STOP PRESS

Due to problems being faced by some members with overseas bank transfers, and to allow as many members as possible to attend Conference, it has been agreed that the Early bird Registration Fee of £515 will be available until 31st July 2013. The very small number of delegates who have already paid the full amount will have their £50 returned to them at the Conference.

If you do not register before the final deadline of 1st August 2013, but would like to attend, please contact Central Office, who will try to accommodate you.

MY TIME AS AN AREA PRESIDENT



Merja Siltanen
Merja's home association is the Martha Association in Finland, which has been a member of ACWW from the very beginning. As European Area President, Merja particularly

remembers being invited to Paris by the European Council and giving a presentation about 'The Real Situation of Women in Rural Areas in Europe', which was very well received. Merja has visited many societies and has greatly enjoyed her extension work for ACWW, including several promotional visits for ACWW to Iceland and other countries in the Nordic Women's League. Merja was also involved in the European Country Women's event 'Advent in Prague'.



Emende Evelyn Nojang
Evelyn has been Area President of East West & Central Africa for 6 years and has been President/Co-ordinator of ACWW Society - Mbonweh Women's Development

Association, Cameroon, since 2000. She has been the National Coordinator for World Vision Ministry since 2003 and was Director in charge of Educational Guidance & Counselling, Educational Planning, Statistics and Co-curricular Activities of the Ministry of Education of Cameroon 1995-2010. Evelyn has described at her ACWW Area Conferences the impact that ACWW funding has on the lives of rural women, children and communities in East West and Central Africa.



HRH Princess Azizah Iskandar
Princess Azizah was elected in 2010 as the Area President for South East & Far East Asia. She is President of ACWW member society, the

Women's Institute of Pahang and has been involved with many society projects over the triennium. One example is of Her Royal Highness's provision of sewing machines for the PERWARI society in Indonesia, which are being used to produce embroidered garments and scarves which are sold, thus increasing household income. Also, in Malaysia, through her involvement as Patron of the National Cooperative of Commercial Crafts, Government grants were secured for the purchase of sewing machines, training in sewing and assistance in marketing the products of Home Based Businesses of single mothers. HRH Princess Azizah was awarded 'The Global Empowerment Award for Asian Women' in London, 2012.

SOUTH AFRICAN MEMBERS INSPIRED & ENRICHED



From left to right: Henrietta Schoeman, ACWW Finance Committee Vice Chairman & President of SA WAU; Anphia Grobler, ACWW Deputy World President & Agriculture Committee Chairman; Rina Potgieter, President of Mpumalanga WAU; Elzadu Bruyn, President of Overvaal WAU and Tharina Rossel, President of WAU North

ANPHIA GROBLER, ACWW Deputy World President, joined the Women's Agricultural Union North (WAUN) in Limpopo, South Africa, for their annual Provincial Congress.

For their congress, WAUN chose the theme 'Inspire and Enrich' in unison with ACWW's theme 'Empowering Women Worldwide - Encourage, Educate, Enrich'. At the congress, Anphia urged WAUN members to get involved with women from all walks of life by sharing their skills and

knowledge. She said "A lot of us come from a privileged background, we can read and write, have access to technology, education and training. We sometimes forget that this is a gift to be shared. We have to reach out, as there are lots of women from every walk of life that can benefit from our skills. We can learn from each other, but most of all, we can learn how to work together". She added "As part of a women's organisation, we must ask ourselves what our core business is and seize

opportunities whenever we can, if we want to survive in a world filled with indifference and technologically dependant people. This is the only way we can make a difference in the lives of women, children, their families and their communities worldwide - now and for decades to come".

During a presentation on one of her visits to Central Africa and to some of ACWW's projects in the region, Anphia said "What I've come to realise every time is that regardless of our differences, all country women strive to care for their families, their communities and to make a difference with what they have at their disposal. We meet amazing women every day, women that inspire us, enrich us and ultimately empower us."

According to WAUN President, Tharina Rossel, this is exactly what Anphia did.

Tharina says "You could see the women talking, planning excitedly over cups of tea after Anphia's speech. We were all inspired by her." Sheri Brynard, a 31 year old woman with Down Syndrome, told members about her struggle, her faith and her accomplishments as she became the first Down Syndrome person to achieve a senior certificate and a diploma in education.

Sheri says "Do not waste energy feeling sorry for yourself, rather be proud of who you are and make a difference in your world." After the speeches Tharina said "It was an inspiring congress and it was a privilege to have such inspiring women enrich our lives."

