

THE COUNTRYWOMAN

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2015

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES CELEBRATE CENTENARY



CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

Highlights from the
Area Conference

GETTING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

ACWW Triennial World
Conference August 2016

Reg Charity No. 290367





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National Federation of Women's
Institutes and Rebecca Miller.

Maggie Simons, ACWW
Communications & Marketing
Deputy Chairman, presenting
the WI Centenary Baton to
HRH the Queen.

**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



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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**

**Editor's guide on submitting
articles & photos on page 4**

**THE EDITOR'S DECISION ON
ACCEPTANCE IS FINAL**

WORLD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Ruth Shanks A.M.
ACWW World President

DEAR FRIENDS

DID YOU REALISE that we have less than twelve months before the Triennial World Conference being held at the University of Warwick, England? It seems no time at all since we gathered together for that wonderful conference in Chennai, India. I know the Triennial Conference Committee (TCC), under the watchful leadership of the Chair, Henrietta Schoeman has all matters in hand and are working towards an enjoyable, fulfilling and worthwhile conference for all to attend.

When I look back on my diary for 2015 there has certainly been a lot going on, March of course was the Board meetings with associated committee meetings. It was great to have Board and Committee members meeting and sharing time with each other and get a broader picture of ACWW's work. There was also, at this time, a visit to North Yorkshire East for the Spring Council meeting, giving us the opportunity to promote the work of ACWW.

April saw ACWW day, 29th April, and Women Walk the World in all its various forms around the world. Some of the stories we have received have been wonderful, refreshing and it never ceases to amaze me how women think "outside the box" to involve others in these activities.

May included The Country Women's Association of New South Wales Annual General Meeting and Conference with approximately 600 participants, and again, a great time to network and renew friendships from around the State. This was also the month for The Countrywomen's Association of Victoria with about 700 participants, to conduct their Annual General Meeting. This was a flying visit for me as I was to leave Australia the following day for London and the June ACWW Committee meetings.

The timing of our June Finance and Executive meetings could not have been better. I enjoyed a pleasant evening at the NFWI special reception for partner organisations where we listened to an entertaining talk on the history of the WI and

significant features of their first 100 years. Whilst there we made contact with the Chief Executive of the Fairtrade Foundation and hope this might lead to us working more closely in years to come. The following day I was privileged to be a guest at the historic WI AGM at the Royal Albert Hall. I must say that memories of 5,000 women singing Jerusalem in unison will stay with me for ever and still sends a tingle down my spine when I think of it. June also was the time for ACWW's Caribbean, Central & South America Area Conference held in Kingston Jamaica with approximately 150 participants. This was a great opportunity to speak with the members from this area and also to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the host organisation, the Jamaican Women's Federation. Congratulations to the Caribbean, Central & South America Area President, Dotsie Gordon, for an interesting and informative Conference.

July and August was a time where many undone things could be done and for a little quiet time with the family. The end of August was the time for The Country Women's Association of Australia Triennial Conference with about 150 participants from around Australia and it was great to be "beside the seaside" for a few days.

September in Tulsa, Oklahoma was the USA Area Conference, this Conference was a great occasion and well organised. The great thing about the various Area Conferences is that they are all totally different in organisation, speakers, day trips, entertainment etc., but the one common theme amongst them all, is the interest and enthusiasm in working together to make this world a better place.

October is the time again for Committee meetings and venturing forth with new ideas for our continuing work. I hope you have all been impressed by the e-newsletters coming from Central Office. If you have not supplied your email address to Central Office, please do so and then you can also receive the newsletters. This has come about because it was felt that we needed to communicate between the publication of The Countrywoman magazine and it has been a really successful innovation.

My wise words for this edition are:
*We live in a wonderful world
Make a decision - whether it's right or wrong,
make a decision.
Get out of your comfort zone and into it!
And when you've done all that, do that
little bit extra.
Because it's that little teeny weeny little bit
extra, that makes all the difference.*
(Tom O'Toole)
Cheers for now and until next time, have fun!

Ruth Shanks
Ruth Shanks A.M.



09

Area Conference held in Kingston Jamaica



16

WIs Celebrate Centenary



19

Girls & Boys Workshop in South Africa



21

Greenhouse Development in Mongolia

4 FINANCE COMMITTEE

Reminders for all Societies and Individual Members

5-6 ACWW NEWS

Tea Time with ACWW

My visit to West Sussex FWI

In Memory: Ria Becker

6 AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Year of the Soil

ACWW & the Zero Hunger Challenge

7 COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING COMMITTEE

Planning a Successful Meeting

8 UN COMMITTEE

Turn the World UN Blue, Marking the UN

9-10 AREA CONFERENCE

Caribbean, Central and South America

10-14 WORLD CONFERENCE

Getting to the University of Warwick

Open Mic - Entertain the World

A Call for Unwanted Costume Jewellery

Conference information, Registration and Accommodation Form

15-19 SOCIETY FEEDBACK

How did you Celebrate 100 years of the Women's Institute?

Congratulations Sally Garrington and Thank you!

Women's Institutes Celebrate Centenary

Oxfordshire Federation Collects Foreign Coins in Aid of ACWW

Buckinghamshire Federation Promote ACWW at WI Centenary Garden Party

ACWW's European Area President Visits Germany

Celebrating 40 years of West Midlands Federation with 100 years of WI

Koster WAU Celebrate International Day

Making Hats for Pennies for Friendship

Rustenburg WAU Branches Girls and Boys Workshop

Francistown Women's Institute visits Lephoi Centre for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Visiting Dullstroom Epilepsy Centre in South Africa

20 - 23 PROJECTS

CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

This summer England and Wales were all a-buzz with celebrations for the Women's Institutes Centenary. The WI even managed to dominate our television screens, which was wonderful. I attended a special reception for WI partner organisations on the eve of their AGM, along with members of the Executive where we received a very warm welcome. I also met with representatives of the Scottish WI and the Northern Irish Federation of WIs and it was great to put faces to names I'd been in correspondence with.

In the last issue, (CW July- September 2015), the Giving Machine was brought to your attention. It is now even easier to join and select ACWW as the cause you wish to support. Once registered, click to 'go shopping' and all your purchases started through a link from www.thegivingmachine.co.uk will yield a donation to ACWW at no extra cost to you. Big companies use it as a form of advertising and that is where the donation comes from.

In September I had the good fortune to meet with ACWW Southern Counties Support Group UK at their annual meeting. This was held at Central Office and gave me a good insight into the invaluable work of our ACWW Reps. It also provided the opportunity for me to give more information about the forthcoming Triennial World Conference and answer some of their questions. Our website is the first port of call and is being kept up to date – follow the link button on the home page. The Triennial Conference Committee (TCC) meets in October, after which, further information should be available.

One year after he started, the sad news is that Samuel Godolphin, Projects Development Administrator is leaving us to work for the Safer World charity. We all wish him well for the future. The post has been advertised and I hope to be able to announce a new member of staff shortly. Poonam Gill, Office Administrator, will continue to write and send the 'Woman to Woman' e-newsletters. If you are not yet receiving yours, contact info@acww.org.uk with your email address putting 'Subscribe' in the subject box.

Tish Collins, Operations Manager

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. Please make sure that names of attendees mentioned in your article are spelt correctly, as well as names of groups, organisations, as well as the country/ region it was held. 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 in your article, we will assume that the names provided are correctly spelt. We will also assume that your submitted written article is accurate. *Please note articles will be edited.*

Submitting Photos

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

When taking photo(s) **please make sure the 'date stamp' on your camera/smart phone is switched off.** 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/when the photo was taken. Please ensure that the names are spelt correctly, as previously stated, if we do not know who the people are, we will assume that the names provided are accurate. Also, please ensure that the correct photo goes with the correct name and caption.

Photo Use & Release Agreement

By submitting your photo(s) you agree to grant ACWW a perpetual, royalty-free, irrevocable, non-exclusive right to publish your photo(s) in The Countrywoman and on ACWW's website. To reproduce, modify, adapt and incorporate your photo(s) in ACWW's other works and publications in any form, media or technology now known, or later developed for the full term of any rights that may exist for your photo(s). By submitting your photo(s) you warrant that you have the right to grant this, or have obtained permission from the original owner.

Please follow these instructions, as ACWW cannot accept any responsibility for inaccurate articles, or mislabelled photos and will not be liable for any disputes relating to the rights of use of any photos from any third party.

FINANCE COMMITTEE



Alison Burnett, ACWW Finance Committee Chairman

REMINDERS FOR ALL SOCIETIES & INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

If you are planning to attend the Triennial World Conference in England next year, you should remember that you have to be a PAID UP society or individual member to be allowed to attend. Any new Category 1-3 Society has to be approved by ACWW by March 2016 in order to be allowed to vote at the Conference.

