

# THE COUNTRYWOMAN

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

ISSUE 4 - 2017

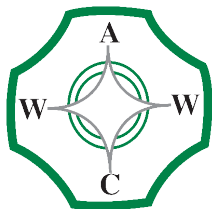
## #WeAreACWW



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London SE21 8EN

**ACWW HEADS TOWARDS 2018:  
A NEW CONSTITUTION  
A NEW EXECUTIVE  
A NEW OFFICE**



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The Countrywoman is the official quarterly magazine of ACWW, and was named by Mrs Alfred Watt MBE, the First President of ACWW in 1933.

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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](mailto:nick@acww.org.uk) if you need any help in submitting.

January- March: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017

April- June: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018

July- September: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017

October- December: 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017

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

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# DEAR FRIENDS...

## A Message from the World President

Hello to you all, wherever you are in the world.

It seems no time at all since I wrote my previous message for "The Countrywoman" and I wrote the first draft of this message whilst I was recovering from cataract surgery at home. All went well and I am back on deck. A lot has happened in ACWW since then and I am glad I have been able to update this message, even though it means you may receive the magazine a little later.

The most obvious change is the address of our Central Office in London. In August, on my way to the European Area Conference, I made a site visit to office space in South East London, which had been sourced by CEO Tish Collins, on request from the Finance and Executive Committees. We had been looking for new office space for about 3 years. I was impressed by the large, open plan space which offered great opportunity to be adapted for our special needs. This opportunity was discussed with other members of the Executive Committee the Board, and agreement was made to go ahead with the move.

The Central Office Staff proved their strength, both as a team and physically, during the move. After receiving the keys on 29<sup>th</sup> September, the office was up and ready for the first Finance Committee meeting the following Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> October. The following week saw all our Committees meet in the new office. One of the other advantages of the new office is that we can host two committee meetings simultaneously, rather than having to hire an extra room. A huge thank you is due to those involved in the move, especially those of Central Office Team, which made this vision a reality in a very short space of time: Tish Collins, Nick Newland, Sydney Salter, Manisha Vora, Juliet Childs, Viktoria Dimitrova and Rebecca Ramsey, and a number of extras as well.

The other reason this time was so exciting was that we received formal confirmation from the UK Charity Commission that our new Constitution had been accepted and that we are now registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), as from 22nd September, 2017. This means that our Executive now consists of 7 members rather than 4 and the first meeting of this new Executive was held at the end of the week.

I had the opportunity to meet with many Canadians in June, when attending the Ontario WI convention, the Canadian Area Conference and the AGM of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. Congratulations to Area President Sheila Needham and colleagues for their success.

During the Ontario Convention, a book was launched entitled "Ordinary to Extraordinary", 150 stories of the lives of the women who lived them. There were many stories of women who migrated to Canada from Europe and the difficulties they encountered- not only with the differences in climate and vegetation but with the differences in cultures. These women and their families grasped the new way of life and overcame the difficulties, often with the help of the members of the Women's Institutes in Ontario.

These stories reminded me of the situation of many women of today. As it is so easy to move around the world, many women find themselves in different country, or even maybe just a different area in their own country, with no family support, with new communities and new lifestyles. This can be a wonderful opportunity for members of our societies to reach out the "hand of friendship" and welcome these women and their families to your community. It can also be a great opportunity for our members to learn something new and to teach the next generation a lesson about "tolerance and understanding".

The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario have a wonderful program going entitled ROSE- which stands for Reach Ontario Share Education. Maybe ACWW could adopt this acronym and it could stand for "Reach Out and Share the Experience" as I know there are many organisations who are experiencing difficulties in gaining new members to their membership. This maybe a new approach, not only for your organisations, but also for ACWW. Have you ever talked to your next-door neighbour, the lady down the street, or your relatives about ACWW and what we do? Have you ever invited anyone to join, as an individual member- one doesn't have to be a member of any other organisation to join, it can be looked upon as a donation and an interest in our work.

Whilst researching some of the old minutes of ACWW looking for some clarification of titles and descriptions of various fund names etc, we found some interesting information and it is quite easy to lose oneself the amazing stories and things that happened in the past. One of the more exciting things we found was that fact that, in the 1930's a "Rural Women's Survey" was carried out, and even more exciting was the fact that we have the results of this survey. This is quite amazing because, as you know, we have decided to carry out a new Rural Women's Survey very shortly. Hopefully we can bring some snippets of the 1930's survey results to this magazine and it will be very interesting to compare the 2019 results with the 1930's results!

The European Area Conference, in Tîrgu Mureş, Romania was a great success, as the The Woman of the Third Millennium Association and the Area President, Margaret McMillan, worked very hard to give us all an experience we will never forget. This was my first visit to Eastern Europe and it an eye-opening experience as well a thoroughly enjoyable one and hopefully I may have opportunity visit again. After the European Area Conference I spent a short time at home, then off to Huntsville, Alabama for the CWC-ACWW conference, then committee and executive meetings in London continuing onto the Southern Africa Area Conference, in Pretoria, South Africa. I will bring further information about these meetings in the next issue.

It is often talked about that social media, and the internet, are powerful tools for us to get our message out into the world. Sometimes, it seems lately, that we have too much information and are getting overloaded. Every time we watch TV or listen to the news etc, we hear many stories of conflict, anger, natural disasters etc, which cause us much concern and there is not a lot we can do to stop this. What we CAN do though, is to continue to work with our women's groups around the world, enrich their lives, give them hope for a better world for themselves and their families and encourage them to also pass these opportunities forward to others.

After a very busy year, which is coming quickly to a close, thoughts of many will be turning to the Festive Season also to the dawning of a New Year. I wish you all a Happy Christmas and hope that 2018 will bring to you many joys and little sadness and peace in the world.

My thought for this comes from Albie Sachs: *We are all branches of the same tree and should grow together to flourish.*

Ruth Shanks, A.M.  
ACWW World President



### COVER IMAGE

The seven members of ACWW's Executive Committee at their first meeting in the new office



# CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

**Tish Collins, ACWW Chief Executive Officer**

Time has flown since the last issue of *The Countrywoman* was sent out, and of course this issue reaches you somewhat later than normal. As the World President has touched on already, a lot has developed in these past few months and we all feel ACWW is stronger and more resilient for these changes.

The new Constitution has been approved by the UK Charity Commission and ACWW has been registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This was mandated by the 28<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference in Warwick last year, and is a major step forward for our Association. The new legal entity gives us greater protection and status in UK law, and is increasingly the 'norm' for charitable organisations in the UK.

This was a huge process, and took a significant amount of time and effort from the members of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Constitution and myself. Thanks are due to Chairman Jennie Mitchell, as well as Ros Cooper, Elizabeth Warden and HRH Princess Azizah of Malaysia. The next stage, already underway, is a review of the Bye Laws and Standing Orders, to bring them in line with the new constitution and obtaining legal advice as required. The associated charities will also be incorporated into the new CIO and the assets brought across. The new CIO registration number is 1174798. We are now in a transition phase and members will be notified of forthcoming changes in the coming year.

The Board also approved moving office. The new space is around 40% larger than our old office, and is also all combined into two rooms, rather than five. This means we have a lot more flexibility within the space, and have the ability to host awareness-raising and information events as well as carrying out the day-to-day activities of the Association. Crucially, we have 24 hour access, proper security and our own space. The financial savings on the new office will be extensive, particularly in light of the notified rent rise we were facing at Mary Sumner House. As noted by the World President, the space within the office also allows us to conduct two simultaneous committee meetings, or a full Board meeting, whilst still having a fully functional office to support these events.

In terms of safety, efficiency and productivity, the new office also meets current standards for wiring, electronics and has allowed us to upgrade our communications capabilities; this makes it easier for those members abroad to reach the office in terms of using systems like Skype to attend meetings digitally.

The final meeting held at Tufton Street was the WI Southern Counties Support Group, 4 | [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk)

and we were delighted to meet with such a dedicated group of supporters as we waived goodbye to the old office.

Media and Communications Manager Nick Newland was tasked with coordinating the logistics of the move, and presented an ambitious schedule- from the official confirmation that the move should be negotiated on 4 September, we planned to be up and operational for the first Committee meeting on 6 October!

In short order, the Central Office staff had everything packed up and ready to move. This included sorting our extensive archive and discovering some very important documents previously buried for years. One of the joys of the new office is that we have the space to properly access our archive and use it as a resource.

The new space needed some development before we could move in. These changes were designed by Nick, who also undertook the carpentry and construction with superb assistance from Office Administrator Sydney Salter, new Projects Administrator Viktoria Dimitrova (who started with us a week before the move!), volunteer Monica Tomlins and myself. Working a vast number of hours crammed into just seven days, our team of painter/decorator/builder/movers/administrators had the new space ready, filled and everyone back at their desks in time for the Finance Committee meeting on October 6th.

The following week saw all our Committees meet in the new office- a fantastic development. I say this because the new space actually allows us to host two committee meetings simultaneously, whilst also having the office staff go about their normal duties. This saves us having to hire additional rooms at extra cost. In fact, future meetings will save ACWW further costs as the price of accommodation for the Board is significantly lower in South East London, and there are sensible options very close to the new office.

There have also been changes to our Central Office staff. Sarah Kenningham left her role as Projects Administrator in July, after 14 months in which she made a big impression. Sarah moved to a job with the UK Government Home Office and we wish her well. We were delighted to recruit Viktoria Dimitrova as our new Projects Administrator, and she started with us in the first week of September. Viktoria has recently graduated from the University of Warwick in Politics with French, where she experienced ACWW as part of the Warwick Conferences team. Her enthusiasm, work ethic and energy have quickly made her an integral part of our team

and she has settled in well, having just completed her first cycle of Projects Committee meetings in London.

