

THE COUNTRYWOMAN

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2016



WAVING FROM WARWICK!

We look back at the 28th Triennial Conference

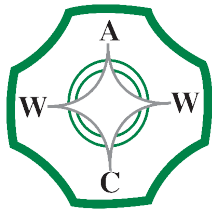
MEET YOUR NEW BOARD

ACWW'S elected representatives for 2016-2019

#WeAreACWW

Communicating our Agenda





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Please note the following deadlines for submitting your articles, updates and photographs to The Countrywoman. We welcome new contributors and those in areas not recently featured- please get in touch with nick@acww.org.uk if you need any help in submitting.

January- March: 30th November 2016

April- June: 20th February 2017

July- September: 20th May 2017

October- December: 20th August 2017

The Editor's decision on acceptance and inclusion is final.

CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS



Tish Collins
ACWW Operations Manager

Congratulations to the newly elected Board and our new committee members

I am sure I was not alone in finding the 28th Triennial Conference a fascinating and heart-warming experience of 640 delegates, representing over 9 million women, coming together from 74 countries to discuss, decide and celebrate ACWW working together for an improved quality of life for women and their communities worldwide.

The Triennial Theme for 2016-19 will be developed into a strategic plan incorporating the resolutions and linking them to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ACWW members and committees are uniquely placed to play a vital role in working on these issues, gathering data and reporting results to UN and government agencies. At Central Office we have experienced and talented staff who, working with the Committees, will be putting together the position statements, information packs and publicity materials to help members with their work. It should also be possible to have some of these translated into local languages on request. You may not be aware that at the bottom of our website (in the green band) is a button that lets you select the language in which you wish to view the website. Using 'Google translate', it may not be perfect but is helpful if English is not your first language.

Since Office Administrator Helena Alty left just before Conference to take up further education, I am pleased to announce that Mrs Sydney King was appointed and joined us on 16th September. You can read more about her background in this magazine. We are also recruiting to the finance post left vacant when Amit Patel retired due to ill health in May.

After the exacting work put in by the Ad Hoc Committee, under the stewardship of Chairman Jenny Mitchell, it was good to see the resolution to adopt the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation constitution, subject to Charity Commission approval, passed unanimously. Over the next few months I will be dealing with lawyers and the Charity Commission to get it formally approved. ACWW will then have limited liability, which offers members a safeguard in the event of something unforeseen going wrong.

The Board itself will remain the same but the number of members on the Executive will increase from the present 4 to 7 – which will be the World President and 6 specified committee chairmen. We will also have a new charity registration number. Plenty of notice will be given, and it will not be implementable before the beginning of 2017. This will be a big step forward for ACWW.

I look forward to updating you in the next issue, and wish you all well for a positive and exciting New Year.

EDITOR'S NOTE Nick Newland

Welcome to the first Countrywoman of the 2016-2019 Triennium! Since writing last, we've had a fantastically productive and exciting Triennial Conference in the UK. This event was truly groundbreaking in its diversity, scope and levels of interaction and engagement. It was an honour to put on my other hat as Conference Manager, and to meet so many of you. Thank you for your kind feedback, enthusiasm and support. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my colleague and Assistant Conference Manager Nicky Enderby for all her hard work in Warwick- those who met her or saw her will testify to her incredible dedication, effort and kindness.

This issue introduces the new theme and direction for the Triennium. In the coming months we will be developing a wide range of resources to help our members actively campaign on our policies- remember that the Resolutions and Recommendations that form these policies come from you, the membership. Do check the website Members' Area regularly (password: [acww2016portal](https://www.acww.org.uk)).

As ever, I am keen to include news and articles from around the world in the magazine, and make our content as diverse as our membership. Contact me at nick@acww.org.uk

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Our range of merchandise, including some wonderful opportunities for seasonal gifts

CONFERENCE PRIZE WINNERS

As well as the Raffle tickets on sale before and during the Conference, we also organised some extra competitions. The winners are shown below:

Raffle 1st Prize - Diamond Ring
Gail Commens, Australia

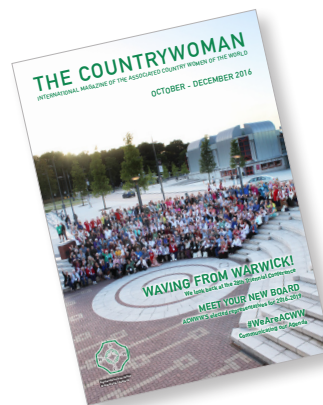
Raffle 2nd Prize - Hand-made Quilt
Linda Bertram, Australia

Raffle 3rd Prize - Hand Dyed Batik Silk
Eric Yetman, Canada

Photograph Competition Judges' Choice
Charmaine Olivier, Mpumalanga, South Africa

Photograph Competition Peoples' Choice
Princess Azizah, WI Pahang, Malaysia

Thank you to everyone who participated, and all those who contributed prizes!



COVER IMAGE

Delegates of the 28th Triennial Conference gather for a picture after dinner at the University of Warwick in the UK

Photo by Nick Newland

MAKING YOUR MAGAZINE SUSTAINABLE

We deliver The Countrywoman in an envelope rather than a plastic wrapper. This is because we use Forest Stewardship Council approved sustainable paper for both the magazine and its packaging. For every tree used in the production of this issue, three are planted in its place. This is part of ACWW's commitment to a healthier planet, and Sustainable Development Goal 12.



DEAR FRIENDS...

A Message from the World President



At the commencement of each Triennium, ACWW sets a theme for the three year period. This has, in the past, been an inspiring message: a call for collaboration or a mission statement. In this Triennium, with clear guidance from the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted at the 28th Triennial Conference in August 2016, it is apparent that ACWW must call for effective and significant work on the topics of education, responsibility and global sustainability. We recognise the achievements of the past 90 years and, incorporating the 2030 Agenda, look to the challenges and opportunities of the next 90 years. We have identified the following three elements as crucial to this goal:

1. Access to healthcare, disease prevention and well-being globally
2. Sustainable energy – in terms of food security, water supply and access to affordable, sustainable energy sources for societies and industry
3. Greater awareness of our responsibilities as one human-kind sharing this planet – both in terms of humanitarian actions and global responsibility through industry, agriculture and societal behaviours

The past three years have been hugely positive, and I am proud of all that ACWW has achieved in this period – but we must not be complacent. The last three years saw ACWW members collaborate under the banner of 'Working Together for a Better Future', with the vision of an improved quality of life for women and communities. This work was undertaken with respect for ACWW's values of Friendship, Transparency, Understanding, Recognising Diversity, Inclusivity, Excellence, Openness and an intent to Enable and Empower women around the world.

Between 2013 and 2016, our Members and Member Societies have made a major- and positive- impact on their countries. Significant funds have been raised towards ACWW's work, both core costs and projects. More than £285,000 has been awarded internationally in project funding, all of which- of course- comes with an attached administrative and staff cost.

We will continue to work alongside the Sustainable Development Goals and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's Zero Hunger Challenge and report- with new levels of detail- not only on our funded projects but also the status of, and impact upon, the nine million women we represent as an organisation. Our work with the Zero Hunger Challenge central team has made ACWW one of their model partners, and one of our project benefactors was featured on the UN homepage for International Women's Day 2016. Our work is being recognised internationally and, with further development, will strengthen our worldwide network.

To secure the future of this development, it is necessary to position ourselves to fully take advantage of global funding – not merely as a reactive adjustment of existing projects in a hurry, but rather as a pro-active and pre-planned framework allowing us to facilitate area-wide, cross community funding needs. This reformed approach, in conjunction with our new constitution, will strengthen the pre-existing nature of ACWW, ensuring that we can go forward together into our 90th year safe in the knowledge that we are striving to serve our members, their societies and women worldwide to the very best of our ability.

The successes of ACWW's member societies are vast and broad-based, but in the past three years have included:

- Significant and successful lobbying on the use of Bisphenol A by the Alberta Women's Institutes of Canada
- The Country Women's Association in Tasmania, Australia has, through lobbying the State Government, secured a ban of plastic carrier bags on the island
- Action on E-Waste, recycling and responsible re-use of technology has been taken at the local, national and international levels by ACWW member organisations and societies

- The SSUK society in Bangladesh reports more than 3000 healthy and safe latrines created in the past Triennium

It is crucial that we build on the strong position we are in with renewed energy and drive – our Members, Societies, Officers and Staff combining their efforts to assess and report on the current state of our societies, and work to improve the quality of life of women and communities globally. Central Office will support this with a range of new resources and information, targeted to help Members further their efforts in implementing, and monitoring, real success. Members and societies may consider a few issues that will be relevant to them to differing extents.

