

THE COUNTRYWOMAN

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

JANUARY - MARCH 2016

HAPPY NEW YEAR

TRIENNIAL
CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION
FORM
INSIDE

TEA TIME WITH ACWW

ACWW APPROVES ITS
1,000 PROJECT
Computer Literacy for Adults
and Children in India

WOMEN WALK
THE WORLD 2016
Take part and join women
around the world

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Cover Photo:
Buckinghamshire
Federation of
Women's Institutes
(England), winners
of 'Tea Time with
ACWW' event

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

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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



Left to right: Alison Burnett, ACWW Finance Chairman and Treasurer; Ruth Shanks A.M. ACWW World President; Jo Almond, Past ACWW Secretary (2010-2013) and Datin Imm, the Hon Secretary of WI Pahang, attending a State Banquet during the South East Asia and the Far East Area Conference. Photo credit Hamimah A Karim, Malaysia

their organisations. Congratulations to all those involved.

Immediately following this, the Area President HRH Princess Azizah, accompanied me on a tour of Indonesia and Brunei. As this was my first visit to the area it was an informative and exciting time. The many members very proudly showed me some of the culture, food etc of their nations and I look forward to returning sometime in the future. Unfortunately, the East, West and Central Africa Area Conference, which was scheduled for November was postponed because of unrest in the area and then again in January, when it was re-scheduled, I was advised by the Australian Government not to visit. I think it is important to take travel warnings very seriously and unfortunately, with the way of the world at the moment, this may become more of a feature in the travels of all members of ACWW.

We also must be mindful that the credibility of ACWW could be questioned if anything untoward was to happen. The nominations for Officers of the Association and Chair of the Specified Committees have been processed and I thank all those who have put their names forward for positions. To accept nomination for a position is a big commitment, and for those who achieve the positions, the commitment becomes even greater. This association, as you all know, is run by volunteers, but the success of the association is dependent on all those who belong, not only the officers. So if you want ACWW to prosper please contribute and/or respond when necessary as the officers and/or staff, can't do it without you.

It is almost time for Women Walk the World again and this year let's have a really good effort and make this the year to remember, both in promotion and fundraising. Maybe you can get a well-known woman in your area to take part, support, promote and/or provide you with something to raffle or auction, all in the name of ACWW.

My wise words for this edition are: -
"What lies behind us and what lies before us are nothing compared to what lies within us".

By for now

Ruth Shanks
Ruth Shanks A.M.

DEAR FRIENDS

2016 IS ALMOST TWO months through and that means the Triennial World Conference is only about 6 months away. I hope that you have begun planning your visit to England, to attend a gathering of like-minded people from around the world.

The conference, to be held at the University of Warwick, is shaping up to be an exciting time for ACWW, with the adoption of a new legal structure and, hand in hand with that, a constitution that complies with the regulations set down by the Charities Commission of the England and Wales. A great amount of work has been done and the documents will be with you shortly.

Over the Christmas-New Year break I have had time to spend with family and friends and catch up on many miscellaneous tasks, which get put aside when one is not at home. But the work of ACWW continues at a fast rate all year round. I skype with Tish Collins, Operations Manager at Central Office every Tuesday evening, technology permitting, and this keeps both of us on top of most things that happen during the week. We have had a couple of staff changes in the last couple of months; with the remaining staff having to continue to cover all bases during this change. Many thanks to you all!

October, which seems a long time ago, was a busy month with Specified Committee meetings and an Executive Meeting and then it was off to Malaysia, for the South East Asia and the Far East Area Conference in Kuala Lumpur. This was a very well organised conference and it was great to meet with representatives from Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and Korea to discuss their concerns and receive the reports of the activities of



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CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

I am delighted to report that Sarah Kenningham has joined the staff as Projects Administrator, replacing Sam Godolphin and working alongside Juliet Childs. Sarah has extensive experience with an international development charity and spent many years working in the Philippines and Brussels; she is already well settled in to the team. After a year in post as Office Administrator, Poonam moved on to a job as a PA to the Director of a housing trust in November. Whilst we were without an Office Administrator in November and December we were not able to send the popular monthly e-newsletter but expect service to be resumed by the time you receive this magazine. If you would like to receive it just send us an email to info@acww.org.uk and you will be added to the mailing list.

We have already received lots of registrations to attend the 28th Triennial World Conference so may I remind you that the 'early bird' rate ends on 1 April. All accommodation, meals and conference sessions will be taking place on the University of Warwick campus where access is easy and excellent. If you have any queries or want clarification please do not hesitate to contact me. I am looking forward to meeting many ladies I have corresponded with in the run-up to Conference.

The Resolutions and Recommendations going forward to Conference have been sent out as Circular 5. This is also available on our website to read or download alongside other Conference materials.

STOP PRESS!

Plans are underway to produce a new ACWW International Cook Book for 2016!

Tish Collins, Operations Manager

SAVE THE DATE

17th - 23rd August 2016
Triennial World Conference,
Warwick, England

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

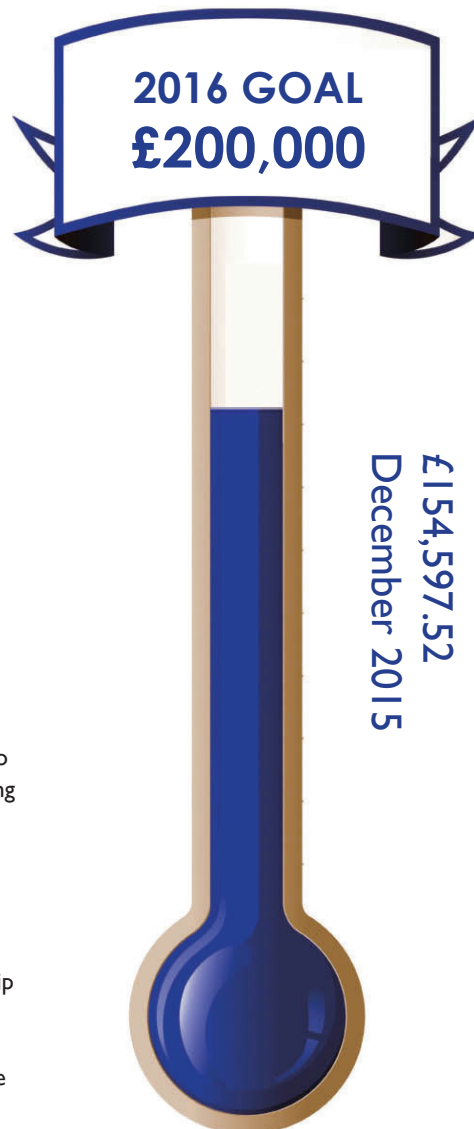
Thank you to everyone who supported ACWW financially through PFF donations or legacies etc. in 2015. It was very much appreciated and needed to allow the work of ACWW to continue.

Some reminders

All membership subscriptions are due now and should be paid as soon as possible. You have to be a paid up society or individual to attend the Triennial World Conference being held in Warwick in August.

The World Conference is for all its members; please help ACWW to bring members who have never been before, through lack of finance, to this event by contributing to the Conference Sponsorship Fund. Make cheques payable to ACWW and write Conference Sponsorship Fund on the back. If paid through the bank please send an email to Central Office at info@acww.org.uk, indicating it is for Conference Sponsorship Fund.