If accepted later the society will be able to attend but NOT able to vote. This means that all necessary documentation should be at Central Office by end of February at the latest in order to be approved by the Board at beginning of March 2016.

2016 membership dues are due by ALL societies and individuals on 1st January. Any society who is unable to pay the dues can apply to the Twinning Fund, through ACWW Central Office in London, to have their dues paid. However if they are accepted to be paid out of the Twinning Fund it will be for Cat 4a only, even if they are normally a Cat 1-3 society. Twinning Fund is only a short term help and will not be available for more than 2 years at any one time.

Please support ACWW by taking part in this year's Tea Time with ACWW where you and your friends can enjoy a 'cup of tea' while raising funds for PFF, to help ACWW carry out its work helping women & communities out of poverty worldwide.

May I remind you again of the great need for funds for the Conference Sponsorship Fund, which supports members to attend the Conference by giving financial help? Please see the July-September 2015 issue of The Countrywoman for more information.



Thank you for your support!

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

TEA TIME WITH ACWW

IT'S AS EASY AS ONE, TWO, TEA...

Tea Time with ACWW was launched in honour of the International Day of Rural Women on 15th October 2014.

This campaign to bring people all over the world together to share a drink and raise money to reduce the deprivation of women living in rural poverty. The money you raise will not only benefit the lives of some of the most disadvantaged women all over the world, but also their families and communities. Let's raise awareness for this important day and help women less fortunate than ourselves.

Do join us and host a tea party on or around 15th October to celebrate International Day of Rural Women! For more details please visit: http://acww.org.uk/tea_time. Please let us know how you got on at your event by sending in a photo of your tea party and especially a photo of your cakes if you decided to use our cake topper design, along with a small write up. The best photo will feature on the front cover of our January-March 2016 issue of The Countrywoman.

Please send all donations by cheque payable to: 'ACWW'. Please write 'Tea Time

with ACWW' on the back of the cheque along with your full name and membership number. It would be great if you could also confirm if you are eligible as a UK taxpayer for Gift Aid, this way we could claim an extra 25% on your donation from the UK Government with no extra cost to you.

Deadline: Please ensure that all tea time articles and photos for the magazine reach the Editor by 20th November 2015 and that any donations reach by 30th November 2015. All other articles not referring to tea time should be submitted by 16th November 2015.

MY VISIT TO WEST SUSSEX FWI



Tish Collins, ACWW Operations Manager

Tish Collins ACWW's Operations Manager wrote: On a beautifully sunny summer's day in June I left Central Office for the lure of the countryside as West Sussex FWI had invited me to their ACWW Day at Fittleworth Village Hall. The purpose of the day was to raise awareness amongst WI members, inform, entertain, raise Pennies and support ACWW projects. To an audience of about 50, June Moran, County Chairman and Jane Biggs, ACWW Representative introduced a lively agenda. Congratulations went to Verity Ludlow from Woodmancote and Henfield WI, who celebrated the WI centenary by swimming 100 lengths of the local swimming pool. She raised almost £370, which she donated to West Sussex FWI's adopted ACWW project.

European Area President Valerie Stevens gave an informative PowerPoint presentation on ACWW – what it is and how it operates. Next up was Zippy Nomad who delighted the audience with highlights of her experiences touring England and Wales in a tiny campervan, visiting WI meetings and writing them up for a book (all profits of which go to ACWW).



Left to right: Verity Ludlow is shown handing her donation to Valerie Stevens, ACWW's European Area President

After lunch Valerie Stevens was invited to speak again. This time she bought home the necessity and impact of ACWW projects as she showed pictures of women she had met since becoming Area President and told of the difficult conditions in which they struggled to make a living for their families.

I was then called upon to confirm the wonderful news that West Sussex FWI had achieved its target to support Project no. 0974: Kabembe Grandmothers, Orphans and Vulnerable Children Health Improvement Project; led by Voluntary Efforts for Community Health Uganda (VECH Uganda).

This project was designed to improve the general health conditions of elderly rural grandmothers and their households through increased access to safe, clean water. Over

the course of 8 months, VECH Uganda aimed to construct 19 water 'jars' (made of waterproof cement) to harvest rainwater, in the homes of 19 grandmothers, who are heads of the household for 83 children. These beneficiaries will see their living standards improve in a number of ways; access to cleaner water, less cases of water-borne disease; more free time in which to focus on their academic studies (especially youngsters who

no longer have to walk great distances to collect water), income generation and other activities. There was a lot of interest in selecting the next project for the Federation to 'adopt' and the raffle and donations jar were both well supported! Valerie was followed by Dot and Phil Waldron talking about their experiences with the Fair Trade organisation and the increasing availability of fairly traded items, particularly produce. On the train home I had time to reflect on the impact made by ACWW and how we inform existing supporters, as well as attracting new ones.

This quarterly magazine, our website and e-newsletters are at the forefront of our communications, supported by Facebook and Twitter. Articles are welcome from members and will be used where possible.

ACWW NEWS

IN MEMORY



Ria Becker 2015

It is with great sadness that we announce that one of our former Southern Africa Area Presidents, Ria Becker, passed away on 14th April 2015.

Anna Boshoff, a member of the South Africa Homemakers organisations and ACWW, in honouring Ria's memory wrote: Refined and elegant, Ria was a leader of whom we were extremely proud.

Holding most offices in the Women's Agricultural Union of South Africa at one time or another, she rose from Branch Secretary, Home Economist and Floral Judge to Regional, Provincial and National President (1976-1981). She served two terms as ACWW Area President - from 1980-1986 and again from 1993-1995. She also served on ACWW's Projects Committee and was subsequently elected Chairman of the Projects Committee (1995-2001).

She was a hard worker who gave her all to the societies she served – her time, her energy, her abilities and her talents. She was a meticulous and always very well-prepared leader who understood the art of allowing the meeting to make decisions, while she kept control.

Ria gave an amazing part of her life to the welfare of others and will be remembered especially for her efforts to find and raise donors in order to afford underprivileged rural members the opportunity to travel abroad, meet members from other countries and attend World Conferences. She always showed love and devotion to ACWW throughout her years as a member of the Board and will be missed deeply by all who knew her.

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

YEAR OF THE SOIL- POTATOES



Photo: credit: getdrop.com

In Northern Ireland the counties of Antrim and Down, with their acres of rich soil, can grow many types of crops including lush grass for dairy cows and beef cattle to graze and for making silage for winter feed. Grain is grown for milling for cattle feed.

Many varieties of potatoes are also grown. The potato crop in the past was the mainstay income for many farms. Comber Earlies from County Down are eagerly awaited each year in early June. They are very tasty steamed and tossed in butter and parsley and served with any main course or with a salad.

In County Antrim from July they dig Sharpes Express and British Queens and from September main crops of Dunbar Standard. Maris Pipers are dug and stored for use through winter and spring. There are many ways to use potatoes to make tasty meals.

Here is a Northern Ireland recipe used by many generations.

IRISH POTATO BREAD, FARLS OR FADGE

400g Potatoes (4 medium potatoes) peeled and halved
Half teaspoon Salt
100g Flour
25g Butter (melted)

In a pot, cover potatoes with water and bring to boil. Simmer until tender (about 20 minutes). Drain. Mash potatoes while warm, until smooth. Pile potatoes on a floured baking board or place in a bowl. Sprinkle with salt and melted butter. Knead in just enough flour to bind potatoes together (too much

flour will toughen the bread). Use a floured rolling pin to flatten into a 9 inch circle about a quarter inch thick. Cut into 4 segments - the word "farl" is Irish Gaelic for four parts. Bake on a hot griddle or heavy pan until browned on both sides. Alternatively, sprinkle a little flour onto a dry frying pan and cook the farls for 3 minutes on each side or until evenly browned. Cool on a tea towel. May be eaten hot or cold or traditionally fried with bacon and egg. DELICIOUS enjoy!

ACWW & THE ZERO HUNGER CHALLENGE



Our new Zero Hunger Challenge page has gone live, with information about what we hope to achieve with our involvement. You can help too - we need our members to contact local supermarkets about their efforts to reduce food waste. The page, complete with a template letter you can send to your supermarket, can be viewed at http://www.acww.org.uk/zero_hunger



PLANNING A SUCCESSFUL MEETING

Magdie de Kock, ACWW's

Communications and Marketing Committee Chairman, motivates and equips women through knowledge and skills to develop ways to discover a personal purpose to enrich their lives and those of others. Here Magdie shares her advice on how to plan a successful meeting. Magdie writes: Since calling meetings is part of ACWW affiliated societies' activities, I was requested to give some hints to the chairpersons and secretaries, or minute-takers on planning and arranging a successful meeting.