UN and Agriculture Administrator Dr Sam Page left ACWW to relocate to Scotland with her family. We wished her all the very best with the move and gave her a fantastic send-off as colleagues had cooked and baked a multitude of treats. Sam (normally known by members of the Agriculture and UN Committees as "Dr Sam") was a great part of our team for 3 years. We are in the process of recruiting her replacement, and should be able to announce the new Administrator in the next issue of *The Countrywoman*.

The 6 days of Committee Meetings in October were productive, with lots of positive inputs from our Committee members and a great reaction to the new office. There is such a buzz of energy in Central Office during these meetings, as members catch up with their respective staffers, each other and work to develop future plans for ACWW. We now settle down to carry out and implement the agenda agreed.

At the end of the Committees, I took annual leave and spent some time with friends on a narrowboat in the Midlands, a beautiful part of England justly famed for its canals. Refreshed, I returned to the office ready to face the last 2 months of 2017 with renewed vigour.

In 2016-2017 we received £41,205.72 in legacies. These special donations from the estates of Sylvia Elderfield, Caroline Joyce Carew, Joy Elizabeth Wardle, Clarice Olive Clucas, Margaret Betty Houghton and Edith Jean Werts make a significant difference to ACWW, and we are exceptionally grateful to these members and their families.

On behalf of all of us at Central Office, I offer the very warmest seasonal greetings to you all, and look forward to writing again early in the New Year.

**Tish Collins**  
Chief Executive Officer



# FINANCE & MEMBERSHIP



Heather Brennan, ACWW Finance & Membership Committee Chairman

As we approach the end of 2017, we reflect on a hugely productive year for ACWW and a series of successful, positive and significant improvements for our Association.

As you will have read, our status as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation has been confirmed by the UK Charity Commission, offering ACWW a greater clarity and security in our standing. We have of course also moved office and this will, in the long term, provide significant savings as well as creating a greatly improved set up for us. There are already plans being developed to welcome UK-based ACWW WI Representatives to an information day in September 2018, and we will be looking at how the new facilities can be further used to support our membership and mission.

It is at this time of year that we remind all individual and society members that your membership dues should be received for the new year in January. This is not only crucial to the financial stability of the organisation, but of course also ensures your inclusion in this most important of global networks. Our members make ACWW what it is, and your support ensures we are able to achieve all that we can for women and their communities worldwide.

I am pleased to report that the audited accounts show a £46,000 surplus for the year 2016. The Annual Report will be presented in the usual way in the next issue of *The Countrywoman*.

Please note that, with the change of ACWW's constitution, membership forms and categories have been updated. Some of these changes are obvious and clear, others are slightly different.

Please check below:

Old Category	New Category
Society I	Society 1
Society II	Society 2
Society III	Society 3
Society IVa	Society 4
Individual IVb	Individual 5

In terms of your existing membership, you will automatically be updated to the relevant category. If you are applying for a new membership, you can download the membership forms and guidance from our website.

We are always grateful to receive donations, and your support is crucial to the existence of ACWW. We are also always keen to thank those who send in donations. It is crucial, therefore, that if you send us a donation by post or online (or indeed by Bank transfer or BACS) you include some sort of reference to indicate who the donation is from. If you have a specific intent for the donation, it is also important to tell us.

We would also like to politely remind you not to send cash, in any currency, to us in the post. If you need any assistance with how to send your money in, please contact Central Office for advice and help.

Past experience shows that lots of Pennies money comes in at the end of the year, and we will update this chart with the final total for 2017 in the first issue of the New Year. Thank you for all your support, and I look forward to updating you in 2018!

Heather Brennan  
Treasurer

## MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS USING ONLINE BANKING

Account:  
Associated Country Women of the World

Account Number:  
01244108

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

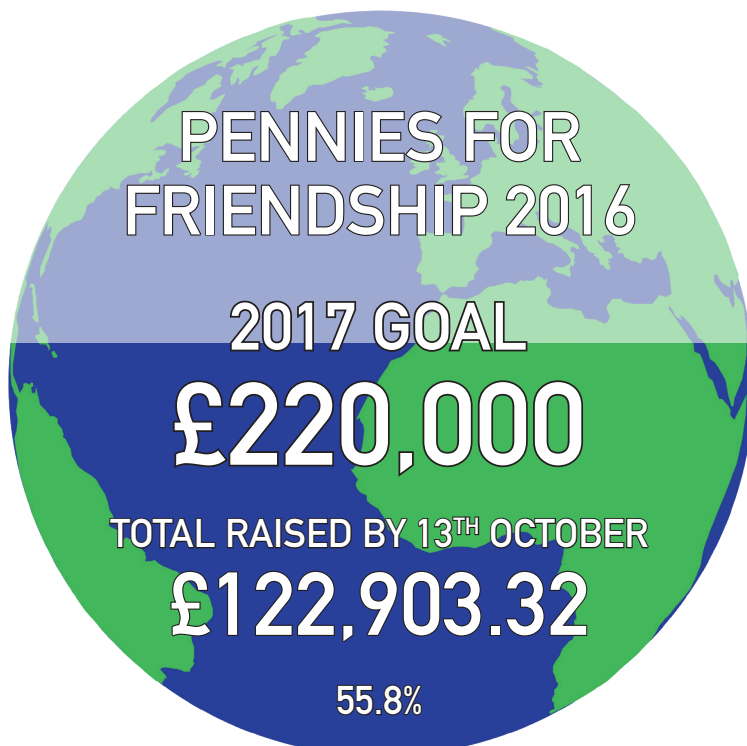
If you are sending a bank transfer, please use your name or membership number as a reference. Please don't send cash in the post!



## 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. Such legacies 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 please email [tish.c@acww.org.uk](mailto:tish.c@acww.org.uk) to receive a Bequest Information Pack.





# Ô CANADA!

## Canada Area President Sheila Needham



The Canadian Area Conference was held in Pembroke, Ontario from June 23-25, 2017 and was attended by more than 150 women, along with husbands, companions and guests.

Pembroke is only an hour outside of Ottawa, Canada's capital city, so tours were arranged on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to take in the city of Ottawa, and join the celebrations of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation!

We were pleased to welcome ACWW's World President Ruth Shanks, and in the words of the recording secretary Dianne Kowalchuk, "Ruth's address was inspiring, entertaining and educational!".

Other speakers at the conference including Vice President for Government Relations of the Canola Council of Canada, Brian Innes, who spoke about Sustainable Modern Agriculture. His talk, including discussing bees, was met with great interest; you can learn more at [www.beesmatter.ca](http://www.beesmatter.ca).

ACWW UN Committee member Christine Reaburn, and Agriculture Committee member Donna Jebb, along with Chairman of the Agriculture Committee and Deputy President Margaret Yetman all spoke on involvement in their respective committees. They also updated our members on news and current activities.

Canada Area Friendship Links Coordinator Judith Parks gave us a delightful insight into the world of pen friends, and the travel and good times that can come from corresponding with members in different parts of the world.

We were also pleased to have USA Area President Jo Ellen Almond, who brought greetings to our members and also talked about the exchange programme run by the Indiana Extension Homemakers Association (IEHA). Ontario WI member Margaret Christenson spoke about her experiences taking part in the exchange- very exciting!

Our Banquet speaker was Sally Armstrong, the human rights activist and author. It was noted in her introduction that Sally was the woman 'who brought the story of Afghanistan to the world'. Her presentation about her experiences "in the midst of turmoil" around the world was very compelling and you can read more about Sally here: [www.nsb.com/speakers/sally-armstrong/](http://www.nsb.com/speakers/sally-armstrong/)

Ms Armstrong emphasized that the most powerful tool we have is our own voice, and that social media has become a difference-maker and asset in terms of ensuring our voices are heard.

The Canada Area has agreed to support two additional ACWW projects, whilst finishing our commitment to an earlier one. A project in Romania, and one in Guatemala will be supported by Canada Area members over this Triennium.

Pennies for Friendship were donated by Societies and also raised at the conference by selling a booklet about Mrs Madge Watt, one of the key founders of the WI in Canada, the UK and of course ACWW. Mrs Watt has recently been recognised by Parks Canada for her contributions to British Columbia, Canada and the UK, and this publication honours these achievements.

ACWW Deputy President Margaret Yetman wrapped up the conference with her words of wisdom and inspired us to make our membership in ACWW meaningful, not only to ourselves but to others as well. She concluded by speaking the words of Mother Teresa: "Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough. Give the best you've got anyway".



Past World President Dr Ellen McLean brought the conference to a close with her remarks and by suggesting that ACWW could stand for: "Astonishing Collection of Wandering Women" or "Action Can Work Wonders".

World President Ruth Shanks presented the Presidents of the Host Societies with 'Thank You' certificates, as you can see here.

I extend my greatest thanks to all the members and guests who attended and participated in this Area Conference. You have made it one I will always remember as Area President, and because of you I know that ACWW stands for "All Caring Women of the World".

**Sheila Needham**  
Canada Area President



Above, World President Ruth Shanks A.M. discusses the Projects 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appeal, and Guest Speaker Sally Armstrong address the conference in Pembroke, Ontario. Below, the presentation of a large donation to the ACWW Canada Area; ACWW Past World President Dr Ellen McLean with current World President Ruth Shanks A.M.; Deputy President Margaret Yetman and the certificates of thanks to the Hostess Societies.