The Finance Committee are holding a Serendipity stall at the Conference and would like you to bring a small gift from your country, wrapped, so it is a surprise to the buyer! For those of you who will be bringing warm clothing that you do not want to take back with you, we have a charity in the UK who would welcome this clothing. ACWW also has a source in the UK, which takes broken or unwanted jewellery and gives the mon-ey to ACWW. If you have any jewellery like this please bring it to the Conference. This would be a way for countries who find it difficult to give to PFF, to make a contribution. I look forward to seeing you all in Warwick in August and wish you all a Happy New Year for 2016.



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**

MORRIS DANCING IS COMING TO THE TRIENNIAL WORLD CONFERENCE

WHAT'S THE HISTORY BEHIND THE DANCE?



Blackheath Morris Men, a London team at the Cutty Shark, London, England



Tish Collins, ACWW Operations Manager

It may come as a surprise to many that in England, although we do not have a national 'costume' (unlike the Welsh and Scots), we do have a traditional form of dance. Morris dancing has been popular for over 600 years and was mentioned by Shakespeare in some of his plays. It was essentially rural village open-air street dancing rather than danced indoors, and still is. The Conference Hostess Committee are inviting some Morris dancers to entertain you in August and, as I have been such a dancer for nearly 20 years, this article is to give a bit of background.

There are four main types of Morris dancing still performed in England today. The most common originates in the Cotswolds, a rural area of south central England covering

parts of 6 counties, notably Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. Its rolling hills and grassland are famous for thatched medieval villages, churches and stately homes built of distinctive local yellow limestone. The dancers traditionally wield handkerchiefs and meter length sticks and wear either white shirts or trousers or both, which are adorned with ribbons and bells. Women have been dancing the Morris for centuries and kept the traditions going when men were off at war. Recent revivals, since the 1970's, have seen more women participating. Each village had its own distinctive tradition of stepping, way of waving handkerchiefs or clashing sticks and which are emulated by urban teams today.

The picture shows Blackheath Morris Men, a London team who danced at the closing ceremony of the 2012 Olympics.

Border Morris comes from the area bordering England and Wales. Here the main characteristics are the wearing of disguise – painted faces or masks, and coats made of colourful rags or tatters; their sticks tend to be shorter than Cotswold and are usually painted or decorated with ribbon. Their

hats often have long feathers. The warmer clothing indicates that it was more of a winter exercise when agricultural workers, who couldn't earn a living from working the land, begged for pennies and hid their faces.

North West Clog dancing comes from the textile mill towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire and was popular when the industrial revolution was at its height in the 1800's. Mill girls wore wooden soled shoes or clog to work and often became involved with the dancing on their day off as part of the temperance movement (encouraged to take healthy exercise rather than drink alcohol on a Sunday). The dances are based on patterns made by the textile machines and, instead of handkerchiefs they dance with old bobbins from the mills and short sticks with ribbon and bells. It is traditional for male clog dancers to wear many bead necklaces and adorn their hats with flowers.

Finally, Rapper dancing comes from the coal mining areas of the North East, Durham and Northumberland in particular. This was traditionally performed by coal miners using double handed flexible swords dancing in close formation, weaving intricate patterns with their locked swords.

Hard shoes and breeches with a neat sash are the traditional costume. Unlike the other Morris dancing mentioned here, Rapper often involves competitions and increasingly women's sides are being formed and rising up the league tables. There are of course other forms of dance performed at particular times of the year or in specific areas but these are the main ones. Whilst most of the dancing was traditionally performed by men or women in single gender teams, in 21st century Britain more teams are becoming mixed to keep the dances alive. I dance in a women's Cotswold team based in London and a women's North West Clog team based in Lichfield, Staffordshire where I worked for three years.

JOIN IN WOMEN WALK THE WORLD 2016



2016 marks the fifth year ACWW will be running its annual Women Walk the World event, so we want it to be bigger than last year's. We want to raise money and promote ACWW by asking members, friends and family to walk on or around ACWW Day, 29th April 2016. The original concept was that on one day, all over the world, women would be joined in activity and thought. Please start planning now!

Your walk could be a walk round a neighbourhood, a stroll in a park or whatever you like. To keep things interesting you could run a raffle – start getting creative!

Your participation in Women Walk the World will help ACWW achieve its goal of connecting and supporting women worldwide. Announce your local walk as soon as possible, so that everyone marks the date in their diaries and you get a good turnout.

Women Walk the World posters, with space for local walk information, and a sponsorship form are available on request from Central Office. So call Central Office on +44 (0)207 799 3875, or email info@acww.org.uk. You can also download the posters and additional information from ACWW's website at www.acww.org.uk/women_walk. Also for the fifth year running there will be a best photo competition. So take photos of

your walk event and send them to ACWW's Central Office for the attention of Jennifer Atigolo, Digital and Print Media Manager/ Editor. The best photo will end up on the front cover of our July-September 2016 issue of 'The Countrywoman'. Please ensure your photo(s) resolution is 300dpi, if submitting digital photos via email (jennifer.a@acww.org.uk), or are a good high gloss print if you decide to send them in by post - ACWW's address is on the inside front cover of this magazine. Please make sure your photo is in focus and any date stamp on your smart phone, or camera is switched off. Read the editor's guide for submitting articles & photos to help with submissions. Please accompany your photo(s) with a short write up describing your walk. Deadline for all images and short articles is 16th May 2016. Late entries may not be included. Good luck everyone and enjoy your walks!

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

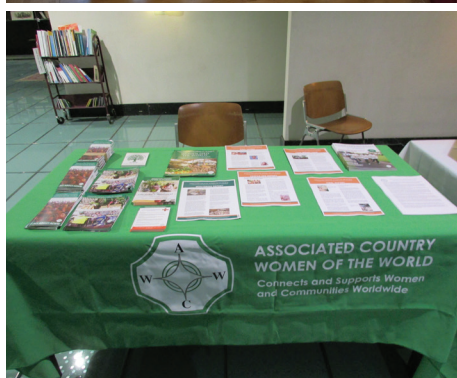
COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY 42



Left to right: Jessika Kehl-Lauff, International Alliance of Women IAW-AIF; Joan Brady, ACWW Agriculture Committee member & Delegates from Rotary International

Agriculture Committee member, Joan Brady recently attended the 42nd meeting of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS42) at the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Headquarters in Rome in October 2015. More than 1,000 representatives of CFS stakeholder groups, which included governments, civil society, private sector and philanthropic foundations, international and regional organisations, research and financial institutions and observers, ministers and vice-ministers.

Opening statements were delivered by the Director-General of FAO, David Nabarro, UN Special Representative for Food Security and Nutrition, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Ertharin Cousin; the President of International Fund for Agricultural Development, Kanayo F. Nwanze; the Chair of the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), Per Pinstrup-Andersen and the CFS Chair, Amira Gornass.