This Triennium has presented challenges for the Central Office staff, with several members of the team moving on to new educational opportunities, professional development and retirement. Our staff have, in all but one case, joined ACWW in the 2013-2016 Triennium, with Operations Manager Tish Collins appointed in May 2014. She has since shepherded the restructuring of the new constitution in conjunction with the Ad Hoc Committee, overseen a vast overhaul of the Office's procedures and has spent the last three months additionally covering the role of Finance Manager after the incumbent retired. My sincerest thanks, and those of the Board and the whole of ACWW go to Tish and her team, particularly Conference Manager Nick Newland and Assistant Manager Nicky Enderby who have, with Tish, been working tirelessly for months to ensure the success of the 2016 Triennial Conference.

Our outgoing Board and Committees have been successful in large part because of the unity and vision with which they have approached their work – I thank each and every one of them for their service and unanimous, thoughtful support. Our Committee Chairmen in particular must receive thanks for the often arduous and unthankful tasks they have been presented with, and their unflinching enthusiasm and hard work has not gone unnoticed. The newly elected Board and Committees are already working to build upon these strong foundations.

ACWW is a unique body, with an international network of rural and non-rural

RECALLING WARWICK

A personal view from Past World President May Kidd

women, willing to work together to improve the quality of life of others. We must work to ensure that we are all better informed, and use our increasingly strong organisation to secure our current achievements – and build on them. We have shown that ACWW can be an inspirational leader in Women's issues; we must now use that position of leadership to make even more significant and positive impacts across the world.

Thank you for the honour and privilege of leading you, this amazing collection of weird, wacky and wonderful women. Being your World President has provided so many opportunities to explore and celebrate the unique, diverse and human work of ACWW members and I thank you all. Let us go forward making this Triennium our most productive and successful ever, under the banner of our new theme:

**90 Years of Achievements,
Building 90 years of Opportunities.**

I would like to express my thanks to all the member societies and individual members who sent cards, emails etc following my re-election as the World President. Also a special thanks to those who were very generous and presented many wonderful gifts at the World Conference. These gestures confirm the support for ACWW from around the world, not only having confidence in myself and the Board, but also confidence in the work that we do for the betterment of women of many cultures, many races and many creeds.

We will all continue to carry out the duties assigned to us and the promotion of ACWW. Thank you.



Ruth Shanks, A.M.
ACWW World President

For media and press enquiries regarding ACWW Resolutions, Recommendations or supporting materials, please contact:

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28 ACWW World Conferences have come and gone, all different, each one special in its own way. So what was wonderful about Warwick 2016? For me, it was simply the most fun I have ever had at any conference.

Please don't get me wrong. A great deal of serious, important business took place, and I found myself completely caught up in all of it. The Triennial Conference Committee and the Hostess Committee, plus the hard-working ACWW Central Office staff, all deserve medals (gold, of course – the Olympics were on!) for a good job well done.

I was impressed by the contents of my conference bag, especially the bright, colourful booklets – the programme, the information booklet, the triennial report and the latest 'Countrywoman'.

Congratulations to World President Ruth, who chaired every session with aplomb. When things went wrong, she smiled her way though, always ready with a little poem, wise words or a quotation.

There were outstanding guest speakers on a variety of topical subjects. Dr Mary Tilki's talk on the growing global problem of dementia struck a chord with me, and with many others. The power of music to help those affected by dementia confirmed my long-held belief that music is the universal language.

All the resolutions had been carefully chosen, prepared and well delivered by the proposers and seconders. I congratulate those who spent many hours working on the ACWW Charity Incorporation Process, and like them, I breathed a sigh of relief when it was approved! The urgency resolution by the Netherlands on the plight of refugees was carried unanimously, and added strength to that proposed by Scottish Women's Institutes.

I loved the amazing Conference choir, the moving parade of flags, the Song of Peace, the thanksgiving service for all faiths and none, the gala dinner where we made new friends around the table, and have you ever laughed so much as at 'The World Entertains'.

The University accommodation; warm, comfortable bed, plenty of hot water, could not have been better, likewise the catering. As a true Scot, I like proper porridge for breakfast. Would you believe it, they made

this specially for me every morning. As soon as they saw me coming, they hastened to reassure me that my porridge was on the stove and would be ready directly! In fact, the entire University of Warwick staff could not have been more helpful. Our every need was willingly met, everywhere on campus.

An unexpected, lovely thing happened, right at the start. On arrival with my sister at the Conference venue, we were met by a member who was at her first conference. She had arrived earlier the same day, and felt that she could assist others to find their way around. She helped with our luggage, came with us to our accommodation, and saw us settled there. Without her, I don't know when we would have found our residence, which was located some distance from central campus. This thoughtful volunteer was Priscilla Allan from Papua New Guinea. Priscilla, we shall never forget you.

So, you might ask, why did I find conference such fun? Well, I was there with no particular responsibilities, and plenty of time to catch up with old friends. There was Eleanor from Canada, Svetlana from Belarus, Frances from Australia, Rutt from Estonia, Olga and Magdolna from Hungary, Sister Seeli from India, Hamimah from Malaysia, Jeanette from New Zealand, Thilaka and Mal from Sri Lanka, Sue from Zimbabwe, Elena from Russia and Margaret from South Africa. I could go on... and on. After twelve years as an ACWW Board member, ending in Chennai 2013, this was a new experience, and one I hope to repeat in 2019. Roll on Melbourne!

May Kidd
ACWW World President 2010-2013



Operations Manager Tish Collins and Past World President May Kidd lead a craft session at the 28th Triennial Conference in August 2016



FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

Heather Brennan, ACWW Finance Committee Chairman

Well, what a wonderful surprise to be informed, as your new Treasurer, that we have already surpassed the 2016 target of £200,000 for Pennies for Friendship (PFF). I can only offer my thanks for your support for achieving this target.

The success has three-fold origins so please do not let it stop you making additional donations; the money will always make a difference to ACWW and its good work.

i. A significant amount was raised during Conference from donations and sales of 'serendipity' items. My heartfelt thanks go to Mrs Margaret McMillan, now European Area President, for masterminding this fundraising exercise. The super raffle with its star prizes donated by generous supporters was another major contributor to PFF (see the box for more detail)

ii. It includes the sale of branded goods (thanks to Magdie de Kock and the Communications and Marketing Committee who led on this with Nick's design and technical knowhow)

iii. Also included are some amounts from societies fulfilling pledges for historic Projects (pre-1003) which were funded immediately after the Projects Committee meeting by our 'general' unrestricted funds (ie PFF), until these 'adoption funds' arrived to replenish the general fund.

It is very easy to rest on our laurels. All our income is spent on the work of ACWW in one way or another and we need an office and staff to make that happen. In the Constitution, Article VI-Finance, no. 2 states that 'Category I, II and III shall make a donation annually to the PFF Fund.' We do not stipulate a minimum contribution, and many Societies are very generous in their support – even those in difficult financial circumstances themselves. We thank them for this. However, there are some comfortable societies not currently contributing – and this must change.

The amount of costume jewellery donated at the Triennial was amazing. When it is recycled, the income goes to PFF. Perhaps you could consider having a stall at your next meeting to sell collected jewellery, then just transfer the money raised to London. Some members unable to give a financial donation may well be able to make a contribution this way. For interest, notify the Office about how this donation was collected and please send a photo with details of the event.

We do not yet know how the UK Brexit (vote to leave the European Union) will impact on our invested reserves, so we must keep up a healthy level of income from donations and membership. As I write, the value of £ Sterling has dropped again. We may be facing a difficult time and it will be a challenge to continue the wonderful results achieved under Treasurer Alison Burnett. I am sure if we all pull together we can do it.

Sadly we have lost some individuals who did not renew their membership this year. This may be for many reasons but please promote ACWW and follow up with your members in your own societies. This magazine is one of the benefits of individual membership. If you are reading this item then you have already subscribed or you are fortunate to have a Society where *The Countrywoman* is passed around the members. One magazine per society can't really inform everyone about our United Nations, Projects and other work, so please encourage individual membership – it makes such a difference to ACWW.

Thank you for your support at Warwick when the resolution to increase membership dues was accepted. Sending circulars and E-Newsletters via email makes a huge saving on postal costs.

Membership subscriptions are due on the 1st January 2017 (and every year!). Please do not let your membership lapse and lose touch with this unique organisation representing over 9 million women worldwide.

There are several means of payment including standing orders through the bank, bank transfer and PayPal. Perhaps you would encourage members in your society to collect funds together and send just one transfer or cheque and save on transaction charges (don't forget to email this list of who is included and any change of contact details). Each will be acknowledged and the much loved membership cards will return in 2017.

Looking forward to ACWW Day April 29th 2017, put a note on your Society calendar and start preparations to further promote our Association to the public via Women Walk the World – check the Support Us page on the website and download some helpful resources.