# ACWW, THE FAO & CEDAW

Margaret Yetman, Deputy President & Agriculture Committee Chairman



ACWW's Agriculture Committee was set up in 2001 to promote household food security through work with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and other agencies concerned with rural women's development.

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted as an international bill of rights for women in 1979 and has been ratified by 189 countries around the world.

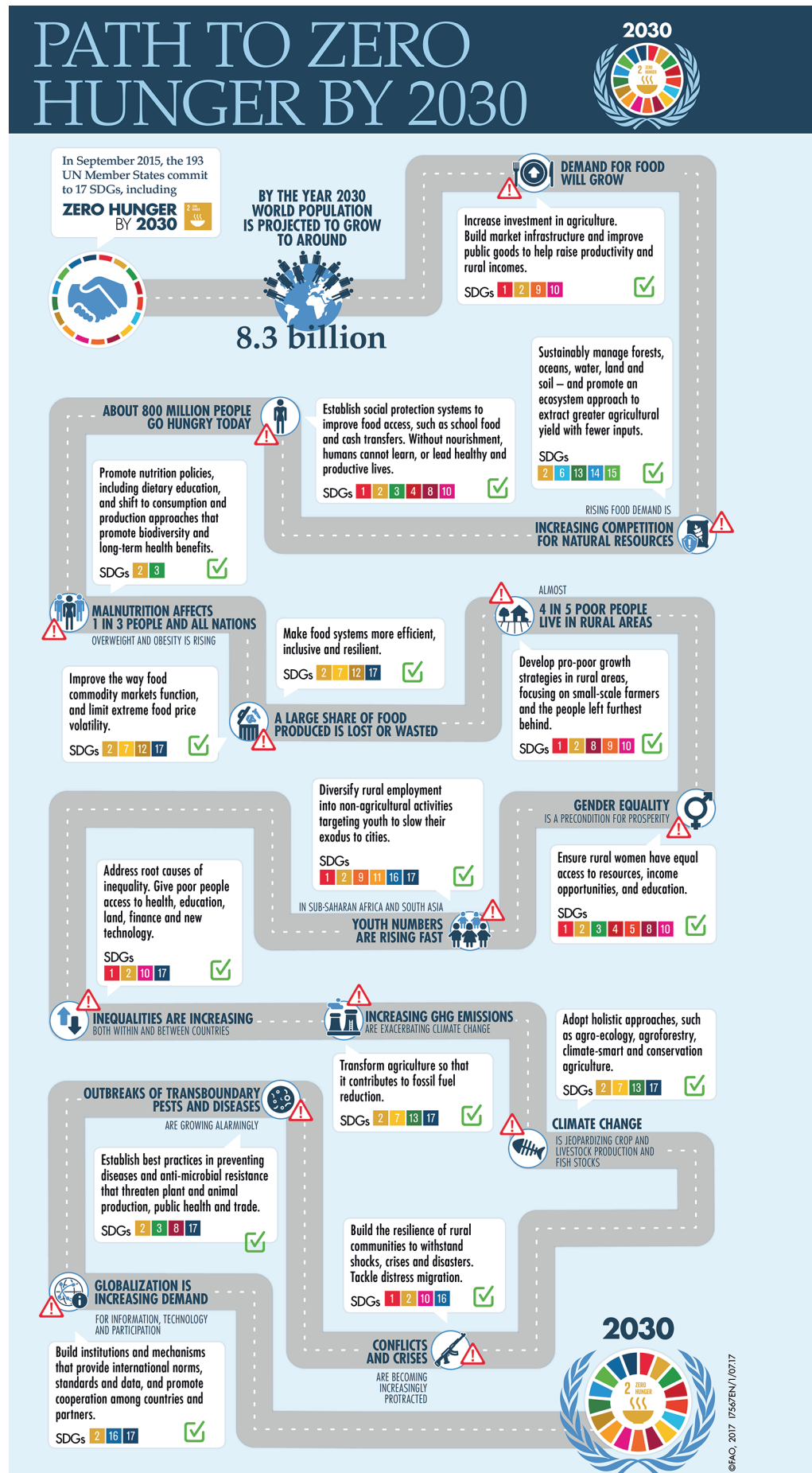
Article 14 of the Convention requires States to take into account the particular problems faced by rural women, and ensure they participate in, and benefit from, agricultural and rural development. Specifically, the Article states that all State Parties shall ensure rural women have the right to:

1. Participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning;
2. Obtain access to health care facilities and information;
3. Benefit from social security programmes;
4. Obtain access to education and training;
5. Organize self-help groups and cooperatives;
6. Participate in community activities;
7. Obtain access to credit, markets, technology, and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform and land resettlement schemes;
8. Enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water transport and communications.

By enumerating specific rights for rural women, Article 14 gives rural women and their rights greater visibility and priority among State Parties, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and the UN system. ACWW's Agriculture Committee plays a role in raising awareness of the FAO's goals, and as a mechanism to feedback information from ACWW's Member Societies to the relevant UN Agencies and Bodies.

For example, the UN published reports in 2017 with references and information from ACWW's Zero Hunger Challenge projects; Dr Sam Page (who recently left ACWW to start a new life in Scotland) compiled data from those ACWW-funded projects that participate in the Zero Hunger Challenge and submitted this to the FAO and other UN bodies, ensuring that the voices of these rural women were heard. This is a fantastic study in how ACWW's committees and staff coordinate and work together to improve the lives of rural women worldwide.

The Agriculture Committee is committed to working with the FAO and in support of CEDAW in the future, and will continue to develop how we can be most effective in doing so in the future.





# ACWW FRIENDSHIP LINKS

Magdie de Kock, Communications & Marketing Committee Chairman

ACWW Friendship Links is our new scheme for Pen Friends across the globe. Whilst much of today's technology is aimed at quick communication, ACWW believes that true communication, cooperation and understanding lead to empowerment for women. These women are thus better able to exercise their power, make better decisions and change their own lives for the better.

Our Friendship Links programme is intended to bring together members and societies across the globe, offering connections through letters, emails, newsletters, and social media. You choose how you are contacted, and how you correspond with your new friends. Many people still continue to write letters on paper, print out photos to enclose with their letters and are prepared to wait for letters to travel half-way around the world.

Very often interpersonal relationships allow us to discover other cultures; to interact with others with like-minded beliefs and interests. On the other hand, they might be able to offer you myriad perspectives on topics which may be foreign to you or allow you to be able to appreciate another's viewpoint. Writing to someone who may not be known to you personally could offer a comforting degree of anonymity which is likely to make you more open to sharing thoughts which you might not otherwise be able to share freely with friends or family.

The act of putting pen to paper in itself can be cathartic and the ability to release thoughts or feelings in a non-judgemental setting developing compassion and understanding of other cultures and values. It could also dispel feelings of loneliness! It's vastly different from the superficiality of social media as this is communicating with someone who invests time to share and bond with you.

During the previous meeting of the Communications and Marketing Committee a decision was taken to revive the pen friend scheme of ACWW. Our new scheme for ACWW pen friends across the globe is now being referred to as The ACWW Friendship Links Programme.

It is just one part of our commitment to Connecting and Supporting Women and Communities Worldwide, and incorporates both traditional hand-written letters as well as digital means such as e-mail, social media messaging and online friendship.

Area Coordinators have been appointed and the requests for pen friends received at Central Office will be directed to the local Coordinator so an initial connection and handover is established.

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The local Coordinator then contacts their counterpart in the chosen Area, who will contact local societies and members, and try and establish a match. The person wanting to make a new contact will be copied in to the communications, so they know what progress is being made, and how their connection is handled. The receiving Coordinator will then contact both of the Friends to confirm a match, and initiate correspondence.

Bernadine Hay, Friendship Links Coordinator for the Southern Africa Area confirms how wonderful the experience of friendship through ACWW can be: *"I have had a German pen friend for over 50 years and our friendship has blossomed into a special relationship. We started off with handwritten letters and now it's moved on to quick snappy What's App messages and emails"*.

According to Judy Parks, the Coordinator for Canada the Friendship Links programme was started back in 1936, following the Washington DC Triennial Conference when there were literally thousands of women across the world writing by hand to each other. *"Perhaps it was the urgency of the war on the horizon that fuelled women to want to connect and try and understand each other's lives"*, she said. It is clear that being part of the ACWW Friendship Links programme means a lot to Judy when she continues to describe her involvement as follows: *"There are many stories about my last six years in the programme and I would like to mention that our oldest pen friend is 103 years young. Her name is Esther Chute and she has been a WI member here in Nova Scotia for many, many years. Her two correspondents are Margaret Brewerston in New Zealand and Helen Williams in British Columbia. I now write on her behalf which gives me an excuse to visit her regularly as she is a very lovely lady"*.

Arlene Roberts, the South Pacific Area Coordinator points out: *"Friendship can break down many barriers and can create social interaction between members in many countries. It gives us a chance to share our skills and our passions in many areas such as craft, cooking, education, gardening, farming and many more areas. Our cultures, geography, fashions and culinary delights may be very different yet we have many things in common. Through the field of friendship we can share our ideals and we can often find solutions to many problems"*.

Introducing the renewed interest in friendship links across the world, the newly appointed ACWW Friendship Links Coordinator for the USA, Patricia Weitzmann sums it up in the following extract from her letter to the USA member societies: *"ACWW has a wonderful opportunity for its members worldwide in*

*connecting members through the Friendship Links programme. It's not a new concept, or a new programme, just a great opportunity enhanced by the expanded means of communication in our technology infused world. It is the renewed desire of ACWW to facilitate connection for its members on a more personal level. Thank you Debbie Czarnopys-White for your years of service as Friendship Links Coordinator in the USA and your encouragement to me"*.

