ACWW Report for AM NCFWI October 2021

Madam Chairman and fellow members. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak . Delegates, please pass my sincere thanks on to your members, who have during the past 2 years, continued to support ACWW. This has come in many different guises, donations, sponsored walks, collections at meetings, and from the result of your recycling.

Please be assured, the jewellery, cameras, stamp collections etc, that you so kindly give for recycling, are all carefully sorted by a professional company, to get the best possible result for us, often from items that may have been otherwise thrown away. Jane Treharne, a member of the Campaigns and Concerns Committee, dispatches the sacks to the recyclers, having to wait for a full sack of a certain weight, thus ensuring we have no dispatch costs. Thank you Jane.

All of the Pennies for Friendship we send to ACWW are used to benefit projects, and these can be seen in detail on the ACWW website, acww.org.uk. When making a donation you can also select which of the funds, Women Empowered Funds, your members prefer to support, for example, a water or educational project. There are 6 categories to choose from.

ACWW has continued to work hard over the lockdown etc. This has given rise to different opportunities, with the World President holding virtual afternoon tea from her home in South Africa. This way so many more of us have been able to communicate and I even “attended” a UN meeting in New York, hearing exceptional speakers from all over the globe.

Every year in New York, the national governments gather at the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN. This is the only high-level UN conference annually dedicated to the protection and progression of women’s rights and living conditions. Each year, ACWW works to lobby the treaty negotiations that take place during the conference, to ensure that the rights and voices of rural women are protected.

With the effects of the pandemic and climate change having the greatest effect on the poorest on this earth, never before has this been of greater need. I hope to hear the European Chairman speak at a meeting in Derby in November, and will keep you all updated via the federation newsletter.

This is just to give you some insight into the amazing work achieved by ACWW

We should be proud of our affiliation with this charity, and I thank you for your continuing support.

Madam Chairman, I trust you will just allow me a moment as Chairman of the Campaigns and Concerns Committee to speak on that topic. I know many of our WIs have spent much time over the past 2 years working away on past resolutions. This may have been be-friending, preventing loneliness, providing help to women’s refuges or looking after the environment. If your WI works on one of the past resolutions, please let us know. We must not “hide our light under a barrel”, but let the lights shine, so that we are advertising all of these good works to benefit our communities and neighbours by the WI. Be proud of your activities and others will want to join in.

My thanks to you all.