Thank you for your confidence in electing me to the position of Treasurer for ACWW, I am ready for the task!

PENNIES FOR FRIENDSHIP



2016 GOAL
£200,000

1 JANUARY to
30 SEPTEMBER
2016 RAISED
£200,965!

CONFERENCE INCOME

The Triennial Conference was a great opportunity for networking and developing ACWW, but also generated income. This is broken into categories below:

Merchandise ¹	£6,107
Cook Books	£1,560
Raffle ²	£3,250
Serendipity Gifts	£1,108
DVD pre-order	£271
Agriculture Fudge ³	£120
Mobile/Cell Covers	£296
Projects Table	£860
PFF Donations	£3,353

¹ Profit from sales to be assessed, then will be allocated to PFF

² Includes pre-Conference sales of Raffle Tickets

³ To go towards Zero Hunger Challenge projects

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT ACWW

Options for donating to ACWW - old and new!



New Treasurer Heather Brennan and European Area President Margaret McMillan at the Serendipity Surprise stall at the Triennial Conference in August 2016.



Over the last 87 years, ACWW's members and societies have donated huge amounts of money in a variety of ways. However, just as we modernise the impact and development of ACWW's network and projects, we must modernise our methods of donation and support.

We currently accept direct bank transfers (both locally and internationally- see the details in the box to the left) in £ sterling and can also accept payments in US dollars- please contact Central Office for more detail if this is helpful. This is generally the easiest method, and we encourage societies and groups to gather their donations together before sending them to us, to minimise the bank charges and transaction costs.

There are also some additional methods of donation and support you might like to consider. These are examined below:

Just Giving

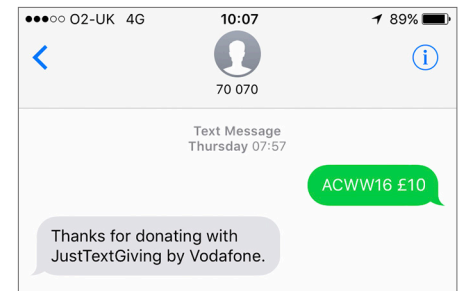
Just Giving is an online donation portal, intended to help people send money across the world. Since 2008, Just Giving has helped ACWW raise more than £21,000. If you are a UK taxpayer, you can also Gift Aid your donations (meaning that ACWW will benefit from an additional 25% support from the UK government). Go to www.justgiving.com/acww and you will see several options:

1. You can make a direct donation- click the purple button and follow the instructions
2. You can fundraise for us, if you click on the orange button, it will allow you to create your own page- this is ideal for events like Women Walk the World, or if you'd like to donate your birthday (get all your friends and family to make donations instead of sending gifts!), or any other fundraising ideas you have.
3. You can also set up a monthly donation, which is so much easier for you- and makes a huge difference to ACWW.

Text Giving

At the moment, this option is only available to ACWW's supporters in the UK, but we are hoping that it will be expanded in the future. It is wonderfully simple to use:

Using your mobile telephone, type a text (SMS) message which says: **"ACWW16"** and then include an amount up to £10, and send it to **70070**.



ACWW Website

If you visit our website (www.acww.org.uk) and go to the **"Support Us"** page, you will see a green box which allows you to make a direct donation securely to ACWW. This will be processed via PayPal, but will also allow UK tax payers to add Gift Aid. This is a new option, launched two weeks ago, which has already received several donations.

The Giving Machine

The Giving Machine is an international portal for online shopping that supports charities. If you shop via the internet (eg Amazon, Marks & Spencer, Air France) click on the Giving Machine (www.thegivingmachine.co.uk) and find the store from their list of partners. Once you have registered as a 'giver', click on the store and do your shopping as normal. The stores make donations to ACWW, at no extra cost to you. The donations are only a small percentage of your shopping, but even these add up to help ACWW.

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS USING ONLINE BANKING

Account:
Associated Country Women of the World
Account Number:
0124 4108
Sort Code:
56-00-33
Bank:
NatWest Bank, 57 Victoria Street, London United Kingdom, SW1H 0HP
Branch:
Westminster
Swift Code:
NWB KGB 2L
IBAN:
GB67NWBK56003301244108

Please don't forget to ensure you cover your transaction charges when you organise your transfer!

LEAVE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

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

You can be assured that your gift will make a genuine difference to our work. To find out more about leaving a bequest please email tish.c@acww.org.uk to receive a Bequest Information Pack.



28th TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

17-23 AUGUST 2016

We take a look back at ACWW's recent adventure at the University of Warwick in the UK

The University of Warwick is a busy place in term time, with students rushing from lecture to lecture and staff hurrying to get from one building to another. In the summer holiday however, things normally calm down a little. Not so in August 2016! ACWW's 28th Triennial Conference filled the campus with more than 640 ladies representing the full breadth and diversity of ACWW's membership- bright colours, local and national clothing and a delightful mix of languages took over the campus.

The first few days of the Warwick experience were dominated by the Pre-Conference Workshop, which provided leadership training for all those nominated for election at the Conference. Whilst this was happening, the final touches were put in place for the main Conference, including setting up The Countrywoman's Store and Exhibition space and early registration for those delegates who had already arrived.

As someone attending an ACWW Conference for the first time, the registration process was very exciting. There was the excitement and buzz that came with a huge number of "First Timers" arriving, their excitement and enthusiasm clear as they met colleagues and other ACWW supporters for the first time. Of course, the Conference was also a chance for 'regulars' to catch up with old friends from around the world after a gap three years (or more in many cases!). The love of ACWW, and the passion for fellowship and international cooperation were inspiring.



Volunteers pack the Conference Bags with a vast array of materials - programmes, info sheets and even some goodies!



Opening ceremony flag procession rehearsal underway in the Butterworth Hall of Warwick University's Arts Centre

Pre-Conference Workshop delegates in the Radcliffe Lounge after dinner



Tuesday 18 August marked the first 'proper' day of the Conference, with a moving Opening Ceremony held in the Butterworth Hall. This hall is in the Arts Centre on the University Campus, would become the focal point for the Conference's activities throughout the week.

The Opening Ceremony was held in the presence of honoured guests the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Colonel George Marsh TD; the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Councillor Lindsley Harvard; and The Baroness Walmsley, who also gave the keynote address.



Baroness Joan Walmsley address the conference on women and leadership

After this ceremony, the business of the Conference began in earnest. The outgoing Board and the current Central Office staff were introduced to the delegates, and in the afternoon those nominees standing for election were presented. The Election was held in the Arts Centre Studio, before everyone settled down to a tasty meal in the Rootes Restaurant. Many delegates highlighted how nice it was to be able to all eat together (albeit split between two floors of the building as there were so many of us!), and it was wonderful to see people switching tables throughout the Conference so as to meet new people and catch up on the day. Another opportunity for networking was provided by the tea breaks between sessions, with multiple spaces provided for delegates to enjoy a cup of tea and a quick chat.



Delegates enjoy a tea break in the Arts Centre Lower Foyer between Conference sessions

World President Ruth Shanks AM opens the Conference



On Friday 19 August, Conference delegates were presented with the first of the Resolutions and Recommendations. These are proposed by ACWW member societies in advance, and then voted upon. Those that are passed and adopted help to form the

basis of ACWW's work and policy for the next Triennium. This year, the first Resolution was to Approve the ACWW Charity Incorporation process- a crucial change in ACWW's status and one which helps secure the organisation's future. UK Charity (non-profit) law has changed over the years, and this new constitution updates our position and strengthens our foundations. After being introduced by Jenny Mitchell, Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Constitution, the delegates voted to approve the new Constitution unanimously- fantastic news and a great start to the Conference.



Jenny Mitchell explains why the new Constitution is so important for ACWW's future

As part of the Conference proceedings, each of the outgoing Area Presidents gives a report which covers the activities undertaken in the previous three years. Whilst each of these reports was impressive, the ladies of Southern Africa stole the show when escorting Area President Maybel Moyo to the stage in traditional fashion- complete with song and procession.



Area President for Southern Africa Maybel Moyo is escorted to the stage to give the Area Report by the delegations from her area - in full voice, and with great enthusiasm!

Area President for the Caribbean, Central & South America Dotsie Gordon's report included details of the UNESCO-supported workshop on Business Development in Island Nations, held in Kingston, Jamaica in 2015.



Dotsie Gordon, Area President for the Caribbean, Central & South America gives her report to the Conference

Voters exercise their democratic rights in a Plenary Session, passing Resolutions as policy



Some of ACWW's Central Office staff, (l-r) Juliet Childs, Manisha Vora and Sarah Kenningham

Past World President May Kidd and friends take to the staff for a quick photo between Conference sessions.