Another great story of the sisterhood of ACWW is confirmed in the friendship link between Jennie Jolly of Cambridge WI in Nova Scotia and her pen friend, Xia Xu, a member of the Paroa Women's Institute of New Zealand. Jennie shares Xia's latest letter: *"I am Xia Xu, a member of Paroa WI in New Zealand. I am pleased having the opportunity to contact you via internet; this is my first time to write an email to a WI lady out of NZ. I have been living in Paroa with my husband since I moved from Southern China in 2013. I became a member of WI in July of 2014 when I saw a note in the mailbox of welcoming new members and introducing WI in local area. I was very interested in doing activities together in a local group. Involvement is the best way to have the sense of belonging to a new area away from my homeland which is important to me and makes me feel good"*.

Having a pen pal is something everyone should highly consider. ACWW is uniquely placed to facilitate this, with more than 420 member societies in 77 countries, and already connecting more than 9 million rural and non-rural women.

All you have to do is contact Central Office, and we'll start linking you with other ACWW supporters. We understand that some people love to write to each other using good old-fashioned pen and paper, and others would prefer to send an email whilst on their way to work- others still favouring Facebook or Twitter to send messages or even just exchange photos using Instagram. We are keen to help you communicate, whatever your chosen method is. Please note that correspondence is carried out in the official language of ACWW, which is English.

Just tell us how to reach you, some of your interests and where in the world you would ideally like to make a new friend.

You can write to:

ACWW  
A04 Parkhall, 40 Martell Road,  
London SE21 8EN, UK

or email: [info@acww.org.uk](mailto:info@acww.org.uk)

Compiled by Magdie de Kock  
Communications and Marketing Chairman





# CONFERENCE UPDATE



**Henrietta Schoeman, Triennial Conference Committee Chairman**

With a little less than 2 years to go before the 2019 ACWW World Conference in Melbourne, it is a good idea to start looking at some practical aspects that many members will need information on. Google is probably the best way of familiarizing one with various aspects of travelling to and staying in Melbourne.

To whet your appetites about “down under”, here is some useful information. The venue is Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre ([www.mcec.cam.au](http://www.mcec.cam.au)). This is a very modern facility, with fantastic resources and a set-up which is sure to impress.

Melbourne Airport is the second busiest airport in Australia by passenger numbers. Airlines flying to Melbourne includes Qantas, Emirates, American Airlines, United, British Airways, Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Qatar Airways, Air New Zealand, Malaysia Airlines and many more.

Getting from the airport to the inner city a public transportation bus service is available. The trip takes around 20 minutes and there are 2 pickup locations at the airport, outside Terminal 1 and 3, and departs about every 15 minutes.

April in Melbourne is usually a pleasant month, often with spells of fine, sunny weather lasting several days during which the temperatures occasionally exceeds 25°C (77°F) but the nights could be fairly cool with temperatures dropping to below 10°C (50°F) several nights a week. There can be several days of strong wind and even prolonged heavy rainfalls occasionally.

Melbourne’s public transport system is very easy to use and called “Metlink” offering tram, train and bus transport all on the one ticket.

The system is divided into 3 zones of which Zone 1 is the inner city. The city is best

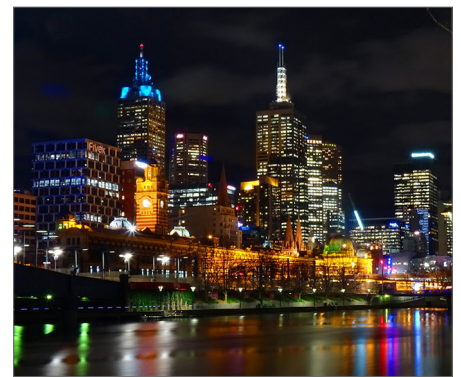


viewed by tram, a unique Melbourne way to travel. Taxis in Melbourne are numerous but can be expensive. There is also a company that operates water taxis that can be a fun trip to the docklands.

Keep in mind that the ACWW Triennial World Conference will take place from 4 to 10 April 2019 which is during a school holiday in Australia. Booking your flights and accommodation should not be done too close to the time. There are various websites available that can assist in accommodation booking such as [www.visitmelbourne.com](http://www.visitmelbourne.com), [www.stayz.com.au](http://www.stayz.com.au), [www.visitvictoria.com](http://www.visitvictoria.com), and many more.

Please don’t forget that all attendees are responsible for arranging their own travel and accommodation. Again we invite all members and societies to attend the 29<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference in 2019. We would like to welcome all and with the organizing and preparations already being done by TCC and CWA of Victoria, it promises to be a great event.

**Henrietta Schoeman**  
ACWW Secretary and TCC Chair.



## A FIRST TIMER’S PERSPECTIVE

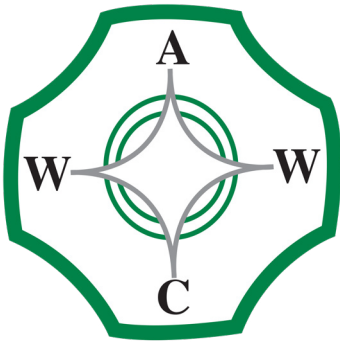
**Eleanor Lilley, Women’s Institutes of Nova Scotia**

Arriving at the ACWW Triennial Conference for the first time, I was unsure of what to expect and what my role in the days ahead would be. I soon realized that every voice counted and participation was encouraged. I took the time to take it all in; The Opening Ceremony, standing and watching with pride, the flags of all the nations paraded into the Conference Hall; The warm welcome to all the delegates from the World President, Ruth Shanks, and invited guests.

On to Business, how efficient and “effortless” (I know that is what hard work accomplishes) the information and procedures were to follow. A new slate of Officers for the next Triennium was elected and Financial Report given. Area Presidents’ Reports were given and it was so interesting to realize the work accomplished worldwide for ACWW. These reports included how the Projects were supported and executed and charted positive results in the communities. I was fortunate enough to lend a helping hand in the Exhibition and competition area where I had the chance to meet and chat with many Delegates from around the world, and I realised how alike we all are!

There was lots of entertainment including the English Cultural Evening that covered everything from historical to musical to comical. The ‘World Entertains’ evening gave any country the chance to participate and a wonderful time was had by all. In entertainment I have to mention the wonderful ladies from Africa who sang and danced for us and them... I replay my little video often. Also HRH Princess Azizah of Malaysia leading us in line dancing will never be forgotten!

Resolutions and Recommendations were brought to the Delegates and lively discussions ensued from the floor before the voting took place. Everyone who wished to speak to these were given an opportunity to do so. The conference was a learning experience that encouraged and motivated me as part of a Society but more so as an individual member to share in the aims of the ACWW. The ACWW badge symbolizes the four points of the compass linked by a circle of friendship and this was certainly how I felt after I attended my first Conference. On to Australia 2019!



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## WAYS TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE

from the Canadian Area Conference



- 1 Use stale bread to make into crumbs for bread pudding or coating chicken pieces for baking
- 2 'Clean Out the Fridge Night' supper once a week using all left-overs in the fridge
- 3 Leftover Salad: Drain off but keep dressing. Puree salad with tomato juice. Taste and add back dressing until it tastes good. Drink and enjoy
- 4 Teach your children not to waste food
- 5 Give extra food to Food Banks, especially tomatoes, lettuce, cabbage, etc.
- 6 Deliver excess garden produce to Food Banks or similar agencies. Buy less!
- 7 Use a composter for your fruit and organic waste. It has enzymes and moisture to assist composting
- 8 Supermarkets need to make food trays in smaller sizes for people who live alone
- 9 Single or two-person households partner up with others and take turns to cook from scratch and then share. (Eat together or split the meal!)
- 10 Organize an event to use apples/berries that growers can't sell to make products for Food Banks
- 11 Use left-over vegetables in stir-fry
- 12 When you serve yourself at a buffet, only take a little bit of food on your plate and if you need more go back again
- 13 Preserve 'dated' fresh apple juice at local stores and freeze into popsicles and donate to a local daycare or treat your children / grandchildren
- 14 Puree left-over Bean Salad and make a dip. Serve with vegetables or chips
- 15 Cook only what you need for the number of people eating the meal
- 16 Offer courses to students on using food to the best of their ability, ideal for primary and high schools!
- 17 Set your menu for the week with one or two left-over meals included and shop accordingly
- 18 Eat at home more
- 19 Chop up Herbs, add to ice cube tray and cover with olive oil. Freeze and put in bags for later use
- 20 Buy 'ugly', imperfect fruits and vegetables from shops and ask to see their policies on wastage
- 21 Put left-over fruit and vegetables put in a smoothie
- 22 Public Education on how to prevent food waste; TV, Radio, Facebook, You Tube, etc.
- 23 Extra garden produce can be shared with your neighbours or local Food Bank
- 24 Cook only what you need, and freeze your leftovers for re-use
- 25 Tomatoes from Reduced Table – wash and put in clean 1l milk bags. Freeze and the skins slip off easily when thawed for recipe
- 26 Encourage restaurants to serve small portions, maybe on smaller plates
- 27 At banquets: reduce the serving size of served meals with the option of having a second serving
- 28 Know that the difference is in 'Sell By' and 'Best Before'. There is no magic bullet that makes food spoil by the date listed!
- 29 Promote local production, food security and food sovereignty - sustainability is key!
- 30 Make homemade soup from leftovers
- 31 Make fish cakes from fish and mashed potatoes
- 32 Use medium size and not large size plates for meals - smaller servings promote less waste



# SAFFRON SONG FEST 2017

Nick Newland reports from Philippa Croft's fantastic day of music

Late last year, ACWW WI Representative Philippa Croft got in touch with us at Central Office to discuss an idea she'd had; she wanted to organise a concert in Essex, UK, to feature several local choirs and musical items, to raise money for ACWW.