A WARM WELCOME FROM ESTONIAN COUNTRY WOMEN'S GROUPS



Above: Valerie Stevens, ACWW UN Committee member with some members of the Country Women of Estonia group. Below: Valerie planting a tree

In April of this year Valerie Stevens, ACWW UN Committee member, visited several country women's groups in Estonia. Valerie wrote: the warmth from the welcome I received more than made up for the late spring and the snow, which remained on the higher hills of the Tartu region of Southern Estonia. I spent five days with five different country women's groups, with magical names such as Puhja, Rongu, Otepää and Konguta

Vald, as well as with the Tartu society itself. Spring flowers were just coming out during the time I was there.

Each society looked after me for a day and each one went to enormous trouble to show me their wonderful displays of craft, their traditional singing and dancing, as well as their involvement with their communities. We visited schools and kindergartens, churches, castles and museums, a library, a day centre, a care home, the national sports centre, a ski school and there was also a theatre visit.

I also visited a clothing and furniture distribution centre, which the ladies of Tartu had set up with goods sent from Finland. A lady named Rutt from one of Estonia's country women's associations was my tireless host and ladies named Nelli, Ene and Urve supported her, as did the different interpreters who appeared at every venue to translate for me. To them I owe my thanks for a wonderful, thought provoking trip.

On one of my visits I planted a tree beside the one planted by May Kidd, ACWW World President, some years ago. National pride and

social commitment were evident everywhere, local government officials welcomed me and wherever I went I was given gifts and offered lots of coffee and many cakes at regular intervals. The generosity was overwhelming. From my visit to it was evident that ACWW is alive and well through Estonia's country women's associations.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Photo: clancysmeatco.com

MAIN

Epsy Johnson, Mississippi, USA

Sweet and Sour Meatballs

1 pound ground beef
1 egg
1/4 cup dry bread crumbs
1 onion, diced
1 cup packed brown sugar
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups water
1/4 cup distilled white vinegar
3 tablespoons soy sauce

In a medium bowl, combine the ground beef, egg, bread crumbs and onion. Mix thoroughly and shape into golf ball-sized balls.

In a large skillet over medium heat, gently brown the meatballs and set aside.

In a large saucepan, combine the brown sugar, flour, water, white vinegar and soy sauce. Mix thoroughly. Add meatballs and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, stirring often, for 30 minutes.



Photo: allrecipes.co.uk

SIDE DISH

Debbie Houghton, Zimbabwe

Fried Potatoes in Garlic

3 small potatoes per person
(You can leave the skins on the potatoes, if preferred.)
1 or 2 cloves of garlic – cut into chunks (add more or reduce if needed)
2 or 3 tablespoons of butter or 3 tablespoons olive oil (add more if needed)
Salt and pepper to taste

Boiling:

Bring a large saucepan of salted water to the boil over high heat. Boil potatoes until ready. Once ready rinse, under cold water, then drain and transfer onto a clean tea towel and wipe dry; either leave skins on or peel and dice potatoes.

Pan Frying:

Heat butter or oil in frying pan, sauté the garlic chunks until tender. Transfer potatoes into frying pan and cook over medium heat until lightly coated for about 15 minutes, stirring frequently so that they don't burn. Season with salt and pepper for additional taste.



Photo: bbcgoodfood.com

DESSERT

South Petherton WI, England

Lemon and Lime Posset - this recipe serves 6+

600ml double cream
150g caster sugar
Juice and zest of 2 lemons and 2 limes
Berries or mint sprigs to garnish
Put the cream and sugar in a small saucepan. Heat until just boiling then boil vigorously for 2½ minutes, while stirring constantly.

Turn off the heat, stir in the lemon and lime juice and most of the zest and then pour into 6 small ramekins or glasses and refrigerate for at least 2 hrs or until set. Serve garnished with berries or a sprig of mint.

LANCASHIRE WI HOLDS TEA PARTY IN AID OF INDIA PROJECT

LANCASHIRE WI held a tea party in aid of ACWW India Project no.0899, titled 'Programme for Alternative Livelihood Promotion for the Rural Poor especially for Widows'. Elaine Cuzner, ACWW Lancashire Representative said: "Our afternoon teas were a great success. Over the course of two events, 118 ladies sat down to learn about our current adopted project in India. At our tea party we were entertained by two ladies doing floral art demonstrations and discovered how to make that little bunch of supermarket flowers look fabulous." Beautifully decorated tables complete with little flower vases trimmed with ribbons, and paper doilies under the tea cups adorned the room at 'The Global Renewables Centre' in Leyland, Lancashire. The management were so impressed with the room that they took photographs for their promotional material.