(below) Delegates from Sarawak and England mingle for the Opening Ceremony

(bottom) Waving from Warwick! Delegates including new Area President for East, West & Central Africa Irene Chinje wave for the camera



Many people commented that the spirit and atmosphere of the Conference made it feel very special, particularly those who were attending for the first time. On this page there are a selection of photos that show this wonderful sense of solidarity in full flow. Several delegations took the opportunity to get a group shot on stage with their flag, or with the colour coordinated stairway!



(above) Senator Irina Gekht of the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation with ACWW World President Mrs. Ruth Shanks AM, and with Mrs. Margaret McMillan, the new European Area President and Mrs. Valentina Kirillina, the Honorable President of the Union of the Women's Organizations of the Republic Sakha Yakutiya (Russian Federation).



(above) Delegates from the Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland



(below) Annette Turner, Ruth Cargill, Joy Granger, new South Pacific Area President Gail Commens JP, ACWW World President Ruth Shanks AM and Lyn Braico, all of Country Women's Association of New South Wales, Australia



(top right) Welsh delegates gather on stage; (middle) The Canadians match up with the staircase in the Warwick Arts Centre; (above) Delegates from around Europe join outgoing Area President Valerie Stevens on stage for a photograph; (below) The delegation from the USA in full co-ordinated glory!



(above) Guest speaker Professor Julie Gray of the University of Sheffield with ACWW World President Ruth Shanks AM, taken after Professor Gray's talk on Women in Academia in the United Kingdom on Sunday 21 August



(left) The Conference Thanksgiving Service was accompanied beautifully by the choir, led by Suzanne Garrett. Singers from around the world were accompanied by Llewella Evans of Australia

Alongside the procedural business of the Conference, the Thanksgiving Service was well received and featured moving tributes to the Past, Present and Future of ACWW (shown here on the right), as well as the beautiful singing of the Choir.



Whilst the Conference was full of informal opportunities to meet, network and make friends, there were also several events organised to entertain delegates. 'The World Entertains' offered a chance for people to get up and show off their party pieces- leading to wonderful performances from the ladies of the Baffokeng Women's Club and Dita and Iluta Lace of the Marta Women's Resource Centre in Latvia in particular. Delegates were also treated to a range of songs, poetry, plays and skits. The following night, the Hostess Committee welcomed guests to the English Cultural Evening; this included performances from Second City Choir (shown right), a brass ensemble, traditional Morris Dancers and short dramatic presentations- a great night was had by all.



(bottom) Larisa Stupak, Valiantsina Ivanistava, Liudmila Sauchanka and Svetlana Vinnik (of the English Cultural Centre, Vitebsk) with Rynette Simons (South Africa Union of Homemakers Clubs) and Thilaka Perera, new Area President for Central and South Asia)



The Hostess Committee were brought forward for thanks, and the Outgoing Board received a standing ovation from the entire Conference body.

The final social event was the Conference's Gala Dinner. A sumptuous meal was served, and everyone arrived in their finest outfits, many wearing beautiful national dress. It was at the Gala Dinner that the raffle was drawn, and the Irish Country Women's Association presented a donation for Pennies for Friendship of £17,213.36!

The final items of Conference business were the announcement of Election results, greeting the new Board at the Closing Ceremony, and the Area Meetings chaired by the new Area Presidents. For full details of the Election results, check the [Meet Your New Board](#) feature on pages 14 and 15.



The Ceremony ended with a celebration; as the flags left the stage led by Australia (as the next Host Nation), they were followed by the new Board- accompanied by an impressive lighting display in gold and green (the colours of Australia) and to the classic Australian song "Land Down Under" by Men At Work. Singing and dancing erupted around the Butterworth Hall, before lunch and then the closing Area Meetings. This was the first chance for many delegates to meet their new Area Presidents and make plans for the future.



(above) The Occasional Brass Quintet perform at the English Cultural Night, much to the entertainment of the guests

Before the Closing Ceremony, Delegates voted to award the 30th Triennial Conference in 2022 to the Women's Institute of Pahang, Malaysia- an exciting destination and a chance for delegates to learn more about the ACWW South East Asia and the Far East area. We were also treated to a sneak preview of the 29th Triennial Conference, hosted by Country Women's Association of Victoria in Melbourne, Australia.

The Closing Ceremony itself saw the outgoing Board members handing over their Badges of Office to their successors (or taking a lap of honour around the stage in the case of those re-elected!), before a moving speech from outgoing Treasurer Alison Burnett thanking re-elected World President Ruth Shanks AM for her service.

The President then took centre stage to thank all those involved in organising the Conference, attending delegates and those who had served on the board and on committees during the 2013-2016 Triennium.



(above) The first Area Meeting for Central and South Asia after the Conference's Closing Ceremony; new Area President Thilaka Perera is shown with World President Ruth Shanks AM and past Area President Professor Momtaz Begum

At the end of the Conference, with many preparing to return home to their own countries, others set about further travels. We've already seen on Facebook and other social media channels some wonderful photos appearing of delegations as they scattered to the four points of the compass using the UK as their departure point.

Quite a few of the American Delegates (unrecognisable without their trademark red, white and blue Conference outfits!) headed north and visited members of the Women's Institute in Scotland. As new Area President for the United States of America Jo Almond reports;

"the USA delegation followed their Triennial experience with a wonderful visit and tea with the SWI officers and staff on August 26, 2016. This visit was preceded with 2 night stays, hosted by individuals associated with SWI."



(above, left to right) Cricket Brown, Stephine Jerabek; Cathy Cook, Javanna Earson, Past Area President Beverly Earnhart, Pat Brezney, Toni Murray, Pam Hanfland; (seated left to right) new USA Area President Jo Almond, Scottish Women's Institute National Chairman Christine Hutton, SWI National Chairman, and World President Ruth Shanks, AM

Many of the Delegates found the Conference's 'break-out' sessions a great way to mix with others in a less formal setting. One of these was an arts and crafts group which included crochet, Decoupatch and embroidery.



Past Area President HRH Princess Azizah of Malaysia helps guide a crochet class

Also amongst these additional sessions was an introduction to the use of social media in communicating the ACWW agenda. There was a great response, with a noticeable increase in online presence for the rest of the conference- reflecting the suggestion of using Twitter and Facebook to develop how people learn about organisations, meetings and their content.



This photo shows Delegates with their #WeAreACWW messages and pledges - each wrote their name, society and country on a piece of paper, along with a message of friendship or pledge that they would fulfil during the 2016-2019 Triennium

Our final reflection on the Conference comes from Priscilla Allan, of Papua New Guinea. Priscilla was a first-time attendee, and a Sponsored Delegate, allowing her to come to the UK and represent her society;

"I have never been to any sort of conference before. I would proudly say that I was privileged to experience what a conference was like. I came to know what ACWW has been doing so far and the marvellous achievements in changing human lives all around the world. I would say that the Triennial Conference is to share the experience and celebrate the ACWW achievement in the last 3 years. I thank God for the wonderful opportunity in meeting ladies from all over the world who have contributed meaningfully to their communities. Back home my 3 kids asked me, 'mum did you see our Queen?' I said yes and told them, 'Our Queen in London said not to waste food'. So now they remind each other not to waste food every meal!"



Priscilla Allan lights the candle for the Present at the Thanksgiving Ceremony with Ruth Shanks

CONFERENCE DVD

Did you miss the moment your national flag was welcomed to the stage? Want to show your grandchildren a moment of your adventure? Need something to show at your next branch meeting, a video that shows the diversity and strength of ACWW and its members?

Well, if the answer to any of those questions is yes, you're in luck- you can now order your copy of the 28th Triennial Conference DVD!

The disc features a wide selection of photos from the Conference (suitable to use in your ACWW presentations), as well as the video of the whole Opening Ceremony. Bonus items include two shorter highlight videos from the ceremony, and several ACWW promotional items.

If you would like to order a copy of the DVD (or lots- these are ideal Christmas presents!), please email Central Office at info@acww.org.uk with your name, address, contact telephone number and we will get it organised. They will soon also be available to buy direct on our website. The DVD will cost £10 plus postage (UK / Ireland = £4, Rest of Europe = £7, Rest of World = £9).

£10 + p&p

THANK YOU

Every issue of The Countrywoman is filled with photographs of your events, progress and activities. In this particular issue, we are lucky to be able to include a large number of pictures taken by Mrs Liz Galloway of West Midlands FWI in the UK; Liz spent the entire Triennial Conference taking photos, and they look fantastic. With a few exceptions, taken by Nick Newland and others, the images of the Triennial Conference in this issue of The Countrywoman were taken by Liz, and we thank her for all the hard work and perfect timing in capturing such wonderful memories of the event.

We hope that you had a fantastic experience at Warwick, and look forward to seeing you all again in Melbourne in April 2019!

