



womenwelcomewomen
WorldWide

Information Leaflet and Application Form

Welcome to the 5W World of Friendship

Travel to far-flung places or enjoy having guests in your home. Make new friends in foreign lands or just around the corner. Travelling with 5W is a safer way. Imagine having a network of friends wherever you go - having another women to meet you at the airport when you arrive in a new country, for example, is reassuring in a land far from home.

Once you join, the choice is yours - a 5W member can make new friends in foreign lands or just around the corner, travel to far-flung places, enjoy having 5W friends in her home or contact the 5W world by post, phone or email.

**Our aims are simple
The rewards are great**

- 🗨 International friendship
- 🗨 Learning how other women live
- 🗨 Helping women grow in confidence
- 🗨 Extending the vision of women and their families
- 🗨 Being part of the international community of one world



Joining the 5W world of friendship couldn't be simpler.

Any woman can become a member, regardless of nationality, religion or home circumstances. Just complete and return this form to the 5W office, together with your membership donation and, once your enrolment is complete, we will send you the latest directory by post, email or on CD.

Useful Information

Who is eligible to join?

5W is open to all women from the age of 18 years upwards.

How much will my membership cost?

The recommended donation to join 5W is currently £35 with an annual renewal of £25 for continuous membership.

How can I join?

Complete and return the form on the following page and return to the 5W Head Office in High Wycombe, together with your joining donation. Alternatively, you can complete an online application form, which will be automatically forwarded to the 5W office. Once you have completed the form, you will be forwarded to the online payment section to make your joining donation. Your application will only be processed once both forms have been completed. Simply click on the 'Sign Up' section on the Homepage to apply online at www.womenwelcomewomen.org.uk.

The membership list

This contains details of 5W members worldwide, including information on their interests, languages spoken and whether they are able to offer accommodation or act as Day Hostess, meeting visiting members and showing them around their area. 5W members are housewives, students, mothers, single, professional, unemployed, retired; women who have one thing in common- a wish to make friends with other women around the world.

When will I receive my membership list?

Once your application has been accepted at the 5W Office, your details will be entered onto the database. The full membership directory together with your membership number will then be mailed to you, normally within 1-2 days from receipt, either in printed format or on CD (whichever you choose). You can also choose to receive your membership list as an emailed pdf. Please remember that, if you choose to wait to receive a copy that includes your own details, it could take 2 or 3 weeks before mailing your directory, as this would not be produced until the beginning of the following month.

What happens once I have joined and received my list?

The choice is yours! The membership list contains information on every current member of 5W, including contact details and interests. You choose who you would like to contact. If you are planning to travel and visit other members, please remember that the best friendships are made when members have taken the time to correspond before travelling. Please plan any visits well in advance and never turn up unannounced or at short notice.

Is the membership list included online?

No, the Board of Trustees respect the confidentiality of members' personal information and, for reasons of security, it has been decided not to make the list available online.

Communication

Members communicate individually by telephone, email and as penfriends. You can also join the 5W members' social networking groups. Full details are listed in the 5W newsletter.

In which countries does 5W have members?

There are currently around 2,400 members in over 80 countries worldwide.

Is 5W for single women only?

No, we have many members who are married or living with partners. You are asked to provide this information on the application form, for inclusion on the membership list.

Can I travel with a non-member, such as a partner or child?

Yes, this is possible, providing your hostess is happy to accommodate a non-member. When you receive your membership list, you will see that members can select if they are able to offer accommodation to husbands, partners or children. We do ask that members send an additional donation of £25 to the office if they plan to travel with a non-member. Of course, if the non-member is female, it would be more advantageous for them to take up membership themselves.

Do I have to offer accommodation before I can accept hospitality from others?

No, it is appreciated that not all members are able to offer accommodation and you would indicate this in your membership details. You may not have the space in your home for a visitor, you could be travelling or have other commitments. In this case, you can choose to be a Day Hostess, which means you are happy to show other members around, meet up for coffee or a meal but are unable to offer accommodation. Of course, if you are able to open your home to other members, this can be an enjoyable and enriching experience.

Is there a charge for staying with other members?