We were, of course, very grateful and we'll admit, very excited! Periodic discussions and updates from Philippa only got us more excited and when she confirmed the date for the concert as Sunday 15 October 2017, we had a little surprise for her.

The performance fell in the weekend after the final meeting of the October run of Committees, three members of ACWW's Executive Committee were keen to attend before leaving to fly home that evening!

As we'd agreed to set up an information stall at the hall in support of Philippa's efforts, a chilly Sunday morning saw Chief Executive Officer (and our mini-bus driver in chief!) Tish Collins, Office Administrator Sydney Salter and I meet up with World President Ruth Shanks, Treasurer Heather Brennan and Secretary Henrietta Schoeman and set off through pretty countryside to Saffron (about 2 hours outside London in Sunday traffic!).

We met Philippa at the Saffron Hall, a wonderful venue which has just undergone significant development. It was immediately clear just how much effort had gone into the event, with more than 200 performers appearing and the venue completely sold out.

Classic FM (a very popular classical music radio station in the UK) presenter Tim Lihoreau was the host for the concert, and revealed to the audience not just his charming personality, but a real musical ability; as well as accompanying several of the pieces at the piano (including the choir directed by his wife!), Tim also sang along with a couple of items and brought a great energy to the concert.

The gathered performers were aged five or

six upwards, with a fantastic mix of teens, children and adults of all ages. It was lovely to see the enthusiasm all shared, and the encouragement and support each group offered the others.

The choirs performing were: The Westwood Singers, the Saffron Building Society Community Choir, Lyrical Voices, Tyrannochorus, Melody Wise, U3A Saffron Harmony, St Neots' Jewels and the New City Girls WI Choir. Each group gave it their all, and the audience were fully entertained throughout.

Just before the end of the first half, Tim introduced the audience to our World President, and welcomed Ruth Shanks to the stage to say a few words about ACWW. She of course thanked the performers and the audience for all their support, and told everyone a little about the work of ACWW. She was particularly taken by one of Tim's own compositions, 'Water is Life', which spoke to so much of ACWW has worked on over the years.

After this, all the choirs came together (joined by myself, our staff and the members of the Executive Committee) to stand and sing the *Song of Peace*. This beautiful ode to international harmony and collaboration is set to the hymn tune from the middle section of Sibelius' beautiful tone poem *Finlandia*.

Sadly, the interval also meant it was time for us to depart, as the three members of the Executive had to fly from Heathrow - Heather returning to Australia, whilst Ruth and Henrietta flew to South Africa for the Southern Africa Area Conference.

Not only was the concert a fantastic success, and a great example of one dedicated member making a huge effort in support of ACWW, but it has raised around £4,500 for ACWW. We really are so impressed by, and grateful to, Philippa and her team of helpers (including those who treated us to a beautiful home cooked lunch, and kept us company before the concert).

## SING IN MELBOURNE!

Following the success of the ACWW choir performing during the 28<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference in Warwick in 2016, it has been agreed that a choir of ACWW members will once again perform for the Thanksgiving Service at the 29<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference in Melbourne, Australia in April 2019.

Any ladies interested in joining the choir should please get in touch with Suzanne Garrett. You can contact her by email at [suzanneblodwen@gmail.com](mailto:suzanneblodwen@gmail.com) or mobile telephone on +61 040 877 0131.

## ACWW SINGS HANDEL

Why not celebrate International Women's Day with us at St John's Smith Square for a performance of Handel's Messiah?

The Amadè Players return to one of London's best loved venues to perform this groundbreaking work on historical instruments, raising money and awareness for ACWW. 6 March 2018 at 18.30pm

Tickets are available at <https://www.sjss.org.uk/events/handel-messiah-3>

Bottom left: Event Organiser Philippa Croft with members of ACWW's Executive Committee and Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor of Saffron Walden, Councillor Dr. Richard Freeman. Bottom right: World President Ruth Shanks A.M. addresses the audience, with host Tim Lihoreau on her right.





# CHICKEN FARMING IN CANADA

Donna Jebb, ACWW Agriculture Committee

My husband and I have been poultry (broiler chicken) farming since 2002. After a spinal cord injury we took the leap of faith and purchased our quota and built a barn to house the chickens. It was a steep learning curve as we had been beef farmers but made the switch and I am glad we did. Barry is a third generation farmer in Simcoe County in Ontario, Canada.

In Canada the poultry farmers work in a quota system where we purchase a minimum of 14,000 units to be allowed to grow chickens in Ontario. This system helps the farmer to count on a steady income and not worry when you are ready to sell. It controls how much chicken is available and we can count on a steady price and not a flood of meat being available and driving prices down which hurts the farmers' income and ability to continue to operate.

We all have to follow rules that regulate the chicken farmers and we are audited regularly to make sure we are following the guidelines set out by the Chicken Farmers of Canada 'On Farm Food Safety Assurance Program' as well as the 'Animal Care Program'. We have strict biosecurity rules in place that guide us in proper management of infectious disease that we could potentially take into the barn and infect the chickens, along with strict rules and guidelines regarding the animal health and welfare.

Besides the core farmer operations the Chicken Farmers of Ontario (CFO) have identified the evolving needs of Ontario consumers by creating additional market opportunities for new farmers and processors. These are 'Specialty Breeds program'; 'Kosher chicken program'; 'Organic chicken program'; 'Artisanal Chicken program' and the 'Family food program'.

Each program is filling a need that has been identified to continue the poultry business in Ontario to be a healthy farming business. The Specialty breeds program was started in 2014 and has continued to build since then, with some 20 farmers growing Silkie and Frey's; special dual purpose chickens processed with the head and feet on. In 2016 CFO started a marketing program to over 70 ethno-cultural retail outlets across some major Ontario urban cities. The extensive marketing program then further developed product and branding. Chicken Farmers of Ontario (CFO) has improved standards in Specialty Breeds production with these farmers being compliant to the high standards of food safety and animal care required by all the industry in Ontario.

The Kosher Chicken Program has grown over the past three years. Ontario. A lot of work has



gone into this sector of the chicken farming in Ontario and processing is expected to commence in 2017.

The Artisanal Chicken Program was launched in 2016 and has successfully facilitated the local family-farmed, craft scale chicken production (between 600 to 3,000 birds per annum) to meet the needs of distinct community markets. The program appeals to smaller independent family farmers looking to meet local consumer markets in a smaller flock. In 2016 CFO licensed over 100 farmers across the province with Northern Ontario representing 20% and Eastern Ontario representing 15% of the total. Last year a workshop was held for Artisanal Chicken farmers and covered best management production practices for poultry health and welfare, farm business management tools as well. Over 90% of the Artisanal Chicken program participants have applied for licence renewals for 2017.

The Family Food Program had over 12,000 registered family food growers in 2016, which was a three percent increase over the previous year. The average family food flock size was approximately 65 birds. This registration is important aspect of CFO's emergency management plan as it allows for rapid location of small flocks to help manage and contain disease incidents. In 2016 CFO supported and influenced Chicken Farmers of Canada to advance responsible reduction in the use of antimicrobials. CFO consulted extensively with farmer members, hatcheries,

processors feed mills and veterinarians to raise awareness and support for the ongoing reduction in the use of antibiotics. CFO continues to work to educate and work with all industry stakeholders to reduce and eliminate preventive use of antimicrobials which are import to human health. Ontario Chicken Farmers are committed to the respectful humane treatment of all the birds in their care and there is a new updated National Poultry Code that was released in 2016 with continuous improvements in animal welfare standers to reflect current scientific knowledge and meet consumer expectations. This year in Ontario the Animal Care Program will be updated to incorporate these standards. This year all farmer members will complete veterinary validation of their plans by demonstrating competence in performing euthanasia of cull birds.

Barry and I are very proud to be Broiler farmers in Ontario and we do follow the standards. We feel so privileged to be able to tell our story to consumers when we can. When I am in the grocery store and I see someone buying the chicken that I know may have come from our farm I go up to them and thank them for their purchase. Sometimes I get a strange look as some people still feel that the food just arrives at grocery stores and really have no understanding of where it comes from. By purchasing the chicken, they are supporting us, local farmers to be able to continue to farm in and contribute to our community.



# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN & WORLD FOOD DAY

Addressing the future of migration through investment in food security and rural development.

## A public statement from the Associated Country Women of the World

Migration is a global issue with a significant impact on rural communities. Whether the impetus for movement is conflict and political instability, a lack of economic or educational opportunities, or a result of scarce resources and the impact of climate change, we know that there are more people on the move than ever before.

The UN Food & Agriculture Organisation estimates that in 2015, there were more than 244 million international migrants, which is 40% more than in the year 2000. Of these, around one third are aged 15-34 and nearly half are women. The number of 'internal' migrants, displaced persons and refugees are significantly higher, with the last published global total reaching an estimated 763 million in 2013.<sup>1</sup> Some 65.6 million people worldwide have been forcibly displaced from their homes and communities<sup>2</sup>, with people trafficking and economic desperation further complicating the issue of settlement.