At the tea party, the ladies consumed 472 dainty sandwiches, ate 295 cakes and drank 40 pots of tea; they also bought £200 of raffle tickets with all donations going towards the project. They all had a wonderful afternoon and soaked up much information about ACWW, prompting some of the institutes to consider joining as members. All were delighted to hear how the charity monitored the projects. The ladies read the project update and back copies of 'The Countrywoman' magazine were passed round. Members were advised to keep track of ACWW by reading Elaine's monthly column in the WI Lancashire Hotpot magazine. Elaine said "when all the money for the tickets has been paid into Lancashire WI, which may take some time, we expect the profit of just over £1,000 to be sent to ACWW". A very impressive result!



MY EXPERIENCE OF AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT ESSEX WOMEN'S INSTITUTES



From left to right: Anphia Grobler, ACWW Deputy World President, June Ward, Chairman of Federation of Essex Women's Institutes & Magdie de Kock, ACWW P&P Committee of ACWW.

DURING A RECENT VISIT to London to attend an ACWW meeting, Magdie de Kock, Promotions & Publications Committee Member, was privileged to be invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Essex Women's Institutes (WI), with Anphia Grobler, ACWW Deputy World President. The meeting, which was held on 8th March 2013 in Colchester, England, coincided with the celebration of International Women's Day, which made the occasion all the more relevant. Anphia and Magdie's journey began on a cold and rainy morning. They took the train from London's Liverpool Street station to Colchester.

The inclement weather conditions and the fog prevented them from really appreciating the beautiful landscape for which that area is famous for. Now and then glimmers of English landscape came into focus and they were able to see farmland with animals sheltering from the cold and rain. Earlier that morning the news reported that the UK was experiencing the coldest March in 50 years, and there was no indication of an early spring.

Magdie said "Once in Colchester, we took a taxi to the venue of the meeting and on arrival we saw a great number of women wearing heavy coats and holding up umbrellas. We received a warm welcome and enjoyed refreshments with their Chairwoman, June Ward and members of her Executive. The auditorium and the adjacent hall were a hive of activity and a congenial atmosphere prevailed. Many women were engaged in group discussions; others were visiting the wide variety of exhibitions and making purchases at stalls offering freshly baked goods. I met many friendly people, took photos and exchanged contact details."

When it was time for the opening of the meeting Anphia and Magdie were ushered

on the stage to their seats. The stage, Magdie remarked, was beautifully decorated with a massive arrangement of colourful flowers. The meeting itself was attended by 1,300 delegates and observers from Essex County, as well as the Mayor of Colchester.

Anphia introduced ACWW and spoke about projects financed by ACWW and about the members and member societies who contribute generously to the projects every year. Magdie pointed out that the attendees found the introduction to ACWW and projects very enlightening and informative.

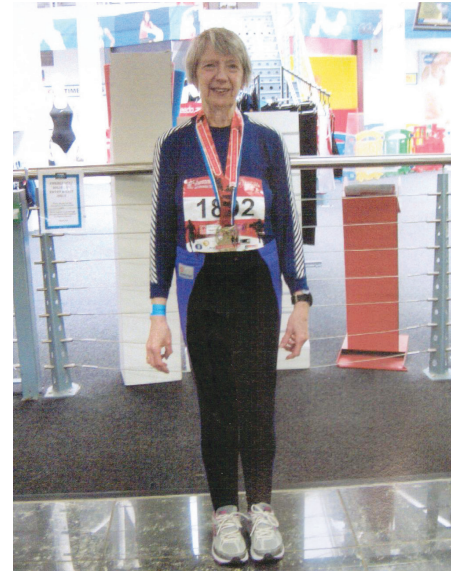
After a light lunch, the BBC television presenter on Countryfile, Adam Henson, addressed the meeting. Magdie said "Adam Henson is an excellent speaker and there was frequent applause from the audience in response to his entertaining and amusing narratives about farm life and the remarkable technological development of farming methods in the UK.

My heart frequently swelled with pride when he referred to advanced farming practices in the UK, because I knew that these were also followed in South Africa and were successfully applied."

Magdie concluded "After a pleasant and interesting meeting Anphia and I proceeded along the historical streets to Colchester station. In the train en route to London we philosophised about the many similarities between women's organisations in different parts of the world and the wonderful bond that binds us together through our affiliation with ACWW".

After a very success meeting, they arrived in London late afternoon, it was still raining and an ice-cold wind raged when they alighted from the Underground to street level. The English spring it seemed would definitely be late this year.

A 10K RUN FOR CAMEROON



72 YEAR OLD Maureen Bunnage (pictured above) of Lincolnshire North Federation of WIs decided to support one of ACWW's projects by competing a 10km run.

Maureen said: we pledged £200 to ACWW and as a Federation Representative, I gave some thought as to how we would raise this money. Like most Federations we often ask for each WI to undertake an idea, and run the day so to speak and raise money. Well I thought, I am the ACWW Representative, so how about if I do something and ask each member to sponsor me? Leaflets had just started coming out about the 10km run at that point, and that's when I decided after six years of resting from racing, to once again, and for the last time, enter this race. I told my friend who ran with me in the past, Wendy, of my run and she said she would keep me company.