First: Left to right: Jessika Kehl-Lauff, International Alliance of Women IAW-AIF; Joan Brady, ACWW Agriculture Committee member and Imogen Ebsworth. Second: ACWW display

During the first two days, Joan joined the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) as a member of La Via Campesina, for preparatory meetings. The CSM was represented by more than 60 participants from grass-roots NGOs, from around the world. These representatives divided themselves into working groups to prepare statements, which addressed each of the following topics that were on the main CFS42 Agenda:

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- The role of CFS in advancing nutrition
- State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI)
- Global Strategic Framework (GSF) re: CSF
- Multi Year Programme of Work (MYPOW)
- Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises
- Human Rights to Food and Water
- Adoption of the Decision Box on Water for Food Security and Nutrition
- Resilience Building for Sustainable Food Security and Nutrition
- Connecting Smallholders to Markets.

For example the statement on the Sustainable Development Goals calls for a 'rights-based' approach to development, while the statement on advancing nutrition emphasises the need for improved access to markets for smallholder farmers, so that they can get a fair price for their produce. Joan was part of the CSM Nutrition working group, her 1 minute intervention, highlighting issues raised

concerning the responsibilities of the private sector, on behalf of this group, can be viewed at <http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-home-old/cfs42/en/>. All the statements that were presented at CFS42 during the 4-day meeting, through a series of panel discussions can be viewed at www.csm4cfs.org.

Joan also participated in a Side Event, sponsored by the CSM that highlighted 'Connecting Small Holders to Markets' and was able to share the Canadian Experience with Trade as a plenary speaker. She was able to meet with Canadian and American diplomats as part of the Regional meetings.

During the CFS42, ACWW hosted a display table in the Information Market. This provided various promotional materials, including information about our project work and the ACWW statement for World Food Day. Many of these resources were picked up by visitors - hopefully this information will have circulated among FAO staff and various CSF member nations.

Joan said that the most immediate challenges are the funding of the CFS and its Programme of Work, which seems to be a more of a political than a financial issue; the application and implementation of CFS decisions, which is now of utmost importance for the Framework for Action on Protracted Crisis; and monitoring and accountability, on which the CFS did agree on a substantial step ahead.

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING COMMITTEE

THE NEED FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN AGRICULTURE



Women sorting coffee.

Maggie Simons, ACWW Communications and Marketing Deputy Chairman writes: Women, on average, comprise 43 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries but own far less land and livestock than men, have less access to agricultural credit and are rarely targeted for extension services. Women farmers typically achieve yields that are 20-30% lower than men.

However, the vast majority of studies suggest that women are just as efficient as men and would achieve the same yields if they had equal access to productive resources and services. Bridging this gender yield gap would boost food and nutrition security globally.

Given equal access to resources as men, women would achieve the same yield levels boosting total agricultural output in agricultural countries by 2.5 - 4%. The additional yield could reduce the number of undernourished people in the world by 100 - 150 million (12 - 17%) SOURCE: FAO

In March 2015, The Fairtrade Foundation published a report entitled 'Equal Harvest - Removing the Barriers to Women's Participation in Smallholder Agriculture'. The research primarily involved case studies in three countries, focusing on different Fairtrade certified crops:

- Dominican Republic bananas
- India cotton
- Kenya tea

The case study countries and sectors were selected with the aim of including three regions where Fairtrade production occurs and different cultural contexts of gender relations exist. Women form a significant minority of membership, leadership, and salaried employees in all of the organisations in the study in spite of women in both India and Kenya often dedicating more time than men to their households' cotton or tea production. The percentage of members of Fairtrade certified Small Producer



Organisations who are women varies considerably depending on the geographical region and product.

The proportion of women is lowest in the Asia and Oceania region, at only 12 percent, compared to 24 percent in Africa and the Middle East, and 20 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean. For the case study products the percentage of women is highest for tea, at 32 percent, and relatively low for both bananas and cotton at 14 percent and 16 percent, respectively.

Three main barriers to women's active participation as members, leaders and employees emerged from the case studies.

1. Ownership of land or crops creates a bias in favour of men, it is widely accepted that women own less land than men globally, although the precise breakdown is hard to come by.

2. Local customs and attitudes related to the role of men as household heads and primary decision-makers and women being expected to perform the majority of unpaid care work (i.e. domestic chores and caring for children and dependent adults) which increases their total work hours and acts as a constraint on their availability to participate actively in producer organisations.

3. Age, marital status, education can also affect women's freedom to participate. At the same time, attitudes and behaviours are changing, particularly among younger generations who are receiving more education than their parents and are more exposed to life outside their communities.

A typical day for women tea farmers in Kenya Women get up as early as 4.30am to milk animals, make breakfast, prepare children for school, clean the house and fetch water, before heading to the fields with their husbands. Work in the fields ends around 1pm, with any harvested tea then taken to the buying centre by both men and women, or women alone. In the afternoons and evenings women continue with unpaid care work – preparing food, working in kitchen gardens, tending animals, collecting firewood, caring for children – while men spend more time socialising with friends and relaxing. Women reported that they go to sleep as late as 11.30pm. There were several accounts in India and the Dominican Republic of women being offered leadership positions but not being willing to take them up. There needs to be clear incentives if women are to take up

more active participation. In the Dominican Republic, ideas included training on business management and bookkeeping, as well as livelihood activities other than banana farming; facilitation of loans for women to buy or rent land; and investing in childcare facilities.

Supporting the development of alternative income streams was also popular with women in Kenya and India. In Kenya, women suggested dairy farming, poultry farming, vegetable and fruit cultivation, and beekeeping as possible options. Women in India also prioritised labour saving technology such as mills for de-husking lentils and piped water into houses. Given that women have historically been excluded from leadership, it is not surprising that in India and Kenya people were of the view they do not have the necessary knowledge and skills to be leaders. There are women in all the case studies who have succeeded as leaders and can act as role models for others, and with targeted support (such as leadership training and opportunities to exchange experiences with women in other organisations), more women will gain the skills and confidence to demonstrate that they are just as capable leaders as men.

Currently, 350,000 women farmers and workers are part of Fairtrade, a quarter of the total. The Fairtrade Foundation will focus its work on gender in the next five years, in line with Sustainable Development Goals, to help achieve gender equality and empower women and girls (Goals 5). For more information on Fairtrade, visit www.fairtrade.org.uk.



Magdie de Kock,
ACWW Communications
and Marketing
Committee Chairman

Magdie de Kock, ACWW's Communications and Marketing Chairman writes: The industrialised nations of the world are experiencing unprecedented change. In much of Europe, for example, it is possible for EU citizens to travel from country to country without a passport, conducting transactions in a common currency. Barriers to trade have tumbled or vanished in recent years,

COMMUNICATING ACROSS COUNTRIES AND CULTURES

but through it all, each of us has retained something essential to our identity as humans: our culture.

This is also applicable to ACWW. Keeping in mind that ACWW is represented in more than 70 different countries we are bound to be able to communicate across countries and cultures. Within a few months' time members of affiliated societies of ACWW will have the opportunity to attend the 28th Triennial World Conference. Apart from all the formalities and other important discussions, which will be part of this event; we will also have the opportunity of meeting and interacting with our fellow ACWW members from all over the world. Sharing experiences with one another and spending time together

are some of the most cherished activities at conference and many a friendship has been the result of this. Therefore it is very important to be able to communicate across cultures.

What is Culture?