UNSEEN TEAM

As you know, ACWW's Triennial Conference is organised by the Triennial Conference Committee in conjunction with Central Office and a local Hostess Society or Committee; in the case of the 28th Triennial Conference it was the West Midlands Federation of Women's Institutes. They do a fantastic job, and are supported by all the other Officers and Committee members of ACWW as needed.

However, whilst we were in Warwick, we were also supported by Nicky Enderby, who acted as Assistant Conference Manager, working with Nick Newland. Nicky volunteered to help with the conference and spent much of the month before at Central Office organising things including taxis, accommodation, credentials and a variety of other tasks. A huge 'thank you' must go to Nicky for all her hard work, and tireless smile during the Conference.

We also thank the team at Warwick Conferences, including Julie Taylor and Sharon Smith in Conference Management; James Bell and Mita Nathwani, the Duty Managers; and the technical team in the Warwick Arts Centre.

Crucially, we had the support of a huge team of Conference Assistants from the university, who helped to keep everything moving. We were lucky to have a consistent core team of Viktoria Dimitrova, Ela Özcan and Damian Grecu ably directed by Lead Conference Assistant David Follows. These four grey-shirted wonders could not have been more helpful - thank you all!



Nicky Enderby, and Warwick Conference Assistants David (in front of a Melbourne beach hut!), Viktoria, Ela and Damian



NEW STAFF!

Sydney King
Office Administrator



Welcome to ACWW! How are you getting on?

I think I'm settling in well! You'd probably have to ask everyone else in the office for a fuller picture, but I'm enjoying the work very much and everyone in the office has been helpful and patient as I learn my place and role here.

What did you do before you came to ACWW? Where are you from?

I'm originally from the United States, but I moved to London in 2014. I started working at 16, but the highlights of my "career path" thus far have working at a ranch in upstate New York teaching children how to ride horses, and, in all honesty, having the opportunity to work here assisting in the great work of ACWW.

We have an exciting three years ahead, what are you most looking forward to?

I am most looking forward to watching and participating in ACWW moving forward in proactivity, actively engaging with the Resolutions and Recommendations at a grassroots level. I'm looking forward to doing my part helping members to reach their goals and impact their communities.

What exactly does your job at ACWW involve?

I take responsibility for the smooth running of the office on a practical level by carrying out administrative duties. I'm also the first point of contact for Central Office, so I take very seriously the responsibility to make sure that everyone who contacts us has a productive and pleasant experience. I also seek to provide support to everyone on the Office team by assisting them however I can.

What do you do in your time off to relax?

I enjoy spending time with my husband, going to the gym where I am a hobbyist weightlifter, exploring London, and hosting brunches at our home. I also take great joy in serving in the church where my husband is Pastor. When feeling very stressed, you'll usually find me in the kitchen, baking or cooking to relax!

DONOR CORNER

Marie O'Toole
National President,
Irish Countrywomen's
Association

Members of The Irish Countrywomen's Association from all over the country had been busy collecting Coins for Friendship at Guild and Federation Meetings for the past eighteen months. An urgent call went out from our Central Office to ensure that all monies collected was sent in prior to the Triennial Conference in Warwick.

We were delighted to present the final figure, £17,213.36 to World President, Mrs Ruth Shanks, at the Gala Dinner and requested that this money should go towards the Water for All projects.

It was a fantastic Conference and a great venue, congratulations to the Triennial Committee. I also have to mention Tish and Nick for all their hard work in making the Conference the success that it undoubtedly was.

Our members are looking forward to the European Area Conference 2017 in Romania



Marie O'Toole National President of the Irish Country Women's Association hands ACWW World President Ruth Shanks AM a cheque for a fantastic £17,213.36 at the 28th Triennial Conference Gala Dinner, 21 August 2016

DON'T FORGET...

Membership dues should be renewed in

JANUARY 2017!

Paying your subscription, and doing it on time is really important for the survival and strength of ACWW.

MEET YOUR NEW BOARD

Your representatives elected at the 28th Triennial Conference, August 2016

We know that all ACWW members and Societies will join us in congratulating the newly elected Board Members, and in thanking the outgoing Board Members for all their hard work over the past three years.

ACWW's Board consists of the Executive (the World President, Deputy President, Treasurer and Secretary), the nine Area Presidents, and the chairmen of the three Specified Committees (Communications & Marketing, Projects and United Nations). The Treasurer also acts as Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Secretary is also Chairman of the Triennial Conference Committee and the Deputy Presidents also chairs the Agriculture Committee.

Each of these Officers is elected at the Triennial Conference, though in the last Triennium six Areas elected their Area Presidents by postal vote. This was carried out in the traditional method, and also for the first time using email and website-based online voting. This had a terrific response, and we will be able to offer this service again in the future so that we can ensure our member societies' voices are heard whether they are in the financial position to travel to Conference or not.

If you want to contact ACWW, you should generally get in touch with Central Office by calling +44 (0)207 799 3875 or emailing info@acww.org.uk (or of course by sending mail to ACWW, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB. However, we have also now introduced email addresses that go directly to the Area Presidents, so if you need to reach yours, please check the address on the next page.

The Executive

World President



Mrs Ruth Shanks, AM
Australia

Deputy President



Mrs Margaret Yetman
Canada

Treasurer



Mrs Heather Brennan
Australia

Secretary



Mrs Henrietta Schoeman
South Africa

Committee Chairmen

Communications & Marketing



Mrs Magdie de Kock
South Africa

Projects



Mrs Anne Marit Hovstad
Norway

United Nations



Mrs Kerry Maw
New Zealand

Specified Committee Members

Agriculture

Chairman

Mrs Margaret Yetman (Canada)

Mrs Donna Jebb (Canada)

Mrs Joan Brady (Canada)

Mrs Therese Casemore (Wales)

Mrs Pamela Brown (Northern Ireland)

Communications & Marketing

Chairman

Mrs Magdie de Kock (South Africa)

Mrs Marie O'Toole (Ireland)

Mrs Deborah Reardon (England)

Mrs Moira Hammond (England)

Mrs Rehanon Mackenzie (England)

Finance

Chairman

Mrs Heather Brennan (Australia)

Mrs Maggie Simons (England)

Mrs Iris Montgomery (England)

2016 - 2019

Area Presidents

Area President, Canada



Mrs Sheila Needham
Canada

Email: canada@acww.org.uk

Caribbean, Central & South America



Mrs Dotsie Gordon
Jamaica

Email: ccsa@acww.org.uk

Central & South Asia



Mrs Thilaka Swarnalatha Perera
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East, West & Central Africa



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Europe



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Northern Ireland

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South East Asia & the Far East



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Southern Africa



Mrs Maybel Moyo
Zimbabwe

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South Pacific



Mrs Gail Commens
Australia

Email: southpac@acww.org.uk

United States of America



Mrs Jo Ellen Almond
United States of America

Email: usa@acww.org.uk

Projects

Chairman

Mrs Anne Marit Hovstad (Norway)

Mrs Hazel Armstrong (England)
Mrs Roma Patten (England)
Mrs Edwina Marr (Northern Ireland)
Sr Viji Dali (India)
Mrs Paddy Blake (Ireland)

Triennial Conference

Chairman

Mrs Henrietta Schoeman (South Africa)

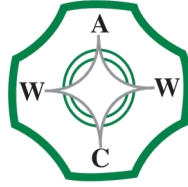
Mrs Lynn MacLean (Canada)
Mrs Afrodita Roman (Romania)
Mrs Sue Watkins (England)

United Nations

Chairman

Mrs Kerry Maw-Smith (New Zealand)

Mrs Suzanne Garrett (Australia)
Mrs Christine Reaburn (Canada)
Mrs Christine Trewick (England)
Mrs Susan Jonas (England)



Project N^o.993
Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship
Development and Start-up Loans

Our Lady of Mercy Community Services, Ghana

“I am fully engaged in my own business in the production of liquid soap, production of batik, tie & dye and producing flowers and wreaths for sale in Navrongo market with skills acquired and materials from the organization, which is giving me a lot of returns to support my husband and children.”

Project N^o.993 beneficiary Mavis Apio



#WeAreACWW

#WeAreACWW

Nick Newland, ACWW Media and Communications Manager



If you attended the Triennial Conference in August, or saw the back cover of the last issue of The Countrywoman, you'll have seen a little slogan (in fact, at the Conference it was mentioned almost every day!):

#WeAreACWW

This may seem a strange thing to read, and I want to explain why we have started using it. Imagine that the Internet is a vast database, a huge series of lists of information. Every picture, article, web page and "thing" is kept in the right place by an index- this index is constantly updated by companies such as Google and Yahoo. This means that when you want to see pretty pictures of kittens, you can use a search engine, and type in "Cute Cats", and be guaranteed of millions of photos.