The Associated Country Women of the World was founded in 1929 to raise awareness of the issues facing rural women and work to improve their living conditions. Since 1950, ACWW has been publically calling on international bodies to ensure that migrant women can be supported safely, with dignity, respect and cultural sensitivity. This issue is more crucial today than ever before.

ACWW's work includes offering small grants to women-led organisations active in urban and rural communities in order to improve food security and improve local employment prospects for women and girls. These projects include training women to expand their farming skills into poultry, dairy, snails, fish and bee-keeping. Trafficked women have also received support for their re-integration into society through vocational qualifications and training, from IT to tailoring and hair dressing. Since 1977, ACWW has distributed over £2.2 million in grants to some of the poorest communities on earth.

ACWW has sponsored more than 1,000 small-scale, women-to-women, rural development projects. Many of the most recent projects are providing data and reporting as part of ACWW's commitment to the Zero Hunger Challenge<sup>3</sup>, and SDG2, Zero Hunger<sup>4</sup>. These projects are examples of how even minor changes in diet and community education can have significant outcomes for health and wellbeing.

ACWW's member societies call upon their governments, and the global community, to change the future of migration by addressing its root causes, and to support the sustainability of rural development. This must include access to education, healthcare, and access to viable markets for family farmers and those reliant on local infrastructure. Access to food and the eradication of hunger is crucial to all communities and sustained, sustainable investment in food security is necessary globally.

Whether the crisis stems from people leaving their rural communities, or the influx of new migrants to rural areas, the solutions remain rooted in our humanity. Safety, respect, legal recognition and access to the fundamentals of life are necessary for all people. Ensuring these rights is the responsibility of the governments who control our global borders.

Ruth Shanks AM  
ACWW World President

Margaret Yetman  
ACWW Deputy President  
Agriculture Committee Chairman

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### References

- 1 United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation: World Food Day 2017  
<http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/2017/theme/en/>
- 2 UNHCR: Figures at a Glance  
<http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/2017/theme/en/>
- 3 Associated Country Women of the World: Zero Hunger Challenge  
<https://www.acww.org.uk/zero-hunger-challenge.html>
- 4 Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 2 - Zero Hunger  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg2>

For more detail of ACWW's resolutions and policy documents, please visit our website at [www.acww.org.uk/acww-policy.html](http://www.acww.org.uk/acww-policy.html)

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[www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk) | 13

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Nick Newland

As you've read thus far, we've had a busy few months at ACWW Central Office, and this has of course meant that this issue of The Countrywoman is a little later in the year than you would normally expect to receive it. The next issue (2018, Issue 1) will be sent to the printers before Christmas, and reach you in mid to late January. This is of course because of the inevitable delays caused in postage over the holiday season.

On behalf of ACWW, I would like to apologise for an error which cause some of you to not receive the last issue of the magazine, or to receive it with incomplete or incorrect addresses. As you'll know from previous updates, we use a mailing system that distributes the magazine as cheaply as possible worldwide. Unfortunately, there was a minor blip in the process with the last issue which caused these problems. We have sent out replacement copies to anyone who contacted us, and again apologise for the inconvenience.

The new office is a great improvement for ACWW, and we are already working with some of our neighbours to bring new resources to you, our members. This will include some info packs on the Sustainable Development Goals, and we are planning training and information seminars on the work of ACWW which will be held on site, and digitally via our website. More information about this will be in the next issue and I hope that as many members as possible will be able to benefit from these advancements.

Newly updated membership forms and info packs are available to download from our website, and we are happy to send these out to people by email or post too. Please ensure that if you are promoting ACWW, you are using up to date forms with the current membership rates and postal address on! If you would like some to distribute, please contact our Office Administrator Sydney Salter by emailing [info@acww.org.uk](mailto:info@acww.org.uk)

As ever, I welcome contributions to The Countrywoman, and send my thanks to all those who have sent in articles in 2017. We do try and include as many as possible, and we know from your feedback that our readers love hearing from their colleagues worldwide.

My email is [nick@acww.org.uk](mailto:nick@acww.org.uk)

## NEW STAFF!

Viktoria Dimitrova  
Projects Administrator



### Welcome to ACWW!

Thank you very much! It has been quite an exciting month and half, I must admit. Starting just before an office move and then going straight into committees week was tiring, yet incredibly useful as a first official ACWW experience. I learned so much about the organisation, the team, construction work and painting!

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

I am a proud and stubborn Bulgarian and I came to England a bit more than four years ago. Big hopes and ambitions brought me to Warwick to study Politics with French and four years later I was more lost than ever! Before I came to ACWW, I wrote essays, studied too much French, spent a year travelling in France and interning at the European Parliament in Belgium. I also worked for Warwick Conferences in every free minute I had, and this was where I was introduced to ACWW for the first time.

### What exactly is your job at ACWW?

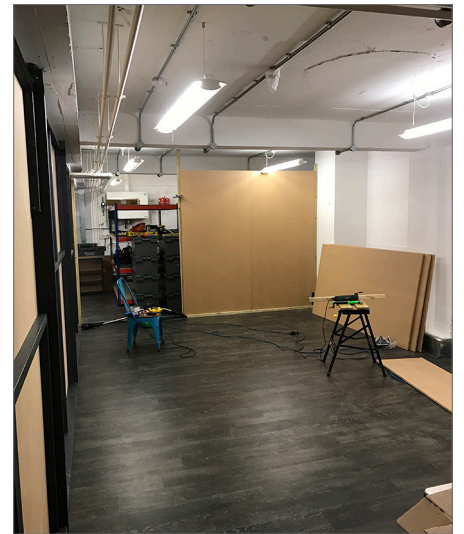
Juliet Childs and I are the Projects Administrators for ACWW. My job is to receive projects applications, process them, try to find out as much as possible about the organisations applying for funding and help them through the application process. Once we get through the initial stages, we establish a more stable and reciprocal long-distance relationship, and I go on and lobby for them in front of the Projects Committee by providing more background information so as to make sure we fund the best project proposals.

### What do you do in your time off to relax?

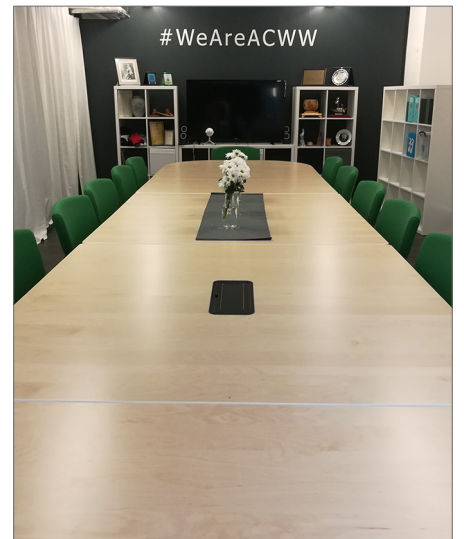
I have been in London for almost two months now, and indulging into discovery missions within this eclectic beautiful mess of a city proves to be more time-consuming than I had expected. I am also learning Spanish intensively because I will spend Christmas in Bilbao with my partner's parents. I am desperate to have a language in common with them! It is indeed quite difficult to build an amicable relationship when you spend half of the time together in awkward silence so I'm hoping to avoid such situations this time- which of course relates back to my work with ACWW, and why I find my use of multiple languages so helpful when dealing with applications from all over the world.

Mounted 5 metres in the air, the ACWW letters that Viktoria painted with Monica Tomlins for the new office in her first week. All health and safety considerations were met during the taking of this photo!





From top left: The new office's Board Room wall with the SDGs proudly displayed, and the social seating area for staff and visitors; Treasurer Heather Brennan, Finance Administrator Manisha Vora and World President Ruth Shanks relax at our 'Office Warming' party; The new office's workstations provide a lot more space for the staff to work in, and have far greater filing and storage solutions; Project Administrator Juliet Childs with Magdie de Kock, Chairman of the Communications and Marketing Committee and Manisha Vora; Monica Tomlins presents World President Ruth Shanks with an ACWW wall display, having volunteered with us to help build and decorate the new office; the Board Room during construction! our letters take pride of place in the new office, mounted 5 metres in the air; the finished Board Room with state of the art communications facilities.



# PROJECTS UPDATES

## Progress Reports and Case Studies from the Projects Team

### PROGRESS REPORT: INDIA Success Trust

#### Promotion of indigenous rice and vegetable cultivation among women farmers to prevent urban migration

**Project 1007:** Success Trust reports that it has carried out many of the training activities outlined in its application, for the benefit of 40 women farmers.

The beneficiaries were initially given a two-day 'internalization' training in order to raise their awareness of the importance of the project and to motivate them. They were then trained in soil and water conservation methods, and organic farming methods, including land preparation activities such as tree planting and mulching.

Seeds of different rice varieties, as well as the following vegetables have been distributed to the beneficiaries: brinjal (aubergine), chilli, lady's finger (okra), cluster bean, gourd, tomato. Of the 40 women, 20 had sown their seeds as they had access to water from wells, while the remaining 20 were waiting for the seasonal rains to come, at which point they would sow their seeds.

They were given containers to help them produce herbal pesticides and crop tonics; also earthworms to produce vermi-compost. The women are now all producing compost, pesticides and crop tonics and using these to help grow their crops. They have also received 12 days of training at the farmer field school, one day per week, during which they have learned to deal with many of the day-to-day problems and challenges which are encountered during cultivation.

The Trust has held monthly reviews with its project staff and internal evaluation meetings with the beneficiaries, in order to track the progress of the project.