Culture is the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, defined by everything from language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts. Culture affects and is a central part of our organisations; therefore there are a few important matters to keep in mind when meeting people from other countries and cultures. Communicating

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

across international borders means becoming more aware of the ways in which your thinking or actions are culturally biased. Start by recognising that your own education, background and beliefs may be considered fine, or even laudable in your own culture, but they may not count for so much to someone from a different country. Take a non-judgmental position towards those from other cultures, and you are likely to find that they will extend the same hospitable tolerance towards you.

Understanding culture

When you're communicating with a culture other than your own, you need to be sensitive about the particular beliefs and values of the culture, and how they differ from your own.

Culture is ingrained

Few of us would give a moment's thought to learning how to be a part of the culture we have grown up in. Our own culture is so closely defined for each of us that we are barely aware that we have one. Learning about another culture, though, takes a purposeful effort.

Culture is universal

All societies have an interest in passing along values and norms to their children, thereby creating and defining a culture. No matter

where you travel, you'll find people with cultures that differ from the one in which you grew up; noticing these differences will strengthen your communications.

Cultures allocate values

Some cultures engage in behaviours that others might consider reprehensible. Be careful never to cause offence when communicating by inadvertently breaking taboos, or talking about matters that are considered "off limits".

All cultures, to one degree or another, display ethnocentrism; the tendency to evaluate a foreigner's behaviour by the standards of one's own culture and to believe that one's culture is superior to all others.

We tend to take our own culture for granted. We're born into it, and we live with its rules and assumptions day in and day out. We quickly come to believe that the way we live is simply "The way things should be". As a result, we often see our behaviour as correct. However, culture is not value-neutral. We have good reasons for believing and behaving as we do, but that doesn't necessarily mean that others are "wrong".

It seems that over many years, members of ACWW are managing well to communicate across countries and cultures. We have succeeded in developing a tolerance for ambiguity and we have accepted the fact that one will never understand everything

about another culture. However, one can still appreciate the differences. We have learned to become more flexible.

Things won't always go the way you want and a small measure of flexibility will prove enormously helpful. Members of ACWW have learned to practice a little humility – acknowledge what you do not know or understand. Displaying humility and acceptance will win friends, influence people and make life easier.

Communication consists of the transfer of meaning, so do everything you can to make sure that your messages are not misunderstood. We are all looking forward to ACWW's Triennial World Conference, which will be hosted by the West Midlands Federation of Women's Institutes and will be held at the Warwick Conference Park at the University of Warwick, Coventry, England from 17th - 23rd August 2016.

The theme for the Conference is 'Working Together for a Better Future' and how much easier it will be to put this theme into practice by adopting the right attitude when communicating across countries and cultures and to try to keep an open-minded approach when we meet our friends and fellow-ACWW members at the World Conference!

Acknowledgement: DK's Effective Communication

UN COMMITTEE

HONOURING MADGE WATT



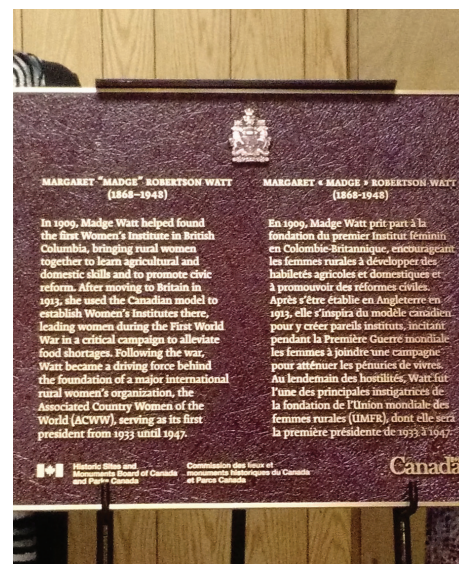
Sharon Hatten, ACWW UN Committee Chairman

Sharon Hatten, ACWW UN Committee Chairman wrote: A plaque honouring the work of Margaret "Madge" Watt was unveiled on August 14, 2015 at the historic Colwood Community Hall, Ontario, Canada, where she started her years of work with Women's Institutes and ACWW. The plaque will be

placed at The Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific in Metchosin, B.C. where she and her husband lived. The message on the plaque, which is inscribed in both English and French, was of her life and achievements.

Dr. Helen Davies of Parks Canada remarked that Madge Watt has been recognised because she had influence beyond her time and place, she thought locally but acted globally and is recognised as a Canadian woman who changed the world. Dr. Davies noted UK Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin (1923 - 1937), acknowledged Madge Watt's work in the UK as one of the most important contributions to England made by a Canadian. The celebration was attended by many BCWI members, BCWI President Janet Bangs, FWIC President - elect Joan Holthe, Past ACWW World President Lyndsay Hackett-Payne Mundy, representatives from Parks Canada and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and me.

Special thanks went to Donna Jack, South Vancouver Island District President and Ruth Fenner, British Columbia Women's Institute, Provincial Historian, who worked to ensure this recognition was made.





Henrietta Schoeman, ACWW Triennial Conference Committee (TCC) Chairman

WANTED WINTER CLOTHES!

By the time Triennial World Conference commences, summer in the northern hemisphere would be well under way. Unfortunately autumn and winter would then also not be too far off. The Triennial Conference Committee (TCC) asks all delegates and observers attending the Conference to open their hearts and bring along any used jacket or coat as a donation. It may be for a child or adult, for a woman or a man, for a baby, a boy or a girl, as long as everyone brings some warm clothing to donate.

If we search through our cupboards we will definitely find a used but still good jacket or coat to bring to the University of Warwick. Pack it in your luggage and on Registration Day hand it in at the venue. It will be used for a good cause and it will make a difference in the lives of many.

A reputable charity organisation in Coventry will be the recipients of these donated coats and jackets and they will distribute it as needed. We appeal to all ACWW members to support us in this worthy cause!

A CALL FOR UNWANTED COSTUME JEWELLERY

The Triennial Conference Committee (TCC) requests all members who will be attending the Triennial World Conference in August, 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.

COMPETITION TIME

We would like to remind members that at the Triennial World Conference there will be not one, but two competitions! As ACWW members have a variety of talents and to give more of you the opportunity to participate, we have decided on both a handcraft, and a photograph competition.

Mobile Phone Sleeve

Let your creative juices flow with this competition. Design and make a mobile phone sleeve using any medium. Any handcraft is permitted – crochet, embroidery, knitting, craft, paint techniques, needlework – the possibilities are endless. To find the winners there will be a silent auction, as well as a people's choice. Pennies for Friendship will benefit when members bid to buy these special unique handmade sleeves.

Photo Competition

Since ACWW conferences are the place where members gather from around the globe, the Triennial Conference Committee (TCC) thought it would be good to learn more about each other's worlds. One way of doing that is to be able to see photographs of your society in your country doing ACWW activities.

The theme is: "We are ACWW". Grab your cameras and start taking those pictures. It will be easy to transport to Warwick and will be displayed at the Conference. The size should be A4 when mounted on a strong cardboard to protect it. This is a standard letter size in the UK and most of Europe known as A4.

Photo Instructions

'Mount on a maximum A4' means the photograph to be stuck on a piece of card that is a maximum size of 8 ¼ (8.25) inches x 11 ½ (11.5) inches. In metric this would be 21 cm (210 mm) x 29.7 cm (297 mm).