The day of the run was Sunday 7th April 2013. The weather was not too bad, as it was not too cold or too windy. A football field belonging to the Lincoln City Council, which had been converted into a car park, was beginning to fill up, when we set off early for the starting line. At approximately 11am the race began and off we went. I only managed a jog/run/walk, on and off, for most of the race. The first lap took us back to the start, but by then we had done 7km.

So over half way, we ran to the Minster Yard, alongside the cobbled Cathedral, which was horrible, so I walked a bit. We got to Castle Square and then on into the Castle itself for the finish. Like everyone else I had set my watch at the starting line and stopped it on crossing the finish, completing my run in 1 hour 17 minutes. The money raised will go to ACWW's project, 'Cameroon Support Literacy Activities: Stop HIV/AIDS no. 0903'.

USA AREA PRESIDENT SOCIETY VISITS



Beverly Earnhart ACWW's
USA Area President

AMES, IOWA, USA, was the location of the Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild spring meeting, which Beverly Earnhart, ACWW's USA Area President attended. Beverly said: visiting the societies in the USA is a favourite job of mine, as I enjoy meeting the members in their home states and seeing how they conduct their conferences. My first trip in 2013 was to the March Conference of a neighbouring state for Illinois Association for Home and Community Education (IAHCE). Their theme was 'Hats off to IAHCE' and there were hats of every style to be seen. I presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled 'ACWW and How We Are Connected'. Throughout my journey I was accompanied by National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON) President and friend, Linda Gause. We worked together on the session and then she spoke about NVON. The session's attendees got to meet 'Betsy' - my Triennial travelling doll (All Board

Members have a doll travelling with them in the run up to Conference, should you spot one at a meeting – let us know!). Session attendees wrote greetings on cards to include in Betsy's travel bag. Betsy will appear in their state newsletter with an article about why she is travelling to India. If other members would like to add to the greetings, please send them to me before I leave in September via ACWW Central Office, info@acww.org.uk, who will be happy to pass them onto me.

A journal of where Betsy's travels have taken her is also a part of her package.

I also attended the International session presented by Chair Pat Weitzmann, IAHCE International Director, who had contacted Anphia Grobler, ACWW Deputy World President earlier to get information on her country of South Africa. South Africa is the Illinois country of study for this year. Each District Chair received a package of information on South Africa to share with their members. Ideas for meetings included recipes for food to prepare and try, studying the culture of Southern African countries and tourism in the area.

Pat also promoted ACWW's 'Women Walk the World 2013' and showed the PowerPoint presentation ACWW's Central Office had provided. There were a variety of workshops offered in the three days that had something for everyone to enjoy. One speaker during the three days was Barbara Fairchild, who had a 1973 hit record named 'Teddy Bear'. She was promoting her book 'Hi I'm Teddy... Teddy Bearchild', about a Teddy Bear and his autistic friends. Proceeds from the book are going to help find a cure for the autism. There were 369 attendees at the conference,



Lefttoright:RitaOveracker&LorraineWildman-IAHCE

including Ruth Pevery, who was a long time ACWW Life member, but sadly passed away in April 2013. She will be missed by many people around the world. President Marilyn Daughhettee asked me to do the installation of their new officers, which was a highlight of the closing banquet. Marilyn will be representing Illinois at the Triennial Conference.



Lefttoright:PatMorthland&CaroleThorman-IAHCE

PURSES FOR PENNIES



Margaret Pownall of Belmont WI in Lancashire has been raising money over the last two months for Pennies for Friendship. Margaret said "We sold little purses, as shown in the photo and members filled them with their 'Pennies for Friendship' each month. This of course will be ongoing for a few months or until the purses wear out.

Many members bought the purses for their children and grandchildren encouraging them to give to charity. The scheme was enthusiastically received.

YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISING MOMENTS FOR ACWW IN 2012



LadiesofYorkshireCountrywomen'sAssociation(YCA)

For the Skidby branch of the Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association (YCA), one of their most memorable moments was participating in ACWW's 'Women Walk the World 2012' event. Mavis Moore, a member, said "At the end of April 2012, twelve of us

did a circular walk of the village via the public footpath across the fields, which was quite muddy, as we had several days of heavy rain at the beginning of the week, but were lucky to have a fine although windy day on the day of the walk. We had a collection tin, allowing members to donate their 'pennies' and in total we raised £112.50.