Why is this relevant to ACWW? Well, we know that we represent more than 9 million women in more than 70 countries- and this means that whilst we do our best to communicate as much as possible, there are inevitable barriers to networking and engagement across borders. Even within our own countries, how often do we hear "Oh, ACWW, that sounds great- why have I never heard of it?".

Everyone talks about the internet as a great resource, which allows us to connect with people around the world. Many of our member societies use social media (websites like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) to promote their support of ACWW and engage with their own members. However, it can be very hard to connect these supporters, because we all do things in different ways.

The barrier to communication therefore remains, even when people are trying to network online. This is where #WeAreACWW becomes our best friend. Imagine that you are trying to find something in a library, but you're not sure how; there's no catalogue. The use of a # (known as a 'hashtag') creates a reference that the internet's index can then recognise and begin to catalogue each time it appears. If everyone who posts something on the internet- a Facebook status about their society's ACWW-related event, a Tweet about one of ACWW's issues or a photo on Instagram- uses the hashtag #WeAreACWW, they will all be brought together into a global index of articles and posts about us and our work.

Many of you already use social media to communicate with, and about, ACWW.

Others use social media to keep in touch with family or to share their activities but don't get involved with ACWW online. At the Triennial Conference I held 'Social Media & ACWW' introduction sessions, and was asked a very reasonable question:

“ isn't sharing photos quite trivial - does it really do anything? ”

I completely understand that social media can seem trivial, filled daily with reports of which superstar has had an affair, a haircut or a divorce. However, by engaging with us, and each other, we can begin to shift the debate. A few local people commenting on an issue they feel only affects them will never get much attention- but lots of people in lots of countries commenting on the same issues, those that affect us all, can begin to make an impact. If we can unite our voices, we begin to be heard. Social media will never solve all global problems but, in a world increasingly reliant on the internet and social media as a form of communication, we can make an impact. Locally, nationally and internationally we find that organisations and governments respond to the use of social media because it is public; these bodies do not want to be seen to ignore their constituents, customers or citizens.

Here are some examples of what we're talking about:



#WeAreACWW on Twitter

- 1 Dr Mary Tilki presented a talk on Dementia as an increasing issue for women worldwide at the Triennial Conference. Several people tweeted comments, quotes and photos of her presentation using the hashtag #WeAreACWW.
- 2 Each person tweeting has individual followers, in one case 20, in another 336, and the third 6,698. This means that 7,054 people have then been sent the message about the talk by Dr Tilki.
- 3 One of the tweets is then picked up and "re-tweeted" or forwarded by the official Twitter account for Swedish embassy in the UK, who send it to a further 5,092 people.

- 4 Other people and accounts re-tweet and forward the news, spreading the important message and broadening the international audience. Within 4 steps of the live talk (and three hours), more than 30,000 people had seen the information from the talk via Twitter alone.
- 5 Most crucially, each of the new people seeing the message were not just receiving a tweet about Dementia, but also seeing our hashtag, #WeAreACWW. When they then tap on this tag, they can see all the other messages and tweets sent by users around the world- broadening our exposure and giving us a new audience.



#WeAreACWW on Facebook

- 1 Central Office posted a video of Southern Africa delegates at the Triennial Conference escorting Area President Maybel Moyo to the stage for her Area Report on Facebook- its a spectacular 1 minute video of their singing and celebration. Again, #WeAreACWW was used.
- 2 We have 1,584 likes on our Facebook Organisation page. The video has been watched 1,666 times in 7 days, and shared by 39 people.
- 3 Of the people who watched the video, 42 were unique viewers- they had seen the video and come to our page for the first time having seen it on someone else's Facebook 'wall'- thus introducing 42 new people to the work of ACWW.
- 4 The next step is to convert those 42 casual views to actually becoming supporters of ACWW- getting them to join, donate and further share information about ACWW.

Social Media is just one additional way of helping people learn more about ACWW- but it only works if we use it. Next time you are sharing an event or ACWW related article online, type in #WeAreACWW and help unite more voices in breaking the wall that separates ACWW from a wider audience.

If you have questions or need support, please email nick@acww.org.uk

PROJECTS UPDATES

Progress Reports and Case Studies from the Projects Team

PROGRESS REPORT: TOGO Charité Chrétienne pour Personnes en Détresse Enhancing Access to Safe Drinking Water and Improving Sanitation in the Community of Agodeke, Togo Supported by Gloucestershire FWI and Isle of Wight FWI, England

Project 997: CCPD reports that they formed a water committee of 10 members of the target community. These committee members were then trained in managing finances, and this enabled the group in mobilizing the community's contribution to the project. The original plan was to train five masons in Ecosan toilet building skills before they started building the three wells. However, because of very heavy rains, it was decided to get the three wells built before starting on the toilets. The wells have been built, using more cement than projected due to the rains, and are now in use.

All the target households are now accessing at least 15 litres of water per person per day, and the average distance of households to the nearest safe water is now 500 metres, rather than the long distances people were having to travel to obtain water at the start of this project. The construction of the toilets had also started at the time of reporting, and two education programmes have been held to teach good hygiene practices, such as the importance of washing hands after toilet use. It is estimated that, so far, 60% of community members have received this training.

CCPD has communicated well with ACWW throughout this project so far and alerted us about the delays they have encountered due to the adverse weather conditions, and necessary (small) adjustments to the project plan.



PROGRESS REPORT: INDIA Country Women's Association of India Computer Literacy for Adults and Children Supported by Sally Garrington, Shropshire FWI, England

Project 1000: CWA Kolkata, India reports that at the start of this, the 1,000th ACWW-funded project, an awareness programme was carried out in the community to explain the importance of learning computer skills. Some potential students were uncertain as to the value of the training because they would be losing their daily wages during it- however, as students receive a stipend to support their training, they were reassured during the recruitment process. The beneficiaries were selected after making contact with local educational institutions. These were mostly young women, but two experienced primary school teachers were included so that they could update their procedures. The CWAI Committee renovated their training rooms and purchased the necessary computers and associated equipment. Trainers were appointed after being interviewed and the syllabus for the six-month course was agreed.

The training has been going well, reports CWAI, with some modifications having been made, such as dividing the trainees into two groups in order to teach all at a pace which is suitable for them. The Committee has visited regularly to help supervise the training, and they have arranged for professional people to visit and offer guidance concerning employment opportunities to the trainees. At the end of the course assessments will be carried out and certificates distributed, according to the performance of the students. They will be assisted to prepare for job interviews and exposure visits to offices and institutions will be organised for them.



Case Studies

Indrani's father abandoned his wife and three children when she was six years old. Indrani feels privileged to have been able to enroll herself in the Project 1,000 Computer Course supported by ACWW. She feels confident and hopes that this training is her vehicle to getting good employment in the near future. Indrani feels that technology has opened more doors for her than anything else, and is grateful to ACWW and CWAI, Kolkata.

Rekha is 21 and her father passed away when she was seven years old, leaving the family destitute. Against the odds, Rekha completed primary education and she is now an undergraduate student. She is a trainee of Project 1,000, and appreciates the opportunity that training has brought her. With every lesson, Rekha's dreams of good employment, and a decent life are becoming a little more tangible.

Indrani's and Rekha's experiences are far from unique. All the trainees of Project 1,000 are grateful and thankful to ACWW and CWAI for the opportunity of stepping into an unknown, yet better and promising world, just at the click of the mouse.

FINAL REPORT: MONGOLIA Sain Tus Center

Greenhouse Development Supported by USA Area

Project 973: Sain Tus Center has reported great success in carrying out this project, based in Jargalant sum, Khovd province. The 30 female members of two cooperatives, who are the main direct beneficiaries of the project, have been involved in the planning and monitoring of the project at every stage. They attended greenhouse planting and capacity improvement training sessions. They purchased greenhouses, small tools and other necessary materials; these enabled them to increase the variety of vegetables they can produce and improved their competitiveness.

As a result of the training the beneficiaries are more skilled at growing vegetables, and are better able to keep records and develop business plans. They are benefitting from networking with each other to broaden their markets, and have taken part in trade exhibitions and connected with other small businesses. The Sain Tus Center project team has helped them to produce publicity materials to make the most of these opportunities. The organisation has provided a detailed analysis of the increased yield and profit which has been achieved as a result of this project for growing the following vegetables: cabbages, carrots, cucumbers, onions, peppers, potatoes, tomatoes and turnips- this is being used by ACWW to report on Zero Hunger Challenge monitoring criteria.

Health education was an additional part of this project, and monthly health training sessions have covered topics such as hand hygiene, oral hygiene, nutrition and healthy diets, physical exercise for all, anti-smoking, alcohol abuse, stress reduction and mental illness awareness. The beneficiaries demonstrated an improved level of knowledge of these issues in post-training tests, compared with the pre-training tests they were given.