In theory setting up a meeting should present no problem: a few phone calls, a confirmation note, or email and that's it right? Think again! Anyone who has tried to do it knows the reality: endless calls trying to find mutually convenient dates, difficulty in booking rooms, and unforeseen expenses that mean no sandwiches and grumbling participants. In my experience of more than 30 years of planning and conducting meetings of various types, I have come to the conclusion meetings fall into one of two categories, the one-off and the regular.

Meetings are generally held for one of four reasons, to spread information, to discuss issues, to solve problems and to decide on future actions. A meeting can be a positive or negative experience, depending on the skill of the chairperson and the attitude of those attending. The most common complaints from those who attend are:

- Participants couldn't have their say
- Discussion degenerated into argument
- The meeting was dominated by one or two 'loud voices'

- The Chairperson took over
- The Chairperson did nothing to control the meeting
- Irrelevant discussion was allowed
- It was generally a waste of time (and often stressful through anger and frustration)

There is far more to the meeting than just the time spent around the table. In order to be successful, everybody must:

- Know why they are there
- Recognise what is to be achieved
- Have read all paperwork in advance
- Be prepared (mentally and practically)
- Contribute positively
- Listen
- Focus and keep to the point
- Leave with a clear understanding of any points of action

Meetings need to be structured if they are to be effective. That is not to say that the structure has to be overt, seeming to be more important than the content. Formal meetings are likely to have a more obvious structure. For informal meetings the chairperson might not want to appear so dictatorial, but there should be an underlying plan that keeps the meeting to time and productive. To arrange a meeting one should keep an accurate and well planned database of those who attend the meetings you set up. Since many will attend more than one meeting, it is generally best to keep one overall meeting database, rather than one for each meeting. Before you begin to plan the meeting, make sure you know who must attend, who should attend and what is needed for the meeting.

If too little notice is given, participants will be ill-prepared. If papers have not been read, this will have to be done at the meeting. This not only wastes time, but comprehension is likely to be poor and readers often latch onto a point they strongly agree or disagree with; this leads to argument. If issues have not been thought through, arguing is again likely, as is a resultant poor decision. If items are not fully discussed, or decisions are poor, the subject is likely to be raised again at the next meeting. This might be intentionally via the agenda, or unintentionally because someone goes back to the subject. Inevitably the whole matter is discussed again, wasting considerable time.

There is no fixed rule for the amount of notice you should give, but ensure that it is enough for all preparation to be done. Few people like long meetings, and the length of

time taken is a common complaint. This is sometimes the fault of the chairperson for allowing non-productive argument and not drawing items to a close, and is sometimes caused by having an unrealistic number of items for discussion. There is no maximum time for a meeting, but one lasting for more than a couple of hours is bound to have periods when concentration slips, to prevent this provide regular comfort breaks. This also helps structure the meeting and will usually speed it up. Setting a comfortable environment is a vital part when planning a successful meeting. Although there's usually not much choice, wherever possible choose a room that will be comfortable.

This will make the meeting easier to chair and to minute and it is more likely to be productive. The size of the room and layout should be appropriate, and the room light and airy with minimum distractions.

The use of additional equipment, be it electronic or other, makes an important part of conducting a successful meeting. Make sure you know what equipment is required by participants, so this can be arranged in advance. It is always a good idea to have a flipchart in a meeting room, as it can be used to list ideas or problems. Listing the latter is a good way of taking the heat out of an argument; focusing on the flipchart prevents people focusing on one another and slows the pace.

TIP: *I always prepare a master checklist of absolutely everything I might need to do. For each meeting or conference I arrange, I print off a copy and, as I set up the meeting, I cross out the things that are not relevant and tick off the tasks as I do them.*

IN CONCLUSION

There are four roles in a meeting: to lead it (chairperson), to support it (secretary or minute-taker), to contribute to the meeting and to observe it. It is of the utmost importance that members are aware of these and then be prepared to play out their different roles. Henry Ford, the American industrialist said:

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success".

Let us strive to work together to live up to the theme of the next ACWW Triennial World Conference: Working together for a better future.

Acknowledgement: 'Meetings' by J Guttman.



Sharon Hatten, ACWW
UN Committee Chairman

TURN THE WORLD UN BLUE MARKING THE UNITED NATIONS

This October to help mark the 70th anniversary of the United Nations (UN), iconic monuments, buildings, landscapes, museums, bridges and other landmarks across the globe will be lit up blue - the official colour of the UN.

This is the fourth article in the series 'Celebrating 70 years of the UN with 68 years of advocacy work by ACWW'. In my final article I will focus on the changes in the lives of women over the past 70 years both at the UN and at ACWW.

A photo history on the UN's website (<http://research.un.org/en/UN70>) clearly shows women are either absent, or in subservient roles during the early years of UN meetings. Women and children are often portrayed as the ones who were poor and in need. ACWW's UN rep, Patricia Altshuler, in New York provided me with her memory of the early days when she worked at the UN as a secretary to the Australian Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary at the time. Patricia says "There were lots of women secretaries working for government leaders and ambassadors. I don't think it dawned on us that we might aspire to be an ambassador".

While there were a few women in decision-making roles, Eleanor Roosevelt and Madame Pandit from India for example, most women didn't think to aspire to be ambassadors, government representatives or leaders. But by the 1960s women started to become social activists and very vocal and by the 1970's it was clear that women were becoming government leaders, UN ambassadors, and were being placed in decision-making roles.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which was set up in 1946 as the principal global intergovernmental body for policy dialogue on gender equality, has been instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Important achievements helping to achieve these CSW goals include the 1979 Convention on the

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the 2000 landmark Security Council resolution 1325. The Security Council resolution 1325 specifically addresses the need for women and children to be protected during the time of conflicts.

In 2010, UN Women the only composite entity of the UN system was created to promote the rights of women. UN Women supports and advocates for gender equality, women's empowerment and the rights of women globally. Some highly successful campaigns that are currently promoting these rights include UNite to End Violence against Women, Planet 50/50 by 2030: Step it up for Gender Equality and the 'HeForShe' campaign.

Recently I read the September 2015 Bi-Annual Civil Society Briefing, opening remarks of Michael Moller, Acting Head, UN Office at Geneva, where he said: "Gender equality should be at the heart of all our efforts, at all levels. In June this year I launched, together with the Permanent Representative of the USA, the International Geneva Gender Champions Initiative - a network of decision-makers in Geneva".

He added "The members of this network will lead by example through concrete actions that bring genuine change both in organisational culture and in programming. One concrete action is to strive for gender parity in all discussions in International Geneva. I personally will no longer accept invitations to serve on a panel without any women participants".

While this suggests that the UN itself does not have equality in the workspace especially in leadership roles, there is a concerted effort to ensure this happens. ACWW has changed during the past 70 years. Women went to the first post-World War Two Conference in Amsterdam where they passed resolutions to accept an NGO role at the UN, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and UNESCO. At other ACWW conferences resolutions on citizenship, education, family planning, environment and health have

provided direction for member societies. In 1980 in Hamburg Germany, ACWW passed a resolution to set up the 'Projects Committee'. ACWW projects met all, or some of the Millennium Development Goals, which indicates our foresight in development needs.

At the 1995 conference in New Zealand, ACWW passed a resolution to establish an Ad Hoc committee on Agriculture (changed to a Specified Committee in 1998). The Agriculture Committee has recently re-established its links with the FAO, which had gone into abeyance for a few years as there was no Rome representative.

During the past 68 years, ACWW has moved from black and white to colour photos, from the pen, paper and mail era to the instant messaging of email, Skype and Twitter. Members have transitioned from the time when women were known by their husband's name and being treated as property to women who keep their birth name throughout life and are independent. Western women in the 1950's were given few choices in a career, usually a nurse, a secretary or a teacher and women in developing countries were largely under - educated. But 70 years later women are making a difference in their roles as lawyers, politicians, doctors and school principals in most countries in the ACWW world. The ACWW history books are very interesting to read and observe the differences.

Whilst many NGOs have paid staff members who advocate during meetings at UN venues, ACWW continues to rely on and is very grateful to volunteers. The NGO interventions at the UN are the main communications for civil society to persuade the governments at UN deliberations. At the local level, ACWW member societies are leaders in their communities as they work to help enhance the lives of women, girls and families in both urban and rural areas.

Women who volunteer for ACWW are making a difference every day in their communities. The challenges of tomorrow are being defined today. ACWW members of tomorrow are the youth of today.