In July of 2012, we held our 3rd Skidby Scarecrow Festival. A few members got together and made three scarecrows, depicting an English, African and Indian lady. The scarecrow depicted showed the English lady fundraising, selling cup cakes, with ribbons with pennies attached leading to the other ladies who were standing by water carriers, illustrating how our contributions helped women in developing countries'.

SOUP LUNCH & CARD SALE

The Glastonbury Women's Institutes (WI) held a tea back in the spring of 2012 to raise funds for ACWW. They also held several card sales during the year. Finally a few months ago they held a soup lunch. Joan Adams from Glastonbury WI reports that in total they have raised £410.55.

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD 2013

2013's WOMEN WALK THE WORLD was a great success and, unlike the walk of 2012, most members, family and friends saw sunshine instead of showers, even though it was still cool in parts.

Thank you to everyone who took part – through walking together we demonstrated how we will also work together to connect and support women and communities worldwide. Thousands joined in walking in

vast rural areas, in historical parklands and through cities and towns. Some even cleaned up the neighbourhood along the way by picking up rubbish, in a bid to help 'Keep Britain Tidy', all in the name of ACWW.

Almost every corner of the world took part, from Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, Jamaica, Romania and Scotland to name a few.

In our January-March 2013 issue of the Countrywoman, to encourage members and

member societies, we announced that the best Walk photo would appear on our front cover. Even though all the photos were good, it was clear to us that the best photo was from the Women's Institute of Nova Scotia in Canada, taken by Wendy Elliott (member). Well done ladies!

We invite our readers to read their story, along with the stories of the many other members who took part.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF NOVA SCOTIA CANADA

BEST PHOTO



Photo: Wendy Elliott (member)

Members belonging to nine groups of the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia in Canada joined women across the world as they set off on their walk. They walked at 10am local time on 29th April to promote ACWW.

The nine groups were made up of eight groups from Kings County and one from Hants County. The women met at a Church in Grand Pré Park, itself an historical site, to mark the 100th anniversary of the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia, Canada (WINS) and the 100th anniversary of the Martok Windsor Forks, Port Williams and Grand Pré groups in particular. In marking the anniversary the women walked one hundred steps from the church to the statue of Evangeline. The day was enjoyed by all.

SNAINTON WI YORK, ENGLAND



For Women Walk the World 2013, fourteen members of Snainton WI, plus one baby and one toddler did a five mile walk to Brompton by Sawdon, which is a neighbouring village to Snainton. They stopped for lunch at a restaurant, Brompton Forge, before walking back to Snainton. It was a cold day, but the weather was dry.

BINEGAR WI SOMERSET, ENGLAND



Binegar WI walked in beautiful sunshine on ACWW Day, 29th April, to celebrate 'Women Walk the World'. They collected litter around their route remembering the campaign slogan 'Keep Britain Tidy'. Nicky Venning, Chair of Public Affairs, joined them in both the walk and in 'keeping Britain tidy' by managing to

IOWA MASTER FARM HOMEMAKERS GUILD USA



Not long after Pat Weitzmann, International Director, Illinois Association for Home and Community Education, USA, give a talk on ACWW's Women Walk the World at one of their International sessions, a walk was arranged which involved the attendees and friends. Their goal was to raise awareness of ACWW and collect Pennies for Friendship.

To encourage donations, the members were each given a flag, with 'Women Walk the World' on it. They walked a 1.3 mile course on the campus of Iowa State University, where they were meeting. Even though many people got involved through donating, not many people walked due to health issues and maturity of age.

find a tyre, which she carried up to their tea venue at member, Angela Bunting's home. They had a lovely cream tea at Angela's and then, filled with cake, they walked back to the Village Hall.

Eileen Hurd, ACWW's Promotions & Publications Committee member said "All the goodies for the tea were supplied by members. I think if a WI hasn't managed a walk already- anytime this year will do. You could even copy us here at Binegar WI and collect litter, this would make it a dual purpose outing. Of course, the promised cream tea helped inspire us! Always remember walking helps give attention to ACWW and is really good for our health".

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD

CWA NELSON BAY EVENING BRANCH
NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA



On Sunday 21st April 2013, the Country Women's Association (CWA) Nelson Bay Evening Branch organised a walk for Women Walk the World. The aim was to enjoy a great day out and show support for ACWW through fundraising. Janet Mackintosh, International / Publicity officer of Nelson Bay Evening Branch said: It was great to be out with members and their families, as well as our honorary member, Faye Virtue. The walk started at the CWA hall in Nelson Bay and continued along Shoal Bay Road to Shoal Bay. Everyone stopped for coffees, milkshakes and Paddle Pops, a milk-based frozen dairy snack, whilst enjoying the view before returning back to CWA hall.