### MONITORING REPORT: PHILIPPINES WAND Foundation

#### Women's action against climate change and hunger

**Project 1018:** With this project, KADIWOD aimed to decrease mother and child mortality rates by educating the community on the prevention of common health problems and improving access to maternity services and healthcare facilities for women with disabilities and their families. They also wanted to engage in dialogue with local leaders and the community as a whole, to dispel stereotypes and encourage a more positive attitude towards people with disabilities.

By the end of the project, 25 Community Health Workers (CHWs) had undergone residential training and according to their field reports, each one had educated 13 families, on average, about the rights of women with disabilities and the legal framework. In addition, 90 women with disabilities had taken part in workshops on their reproductive health rights, including maternal health, HIV/ AIDS and gender-based violence. A dialogue was conducted with 48 health personnel in order to implement the recommendations passed during these workshops at local health facilities. As a result, temporary measures have been put in place to construct wooden steps for access to delivery beds whilst awaiting procurement of adjustable, disabled-friendly beds. The district Health Department has also agreed to construct ramps at every health facility to improve accessibility.





## FINAL REPORT: TANZANIA The Trust of Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) Employable skills building programme for the victims of Trafficking in Kibamba

**Project 1002:** The Trust reports that this project, based at the DMI Spring of Hope Centre, has been very successful. The target of reuniting 50 girls with their families has been met, and all have completed the skills training offered to them.

At the time of reporting, 85% were using their new skills, whether practising their own small business (particularly as dressmakers or beauticians), or in employment, for example in administrative jobs (using computers) in local hotels and businesses. The Trust can also confirm that 97% of the beneficiaries are practising good hygiene and that all benefited from the counselling sessions provided, which covered topics such as low self-esteem, coping mechanisms and personal growth.

The project team appointed an external evaluator to help them monitor the project. They adapted their activities during the course of the project, providing more intensive training where necessary and introducing Focus Group Discussions in order to help the beneficiaries to learn from each other. They organised an internship programme so that the trainees could get work experience in the community, outside the training centre. Appropriate equipment and materials were provided to the beneficiaries so that they could start their businesses on completion of their training. The team are constantly evaluating the success of the project's activities, so that the next batch of trainees will benefit further.

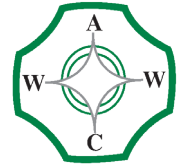
Although the Trust encountered many challenges, such as the high prevalence of broken families and a lack of support from the Tanzanian Government's Social Welfare Department, the aims of the project were successfully achieved.



**Case Study Upendo Levy** is 20 years old and was trafficked from Njombe to Songea to work as a domestic servant. She was working more than 15 hours per day, was not paid properly and was not fed nor housed properly. She was living a horrific life and was looking for an opportunity to move out. During that time she came into contact with the DMI's SHG women and with their help she was rescued and enrolled in the rehabilitation program. She was very shy but enjoyed learning beautician skills and became a group leader. She has completed her salon course successfully and is able to earn a good income. She wants to teach others and to have her own beauty salon by the end of 2017. She expresses her sincere gratitude to all her teachers, the DMI team and ACWW, who gave her knowledge and skills, enhanced her self-esteem and helped her to be reunited with her parents. She hopes to be a role model in her village in order to prevent human trafficking.

**Case Study Juliet Selestine** is 15 years old and lived with her aunt after her parents were separated. Her aunt depends on her small plot of cultivable land to meet her needs and Juliet was an extra burden to her. Juliet was therefore forced to work as a daily agricultural labourer, working long hours and not receiving regular wages. The DMI sisters rescued Juliet during their visit to her village and enrolled her into the rehabilitation programme. Juliet was very quiet at first, but through counselling, life skills sessions and other group work, she is now able to talk in front of others, her self-confidence and self-esteem having improved markedly. She has completed the tailoring course successfully and is reunited with her mother. She is very thankful to the DMI-Spring of Hope and to ACWW for enhancing her knowledge and skills through the vocational skill training programme. She is hoping to have a dignified future with a decent income and to support her family.

# SOCIETY FOCUS



We hear from Members and Member Societies around the world

## BRIMFIELD WI CO-SPONSORS AN ACWW PROJECT

In January 2017, members of Brimfield WI, Herefordshire Federation, decided to organise a fund raising lunch, the profits to be split between Brimfield WI and an ACWW project.

We emailed Juliet Childs, ACWW Projects Administrator, saying our aim was to raise £250-£500 and asking if there were any projects available that we could support with this amount.

We received a prompt, positive and helpful reply from Juliet including profiles of four projects we could choose from.

The cost for each of these was substantially more than the amount that our WI of 19 members would be able to pledge. However the option to co-sponsor, with no minimum amount required to be pledged, made it possible for us to choose a project to adopt.

The stated aim of the project selected was 'to encourage women's computer literacy and participation in leadership' in Kwale County in Kenya.

In February guests at a birthday ceilidh, held for a WI and ACWW member, generously donated towards our chosen project.

In April, members of Brimfield WI hosted and self-catered the fund-raising lunch, which was enjoyed by about 70 members of the local community. As well as being a very pleasant village occasion, the resulting amount raised greatly exceeded expectations.

In addition to the allocated profit from the WI lunch and from the ceilidh, we also received a donation from The Church of St Mary Magdalene in Little Hereford, a neighbouring village. This was following a short talk on ACWW projects given at a Mothering Sunday service there. We also received private donations.

In total Brimfield WI were able to send a project donation of £750 to ACWW.

We have subsequently been delighted to receive a Certificate Of Appreciation and a Progress Report which have been shared with WI Members and others who supported the project co-sponsorship.

Sent in by Hazel Penwill, from Brimfield WI, Herefordshire Federation, UK.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ACWW'S PROJECT ADOPTION OPTIONS AND SUPPORTING ACWW?

If your group would like to support a project or adopt one, please contact our Projects Administrator Juliet Childs by email at [juliet\\_c@acww.org.uk](mailto:juliet_c@acww.org.uk) or by calling Central Office in London on +44 (0)20 7799 3875.

There are a wide range of options for supporting ACWW's Project work, and Juliet will be very happy to talk you through the different ways you can get involved.

We have Projects around the world, which help empower women and their communities in many different ways. Why not connect your group with other women and work together to improve the quality of their lives? We look forward to hearing from you!



## TELL US ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY NEWS

We want to know what you do in support of ACWW and we'd love to see pictures. Please 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 was raised for ACWW?

Send Society News to [nick@acww.org.uk](mailto:nick@acww.org.uk)



Hazel has also sent us several photos from the event, including 'Ross, Suzanne and Roger Penwill enjoying the ceilidh', the advert for the Springtime Lunch and Members, family, friends and visitors enjoying Brimfield WI's Springtime Lunch'. To the right you can see one of the Millennium windows in the Church of St Mary Magdalene in Little Hereford. Thank you to all those who participated!

## OBITUARY: DAME SIMONE VEIL



Simone Veil, who was a dedicated campaigner for peace and women's rights in France, passed away on 30 June 2017, just two weeks before her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. This retired government minister was a survivor from the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp where she lost part of her family during the Holocaust. Her dignity, strength and beauty have made her a French symbol, one that will soon be resting at the Paris Panthéon alongside Victor Hugo, Marie Curie, Zola, Voltaire and Rousseau.

Simone Veil began working life as a lawyer. During her long political life, she campaigned to make it easier for women to access contraception and to legalise abortion. She successfully achieved the right to dual parental control of family legal matters and adoptive rights for women. She also improved conditions for women prisoners and spoke out against the tobacco lobby.

She is fondly remembered as the first president of the European parliament – to which she was elected as an MEP in 1979. She was a passionate believer in the European project. It was clear to her, because of history and the fact that she lost both parents and a brother in the gas ovens of Germany and Lithuania, that such a union was the only way to prevent another war in Europe. Simone never had a rude word to say about Germans, thus helping to reconcile a generation of young French people to their country's erstwhile enemy.

Simone Veil's dedication to public service was recognised by the British government and in 1998 she was awarded the title of Honorary Dame of the Order of the British Empire (DBE).

In recent years Simone was horrified by the rise of the Front National and other extreme right-wing, racist groups in Europe.

She will be remembered fondly by those ACWW members who knew her, and undoubtedly our lives are all richer because of her life-long efforts.

## AILS A BOND A.M. LOOKS FORWARD TO MELBOURNE

In 1962, I attended the ACWW Conference in Melbourne as an Observer it was held at the Melbourne Town Hall two thousand six hundred members attended. The Town Hall decorations were Western Australian wild flowers frozen in blocks of ice. The whole conference was stimulating and I have been an active member of ACWW and CWA ever since.

Attending World Conference In 1962, Kalannie Island 1986, Kansas USA 1989, The Hague Netherlands 1992, Christ Church New Zealand 1995, Pretoria South Africa 1998, Hamilton on Ontario Canada 2001, Hobart Tasmania 2004, Ballarat Victoria 2007.

The support we gave rural women world-wide to help them out of poverty and enable them to be involved with the present world.

I am 94 years old, confined to a walker to move about my home and community, but Riverside CWA meetings have been held at my home as many of us are over 90 years of age. We still enjoy the friendship shared luncheon before our CWA meeting.

After the Melbourne Conference three ladies from Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) stayed with my family and visited Rural Nursing homes, area schools and other areas that Ceylon was interested in including into their country. I met Mrs Abeysekera at the The Hague conference and renewed our friendship. Members attending the conference learn about each other and enjoy new friendships.



I wish all the members who attend the coming Melbourne Conference an enlightening experience to make many friendships from many other countries who have different ways.