WORKING WITH WOMEN WORLDWIDE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN HOMES AND COUNTRY



Dotsie Gordon, ACWW Area President for Caribbean, Central and South America

The Area Conference for the Caribbean, Central and South America, held in Kingston Jamaica was a two day event from 11-12 June 2015. With the theme titled 'Working with Women Worldwide for Sustainable Development in Homes and Country', the first day's activities commenced with the registration of sixty-seven (67) delegates, representing areas in Trinidad & Tobago and Jamaica. The Opening Ceremony commenced with Dotsie Gordon, ACWW's Area President for Caribbean, Central and South America, welcoming participants. She stated that it was an achievement for Jamaica to be hosting this triennium's Area Conference.

Dotsie extended a warm welcome to specially invited guests, including Ruth Shanks A.M., ACWW World President; the Hon. Donna Parchment-Brown, Custos of St. Andrew; Gloria Millwood, President of the Jamaica Federation of Women (JFW) and Cecile Jarrett, Chairperson of JFW; as well as Alison Burnett, ACWW Treasurer and Finance Committee Chairman.

There were several speeches presented by the VIP guests. In her Greetings, Gloria Millwood, said the day was a memorable one because two great organisations had come together to discuss and share ways in which women were working selflessly to improve their lives and that of others.

She pointed out that this year's Area Conference also was a chance to celebrate the host organisation, JFW, who were celebrating 70 years of existence and was justly proud of its many achievements of



Gloria Millwood, President of JFW - Greetings



Ruth Shanks A.M. ACWW World President - Opening Address



The Hon. Donna Parchment-Brown - Keynote Address



Valerie Veria, CEO JBDC - Presentation Q&A

improving the quality of life, especially of those in rural communities.

Ruth Shanks A.M. ACWW World President, during her opening address, greeted the participants and thanked the Area President, delegates and visitors for their attendance. She said it was wonderful being in Jamaica as she had heard so much about the country and thanked everyone for making her feel welcomed. In Ruth's speech she pointed out that her designation as World President had made her responsible for over nine million women across the world. She said ACWW was happy to hear that members had participated in ACWW's Woman Walk the World, which was an event to promote ACWW in the communities and a means of collecting funds. She informed them that the next ACWW event would be 'Tea Time with ACWW' an event started in 2014, as a promotional tool to inform people of the organisation's involvement with the UN. It would be held on or around 15th October to coincide with the International Day of Rural Women celebration. Ruth's final thoughts were that we could not change the world but we could make a difference by working together for a better future.

The Keynote address was delivered by the Hon. Donna Parchment-Brown, who expressed her happiness and pleasure in meeting Ruth and welcoming her to Jamaica, as well as the participants represented at the conference. She declared it was an honour

to be invited to what was considered an important event and congratulated the JFW for its 70 years of important service.

During her address the Hon. Donna Parchment-Brown mentioned the UN Women Policy and Programme Bureau of 2015, touching briefly on a few of the recommendations made by the Bureau by saying:

- Women's positions in life should not define them. We need to be conscious of all our sisters and not be derailed from the concerns; we all rise.
- Violence against women and girls in Jamaica continues to be a leading issue negatively impacting women and the family. The voices of women and men were raised on these issues during the celebration of Child Month in May.

She reminded the participants to work with and through organisations, such as the former Bureau of Women's Affairs now the Bureau of Gender Affairs and the Ministry of Justice and National Security. She added "We need to be our sister's keeper and to be available to them in the face of challenges. Let us not be afraid of expressing our emotions in a positive manner to create change.

Do not leave today without that reflection that causes you to identify your value. We must move forward with courage, courtesy and confidence".

Valerie Veira, Chief Executive Officer of the Jamaica Business Development Corporation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

(JBDC) also welcomed guests and delegates. In her introduction she informed the group that the JBDC was established in 2001. During her presentation she wished that at the end of all the discussions, the delegates and visitors would leave with a new understanding of what needs to be accomplished. After all the speeches and presentations, there followed a wonderful luncheon in honour of the JFW's 70th anniversary in the Delegates Dining Room, after which the participants

attended a craft display. On day two field trips were arranged to Seaview Basic Children's School in Hope Bay, Portland, Jamaica, where the participants were entertained by the school children. There was also a visit to Lenna's Farm in Hope Bay, Portland, Jamaica, with the final leg of their journey back to Kingston, where they had a one hour visit at The College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE) hosted by President, Dr Mary Nichols.



Delegates at the conference - Kingston, Jamaica

WORLD CONFERENCE



Henrietta Schoeman, ACWW Triennial Conference Committee (TCC) Chairman

OPEN MIC
ENTERTAIN THE
WORLD

Do you like to tell jokes or stories, sing, dance, be in a skit or play a musical instrument?

On Friday evening 19th August 2016 when the Triennial World Conference is taking place at the University of Warwick, you will have the opportunity to share your talents with the world. This could be done as a Society, a small group or as an individual.

So be creative and join us in entertaining the world! If you need further information or to book your spot, please contact Henrietta Schoeman, TCC Chairman, via ACWW Central Office.

A CALL FOR
UNWANTED
COSTUME JEWELLERY

The Triennial Conference Committee (TCC) requests all members who will be attending the 2016 ACWW Triennial World Conference in August 2016, to bring along their old and unwanted costume jewellery. It will be collected and then handed in for recycling. The money collected will be for ACWW's Pennies for Friendship fund. The TCC appreciates your support of ACWW.

GETTING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
ACWW TRIENNIAL WORLD CONFERENCE AUGUST 2016

In less than a year, members of ACWW will travel from all over the world to attend the 28th Triennial World Conference at the University of Warwick, Coventry, UK. Registration is already taking place and travel plans need to be made.

Please note that major transport links from your airport of arrival or London go to Coventry, the nearest city. From Coventry, local buses or taxis will take you to the University of Warwick campus.

Heathrow Airport near London is but one of many airports that can be used.

Most airlines can be used to reach Heathrow. Go to the website www.heathrow.com for more information. From Heathrow Airport the National Express buses (www.nationalexpress.com) can be used to get to Coventry in about 2 hours. Trains to Coventry Railway Station depart from London Euston Station in Central London.

Mainline trains run from Heathrow to London Paddington Station, on arrival, transfer to the Underground or to a taxi for Euston Station. Birmingham International Airport is situated near by to the Conference venue and is being used by various airlines such as Emirates, Air Lingus, Air Canada, Air France, Etihad, Lufthansa and American Airlines. More information is available on the website www.birminghamairport.co.uk.

There are also trains running from Birmingham International Airport to Coventry (journey time about 10-20 minutes). When arriving in Coventry, local bus number 11 or 12 from Warwick Road (a short walk from the train station) will take you to the University of Warwick campus. The current single bus fare is £2. The exact fare is required as no change will be given. Local taxis are also generally available outside Coventry

train station. This is also your point of arrival when using the train from London Euston to Coventry. Other recommended airports include Gatwick, Stanstead, Luton and East Midlands. Buses are a less expensive way to travel within the UK than trains.

They provide a service from all airports mentioned above. You may have to change buses. If you travel directly to Birmingham International Airport, there will be a Conference shuttle bus service between Birmingham International Railway Station (nearby) and the University of Warwick, provided by Johnsons Coaches on Tuesday 16th August and Wednesday 17th August 2016 from 8am to 8pm. The cost will be £30 per person, single journey and pre booking is necessary by using the Travel Form received by attendees after registering. Taxi services are also an option from railway and coach stations but they can be expensive.

We would not recommend hiring a taxi from London to Coventry or from London to the University of Warwick. The United Kingdom does require travel visas from certain countries. Please check on the website and if necessary, please apply in time. The visa is usually a tourist visitor visa valid for 6 months and costs and requirements vary from country to country.

Recommended websites: www.migrationexpert.co.uk or www.uk.visas.com.

The venue for the 2016 ACWW Triennial World Conference is the University of Warwick and more information can be found at www.acww.org.uk/triennial.