TEMPLETON BRANCH WI
CANADA

It was a cold and cloudy day, when eleven members of Templeton Branch WI set out on their walk, but that did not daunt their spirits! They started at 10:30am and finished approximately 11:45am. They walked about 3km through Bowring Park stopping at places of interest along the way. Bowring Park is a beautiful park in the west end of the city and is the home to many historical statues and sculptures. The members stopped and viewed some of statues and sculptures along their route – including a statue of Peter Pan, which was unveiled on 29th August, 1925 in memory of Sir Edgar Bowering's grandchild Betty Munn, who had drowned along with her father at the sinking of the Florizel at Cappahayden. After the walk the eleven members joined other members who did not walk, for lunch. They enjoyed a choice of three soups and an assortment of sandwiches and cupcakes with tea and coffee. The food was made by members of the April Committee. All in all it was a successful day.



MOUNT PEARL WI
CANADA



Margaret Yetman, ACWW Area President, Canada, reported that it was a beautiful sunny day, the day her WI, Mount Pearl WI started their walk.

The 'Walk' which began at 11am and ended just after 12noon, took place at the Waterford River trail in Margaret's local area (city of Mount Pearl, NL).

Those members who were physically unable to walk long distances participated by just walking around the nearby parking lot for a short time, before joining the main walkers for lunch. Margaret says it was a very enjoyable Walk!

JOYDENS WOOD WI
KENT, ENGLAND



The ladies of Joydens Wood WI were very fortunate on 30th April 2013, as it was a beautiful morning, with the sun shining brightly. Several members set off to 'walk the world', well not exactly the world, but the ancient woods for which they derive their name, which were even mentioned in King Cenwulf's Charter of 814 AD.

Doreen Fox (member) said "There are many routes which could be taken in Joydens Wood but we chose to take the woodland. At one stage it was as if we were walking through snow as the ground was covered in white aconites as far as the eye could see. There is usually lots of bluebells in this section, but in view of our inclement weather, they are still not fully out, although we did find a few wild violets.

We were lucky to hear a cuckoo but try as we might we couldn't spot it. These woods are a bird-watcher's heaven as woodpeckers, sparrow hawks and herons hover over the ponds hoping for a tasty lunch. We all agreed that we had enjoyed a great morning of rambling and we raised money for ACWW."

CATTISTOCK WI
DORSET, ENGLAND



Cattistock WI members and friends joined in Women Walk the World on 29th April 2013. With the sun shining, eleven members, and 4 dogs, walked through Melbury Park to raise money and enjoy one of the few sunny days they have had this year. After they had completed their not-so arduous walk the group adjourned to the Acorn Inn in Evershot for refreshments. A good day was had by all.

FEMEIA MILENIULUI III ASSOCIATION FROM TIRGU MURES ROMANIA



Femeia Mileniului III association Romania – The Woman of the Third Millennium - from Tirgu Mures, Romania, organised their second Women Walk the World event on 28th April. The walk was planned a month before as many items had to be prepared and made in advance, from the Women Walk the World banner, to badges which were specially made and worn by each participant. They also promoted the event through the association's Facebook page and in a local newspaper. They informed the local authority about the theme of the activity and asked official permission to meet and walk as a group. The walk was planned to start at 10am from the centre of the town, and about 20 people - members, family, friends and clients - met for a two hour walk (about 4 Km) from the

city centre to the leisure park and then back to the town. The weather was excellent it was very warm and sunny. It was a lot of fun during the walk with lots of people chatting and photos taken on the way. The organisers carried donation boxes and some handmade items, created by project beneficiaries, for people to buy along their route. The group arrived at their destination, a famous local leisure park with swimming pools, sports fields and gardens, in about an hour and stopped for a well deserved refreshing lemonade drink for the children and coffee for the adults. In the end the goal of the walk was achieved: an important number of participants showed up, they raised people awareness of the association's activities, raised money and had fun.

JAMAICA FEDERATION OF WOMEN KINGSTON, JAMAICA



The weeks of intense planning by the Jamaica Federation of Women (JFW) Executive Committee members culminated in two hours of invigorating walking at Emancipation Park in Kingston, Jamaica. Led by Jamaica's First Lady, the wife of the island's Governor General, Her Excellency, the honourable Lady Allen, Women Walk the World got off to a great start at 5:30pm sharp. Well wishers and family members joined the executives and Lady Allen in walking in the park. The efforts that went into planning the event were rewarded by an unforgettable evening of fellowship with members, friends, family and supporters and the knowledge that they kept their goal and the ACWW priorities in focus. They look forward to doing the walk again in 2014.