Photos can be in colour, black and white, or sepia. Be original, let loose your imagination and show fellow members what activities you do. Remember to include a caption of where your photo was taken and please remember to add your name and society on the back. Only one entry can be accepted per individual member, or society. Please note that your photo will become the property of ACWW after the World Conference (read page 4 for Editor's guide).

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.

ACWW WORLD CHOIR

Suzanne Garrett, ACWW UN Committee member, would still like to hear from anyone interested in joining ACWW's World Choir in August. Suzanne says: There has already been a lot of interest from members but more are welcomed to join. If you would like to take part please send an email to me at suzanneblodwen@gmail.com and I will make the CD and words, we will be performing, available to you. If it is at all possible it would be great to all meet a day early at the University to practice. Even though we are flexible, please let me know if you are able to make it a day earlier?



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 Tufton 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)

<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose £390 (Early Bird Registration) to arrive at Central office no later than 16 April 2016.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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)

<input type="checkbox"/>	I wish to book the Day Out Tour on Tuesday 23 August @ £50
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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)

TEA TIME WITH ACWW

To celebrate International Day of Rural Women, which was on 15th October 2015, ACWW asked members to host a tea party. The aim of this campaign was to bring people all over the world together to drink tea, raise awareness of women living in rural poverty and to raise money for grassroots projects that not only benefit the lives of some of the most disadvantaged women, but also their families and communities. Many members raised awareness and money for this important day to help women less fortunate than themselves and we bring you a few of their stories below. To encourage members ACWW also held a best photo competition, where the best photo would appear on this issue's front cover. Even though we received any great photos the winners of the best photo is Buckinghamshire Federation, England. Well done ladies!

WINNERS

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FEDERATION OF WIS

Buckinghamshire Federation of Women's Institutes (England), winners of 'Tea Time with ACWW' event, held a tea party in November 2015 for their adopted ACWW project no. 0992, and £862.68 was sent to ACWW. Of this, £185 was received from a raffle also held at their 'Vintage Tea' event at which all of their WI guests were encouraged to dress accordingly and all made an effort. Apart from drinking tea prizes were given out; one of the top prizes was two tickets to ACWW Day to be held at Denman College (donated by Denman). All the ladies had a fabulous time.



TEMPLETON WI

A group of ladies from the Templeton WI in St John's Newfoundland and Labrador on the east coast of Canada held a tea party to raise money for ACWW's Pennies for Friendship fund. The ladies who were joined by Sharon Hatten, ACWW UN Committee Chairman, sat down to tea and talked about the International day of Rural Women.

The Templeton WI President, Roxanne Fleming, said the WI collected \$130 for Pennies for Friendship.



FEDERATED WIS OF CANADA

A local WI branch of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada took part in ACWW's annual Tea Time with ACWW by holding a tea party of their own. It was a great success and the ladies enjoyed the event as they raised money for ACWW's Pennies for Friendship fund.



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FEDERATION OF WIS

Northamptonshire Federation of WIs celebrated International Day for Rural Women at Milton Malsor in South Northamptonshire, England.

The hall was full by the time the ladies celebrated by drinking tea. Jackie Gregory, West Midlands Federation of WIs and ACWW Rep talked about monitoring projects for ACWW and of the upcoming Triennial World Conference being held in August at Warwick University; noting it had been 76 years since the World Conference had been held in the UK. At the tea party a sack full of old and broken jewellery was collected to be recycled and foreign currency was also collected, along with craft items for the “Shop” at the Conference.

NORTH YORKSHIRE WEST FEDERATION OF WIS



On October 15th twenty eight ladies of North Yorkshire West Federation of Women's Institutes gathered at Alma House Ripon, North Yorkshire, England. The purpose was twofold: - to recognise the day and present a cheque to ACWW for their adopted ACWW project no. 0972.

Rosie Szlumper, the Federation's ACWW rep, welcomed everybody and tested everybody's knowledge with 17 flags from various countries in the nine ACWW regions. Some good guesses were made and more than half of the flags were identified correctly. The first speaker was Kate Dale from Yorkshire Farming Support Network.

Kate talked about the need for rural areas needing support in a variety of ways and the role women played locally in agriculture.

The second speaker was Hazel Armstrong from Yorkshire East Federation, an ACWW Projects Committee member and a projects

monitor; as well as an active supporter of ACWW. Hazel presented slides of her visits to projects in India; they left a strong impression on everyone present. It made everyone realise the strengths of ACWW projects and how ACWW's fundraising works.

It was during this time that Rosie then presented a cheque for £1,700 to Hazel.

This money was raised in May 2015 when 150 ladies took part in a six day walk, part of the WI centenary celebrations, walking 50 miles of the 'Ripon Rowel' a scenic route encircling the city. Each of the six days saw 30 to 40 walkers set off on an 8 to 9 mile stretch.

Due to other fundraising events other cheques were presented making a total of £2,074 for an adopted ACWW project in India. The afternoon was completed with a 'Yorkshire Tea' which had ham salad followed by trifle.



AVON FEDERATION OF WIs

To mark the Centenary of the founding of the Women's Institute and the 40th Anniversary of Avon Federation of WIs, Bleadon WI (England) decided to join in ACWW's Tea Time with ACWW event by organising a tea party for members, families and friends in their village. On Sunday 4th October a team of WI members decorated the hall with bunting, fresh flowers, tablecloths and cake stands and served delicious home-made cakes and cream tea, accompanied by music from the 1920s. Elizabeth Lockyer, ACWW Rep for Avon Federation said "It had been decided to donate any profit from the occasion towards a project of ACWW's choice and I am delighted, on behalf of our organising team, to send a cheque of £270.01. We had great fun organising this happy occasion and are delighted to be able to support ACWW's very valuable work".



A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE ACWW FUNDRAISING DAY

In October 2015, Essex Federation of WIs (England) held a very successful fundraising day for ACWW. 140 WI members in Essex attended the 'event with a difference' with the dual aim of supporting ACWW and learning about less-familiar parts of the globe. After coffee on arrival and a chance to look around various displays, delegates watched presentations about life and customs in three different countries, which formed the focus of the day, namely Laos, Romania and Tobago.

The speakers passed around photos or showed slides, which illustrated many facets of the countries featured. From the lovely beaches and amazing carnival costumes of the Caribbean, to the striking temples of the far east and on to the historic castles and folklore of eastern Europe, all three destinations delighted with their beautiful landscapes and fascinating people.

A three-course lunch, held in two sittings because of the large number of attendees, was prepared and served by members of Audley End WI. Philippa Croft ACWW Rep, FEWI said "Our sincere thanks to all who participated for their interest and generosity, which resulted in a most satisfying contribution towards ACWW's 'Water for All' project fund, which raised £1,219.31 for Project no. 0990 in Papua New Guinea.

FOREIGN COINS & OLD JEWELLERY COLLECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING



Tina Cox with Adam Henson, BBC1 Presenter for Country File



Tina Cox's ACWW display at the Surrey Federation's annual meeting

Surrey Federation WI ladies met at Dorking halls (England) for their annual meeting. This successful meeting had a decorative table, which displayed ACWW informative material. The Federation's members deposited foreign coins and lots of old or broken jewellery. Their speaker was Adam Henson, who spoke about his farm in the Cotswolds, England, as the agricultural theme was high on the agenda for the day.