We hope that the information will enable you to have a safe and hassle free journey when you decide to attend the World Conference. Please contact Central Office if necessary.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION FOR 28TH TRIENNIAL WORLD CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK, COVENTRY, UK 17TH - 23RD AUGUST 2016

THEME: WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE

TIMETABLE: (Detail may be subject to change)

Wednesday	17 August	Registration at University of Warwick. Outgoing Board Meeting
Thursday	18 August	Area meetings. Official Opening Ceremony. Plenary
Friday	19 August	Thanksgiving Service. Elections. Plenary
Saturday	20 August	Plenary. English Night
Sunday	21 August	Plenary. Gala Dinner
Monday	22 August	Plenary. Closing Ceremony. Area meetings
Tuesday	23 August	Excursion Day (optional at £50 per person). Incoming Board Meeting



PLEASE NOTE: THAT ACWW IS NOT RESPONSIBLE IN ANY WAY FOR:

- TRAVEL Participants must make their own travel arrangements
- INSURANCE **All participants are advised of the importance of arranging comprehensive cover for personal accident, personal liability, medical expenses, baggage, cancellation charges, etc. as soon as they register.**
- VISAS Participants must check whether a visa is required for the UK and apply for that in time.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE:

ACWW is not liable for any event beyond its control. These include unusual, unforeseeable or unavoidable events beyond our control, the consequences of which could not be avoided even if due care has been exercised, including but not limited to war, threat of war, riot, civil disobedience or strife, government action, terrorist activity, natural or industrial disaster, fire, adverse weather conditions, level of water in rivers or floods and closure of airports. This will include industrial dispute involving third parties, technical or maintenance problems or unforeseen operational decisions of air carriers, such as changes of schedule or any failure in the information technology infrastructure.

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS AND VOTING RIGHTS

- The Officers of ACWW
- Maximum of 5 voting delegates from each Category I Society
- Maximum of 2 voting delegates from each Category II Society
- 1 voting delegate from each Category III Society
- Chairmen of Specified and Ad Hoc Committees
- Category IV (a) and IV (b) members as space allows.
- Past World Presidents.
- ACWW UN Representatives
- Visitors invited at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Fully paid-up Member Societies may send voting delegates according to membership category. Fully paid-up Individual Members of ACWW may attend as observers as space allows.

HOW TO REGISTER

All fees (registration, day excursion tour and accommodation) will be payable to ACWW. To reduce costs, please pay in one transaction, itemising your requirements on the appropriate section of the form.

Please fill in one form per person.

On-Line Registration

- Go to Triennial World Conference section of our website acww.org.uk
- Download Registration Form and fill in Conference and Accommodation details as appropriate.
- Email completed form to info@acww.org.uk and
- Pay for Registration and Accommodation together by:
- PayPal giving your full name as reference.

Note: You do not have to have a PayPal account to use this secure system to pay by credit or debit card. A surcharge is levied by the bank on all credit card transactions and PayPal have a service charge of about 6 percent. It would help ACWW if you would please add 6 percent to PayPal payments and 6 percent to credit/debit card payments

Or

- Bank transfer to:

SWIFT details for Associated Country Women of the World	
BIC	NWBK GB 2L
IBAN	GB67 NWBK 5600 3301 2441 08
Sort Code	560033
Account Number	01244108
- An optional interactive form is in development; please check our website for details.

Registration by Post

- Complete the Registration Form, sign and date it.
- If you would like to keep the information you see on this page, please photocopy and send your registration on the next page to [ACWW, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufon Street, London SW1P 3RB, United Kingdom](#), together with the Conference registration and accommodation fees payable by PayPal, bank draft/ transfer (details above), credit card or cheque, including bank charges to arrive at our London Central Office no later than the cut-off dates. You can also detach the registration forms.
- All cheques and bank drafts should be made payable to the "Associated Country Women of the World." If you wish to pay by credit card, please download and complete the Card Payment form on the website: www.acww.org.uk (Please note that a surcharge of about 6 percent is levied by the bank on all credit card transactions.) Please ensure to reference with your FULL Name.

Registration Fees

- EARLY BIRD conference registration rate is £390 per person to be paid before 16th April 2016.
- After 16th April 2016, the fee will rise to £415 per person and the cut-off date will be 1st July 2016.
- The Day Delegate rate is £85 per person per day. The cut-off date for Day delegates will be 1st July 2016. No more than 3 days as a day delegate will be allowed.
- The Day Excursion is £50 per person.
- Optional visits will be arranged for registered spouses, partners, and friends at no extra cost. Details to follow.

Accommodation Fees per person

- En suite accommodation with dinner, bed and breakfast at £73 per night.
- Shared bathroom facilities (females only): dinner, bed and breakfast at £58 per night (limited availability so will be allocated to those travelling furthest).
- Superior Twin or Double rooms are available with dinner, bed and breakfast at £156 per ROOM per night, 2 people.

REGISTRATION AND ACCOMMODATION FORM

ACWW 28TH TRIENNIAL WORLD CONFERENCE



Full Delegates/ Observers: Complete Parts A, B, D, E and F
Day participants: Complete Parts A, C, D, E and F
Spouse/Partner/Friend: Complete Parts A, D, E and F

Conference No.
(Office use only)

PART A FULL DELEGATE, OBSERVER, DAY PARTICIPANT, SPOUSE/PARTNER/ FRIEND

Title (Miss/Mrs/Ms/Mr/Dr/Other)	<input type="text"/>	Membership no.	<input type="text"/>
Surname	<input type="text"/>	First name(s)	<input type="text"/>
Street name and number	<input type="text"/>		
Town/City	<input type="text"/>	Province/State	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text"/>	Postal/Zip code	<input type="text"/>
Telephone (including country and area code):	<input type="text"/>		
Mobile (Cell) phone number:	<input type="text"/>		
E-mail address	<input type="text"/>		
Home language	<input type="text"/>		

CONFERENCE FEE PAYABLE BY Full Delegates, Observers and Spouses/Partners/Friends (for whom some optional special visits will be offered). Non Refundable but Transferable, a fee of £10 will be requested if transferred. (Tick)

I enclose £390 (Early Bird Registration) to arrive at Central office no later than 16 April 2016.

I enclose £415 for registration after 16 April 2016 and before 1 July 2016.

PART B FULL DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

Society Name and Membership Number	<input type="text"/>
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PART C DAY PARTICIPANTS ONLY

Day delegate - I will attend on the following day(s) at £85 per day up to maximum 3 days

Thursday 18 August	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday 19 August	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday 20 August	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 21 August	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monday 22 August	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total days	<input type="text"/>

PART D DAY EXCURSION TOUR (Tick)

I wish to book the Day Out Tour on Tuesday 23 August @ £50

PART E ACCOMMODATION: (Dinner, bed and breakfast per person per night)

If Day Participants or spouses/partners/friends wish to make use of the accommodation, they must also complete this part.
Please book me the following accommodation

Date in Date out

Total Number of nights At £73 per person per night single en-suite I enclose £

Total Number of nights At £58 per person per night, shared bathrooms (females only) I enclose £

Total Number of nights At £156 per ROOM per night superior en-suite twin / double (delete as appropriate) I enclose £

Twin / Double only I will be sharing with: full name

PART F PAYMENT INCLUDED

REGISTRATION FEE

DAY PARTICIPANT FEE

DAY EXCURSION FEE

ACCOMMODATION

TOTAL PAID

FINAL DATE FOR REGISTRATION IS 1 JULY 2016.

I indemnify ACWW of any liabilities arising from the personal injury or loss of personal property during my attendance at the Conference.

SIGNED:

DATE SENT:

ACWW will send confirmation that you have been registered for the Conference.

- **Please bring this confirmation to the on-site Registration Desk when you arrive for the Conference.**

I REQUIRE A LETTER OF INVITATION FROM THE Hostess Society to support my visa application.ACWW Central Office will forward this to you. (Tick)

HOW DID YOU CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE?

In honour of the Centenary the Avon Women's Institute (WI) in Fordingbridge, England, held a Coffee Morning to raise money and awareness of ACWW's work.

Isabel Brown President of Avon WI said "Soon after 10am the room was buzzing with chatter as everyone enjoyed delicious cakes and snacks bought from the stalls.

It was good to have the support of local WIs and the wider community. The morning went by in a flash. We were delighted to make £286 to pass on to ACWW".



CONGRATULATIONS SALLY GARRINGTON & THANK YOU!

Congratulations went to Sally Garrington a member of Shropshire Federation and ACWW, back in July 2015, who graduated with a Masters and who wrote her dissertation on ACWW. Sally wrote: At the age of 59 I decided (38 years late) to study for my Master's degree in Sustainable Development at the University of Staffordshire via distance learning. I had been a geography teacher of 16-19 year olds for over 30 years and had become increasingly interested in development and our inequitable world.

When it was time to undertake a dissertation of between 12,000 and 13,000 words in the third and final year, we were advised to investigate something we were really interested in. Having been the ACWW representative for Shropshire for five years, I decided that this would not only be interesting but would also leave me better informed for when I gave talks around the county. The title of my dissertation was 'Challenging the Global Food System - the role of the NGO Associated Country Women of the World'.