BLACKROCK ICA GUILD DUBLIN IRELAND



On Sunday 28th April, 2013, the Blackrock ICA guild went on a guided tour of Blackrock Village, which is a southern suburb of Dublin City, Ireland, as part of ACWW's Women Walk the World. Twenty three people attended the guided tour given by a local guide Kathy Carroll. Among the attendees was Marie Baker from the County Council, who represented Blackrock Ward on Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. They arranged to meet in Breffini pub on Main Street at 2.45pm, to commence the walk. They were supplied maps of their route, before beginning the tour at Idrone Terrace.

Eileen Joy, Blackrock ICA said "Idrone is an elegant Victorian terrace, with reproduction Victorian street lamps and a street that offers a majestic view of Dun Laoghaire harbour. Our walking pace was leisurely, in 'sightseeing mode' with some stops of historical importance along the way. Upon our return back to Breffini pub, tea and coffee awaited us, along with baked goods that members had brought along. Thanks to our gracious guide, Kathy, for her unending patience and knowledge. All members involved agreed the day was a marvellous experience, as we learnt about our local heritage, while simultaneously helping ACWW. The Blackrock ICA guild looks forward to ACWW day next year, after the tremendous success of this year's walk".

Goombungee with a back-up car driven by a member's husband. The car was adorned with information signs and balloons calling for donations from passing motorists. The other five ladies walked around the streets of Goombungee collecting donations in world globe money banks donated by ANZ Bank, before meeting for a combined walk along Mocatta Street, Goombungee. After both walks members joined their husbands for breakfast at the Goombungee Antiques and Coffee shop, who are great supporters of QCWA.

QCWA GOOMBUNGEE BRANCH QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

Ten members of the Queensland Country Women's Association (QCWA) Goombungee Branch participated in Women Walk the World. Five ladies walked from Haden to



WOMEN WALK THE WORLD

WEST GIPPSLAND GROUP OF THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA AUSTRALIA



Photo: The Star News Group in Pakenham Victoria

Vicky Birch, from West Gippsland Group of the Country Woman's Association of Victoria, Pakenham Branch, Australia said: I was amazed after reading 'The Countrywoman' of the difference special funding made to various groups of people in developing countries. So upon reading the last issue, I noticed that ACWW was asking members to take part in their 2013 Women Walk the World event. I'm so pleased to say our members took part by walking around a lovely lake in our neighbourhood.

Approximately 25 Members - husbands, young mums and children -walked around Lakeside in the autumn sunshine. After the walk, a BBQ was held at a member's home where all seven branches in the group contributed a salad towards the lunch. Each member then contributed a small donation towards ACWW Funds.

MULGILDIE BRANCH QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

On 24th April 2013, it was a hot and sunny day as the members of Mulgildie Branch posed for a photo before setting off for their walk in Central Queensland for Women Walk the World. On completing the walk, the small branch was happy they had raised money for ACWW.



CHEAM WI SURREY, ENGLAND



As Cheam Women's Institute of Surrey set off on their walk, they were very lucky to have sunny weather. There was no particular distance given to the walk as some of the ladies could not walk too far. It was suggested that these women did as much as they could and just enjoyed the day. There was cakes given and donations collected for all who joined in. The combined effort of the WI, along with the support of the London ambulance service, meant that approximately seventy people took part. It turned out to be a very successful day.

BURNSTOWN WI IN EASTERN ONTARIO OF CANADA



ESTONIAN RURAL WI ESTONIA



It was cold, but dry after a late spring when the ladies of Estonian Rural WI decided to participate in Women Walk the World. The walk was something of a royal procession as they walked round the village, going to a day centre, a nursing home, a school and a kindergarten, as well as a church. Valerie Stevens, ACWW UN Committee member who was visiting Estonia at the time said whilst participating in the walk "They wanted me to see everything. There was coffee and cake at the start and a wonderful buffet was waiting for us at the end. It was a great day".

DUBBO EVENING BRANCH OF CWA NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA



As Dubbo Evening Branch of Country Women's Association (CWA) of NSW was studying Morocco, they decided on 28th April, 2013 to call their walk, 'Dubbo to Morocco and all points in between'. The aim was to start at a member's home and walk around a few blocks, past a local children's playground and finish with a sausage sizzle and the movie 'Casablanca'. The walk was great and even their President's dog joined them as they arrived at a local playground. On completing the walk, the small branch was able to raise money for ACWW.

Members of Burnstown WI in Eastern Ontario of Canada and guests enjoyed their nature walk through local woodland. A professional photographer, who is also a WI member, took photos whilst they walked. Although it was a dull day and the spring flowers did not want to open, there were still a lot of textures and things to see. Afterwards, over lunch, members were provided copies of the Keyhole Garden directions from April-June 2013 'The Countrywoman' magazine, which is associated with ACWW's Agriculture campaign 'Grow locally, Benefit globally'.