The report from Sain Tus Center concludes that they have achieved their goal of increasing the overall income of the beneficiaries by 25%, and improved their capacity, diet and health awareness considerably.

FINAL REPORT: PAKISTAN Flame Foundation

Equipping Rural Women through Health Awareness, Nutritional Education and Food Safety Supported by Les Cercles de Fermières du Québec

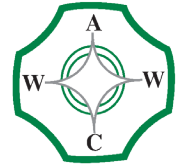
Project 995: Flame Foundation reports that this project has been a great success and there is considerably more awareness in the target villages of food safety and good nutrition. Five nutrition education programmes and five food safety and preservation programmes were carried out, attended by 170 and 175 women respectively. There is a considerable decline in the consumption of junk food, and the beneficiaries are more aware of a balanced diet, and of methods of preparing healthy meals and preserving foods. The local shopkeepers have noted changes in the items bought by their customers. The food safety programme made a great impact on the community and the beneficiaries are enthusiastically using the methods they have learnt.

Six farmer field schools were held, in which 241 women and men participated. There were delays, initially due to rain and fog in the winter, and then due to hot weather and the need to harvest the wheat crop. The participants were trained in the production and use of organic fertiliser and techniques for growing organic vegetables, plants and fruits. They are now making 'green leaf' fertiliser and becoming very interested in organic farming and kitchen gardening as a result of their training, and this is spreading amongst the community.

The Foundation has come up with slogans such as 'Let's Start a Tradition to Stop Malnutrition' and 'The Soil beneath your Feet can Grow a Healthy Treat'. All the necessary publications and materials were produced in time for the training programmes, in spite of problems with the electricity supply. The Foundation has participated in the Zero Hunger Challenge with this project and is currently preparing its final ZHC survey, which ACWW will use to report to the wider international community.



SOCIETY FOCUS



We hear from Members and Member Societies around the world



CONFERENCE & CRAIC Sienie van Vurren, P.R.O North-West Province, South Africa

After the ACWW Triennial Conference, six members of the SAWAU embarked on a tour to Ireland during August 2016. During their tour, they were invited by the members of the Irish Country Woman's Association (ICA) for some tea and snacks, at the home of Liz O'Leary, the proud President of Kerry County. Kerry County was established in 1953 and has 17 Guilds and 280 members. They meet 4 times per year to report and discuss matters of interest. The President of Annascual Guild, Ann Kavenagh, also joined us. Annascual Guild has 29 members and they meet every Thursday night for arts, crafts, sports and matters of interest. The Executive Committee of the ICA consists of 12 elected members, the President and two vice Presidents, treasurer, secretary and members to fill portfolio in the executive committee. The elected members of the Executive Committee of the ICA are elected annually and elected members cannot serve on the Executive Committee for a period longer than three years.

Top photo from left to right: (Front) Judy Steynberg, Charmaine Olivier, Sienie van Vuuren, Ros Ward; (middle) Ann Kavenagh, Ann Moss, Liz O'Donnell, Henrietta Schoeman, Magda Rall; (back) Joann Lenahan, Elizabeth Brookes, Doris Prior, Maura Kennedy, Hannah Kennedy, Sheila Kennedy, Marina Muller.

Bottom from left to right: Marina Muller, Magda Rall, and Henrietta Schoeman.



MADGE'S SPIRIT RETURNS TO METCHOSIN Ruth Fenner, British Columbia Women's Institutes Historian

On Wednesday 7 September, Metchosin, British Columbia was the site of a ceremony to honour the first President of the Associated Country Women of the World, Mrs. Madge Watt, and to welcome her spirit "home". The 20 years she lived at Metchosin was one the the longest periods of her life at one address.

It was a day of mixed emotions – celebration, happiness, pride and satisfaction. Even Mother Nature participated in the emotions, shedding "tears of joy" which drove the program segment of the ceremony indoors, before relenting and bathing the site with sunshine.

80 people attended the event held in the Council Chamber of the Metchosin Municipality where they paid rapt attention to the messages given by Dr. Helen Geissing, the great-niece of Mrs. Watt and Ruth Shanks AM, the recently re-elected President of the ACWW. Both speakers have been residing in New South Wales, Australia, but Dr. Geissing is in the midst of re-locating to Canada.

Dr. Geissing focused her remarks on Mrs. Watt's family links, and on stories about this titan of countrywomen everywhere. She explained that it had become a tradition that the first born girls in the family be named Margaret or Rose, or both, and then a shortened version was to be chosen for daily use. So, the first born daughter of Henry and Bethia (née Rose) was named Margaret Rose Robertson – Margaret for daily use. In her teens, Margaret decided she did not want to use this, nor any of the family's substitutes: Maggie, Margo or Peggy. She declared she was "Madge" and insisted on being called that!

Helen, as she asked us to call her, had stayed with my husband and I, and we arranged to arrive early in Metchosin and spent the extra minutes driving her out to the location of the Quarantine Station of which Dr. Watt had been the Superintendent and where the family lived from 1897 until 1913. A minimum security Institution now occupies the site, but just a short distance outside the gates are some apple trees, the remaining trees from an old orchard. Dr. Watt was known for his prize winning apples - so who knows? Perhaps it was one of these trees from which we plucked a few apples!

First Mrs. Shanks spoke about the difficulties Mrs. Watt would have encountered in managing her role as the first President of

ACWW as opposed to those to be dealt with today – particularly those in travel and communications, and then went on to talk about the organization today, and some of the more general matters and recent happenings.

After the official ceremonies concluded, it was difficult to move the dignitaries to the site of the plaque, as all those in attendance wanted to speak with them! But out we went, with umbrellas we fortunately did not need, and after a few words, the plaque was unveiled by Mrs. Shanks, ably assisted by Metchosin Councilor Kyara Kahakauwila. A photo session followed and then a return to Council Chambers for refreshments and more conversation.

Ruth Shanks & Metchosin Municipal Councilor, Kyara Kahakauwila ready to unveil the plaque



OBITUARY Rita Lindsay MBE

Mrs Rita Lindsay MBE of Scottish Women's Rural Institutes passed away in May 2016 just short of her 102nd birthday. Known throughout ACWW as the 'tea cosy lady', Rita had long since lost count of the many hundreds of crocheted tea cosies and embroidery cloths she made to raise funds for ACWW and Cancer Research. Each year without fail she organised "Mrs Lindsay's Coffee Morning" a fundraiser at which she sold and raffled the numerous items she made. She was an ardent supporter of ACWW, attending numerous world and area conferences, her first in 1957, her final in 2007. Widowed by World War 2, ACWW and the 'Rural' were a huge part of her life and she was constantly grateful for the friendship and support she received from fellow members. Rita was awarded the MBE in 2004, and leaves behind a legacy of achievement and good deeds that has made the world a better place for others locally, nationally and internationally. She is greatly missed.

WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Senator Irina Gekht, Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Mrs. Irina Gekht attended ACWW's 28th Triennial World Conference in August 2016. She addressed her greetings to the honourable audience in the presence of the Mrs. Ruth Shanks AM, World President of the ACWW, who kindly read the greeting to those attending. In her greetings Mrs. Gekht conveyed the best sentiments from the women-legislators, representing regions at the Upper Chamber of the Russian Parliament, to the Conference, whereby she stressed out *"the Organization's rich history of charity activities and England's recognition in the world history for its steadfast traditions of women's voting rights and policies."* It was noted also that *"over the past few years Russia has experienced a significant increase in women of influence. For instance, since 2013, the time of the former ACWW Triennial Conference, the number of women in the Federation Council has doubled. Out of total 85 regions the 28 regions of Russia are being currently represented by women, 9 regional parliaments are headed by women and 3 governors as well are women. Since 2011, for the first time ever in the history of Russia the Federation Council is being chaired by Madam Valentina Matvienko. Among women-senators are Chairpersons of two leading women's organizations – the Women's Union of Russia Mrs. Ekaterina Lakhova, which is the ACWW member, and Mrs. Galina Karelova, the All-Russia Movement of the Russian Mothers."*

The Conference was also informed that currently in Russia over 30,000 women's non-profit organizations, actively involved in the federal regulation of social sphere. Major events carried out by and committed to women are also taking ground in Russia.

For the record she stated that, *"under the aegis of the Federation Council in Saint-Petersburg in 2015, was held the First Eurasian Women's Forum, which gathered 750 participants from 80 countries of the world. The major themes*

brought to the attention of women concerned some of the most vital issues of peoples' life, such as: problems of refugees, drugs addiction and fight against terrorism."