I had help with finding information not only from the dedicated staff at the London Central Office, but also from Margaret Yetman in Canada, ACWW Deputy President and Agricultural Committee Chairman, Anne Marit Hovstad in Norway, Chairman of the Projects Committee and Bettina Corke in

Rome, ACWW representative at the FAO of the UN. What a lot I learned! I had to begin by giving an overview of our present day global food system, its problems and the place of ACWW's Women Feed the World projects within it. I then investigated and analysed how projects were chosen, monitored and how success was evaluated. This study only confirmed my perception of what an amazing organisation ACWW is - working from the grassroots level upwards and supporting projects that rural women themselves have identified as what they need. Parts of my dissertation are being copied and used as background information for the members of ACWW's Agriculture Committee - I am so glad it has been of use beyond me completing my degree! I was really pleased when I gained a distinction for my dissertation and my MA as a whole, and when graduating in Staffordshire in July, I was also awarded the faculty prize for Best Performance in Postgraduate Awards. I regard this as a joint award with all the women at ACWW who helped me achieve this.

Donating to ACWW

More recently Sally sent in a cheque for the impressive amount of £1,000, saying "I want the money to be used where the need is greatest". The money is the remnant from a legacy with which Sally paid for her Masters course. Thank you Sally!



Left: Sally Garrington graduation with Dean of Faculty, receiving her prize after the Graduation Ceremony

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES CELEBRATE CENTENARY

The **Women's Institute** of England and Wales, well known for cake and jam making, friendship and campaigning for women's rights, marked 100 years this year since it was founded in 1915, with a garden party at Buckingham Palace, London on 2nd June 2015.

To help celebrate, every WI in England and Wales was asked to nominate one member to attend with Federation officials, resulting in 8,000+ WI members in attendance. Coaches from all over the country carried members to the event.

Eileen Hurd, a member of Binegar WI in Somerset - England, ACWW member and former ACWW P&P Committee member, was one of the lucky few who boarded one of the coaches. Eileen wrote: Our coach stopped in Park Lane, we walked down Constitution Hill and queued for about an hour to get in, whilst waiting we took photos and chatted as WI members do. When we arrived we walked up a red carpeted staircase through several formal rooms of Buckingham Palace with beautiful displays of china and then onto the terrace and down the steps to the gardens.

There were 40 acres of garden, a lake with ducklings, a rose garden in bloom, follies and many mature trees and herbaceous borders. Goodness, it was amazing seeing the crowds on the lawns and so many different and colourful outfits. Two military bands were playing, the Yeoman of the Guard marched at about 3pm and the Royals, the Duchess of Cornwall, Princess Alexandra, the Countess of Wessex and Countess of Gloucester arrived and walked through corridors of WI members. I was introduced to Princess Alexandra, where I managed a small curtsy, before briefly telling her news about ACWW.

The food was delicious - dainty sandwiches and cakes served with tea, coffee and juice. There were so many people to meet – finally the Yeoman of the Guard escorted 'the Royals' out of the garden, giving us another opportunity to view them all. Later I saw Valerie Stevens, ACWW's European Area President, by the stairs to the terrace as we left. Somerset members met on the way out to our coach, having enjoyed a wonderful experience with so many WI friends.

Several of us stayed in London on the 3rd June, where the day included shopping in Kensington High Street and a visit to the theatre, as we wanted to attend the Annual General Meeting the next day.



Annual General Meeting - Albert Hall

The NFWI Annual Meeting held on the 4th June at the Albert Hall was a brilliant meeting and it was also my birthday too – HRH the Queen, Princess Anne and the Countess of Wessex attended. The hall was filled with at least 4,000 members. The Queen received a standing ovation when she arrived, and singing 'Jerusalem' for her brought goose bumps and a tear to the eyes of many.

Speakers included: historian Lucy Worsley; Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE and Helena Morrissey CBE. We had live links with Anglesey Federation Wales, where the first WI - Llanfair PG - was formed 100 years ago, Great Torrington WI Devon and Social Lites WI Cheshire. The winning WI choir for our centenary year - the Bleadon Belles from

Avon County, sang – there was a Fashion Show of knitwear designed by WI members with Kingston College. Our resolution for the year was discussed but found wanting and was put to one side – a very democratic decision by delegates.

During the lunch hour traditionally spent by many on the steps near the Albert Memorial, opposite the Albert Hall, – a young WI brass band played their repertoire of three tunes learnt in 17 weeks.

Finally, the meeting ended with the singing of 'Jerusalem', 'Land of my Fathers' and the National Anthem with the wonderful Albert Hall organ. Members were given a small piece of special celebration cake. It was a fantastic few days in London – one of the highlights of our WI centenary year.

OXFORDSHIRE FEDERATION COLLECTS FOREIGN COINS IN AID OF ACWW



For the past 18 months members of the Oxfordshire Federations of Women's Institutes have been encouraged to donate their unwanted foreign coins, as a means of raising funds towards three ACWW Projects they have adopted, one in Romania, one in India and the other in Uganda. Through their efforts and to their delight they managed to realise the magnificent sum of £1,062.31, which has helped them reach their target goal and now means they can look towards the future to select and support additional ACWW Projects. Needless to say they are now starting again with a new appeal for any unwanted coins.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FEDERATION PROMOTE ACWW AT WI CENTENARY GARDEN PARTY



Left to right: Tracey Girdler-Rogers and Hilary Forbes members of Buckinghamshire Federation WI, England

The photo above was taken at the Centenary Garden Party, which Buckinghamshire Federation held at Waddesdon Manor in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, a National Trust property.

It shows a blue bowl behind Tracey Girdler-Rogers and Hilary Forbes, both Buckinghamshire Federation members, which was filled with water and had a lemon floating in it. Members were invited to balance a 20p coin on top of the lemon, trying to make it stay for at least 3 seconds; if successful they would win £1.

The Federation made around £44, with them only losing £1 in the whole day. Hilary said "Others might be interested in this fundraising idea. It's a good way of raising a few extra 'Pennies for Friendship' at a coffee morning or equivalent". In total the Federation raised £200.03 from both their Centenary Garden Party and ACWW's 2015 Women Walk the World event.

ACWW'S EUROPEAN AREA PRESIDENT VISITS GERMANY



Left to right: Colla Schumacher; Jackie Gregory, Chair West Midlands Federation of WIs; Heike Schnepel, Vice President of LandFrauenverband, Hannover; Valerie Stevens, ACWW European Area President and Marie Vogel, General Sec. of LandFrauenverband, Hannover.

Valerie Stevens, ACWW European Area President wrote: What began around 1986 as a conversation at an ACWW conference between the ACWW Pen Friend Co-ordinator and Betty Steel from the Worcester Federation of WIs, resulted in 25 years of exchange visits between WI members and members of the Landfrauen group based near Hannover, Germany. Lynda Bagley a Worcestershire FWI and ACWW member, who has organised the English side of the exchange on behalf of, and with the support of, the Worcestershire FWI, wrote "In 1988 Betty received a reply from Inge Rommert and they exchanged letters and magazines. In 1990 Inge organised a coach tour to England for her group from Uetze.

They planned to go to Canterbury, London and Oxford. Inge asked Betty if they could come to Worcestershire and see how the 'real English' lived...A programme of visits and activities was agreed, finishing with a barn-dance at a member's farm".

The practical results of that conversation were all too clear for me to see as I was privileged to be part of what was to be the last of the 15 exchange visits over the past 25 years. Thirteen members and friends

from the Worcester Federation left from Birmingham Airport to meet their hosts in Hannover. Friendships, understanding and mutual respect were all too evident as we embarked on visits to Worlitz, Wittenburg, Gorlitz, Colditz and Hannover; to gardens of all shapes and sizes; to churches, castles and monasteries. We had boat trips and excellent food. Staying in the home of Colla and Henning Schumacher, who have hosted members of the group for a number of years, in the huge, old, family farm-house, was a wonderful experience. They were generous in every respect and I am grateful to them for some understanding of pig-farming, chicken-rearing and the anxieties related to Bio-mass energy production. There is always something new to learn. Although the 'official' exchange is now at an end, the friendships made will continue. ACWW had little to do with the continuing programme of exchanges but it made a vital contribution at the start. It also gave me the opportunity to attempt to strengthen ACWW links with the LandFrauenverband of Hannover. We need the support of all our European member societies if we are to advance the quality of life for women everywhere.



CELEBRATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST MIDLANDS FEDERATION & 100 YEARS OF WI

15th September 2015 marked 40 years since the West Midlands Federation become an official organisation. On the 16th September they celebrated the occasion with a Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Birmingham. Congratulations!

West Midlands Federation share this date with the centenary of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, whose first WI meeting in the UK took place on 16 September 1915 at Llanfairpwll on Anglesey in Wales.