ACWW PROJECTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

Margaret Mackay ACWW Projects Committee Chairman

MARGARET MACKAY, ACWW Projects Committee Chairman wrote: During my two terms in office as Projects Committee Chairman, I have travelled the length and breadth of the four countries of the UK talking about ACWW and Projects. It is gratifying to note that there is genuine

interest in all aspects of ACWW, particularly Projects. There is also great interest in supporting the 'Pennies for Friendship' Fund. Caithness is the most northerly Federation I have visited on the mainland, Hampshire being the most southerly. During my holiday travels, I have also been privileged to meet up with members from organisations in Australia, Canada, Hungary, Iceland and Romania.

Throughout all my visits, I have enjoyed wonderful hospitality and met many inspiring

people. There are many who "go the extra mile" to raise funds for ACWW. I would like to take this opportunity to record my heartfelt thanks to all for the friendship, hospitality and kindness extended to me during my visits over the past six years.

I extend a big "thank you" to individuals, Institutes and Federations for the generosity in continuing to donate willingly to the 'Pennies for Friendship' Fund and to Projects Funds. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

PROJECTS REPORTS



PROGRESS REPORT

INDIA

'Skill Upgradation of Traditional Artisans in Natural and Sisal Fibre Crafts'

The aim of this project was to enable beneficiaries who were widows, disabled, poor, or adolescent girls who had dropped out of school, to capitalise on technological advances in Natural and Sisal Fibre Crafts, in order to produce attractive bags, dolls, table mats etc. from banana and sisal fibres.

The training course consisted of the following stages:-

- Theoretical knowledge regarding banana and sisal fibre craft
- Practical training in making items
- Experience sharing – the trainees were given opportunities to interact with artisans, who were experienced in this activity and so they could learn
- Provide information on government schemes and other resources

It was arranged that all products made would be sold by the beneficiaries through government sponsored exhibitions and

10% of the revenues will be collected to cover expenses towards logistics and coordination. The trainees would be helped to find customers via government-sponsored exhibitions, showrooms and export houses to enable them to earn an income. Any additional income would be then added to a revolving loan, which will be used to sustain the life of the project. As a result of this project, the women have increased their earning capacity and employability and are also more aware of government welfare schemes and other resources.

FINAL REPORT

ROMANIA

Street Children enter the Computer World

Over 400 hours of work was carried out with the Pinocchio residents by the Institutul Femeilor (IF) on the project 'Street Children enter the Computer World' in Romania. Using the 4 new computers purchased, IF were able to work with several children



who had very serious problems with certain school subjects, helping them with their homework and improving their computer literacy. They are able to report that all the children they helped passed their examinations with good grades. Five boys involved in learning their alphabet are now able to recognise syllables, as well as read and write.

One of the project's main aims was around establishing good behaviour amongst the children, who tended to be very energetic but reluctant to learn. Day trips were awarded to those who behaved well, and over the course of the project, 43 children participated in at least one of the two/ three day trips organised by IF. The sightseeing and educational trips to places such as, the 'Nicolae Grigorescu Memorial Museum' and 'Julia Hasdeu Castle' have resulted in good behaviour amongst the children.

IF will continue the cooperation and volunteer work with the Pinocchio centre into next year, as every day new children replace those leaving the centre. The organisation has played a significant role in the community by helping the children to achieve success at school and progress to the next school year. The children now appreciate the instruction received from the IF.

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
- Individual & Society Membership forms
- ACWW 2010 Constitution £3
- Pen Friend Scheme form (via email)
- ACWW Stickers
- ACWW A3 & A4 Projects Posters
- All about ACWW leaflet
- ACWW Tri-fold promotional leaflet
- ACWW Projects & Funding leaflet
- You can make a difference leaflet
- Pennies for Friendship labels available at <http://acww.org.uk/acww-label.html>
- Louis Van Nieuwenhuizen Supporting ACWW- Pipe Mania CD £10

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 call: +44(0) 20 7799 3875



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 lisa.b@acww.org.uk to receive a FREE Bequest Information Pack.



INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS

Please use this form (or fax/copy if you don't want to cut your magazine) to make donations, join ACWW or renew individual memberships.

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS

To: ACWW, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB, UK.

Mrs/Miss/Ms Surname: _____ First name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Post/Zip Code & Country: _____

I enclose my cheque/credit/debit card payment for (amount): _____
(Cheques, in any convenient currency, should be made payable to ACWW. If paying in other than sterling, please add sufficient to cover bank charges. International Money Orders or Bank Transfers are also accepted.)

PLEASE COMPLETE BELOW:

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(1) New/Renewal of Individual Membership
(Category IVb) at £20 p.a. Number of years: _____

Three years for £50 _____

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