Tina Cox, a Surrey Federation representative for ACWW and Editor of the Surrey WI News magazine said "I am proud to be a part of the work with ACWW and will continue with the enthusiasm I started with. Several more local talks are already booked for this year. I have also set up a recycle box at our head office in Guildford to make it easier for members to bring in their old unwanted jewellery".

ACWW AWARENESS DAY IN SOUTH AFRICA



In honour of international Day of Rural Woman, North West Province Women's Agriculture Union (NW WAU) in South Africa, whose aim is to provide training to women and their families, held an awareness day to uplift and inform members of the recent work of NW WAU.

130 Members from all over the North West Province attended the day. 4 Newly qualified judges and 6 experienced judges taught the following skills to the ladies: painting, writing, photography, baking, machine work, and knitting, crochet and flower arrangement. One of the new qualified judges even let the ladies into the secrets of preserving.

CHILDREN HELP WAU PLANT TREES



Bloemhof VLU, WAU planted a Forest Bushwillow tree at a pre-primary school in South Africa. The children watched and some even helped covering the roots with soil.

The children brought coins for ACWW totalling R250.



A TWO DAY SKILLS WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN IN SOUTH AFRICA

Volmoed Branch of the Women's Agricultural Union is situated east of Rustenburg in the North West Province of South Africa. Each year members hold a two-day skills workshop during the school holidays for children from local schools.

Last year's workshop was held on the 7- 8 October 2015. The participants were mainly girls, but a few boys also attended. The majority of children were from the local Kloofwaters Primary School, but nine other schools in the Rustenburg area were also represented. The local South Korean Christian Mission sent three boarders from their school, a Korean boy and two girls from Madagascar. The children's ages ranged from 8 to 16 with an average age of 13 years. They

were pre-arranged in groups so as to have a reasonable age distribution in each group.

Most activities were at seven different "stations" and groups were rotated hourly so that each group could learn cooking, baking, knitting, sewing (making headbands), weaving, planting and painting; as well as making necklaces. On the first day there were three rotations in the morning before lunch and two afterwards before departure at 4pm.

The next morning all the children learnt about bees and each had a taste of honey. They then made group bee pictures by pasting whatever they could find in the area onto pre-prepared bee outlines.

After making the bee pictures the participants completed their last two group activities. They then sat down to a lunch of roast chicken with salads, followed by chocolate muffins, which the children helped make. After lunch all enjoyed dancing while beating African drums from Zambia. Thereafter each child received a laminated certificate of attendance, and tired, but full of enthusiasm were then taken home.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT



MALVA PUDDING

Magdie de Kock

Food lover and Chair of Communications & Marketing Committee - South Africa

Malva pudding is a sweet pudding of Cape Dutch origin and is an all time favourite of South Africans. This hot, cake-like and sugary sweet indulgence is the perfect winter comfort food – but you will find it just as addictive in summer too. Malva pudding is almost a cake with a caramelised texture.

The sponge cake is drizzled with a cream and sugar sauce while still hot and is usually served hot with either ice cream, or custard or both!

Malva pudding is a dessert that brings memories of many Sunday lunches shared with loved ones flooding back to the mind of anyone who grew up in South Africa.

Ingredients – the basic Pudding

1 cup castor sugar (250g) 2 eggs (room temperature)
1 tablespoon smooth apricot jam (15ml)
1 ¼ cups cake flour (300 g)
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda (5ml) pinch of salt
2 tablespoons butter (30ml)
1 tablespoon vinegar (15ml)
½ cup milk (125 ml)

Ingredients – the Sauce

1 cup cream (250ml)
½ cup butter (125ml)
½ cup sugar (125ml)
½ cup water/Orange juice/Sherry/Brandy (125ml)

Method

1. Set oven to 190°C.
2. Beat castor sugar and eggs until fluffy and light.
3. Add the jam and stir well.

41 MEMBERS ATTEND CANADA CONFERENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

4. Sift dry ingredients into separate bowl.
5. Melt butter in a small pot on a medium heat and add the vinegar and milk.
6. Now add the above mixture (butter, milk, and vinegar) to the sifted ingredients and mix well.
7. Add the mixture of eggs, sugar and jam and combine well.
8. Pour into an ovenproof casserole dish that takes about 2 litres (12 x 8 inches).
9. Bake at 190°C for 45 minutes until the top is nicely browned.

Prepare the sauce:

Melt all the sauce ingredients together in a small pot over a medium heat and pour over the pudding while it's still hot. Serve it with ice-cream or custard or both.



On 17th November 2015, 41 members of Le Cercle de Fermières de Varennes, QcC, Canada, attended a conference, where the theme was the history of ACWW and its mission. The aim was to promote ACWW's activities and explain how the projects were approved. Members attending got a lot out of the conference as many of them did not know the origin of ACWW, or of the help and support given to women, their families and communities around the world.



NORWEGIAN WOMEN KNITTED THE WORLD'S LARGEST QUILT BLANKET

In a recent press release, the Norwegian Women and Family Association (NWFA) announced that the Guinness World Records has certified a giant patchwork knitted by the ladies, as the world's largest. Members of the Association spent over two years knitting the patches used to mount the blanket. The result was measured, weighed and inspected before being submitted to Guinness World Records. Elisabeth Rusdal Union Leader in NWFA wrote: We were uncertain whether we would be able to beat the previous record – but we managed it and with a good margin.

According to Elisabeth, the new record blanket measured 566,279 square meters, weighing 311.03 kg (686 lbs.). Altogether, 654,800 meters yarn was used, equivalent with 6548 skeins.

However, the record blanket has already become history. The rug has been split up and distributed to health institutions across the country, with many blankets being handed to the Salvation Army. Elisabeth wrote: The record attempt will keep people warm for many, many years. The quilt blanket was one of the activities to mark the NFWA's 100th anniversary in 2015.



World record: 654,800 meters yarn was used. (Photo: The Norwegian Women and Family Association)

DMI & MMI WORK AFFECTED BY FLOODS IN INDIA



Back in November 2015, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) Sisters and the Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (MMI) Priests were busy preparing for 'The Happy Children March and the Mega Children Convention' scheduled for 22nd, with the purpose of bringing awareness to Children's Rights; when rain started pouring the first week of November and did not stop until near the end. When the rains started on the 7th, it was welcomed but it soon turned out to be a dreadful disaster leaving thousands of people homeless, the vast majority of the residents without electricity and almost everyone stranded in their homes, as the roads were completely cut off.

People were evacuated by boats and helicopters and lodged in safer places. Schools and Colleges were closed as most of them had become camps for the flood affected people. The damage and disaster, which was first restricted to Chennai and Cuddalore, extended to almost all parts of Tamil Nadu.

With communities around them suffering, DMI and MMI knew they had to take action and fling themselves into relief work. But, relief work is not that easy. In some areas DMI and MMI found themselves wading through chest deep waters, risking their own health to provide the marooned people with the immediate necessities. In the last few days after the flood, they offered relief to more than 5,000 families; offering every family food.