KOSTER WAU CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SOUTH AFRICA



Members of Koster Women's Agricultural Union, South Africa

In July 2015 the Koster Women's Agricultural Union (WAU) celebrated Nelson Mandela International Day, with a visit to the Lebone II College of the Royal Bafokeng Nation. The college was built on the side of the beautiful Tshufi Hill, overlooking the communities it serves. It is more than a school; it is a centre of excellence and a catalyst for change for the whole Bafokeng community, with 70% of students coming from the Bafokeng villages themselves.

MAKING HATS FOR PENNIES FOR FRIENDSHIP



An interesting fundraiser took place at the annual congress of the Women's Agriculture Union (WAU) of Mpumalanga, South Africa, on the 19th and 20th of August 2015. With only 20 minutes on the clock, attendees had to make hats with the contents of a mystery surprise packet containing an array of items. After completion each group had to model their creation. The auction was in good spirit and even posted on Facebook and the person with the highest number of likes received a prize.

RUSTENBURG WAU BRANCHES GIRLS & BOYS WORKSHOP



In July 2015, with the help of Jubenette, Kashañé, Marikana and the Mosaïek Women's Agricultural Union branches, Rustenburg Women's Agricultural Union (WAU), South Africa, hosted a two day craft skills workshop for 35 children.

After registration, the children and the WAU members enjoyed refreshments provided by WAU members.



The first session was spent cutting out mosaic hearts that Rustenburg WAU offered as a project. Many members were willing to lend a helping hand in assisting the children to make their own unique heart.

Louise van Zyl, a social worker, gave a talk on bullying and answered many questions from her young audience who were often the victim of bullies. She showed a short video on

how bullies act and how victims should react. The second session started after the children enjoyed more refreshments.

Not only did the children master a craft, but they also attended a cupcake decoration demo. They learned how to knit and constructed birdfeeders with recycled toilet rolls. At the end of the day's activities the children sat down to a scrumptious lunch.

FRANCISTOWN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE VISITS LEPHOI CENTRE FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED



Third from right: Mabel Moyo, ACWW Africa Southern Area President with members of the Francistown WI and nurses

The Lephoi Centre is located in Francistown Botswana. The hostel is residence to about 50 children that are totally blind, or have serious impaired vision. The children range from 8 to 18 years old, they are taught braille in Setswana and English and other skills such as beading and art.

When the children are ready they are integrated as far as possible with other children at the same educational level. The hostel is administered by the Botswana Synod

of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa. The Francistown Women's Institute (WI) have assisted the centre in various projects both through financial and emotional support. The centre still needs assistance to make the place more user friendly to the visually impaired in the way of braille computers and medical aid assistance.

As some of the children are deaf as well as blind, they also need specialist doctors and sometimes overseas treatment.

The children at Lephoi are taught to be independent, enabling them to handle difficult situations and academic life skills, so as to be able to make a living. The centre also has a great choir, which is conducted by one of the former students who is now their music teacher.

Mabel Moyo, ACWW's Area President Africa Southern, who visited the centre, said "As the children returned from the holidays you could tell the love and care provided by the school as they seemed so happy to be back. I give many praises and thanks to the school board and staff in conjunction with ACWW and Francistown WI for such a tremendous job in looking after the children and bringing a smile and hope for the future.

It made me very proud as the Area President to have such committed members as the Francistown WI".

VISITING DULLSTROOM EPILEPSY CENTRE IN SOUTH AFRICA



For their project of 2015, the ladies of Fleur de Lis branch in Nelspruit, South Africa went to Dullstroom Epileptic Centre to donate knotted polar fleece blankets to the residents. The women worked diligently to make their visit a success. As well as the fleece blankets they also decided to donate food and lap blankets. Some of the fleece blankets had been knotted and others were knotted and tied by the residents of the centre itself during the WI's visit. Thanks to a generous donation they could also give to each of the residents a pair of bed socks to make their winter a bit warmer.

PROJECTS REPORTS

PROGRESS REPORT

TONGA

Nursery and Home Gardens for Food Production

Project no. 0959

Organisation: 'Aloua Ma'a Tonga Association
Supported by: Norfolk FWI, Suffolk West FWI, Berkshire FWI, Suffolk East FWI, England; FWI's of Northern Ireland

Families from the lower income bracket from the villages of Kolomotu and Popua in Tonga face a daily struggle to cover expenses for education and medicine. This is made more difficult by the lack of available job opportunities for the inhabitants of the villages. Unsafe and unsanitary conditions in these areas have encouraged the spread of a number of illnesses among the locals.

The 'Aloua Ma'a Tonga Association' have sought to find solutions to the predicament facing these communities. They planned to offer twenty women from low-income backgrounds an opportunity to be involved in the establishment of a plant nursery, providing them with a continuous supply of seedlings

and planting materials. The women will also be involved in the preparation and the cultivation of the land. They will have the opportunity to take part in training workshops in activities such as cooking, ensuring a healthy environment and to be educated about climate change. The aim of this programme is to ensure the participants gain skills to provide resources to support themselves and their families.

The project team has reported on the achievements of the project to date. Overall, it paints a very positive picture. The nursery has been completed, with a total of 300 planting materials currently installed, whilst fifteen women have received materials and tools to use in establishing their own food gardens. Ten have started off by planting flowers, traditional medicinal plants and fruit trees. Furthermore, the women are also working on activities to improve their income and their livelihoods.

These activities include handicrafts, agriculture, livestock and getting their families

involved in seasonal fruit-picking in New Zealand and Australia. In the final stage of the project, it is hoped and anticipated that activities to educate the women in home garden skills, small-scale business skills, cooking and environmental awareness will be implemented. These aspects of the project are expected to provide the women with lasting skills to enable them to provide for their families over the long-term.

Following the eventual conclusion of this food project, it is hoped that the nursery will go on to sustain itself - with the necessary maintenance - for many years. In this way, it could benefit generations of women and men in the villages, helping them to improve their livelihoods by providing a stable source of food; and offering them greater opportunities that come with greater food stability and nutritional well-being. Hopefully the benefits of home-grown food and healthy eating habits will encourage the whole community, who will witness the impact it has on the lives of the women who participated in this project.

PROGRESS REPORT



INDIA

Self-Employment through Training in Fashion Technology

Project no. 0955

Organisation: ARBOR Charitable Foundation
Supported by: Shropshire FWI, England; Mrs Isobel Eckersley, Scottish Women's Institutes; Omagh WI, FWI's of Northern Ireland

ARBOR Charitable Foundation reports that this project has been successfully carried

out. For this project they purchased the necessary sewing machines, Khaja button machine and embroidery machines, as well as over lock threads and flat lock threads.

The machines were installed in the training premises, which were provided by the Bishop of Khammam Diocese. 40 young women were selected from the nearby communities to benefit from the project. They are illiterate and have little idea of social communication

or social life. 25 were trained in tailoring and 15, who had already received tailoring training, were trained in fashion technology.

The young women were provided with board and lodging during the six-month training period. Personal contact and counselling were offered to those who found it difficult to adjust to communal living and group activities.

It has been reported by ARBOR Charitable Foundation that the trainees have acquired a good level of skills, as a result of their hard work and the patience of the instructors. It is expected that the beneficiaries will be able to earn a living either through self-employment or employment with local businesses.



PROGRESS REPORT



MONGOLIA

Greenhouse Development

Project no. 0973

Organisation: Sain Tus Centre NGO

Supported by: USA Area

The region of Jargalant Sum in the province of Khovd, Mongolia, is a vast rural area that is extremely sparsely populated. Whilst much of this region is pastoral land, growing crops effectively in this environment can be very challenging, making it difficult for farmers to have viable livelihoods. This project, planned and run by Sain Tus Centre NGO, seeks to improve the situation for 30 families in the

area by constructing greenhouses in which crops can be grown effectively. The project also seeks to improve the capacity of the female farmers through a variety of financial and organisational training programmes.

This project has made steady progress in achieving its objectives since being granted ACWW funding back in October 2014. Whilst the main body of the work (the installation of the two greenhouses) is yet to be completed, a number of training sessions have taken place. Training on greenhouse planting programmes have been ongoing, whilst training on keeping financial

records, improving their organisation skills, and developing business plans has been successfully completed. Some of the beneficiaries have also taken part in trade exhibitions to market their new products and connect with other small-scale businesses in the region.

Throughout this programme, the benefits of togetherness and connections have been emphasised. Monthly meetings have been organised, in which small-scale farmers have the opportunity to meet and build working relationships with other farmers and business owners. It is through establishing such formal networks that Sain Tus Centre NGO hopes its beneficiaries will gain economically over the longer term, as connections will help them sell their products, learn from their peers and broaden their markets.