Mrs. Ailsa Bond A.M.

## GLASTONBURY WI RAISE FUNDS FOR ACWW

We've received an update from Eileen Hurd, ACWW's WI Representative from Somerset, who forwarded a message from Janice Bailey of Glastonbury WI.

Janice reports that their members have been busy, raising £45.98 from Members Meetings, whilst Gudrun has raised £353.96 through hosting lunches and a cream tea in July 2017. The photo below shows Gudrun presenting a cheque to Joan Adams at their August Garden Fete in the Abbey Grounds. Thank you to all the members who helped raise this money!



## WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HER FRIENDS...

When Maggie Smith of Bolsover WI heard about Derbyshire Federation's sponsorship of the project to bring cows to Dalit widows she was determined to help. Setting herself the target of funds for 1 cow, she set out to produce a range of craft items for sale.

Drafting friends in to help they made cow print aprons, cow tea cosy and too many items to list. These were sold at a local flower festival and Maggie has raised to date £660- nearly two cows! Maggie is shown below with Derbyshire WI Rep Sam Hall.



# G.F. HANDEL MESSIAH

TUESDAY 6 MARCH 2018  
18.30pm

Join ACWW and The Amadè Players in celebrating

## International Women's Day

at St John's Smith Square, London

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT [www.sjss.org.uk/events/handel-messiah-3](http://www.sjss.org.uk/events/handel-messiah-3)



## MEMBER PROFILE

### Rind El Hage - Lebanon

Rind joined ACWW after attending the UNESCO Youth Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in May 2017. Just 20 years old, she is one of ACWW's youngest members and an impressive advocate for the needs of young people in rural communities.

#### Tell us a little about where you're from, what kind of community you live in?

I'm from Zahle, a small city in Lebanon that managed to keep its village-like feel throughout the years. Often called "the home of peace", it's growing without letting go of the hospitality and closeness the community is known for. In parallel to the quiet life of Zahle, I recently moved to vibrant Paris to continue my studies. I'm enjoying discovering the rich community of this international city that feels like a global meeting point for cultures.

#### What is your current occupation?

I'm pursuing my degree in engineering at "Ecole Polytechnique". As part of the curriculum, I'm spending these six months doing an internship at a French high school. The purpose of this personal development internship is to take us, students, out of the academic context we were immersed in for the past two years, and to be fully invested in an environment far from the engineering world. Whether in the military, in schools, or in a civil society organization, we learn the importance of the human factor in any line of work. In my case, I also have the chance to use my academic skills as a tutor and teaching assistant in a high school in the Parisian suburbs, where many students face family or social problems. I'm gradually building a better understanding of other people while providing better access to quality education that is personalized for the students in need.

#### Why do you think international bodies like the United Nations are important, and can they make real changes in today's world?

I strongly believe in the power of UN bodies as change makers. Bringing all nations together to agree on the goals we set for our future is a challenging task in itself, but these bodies do not just settle for making agreements, but also implement their decisions throughout the world. They shed the light on pressing issues and help the small communities and NGOs fighting against them, whether by raising awareness, funding projects or linking together these small initiatives and bringing them to the forefront. The change they make in today's world is everywhere. I see it in myself and in all the young people they are mobilizing to build a better tomorrow starting with the SDGs.

#### What do you do in your spare time to relax?

I'm enjoying the abundance of public gardens in Paris. It's a chance to relax, get in touch with nature, the community and get some exercise. Reading is always a good idea as well.

#### What is your biggest aspiration for the next 3 years?

I plan on specializing in engineering for sustainable development. It's a way to combine my passions for science, the environment and youth engagement. I would love to build a career in that field and encourage more girls to pursue STEM fields, as well as increasing the involvement of scientists and engineers in the policy making and activism aspects of sustainability.

## SOUTHERN AFRICAN FRIENDSHIP BLOOMS IN ZAMBIA

### Magdie de Kock reports from the Southern Africa Area Conference

Whilst the first issue of The Countrywoman in 2018 will feature a full report from the Southern Africa Area Conference, we were delighted to receive short note from the Chairman of the Communications and Marketing Committee, Magdie de Kock:

*"Twenty one affiliated societies attended the Southern Africa Area Conference in Kempton Park from 17th to the 19th of October 2017.*

*Among these were five delegates from PWCW Zambia, the Programme for Vulnerable Children and Women. These inspiring ladies borrowed money and travelled 3 days to attend the Conference and told me that it has been a life changing experience for them. Meeting other delegates, listening and learning from informative speakers on very interesting topics and sharing mutual needs made it all worth the trouble to attend the Area Conference.*

*Joyce Ngoma is the founder of the society. She and the rest of her delegation are subsistence farmers in rural Zambia. Each one of these five hard working women is responsible for a specific section to reach the goals of the PWCW. Alice Nkowane takes care of education and Mary Lusoke has 60 women in her section and together with Mathilda Kaira Mwamza they reach out to HIV and Aids patients and train care givers in the the Chipembele Ward in the Mukungule district. Josephine Musawa teaches women the basic skills of buying and selling their home grown products."*

Pictured are Mathilda Kiara Mwamza, Joyce Ngoma, Mary Lusoke, Josephine Musawa, Magdie de Kock, and Alice Nkowane



# #ViÄrACWW

Siu Warburton  
Reksförbundet Hem  
a Samhalle  
Sweden

"Wonderful to meet women from all over the world. Important resolution on Food Sovereignty passed"

Janet Chambers  
Derbyshire Federation of  
Women's Institutes  
England

"The dynamic women from all around the world who are members of ACWW are such an inspiration"

Diane Dammann  
Alberta Women's Institute  
Canada

"It was a great experience for me to attend the World Conference. This was my first time and I am planning to attend the next one in Australia - I am now better enlightened about ACWW"

Lebelelang Maswala  
Botswana Council of Women  
Botswana

# #ViErACWW

Elisabeth Rusdal  
Norwegian Women and  
Family Association  
Norway

"Wonderful to meet women from all over the world. Important resolution on Food Sovereignty passed"

Janet Chambers  
Derbyshire Federation  
of Women's Institutes  
England

"Learn more about other delegates from other countries. Learn more about projects in other countries. Put a face to a name!"

Sienie van Vuuren  
North West Women's  
Agricultural Union  
South Africa

# #WeAreACWW

Memories, statements and  
commitments from the  
28<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference

"It's all about women, peace and security. Women must be kept at the forefront"

Rose Eshiett  
Individual Member  
Nigeria

"Awesome, wonderful, informative, inspiring, admirable and fun. We send money every year to ACWW. I am putting on a presentation on this conference to my Branch, and will promote your objectives"

Sheila Minogue-Calver  
Navan Women's Institute  
Canada

"The greatest international organisation to empower women, support women and work globally"

Jo Almond  
Indiana Extension  
Homemakers Association  
United States of America

# #MiVagyunkACWW

Magdolna Tamás  
Kiskunság Association  
of Women  
Hungary

"What a conference! Women working together and socialising to improve the world for other women and children. A wonderful get-together of friendly women"

Anne Kerr  
Scottish Women's Institutes  
Scotland

# #NoiSuntemACWW

Afrodita Roman  
The Women of the  
Third Millenium  
Romania

"Educate a woman, and you have educated the nation"

Alice Busisiwe Lukhele  
Malkerns Women's Institute  
Swaziland



# Associated Country Women of the World

ACWW Connects and Supports Women and Communities Worldwide

## APPLICATION FORM FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP OF ACWW (Category 5)

### SECTION 1: CATEGORY 5

Membership Fees are due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year

Category 5 members (formerly known as Category IVb):

- You are an individual interested in the work and activities of ACWW
- You may attend Triennial World Conferences and Area Conferences
- You will receive a copy of The Countrywoman Magazine each quarter, and an Annual Report

### SECTION 2: CONTACT DETAILS

Please ensure you inform ACWW Central Office if you change your contact details

DATE OF APPLICATION:   New Member  Renewal

TITLE:  Mrs  Miss  Ms  Dr  Other

SURNAME / FAMILY NAME:

FIRST NAME(S)

POSTAL ADDRESS:

ZIP / POSTAL CODE:  COUNTRY:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:  Please include country dialling code

CELLPHONE NUMBER:  Please include country dialling code

DO YOU WANT TO RECIEVE THE ACWW E-NEWSLETTER?  YES  NO

DO YOU BELONG TO AN ACWW MEMBER SOCIETY?  YES  NO

IF YES, WHICH SOCIETY:

### SECTION 3: PAYMENT

1 Year = £25 + Bank Charges / 3 Years = £65 plus Bank Charges

HOW ARE YOU PAYING?  Cheque Made payable to ACWW  Credit / Debit Card  
 Online Payment  Bank Transfer

I AM PAYING FOR:  1 YEAR  3 YEARS

CREDIT CARD NUMBER:  EXPIRY:

CSV:    3 digits on the back of the card

#### Notes on Payment

- This is a 4% charge levied by the Bank for payment by Credit Cards, and £0.99 charge for Visa Debit Cards
- ACWW processes personal data in line with the Data Protection (2010) Act and does not store Card details after payment is made
- If paying by Online methods or bank transfer, please include your name as a reference so we can track payments

Please send your completed application form and fee to:

ACWW Central Office

A04 Parkhall 40 Martell Road London SE21 9EN United Kingdom  
W. [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk) T. +44 (0)20 7799 3875 E. [info@acww.org.uk](mailto:info@acww.org.uk)

# Associated Country Women of the World

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## #WeAreACWW



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