To add to the agony downpour, diseases such as Malaria and Dengue started to develop making the demand for preventive and curative medicine acute. There was, however some hope when the sun rose on the 23rd November, everyone heaved a sigh of relief and went back home after

painstakingly draining out the water and cleaning up the mud and muck accumulated in their houses, but alas, this was short-lived. Torrential rain throughout the evening and night made the situation worse, leaving the people back to square one, looking for a place to stay and waiting in eagerness for food and water to survive. Both societies were again out on the streets providing help to as many people as possible. The rain finally stopped on evening of the 24th November.

Father J.E.Arul Raj, MMI said "We are grateful we were able to help the less-privileged sisters and brothers in our neighbourhood. All that we ask of you is to think of the people of Chennai, Cuddalore and other parts of Tamil Nadu that the rays of the sun may fall upon us and dry up the tears of people, as well as the water enveloping every part of the land".



ACWW APPROVES ITS 1,000TH PROJECT

INDIA, KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL

Computer Literacy for Adults and Children

Project no. 1,000

ACWW Grant: £3,467*

Organisation: Country Women's Association of India

We are pleased to announce that in October 2015, ACWW approved the 1,000th project since the Projects Committee was set up in 1977. Project 1,000 is 'Computer Literacy for Adults and Children', implemented by the Country Women's Association of India (CWA). Parbati Mitra, General Secretary of CWA, said "We feel honoured and blessed being the 1000th Project awardee and in particular we are grateful to ACWW for supporting CWA with Project 1,000". In order to design this project, CWA called a meeting of underprivileged local students. It was decided to select 15 young women and five children, all of whom appeared to have an aptitude for and an interest in computer literacy. Initially, two awareness camps will be held in the community, about the importance of computer education. Five computers, a printer and scanner and other accessories will be purchased. The beneficiaries will be trained in Microsoft Word, Desk Top Publishing, Tally, Financial Accounts and other programmes.

The course will last for one year, after which there will be an assessment by an external examiner. They will then be assisted to find job placements with local educational and professional institutions. The child beneficiaries will receive a more basic training course. CWA plans to extend the training to further beneficiaries in the future. It is hoped that the project will raise awareness of the importance of computer education, and give the beneficiaries the means to improve their status and their prospects in the employment market.

PROGRESS REPORT

UGANDA

Provision of Safe Piped Water to the Local Community of Kikajjo (phase 2)*Project no. 0964**Organisation: Training of Rural Women in Uganda (TORUWU)**Supported by: Derbyshire FWI, England*

This project, which is seeking to increase access to safe, clean water for residents of Kikajjo Village in Uganda, is the second phase of what began as ACWW's project no.0920. Previously the inhabitants of Kikajjo village had walked long distances to obtain water from surface wells in swampy areas, but once this project is complete, safe underground water will be pumped to a central, high location in the village, and piped to public taps in various places around the village.

It is also expected that, as a result of this project, the incidence of water-borne diseases will be reduced and that the villagers will be able to irrigate their crops during the dry season. So far, progress on the project has been good. A new 10,000 litre tank has been purchased to store the water for the local community, whilst extensive progress has been made towards digging trenches and fixing pipes to transport water. A large number of pipes and other equipment



have been purchased for the project, whilst plumbers and engineers have been identified and hired to undertake work. At the time of reporting, three households were successfully receiving piped water from the new supply, with a further 13 in the process of having the plumbing system established. A key part of the project is providing families with the irrigation facilities to run vegetable gardens, where they will be able to grow produce to sell. A further key aim of the project is to improve the sanitary conditions of the households involved. In the houses which are receiving water, the conditions are reported to have improved substantially. To help

measure results, the organisation, Training of Rural Women in Uganda (TORUWU) who runs the project, spoke to beneficiaries from different backgrounds. These included a cattle farmer, a musician and a teacher. They were overwhelmingly positive about the progress of the project thus far and explained how the project has helped them in numerous ways, through providing water for cooking, cleaning and animal feeding. All those interviewed spoke highly of the project delivery group, and its beneficial role in the local community. The organisation's project staff stated that overall the project is running both to schedule and on budget, with no major reported issues.

PROGRESS REPORT



CAMEROON

Water for Life and Livelihood (Potable water for health and sustainable food production)*Project no. 0932**Organisation: Shiloh Women Development CIG
Supported by: Jersey FWI; Buckinghamshire FWI, Carperby WI, England; Sir Gar Carmarthenshire, Wales*

The aims and objectives of this project were to provide safe potable water for over 7,200 people of Gouiffe and other surrounding villages; to promote intensive vegetable cultivation by the training of 280 women, which would improve the nutrition of the beneficiaries and their families; as well as to eradicate water borne diseases through safe and permanent potable water supply, reduced child mortality and to increase the general health of the community.

It was reported that the construction of a water source, which would connect to a

central reserve tank in the village centre was a success. The project is being strictly carried out in phases through the assistance of youths and men in the communities. These activities include a feasibility study which was carried out by an expert from the Ministry of Water and Energy Resources.

280 women, 80 men and 100 children have participated in the training sessions at the time of reporting. Shiloh Women Development CIG who run the project, have seen an improvement in the living conditions of the people in these communities with the application of the lessons that were given during the training sessions. They have seen incidences of water-related illnesses decline steadily according to health reports. They have also reported that the self-built vegetable farms have enabled most of the community members practising agriculture to improve their lives and their living conditions as well as their family's situation.

PROJECTS REPORTS

PROGRESS REPORT



CAMEROON

Food4All - Sustainable Integrated Farming of Non-Conventional Agricultural Products
 Project no. 0976

Organisation: *Changing Mentalities and Empowering Groups (CHAMEG)*

Supported by: *Lincolnshire South FWI, Northamptonshire FWI, England*

This project is being run for the benefit of 40-50 young single mothers, orphans and less privileged youths in Mamfe town in Cameroon on a piece of land provided by the management of Graceland orphanage. Its focus is the cultivation of Eru (an African wild-vegetable), mushrooms and snail farming as there is high demand for these products in the local area. Changing Mentalities and Empowering Groups (CHAMEG), who are running the project, reports that the project is running well after the construction of Eru propagators, built with advice from an Institute of Agricultural Research for Development expert. About 4,000 Eru cuttings were planted in two chambers of

the propagators and 15 buckets of parent snails installed in a purpose built snail pen. Project participants were trained on sustainable Eru and snail domestication initially and then on mushroom gardens and how to manage a small business. Unfortunately the first set of mushroom spores bought did not germinate due to weather conditions, so they bought a more popular type that grows everywhere.

To date seven buckets of snails, 1,000 Eru pots and 10kg of mushrooms have been sold; the money has been kept in the groups' account. At present an application to register as a marketing cooperative is underway. There is very high demand for the products and this project alone cannot satisfy the level of demand within the community so beneficiaries are being encouraged to replicate the activities on an individual level and to take advantage of the existing market for the products. Patience Ayuk a project participant says "ACWW has changed my life. At first I used to send my children at night to go hunt for snails and harvest Eru for my eating parlour, thereby exposing them to snakes and insect bites. Today I am comfortably rearing snails behind our home, opening up my own Eru garden and increasing the quantity of food prepared and sold in my restaurant. My children can eat better, dress better and buy their school text books like other children. Thanks also to CHAMEG for requesting that ACWW fund this very important project".