Overall, Sain Tus Centre NGO are positive about the manner in which the project plan has been implemented so far. They are on track and have faced no major hold-ups or difficulties in delivering their work. As a result, they have not had to alter any of their planned activities and are looking forward to delivering the remainder of their planned work. This work will involve the purchase and installation of the two large greenhouses (which measure 6 metres by 20 metres), with full heating and irrigation systems. Whilst this is no simple task, the team are confident that they have the ability to deliver it successfully; helping to leave a lasting, positive legacy for the rural women farmers in the region.

PROGRESS REPORT

UGANDA

Compress Recycled Materials for Smokeless Charcoal Briquettes

Project no. 0987

Organisation: Nyakasanga Development

Community Foundation (NYAKU)

Supported by: Hertfordshire FWI; Cumbria-Westmorland FWI, England

This project specifically targets the health and income generating ability of rural women in Uganda. Women do the vast majority of the cooking in rural societies, spending many hours on average in small, smoke-filled kitchens; this causes them a range of respiratory problems that affect their quality of life. This project aims to improve their health and economic well-being by training women beneficiaries in the manufacturing and sale of compressed smokeless charcoal briquettes, made from a range of waste products. They are considerably safer to use in cooking than regular charcoal or wood.

To date almost all equipment has been purchased for the project, with the group



still lacking a solar dryer. Once received, this device would be used to dry the charcoal briquettes in a very short amount of time, thereby speeding up the manufacturing process. The group are encountering some small challenges in transporting briquettes to the marketplace to sell them, as they are very bulky. However, sales are going well at this stage. The raw material collection process has been going smoothly, and a range of training

programmes on community mobilisation, waste recycling and technology have been carried out with the beneficiaries.

This project is seeing progress towards achieving its outcomes, which are threefold: creating employment for the women, reducing air pollution and reducing deforestation. Substantial progress is recorded in all three areas, with the women benefiting from the loan and savings facility established through

PROJECTS REPORTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21



this programme, the briquettes proving a healthier alternative to charcoal; and the use of waste products in the briquettes resulting in reduced deforestation levels in the local area. Overall, the project team evaluate that the project is making good progress so far.

Ten sacks of briquettes have been sold so far at a cost of 100,000 Ugandan shillings each (around £18).

There have been no major deviations from the project plan, and the rest of the project is anticipated to be delivered in the same way. In the second half of the project, the funds will be used to deliver radio talks about NYAKU's work to help spread awareness; and to undertake a full monitoring and evaluation of the project and its effectiveness.

Aside from this, funds will be used to continue the ongoing activities associated with the production and sale of briquettes.

MONITORING REPORT



INDIA

Training in Weaving to Ten Women of which Three are Handicapped

Project no. 0952

Organisation: Country Women's Association of India

Supported by: Oxfordshire FWI, England

This project was visited by ACWW's World President Ruth Shanks A.M. and ACWW Projects Committee member, Sister Viji, in January 2015. They spent time assessing the group's progress on the project, meeting with staff and talking to participants in the project activities about what they had gained from the work so far.

In speaking to participants involved in the project, the monitors found that they had all benefited substantially from the weaving training programmes that the group had been

running, and that they had also taken part in handwork classes. A number of spaces available to participants in the project were left for disabled women.

In assessing their ongoing work, it was found that the activities had been very successful, with the participants coming to benefit from a cooperative learning atmosphere that linked them directly to markets. In summary, Ruth and Sister Viji found the group to be genuine and passionate about their work, and could find many examples of how their work was bringing lasting benefits to the most vulnerable in society. Country Women's Association of India, who ran this project, has more than 90 years' experience in the field of rural women's development, and seems well set to continue this work into the future.

FINAL REPORT



UGANDA

Nyaka Grannies Project Phase 3

Project no. 0962

Organisation: Nyaka AIDS Foundation

Supported by: North Yorkshire East FWI, England

This project, planned and delivered by Nyaka AIDS Foundation in Uganda, has sought to provide additional help to a number of elderly 'grandparents' living in rural areas in the districts of Rukungiri and Kanungu in South West Uganda. These women are caregivers to very small children who have become orphans of AIDS, which has placed pressure on their lives. The project has targeted those whose sanitary facilities are non-existent, or in poor conditions and has provided them with new constructions, with the aim of promoting improved standards of hygiene and safety. Nyaka AIDS Foundation has now concluded this work, and views it as a great success. 20 'Grannies' were successfully identified on the basis of having the greatest need. Contractors were then identified and construction began on pit

latrines for the women. The project staff had to deal with a number of challenges throughout the course of this work, such as the difficulty of transporting materials by foot through very hilly terrain in some rural areas.

A key aim of this project from the initiation to implementation has been to empower girls and women. Many women had previously been forced to leave the house to use the toilet, leaving them at risk of harassment and sexual assault.

The project team expects such incidents to decrease substantially in households with proper sanitary facilities. During the project implementation, members of the households received training on how to maintain the pit latrines, through smearing the walls with sand and cow dung, whilst also learning good hygiene practices such as the importance of hand-washing and ensuring the latrine hole was always covered when not in use.

This training and awareness should stand the beneficiaries of this work in good stead for many generations to come.

FINAL REPORT



SOUTH AFRICA

My Name is Woman

Project no. 0925

Organisation: South African Women's Agricultural Union (SAWAU)

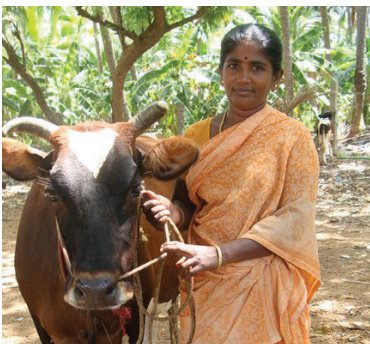
Supported by: Cheshire FWI, England

This project run by the South African Women's Agricultural Union (SAWAU), is working with disadvantaged women's groups all over South Africa, teaching skills such as

handicraft, embroidery and cooking, as well as training on information and nutrition, HIV, finance and many more. Many women also received training in entrepreneurship, leaving them qualified to start up small businesses.

An estimated 1,000 women directly benefited from this project, empowering them on various levels to put them in a position where they can share these valuable skills with their local communities.

FINAL REPORT



INDIA

Empowering Rural Women in Economy and Nutrition

Project no. 0957

Organisation: Sarojini Naidu Rural Welfare and Education Trust

Supported by: Gloucestershire FWI, England

Sarojini Naidu Rural Welfare and Education Trust report that this project has been completed successfully and that the 25 women beneficiaries have become empowered in the following ways:

- they have experience in rearing a cow and obtaining milk from it for sale
- they have been selling milk and curd to the local cooperative society and to hotels and collecting the money once a month
- they are also selling the vermi-compost which they are producing using worms cow dung

- they are saving money and can scrutinise their bank accounts
- they are out of the clutches of moneylenders
- they received training in order to participate in the monitoring of the project
- they have a sustainable source of income: if the cow gives birth to a bull calf, it can be sold; if a heifer is born, it will in due course also produce milk
- they also get income from the vermi-compost sales
- they are able to feed their children better and send them to school

Hazel Armstrong, ACWW's Projects Committee member and project monitor, monitored this project in January 2015. She reports: These village cows are cheaper to buy and give around 4 to 6 litres per day but thrive better in the harsh hot dry conditions than the Hybrid cows, which can give more milk but in dry times their yields can drop substantially.

They use a sieving machine for the accumulated cattle dung, which has been kept in a heap with worms, is sieved of small stones and un-composted material – the worms are also separated and returned to the heap. The resultant compost is produced very quickly, has a fine texture and is a highly saleable item.

FINAL REPORT



BANGLADESH

Disabled Women and Girls Rehabilitation Programme

Project no. 0934

Organisation: POWER (Platform of Women's Empowerment and Rights)

Supported by: Glamorgan FWI, Wales; Avon FWI, England

POWER (Platform of Women's Empowerment and Rights), reported that the direct beneficiaries of this project titled 'Disabled Women and Girls Rehabilitation Programme' were disabled women and girls, who were very poor and lacked the capacity to improve their situation by themselves.

Through this project 25 beneficiaries gained skills in sewing, embroidery or bamboo/cane production, having first had an individual action plan drawn up for each of them by the project staff.

In addition to the 25 women and girls who were selected, approximately 125 family members of the beneficiaries have benefitted from the project. All these beneficiaries are now helping each other to improve their standard of living.

The beneficiaries have also received training in health education and human rights and received free medical care, which has improved their physical and psychological well-being considerably, and made them feel more empowered. As a result of this project, there is a high demand for the products being sold at local markets.

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