We simply ask that you treat your hostess with respect and courtesy, exactly as you would treat a friend. Offering to pay something towards the cost of your stay, buying a small gift or taking your hostess for a meal is always appreciated.

Newsletters

Newsletters are sent out by mail or email (the choice is yours) three times a year in February, June and October. They include news of forthcoming Gatherings and events, members' news and views and information from the Office and Trustees.

Application Form

Please write clearly, in English if possible.

Name _____ Year of birth _____

Address _____

Country _____ Telephone _____

Mobile Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email *(please write twice for clarity)* _____

I live in: flat/house/cottage/other _____ Situated in: city/town/village/suburb/other _____

Nearest town/city *(if appropriate)* _____ Occupation _____

Drive time in hours by car/train _____

Delete the following as necessary:

I wish to be listed as Hostess/Day Hostess/Travelling at present *(Day Hostess indicates you cannot provide accommodation but are happy to meet and show visitors around)*

I live with my husband / partner / female partner / parents / friends

Children, if aged under 16 years *(how many)* _____ Religion *(if important to you)* _____

Mother tongue _____ Other languages spoken _____

I would also welcome *(delete as necessary)*

- a member with her husband/partner YES/NO

- a member with her children YES/NO

I am: smoker / non-smoker / I have a non smoking house

interests and other relevant information

I heard about 5W from _____

(If you were introduced to 5W by a member, please give us her name and she will receive one month's free membership).

An up-to-date membership list is produced every 4 weeks. You can choose to receive a copy of the latest directory immediately - in which case it will not include your details. Alternatively, you can choose to wait 2/3 weeks for a list which does include your own details.

Tick appropriate boxes:

Send my membership list immediately

Send me a list which includes my details

Please send a printed version of the list

OR on CD

OR as an emailed pdf

I would like to receive newsletters by email

Membership Pledge

I understand that the data from my application form will be kept on the Women Welcome Women World Wide computer and that it will be given only to other members of 5W. **I will not allow unauthorised access to my list and I understand that any proceedings arising from breach of this condition will be governed by UK law.**

Women whose first language is not English are advised to obtain a translation of the above before signing.

Signed.....

Date.....



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How did 5W Start?

Women Welcome Women (as it was then known) was founded by Frances Alexander in 1984, when she had the idea that women should have the opportunity to travel and exchange hospitality throughout Europe.

Dr Patricia Niedzwiecki, then editor of Women of Europe - the EU information bulletin on women's affairs - wrote a paragraph for the Spring edition of that year and soon there were 40 members in 5 countries. Frances circulated their names and addresses to all the new members and this has continued ever since.

A leaflet was printed and translated into several languages by the members themselves and a bank account was set up.

A constitution made Women Welcome Women into a Non-Profit Trust and Frances Alexander chaired the Board of Trustees for 12 years.

In 1996 the organisation became a Company Limited by Guarantee (number 3682702), adding 'World Wide' to 'Women Welcome Women'.

5W still operates as a Non Profit Trust and is run by an international Board of Trustees. They come from many countries and ensure the organisation works according to the "Deed of Trust". Their names are printed on the front page of the membership list.

How is 5W financed?

Only by its members. There is no set subscription, but we suggest that members donate a minimum of £35 to cover the cost of maintaining membership, and a small contribution to the costs of others. Annual renewal is then £25 for continuous membership. If, for bona fide reasons, you are unable to afford this, please write to the office - we realise that there are countries in the world where members cannot possibly afford £35 and we are enriched by their membership. If you plan to travel and stay with 5W members accompanied by a non-member, please make an additional £25 donation to the office. You will receive your membership list, three newsletters throughout the year and some tips on enjoying your 5W membership. Little is spent on publicity; the enthusiasm of the members is our best advertisement, and we have been reported on radio and television, in newspapers and magazines.

"Experiencing a different lifestyle is interesting, enriching and mind-opening. There are still people who regard different as threatening. Women have a gift for making friends and I know that 5W has, in its own way, made the world a smaller place. It pleases me that ordinary women travel the world, discover the joy of befriending people from very different cultures and learn about themselves at the same time, in our web of international friendship."

Frances Alexander, 5W Founder