While reminding that the Women's Union of Russia has been enjoying its membership at the ACWW since 1996, Mrs. Irina Gekht also extended an invitation to host a Meeting at one of the cities of Russia in conjunction with the Second Eurasian Women's Forum timed to year 2018. The official invitations will follow. It was also worth to mention that the ACWW Board members have already had experience of attending the All-Russia Rural Gathering in Moscow in 1998, and the First Eurasian Women's Forum in Saint-Petersburg in autumn 2015, as well as other events organized by the Women's Union of Russia.

In concluding her recognition to the audience of the 28th ACWW Triennial Conference she added: *"world unincorporated and parliamentary organizations share the common aims – they are called to lead the multi-cultural dialogue, to facilitate the widening of humanitarian and charitable activities."*

Senator Irina Gekht is a Member of the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

This article was translated from the original Russian by Dr Ekaterina Belotsvetova.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY NEWS

We would love to hear from you! We want to know what you do in support of ACWW, what your local groups are doing, we want to know about your Area Conferences and Meetings and we'd love to see some pictures. We would like you to include some basic information so we can make sure we get the article right:

- Date of the event / conference / meeting
- Where was it?
- Roughly how many people attended?
- How much money was raised for ACWW?

Send Society News to nick@acww.org.uk

A FACE TO THE NAME Zeta Emmett, Cheshire FWI

Cheshire FWI ACWW Representative Zeta Emmett sent in this lovely photo taken with Justine Nkwinkeh of the Fonge Women's Group, Cameroon. The photo shows both in the Warwick Arts Centre, was taken at the recent 28th Triennial Conference. Cheshire FWI 'adopted' project 0977 'Water as Source of Life: Community Water Relief and Improvement of Community Standards through Better Sanitation and Agricultural Techniques', run by Fonge Women's Group, to the tune of £4,658 in 2015-16; the Triennial Conference therefore provided a wonderful opportunity to put 'a face to the name', and introduce supports to benefactors.



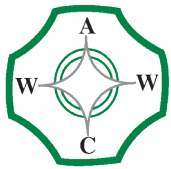
NI CONGRATULATES

The International Committee of the Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland (FWINI) congratulate their members who are now on ACWW committees. **Front row from left:** Pamela Brown (Agriculture), Edwina Marr (Projects), **Centre:** International Chairman Agnes Black, European Area President Margaret McMillan, and Irene Sproule, General Secretary of FWINI. **Back row:** International committee members.



◀ Russian Senator Irina Gekht (right) with Dr Ekaterina Belotsvetova (left) and ACWW's Media & Communications Manager Nick Newland at the 28th Triennial Conference Gala Dinner in August 2016





AREA FOCUS

Irene Chinje, ACWW Area President - East, West & Central Africa



AREA FOCUS

Name: Irene Chinje

Country: Cameroon

Role: Area President, East, West & Central Africa

Term: 2016- 2019

Member Since: 2014

Other leadership roles:

For the past eleven years Irene has sat as the Board President for a Rural Community Micro Institution acronym as MC2, for her local community. She networks with other organisations as a resource person on gender issues and acts as a consultant to the Cameroon League for Development and the Bongabi women's group.

The Countrywoman's editor Nick Newland catches up with ACWW's new Area President for East, West and Central Africa.

NN: Irene, welcome to *The Countrywoman*, and congratulations on your election to ACWW's board. Tell us a little about yourself and your background?

IC: Thank you Nick- it is a pleasure to be addressing the membership of ACWW. In terms of my background, I do a lot of voluntary work, taking care of Orphans, young and needy children especially girls.

For a living I work with small businesses and a lot of creative things. I design and sew table linen using our local fabric which I sell within our communities. I knit lots of articles for babies and women which is also sold. Most recently (just two years old) is the creation of my own "IMLA Designs", where not only

sewing is done but personalising of articles using beads, processing of local spices, and the extraction of oils from nuts like coconut oils. These are bottled for now and only sold locally in small quantities. I hope to go into some agricultural venture for production of organic foods and hope to get the women groups working with WEEN (Cameroon's Women's Empowerment Enterprise Network) to develop this and produce healthy crops for improved family nutrition.

I was a Home Economics teacher- spending the most exciting years of this as a head of department and teacher in my alma matter "Our Lady of Lourdes Secondary School", an all girls college. I then went back to University where I did Women and gender studies, doubling my majors with Sociology and Anthropology. When I completed my studies I decided to work with women in my rural community which led to the creation of the Women's Empowerment Enterprise Network (WEEN). I now do voluntary counselling and other activism for women and their rights. I also help with career guidance with the youths in schools. During the holidays I get children come together for skill development in the skill development center WEEN operates.

NN: What are you most excited about in the next Triennium?

IC: I will not say excited really because I see the next Triennium as a big Challenge for me. It's going to be a time of reckoning, a time for me to justify my three years of work and its achievements. I feel some excitement working with women of different cultures; I look forward to seeing women come together for good reasons and working for a common goal; the networking of Societies and sustainability of their projects so as to be able to in the long give a helping hand to some other not privileged as them. "Give a helping hand to your sister". I am exited about making a personal contribution as a "Presidents' Project", which I think should help encourage societies to live up to the ACWW goals and objectives.

NN: You have already organised a trip to visit Nigeria- can you tell us more about this?

IC: I wanted to go to Nigeria because of its absence in the registered societies within West Africa. She has lots of dynamic women who can contribute immensely to the work of ACWW. My trip is planned for November

through the help of an ACWW individual member by name Rose Eshiett. I expressed my desire to have societies within that region and she she promised she would do all to help- in no time she called to tell me she had created a group and would like me to be present at the launching. This to me in a great opportunity to sell ACWW and the dream of getting more societies within the region.

NN: What do you think the biggest challenge will be as Area President for East, West and Central Africa?

IC: My biggest challenge will be getting Societies to be committed to ACWW. Paying up their dues, contributing to PFF and getting registered as individual members. I believe we don't only sit and receive, but give our own 'widow's mite'. Our societies have got to understand what their contributions add to and thus help create a change of mentality; to realise we can only reap where we sow no matter how small. I also want to help get lapsed societies to become more active. Last but not least is the sustainability of the societies. We don't get funding and can't operate after the funds. Projects must be sustainable.

NN: Can you tell us a little more about your own Society?

IC: WEEN is an umbrella society working with womens groups in the North West region of Cameroon. We initially worked in three regions but with the movement of many of the original team and death of some prominent members and lack of funds we are currently working in one region. Our activities include training, education, skill and business development, women's rights which sometimes gets us involved in political debates and Agriculture. The bulk of our groups do various forms of farming. We grant aid to women to start off small businesses, as well as educating them in growth and development. We are introducing organic farming this year which is bringing in Youths, young boys and girls in the villages and putting in place a Cooperative to ensure marketing. We have a total number of four groups with eighty members and around 15 individuals. We are working with younger people to develop our local growth. We are based in Yaounde and Bamenda in Cameroon.

NN: Thank you so much for your time, and good luck with your tenure as Area President- we look forward to hearing more!

ACWW SHOPPING & SUPPLIES

Stock up now for seasonal gifts and little treats

At the Triennial Conference in Warwick, ACWW's Communications & Marketing stall had a range of ACWW merchandise and souvenirs that proved hugely popular. We thought you might like the opportunity to order supplies- many of these items will prove to be fantastic gifts for friends and family as we head towards the New Year!

To make the buying process easier, we offer several options. You can;

- email us at info@acww.org.uk, and tell us what you want! We will work out the postage and get in touch with the total
- call us on +44 (0)20 7799 3875 between 9.30am and 17.00pm UK time, Monday to Friday and we can post direct to you
- we will soon be launching a website-based store so you can order online; this will be live before the end of 2016!

PLEASE NOTE that as postage charges cannot be calculated until we have packed your items, we will need your card details to process the transaction. We will also add a transaction charge of 2% for debit cards; 3% for UK credit cards and 4% for all other credit cards to cover bank charges.



£10

The Countrywoman's Kitchen
87 recipes celebrating 87 years!
LIMITED EDITION OF 500!



£4

ACWW Recycled and Reusable Water Bottle



£1

2 x Recycled Wood Pencils with Eraser



£3

ACWW Brooch



£6

Women Walk the World T-Shirt
(sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL)



£6

ACWW Pedometer
(Ideal for Women Walk the World!)



£10

ACWW Umbrella



£5

ACWW USB Memory Stick
Pre-Loaded with Info Pack
(supplied with lanyard and ID pouch)



£2

ACWW Pin Badge



£1

ACWW Recycled Pen



Associated Country Women of the World

ACWW CONNECTS AND SUPPORTS WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE

1 Board
6 Committees
9 Areas
74 Countries
412 Societies
9 Million Women

#WeAreACWW



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