MONITORING REPORT



ROMANIA

Computer Literacy and Activity Scheme for Women and Children

Project no. 0938

Organisation: *Asociatia Femeior Din Sibiu*

Supported by: *FWI's of Northern Ireland; Cambridge FWI, Oxfordshire FWI, England*

Anne Marit Hovstad, ACWW Projects Committee Chairman, monitored this project and met the office bearers (management) of the organisation, the project staff, volunteers and the beneficiaries. She found that all the planned activities of the project had

been carried out. She interviewed some of the beneficiaries, who felt that the training was very useful. The plan now is to use the equipment purchased for further training.

The beneficiaries have learned skills including touch-typing, to create documents including tables and graphics, send emails and how to search the internet. The social worker who taught the students has been pleased with their progress and said that she, too, had learned a lot as a result of the project.

The activities have been monitored both by staff members and by members of the management team. Cristina Mates, President of the organisation, has been visiting the shelter almost daily.

The main difficulties met by the organisation in carrying out this project, were the increasing prices in Romania, inflation and an unfavourable exchange rate; also transport costs for those of the beneficiaries coming from outside the shelter. But with good governance and meticulous control of their finances, they have managed.

FINAL REPORT



INDIA

Vocational Training in Printing Press

Project no. 0915

Organisation: *Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association – Women Empowerment*

Supported by: *Les Cercles de Fermières du Québec, Canada; Guernsey FWI; East Sussex FWI, England*

Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association (SNDMA) reported that 100 women have been trained in computer skills including desk-top publishing, printing, paper cutting and book binding, and other office skills such as the use of a Xerox machine. They have also participated in spoken English classes, and can understand instructions given in English.

The beneficiaries were chosen because they came from poor families, have reached a basic level of education (class VIII and above), and showed interest in learning new skills and becoming empowered. At first SNDMA experienced problems in encouraging beneficiaries to become involved, but they held a workshop to explain the benefits of learning new skills to potential students.

The girls were trained in batches, and at various stages the girls who achieved good results in their assessments helped to train the next batch of students. Professional training providers were always present to ensure the smooth running of the training.

The beneficiaries are now well placed to gain employment and are mixing with people from different levels in society. They are able to support their families and are feeling empowered. The training is being extended to new students, so the project is proving sustainable. This project was monitored in January 2015 by ACWW World President, Ruth Shanks A.M.

FINAL REPORT



INDIA

Women Empowerment – 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 created to empower a small group of women in Kolkata, India in the art of weaving. The aim of this was to ensure that they had skills in an area in which they could find employment and generate income, and through this, gain an increase in living standards, better conditions for their family

and more self-confidence. The women in this programme were chosen due to their dire economic circumstances. All were below the poverty line before the initiation of the project, whilst three women involved have handicaps. All those taking part in the project had expressed an interest and desire to learn these skills to improve their circumstances.

The report records that the project has been delivered according to the initial plan, with no major problems occurring. The ten participants involved in the project benefited substantially from the training programmes and other activities, through learning to recognise the quality of thread, whilst also becoming proficient at producing a large number of woven goods, including swabs, dusters, mats and shawls. On top of these practical skills, they have also become informed about marketing techniques through this training, which they have been utilising to sell their wares. The beneficiaries, staff and others involved in the project were encouraged to give constant feedback as part of the monitoring and evaluation element of the project. This allowed those organising the project to react to problems

and challenges as they emerged. Some of the beneficiaries will be employed directly by the Association now the project is over, working in the Association's production centre as professional weavers.

The Country Women's Association of India has provided two case studies of individuals involved in the programme and how they have come to benefit. The first of these – Ms. Sikha. She suffers from deafness, and has been neglected and shunned by her family due to her disability. The skills she has gained and the friends she has made have instilled her with self-confidence, which in turn has made her family and the wider community come to respect her more. In a second case study, Ms. Kalyani is recorded as now being able substantially to improve her living standards through her work, whilst also now being able to provide tuition to her daughter in her free time. The Country Women's Association of India concludes that the key lesson they drew from implementing this project and working with the beneficiaries was that 'Success follows those who are empowered with will.' where they can share these valuable skills with their local communities.

FINAL REPORT



UGANDA

Promotion of Increased Household Food Security and Incomes among Rural Poor Women - led Families in Katikamu Sub County, Luwero

Project no. 0947

Organisation: Maganjo Farmers Association (MAFA)

Supported by: Zurich Financial Services, Switzerland

This project aimed to improve the food security situation for households of rural poor and women-led families, through training 60 women in methods of sustainable agriculture, income-generating activities,

environmental protection and marketing, savings and credit management. The project also included the establishment of a small revolving loan facility, which the beneficiaries could use in order to improve their income-generating activities. The project has made a number of achievements in pursuing its aims of leaving the beneficiaries with more skills, more versatile and profitable small businesses and better standards of living than before its initiation. The women have received training in agriculture and agronomic practices, and are now familiar with using locally available materials, like animal waste, to make compost manures. Since the training programmes were initiated, food production by the women and families involved has risen by an estimated 67%. The result of this rise is that all members of the household have more food on a daily basis. Families who were suffering from chronic undernourishment, only able to provide one meal a day for each member, are now benefiting from 2 – 3 meals each day instead. The improvement in nutrition and diet is bringing with it wider health benefits for those involved.

The revolving loan fund has proved very successful and has been taken up by 90% of the women who were initially targeted to take part. Those involved in income-generating activities and making use of the revolving loan fund have seen their incomes

rise by an average of more than 80%. Some examples of specific skill training that has helped small business owners to make such profits include record and book keeping, saving and credit management skills, and specific agribusiness techniques that were tailored to their specific employment roles.

Overall, the project was carried out according to the initial plans; however, some challenges were faced by the MAFA team in bringing about successful delivery. Firstly, the project was hit by unseasonable droughts. It stopped raining in November and did not start again until April the following year. Secondly, difficulties were faced in encouraging all the women to record their savings, as some of them were unable to read and write. Finally, the current land tenure system creates a situation where individual farmers only have a small patch of cultivatable land each to work on.

Despite these challenges, the final report presents an overwhelmingly positive assessment of the project. Furthermore, it is expected that the legacy of the project will last for some considerable time. The revolving loan system continues to function, whilst the community structures established and reinforced through the training and meeting programmes are expected to provide support services for women working in this field well into the future.

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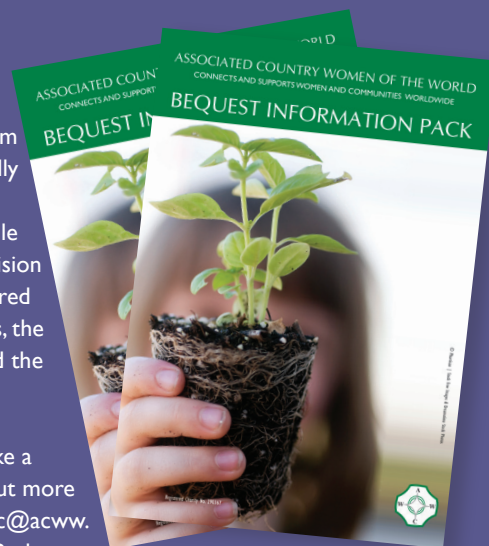
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